



Murrindindi
Shire Council

Scheduled Meeting of Council

Minutes

Wednesday 22 November 2023
Yea Council Chambers
The Semi Circle
6:00 PM

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1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY AND COUNCILLORS' PLEDGE

1.1 Acknowledgement of Country

The meeting will be opened with the Mayor reading the following on behalf of the Murrindindi Shire Council:

“Murrindindi Shire Council is proud to acknowledge the Taungurung and Wurundjeri people as the traditional custodians of the land we now call Murrindindi Shire.

We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging, who are the keepers of history, traditions, knowledge and culture of this land.”

1.2 Councillors' Pledge

“The Councillors, democratically elected to represent our community as the Murrindindi Shire Council, are committed to working together in the best interests of the people who live in our municipality, those who conduct business here and those who visit.”

2 PROCEDURAL MATTERS

2.1 Privacy Note

This public meeting is being streamed live via our Facebook page and website. A recording of the meeting along with the official Minutes of the meeting will also be published on our website.

2.2 Apologies and Request for Planned Leave

Apologies:

I Gerencser

Present:

Councillors D Gallagher (Chair), J Walsh S Carpenter, K Haslam (virtually), E Lording, S McAulay,

In attendance:

Chief Executive Officer: Livia Bonazzi

Director Corporate and Shared Services: Michael Chesworth

Director Community & Development: Andrew Paxton

Director Assets and Development: Vito Albicini

Interim Director Assets and Development: Caroline Lintott

Manager Development Services: Natalie Stewart

Coordinator Planning: Cameron Fraser

Cr I Gerencser has applied for 3 months leave until 1 March 2024 due to ill health

RESOLUTION

Cr S McAuley/ Cr J Walsh
That Council approve the planned leave for Cr Gerenscer for 3 months until 1 March 2024.

CARRIED

2.3 Disclosure of Interest or Conflict of Interest

Cr J Walsh provided the following statement to the meeting:

Councillors, in relation to Item 4.6 Tertiary Education Hub Funding Application, I wish to advise that I have been engaged in activities that may lead to a perception of bias. I have been advocating for the Tertiary Education Hub on radio, in the newspapers and at public meetings, most recently last night here in this very chamber. I passionately believe in the concept and see nothing but good coming from establishing such a facility, with Council in-kind contributions, within Murrindindi Shire. I have studied the officer recommendation and cannot believe any argument could be raised which would change my opinion. I cannot say that I have an open mind to alternatives and so I will withdraw when the matter comes up.

Cr S Carpenter declared an interest in item 2.c & 2.g of agenda item 4.5 - Grants and Sponsorship Program November allocations, as she is a member of the board of the Rotary Club of Yea. As the Council is noting a decision made by officers, Cr Carpenter indicated there is no conflict of interest.

Cr K Haslam declared an interest in item 1.a of agenda item 4.5 - Grants and Sponsorship Program November allocations, as she is a former member of the Eildon Action Committee. Cr K Haslam indicated that as she is a former member of the Committee she does not currently have a conflict of interest.

RESOLUTION

Cr J Walsh / Cr S McAulay
That Council suspend Standing Orders due to an external disturbance.

CARRIED

RESOLUTION

Cr J Walsh / Cr S Carpenter
That Council resume Standing Orders.

CARRIED

RESOLUTION

Cr J Walsh / Cr S McAulay

That Council note that Cr K Haslam will need to leave the meeting, due to technical difficulties with her remote connection.

CARRIED

Cr K Haslam left the meeting at 6:08pm

2.4 Confirmation of Minutes

Minutes of the Scheduled Meeting of Council held on 25 October 2023.

RESOLUTION

Cr S Carpenter / Cr S McAulay

That Council confirm the minutes of the 25 October 2023 Scheduled Meeting of Council.

CARRIED

Minutes of the Scheduled Meeting of Council – Mayor Election held on 15 November 2023

RESOLUTION

Cr J Walsh / Cr E Lording

That Council confirm the minutes of the 15 November 2023 Scheduled Meeting of Council – Mayor Election.

CARRIED

2.5 Petitions

Nil.

2.6 Community Recognition

Nil.

2.7 Matters Deferred from Previous Meeting

Nil.

2.8 Urgent Business

Nil.

3 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

3.1 Open Forum

Tom Harrington spoke about item 4.1 - Planning Application - 2456 Goulburn Valley Highway

Anthony Mitrow spoke about item 4.1 - Planning Application - 2456 Goulburn Valley Highway

3.2 Questions of Council

Nil.

4 REPORTS - COMMUNITY & DEVELOPMENT GROUP

4.1 Planning Application - 2456 Goulburn Valley Highway

Attachment(s):

1. Attachment 1 - 2456 Goulburn Valley Highway ALEXANDRA 3714 - PP App Form [4.1.1 - 7 pages]
2. Attachment 2 - 2456 Goulburn Valley Highway ALEXANDRA 3714 - Title [4.1.2 - 1 page]
3. Attachment 3 - 2456 Goulburn Valley Highway ALEXANDRA 3714 - Title Plan [4.1.3 - 3 pages]
4. Attachment 4 - 2456 Goulburn Valley Highway ALEXANDRA 3714 - Planning Report [4.1.4 - 21 pages]
5. Attachment 5 - 2456 Goulburn Valley Highway ALEXANDRA 3714 - POS [4.1.5 - 2 pages]

Presenter Cameron Fraser, Coordinator Planning

Approved by Director Community & Development

Purpose For decision

Land: 2456 Goulburn Valley Highway ALEXANDRA

Proposal: Two Lot Subdivision

Applicant: Navy Blue Planning

Zoning: General Residential Zone, Industrial 1 Zone, Industrial 2 Zone

Overlays: Floodway Overlay, Land Subject to Inundation Overlay

Triggers: Clause 32.08-3 Subdivision in the General Residential Zone

Clause 33.01-3 Subdivision in the Industrial 1 Zone

Clause 33.02-3 Subdivision in the Industrial 2 Zone

Clause 44.03-3 Subdivision in the Floodway Overlay

Clause 44.01-3 Subdivision in the Land Subject to Inundation Overlay

Locality Plan



Executive Summary

This application is for a two lot subdivision of the land at 2456 Goulburn Valley Highway, Alexandra. The land is owned and operated by Menzies Support Services and is within the General Residential Zone, Industrial 1 Zone and Industrial 2 Zone. The land is affected in part by the Development Plan Overlay, Floodway Overlay and the Land Subject to Inundation Overlay.

A Development Plan has been approved for the area of the site within the Industrial Zones however will expire in 2025. Once expired, a new development plan will be required to be approved. The proposed subdivision will not affect the delivery of the Development Plan.

The application was advertised to adjoining landowners and eight objections have been received. The objections raise issues in relation drainage and flooding, amenity and the future development of the site.

It is considered overall that the proposal is consistent with the Murrindindi Planning Scheme. The proposal separates the industrial land from the residential land which has been used to provide support services to the Murrindindi community since 1979.

This report recommends that a notice of decision to grant a permit be issued for the 2 Lot subdivision at 2456 Goulburn Valley Highway, Alexandra 3714.

RESOLUTION

Cr E Lording / Cr S Carpenter

That Council issue a Notice of Decision to grant a planning permit for a two lot subdivision at 2456 Goulburn Valley Highway, Alexandra 3714 (Lot 1 on Title Plan 87977D Volume 09214 Folio 977), subject to the following conditions:

- 1. The subdivision must be in accordance with the endorsed plan. This endorsed plan can only be altered or modified with the prior written approval of the Responsible Authority, or to comply with statutory requirements.**
- 2. The owner of the land must enter into agreements with the relevant authorities for the provision of water supply, drainage, sewerage facilities, electricity and gas (where it is proposed to be connected) services to each lot shown on the endorsed**

plan in accordance with the authority's requirements and relevant legislation at the time.

3. All existing and proposed easements and sites for existing or required utility services and roads on the land must be set aside in the plan of subdivision submitted for certification in favour of the relevant authority for which the easement or site is to be created.
4. The plan of subdivision submitted for certification under the Subdivision Act 1988 must be referred to the relevant authority in accordance with Section 8 of that Act.
5. The owner of the land must enter into an agreement with:
 - A telecommunications network or service provider for the provision of telecommunications services to each lot shown on the endorsed plan in accordance with the provider's requirements and relevant legislation at the time; and
 - A suitably qualified person for the provision of fibre ready telecommunications facilities to each lot shown on the endorsed plan in accordance with any industry specifications or any standards set by the Australian Communications and Media Authority, unless the applicant can demonstrate that the land is in an area where the National Broadband Network will not be provided by optical fibre.
6. Before the issue of a Statement of Compliance for any stage of the subdivision under the Subdivision Act 1988, the owner of the land must provide written confirmation from:
 - A telecommunications network or service provider that all lots are connected to or are ready for connection to telecommunications services in accordance with the provider's requirements and relevant legislation at the time; and
 - A suitable qualified person that fibre ready telecommunication facilities have been provided in accordance with any industry specifications or any standards set by the Australian Telecommunications and Media Authority, unless the applicant can demonstrate that the land is in an area where the National Broadband Network will not be provided by optical fibre.

Goulburn Valley Water

7. Payment of new customer contribution charges for water supply for Lot 1, such amount being determined by the Corporation at the time of payment;
8. Any existing water service that crosses any of the proposed allotment boundaries within the proposed development must be disconnected and re-located at the developer's expense, to be wholly within one allotment only, including notification of the proposed lot to be serviced by the existing water meter, to the satisfaction of the Goulburn Valley Region Water Corporation;
9. Payment of new customer contributions charges for sewerage services for Lot 1, such amount being determined by the Corporation at the time of payment;
10. Provision of easements in favour of the Goulburn Valley Region Water Corporation over all existing gravity sewer mains located within private property;

11. The plan of subdivision lodged for certification is to be referred to the Goulburn Valley Region Water Corporation pursuant to Section 8(1) of the *Subdivision Act, 1988*.

PERMIT EXPIRY

1. This permit shall expire if all stages of the plan of subdivision hereby permitted are not certified within two (2) years of the date hereof or any extension of such period, the Responsible Authority may allow in writing on an application made before or within six months after such expiry.

CARRIED

4.2 Planning Scheme Review Report - Adoption

Attachment(s):

1. Attachment 1 - MSPSR R3 Consolidated further strategic work status V2 [4.2.1 - 1 page]
2. Attachment 2 - Amendment C73 ADOPTION Planning Scheme Review Report Draft V4 [4.2.2 - 84 pages]

Presenter Emma Kubeil, Principal Strategic Planner
Approved by Director Community & Development
Purpose For decision

Executive Summary

Council as the planning authority for the Murrindindi Planning Scheme is required to review its planning scheme every four years under Section 12(B) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* (P&E Act).

The Murrindindi Planning Scheme is required to be consistent with the State Provisions and requires Ministerial support for any amendment. The Planning scheme sets the tone and direction for the use and development of land across the Shire.

Following a report to Council on 26 July 2023, Council officers have undertaken consultation for a period of six (6) weeks, seeking feedback on the Review Report and how our planning scheme is performing. In addition, feedback was sought on setting the further Strategic Work priorities for the next four (4) years.

The Planning Scheme Review Report is now presented to Council including an updated section within the Review Report at section 7.5, detailing the consultation undertaken.

As a result of the wider community consultation, an Amended Appendix 2 to the Review Report, now includes a review of the Rural Residential Study as contained within the Housing and Settlement Strategy.

Following adoption of the Review Report, the Review Report, must be submitted to the Minister for Planning as required under section 12(B) of the P&E Act.

RESOLUTION

Cr J Walsh / Cr E Lording

That Council:

1. Adopt the amended list of further strategic work to inform the operation of the Murrindindi Planning Scheme, as attached
2. Adopt the Murrindindi Planning Scheme Review 2023 report, pursuant to Section 12B (1) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, and
3. Forward the Murrindindi Planning Scheme Review 2023 report to the Minister for Planning as required by Section 12B (5) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*.
4. Following submission of the Murrindindi Planning Scheme Review 2023 report to the Minister, seek authorisation to prepare Planning Scheme Amendment C73muri, to implement the findings of the review report.

CARRIED

4.3 Shaping Murrindindi - Context Analysis

Attachment(s):

1. Attachment 1 - Digital Shaping Murrindindi's Future Regional Context Analysis-compressed 4 [4.3.1 - 31 pages]
2. Attachment 2 - LDS host agencies [4.3.2 - 1 page]
3. Attachment 3 - FTP Outcome Logic Model APPROVED (1) [4.3.3 - 1 page]

Presenter Ben Harnwell, Manager Economic Development

Approved by Director Community & Development

Purpose For decision

Executive Summary

The Victorian Government through the Department Environment Energy and Climate Action (DEECA) are sponsoring a prescribed approach for the preparation of a Local Development Strategy, titled 'Shaping Murrindindi's future', as part of the original seven-year transition out of native timber harvesting.

This report provides an update on the draft Regional Context Analysis report, being the first stage of the Local Development Strategy development. Officers conducted over 110 interviews with key individuals and organisations in and around the Alexandra – Marysville corridor.

A second round of engagement on the draft Context Analysis has been conducted. This report will detail the changes, outline the next steps, and seek endorsement of the report.

Council also has a key role in advocacy in relation to the Government announcement, regarding the cessation of native timber harvesting and the impacts on the environment, social and economic aspects of the Shire. This includes and not limited to, fire planning, preparation and future management of the forests, and supporting impacted individuals, businesses and communities.

RESOLUTION

Cr S McAulay / Cr S Carpenter

That Council:

- 1. Acknowledges the community engagement and feedback on the Context Analysis Report**
- 2. Endorse the Context Analysis Report**
- 3. Note next stage of the process in the development and implementation of the Local Development Strategy**

CARRIED

4.4 Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan - Year 2 Report

Attachment(s):

1. Attachment 1 - MPHWP Year 2 Progress Report [4.4.1 - 16 pages]

Presenter Brad Gill, Coordinator Community Development

Approved by Director Community & Development

Purpose For decision

Executive Summary

This report provides Council with an update on the implementation of the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021-2025. The Year Two Progress Report (attached) provides Council with detail on the progress made on actions within the plan for the 2022/23 financial year. The Year Three Implementation Priorities provides an overview of key actions to be completed within the plan for the 2023/24 financial year.

RESOLUTION

Cr S McAulay / Cr J Walsh

That Council:

- 1. note the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan – Year Two Progress Report**
- 2. acknowledge the efforts of those organisations and individuals in the community who are delivering activities to improve the health and wellbeing of our community.**

CARRIED

4.5 Grants and Sponsorships Program - November Allocation

Attachment(s): Nil

Presenter Courtney Hamil, Grants Officer

Approved by Director Community & Development

Purpose For decision

Executive Summary

Council's Grants and Sponsorship program provides funding for projects that support our communities to improve the liveability of our towns and places, build connections, create opportunities for participation in community and civic life, improve personal and community health and wellbeing, protect our natural environment and assist communities to plan for the future.

This report provides Council with the applications from the period of September - October 2023 with the Panel Assessment Report for consideration.

RESOLUTION

Cr E Lording / Cr S Carpenter

That Council:

- 1. Endorse the following variations to grant agreements:**
 - a. Eildon Action Inc – Eildon Community Stage – Timing
 - b. Flowerdale Primary School – Flowerdale Primary School Fair - Timing

- 2. Note the following grants made under delegation:**
 - a. Yea Agricultural, Pastoral & Horticultural Association – Key Entertainment at the Yea Show - \$2,000
 - b. Yea Pony Club – Development of a Cross Country Course - \$2,500
 - c. Rotary Club of Yea Inc – 2023 Seniors' Christmas Dinner and Entertainment - \$1,000
 - d. Alexandra Community Christmas Tree Festival - \$2,200
 - e. Flowerdale Sports Club Inc – Barefoot Bowls - \$1,250
 - f. Eildon Action Inc – Information Centre Multifunction Printer - \$1,000
 - g. Rotary Club of Yea Inc – Yea Rotary Art Show 2024 - \$2,500
 - h. Triangle Arts Group Inc – Marysville Art Show - \$2,500

- 3. Endorse the following allocations as recommended by the Grants and Sponsorship Assessment Panel:**
 - a. Yea and District Riding Club – Toilet block frame replacement - \$2,500

- 4. Decline the following allocations as recommended by the Assessment Panel:**
 - a. GR8 M8S Foundation – Toolangi Adventure Sports Camps 2024 - \$5,000
 - b. Dancing Spirit – Wayapa Wuurk Earth Connection Workshops - \$5,000
 - c. Yea & District Historical Society – Local History Museum for Yea - \$5,000
 - d. Kinglake Pickleball Club – Starting Pickle Club in Kinglake - \$5,000
 - e. Yea & District Memorial Hospital – Healthy Lunchboxes - \$5,000

CARRIED

Cr J Walsh left the meeting at 7:02pm

4.6 Tertiary Education Hub - Funding Application for Council Report

Attachment(s):

1. Attachment 1 - Tertiary Education Hub Overview November 2023 [4.6.1 - 3 pages]

Presenter Andrew Paxton, Director Community and Development

Approved by Livia Bonazzi - CEO

Purpose For decision

Executive Summary

Individuals living in the Shire wishing to undertake tertiary studies, face the options of extended travel times to study, studying remotely - often in less than ideal circumstances, or having to leave the shire and move away from family, friends and their social network, with the high associated costs. Lack of local access to further education is a barrier to participation for many individuals across rural and regional Australia. This is evidenced in the 2019 National Regional, Rural and Remote Tertiary Education Strategy, which identified that individuals living in rural and remote Australia were 40% less likely to gain a higher-level tertiary education qualification, and less than half as likely to gain a bachelor and above qualification. The Federal Government Strategy identified how individuals would benefit, how communities would benefit and how the nation would benefit, through increased access and participation.

The concept of a Tertiary Education Hub, where individuals can have access to an adult learning environment, supported by staff and peers, with high-speed internet access and a safe learning environment, is demonstrated to address barriers to tertiary education for many.

Council has been working with a community working group, to develop the concept, with a view of submitting the proposal in December 2023 in line with the Round 4 funding opportunity, for a Regional Study Hub located in Yea with a supported space in Alexandra or surrounds.

RESOLUTION

Cr E Lording / Cr S Carpenter

That Council:

1. **Endorse preparing an application for a Tertiary Education Hub in Yea, with a supported space in Alexandra or surrounds.**
2. **Note the Tertiary Education Hub will operate independently from Council, with its own Board.**
3. **Subject to the successful grant application, endorse a partially subsidised lease of a Council facility as part of the application process.**
4. **Endorse the ongoing in-kind support of Council Officers towards the development and operation of the Hub.**

CARRIED

Cr J Walsh returned to the meeting at 7:13pm

5 REPORTS - ASSETS & ENVIRONMENT GROUP

5.1 Contract - 23/13 – Sealed Roads Resealing Program 2023/24

Attachment(s):

1. CONFIDENTIAL REDACTED - Attachment 1 - Contract - Sealed Roads Resealing Program 2023 2024 Contract Award Report [5.1.1 - 7 pages]

Presenter Peter Bain, Manager Sustainability and Assets
Approved by Vito Albicini, Director Assets and Environment
Purpose For decision

Executive Summary

This report provides the results of a tender process to appoint a contractor for CONT23/13 – Sealed Roads Resealing Program 2023/24.

The scope of this project is to provide 23.1 km of resealing works on 20 sealed roads across 10 localities within the municipality. These roads have each been inspected and prioritised for reseal works within the 2023/24 reseal program following condition assessments.

Council recently conducted a public tender for these works which closed on the 17 October 2023 at 3pm. There were five submissions received at the close of tender. A detailed evaluation was undertaken in line with Council's Procurement Policy and against tender evaluation criteria by the Tender Evaluation Committee.

This report, and the confidential attachment, outlines the procurement and evaluation process undertaken to appoint a suitable contractor to complete the program of works within Contract CONT23/13 - Sealed Roads Resealing Program 2023/24

Based on the evaluation, the Committee recommended Tender 4 be awarded CONT23/13 Sealed Roads Resealing Program 2023/24 for a lump sum price of \$782,149 to complete the required works in accordance with the specification.

RESOLUTION

Cr S Carpenter / Cr J Walsh

That Council:

1. **Award CONT23/13 – for the Sealed Roads Resealing Program 2023/24 to Boral Resources Vic Pty Ltd for a lump sum Price of \$782,149 to complete the resealing works for the roads in the specification;**
2. **Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to execute the required contract documentation;**
3. **Approve the allocation of \$100,000 as contingency to be used in the delivery of this contract as detailed in this report; and**
4. **Release the name of the successful Tenderer in the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of 22 November 2023.**

CARRIED

6 COUNCILLOR AND CEO REPORTS

6.1 Notices of Motions

Nil.

6.2 Cr John Walsh

One week into my new Portfolio of Governance and Corporate Services, I can only report work is continuing on the joint IT systems procurement project and on drafting the first cut of the 2024-25 budget.

From a Ward perspective, I attended a meeting between flood effected farmers and businesses and the board of the Murray Darling Basin Authority chaired by Sir Angus Houston. The aim of the meeting was to highlight to the Board, the damage that would be caused should the Authority go through with their plans to create surge flows along the Goulburn to provide over-bank flows to replenish wetlands further down the Basin. The recent October floods were at a similar level and provided a direct example of the impact the proposal would have. From the presentations it was clear that the Board had a far greater appreciation of the negative impacts, on farms, roads, tourism council assets and the local environment. Their endeavours to provide improved environmental outcomes downstream would be at the cost upstream communities. The Board also agreed to meet the community again during the revision of the Basin Plan.

Credit must go to Jan Beer, whose persistence and extensive research, over many years, into the Basin Plan, convinced the Board to meet with the Community. There is still a lot to be done and we can't leave our advocacy up to just one person, so the community must do more to ensure that laudable downstream objectives are not at the expense of our communities. I sincerely thank Jan for all her work and ask everyone including my fellow Councillors to get on board to assist in making sure a good outcome is achieved from the current Murray Darling Basin Plan review.

Finally, and sadly, I wish to note the contribution to the Shire by Julee Hosking who passed away on 1 Nov 23. 28 years of support for UGFM radio and staunch supporter and member of the Alexandra Dog Obedience Club, Julee combined her love of dogs and blues music for 20 years on her Men and Paws program. Always with a twinkle in her eye, she had the enviable characteristic of also having a twinkle in her voice that brought happiness to her many listeners. She will be missed.

6.3 Cr Karine Haslam

Report read by Mayor Cr D Gallagher

Firstly, I am very pleased to hear of the great response the new CDS – container deposit scheme is receiving.

I believe in the first month, Nanny Jan's Emporium which is the drop off area at the Eildon shopping village received approximately 50,000 items since the 1st of November and in Victoria 20 million items have been returned with an estimated \$1.7m being returned to the community. That works out to be approximately 1.5million units per day. What a great start. This really is a win-win situation for both the environment and the community.

After many delays, South Cres is due to be repaired and sealed in the next week. Thank you for your understanding with this ongoing issue.

The community battery study is underway for Yea and Marysville. This will give us valuable information for future direction.

I am very happy to report, that work is due to start on the Flying Fox at Marr Park in early December with an anticipated completion prior to Christmas. A bonus, is this will be suitable for all abilities.

Other works will be started early February, this will minimize disruption during the extremely busy Christmas holiday period.

The Eildon community is very excited to see the opening of Pixies at the Billabong. This was the old picture theatre, with an incredible amount of hard work, it has been transformed into a restaurant and music hall. This is a much-needed addition to Eildon. Something else of interest is the Pop-Up Christmas Shop. What a lovely shop this is, full of everything to do with Christmas.

It's worth a drive to Eildon just to see these two new offerings. It is wonderful to see new investment in the area.

Last but not least – I would like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you to Mr. Albicini. We appreciate all you have done for the Murrindindi Shire in your role as director of assets and environment. It has been a pleasure to work with you, you are going to be greatly missed. All the best for your future.

6.4 Cr Ilona Gerencser

Report read by Mayor Cr D Gallagher

As previously advised by Mayor Gallagher, on Wednesday 25th October 2023 I was taken to hospital for a medical emergency, as a result of this the diagnosis has meant an unfortunate term of absence in order for me to attend ongoing treatment. This does not mean I am not still committed to my role as your Kinglake Ward Councillor, in fact I will most certainly be keeping an eye on things and having input in how our community is cared for in this next twelve months. I am fully supportive of our new Mayor Damien Gallagher and Deputy Mayor Cr Sue Carpenter as well as the other councillors, whom I know will continue to look after each and every one of you.

I must say that the love and support I have received during this time from my Kinglake Community has been overwhelming and I am grateful for all the assistance I have received. Thank you to MY Kinglake. You have not let me down and I won't let you down.

I would like to also thank Cr Eric Lording for stepping up to assist me whilst I have been unavailable. This past weekend saw the return of the Kinglake Ranges Arts Show and Foggy Mountain Festival and although I wasn't present personally, I was there in spirit. By all accounts the weekend looked absolutely amazing and Cr Lording's feedback reiterated this. Well done to the organisers for making it a weekend to remember. Hopefully I'll be there to support you all next year.

On another note this week, we sadly say goodbye to a valued member of our Executive I'd like to thank Mr Vito Albicini for his assistance and commitment to Murrindindi Shire over the last four years. He came to us in 2019 and was met with a multitude of challenges, from roads to

infrastructure to maintenance, etc., It's not easy with limited budgets and equipment to make it work, but he has managed to give us a huge boost. His team has been shown some great leadership, that has enabled the following a legacy that will continue for many years to come

- Organising our Road Register - ongoing
- Reducing Road Trauma in Murrindindi Shire (part of the Road Safety Strategy)
- Eildon Redevelopment - ongoing
- Kinglake Streetscape - ongoing
- Bushfire Memorial Upgrades/Maintenance - ongoing
- CRAG (Community Road Asset Group) – next meeting in December
- Road Speed Changes - ongoing
- Road Safety Strategy and Action Plan- ongoing
- Capital Works program - ongoing
- Condition audit of buildings – ongoing
- Quick Response Team – Kinglake (Roads/Maintenance)

6.5 Cr Eric Lording

Firstly I wish to offer a fond farewell to Vito. I have previously held the Roads Portfolio for 6 years and was very pleased by the arrival of him.

He listens to you and works with you.

He runs a good shop allowing a large volume of capital works to be done under his watch.

Regarding my Planning Portfolio:

The Planning Department is now running smoothly, thanks to the work of Director Andrew Paxton. In his short time here he has really earned his stripes.

“Our Strategic Planning Team has been busy consulting with:

- 1) *The community in Eildon with the Pondage Masterplan,*
- 2) *The Toolangi region with the proposed Planning scheme amendment for the Toolangi Forest Discovery Centre and*
- 3) *Throughout the shire with the Planning Scheme Review.*

There has been some great involvement from the community in these processes.

“I know that Council staff will review this information thoroughly over the next weeks.”

6.6 Cr Sandice McAulay

Before I commence my report, I would like to offer my congratulations to Mayor, Councillor Damien Gallagher and Deputy Mayor, Councillor Sue Carpenter on their appointments at the most recent Statutory Meeting. I wish them well for this the final year of this current Council Term.

My Portfolio started off earlier this year with the anticipation of the commencement of a new Manager of Economic Development and a Project Officer for the Shaping Murrindindi Project. Wow, have these respective officers been busy. Firstly, last month Council noted the Draft Economic Development Plan that has subsequently been released for business and community consultation. Secondly, tonight Council has been pleased to endorse the First Stage context analysis of the Shaping Murrindindi Project.

Draft Economic Dev Strategy

The draft strategy has five pillars being:

Visitor Economy
Agriculture and Food Production
Business Support
Sustainable Future and
Prosperous Communities

The strategy is intended to build upon and compliment the forestry transition project to encompass the whole Shire.

Council is inviting the business and community input. It is pleasing to note that there has already been considerable interest shown in the document. I thank those people for their input. Please take the opportunity to provide feedback by telling us if we have the right Priority Areas and Outcomes. What is missing? What would you like to suggest?

Please jump online to theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/economicstrategy where you can complete a survey, register for an online Focus Group or share your ideas on an Online Board.

A desired outcome of this consultation is the establishment of a business network or round table to work with Council to test ideas and enhance the delivery of the plan with the community. So I urge members of the business community to become involved.

Shaping Murrindindi's Future Local Development Strategy

Earlier this evening officers presented on the draft Regional Context Analysis of the Shaping Murrindindi Local Development Strategy. We heard from Officers how this Department of Environment, Energy and Climate Action or DEECA sponsored project is following a prescribed process to support our community transition out of native timber harvesting over the next seven years.

In my September report I encouraged people to take the opportunity to comment on the draft Summary of this important document by completing the feedback form on the web or on paper copies as well as a number of drop-in events. I would like to thank those people who did indeed take the time to engage in person or in writing. It was pleasing to note that suggestions were listened to, and amendments were made.

With the community consultation process having been completed, Council is pleased to be able to endorse this context analysis or first stage document tonight.

Going forward there are two dinners being hosted for interested community members next week to celebrate the work to date and outline the next steps of this important project. Please hop online or contact the front office to register for these dinners being held on the 29th of November 2023 at the Alexandra Golf Club or on the 30th November 2023 at the Marysville Golf Club both commencing at 5:30p

Next year the innovative opportunities identified in the document will be reviewed through a series of workshops. You can nominate to be part of this Stage 2 or "Entrepreneurial Discovery Phase".

If you would like to be involved in these workshops, please complete an Expression of Interest form either online at the Loop or paper copy.

Lifeguards on for the summer season!

Yes, it is that time of year again, pools opened last weekend. Council is proud to announce that entry is again free this year.

Pool opening hours and upcoming programming for your local pool is available on the website murrindidi.vic.gov.au/pools

Out and about in the community this last month I along with our CEO Livia Bonazzi attended the Marysville Art show. Once again, the art on display did not fail to impress with representation of many forms and media. Congratulations to the Triangle Art Group and the MiRA Centre.

Finally, the Marysville Music Weekend is on this weekend – no guesses to where I will be this Friday night and much of the weekend – yes the Marysville Community Centre- where well known artists such as Kate Ceberano, William Creighton, Frank Sultana, Cass Eager and many more will be there.

The Music Weekend is a prepaid ticket event which can be purchased via Trybooking. This important weekend event is run by the Lions Club of Marysville and very proudly supported by Council and has widespread Social and Economic benefits felt not just in the Triangle but across the eastern side of the Shire.

6.7 Cr Sue Carpenter

We have already completed 3 years as your elected representatives and now go into our final year of our term.

I am grateful to my fellow councillors for choosing me for the position of Deputy mayor and am greatly looking forwards to supporting our new Mayor Damien Gallagher in this last term.

I am also happy to now have the portfolio of Operations and Maintenance. Many years ago, I was a member of the Parks and Gardens outdoor staff in a suburban council. That experience will be helpful in understanding the complexities of Operations and Maintenance in a council environment.

I will be a member of the Council Roads Advisory Group as well.

Next year I will be a member of the Central Ranges Local Learning and Employment Network as our council representative, and alternate Councillor on the Audit and Risk committee.

I have now passed the portfolio of Community Wellbeing and Economic Development to the capable hands of Councillor McAulay. I thank Executive Andrew Paxton for his knowledge and enthusiasm in this area.

I ask the community to continue to be engaged with council when they ask for feedback and community consultation on council matters. Your input and contributions do help guide the council in sound decision making. Become involved.

I also wish to ask the community if there is anyone who may be able to become a volunteer driver for Moving Murrindindi. This program provides drivers to take community members to medical and other appointments when the residents are unable to drive themselves. A council car is available for use, and any licensed driver can offer their availability. Please ring the council if you can offer any time to this valuable service.

Finally, I would like to sincerely thank Executive Vito Albicini for all his work at Murrindindi Shire council and wish him all the best in his future endeavours.

6.9 Cr Damien Gallagher - Mayoral Report

For me, November has been another month of celebrating community.

Firstly, in honour of service, in honour of sacrifice, I thank everyone across Murrindindi Shire for their solemn observance of Remembrance Day commemorations on 11/11. For the individual transactions of life and wellbeing for the freedom and privilege we enjoy today: Lest we forget.

Early in the month, I enjoyed an immersive Wawa Biik experience, relaxing and enjoying stories and cultural learning. Thanks to the leaders of Council's Reconciliation Action Plan for supporting the pursuit for understanding and connection with our rich local heritage.

In Alexandra, the Spring Fair and the Alexandra Pastoral and Agricultural Society's 138th Annual Spring Show were held. Both events are made possible by the dedicated work of volunteers and by locals and visitors coming along and lending their support. It's heartening that both events direct their proceeds to enabling a thriving local visitor economy.

Last Wednesday I was appointed Mayor of Murrindindi Shire Council and I'm very appreciative of the supportive messages from across the community. The appointment triggered a shift of focus to issues of shire-wide significance and to pursuing Murrindindi Shire's advocacy agenda further afield, and that focus shift will be reflected in my reports.

It was straight to work Thursday representing Council at the Municipal Association of Victoria's Rural & Regional Forum to discuss and consider a response to the Victorian Government's proposals to introduce the Plan Victoria strategy. Their goal is to accelerate planning approvals and to rewrite the Planning and Environment Act. To give a sense of the scale of the challenge, Plan Victoria is looking to address the challenge of homing an additional 323,000 people in regional Victoria by 2036. Council's challenge as always is to resolve the tension between growth and our community's attachment to our rural setting, as addressed in Council's recently adopted Housing and Settlement Strategy.

Last Friday I attended the Victorian Local Governance Association FastTrack event at which Local Government Minister, Melissa Horne MP announced new measures to address instances of Councillor misconduct. I look forward to supporting the Minister's targeted reforms. I hope the reforms can be achieved while also fostering community trust in the sector. It's important that the Government support dedicated individuals committed to service and to attracting future candidates passionate about representing their community.

Closer to home, on Saturday, I thank the volunteers at ReSource Alexandra and Upper Goulburn Landcare Network for presenting their food dehydration, composting and circular economy initiatives to an engaged group of onlookers. I encourage those who would like to learn more, to reach out to the group at uglandcare@gmail.com.

On Sunday there was a timely reminder that the fire season is most certainly upon us, as local brigades responded to fires close to home. The declared Fire Danger Period and associated restrictions commence on 27 November. Please prepare your family with a plan appropriate to your circumstances. Keep an eye on local weather conditions and the fire danger rating for the day, and please ensure that you and your visitors this summer don't leave campfires unattended. Yesterday afternoon, I welcomed the opportunity to invite the Murrindindi Shire Community to embrace the initiative to bring a comfortable, connected, collaboration facility for tertiary study right here in Murrindindi Shire, and to recognise the great work of the champions who are contributing to grant application funding to bring the initiative to life. Please contact Council (03 5772 0333) if you'd like to lend your support.

Finally, it's with some sadness that we farewell a Murrindindi Shire Director, Vito Albicini this evening. Over the course of the last four years there are numerous strategies, particularly in the space of asset management along with various efficiency measures such as the reactive tree crew and rapid response team initiative. On the micro scale, Mr Albicini has often been the target of briefing sessions as Councillors champion road, drainage, footpath and tree issues raised by members of the community. Mr Albicini goes with Council's best wishes.

6.9 Chief Executive Officer Report

Road funding advocacy

I am pleased to note that our advocacy efforts are having some traction.

We have been vigorously advocating both as an individual Council as well as a sector, for more government funding to manage local roads.

Council has welcomed the Grattan Institute's report, "Potholes and Pitfalls: How to fix local roads" which recommends a \$1 billion annual increase in funding for local roads, targeting funds where most needed, and reforming the federal assistance grant funding formulas and processes to better assist rural and remote councils. The report aligns with the Council's advocacy efforts, emphasising the need for fairer funding distribution and more government support to manage the increasing pressures on road infrastructure due to natural disasters and heavy vehicles.

Earlier this week the Federal Government has announced a substantial commitment to enhancing road safety across Australia with the Roads to Recovery funding to gradually increase from \$500 million to \$1 billion per year, and the Black Spot funding to rise from \$110 million to \$150 million annually. This is a welcome step forward in improving the safety and productivity of our local roads.

Additionally, the Heavy Vehicle Safety and Productivity Program (HVSP) and the Bridges Renewal Program (BRP) - will merge into the new Safer Local Roads and Infrastructure Program, which will see its funding gradually increase to \$200 million per year from the current \$150 million. This change is part of a wider strategy to make funding more accessible and effective, and it reflects the recommendations from the Independent Strategic Review of the Infrastructure Investment Program.

The much needed extra funding for Councils' local roads will go some way to improve safety for all road users. In Murrindindi Shire, we are acutely aware of the alarming TAC statistics the which indicate that Since January 2011, our small rural shire alone has witnessed 57 fatalities and 689 injuries. These numbers represent not just statistics, but lives lost and families shattered. Council is in the process of developing a road safety strategy that will position us well for securing some of the competitive funding opportunities.

However the current condition of the State roads is also a significant hazard that needs prompt attention, and Council has been advocating to the State Minister for Roads to prioritise the repair and maintenance of the state roads within our shire, particularly the Melba Highway between Kinglake and Yea.

Lake Eildon Campground

I wish to thank the Alexandra and District Traders and Tourism Association (ADTTA) for bringing the closure of Lakeside Campground in Lake Eildon National Park to Council's attention, which would have significantly impacted the peak visitor period. Following strong advocacy by Council, including a direct appeal to the Minister by the Mayor, Parks Victoria has agreed to a temporary reopening of the Fraser Block Campgrounds with reduced services. This addresses critical infrastructure issues while prioritising visitor safety, mitigates potential economic losses for local

businesses and supports the continued vitality of the visitor economy by maintaining access to these important camping and recreational areas during the summer season.

7 ASSEMBLIES OF COUNCILLORS

Purpose

For noting.

Executive Summary

This report presents the records of Assemblies of Councillors for 20 October 2023 to 16 November 2023, for Council to note.

Meeting Name/Type		Briefing Session		
Meeting Date:		18 October 2023		
Matters Discussed:		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Capital Works Program Review 2. Development Services Monthly Report 3. Economic Development Strategy 4. Eildon Pondage Masterplan 5. Tertiary Education Hub 6. 2022/23 Annual Report Review 		
Councillor Attendees:		Cr J Walsh, Cr K Haslam, Cr S Carpenter, Cr D Gallagher, Cr S McAulay, Cr E Lording, Cr I Gerencser		
Council Officer Attendees		Livia Bonazzi, Michael Chesworth, Vito Albicini, Andrew Paxton, Dilshan Liyanage, Peter Bain, Natalie Stewart, Cameron Fraser, Ben Harnwell, Emma Kubeil, David Echeverry, Cassandra Ray		
Conflict of Interest Disclosures: Nil				
Matter No.	Councillor making disclosure	Was a vote taken?	Did the Councillor leave the room?	When? Before or after discussion

Meeting Name/Type		Council Pre-Meet		
Meeting Date:		25 October 2023		
Matters Discussed:		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Planning Application – 2427 Maroondah Highway, Buxton – Carriageway Easement 2. Presenting the Thornton Rubicon Community Plan 3. 2023/23 – 1363 Whittlesea-Yea Road, Kinglake West 4. Economic Development Strategy – Business and Community Engagement 5. Quarterly Financial Report – YTD September 6. Customer Service Policy Update 7. Annual Report 2022/23 8. Priority Action Plan – Quarterly Reporting 9. CONT23/15 Saleyards scanning and weighing contract 10. Climate Change Action Plan 2023 11. Tender Report – Construction of New Cell at Alexandra Landfill Capital Works Program Quarterly Update – September 2023 		
Councillor Attendees:		Cr J Walsh, Cr K Haslam, Cr S Carpenter, Cr D Gallagher, Cr S McAulay,		

	Apology - Cr I Gerencser, Cr E Lording,			
Council Officer Attendees	Livia Bonazzi, Michael Chesworth, Vito Albicini, Andrew Paxton, David, Echeverry, Cheryl Nickels-Beattie, Natalie Stewart, Cameron Fraser			
Conflict of Interest Disclosures: Nil				
Matter No.	Councillor making disclosure	Was a vote taken?	Did the Councillor leave the room?	When? Before or after discussion

Meeting Name/Type	Briefing Session			
Meeting Date:	1 November 2023			
Matters Discussed:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan – Year 2 report 2. Planning Scheme Review – Report – Prioritise Actions 			
Councillor Attendees:	Cr J Walsh, Cr K Haslam, Cr S Carpenter, Cr D Gallagher, Cr S McAulay, Cr E Lording. Apology - Cr I Gerencser			
Council Officer Attendees	Livia Bonazzi, Michael Chesworth, Vito Albicini, Andrew Paxton, Brad Gill, Emma Kubeil, Stuart Coller			
Conflict of Interest Disclosures: Nil				
Matter No.	Councillor making disclosure	Was a vote taken?	Did the Councillor leave the room?	When? Before or after discussion

Meeting Name/Type	Briefing Session			
Meeting Date:	15 November 2023			
Matters Discussed:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Forest Fire Management - Media Release 2. Bus Stops Issue Paper 3. Waste Management Strategy Update 4. Resource Recovery Centres Review 5. Capital Works Program Review 6. Pre Fire Season Briefing 7. Development Services Monthly Report 8. Planning Application - 2456 Goulburn Valley Highway ALEXANDRA - Subdivision of Industrial Land 9. Shaping Murrindindi's Future – Context Analysis 10. Grants and Sponsorships – November Allocations 			
Councillor Attendees:	Cr J Walsh, Cr K Haslam, Cr S Carpenter, Cr D Gallagher, Cr S McAulay, Cr E Lording, Virtual - Cr I Gerencser			
Council Officer Attendees	Livia Bonazzi, Michael Chesworth, Vito Albicini, Andrew Paxton, David Richardson, Peter Bain, Josh Russell, Dilshan Liyanage, Chris Price, Scott Allen, Natalie Stewart, Cameron Fraser, Allisha Milestone, Ben Harnwell, Courtney Hamill			
Conflict of Interest Disclosures: Nil				
Matter No.	Councillor making disclosure	Was a vote taken?	Did the Councillor leave the room?	When? Before or after discussion

RESOLUTION

Cr S McAulay / Cr S Carpenter
That Council receive and note the Assemblies of Councillors for 18 October 2023 to 18 November 2023

CARRIED

8 SEALING REGISTER

File Reference	Date Seal Affixed	Description of Documents	Signatures of Persons Sealing
CONT23/14	14 November 2023	Formal Instrument of Agreement between Murrindindi Shire Council and TDM Earthworks Pty Ltd	Livia Bonazzi Cr John Walsh

RESOLUTION

Cr S Carpenter / Cr J Walsh
That the list of items to which the Council seal has been affixed be noted.

CARRIED

The meeting was closed at 7:43pm

CONFIRMED THIS

CHAIRPERSON