



**Murrindindi**  
Shire Council

# Scheduled Meeting of Council

## Minutes

Wednesday 27 September 2023  
Alexandra Council Chambers  
Perkins Street  
6:00 PM

**ORDER OF BUSINESS**

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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

Cr S Carpenter was an apology.

**Present:**

Councillors J Walsh (Chair), K Haslam, I Gerencser, D Gallagher, E Lording, S McAulay

**In attendance:**

Chief Executive Officer: Livia Bonazzi

Director People & Corporate Performance: Michael Chesworth

Director Community & Development: Andrew Paxton

Director Assets & Environment: Vito Albicini

Acting Manager Governance and Risk: David Echeverry

Manager Business Services: Cheryl Nickels-Beattie

Coordinator Planning: Cameron Fraser

### 2.3 Disclosure of Interest or Conflict of Interest

Cr K Haslem declared a General Conflict of Interest in Agenda item 4.4 being Grants and Sponsorships, application 2f Vocalists for Eildon Opera 2024, as she is a member of Eildon Events Incorporated which is the applicant.

## 2.4 Confirmation of Minutes

Minutes of the Scheduled Meeting of Council held on 23 August 2023.

### **RESOLUTION**

**Cr E Lording / Cr S McAulay**  
**That Council confirm the minutes of the 23 August 2023 Scheduled Meeting of Council.**

**CARRIED**

## 2.5 Petitions

### 2.5.1 Investigate traffic flow and roadway conditions – Bon Street Alexandra

Attachment(s)	Confidential Attachment 1 – Petition – Bon Street Submission ( <i>distributed to Councillors separately</i> ) Confidential Attachment 1 – Petition – Residents signatures ( <i>distributed to Councillors separately</i> )
Presenter	L Bonazzi, Chief Executive Officer
Approved by	Director People & Corporate Performance
Purpose	For decision

Council received a petition titled “Traffic issues in Bon Street Alexandra” from Gerry & Jane Laws on 28 August 2023. The petition is signed by 13 people with addresses in either Bon Street or Johnston St Alexandra. The petition is confirmed as meeting the requirements of Council’s Governance Rules.

### **RESOLUTION**

**Cr D Gallagher / Cr I Gerencser**  
**That Council:**

- 1. receive the petition titled ‘Traffic issues in Bon Street Alexandra’ from Gerry & Jane Laws**
- 2. refer the petition to the Director Assets & Environment for consideration and response.**

**CARRIED**

## 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

Anthony Minto spoke regarding Agenda item 5.6 Instruments of Delegation and Authorisation to Council Staff and proposed industrial development at Lamont Street Alexandra

Tony Pammer spoke regarding Agenda item 4.1 Planning Application – 399 Maintongoon Road, Maintongoon – Helicopter Maintenance Facility

Adam Johnson spoke regarding Agenda item 4.1 Planning Application – 399 Maintongoon Road, Maintongoon – Helicopter Maintenance Facility

### 3.2 Questions of Council

Nil.

## 4 REPORTS - COMMUNITY & DEVELOPMENT GROUP

### 4.1 Planning Application - 399 Maintongoon Road, Maintongoon -

Attachment(s)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Attachment 1 - 399 Maintongoon Road, Maintongoon - Application Form [4.1.1 - 7 pages]</li> <li>2. Attachment 2 - 399 Maintongoon Road, Maintongoon - Current Proposed Plans [4.1.2 - 5 pages]</li> <li>3. Attachment 3 - 399 Maintongoon Road, Maintongoon - LCA [4.1.3 - 21 pages]</li> <li>4. Attachment 4 - 399 Maintongoon Road, Maintongoon - CFA Response [4.1.4 - 1 page]</li> <li>5. Attachment 5 - 399 Maintongoon Road, Maintongoon - GBCMA Response [4.1.5 - 2 pages]</li> <li>6. Attachment 6 - 399 Maintongoon Road, Maintongoon - GMW Response [4.1.6 - 2 pages]</li> <li>7. CONFIDENTIAL - Confidential Attachment 7 - 399 Maintongoon Road, Maintongoon - Objection 1 [4.1.7 - 1 page]</li> <li>8. CONFIDENTIAL - Confidential Attachment 8 - 399 Maintongoon Road, Maintongoon - Objection 2 [4.1.8 - 2 pages]</li> <li>9. CONFIDENTIAL - Confidential Attachment 9 - 399 Maintongoon Road, Maintongoon - Objection 3 [4.1.9 - 3 pages]</li> <li>10. CONFIDENTIAL - Confidential Attachment 10 - 399 Maintongoon Road, Maintongoon - Objection 4 [4.1.10 - 3 pages]</li> </ol>
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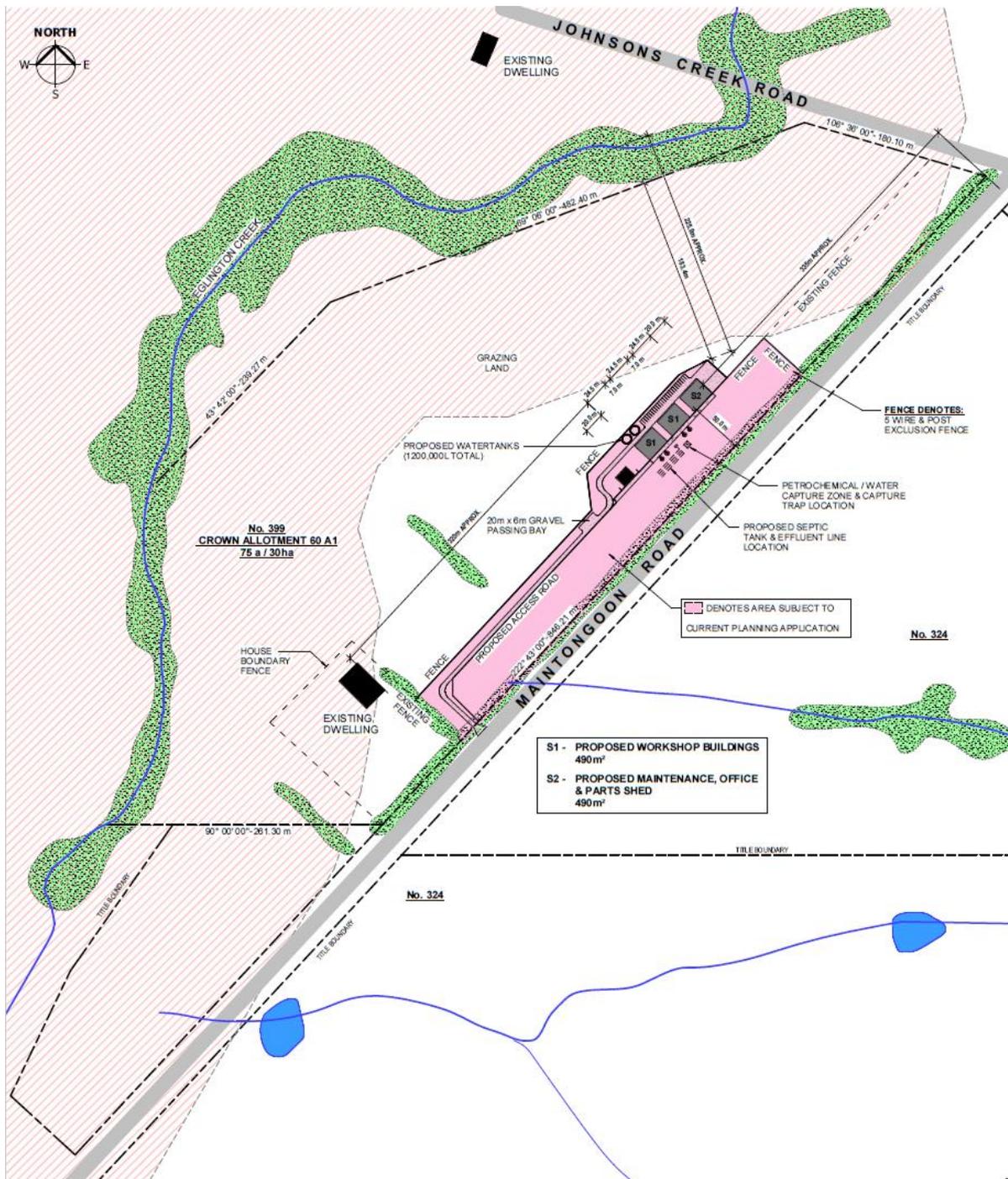
11. CONFIDENTIAL - Confidential Attachment 11 - 399 Maintongoon Road, Maintongoon - Support 1 [4.1.11 - 1 page]

Presenter Cameron Fraser, Coordinator Planning  
 Approved by Director Community & Development  
 Purpose For decision

Land: Part 399 Maintongoon Road, Maintongoon 3714  
 Proposal: Use and development of land for a Helicopter maintenance facility including helipad  
 Applicant: N C Kijlstra  
 Zoning: Farming Zone  
 Overlays: Nil  
 Triggers: Clause 35.07-1 and 35.07-4 (Use and development of land in the Farming Zone for a Helicopter Maintenance Facility)  
 Clause 52.15-1 - Development of land for a Helicopter Landing Facility

### Locality Plan





Extract from Application Documents

### Executive Summary

An application has been received for the use and development of land for a Helicopter Maintenance Facility, including Helipad under the Murrindindi Planning Scheme. The purpose of the application is to relocate an existing business from its location in Whanregarwen Road which has had approval since early 2015 to the subject site.

The land is in the Farming Zone and is not affected by any overlays. Part of the whole site is within a sensitive area pursuant to the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006* however the extent of use and development proposed as part of this application does not encroach into this area of the site.

The land has a total area of approximately 29 hectares and is located on the north-western side of Maintongoon Road and is bounded by Crown Land on its rear boundary. The proposed use and development will be contained within an area at the front of the site measuring approximately 2.5 hectares.

A dwelling and guest accommodation are currently constructed on the land with the balance of the land being used for agriculture.

Notice of the application was given to all properties within 1 kilometre of the subject site as well as to Goulburn Murray Water (GMW), Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority (GBCMA), Country Fire Authority (CFA), Department of Environment Land Water and Planning (now Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action - DEECA) and Taungurung Land and Waters Council.

Four objections have been received to the application as well as one submission of support. The objections raise a few issues related to amenity, consistency with the planning scheme and the impact on surrounding agricultural and residential land uses.

This report recommends that a notice of decision to grant a permit be issued for the use and development of land for a Helicopter maintenance facility, including a Helipad at part of 399 Maintongoon Road, Maintongoon.

## **RESOLUTION**

**Cr D Gallagher / Cr E Lording**

**That Council issue a Notice of Decision to grant a planning permit for the use and development of land for a Helicopter maintenance facility including helipad at part of 399 Maintongoon Road, Maintongoon VIC 3714, subject to the following conditions:**

### ***Amended Plans***

#### ***Landscaping Plans***

- 1. Before the *development* hereby permitted commences, a landscape plan prepared by a suitably qualified (*or experienced*) landscape designer to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority must be submitted to and approved by the Responsible Authority. When approved, the plan will be endorsed and will then form part of this permit. The landscaping plan must be generally in accordance with the landscape concept plan lodged with the application. The plan must show:**
  - a. The area or areas set aside for landscaping;**
  - b. A schedule of all proposed trees, shrubs/small trees and ground cover taking into account the Firewise plant selection tool available on the CFA website for gardens in a high bushfire risk area;**
  - c. The location of each species to be planted and the location of all areas to be covered by grass, lawn, or other surface material;**
  - d. Paving, retaining walls, fence design details and other landscape works including areas of cut and fill;**
  - e. Appropriate irrigation systems;**

**Section 173 Agreement**

2. Prior to the commencement of buildings and works a Section 173 Agreement must be entered into at no cost to Council, which ensures the following requirements:
  - a. Fencing shown on Planning Permit 2021/58 must be retained on site at all times. No removal, alteration or otherwise to the location of the fencing can occur unless with the prior written consent of the Responsible Authority.
  - b. The use of the land for a Helicopter Maintenance Facility including Helipad, including all ancillary infrastructure must only occur in the area shown in Drawing TP02 Revision P4 Prepared by AGC Drafting Design dated 09.08.2023.

The Section 173 Agreement must be either prepared or checked by Council's solicitors, to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority and must be recorded on the folio of the Register to the subject land pursuant to Section 181 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* prior to the use or works commencing.

All fees associated with the preparation or checking, and execution of the agreement must be fully paid by the applicant.

**Endorsed Plans**

3. The layout of the site and the size and type of the proposed buildings and works, including the materials of construction, as shown on the endorsed plans shall not be altered or modified without the consent in writing of the Responsible Authority.
4. Unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Responsible Authority, the landscaping areas shown on the endorsed plans must be used for landscaping and no other purpose and any landscaping must be maintained to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority, including that any dead, diseased or damaged plants are to be replaced.
5. Prior to the commencement of buildings and works, all screen planting along Maintongoon Road, in accordance with the landscape plan required under condition 1 must be completed unless with the prior written consent of the Responsible Authority.
6. Prior to the commencement of use, all other planting in accordance with the landscape plan required under condition 1 must be completed unless with the prior written consent of the Responsible Authority.

**Removal of buildings**

7. Upon cessation of the use, all building and infrastructure must be removed from the site or decommissioned to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.

**General Amenity**

8. All external cladding including the roof and trims of the building allowed must be coloured or painted in muted shades of green, brown, or charcoal, or in a colour approved in writing by the Responsible Authority.
9. The use hereby permitted shall not cause nuisance or injury to, or prejudicially affect the amenity of the locality, by reason of the appearance of any building, works, or materials on the land, the emission of noise, light spill, vibration, smell,

fumes, smoke, vapour, steam soot, ash, dust, waste water, waste products, or otherwise.

10. The subject land must be kept neat and tidy at all times and its appearance must not, in the opinion of the Responsible Authority, adversely affect the amenity of the locality.
11. Outdoor lighting must be designed, baffled, and located to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority such that no direct light is emitted outside the boundaries of the subject land.
12. Helicopter movements associated with the approved use must only occur during the following times unless with the prior consent of the Responsible Authority:
  - 7:00am and 5:00pm Monday to Friday (except public holidays).
  - 8:00am and 5:00pm on Saturday.
  - 10:00am and 5:00pm on Sundays.

### ***Engineering Conditions***

#### **Engineering**

13. Prior to the commencement of buildings and works, a suitable prepared engineering plan detailing the proposed driveway, earthworks, and drainage, including the erosion and sediment control measures must be submitted to the Responsible Authority and receive its endorsement.
14. Prior to the commencement of the use the developer must construct the access in accordance with approved construction drawings.

#### ***Drainage***

15. All stormwater and surface water discharging from the building and works must be conveyed to a point of discharge, approved by the relevant authority. No stormwater discharge from downpipes or overflow from storage tank and surface water shall be directed or caused to be directed in a concentrated form that will cause erosion and or adverse effects within the site or to adjoining land or properties.
16. The approved works must not cut off natural drainage to adjacent properties.

#### ***Crossovers***

17. Prior to commencing of any building works, any new or otherwise vehicular entrance to the subject land from the road must be constructed at applicant's expense to provide ingress and egress to the site at a location and of a size and standard satisfactory to the Responsible Authority. Refer to Council's Infrastructure Design Manual Section 12.9.2 – Rural Vehicle Crossings and standard drawing SD 255.
18. An application for consent to work is required to be made prior to commencing any works on the road reserve and must comply with the requirements of the *Road Management Act 2004* and associated Regulations.

#### ***Access***

19. Driveway culverts along access lane must be sufficiently large enough to accommodate natural flows of local catchments.

20. Prior to the commencement of the use, all internal access roads must be constructed, formed, and drained to avoid erosion and to minimise disturbance to natural topography of the land to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.
21. The internal access road to the building must be constructed to a size and standard satisfactory to the Responsible Authority to provide all weather access for emergency service vehicles.
22. The works must include the provision of suitable pavement material of at least 3.5 metres in width with 0.5m side clearances and 4 m vertical clearance and designed to carry a vehicle weighing at least 15 tonnes.
23. Passing lanes shall be provided at least 200 m along the access road.

### ***Parking***

#### ***Carpark design***

24. Before construction works start associated with the provision of driveway, drainage and car parking, detailed construction plans in accordance with the endorsed plan, AS 2890 Part 1 Off Street Car Parking and AS 3500 Part 3 Stormwater Drainage and to the satisfaction of the relevant authority must be submitted to and approved by the responsible authority. The design and plans must be drawn to scale with levels and dimensions and prepared by a suitable qualified person.

#### ***Parking signs***

25. Signage to the satisfaction of the responsible authority must be provided directing drivers to the area(s) set aside for car parking and must be located and maintained to the satisfaction of the responsible authority. The area of each sign must not exceed 0.3 square metres.

#### ***Carpark Construction***

26. Prior to the commencement of use or the occupation of the development starts, the area(s) set aside for parking of vehicles, access lanes and parking signs as shown on the approved plans must be constructed and completed to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.
27. Car spaces, access lanes and driveways must be kept available for these purposes at all times.

#### ***Environmental Management***

28. Prior to the commencement of the use, an Environmental Management Plan shall be prepared to address petrochemical spills and noise issues during helicopter movement, to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.

#### ***Goulburn Murray Water***

29. All construction and ongoing activities must be in accordance with sediment control principles outlined in 'Construction Techniques for Sediment Pollution Control' (EPA (Environment Protection Authority), 1991).
30. All wastewater from the helicopter maintenance facility must be treated and disposed of using an approved system. The system must have a certificate of conformity issued by the Conformity Assessment Body (or equivalent approval) and be installed, operated and maintained in accordance with the relevant Australian Standard and EPA Code of Practice.

31. The wastewater disposal area must be located at least: 60m from any waterways including Johnson Creek, 40m from any drainage lines, 60m from any dams, and 20m from any bores.
32. The wastewater disposal area must be kept free of stock, buildings, driveways, and service trenching and must be planted with appropriate vegetation to maximise its performance. Stormwater must be diverted away. A reserve wastewater disposal field of equivalent size to the primary disposal field must be provided for use in the event that the primary field requires resting or has failed.
33. No buildings are to be constructed within 30 metres of any waterways or on any drainage lines.

**Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority**

34. The proposed septic system complies with the Victoria EPA's Code of Practice for Onsite Wastewater Treatment and any additional requirements of Goulburn Murray Water.
35. Any chemicals, oil, fuel, grease, waste, or other potential pollutants that are to be stored in the maintenance facility are stored in a manner which is in accordance with any requirements of the Victorian EPA and will prevent any spills entering the downstream waterway.

***Expiry – 4 Years***

1. This permit shall expire if the development hereby permitted is not completed and the use commenced within four (4) years of the date hereof, or any extension of such period the responsible authority may allow in writing. A request for an extension of time may be made before or within 6 months after the permit expiry date, where the use or development allowed by the permit has not yet commenced, or within 12 months after the permit expiry date, where the development allowed by the permit lawfully commenced before the permit expired.

**CARRIED**

## 4.2 Murrindindi Flood Recovery September Report

Attachment(s)	1. Attachment 1 - Murrindindi Shire Flood Statistics August 31 2023 [4.2.1 - 3 pages]
Presenter	Kim Chadband, Manager Flood Recovery
Approved by	Director Community & Development
Purpose	For decision

### **Executive Summary**

In October 2022, Murrindindi Shire Council, along with large areas of Victoria, was impacted by floods. This report outlines the financial processes and mechanisms available to Murrindindi Shire Council, to assist flood-affected communities with their recovery and to rectify flood damaged Council assets.

This report seeks Council approval to amend the delegations for approval of works packages endorsed for funding by the Department of Transport through the Disaster Relief Funding Arrangement with the provision of timely reporting to Council and Community through the Capital works program reports.

### **MOTION**

Cr I Gerencser / K Haslem

That Council delegate to the CEO, Mayor and Deputy Mayor the procurement of works for flood recovery up to the value of \$3,000,000 where such works are endorsed for funding by the Department of Transport through the Disaster Relief Funding Arrangement

### **AMENDMENT**

Cr D Gallagher proposed an amendment to add the following words to the motion:

That Council receive a report for noting at the next scheduled Council meeting, which lists the project description and value of any procurement authority exercised under this delegation.

The Mover and Seconder supported the amendment to the motion.

### **RESOLUTION**

Cr I Gerencser / Cr K Haslam

That Council:

1. delegate to the CEO, Mayor and Deputy Mayor the procurement of works for flood recovery up to the value of \$3,000,000 where such works are endorsed for funding by the Department of Transport through the Disaster Relief Funding Arrangement; and
2. receive a report for noting at the next scheduled Council meeting, which lists the project description and value of any procurement authority exercised under this delegation.

**CARRIED**

### 4.3 Arts and Culture Policy Review

Attachment(s)	1. Attachment 1 - Arts and Culture Policy 2023 [4.3.1 - 4 pages]
Presenter	Andrew Paxton, Director Community and Development
Approved by	Director Community and Development
Purpose	For decision

#### Executive Summary

The Arts and Culture Policy provides the framework for Council's role in supporting and enabling the arts and cultural activities across the Shire. The revised Arts and Culture Policy has been prepared following internal review of the 2019 Arts and Culture Policy.

#### **RESOLUTION**

**Cr K Haslam / Cr I Gerencser**  
**That Council endorse the revised Arts and Culture Policy (September 2023)**

**CARRIED**

### 4.4 Grants and Sponsorships

Attachment(s)	Nil
Presenter	Grants Officer
Approved by	Director Community and 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. The program provides opportunities to 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 grant applications for the period of July to September with the Panel Assessment Report for consideration.

## **RESOLUTION**

**Cr E Lording / Cr S McAulay**

**That Council:**

- 1) Note the following grants awarded under delegation:**
  - a) Yea Wetlands Discovery Centre Inc - Flood Recovery Benefit Concert - \$1,000**
  - b) Alexandra Secondary College Sponsorship of 2023 Dux Student Award - \$650**
  - c) Buxton Memorial Hall converting our External Power Points to Green Energy - \$2,469**
  - d) Foundation Murrindindi - Fee for Planning Permit Application - \$2,369**
  - e) Murrindindi East U3A – Seniors Week, Have a Go - \$1,141**
  - f) Flowerdale Community House - Community Garden Fencing - \$2,000**
  - g) Thornton Eildon District Football Netball Club - Learn to Ride Park at Thornton - \$2,049**
  - h) Yea Community House - Rocking Yea Cruise Night - \$1,250**
  - i) Buxton Progress Association - Christmas Party 2023 - \$500**
  - j) Rotary Club of Yea - Yea Garden Expo - \$2,500**
  - k) Kinglake Ranges Neighbourhood House Inc – Dindi Open Studios - \$1,075**
  - l) Alexandra Pastoral and Agricultural Association Inc – Alexandra Show - \$2,250**
  - m) Robert Atkins - New Zealand Scout Jamboree 2023 - \$500**
  
- 2) Endorse the following allocations recommended by the Grants and Sponsorship Assessment Panel:**
  - a) Foggy Mountain Inc – Foggy Mountain Music and arts Festival 2023 - \$3,000; plus \$2,000 from the flood recovery hub funding**
  - b) Eco Warriors Australia Inc – Planting the Seed: Helping School Children to Create a Living Classroom - \$ 5,000**
  - c) Flowerdale Primary School – Flowerdale Primary School Fair - \$ \$3,000; plus \$2,000 from the flood recovery hub funding**
  - d) Paddle Australia - 2024 Paddle Australia Whitewater Age Championships - \$5,000**
  - e) South Eastern Predators Inc – Murrindindi Sheild - \$5,000**

**CARRIED**

Cr K Haslam left the meeting at 7:07pm

## **RESOLUTION**

**Cr D Gallagher / Cr I Gerencser**

**That Council:**

**Endorse the following allocation recommended by the Grants and Sponsorship Assessment Panel:**

- f) Eildon Events Incorporated – Vocalists for Eildon Opera 2024 - \$3,000; plus \$2,000 from the flood recovery hub funding**

**CARRIED**

Cr K Haslam returned to the meeting at 7:10pm

## 5 REPORTS - PEOPLE & CORPORATE PERFORMANCE GROUP

### 5.1 Contract 23/11 - Microsoft 365 and Teams Licenses

Attachment(s)	1. CONFIDENTIAL - Attachment 1 - Confidential Attachment Microsoft 365 and Teams Licences [5.1.1 - 5 pages]
Presenter	C Nickels-Beattie, Manager Business Services
Approved by	Director People & Corporate Performance
Purpose	For decision

#### Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is for Council to appoint a contractor for the provision of Microsoft 365 and Teams phone system Licences. Procurement Australia undertook a tender process and awarded a panel of suppliers. Each panel supplier has an agreed schedule of rates relating to Microsoft licencing.

Officers undertook a procurement process to appoint a suitable supplier for CONT23/11 Microsoft 365 and Teams Licences using the Procurement Australia Panel arrangement for a period of 3 years.

A detailed evaluation process was undertaken in line with Council's Procurement Policy and against the tender evaluation criteria by a Tender Evaluation Committee.

Based on the analysis undertaken, the Committee recommended one panel tenderer to be appointed for the CONT23/11 Microsoft 365 and Teams Licences for a three-year contract, commencing 1 October 2023 and ending no later than 30 September 2026. The Contract will not exceed a total spend of \$468,800 excl GST, over the three-year term, allowing for growth.

#### **RESOLUTION**

**Cr E Lording / Cr D Gallagher**  
**That Council:**

- 1. award CONT23/11 Microsoft 365 and Teams Licences to Crayon Australia for a period of three years commencing 1 October 2023 and ending 30 September 2026**
- 2. approve a maximum contract amount of \$468,795 over the three-year contract period; and**
- 3. release this resolution and the name of successful Tenderer (Crayon Australia) into the Minutes of the Scheduled Meeting of 27 September 2023.**

**CARRIED**

## 5.2 Approval of the 2022/23 Financial and Performance Statements

Attachment(s)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Attachment 1 - draft Financial Statements 2022-23 [5.2.1 - 46 pages]</li> <li>Attachment 2 - draft Performance Statement 2022-23 [5.2.2 - 15 pages]</li> </ol>
Presenter	C Nickels-Beattie, Manager Business Services
Approved by	Director People & Corporate Performance
Purpose	For decision

### Executive Summary

This report presents the draft 2022-23 Annual Financial Statements and Performance Statement for consideration and adoption in principle. These statements were reviewed by Council's Audit and Risk Committee as its meeting on 14 August 2023 and the Committee has also recommended in principle approval by Council.

### RESOLUTION

**Cr S McAulay / Cr I Gerencser**  
**That Council:**

- approve in principle, the following statements for the 2022/23 financial year:
  - Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2023
  - Performance Statement 2022/23.
- authorise the Principal Accounting Officer to make minor amendments to the Financial Statements and Performance Statement for the year ended 30 June 2023 to meet the Victorian Auditor General's (VAGO) requirements.
- authorise Councillor Walsh and Councillor Gallagher to certify the 2022/23 financial and performance statements in their final form after any changes recommended, or agreed to, by the Auditor General have been made and in accordance with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

**CARRIED**

## 5.3 Audit and Risk Committee Noting of Minutes

Attachment(s)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Attachment 1 - 2023-09-14 Audit and Risk Committee Minutes [5.3.1 - 15 pages]</li> </ol>
Presenter	Michael Chesworth, Director People and Corporate Performance
Approved by	Director People & Corporate Performance
Purpose	For decision

### Executive Summary

This report presents the minutes of the 14 September 2023 Audit and Risk Committee Meeting to Council for noting.

#### **RESOLUTION**

**Cr D Gallagher / Cr E Lording**

**That Council receive and note the minutes of the 14 September 2023 Audit and Risk Committee Meeting as enclosed in Attachment 5.3.1**

**CARRIED**

## **5.4 Audit and Risk Committee Biannual Report**

Attachment(s)	1. Attachment 1 - Biannual ARC Report - September 2023 [5.4.1 - 3 pages]
Presenter	M Chesworth, Director People & Corporate Performance
Approved by	Director People & Corporate Performance
Purpose	For noting

### Executive Summary

Murrindindi Shire Council is committed to providing good governance, public transparency and accountability to the communities of the Murrindindi Shire. The Audit and Risk Committee (the Committee) is an independent advisory committee to Council, established under section 53 of the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act) to provide oversight, guidance and assurance to assist Council and Council's Executive meet this commitment.

The attached Audit and Risk Committee Biannual Report describes the activities of the Committee for the January to end of June 2023 period.

#### **RESOLUTION**

**Cr D Gallagher / Cr K Haslam**

**That Council note the Audit and Risk Committee's Biannual Report for January to end of June 2023 as contained in attachment 5.4.1**

**CARRIED**

## 5.5 Endorsement of Audit and Risk Committee Chair

Attachment(s)	Nil
Presenter	M Chesworth, Director People & Corporate Performance
Approved by	Director People & Corporate Performance
Purpose	For noting

### Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to formally appoint the Chairperson of the Audit and Risk Committee. The Committee at its 14 September 2023 Meeting formally nominated Mr Steve Schinck as Chairperson for the 2023/24 year.

### **RESOLUTION**

**Cr D Gallagher / Cr E Lording**  
**That Council formally appoint Mr Steve Schinck as Chairperson of the Audit and Risk Committee for the 2023/24 financial year.**

**CARRIED**

## 5.6 Instruments of Delegation and Authorisation to Council Staff

Attachment(s)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Attachment 1 - S 6 - Instrument of Delegation - Council to Members of Council Staff ( June 2023) [5.6.1 - 63 pages]</li> <li>Attachment 2 - S 11 A - Instrument of Appointment &amp; Authorisation ( Planning and Environment Act 1987) September 2023 [5.6.2 - 3 pages]</li> </ol>
Presenter	M Chesworth, Director People & Corporate Performance
Approved by	Director People & Corporate Performance
Purpose	For decision

### Executive Summary

This report seeks Council's endorsement of revisions to:

- the S6. Delegation to members of Council staff, and
- the S11A Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*.

### Delegations - S6. Instrument of Delegation – Members of Staff

Currently a planning permit application that receives two or more objections, or that is recommended for refusal, must be referred to Council for a decision.

In order to speed up overall approval times and free up more officer time to process applications in an efficient manner, it is proposed to raise the threshold by which a planning application is referred to Council for decision from two to five or more objections, in addition to those applications recommended for refusal.

Such a change would not preclude an application being called in by a Councillor and would not apply to applications that raise issues of significant public interest, concern or controversy.

2 S11A. Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation (Planning and Environment Act 1987). In Recent staffing changes in the Development Services Department require changes to the S11A Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation (Planning and Environment Act 1987).

## **RESOLUTION**

**Cr E Lording / Cr I Gerencser**  
**That Council:**

- 1. endorse the amendment to the planning delegations provision S.61(1) in the *Instrument of Delegation to members of Council Staff (S6 Attachment 5.6.1)* being the power to delegate to Officers, to read ‘The power to refuse a permit application, or to determine an application for which five or more objections have been lodged (and not withdrawn) is not delegated.’**
- 2. delegate the members of Council staff holding, acting in or performing the duties of the positions referred to in the attachment *Instrument of Delegation to members of Council Staff (S6 Attachment 5.6.1)*, the powers, duties and functions set out in that instrument, subject to the conditions and limitations specified.**
- 3. appoint and authorise the members of Council staff referred to in the Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation (S11A. Attachment 5.6.2)**
- 4. resolve that the instruments come into force immediately upon resolution by Council and that previous delegations and authorisations to members of Council staff (other than the CEO) are revoked.**

**CARRIED**

## 6 REPORTS - ASSETS & ENVIRONMENT GROUP

### 6.1 Contract 23/10 - Design & Construction Eildon Skate Park -

Attachment(s)	1. CONFIDENTIAL - Attachment 1 - SF 4531 Confidential Council Report RFT CONT 23 10 Design Construction Eildon [6.1.1 - 9 pages]
Presenter	Kerim Sijercic, Project Manager
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 CONT23/10 – Eildon Reserves Skate Park Design and Construct.

The 2022/2023 Capital Works Program identified this project to be completed as part of the Eildon Reserve Redevelopment project. The Eildon Reserves redevelopment is a large-scale project, that Council is planning to deliver in stages during 2023 and 2024. Council has funding available to deliver the works in stages, which include a regional playground, senior play, skate park, flying fox and swings, splash park, skate park and toilets.

The scope for the Skate Park includes landscaping, hard and soft landscaping and skate park play elements.

Tenders were called on 19 May 2023 and six tenders were received. A detailed evaluation was undertaken in line with Council's Procurement Policy and against tender evaluation criteria, by the Tender Evaluation Committee.

Based on the evaluation, the Committee recommended Tenderer 5A be awarded CONT23/10 - Eildon Reserves - Skate Park - Design & Construction for a lump sum price of \$393,251.

#### **RESOLUTION**

**Cr S Carpenter / Cr E Lording**  
**That Council:**

- 1. accept the tender from Hayley Constructions Pty Ltd for CONT23/10 - Eildon Reserves - Skate Park - Design & Construction for the lump sum price of \$393,251, to complete the required works;**
- 2. approve the allocation of \$20,000 as contingency to be used in the delivery of this contract; and**
- 3. release the name of the successful tenderer (Haley Constructions Pty Ltd) into the minutes of the 27 September 2023 Schedule Meeting of Council.**

**CARRIED**

## 6.2 Tender Evaluation Report - Contract 23/14 - Gravel Roads

Attachment(s)	1. CONFIDENTIAL - Confidential Attachment 1 - CONT23 14 Gravel Roads Resheeting Program 2023 24 Contract Award [6.2.1 - 9 pages]
Presenter	Paul Somerville, Project Engineer
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 CONT23/14 – Gravel Roads Resheeting Program 2023/24

The scope of the contract is to provide 33.5 km of resheeting works on 19 gravel road across the municipality. An additional 3.0 km of gravel shoulder resheeting is included.

Tenders were called on 22 August 2023 and seven submissions were received. One response was found to be non-conforming. A detailed evaluation process was undertaken of the remaining 6 conforming responses in line with Council's Procurement Policy and against tender evaluation criteria, by a Tender Evaluation Committee.

Based on the evaluation, the Committee recommended Tenderer 1 be awarded Contract 23/14 for the 2023/24 Gravel Road Resheeting for a lump sum price of \$1,108,817. It is further recommended that a contingency of \$110,000 be allocated for unforeseen variations over the contract period.

Total Project budget is \$1,880,000 and \$626,183 of the available budget will be allocated to further road renewal works to be completed this financial year.

### RESOLUTION

Cr E Lording / Cr I Gerencser

That Council:

1. **Accept the tender from TDM Earthworks and award CONT23/14 – for the Gravel Roads Resheeting Program 2023/24 – for a lump sum Price of \$1,108,817 to complete all required works including the following roads:**
  - a. Terip Road, Terip Terip
  - b. Peppermint Drive, Buxton
  - c. Brysons Lane, Strath Creek
  - d. Dugald Road, Yark
  - e. Landmark Lane, Flowerdale
  - f. Margetts Road, Flowerdale
  - g. Maroondah Highway, Service Road, Yarck
  - h. Molesworth – Dropmore Road, Caveat
  - i. Moores Road, Flowerdale
  - j. Pennington Lane, Gobur
  - k. The Ridge, Kinglake

- l. Edwards Road, Alexandra
  - m. Jacksons Road, Murrindindi
  - n. Larritts Lane, Glenburn
  - o. Macs Road, Yarck
  - p. Myles Bend Drive, Murrindindi
  - q. Miles Road, Murrindindi
  - r. Spring Creek Road, Fawcett
  - s. Ti Tree Drive, Eildon
  - t. Conellys Creek Road, Acheron (Shoulder Resheeting)
2. Approve the allocation of \$110,000 as a contingency amount to be used for the delivery of this contract as outlined in this report; and
3. Release this resolution into the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of 27 September 2023.

**CARRIED**

## 7 COUNCILLOR AND CEO REPORTS

### 7.1 Notices of Motions

Nil.

### 7.2 Cr Sue Carpenter

Nil to report

### 7.3 Cr Damien Gallagher

September was marked by an activity-packed calendar of events and achievements. The Alexandra Football Netball Club fielded six teams for grand finals, with some gallant performances and premiership victories recorded for the U12 and U14 junior footballers. The businesses of Alexandra rallied behind the local finalists with banners and streamers supporting the Alexandra spirit of *rebellious against defeat*. Congratulations leaders, Ray Steyger and Kylie Cairns and to Alex FNC participants, supporters and families on the huge strides forward in 2023.

Last week it was a privilege to support the Mayor as he opened the Alexandra Recreation Precinct. The project was supported by just over \$1m from the Victorian Government's Regional Jobs and Infrastructure Fund, supplementing Council's contribution of \$500,000, and today represents a regionally significant recreation space for all ages. I thank the previous Council and Murrindindi Shire Council leadership – past and present – for supporting the initiative.

I was very pleased during September to speak on UGFM on important Council matters and to share in the celebration of Maurie Pawsey OAM, who recently stepped back from his volunteer committee role with Friends of Kellock Lodge. But far from retirement, Mr Pawsey, who celebrates his 95th birthday next month, was returned as the President of the Alexandra Op Shop Committee at their recent AGM. The new committee comprised of Brenda Lopez, Lorraine Murdoch, Maree Evans, John Sharwood, Pam Delmodes, Helen Gibb, and Chris Siciliano shared some remarkable results:

- \$170,000 in contributions to the community including:
  1. \$120,000 to support Kellock Lodge
  2. A further \$50,000 shared amongst Darlingford, Menzies Centre, schools, and volunteer emergency services agencies

During the month I also attended the Annual General Meetings of:

- Alexandra Cricket Club
- Alexandra Race Club
- Alexandra Golf Club

The concerns around attracting and retain volunteers abounds. Congratulations to local groups for continuing to offer connection and recreation to our community.

A little further afield, I had the privilege of enjoying:

- a warm welcome for an open Community Meeting with Council in Strath Creek;
- a performance by the Victorian Concert Orchestra in Marysville; and
- an engaging introduction to Victorian Gender Equality Commissioner, Dr. Niki Vincent in Yea hosted by the Murrindindi Health Network, and including some more inspiring words from the young leaders of Pride Rangers group and their message of equality.

To yet more outcomes worth celebrating:

- Thanks Kazza Stillman for leading the local Nutbush Bash – breast and ovarian cancer research fundraiser, and for thoroughly exposing my lack of coordination.
- To the students, volunteers, businesses and Council staff who supported the Alexandra ELF Reading Day and reminded us that Early Learning is Fun, thank you.

Supported by Council, and in the interest of fostering mental well-being, there are number of opportunities coming up to take some time out for yourself.

In Yarck, at 6:30PM on Thursday 19 October, The Community Recovery Hub will provide a free feed and a night of entertainment for all farmers. After some comedy, Warren Davies, The Unbreakable Farmer will share his story and strategies for checking in on yourself and about maintaining your physical and mental health like you might your favourite machinery.

At 6:00PM, Friday 20 October at Yea Community House and at 1:00PM, Saturday 21 October at the Alexandra RSL Hall, Mark McConville's Laughter Clinic will share a unique perspective on enabling audiences to regain their control of happiness alongside some mental health strategies. These events are free, supported by Council, The Community Recovery Hub, Foundation Murrindindi, Yea Community House, Yea Hospital, and Alexandra District Health.

Those initiatives follow the Cool Heads Young Driver Program in Alexandra earlier this month which highlighted for young people the real consequences of distraction and risk taking behind the wheel. Thanks to local Victoria Police and Ambulance Victoria team members, along with Alexandra Fire Brigade, Alexandra SES, His Honour, Mag. Peter Dunn, and the presenters who shared their very personal experiences of ordinary, unexceptional people encountering and living with the enduring consequences of a moment of lapsed attention or judgement.

Also earlier this month, the Alexandra District Traders and Tourism Association, Friends of Kellock Lodge and Council staff embraced RUOK Day as the opportunity to:

- Ask a mate, RUOK?

- Listen to their response.
- Encourage them to act if they need to talk further.
- Check back in occasionally.

The Alexandra community is rallying behind friends, family and neighbours and that makes me incredibly proud.

Finally:

My thanks to Bob Flowers for expertly facilitating a valuable information session to support voters on The Voice referendum. And to the community members and Council officers who supported the assembly of the expert panel, thank you.

At the forum, speaker Sean Gordon AM pointed to the World War II honour role in the Alexandra Town Hall and explained that in 1938, Australians of all backgrounds were on the eve of defending Jewish people from a Nazi uprising on the other side of the planet. At the same time, some Australians took Mr. Gordon's grandparents in a cattle truck to a settlement "*to have the black bred out of them*".

I encourage everyone to take a few moments over the coming fortnight to become informed and to consider the competing cases. This is our generation's opportunity to recognise and honour the oldest continuing civilisation, to resolve disadvantage, and to advance a reconciled Australia.

For recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders as Australia's First Peoples, and for a meaningful body to make representation to Parliament on indigenous issues, I'll be voting yes.

## 7.4 Cr Ilona Gerencser

### **CRAG – Community Road Advisory Group**

Last Wednesday council and community members met for our first Road Advisory Group meeting in Yea. This group has been put together to get feedback and assistance from the community to better understand expectations of the community and to work with them to manage our roads better. We have community members from throughout Murrindindi and will update The Loop with information as things progress. Our next meeting will be held in early December. I wanted to thank everyone who attended and took time out of their day to attend.

**It was great to see so many people (local and out of towners) as the Kinglake Market last Sunday. We spoke to many residents and handed out information regarding;**

### **Road Safety Strategy**

We are seeking feedback from the community as to what we can do to educate people on driving within our shire. A recent study has shown that we and Strathbogie Shire have the largest incidence of Serious Injury and Fatal collisions. Most of these accidents occur to people visiting from outside our Shires. So what can we do to educate everyone? Please visit The Loop and provide feedback on what can be done better. Feedback closes this Friday 30<sup>th</sup> September.

### **Planning Scheme Review**

Council is again seeking the community's feedback before we finalize the Planning Scheme Review. This will enable us to better understand what the community wants and expects in relation to building and developing within our shire. We are extremely restricted by Overlays, Zoning and Infrastructure supply and would appreciate feedback from you as to how we can move forward and provide assistance with housing for the future. Again, please visit the Loop for

a link to the survey, call into one of our offices in Alexandra, Yea or Kinglake or call our offices on 57720333.

### **Eildon Reserves**

As per our Agenda Item, it's fantastic that the Eildon Splash park / new amenities project has started work with equipment being purchased. Major works start in Feb 2024. Currently planned for opening in October 2024. With the Adult Play contract awarded, the plan is to install by Christmas if equipment arrives in-time.

### **Kinglake Tree Works**

On Thursday 5 October, five large Eucalyptus trees in front of 15 Whittlesea-Kinglake Road (police station) will be pruned, to reduce the risk of tree limbs falling and injuring someone. These trees were assessed by an independent arborist and the planned works will protect and support their structure, enhancing their overall condition. There will be minor traffic delays and some car parking spaces unavailable in the main street for the day.

Following two independent arborist assessments of the Black Saturday Remembrance Tree (opposite the Police Station), it has been determined that the tree will require extensive pruning to reduce its size. At the moment, the tree is unsafe, as it is rotting in some areas, including at the base of the tree. Reducing its size will mitigate risks and ensure it can remain in place for as long as possible. We'll continue inspecting this tree regularly and following severe weather events. Pruning works will be scheduled for late-October, subject to contractor availability and weather conditions. Sections of the tree will be removed with the support of a crane and reused in Bollygum Park as street furniture. We'll try our best to keep traffic delays to a minimum. We will update you soon with dates.

### **Kinglake Landfill Rehabilitation**

Works on our landfill have commenced. As a result, you may find an increase in truck movement around the area, but you will still be able to access the landfill on the usual hours on Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday.

## **7.5 Cr Eric Lording**

Nil to report

## **7.6 Cr Sandice McAulay**

### **'Shaping Murrindindi's Future'**

This DEECA sponsored project is envisioned to support our community with its economic transition out of forestry and is being conducted over four stages over two years. Last month I reported that the first stage of the project being the "Discovery Phase" had progressed well with over 110 people having participated in workshops and interviews. The findings will go a long way to developing the context and structure of this important project going forward. The Draft Summary is available online on Council's Dindi Loop and paper copies of the Draft Report are also available from the Alexandra Library, Alexandra Council Office, the MiRA in Marysville and at the Taggerty Store.

I encourage as many community members as possible to take the time to view this important Draft Summary Document and provide your valuable feedback by completing the form on the website or to complete the feedback forms available with the paper copies.

Drop in events have already been held in Alexandra, Marysville, Buxton, and the final opportunity will be on Tuesday the 3rd of October at the Alexandra Library from 3.30pm to 6.30pm.

Feedback must be received by Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> October.

The following innovative opportunities have been recommended for further investigation.

- Farm Forestry
- Sustainable Agriculture & Horticulture
- Advanced manufacturing
- Health, Aged Care & Social Assistance
- Renewable Economy
- Tourism

The innovative opportunities identified above will be reviewed through a series of workshops. You can nominate to be part of the Stage 2 or the “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.

### **Forest Transition**

Council is continuing to advocate to the State on behalf of the Forest Haulage Contractors to seek to understand the full social, environmental, and economic impacts from this State decision of the early cessation of native timber logging.

Council is also trying to seek information on the vitally important fire and forestry management, for this year and future years with specific answers relating to what the contribution of the haulage and logging contractors is currently and what it will look like going into the future.

Affected contractors are still encouraged to please continue to engage with Council.

### **Key worker housing**

Available affordable and suitable housing continues to be raised as a major blocker to attracting staff to our region. In response Council is developing a strategy to attract and drive investment in housing in Murrindindi Shire. The priority specific worker areas include agriculture, health, and education. One major opportunity is seen as investment in Retirement Homes to free up housing. Community members please arrange to talk to staff if you have any ideas or suggestions or if you are interested in investing in our beautiful community.

### **Tertiary Education Hub**

Council is continuing to explore the development of a local Tertiary Education Hub to be developed in Murrindindi with the recently established Skills Based Working Group having their first meeting this month. These innovative hubs are seen to complement the work of our wonderful neighbourhood houses and supplement the education of young people who are currently leaving the area and not returning. It will address and support critical skills training and development, remove distance barriers and improve access to Education.

### **Eildon Pondage Master Planning exercise and consultation**

Last week you may have noticed a media release asking for your ideas on how we can improve and enhance use of this important area in Eildon for both locals and visitors. This information along with the information collected during the development of the Eildon Community Plan will help develop an Eildon Pondage Precinct Masterplan. This Masterplan will help strengthen our case for grant applications as well as identifying opportunities for investment. You can discuss any ideas at a Pop up at The Eildon Grocer this Thursday morning September 28th at 10am to 12noon. You can also provide feedback by completing a survey on Council’s engagement platform on the Loop by Monday 9<sup>th</sup> October.

Please find information on all these exciting opportunities on the following link:

[theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au](https://theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au)

### 7.7 Cr Karine Haslam

Nil to report

### 7.8 Cr John Walsh - Mayoral Report

It has been a busy month:

- Community Council Meeting at Strath Creek brought out many good suggestions for Council services.
- The Tertiary Education Hub Working Group has had two meetings with the group gaining a greater understanding of how Country Universities Centres have successfully established 18 such facilities across the Eastern States. The next steps are to review possible sites for such a centre within Murrindindi; to visit an existing Centre; and work to develop a grant application for consideration by the Federal Government.
- Virginia Trioli interviewed me as part of her Meet the Mayor segment. I had the opportunity to answer a few questions from our residents, and others, and remind Melbourne of the great part of the world in which we live.
- Along with Peter Bain, our Manager Sustainability and Assets, I presented the Shire's case at the Parliamentary Enquiry on the Response to the October Floods. Our messages on better management of Lake levels, the need for flow gauges and better telemetry communications from weather stations; improved communications with back-up facilities for emergency management teams; and increased funding to build back better were well received.
- I attended a small celebration for the completion of the sorely needed works on the Alexandra Maternal and Child Health centre. Many thanks to the staff and local tradesmen for the great outcome and special thanks to our dedicated Centre staff who continued their provision of excellent service in the temporary accommodation while the work was undertaken.
- Along with other Councillors I received a briefing on the Thornton Community Plan. Those involved are to be congratulated for the work and the fact that already a grant has been obtained to progress the reimagining of the old tennis courts into a children's learn to ride space.

My work has been going on at a time when all of us are contemplating the question of providing First Nations people Constitutional recognition and a Voice to Parliament. A small change that won't be noticed by the vast majority of us because it won't have any direct impact but gives 3 % of our fellow countrymen the best chance to bring their well-being up to the level that the rest of us enjoy.

All of my September activities related to improvements to our community's well being or provided opportunities for us or members of our communities to have a voice about our future before any

action takes place. The very things that have been missing for First Nations people and which the simple limited proposition of the referendum will provide.

Our Council Vision and Council Plan, which came out of extensive community consultation, emphasise the objectives of inclusion, being open to all and supporting First Nations people in maintaining their culture and taking opportunities to learn from them. With that in mind I have also been asking myself which referendum outcome would be best for the Shire.

By definition, a No vote will not change anything for the better. It will do nothing to enhance the lot of First Nations people nor anyone else in the community. It will entrench divisions that currently exist. Locally it will set back our collaboration with the Taungurung and Wurundjeri. It will negatively impact on our reputation as a welcoming tourist destination.

A Yes vote offers the potential to make things better. It will enhance the lot of First Nations people but will not negatively impact the rest of the community. It offers the great possibility for all to be learn , honour and be proud of a culture that is inviting us to be a part. Current divisions will dissipate. It will improve our collaboration with Taungurung and Wurundjeri. It will enhance our reputation as a welcoming tourist destination.

I encourage everyone to take these points into consideration on the 14th of October. Please look at the facts and cut through the falsehoods, hypotheticals, political point scoring and misdirections and then make a decision. There is excellent article in today's Chronicle and Standard that provides assistance on how to judge the weight of arguments.

Occasionally democracy asks us to do a bit of homework and not just rely on traditional attitudes. This referendum is too important not to warrant a bit of effort on all our parts.

## 7.9 Chief Executive Officer Report

### **Landfill fire**

On Monday 25 September, a fire was started in the Alexandra landfill by the incorrect disposal of batteries and flammable solvents in household waste. In this case no serious damage was done, however a number of CFA resources were called out for this incident. Earlier this year we had a similar incident when a load in a recycling truck caught fire due to the incorrect disposal of flammable material. I would like to take this opportunity to remind people that batteries can be safely disposed of at most of the Resource Recovery Centres and Council sponsors free disposal of chemicals, such as paint, solvents, and poisons, in the annual Detox your home collection service. More details are available on our website.

### **Green waste disposal and fire preparedness**

In preparation for this year's Fire Danger Period to be declared by the CFA, Council will again begin offering free disposal of green waste at our Resource Recovery Centres (RRCs) starting from 1 October. In typical years, this free disposal service would be available in October and November, with a repeat in April. However, this year, we are taking into account the prevailing climatic conditions, including increased humidity levels that may lead to additional vegetation growth. We are mindful of the elevated risk of grassfires anticipated for the upcoming season so we will extend the free disposal period until 31 December for this year.

Council will be commencing its road side slashing program within the next 4 weeks. This program will slash roadsides across the municipality at major intersections to improve the sight lines for oncoming traffic and areas deemed by the Municipal Fire Committee to minimise the risk of fire along the roads.

### **National Roads, Transport and Infrastructure Congress**

Late last month our Council Engineer attended the ALGA National Roads, Transport and Infrastructure Congress held in Canberra which focused on the challenges to Local Government outlined in the ALGA strategic plan for roads and infrastructure. For example, locally council roads account for 77% of total road length in Australia, yet the local government rate base only accounts for less than 4% of total taxation revenue. This issue is raised in an extensive report by the Grattan Institute, which will be available in November, which highlights the impact of Commonwealth and State grant freezes and capping on local road expenditure, with an estimated \$1B per annum reduction in funding flowing to local government across the country. The Congress communiqué shed light on the necessity for the Commonwealth to provide significantly increased and untied funding for roads and bridges renewal and community infrastructure to help build stronger and safer communities.

### **Grant Funding for battery project in Murrindindi Shire Council**

Murrindindi Council has been advised of a successful grant application to develop an investment-ready business case for a community battery in Marysville.

The 'Regional Greenhouse Alliance Neighbourhood Battery Investigation Project' was one of nine projects to be funded through the Victorian Government's Neighbourhood Battery Initiative - Round 3 announced by Minister D'Ambrosio on Monday 28 August.

Council will partner with Marysville community, the Goulburn Murray Climate Alliance and Indigo Power, to understand the potential benefits of a neighbourhood battery project and to develop the business case. This project supports Council's strategic ambition to reduce greenhouse emissions in the Shire to net zero by 2035.

I would like to thank the Victorian Government for supporting this innovative regional project which will run to August 2024.

## **8 RECORD OF COUNCIL BRIEFING SESSIONS**

### **Purpose**

For noting.

### **Executive Summary**

This report presents the records of Council Briefing Sessions for 23 August 2023 to 20 September 2023, for Council to note.

The following summary details are for 23 August 2023 to 20 September 2023:

<b>Meeting Name/Type</b>	Open Community Meeting	
<b>Meeting Date</b>	30 August 2023	
<b>Elected Representative Attendees (remove if absent)</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Contact</b>
	John Walsh Karine Haslam Sue Carpenter Damien Gallagher Eric Lording Sandice McAulay	
<b>Council Officer Attendees</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Contact</b>

<b>Meeting Name/Type</b>	Open Community Meeting			
	Livia Bonazzi Michael Chesworth Vito Albicini Andrew Paxton David Echeverry			
<b>Matters Discussed:</b>	1. Open Community Meeting from 5:00pm			
<b>Conflict of Interest Disclosures:</b>	Nil			

<b>Meeting Name/Type</b>	Briefing Session			
<b>Meeting Date:</b>	13 September 2023			
<b>Matters Discussed:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Eildon Events Inc. – LRCI Funding – Eildon Pondage Strategic Plan – External presentation</li> <li>2. Shaping Murrindindi's Future - Context Analysis</li> <li>3. UT Creek / Leckie Park Consultation and engagement</li> <li>4. Arts and Culture Policy</li> <li>5. Planning Application – 399 Maintongoon Rd, Maintongoon Helicopter Maintenance Facility</li> <li>6. Early Years Education planning project update</li> <li>7. Murrindindi Flood Recovery - September Report</li> <li>8. Development Services Monthly Report</li> </ol>			
<b>Councillor Attendees:</b>	Cr J Walsh, Cr K Haslam, S Carpenter, Cr D Gallagher, Cr J Walsh, Cr I Gerencser, Cr S McAulay			
<b>Council Officer Attendees</b>	Michael Chesworth, Andrew Paxton, Allisha Milestone, Ben Harnwell, Brad Gill, Bronwyn Chapman, Stuart Collar, Trish Kubeil, Cameron Fraser, Natalie Stewart			
<b>Conflict of Interest Disclosures:</b>	Nil			

<b>Meeting Name/Type</b>	Briefing Session			
<b>Meeting Date:</b>	20 September 2023			
<b>Matters Discussed:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Thornton Streetscape Conceptual Design Report</li> <li>2. Council Greenhouse Emissions and Offsets and Flat Lead Road August 2023 update</li> <li>3. Kinglake RAC - Feasibility of a Satellite Operations Depot</li> <li>4. Quarterly Speed Zone Review Update</li> <li>5. Capital Works Program Review - August 2023</li> <li>6. RAMP Community Engagement Summary</li> <li>7. Presenting the Thornton-Rubicon Community Plan</li> <li>8. Community Planning review</li> <li>9. Grants and Sponsorships</li> <li>10. Delegations and Authorisations (Planning and Environment Act 1987)</li> </ol>			
<b>Councillor Attendees:</b>	Cr J Walsh, Cr K Haslam, S Carpenter, Cr D Gallagher, Cr I Gerencser, Cr S McAulay,			
<b>Council Officer Attendees</b>	Livia Bonazzi, Michael Chesworth, Vito Albicini, Andrew Paxton, David Leonard, Stuart Russell, Peter Bain, Dilshan Liyanage, Bronwyn Chapman, Stuart Collar, David Richardson, David Maroney, Anna Paix, Natalie Matheson, Courtney Hamill, Natalie Stewart			
<b>Conflict of Interest Disclosures:</b>	Yes			
<b>Matter No.</b>	<b>Councillor making disclosure</b>	<b>Was a vote taken?</b>	<b>Did the Councillor leave the room?</b>	<b>When? Before or after discussion</b>

Meeting Name/Type		Briefing Session			
9	Cr K Haslem	No	Yes	Before	

## **RESOLUTION**

**Cr S McAulay / Cr K Haslam**  
**That Council receive and note the records of Council Briefing Sessions for 21 August 2023 to 22 September 2023**

**CARRIED**

## **9 SEALING REGISTER**

Nil to report.

## **10 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS**

*The Local Government Act 2020 section 66(2)(a)* allows Council to resolve to close a meeting to the public to consider confidential information. This is defined under section 3 of the *Local Government Act* and includes information that was confidential information for the purposes of section 77 of the *Local Government Act 1989*.

Where possible Council will resolve to make public any decision it makes in a closed meeting where the resolution does not disclose confidential information. There may be occasions where Council cannot make its decision public.

The CEO Employment and Remuneration Committee Report is being considered in the closed part of this meeting because it is considered confidential. It concerns personal information, being information which if released would result in the unreasonable disclosure of information about any person or their personal affairs.

Section 45 of the Local Government Act 2020 requires that Council have a CEO Employment and Remuneration Policy, and that it obtains independent professional advice in relation to matters dealt with under the Policy.

A CEO Employment and Remuneration Committee consisting of three Councillors and an independent advisor meets periodically to enact the policy, involving consideration of CEO employment matters, performance monitoring and annual and remuneration review. The Committee provides advice and makes recommendations on these issues to Council.

This report, prepared by Council's independent advisor on behalf of the CEO Employment and Remuneration Committee, provides an annual review of CEO employment, performance and remuneration for Council's consideration.

**RESOLUTION**

**Cr D Gallagher / Cr S McAulay**

**That Council, in accordance with section 66(2)(a) of the *Local Government Act 2020* resolve that the meeting be closed to members of the public for the consideration of items:**

- **CEO Employment and Remuneration Committee Report**

**CARRIED**

Meeting was closed at 8:13pm

**CONFIRMED THIS**

**CHAIRPERSON Cr J Walsh**