



**Murrindindi**  
Shire Council

# Scheduled Meeting of Council

## Minutes

Wednesday 28 August 2024  
Alexandra Chambers  
28 Perkins Street  
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

Cr S Carpenter has requested 2 weeks leave from the period of 20 August to 3 September 2024.

## RESOLUTION

**Cr S McAulay / Cr E Lording**

**That Council approve the planned leave for Cr Carpenter for the period of 20 August to 3 September.**

**CARRIED**

### Apologies

Cr I Gerencser, Cr S Carpenter

### Present:

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

### In attendance:

Chief Executive Officer: L Bonazzi

Director People & Corporate Performance: M Chesworth

Director Community & Development: A Paxton

Director Assets & Environment: C Lintott

Manager Governance and Risk: A Vogt

Manager Economic Development: B Harnwell

Manager of Customer Experience: A Cullen

Manager of Sustainability and Assets: P Bain

### 2.3 Disclosure of Interest or Conflict of Interest

Cr Gallagher declared a material conflict of interest with Agenda Item 4.2 Dindi Events Proposal as he is a Director of Alexandra Events Inc. which is the proponent of this initiative.

### 2.4 Confirmation of Minutes

Minutes of the Scheduled Meeting of Council held on 24 July 2024.

#### **RESOLUTION**

**Cr J Walsh / Cr E Lording**  
**That Council confirm the minutes of the 24 July 2024 Scheduled Meeting of Council.**

**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

Caolon O'Connor spoke in support of item 4.2 Dindi Events Proposal.

Bill Bate spoke in support of item 4.2 Dindi Events Proposal.

Maurine Thurston spoke in support of item 4.2 Dindi Events Proposal.

### 3.2 Questions of Council

Nil.

## 4 REPORTS - COMMUNITY & DEVELOPMENT GROUP

### 4.1 Presenting the Flowerdale Community Plan

Department	Community Wellbeing
Presenter	A Paxton, Director Community & Development
Approved by	Director Community & Development
Purpose	For noting
Attachment(s)	Attachment 1 - Flowerdale Community Plan 2024-2029 [4.1.1 - 12 pages]

#### Executive Summary

Council officers have worked with the Flowerdale community to develop the Flowerdale Community Plan, led by a Core Team from the Flowerdale community through a series of local workshops. The purpose of this report is for the Flowerdale Community Plan to be presented to Council for noting.

#### **RESOLUTION**

**Cr J Walsh / Cr S McAulay**  
**That Council note the Flowerdale Community Plan as contained in Attachment 4.1.1.**

**CARRIED**

#### **RESOLUTION**

**Cr S McAulay / Cr J Walsh**  
**That Council appoint Cr Lording as Chair of the Meeting for Item 4.2 the Dindi Events Proposal.**

**CARRIED**

Cr D Gallagher left the meeting at 6:56 pm.

Cr Lording took the Chair.

### 4.2 Dindi Events Proposal

Department	Economic Development
Presenter	B Harnwell, Manager Economic Development
Approved by	Director Community & Development
Purpose	For decision
Attachment(s)	1. Attachment 1 - Dindi Events Proposal (Aug 2024) [4.2.1 - 20 pages]

2. Attachment 2 - Murrindindi Event Impact Analysis Alexandra Speedway [4.2.2 - 12 pages]
3. Attachment 3 - Spend Mapp - Impact Data Analysis - Event - Truck Show 2023 [4.2.3 - 17 pages]
4. Attachment 4 - Alexandra Truck Ute Show 2024 Event Impact Analysis [4.2.4 - 12 pages]
5. Attachment 5 - Spend Mapp - Impact Data Analysis - Event - Alexandra Rodeo 2023 [4.2.5 - 19 pages]

### **Executive Summary**

This report presents for endorsement the proposal from Alexandra Events for a sponsorship agreement to support the Dindi Events Program which will foster the opportunity for greater collaboration between communities and organisation who wish to organise and facilitate public events within the shire.

Alexandra Events has historically held two of the signature events in the Shire being the Truck, Ute and Rod show and the Rodeo, with Council supporting with in-kind support and cash sponsorship. The Truck Ute and Rod Show generated an increased spend in the region of \$1,645,290 (2024), whilst the 2023 Rodeo generated additional spend of \$69,385 in Alexandra. Local community groups also benefit through fund raising activities at these events. The Dindi Events proposal seeks to utilise this experience and resources to help grow a calander of significant events across the Shire throughout the year.

The proposal includes \$30,000 in year one, plus in-kind support of \$13,000, which is a similar level of sponsorship provided to the Truck Ute and Rod Show and the Rodeo in recent years and seed funding to establish the new approach. The proposal includes for year one, a priority to establish the approach and partnerships, followed with a five-year plan to grow events and a scaling back of Council investment, with external sponsors and grants being sought.

The recognition of in-kind support to events is now included within agreements.

No additional application for sponsorship for the Truck Ute and Rod show or the Rodeo is proposed by the community organisers under this proposal.

### **Point of Order**

Cr McAulay: that Cr Walsh is raising a question of officers that is irrelevant to the matter under consideration

Chair Cr Lording: Point of Order denied

### **Point of Order**

Cr Walsh: that Cr McAulay is entering into debate during questions to officers

Chair Cr Lording: Point of Order accepted

### **MOTION**

Cr S McAulay /

That Council

- authorise the Chief Executive Officer to enter into a five-year agreement with Alexandra Events Corporation Limited for the establishment of the Dindi Events Program, with funding up to a maximum of:
  - Year 1 \$43,000 (\$30,000 cash and \$13,000 in-kind)
  - Year 2 \$38,000 (\$25,000 cash and \$13,000 plus CPI in-kind)
  - Year 3 \$33,000 (\$20,000 cash and \$13,000 plus CPI in-kind)
  - Year 4 \$28,000 (\$15,000 cash and \$13,000 plus CPI in-kind)
  - Year 5 \$23,000 (\$10,000 cash and \$13,000 plus CPI in-kind)

- note that the agreement will include reporting and monitoring requirements for the events and the events program.

### **LAPSED FOR WANT OF A SECONDER**

#### **MOTION**

Cr J Walsh / Cr K Haslam

That consideration of Item 4.2 be deferred until after the new Council is elected

#### **Point of Order**

Cr McAulay: that Cr Walsh is including a matter in debate that is irrelevant to the matter under consideration

Chair Cr Lording: Point of Order accepted

The motion was put

#### **RESOLUTION**

Cr J Walsh / Cr K Haslam

That consideration of Item 4.2 be deferred until after the new Council is elected

**CARRIED**

#### **CALL FOR A DIVISION**

Division called by Cr S McAulay

For: Cr E Lording, Cr J Walsh and Cr K Haslam

Against: Cr S McAulay

Cr D Gallagher returned to the meeting at 7:34 pm.

Cr D Gallagher resumed chairing the meeting.

### **4.3 Grants and Sponsorship Program - Quarterly Allocations**

Department	Community Wellbeing
Presenter	A Paxton, Director Community & Development
Approved by	Director Community & Development
Purpose	For decision
Attachment(s)	Nil

#### **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 details of the applications from the period with the Panel Assessment Report for noting and consideration. Fifteen applications were considered for funding in this period. Of these, 11 applications were funded under delegation, and 4 applications are being recommended for funding by Council.

## **RESOLUTION**

**Cr E Lording / Cr K Haslam**

**That Council:**

- 1. Note the following grants and sponsorships awarded under delegation by the Grants and Sponsorship Assessment Panel:**
  - a. Yea & District Memorial Hospital – Health promotion activities at the Yea Show - \$2,500
  - b. Yea Community House – Delivery of programs for Women’s Health Week - \$1,040
  - c. Alexandra Secondary College – Sponsorship of the 2024 College Dux - \$700
  - d. Murrindindi Film Society – Delivery of the 2024 film screening season - \$300
  - e. Yea Bowls Club – Technology purchase to enable participation and promotion - \$573
  - f. Yea Arts Inc – Delivery of arts program for local primary schools - \$1,100
  - g. Kinglake Ranges Men’s Shed Inc – Upgrade of community notice board - \$537
  - h. Lily Wilson – Sponsorship Grant – Participation at international cheerleading competition - \$1,000
  - i. Triangle Arts Group – Delivery of Marysville Artsfest - \$2,500
  - j. Rising Sun Association – Supporting the Rising Sun Festival Molesworth - \$2,000
  - k. Flowerdale Community House – Supporting the Flowerdale Quilt Show 2024 - \$1,200
  
- 2. Endorse the funding of the following applications as recommended by the Grants and Sponsorship Assessment Panel:**
  - a. Alexandra Community Hub Inc – Sponsorship Grant - \$5,000 – Purchase of vehicle for the L2P Driver Education Program
  - b. Rotary Club of Kinglake Ranges Inc – Local Event Grant - \$5,000 – Sponsorship of the Lift the Lid Walk as part of the Show ‘n’ Shine Car, Bike and Music Festival
  - c. Tri Gym Inc – Project Grant - \$4,095 – Establishment of Triangle Pickle Ball Program
  - d. Toolangi Castella Community House Inc – Project Grant - \$5,000 – Installation of acoustic panels at the CJ Dennis Hall.

**CARRIED**

## **5 REPORTS - PEOPLE & CORPORATE PERFORMANCE GROUP**

### **5.1 Communications Policy Review**

Department            Customer Experience  
 Presenter              A Cullen, Manager Customer Experience  
 Approved by          Director People & Corporate Performance



Purpose For decision  
 Attachment(s) Attachment 1 - Communications Policy Review [5.1.1 - 9 pages]

### Executive Summary

The current Communications Policy was adopted in June 2020 and is now due to be reviewed.

The purpose of this policy is to provide direction for the Council's approach to communication, including the use of communication tools and interactions with the media. The policy aims to ensure effective communication across various platforms, consistency in quality, accuracy, and appropriateness of external communication, transparency between the Council and the community, and the building of a positive reputation for the Council and Murrindindi Shire.

The policy outlines the principles guiding the Council's external communication, emphasising inclusivity, professionalism, clarity, and responsiveness. It also details the roles and responsibilities of various spokespersons, including the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Councillors, CEO, Directors, Managers, and the Communications Unit.

The policy applies to all representatives of the Council and all media and platforms used for communication.

## RESOLUTION

**Cr S McAulay / Cr J Walsh**

**That Council adopt the revised Communications Policy as contained in Attachment 5.1.1.**

**CARRIED**

## 5.2 Preliminary 2023/24 Financial Results and Carry Forward Adjustments into 2024/25

Department Business Services  
 Presenter M Chesworth, Director People & Corporate Performance  
 Approved by Director People & Corporate Performance  
 Purpose For decision  
 Attachment(s) Nil

### Executive Summary

End-of-year processes have progressed to determine a preliminary or interim result for 2023/24, pending the finalisation of the annual VAGO audit.

The result for the 2023/24 financial year (subject to any adjustments recommended by VAGO) reflects a \$7.9m negative variance to the revised budget on the Net Operating Result line. A revised budgeted operating surplus of \$5.1m has become a \$2.9m deficit.

The key drivers of this outcome are:

- a) the unexpected payment to Council of the 2024/25 Federal Assistance Grant income via the Victorian Grants Commission in July 2024 rather than in June 2024 as budgeted, as

had happened in prior years (\$5.1m). This delay in receipt of Federal Assistance Grants in contrast to previous years has impacted most Australian Councils which will experience similar negative variances between 2023/24 Budgeted and Actual results.

- b) Capital Grant Income of \$3.1m has been reallocated from Income to unearned income in compliance with accounting standards and;

This report also proposes “carry forward” adjustments to 2024/25 Budget period from 2023/24 for Income and Operating Expenditure, which results in a net favourable adjustment of \$2.042 million to the projected operating surplus for 2024/25.

Capital Expenditure adjustments total \$5.638 million and are detailed in the 2023/24 Financial Year Capital Works Report on the Agenda for this meeting.

## **RESOLUTION**

**Cr J Walsh / Cr E Lording**

**That Council:**

- 1. Note the interim, pre-audited financial results for 2023/24**
- 2. Approve the carry forward adjustments to the 2024/25 Annual Budget as contained within this report.**

**CARRIED**

### **5.3 37 Extons Road, Kinglake Central - Transfer of Land**

Department	Community & Development
Presenter	M Chesworth, People and Corporate Performance
Approved by	Director People and Corporate Performance
Purpose	For decision
Attachment(s)	Nil

#### **Executive Summary**

This report seeks Council’s endorsement to transfer an undeveloped portion of Council-owned land at 37 Extons Road Kinglake, without consideration (payment), to the adjoining landholder, who originally donated the land to Council to enable the rebuilding of the Middle Kinglake Primary School and associated educational facilities.

Land that forms 37 Extons Road, Kinglake was donated to Council by an adjoining landholder following the 2009 bushfires with the specific purpose to enable the reconstruction of the Middle Kinglake Primary School and Early Years Learning Centre on one site. The donated land was rezoned to a Public Use Zone, by the Minister for Planning to reflect its purpose. Council leased the land to the Department of Education in 2011 and the School and Early Years Learning Centre were constructed and have been operational for many years.

The total land area donated was ultimately found to be in excess of the requirements for the intended purpose and the Education Department relinquished its lease over the excess land (approximately 1.77 hectares to the west of the property) in 2014. As this land is not required for the purpose it was donated, being educational purposes, Council has commenced a process to potentially transfer the unused portion of land back to the original donor.

At its 24 July 2024 Scheduled Meeting, Council resolved to ‘give public notice of its intention to transfer the undeveloped portion of 37 Extons Road to the original donor without consideration (payment) and to consider any public submissions received, following the public notice, at the August 2024 Scheduled Meeting of Council’.

No submissions have been received following the public notification and it is recommended the transfer of land proceeds.

## **RESOLUTION**

**Cr J Walsh / Cr E Lording**

**That Council:**

- 1. Note that no public submissions have been received following the public notice of Council’s intention to transfer the undeveloped portion of land at 37 Extons Road to the original donor without consideration (payment)**
- 2. Transfer the undeveloped portion of land at 37 Extons Road (shaded in red in diagram 1 in this report) to the original donor (adjoining landholder) without consideration (payment), through a boundary realignment**
- 3. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to sign all relevant documents and undertake all administrative processes in respect to the land transfer**
- 4. Request the Minister for Planning to prepare an amendment to the Murrindindi Planning Scheme under Section 20(4) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* to rezone the land to be transferred from the Public Use Zone 7 to the Farming Zone, with overlays consistent with the adjoining land.**

**CARRIED**

### **5.4 CEO Employment and Remuneration Committee - Extension of Appointment of Independent Member**

Department	Governance & Risk
Presenter	M Chesworth, Director People & Corporate Performance
Approved by	Director People & Corporate Performance
Purpose	For decision
Attachment(s)	Nil

#### **Executive Summary**

This report seeks Council’s endorsement to extend the appointment of Ms Marilyn Kearney as the independent member of the CEO Employment and Remuneration Committee for a further one-year term.

Council has a requirement under the *Local Government Act 2020* to obtain independent professional advice to support its role in managing the employment and remuneration of the Chief Executive Officer (CEO). To this end, following an expression of interest process, Council appointed Ms Marilyn Kearney in October 2021 for a two-year term to provide independent professional advice. At its October 2023 Meeting Council resolved to extend the appointment for

a one-year term. As this term is nearing conclusion Council has the opportunity to extend the term for a further one year term, in compliance with the Terms of Reference for the CEO Employment and Remuneration Committee.

## **RESOLUTION**

### **Cr E Lording / Cr S McAulay**

That Council extend the appointment of Ms Marilyn Kearney as the independent member of the CEO Employment and Remuneration Committee for a further one-year term ending 31 October 2025, in accordance with the Committee's Terms of Reference.

**CARRIED**

## **6 REPORTS - ASSETS & ENVIRONMENT GROUP**

### **6.1 End of Year Report Capital Works 2023-24**

Department	Sustainability & Assets
Presenter	P Bain, Manager Sustainability & Assets
Approved by	Director Assets & Environment
Purpose	For decision
Attachment(s)	Nil

#### **Executive Summary**

This report provides the end of year result for the delivery of the capital works program (CWP) for the 2023/24 financial year and recommends carry forward projects for the inclusion into the Capital Works Program for the 2024/25 financial year.

## **RESOLUTION**

### **Cr E Lording / Cr K Haslam**

That Council:

- 1. Note the end of year Capital Works Program report for the 2023/24 financial year.**
- 2. Endorse the carry forward of projects for the inclusion into the Capital Works Program for the 2024/25 financial year as detailed in this report.**

**CARRIED**

### **6.2 Kerbside Collection Services Policy**

Department	Assets & Environment
Presenter	J Russell, Coordinator Resource Recovery
Approved by	C Lintott, Director Assets & Environment

Purpose	For decision
Attachment(s)	1. Attachment 1 - Kerbside Collection Services Policy [6.2.1 - 12 pages] 2. Attachment 2 - Kerbside Collection Services Policy - Maps Combined [6.2.2 - 23 pages]

### **Executive Summary**

The Kerbside Collection Service Policy (the Policy) (see Attachment 1) proposes parameters for the future kerbside collection services including collection frequencies, where services would be mandatory or optional, and the framework for Waste and Recycling Charges to recover the cost of the services.

Community consultation on the Policy was undertaken from April – June 2024, garnering 209 responses. Broadly the responses indicate a majority of the community support the service model and the conditions outlined in the Policy. However, where opportunity was provided for open commentary, many people expressed opposition to various aspects of the proposed services.

As a result of the community feedback some alterations were made to the Policy.

In June 2024 the State Government released their *Proposed Household Waste and Recycling Service Standard 2024* (the Service Standards) which aims to ensure that kerbside collection services across the state are provided in a consistent way. The Service Standards emphasise that Councils must provide the services as a kerbside service to all households unless it is “not reasonably practicable”. A submission was made to advocate for standards that meet our needs. The policy was not adjusted in response to the Service Standards which are in draft form.

The Service Standards are anticipated to be finalised by the end of 2024 and come into effect from 1 July 2027. The State Government will be able to enforce the adopted Service standards on Councils via the *Circular Economy Act 2021*.

### **MOTION**

**Cr E Lording / Cr J Walsh**

**That Council:**

- 1. Adopt the Kerbside Collection Services Policy as contained in Attachment 6.2.1.**
- 2. Conduct a review of the Kerbside Collection Services Policy following the finalisation of the State’s Household Waste and Recycling Service Standards.**

### **AMENDMENT**

**Cr K Haslam / Cr E Lording**

That Council amend the motion to include in the Policy provision for a choice of 80L or 120L bins as part of the rollout of the glass collection.

**LOST**

Cr Gallagher suggested an amendment to the motion to the mover and seconder to include the following points in the motion

1. Note that Council is obliged to implement the services mandated by the *Victorian Circular Economy Act 2021*.
2. Note that Council is accountable for achieving satisfactory levels of diversion of recyclables and FOGO from the waste stream.
3. Note that the State Government’s Household Waste and Recycling Service Standards are yet to be finalised.

This was agreed by the mover and seconder of the motion

The amended motion was put to the meeting

## RESOLUTION

**Cr D Gallagher / Cr E Lording**

**That Council:**

1. **Note that Council is obliged to implement the services mandated by the *Victorian Circular Economy Act 2021*.**
2. **Note that Council is accountable for achieving satisfactory levels of diversion of recyclables and FOGO from the waste stream.**
3. **Note that the State Government's Household Waste and Recycling Service Standards are yet to be finalised.**
4. **Adopt the Kerbside Collection Services Policy as contained in Attachment 6.2.1.**
5. **Conduct a review of the Kerbside Collection Services Policy following the finalisation of the State Government's Household Waste and Recycling Service Standards.**

**CARRIED**

Meeting adjourned at 8:42 PM.

Meeting resumed at 8:48 PM.

### **6.3 Carbon Offset Project - Multi Outcome Timber Farming - Flat Lead Road, Yea**

Department	Sustainability & Assets
Presenter	P Bain, Manager Sustainability & Assets
Approved by	Director Assets & Environment
Purpose	For decision
Attachment(s)	CONFIDENTIAL REDACTED - Flat Lead Road Forestry Project - Financial Analysis [6.3.1 - 1 page]

#### **Executive Summary**

This report summarises the results of further investigation into costs and benefits of a proposed forestry use for the Council property at Flat Lead Road, Yea. It provides for an expanded forestry model with key life spans of 30 and 100 years as explained below and recommends commencement of the Flat Lead Road Forestry Project.

Initial investigation of plantation only forestry with carbon capture for the site yielded a marginal return on investment as previously reported to Council. This was partly due to the relatively small size of the site which did not provide value for money in establishing and administering the plantation and carbon credit schemes.

Further investigation shows that by converting remaining areas on the site that are not suitable for plantation to native vegetation for offset purposes improves the expected return and makes

the project viable. The proposed model generates multiple streams of income for the site at different timeframes: Plantation timber will have income at several maintenance intervals and at final harvest. Carbon credits will be earned continuously for varying periods for the plantation timber and the native forest. Vegetation offset credits will be earned at infrequent intervals.

It is proposed to fund the implementation of the multiple forestry model from borrowings as outlined in Council's adopted 2024/25 Annual Budget.

## **RESOLUTION**

**Cr J Walsh / Cr K Haslam**

**That Council:**

- 1. Approve the Flat Lead Road Forestry Project for implementation**
- 2. Approve the funding of the Project from Council borrowings to a maximum of \$380,000, as foreshadowed in Council's Annual Budget 2024/25.**
- 3. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to sign any necessary registration and licensing applications for the Project.**

**CARRIED**

### **6.4 Contract 24/15 - Quarry Products Panel**

Department	Operations & Maintenance
Presenter	C Lintott, Director Assets & Environment
Approved by	Director Assets & Environment
Purpose	For decision
Attachment(s)	CONFIDENTIAL REDACTED - Confidential Attachment 1 - Contract 24/15 - Quarry Products Panel [6.4.1 - 6 pages]

#### **Executive Summary**

This report recommends to award suitable suppliers for CONT 24/15 - Quarry Products Panel Contract for an initial period of three years with an optional two-year extension period subject to satisfactory performance by the supplier and at the discretion of Council.

The scope of the contract is to provide suitable materials required for a variety of construction, civil and maintenance projects including road works, landscaping and other civil works. The products include aggregate (various sizes ranging from 10mm – 80mm), crushed rock/road base (20mm – 100mm), treated cement, crusher dust/quarry dust and rock spalls (100mm – 700mm).

Council recently conducted a public tender for these works which closed on 29 July 2024 at 3.00pm. Seven submissions were received at the close of the tender. A detailed evaluation was undertaken in line with Council's Procurement Policy and against the tender evaluation criteria by the Tender Evaluation Committee.

This report, and the confidential attachment, outlines the procurement and evaluation process undertaken to appoint suitable suppliers to provide the materials/products within CONT24/15 - Quarry Products Panel Contract.

Based on the evaluation, the Committee recommend that all tenderers - Tender 1, Tender 2, Tender 3, Tender 4, Tender 5, Tender 6 and Tender 7 be awarded CONT 24/15 - Quarry Products Panel Contract for a three-year period with an optional two-year extension, not exceeding a total of five years commencing on 30 August 2024 and ending no later than 29 August 2029. This contract being a schedule of rates contract will not exceed a total spend of \$4,000,000 over the five-year term if all options are exercised. The Schedule of Rates is fixed for the first term and then subject to review at the commencement of the optional extension term in accordance with the rise and fall formula in the contract.

## **RESOLUTION**

**Cr E Lording / Cr K Haslam**

**That Council:**

- 1. Award Contract 24/15 - Quarry Products Panel Contract to the following suppliers:**
  - **Lima South Quarry Pty Ltd (Tender 1)**
  - **Castella Quarries Pty Ltd (Tender 2)**
  - **West Paps Quarry (Tender 3)**
  - **E. B. Mawson & Sons Pty Ltd (Tender 4)**
  - **Prestige Paving Pty Ltd (Tender 5)**
  - **Norville Nominees Pty Ltd (Tender 6)**
  - **Bells Civil Excavations Pty Ltd (Tender 7)****for an initial period of three years commencing on 30 August 2024 and ending on 29 August 2027 with an option for a two-year extension;**
- 2. Approve a total contract amount of \$4,000,000 over the five-year contract period;**
- 3. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to extend Contract 24/15 - Quarry Products Panel Contract for the optional two-year period subject to satisfactory performance and;**
- 4. Release the name of the successful Tenderers into the Minutes of the 28 August 2024 Scheduled Meeting of Council.**

**CARRIED**

### **6.5 Contract 24/13 - Flood Recovery Bridge and Roadworks Strath Creek**

Department	Operations & Maintenance
Presenter	C Lintott, Director Assets & Environment
Approved by	Director Assets & Environment
Purpose	For decision
Attachment(s)	CONFIDENTIAL REDACTED - Confidential Attachment 1 - Contract 24/13 - Flood Recovery Bridge and Roadworks Strath Creek [6.5.1 - 4 pages]

#### **Executive Summary**

This report recommends the awarding of CONT24/13 - Flood Recovery Bridge and Roadworks, Strath Creek to a suitable contractor. The awarding of these works will be subject to approval from Department of Transport and Planning for funding of the entire project through the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA).



Following a natural disaster and as part of the recovery process, funding assistance is available through the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA). This funding is the means through which the Australian Government provides funding to states and territories to share the financial burden of responding to a natural disaster and supports the provision of urgent financial assistance to disaster affected communities. This funding includes the restoration of essential public assets.

A number of claims under this funding arrangement have been submitted by Council, however due to the number of other claims Victoria wide, we are still waiting for the outcomes of our submission.

These works have been tendered to ensure Council meets the timelines of the funding agreement, should Council be successful in securing funding

The scope of the works is to undertake various repair works on the following:

1. Richards Bridge King Parrott Road, Strath Creek
2. Raytons Bridge on Fairview Road Kerrisdale, and
3. Multiple roads in the Strath Creek, Kerrisdale and Flowerdale areas.

Based on the evaluation, the Committee recommend that Tender 1 be awarded Contract 24/13 - Flood Recovery Bridge and Roadworks, Strath Creek if funding is approved by the Department of Transport under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements program.

## **RESOLUTION**

**Cr E Lording / Cr K Haslam**  
**Motion to extend the meeting by 30 minutes to 9:30pm.**

**CARRIED**

## **RESOLUTION**

**Cr K Haslam / Cr E Lording**

**That Council:**

1. **Award Contract 24/13 - Flood Recovery Bridge and Roadworks Strath Creek to TDM Earthworks (Tender 1) for the total revised sum of \$423,838.03 conditional on the receipt of funding from the Department of Transport and Planning through its Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA).**
2. **Release the name of the successful tenderer into the minutes of the 28 August 2024 Scheduled Meeting of Council.**

**CARRIED**

## **6.6 Contract 24/1 - Gravel Roads Resheeting Program 24/25**

Department Sustainability & Assets

Presenter P Bain, Manager Sustainability & Assets

Approved by	Director Assets & Environment
Purpose	For decision
Attachment(s)	CONFIDENTIAL REDACTED - Confidential Attachment 1 - Contract 24/1 - Gravel Roads - Resheeting Program 2023-2024 [6.6.1 - 11 pages]

### **Executive Summary**

This report recommends awarding a suitable contractor for CONT24/1 Gravel Roads – Resheeting Program 2024-2025.

The scope of the contract is to undertake rehabilitation works by resheeting unsealed pavements on fourteen roads and a further nine roads, should funding become available through Roads to Recovery funding or savings that are proposed to be carry forward from the 2023/2024 capital works program. Additionally, the scope includes the rehabilitation of the shoulders for two sealed roads.

Council recently conducted a public tender for the works which closed on 30 July 2024 at 3.00pm. Nine submissions were received at the close of tender. A detailed evaluation was undertaken in line with Council's Procurement Policy and against the 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 for CONT24/1 Gravel Roads – Resheeting Program 2024-2025.

## **RESOLUTION**

**Cr J Walsh / Cr K Haslam**

**That Council:**

**1. Award Contract 24/1 - Gravel Roads Resheeting Program 2024/25 to Bells Civil Excavations (Tender 2) dependent on passing a company financial assessment, for the lump sum price of \$628,889 to complete all required resheeting works for the following roads:**

- **Extons Road, Kinglake Central**
- **Silver Parrot Road, Pheasant Creek**
- **O'Gradys Road, Pheasant Creek**
- **Royal Crescent, Kinglake**
- **Deepdene Road, Yea**
- **Sycamore Grove, Kinglake**
- **Keith Street Kinglake**
- **Dicks Road, Acheron**
- **Nichols Road, Narbethong/Buxton**
- **Larnoo Road, Ghin Ghin**
- **Oak Grove, Kinglake**
- **Jouvelet Street, Kinglake West**
- **Stuarts Road (South), Glenburn**
- **Margetts Road, Flowerdale/Yea;**

**and should resheeting on the following roads:**

- **Back Eildon Road, Thornton**
- **Acheron Road, Acheron**

and subject to the allocation of funding from Roads to Recovery, approve the inclusion of a total provisional sum of \$525,631 to complete the following resheeting for the following roads:

- Spring Creek Road, Fawcett
  - Whittlesea-Yea Road Service Road, Flowerdale
  - Nichols Road, Kinglake West
  - Powers Road, Kinglake Central
  - Webb Wares Road, Yea
  - Craigie Street, Yea
  - Handleys Road, Homewood
  - Lawrey Road, Kinglake
  - Yorston Road, Highlands
2. Approve the allocation of \$115,500 as a contingency amount to be used in the delivery of this contract as detailed in this report.
  3. Release the name of the successful Tenderer into the Minutes of the 28 August 2024 Scheduled Meeting of Council.

**CARRIED**

## **6.7 Contract 24/2 - Sealed Roads Resealing Program 24/25**

Department	Sustainability & Assets
Presenter	P Bain, Manager Sustainability & Assets
Approved by	Director Assets & Environment
Purpose	For decision
Attachment(s)	CONFIDENTIAL REDACTED - Confidential Attachment 1 - Contract 24/2 - Sealed Roads - Resealing Program 2024-2025 [6.7.1 - 8 pages]

### **Executive Summary**

This report recommends awarding a suitable contractor for CONT24/2 Sealed Roads – Resealing Program 2024/2025.

The scope of the contract is to undertake rehabilitation works to repair localised failures of road pavement and seal on eleven roads and a further two roads should funding become available through Roads to Recovery funding.

Council recently conducted a public tender for the works which closed on 30 July 2024 at 3.00pm. Five submissions were received at the close of tender. A detailed evaluation was undertaken in line with Council's Procurement Policy and against the 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 for CONT24/2 Sealed Roads – Resealing Program 2024/2025.

## RESOLUTION

**Cr J Walsh / Cr K Haslam**

**That Council:**

1. **Award Contract 24/2 - Sealed Roads Resealing Program 2024/25 to Primal Surfacing Pty Ltd (Tender 2) for the lump sum price of \$957,957 to complete all required rehabilitation works for the following nominated roads:**
  - **McMahons Road, Kinglake**
  - **Myers Creek Road, Toolangi**
  - **Plover Way, Kinglake West**
  - **Springs Rd, Terip Terip, Caveat**
  - **Windana Court, Kinglake West**
  - **Wrights Road, Yarck**
  - **Southam Drive, Taggerty**
  - **Unnamed road and car park adjacent to Taggerty Hall, Taggerty**
  - **High Street, Eildon**
  - **Hill Court, Eildon**
  - **Whanregarwen Road, Whanregarwen**and subject to the allocation of funding from Roads to Recovery, approve the inclusion of a total provision sum of \$551,634 to complete all required rehabilitation works for the following nominated roads;
  - **King Parrot Creek Road, Kerrisdale, Strath Creek**
  - **Yarck Road, Gobur**
2. **Approve the total allocation of \$150,000 as a contingency amount to be used in the delivery of this contract as detailed in this report.**
3. **Release the name of the successful Tenderers into the Minutes of the 28 August 2024 Scheduled Meeting of Council.**

**CARRIED**

## 7 COUNCILLOR AND CEO REPORTS

### 7.1 Notices of Motions

Nil.

### 7.2 Cr Ilona Gerencser

Nil.

### 7.3 Cr Eric Lording

Nil.

### 7.4 Cr Sandice McAulay

Tourism North-East

Alexandra, Thornton and Eildon featured in an episode of Country House Hunters on 23 August on the Nine Now network. I have copied the link below and encourage you to watch on replay as I did earlier today. It was lovely watching locals Joe and Ed on their quest with Katrina Rowntree to find a home for themselves and their four children. It was also a treat to visit our own Captain

Mike (Dalmau) on the lake promoting the houseboats as well as extolling the beautiful area that we are so fortunate to live in. <https://www.9now.com.au/country-house-hunters-australia/season-5/episode-4>

Council was proud to support Murrindindi Food and Wine who held the third business breakfast in Marysville and continues to work with the MF&W on the breakfast in Eildon on 8 October. This is a great way to connect with local businesses and I look forward to attending this final of four sessions. I look forward to catching up with other businesses in the Eildon area – but please don't forget to register to attend.

Council officers also continue to support the development of several new events including the Murrindindi Harvest Celebration with Murrindindi Food & Wine Inc.

The Great Victorian Bike Ride is coming to Murrindindi Shire. The ride will have two overnight stops, Alexandra on Friday 29 November and Marysville on Saturday 30 November. Planning is progressing well with community and local business working groups set up in Alexandra and Marysville to help activate and support the two overnight stays as well as rest stops in Eildon and Taggerty.

Planning is also well under way for Giro Della Donna with community and business engagement activities planned and the marketing campaign almost finalised. This exciting event will be in our area on the 23 and 24 November.

I encourage the community to get behind and support these events that provide such a great opportunity to showcase our community. This is not only important to encourage return visitation but to also encourage people to come back and live in this beautiful space.

I also encourage community members to follow Council notices for Road closures for these events to avoid these impacting on what you want to do.

Reflecting on Councils progress

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who participated in the various forms of engagement to tell us how you think Council has progressed over the last four years. Pleasingly, over 400 people engaged in the process in different ways. The Findings Report is scheduled to be presented to a Council briefing as soon as possible.

I was so pleased to see tonight's presentation of The Flowerdale Community Plan. I would like to congratulate the Core team who have done such a significant body of work which demonstrated the overall community collaboration.

Business Support

Council has also partnered with Murrindindi Food & Wine Inc to deliver the Murrindindi Digital Marketing Month in July. It is pleasing to note that over 70 businesses participated. Great feedback was received, and participants are being surveyed to gauge what other up-skilling and training opportunities businesses are looking for.

Other projects that Council officers have supported include the Yea Wetlands Discovery Centre Inc with flood recovery funding for their 10-year birthday celebrations and the upcoming working bee on September 7 to repair the indigenous garden after the recent storms.

On the information front two editions of the new look Murrindindi Business eNews have been distributed to date. This online/email publication will move to a monthly distribution with additional updates/alerts sent as required.

## 7.5 Cr Karine Haslam

Nil.

## 7.6 Cr John Walsh

Nil.

## 7.7 Cr Sue Carpenter

Nil.

## 7.8 Cr Damien Gallagher - Mayoral Report

On the fifth Wednesday of July, an open forum assembly of Council was hosted by the community of Taggerty to enable us to hear about matters of interest to the local community. A comprehensive update was received from the Buxton Progress Association, there was some feedback regarding recent grading in Wylie St, the success of the recently published Buxton book, *Buxton – its past present, people and places* was reported, and together, we celebrated the many local supportive community initiatives that make Taggerty such a wonderful place to call home.

At a different style of community meeting held at Alexandra Secondary College in late July, Fera Australia provided an update on the progress of a proposed wind farm project in the Strathbogie Ranges. Community members present expressed their concerns for significant landscapes and transmission line routes. Council has released a statement echoing the concerns and has proposed directly to Fera Australia that they support a comprehensive deliberative engagement process to help enumerate and then tackle community concerns.

In August, I attended a Local Government Minister's Mayoral Advisory Panel meeting with Minister Melissa Horne and colleagues from across the state. Also in attendance was Planning Minister, Sonya Kilkenny. The discussion supported an exchange to help give context and clarity to the Plan for Victoria. I have since written to Minister Kilkenny outlining Murrindindi's capacity and appetite, as described in our Housing and Settlement Strategy, to exceed the specific target set for our municipality, to meet key worker and broader community accommodation demands. The letter also outlined key considerations for sensitive landscapes, and infrastructure and services provision as communities grow.

Following earlier advocacy, Council's Community and Development Director and I were invited to meet Environment Minister, Steve Dimopoulos. The Minister welcomed discussions about the Lake Eildon Activation Plan and Council's perspective on the change in management of the forests of the Central Highlands. We also covered issues surrounding the control of increasing populations of deer and wild dogs on Crown land, along with diminished camping availability in Fraser National Park, and the future fate of the Toolangi Forest Discovery Centre.

In further advocacy efforts, we were also afforded an audience with the office of the Minister for Mental Health to discuss Social Inclusion Action Groups and Council's ambition to support local investment in mental wellbeing initiatives to address our local wellbeing challenges, and the scarcity of local specialist service options.

Around the Shire, in brief:

I have appreciated the opportunity to meet the Yea Community House team to better understand the most welcome support services they offer to everyone in Yea, including our most vulnerable.

The Acheron community turned out in 70s fashion that belongs squarely in the 70s for the annual Winter Ball. And the Yea community celebrated the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Yea Wetlands Discovery Centre. Russell Wealands was invited to cut the cake in recognition of his vision.

At the Alexandra Timber Tramway and Museum AGM held recently, there was a changing of the guard and the committee rightfully recognised the sizable contributions of Gerry and Jane Laws over the course of the past 20 years. The recent Kinglake Historical Society AGM featured a presentation of a Certificate of Merit from the Royal Historical Society of Victoria, recognising 40 years of valued service from Committee President, Deidre Hawkins. The committee was also celebrating its new display on the history of transport in the Kinglake Ranges.

Vietnam Veteran's Day was recognised by community members at a touching service at the Alexandra RSL on 18 August, the anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan.

Finally:

I'd like to recognise that this has been the year of advocacy. Councillors have each shared reports of Council exercising its influence on matters beyond its control, but of immediate and acute importance to our community.

Last week at the Municipal Association of Victoria State Council, Victorian Councils came together to consider the advocacy agenda for the sector. I'm very pleased to report that Council was successful in achieving overwhelming support with its motion calling for recognition of specific challenges in rural Victoria to be recognised when distributing federal Financial Assistance Grants. The Murrindindi-led Hume Region Local Government Network motions were also well embraced by our colleagues across the state. Those motions called for improvements to road safety underpinned by greater investment and performance reporting; and capturing town character statements in the Planning Scheme.

Council's broader advocacy program has netted successful grant applications, Government policy reviews, and strong developing relationships with stakeholders at all levels of government and industry. I commend community members, Councillors, Executive, and Council staff for the role they each play in driving these great outcomes.

## **7.9 Chief Executive Officer Report**

### **Grants**

Council has secured a \$968,000 grant under the Federal Housing Support Program Stream 1, paving the way for a transformative development plan east of Alexandra. This funding will enable the creation of a cohesive development strategy across multiple land tenures over 70Ha, streamline the consultation process, and facilitate efficient planning for essential services. It will focus on unlocking the potential of residential land between Menzies and the Hospital through a detailed development plan and a strategic approach to infrastructure and service delivery. This initiative will support Alexandra's future prosperity and liveability.

We have also been successful in securing a competitive grant of \$25,000 to provide a low-cost cat desexing program for people in need.

### **Storm Damage**

On Sunday 25 August 2024, the Murrindindi Shire experienced a severe localized storm event that primarily affected the areas of Highlands, Terip Terip, and Caveat. The storm's impact was concentrated in a narrow corridor approximately 400 meters wide and 2 kilometers long, causing

significant damage to the region, resulting in dozens of trees being uprooted by strong winds in private properties and trees blocking roads, as well as damage to several residential buildings and sheds. By Monday 26 August most roads were cleared. There is still an amount of tree debris on the side of a number of roads and contractors will be working over the next several weeks to complete the clean-up. I thank the CFA, SES and Council's teams for their tireless efforts in responding to this weather event and ensuring public safety.

Our regular asset inspections program has uncovered a level of damage to some of our infrastructure due to the earthquake that was felt in many areas across the State on 7 August, particularly in isolated areas outside of Eildon. At this stage there are no major impacts detected, but we are arranging specialist engineering inspections on those assets that have been identified and a disaster recovery claim has been submitted. This is the 6<sup>th</sup> disaster related claim that we have applied for since the October 2022 Floods, an indication of the increased exposure to climate events in our shire.

#### Yea Saleyards

The Yea Saleyards Committee has recently received bookings of the facility for additional store cattle sale days by a third livestock agent (Alex Scott & Staff) between September and December. This is a pleasing development as it complements the current successful cattle sale days conducted jointly by Elders and Nutrien; these additional bookings increase the utilisation of this important community asset and the proceeds from the additional livestock volumes through the saleyards will help boost the ongoing viability of this asset. There is no doubt the Yea Saleyards are becoming a major livestock selling facility in this part of Victoria, particularly with the recent closure of the Pakenham Saleyards. We welcome this additional livestock business as a local participant at the saleyards and as an additional operator in what is a very important industry and economic driver for the municipality. I encourage any other prospective agents to also consider selling through the Yea Saleyards and to get in touch with the Saleyards Committee.

#### Taungurung - Local Government Forum

Last Wednesday the Mayor and I, along with the Mayors and CEOs of 13 other municipalities, were invited to attend the Taungurung - Local Government Forum in Heathcote.

This was the second gathering of this recently formed Forum. Following a short celebration to mark the first raising of the Taungurung Nation's Flag by the City of Greater Bendigo, the group discussed and refined the priorities for action by the Forum.

The first priority that was agreed upon was to establish a local-government wide arrangement for improved processes relating to Cultural Heritage, including staff education. The other two priorities related to the development of a notification process for triggers of the Land Use Activity Agreement including staff education, and the development of cultural awareness strategies and other tools to support education of the broader community about the Taungurung Nation. The next meeting will be held following the Council elections.

#### Council Elections

The next Council elections will be held on Saturday 26 October 2024 by postal vote.

This is a chance for the community to choose candidates who share their vision for a better shire and more sustainable future.

Nominations open at 9 am Monday 9 September 2024



And close at 12 noon Tuesday 17 September 2024 when the candidate statements, photographs, and questionnaires are also due

I would like to encourage anyone who is interested in running, to access the VEC website <https://www.vec.vic.gov.au/> to find Candidate information videos, a Candidate handbook and an online tool that guides candidates through each part of the Nomination form. The Victorian Government also requires training for anyone wanting to become a candidate, which will help you understand the role and responsibilities of being a Councillor.

The new online Building applications program as part of Council's digital transformation project is now live. Building permit applications are now able to be lodged online. I encourage anyone who needs this service to utilise this online portal that streamlines the service where the application is lodged directly into the system and receipted immediately.

## 8 RECORD OF COUNCIL BRIEFING SESSIONS

**Purpose:** For noting.

### Executive Summary

This report presents the records of Council Briefing Sessions for 24 July 2024 to 21 August 2024, for Council to note.

### **RESOLUTION**

**Cr J Walsh / Cr E Lording**

**That Council receive and note the records of Council Briefing Sessions for 24 July 2024 to 21 August 2024.**

**CARRIED**

## 9 SEALING REGISTER

Nil.

## 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 J Walsh/Cr K Haslam**

**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 closed at 9.23pm.**