



Murrindindi
Shire Council

Scheduled Meeting of Council

Agenda

Wednesday 13 December 2023
Alexandra Council Chambers
Perkins Street
5:00 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 I Gerenscer has applied for 3 months leave until 1 March 2024 due to ill health.

2.3 Disclosure of Interest or Conflict of Interest

In accordance with section 130 (1)(a) of the *Local Government Act 2020* Councillors are required to disclose any “conflict of interest” in respect of a matter to be considered at a Council Meeting.

Disclosure must occur immediately before the matter is considered or discussed.

2.4 Confirmation of Minutes

Minutes of the Scheduled Meeting of Council held on 22 November 2023.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council confirm the minutes of the 22 November 2023 Scheduled Meeting of Council.

2.5 Petitions

Nil.

2.6 Community Recognition

Council may suspend standing orders to thank and acknowledge particular community achievements.

2.7 Matters Deferred from Previous Meeting

Council may resolve to defer a matter to a future meeting for consideration for various reasons. Where a matter has been previously deferred it will be tabled for consideration under this section.

2.8 Urgent Business

Council may by resolution admit an item of urgent business only if:

- a. it relates to or arises out of a matter which has arisen since distribution of the Agenda; and
- b. deferring the item until the next Meeting will mean a decision on the item will not have any effect on the matter; or
- c. the item involves a matter of urgency as determined by the Chief Executive Officer; and
- d. it cannot be addressed through an operational service request process.
- e. Provided the matter does not:
 - I. substantially affect the levels of Council service
 - II. commit Council to significant expenditure not included in the adopted budget
 - III. establish or amend Council Policy.

3 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

3.1 Open Forum

Section 8 of the *Governance Rules 2020* allows for Community Participation in Council Meetings. Open Forum is an opportunity for the general public to present to Council on a matter listed on the Agenda or any other matter.

3.2 Questions of Council

Questions of Council are an opportunity for the general public to submit a question prior to the Scheduled Meeting and receive a response from Council in the Questions of Council time.

4 REPORTS - COMMUNITY & DEVELOPMENT GROUP

4.1 Planning Application - 205 Sugarloaf Road Eildon - Development

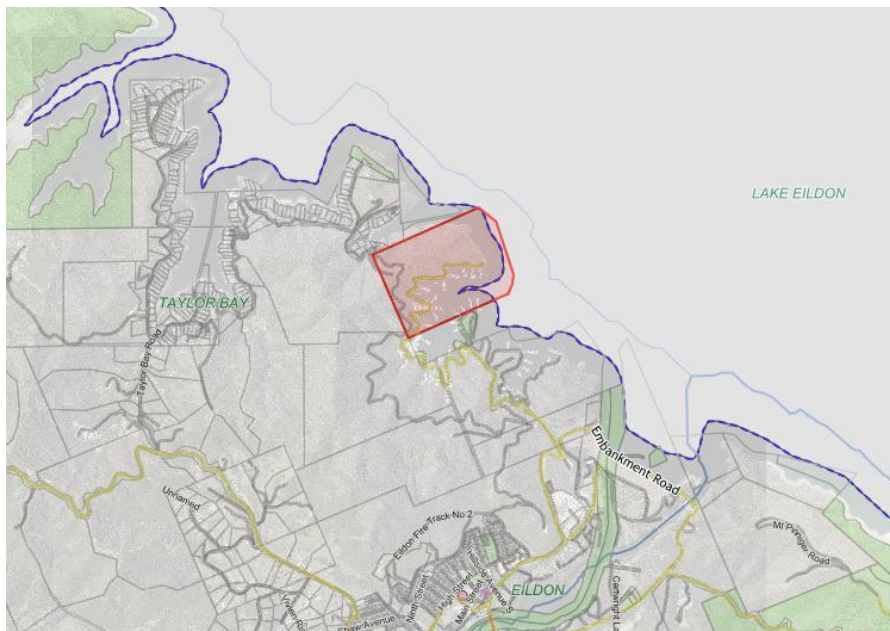
Attachment(s):

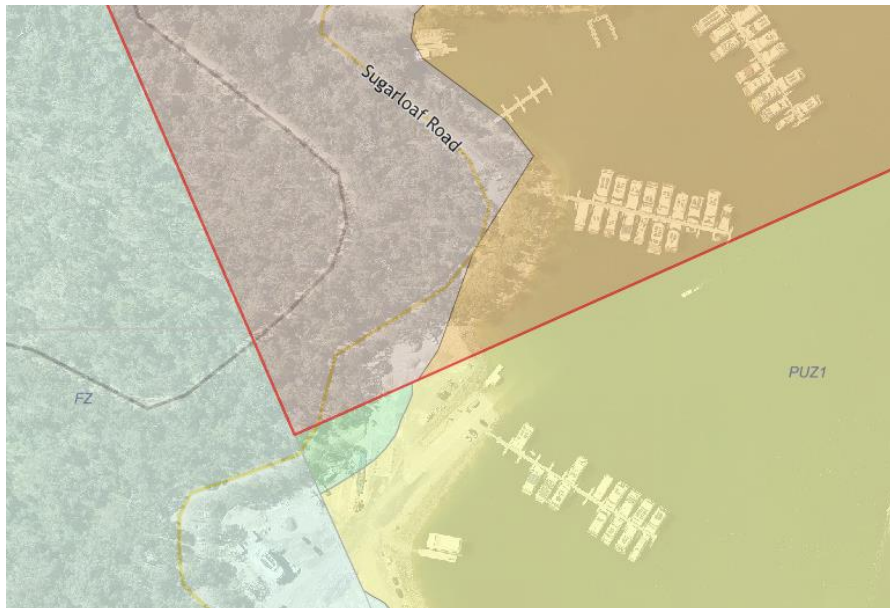
1. Attachment 1 - 205 Sugarloaf Road EILDON 3713 - PP APP Form [4.1.1 - 7 pages]
2. Attachment 2 - 205 Sugarloaf Road EILDON 3713 - Title [4.1.2 - 5 pages]
3. Attachment 3 - 205 Sugarloaf Road EILDON 3713 - Plans [4.1.3 - 2 pages]
4. Attachment 4 - 205 Sugarloaf Road EILDON 3713 - GMW Objection [4.1.4 - 2 pages]
5. Attachment 5 - 205 Sugarloaf Road EILDON 3713 - GBCMA Objection [4.1.5 - 3 pages]
6. Attachment 6 - 205 Sugarloaf Road EILDON 3713 - DEECA Response [4.1.6 - 2 pages]

Presenter Nicole Maguire, Planning Officer
 Approved by Director Community & Development
 Purpose For decision

Land: 205 Sugarloaf Road, Eildon
 Proposal: Development of the land for a boat storage building (retrospective)
 Applicant: Johns Lyng Group
 Zoning: Farming Zone (Part), Public Use Zone – Service and Utility (PUZ1) (Part)
 Overlays: Floodway Overlay (Part), Bushfire Management Overlay (Part), Significant Landscape Overlay – Schedule 2 (Part)
 Triggers: Building and works associated with a Section 2 use in the Farming Zone, a building within 20m of a road in the Farming Zone, a building within 5m of a boundary in the Farming Zone, building and works associated with a Section 2 use in the Public Use Zone, building and works in the Significant Landscape Overlay, building and works in the Floodway Overlay

Locality Plan





Executive Summary

An application has been received for the development of the land for a boat storage building at 205 Sugarloaf Road, Eildon under the provisions of the Murrindindi Planning Scheme.

The land is in the Farming Zone (Part) and the Public Use Zone 1 – Service and Utility (Part) and is subject to the Floodway Overlay (Part), Bushfire Management Overlay (Part), and the Significant Landscape Overlay – Schedule 2 (Part). The land is currently used as a boat club, which is a Section 2 use in the Farming Zone and the Public Use Zone 1. A planning permit is required for buildings and works associated with a Section 2 use in the Farming Zone, a building within 20m of a road and a building within 5m of a boundary in the Farming Zone, buildings and works associated with a Section 2 use in the Public Use Zone, buildings and works in the Significant Landscape Overlay, and buildings and works in the Floodway Overlay. The proposed development is sited outside the Bushfire Management Overlay.

The proposal is to develop the land for a boat storage shed measuring 54 metres wide by 10 metres deep. The building has already been constructed on the lake foreshore on land owned by Goulburn-Murray Water and this application is retrospective.

The application was referred to Goulburn Murray-Water (GMW), Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority (GBCMA) and the Department of Environment, Energy and Climate Action (DEECA). DEECA have no objection to the proposal. However, GBCMA and GMW have both objected to the proposal.

GBCMA is a recommending authority and have a right to appeal the decision of Council should the application be supported.

GMW is a determining referral authority as the land is within a Special Catchment Area and GMW is the 'owner' of the lake and foreshore. Pursuant to Section 61(2) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, Council must refuse an application where an objection has been received from a determining referral authority.

This application is presented to Council as the recommendation is to refuse the application. This application cannot be determined in accordance with the recommendation under delegation due to the GBCMA only being a recommending referral authority.

Purpose

This report recommends that a refusal to grant a permit be issued for the development of the land for a boat storage building (retrospective) at 205 Sugarloaf Road, Eildon.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council issue a Refusal to grant a planning permit for the development of the land for a boat storage building (retrospective) at 205 Sugarloaf Road, Eildon (SEC: B PCA: 24), based on the following grounds:

1. Goulburn-Murray Water objects to the granting of a permit on the following specified grounds:
 - a. The shed is within the Full Supply Level of Lake Eildon (measured from 288.9 m AHD level).
 - b. The proposal does not meet the objectives of the North East Planning Referrals Committee - Guidelines for the Protection of Water Quality.
 - c. The proposal does not meet the objectives of Clauses 12.03-1S and 14.02-1S of the Victorian Planning Provisions.
 - d. The proposal does not meet the objectives of Overlay SLO2 Clause 42.03 of the Murrindindi Planning Scheme.
2. Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority objects to the granting of a permit on the following grounds:
 - a. The proposal is discouraged within the Planning Policy Framework at Clause 14.02-1S.
 - b. The setback of the proposed facility is not consistent with the requirements outlined in the Guidelines for the Protection of Water Quality (North East Planning Referrals Committee, 2016)
 - c. Long-term cumulative impacts of such proposals.
3. The proposal does not meet the landscape character objectives of the Schedule to the Significant Landscape Overlay.
4. The application is incomplete as written consent was not provided by the public land manager.

The Land and Surrounds

The subject land is approximately 100 hectares and is situated along the banks of Lake Eildon. The land has extensive vegetation coverage, with some cleared area along the banks, and is accessed by a private road (Sugarloaf Road). The land has been developed as a boat club, with existing boat storage facilities, food and drinks premises, conference centre, boat launching facilities and jetties. The boat club extends across adjoining lots in the same ownership.

Background

The land is currently used and developed as the Eildon Boat Club and there are several existing sheds used as boat storage facilities.

A planning permit was issued on 17 December 2020 that allowed the construction of three (3) slipping sheds on the adjoining lot CA 57 Sect B (205 Sugarloaf Road, Eildon).

The proposed boat storage building was constructed in 2022 and a retrospective application was lodged in June 2023.

Proposal

This is a retrospective application for a boat storage shed measuring 54 metres wide by 10 metres deep. The storage shed is constructed on the lake foreshore on land owned by Goulburn-Murray Water.



The proposal is located 7 metres from the edge of Lake Eildon.

The shed is to be used by members of the Eildon Boat Club for boat storage.

Cultural Heritage Management Plan

The site is not in an area of cultural sensitivity as defined by the *Aboriginal Heritage Regulations 2018*. Consequently, a Cultural Heritage Management Plan is not required.

Community and Stakeholder Consultation

Public notice of the application has not been undertaken. The Eildon Boat Club is secluded from neighbouring properties and the proposed storage shed would not be visible from anywhere other than the lake. The proposed storage shed is also one of many existing boat sheds on the Eildon Boat Club property.

Referrals

The application was referred to Goulburn Murray-Water (GMW), Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority (GBCMA) and the Department of Environment, Energy and Climate Action (DEECA).

DEECA has advised it has no objection to the proposal.

GBCMA have objected to the proposal on the following grounds:

1. The proposal is discouraged within the Planning Policy Framework at Clause 14.02-1S.
2. The setback of the proposed facility is not consistent with the requirements outlined in the Guidelines for the Protection of Water Quality (North East Planning Referrals Committee, 2016)
3. Long-term cumulative impacts of such proposals.

GBCMA is a recommending referral authority. Should a decision be made to support the application, GBCMA would have a right to appeal the decision of Council

GMW is a determining referral authority as the land is within a Special Catchment Area and is also the 'owner' of the lake and foreshore. GMW has objected to the proposal on the following grounds.

1. The shed is within the Full Supply Level of Lake Eildon (measured from 288.9 m AHD level).
2. The proposal does not meet the objectives of the North East Planning Referrals Committee - Guidelines for the Protection of Water Quality.
3. The proposal does not meet the objectives of Clauses 12.03-1S and 14.02-1S of the Victorian Planning Provisions.
4. The proposal does not meet the objectives of Overlay SLO2 Clause 42.03 of the Murrindindi Planning Scheme.

Where an objection has been received from a determining referral authority, Council must, pursuant to Section 61(2) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, refuse the application.

The below photos were provided by GMW and were taken on 6 October 2023 when Lake Eildon was at Full Supply Level.



Discussion - Planning Considerations

Planning Policy

The proposal has been assessed against state, regional and municipal Planning Policy Framework (PPF) contained in the *Murrindindi Planning Scheme*. Overall, it is considered to be inconsistent with the objectives and strategies of this framework as is discussed below.

Clause 02.02 - Vision

The Murrindindi Planning Scheme outlines the overall vision for the municipality. This includes:

- *Council seeks to enhance the liveability, amenity and quality of life in the municipality.*
- *Council will facilitate sustainable population and economic growth.*
- *The municipal rate base will be actively grown through sound planning, support for continued economic development and protection of the natural and built environment.*
- *A strong economy will attract people to the municipality, creating further opportunities for lifestyle choice, business investment and prosperity.*
- *Increased economic growth and investment will enhance population growth, employment and social and cultural benefits for the municipality.*
- *Residential growth will be provided in established townships and settlements with existing communities and infrastructure, where natural environment is protected and a high level of community safety is achieved.*

Clause 02.03 - Environmental and landscape values

Lake Eildon and the Goulburn, Yea and Acheron Rivers and tributaries are important natural features and water resources, providing a large proportion of the water supply in the Goulburn Broken catchment. Lake Eildon is a significant water, natural environment and tourism resource.

In protecting environmental and landscape values, Council supports:

- *Protecting environmental values, including native vegetation, roadside vegetation, and scattered paddock trees.*
- *Encouraging environmentally sustainable design and energy and water efficiency.*
- *Protecting and enhancing waterways, catchments, flood plains and wetlands.*
- *Minimising erosion, prevent sediment runoff, enhance water quality and improve riparian health.*
- *Limiting the impact of development on the flow and quality of surface water and groundwater.*
- *Protecting biodiversity and environmental values of local, state, national and international significance.*
- *Protecting significant landscapes, including rivers and floodplains, highways, elevated slopes, Lake Eildon, Cathedral Ranges and significant natural features.*
- *Protecting the environmental and landscape values of land surrounding Lake Eildon by careful design, siting and construction.*

Clause 02.03 - Environmental risks and amenity

Natural environmental hazards present risks and constraints for land use and settlement in the municipality. Land use planning must fully address and carefully manage natural hazards such as bushfire risk, flooding, drought, and climate change impacts, such as more frequent, intense or uncertain weather events. Climate change has the potential to have adverse impacts on the key industries of agriculture and tourism and on economic prosperity and viability in general.

Natural flooding of floodplains and their associated wetlands promote the health of rivers and floodplains and provide essential breeding habitats for bird and aquatic species. However, the municipality includes areas of floodprone land where flooding has historically caused substantial damage to the natural and built environment. While significant costs are incurred by direct damage to public and private property, indirect costs to the community such as long-term economic impacts, loss of productivity, displacement of residents, closure of roads, trauma and ill health are also significant.

Council seeks to address environmental risks and amenity by:

- *Minimising risk to life and property from bushfire and flooding through the appropriate siting, design and management of uses and developments.*
- *Maintaining the flood carrying capacity, temporary storage function and environmental significance of floodplains and waterways.*

Clause 02.03 - Economic development

The houseboat industry services sector provides long term employment and future growth opportunities for Eildon.

The natural and built attractions in the municipality contribute significantly towards its character and appeal and form the basis for an active tourism industry and the municipal economy.

This includes high amenity rural and natural landscapes, diverse public land and forests, rivers, heritage and attractive townships. The region's environmental assets, particularly the National and State Parks, Lake Mountain Alpine Resort, Lake Eildon, the Goulburn River, and the Great Victorian Rail Trail offer opportunities for a broad range of outdoor pursuits.

In promoting economic development, Council supports:

- *Encouraging business expansion, investment and employment.*
- *Supporting recreation, tourism and lifestyle facilities linked to Lake Eildon, the Goulburn River and the Great Victorian Rail Trail.*
- *Facilitating the development of Eildon and Marysville townships as all year round residential, commercial and tourism destinations.*

Clause 12.03-1S - River and riparian corridors, waterways, lakes, wetlands and billabongs

Objective

- *To protect and enhance waterway systems including river and riparian corridors, waterways, lakes, wetlands and billabongs.*

Strategies

- *Protect the environmental, cultural, landscape values of all waterway systems as significant economic, environmental and cultural assets.*
- *Sensitively design and site development to maintain and enhance the waterway system and the surrounding landscape setting, environmental assets, and ecological and hydrological systems.*
- *Address the impacts of use and development on drought and flooding events at a catchment and site scale to protect the health and natural function of waterway systems and their surrounding landscape and environment.*

The proposed boat storage facility is setback 7m from Lake Eildon and does not meet the required minimum setback of 50m as outlined in the *Guidelines for the Protection of Water Quality* (North East Planning Referrals Committee, 2016).

12.05-2S - Landscapes

Objective

- *To protect and enhance significant landscapes and open spaces that contribute to character, identity and sustainable environments.*

Strategies

- *Ensure significant landscape areas such as forests, the bays and coastlines are protected.*
- *Ensure development does not detract from the natural qualities of significant landscape areas.*
- *Improve the landscape qualities, open space linkages and environmental performance in significant landscapes and open spaces, including green wedges, conservation areas and non-urban areas.*
- *Recognise the natural landscape for its aesthetic value and as a fully functioning system.*
- *Ensure important natural features are protected and enhanced.*

The proposed building is a boat storage shed within a boat club with existing shedding facilities. The external finish of the building is a non-reflective material in a muted colour that blends into the woodland backdrop. However, the siting of the building on the edge of the water is intrusive and detracts from the landscape.

Clause 13.03-1S - Floodplain management

Objective

- *To assist the protection of:*
 - *Life, property and community infrastructure from flood hazard, including coastal inundation, riverine and overland flows.*
 - *The natural flood carrying capacity of rivers, streams and floodways.*
 - *The flood storage function of floodplains and waterways.*
 - *Floodplain areas of environmental significance or of importance to river, wetland or coastal health.*

Strategies

- *Identify land affected by flooding, including land inundated by the 1 in 100 year flood event (1 per cent Annual Exceedance Probability) or as determined by the floodplain management authority in planning schemes.*
- *Avoid intensifying the impact of flooding through inappropriately located use and development.*
- *Plan for the cumulative impacts of use and development on flood behaviour.*

The proposed building site is located within the Floodway Overlay. The application is not supported by the floodplain manager, GBCMA, who has raised concerns about the long-term cumulative impacts of such proposals.

Clause 14.02-1S - Catchment planning and management

Objective

- *To assist the protection and restoration of catchments, waterways, estuaries, bays, water bodies, groundwater, and the marine environment.*

Strategies

- *Ensure the continued availability of clean, high-quality drinking water by protecting water catchments and water supply facilities.*
- *Consider the impacts of catchment management on downstream water quality and freshwater, coastal and marine environments.*
- *Ensure that development at or near waterways provide for the protection and enhancement of the environmental qualities of waterways and their instream uses.*
- *Ensure planning is coordinated with the activities of catchment management authorities.*

The application was referred to the GBCMA who do not support the proposal.

15.01-2S - Building design

Objective

- *To achieve building design and siting outcomes that contribute positively to the local context, enhance the public realm and support environmentally sustainable development.*

Strategies

- *Ensure a comprehensive site analysis forms the starting point of the design process and provides the basis for the consideration of height, scale, massing and energy performance of new development.*
- *Ensure development responds and contributes to the strategic and cultural context of its location.*
- *Minimise the detrimental impact of development on neighbouring properties, the public realm and the natural environment.*
- *Ensure the form, scale, and appearance of development enhances the function and amenity of the public realm.*
- *Ensure development is designed to protect and enhance valued landmarks, views and vistas.*

The siting of the proposed building does not appropriately respond to the context of its location, as it is not setback from the banks of Lake Eildon.

Zones

Clause 35.07 - Farming Zone

Purpose

- *To implement the Municipal Planning Strategy and the Planning Policy Framework.*
- *To provide for the use of land for agriculture.*
- *To encourage the retention of productive agricultural land.*
- *To ensure that non-agricultural uses, including dwellings, do not adversely affect the use of land for agriculture.*
- *To encourage the retention of employment and population to support rural communities.*
- *To encourage use and development of land based on comprehensive and sustainable land management practices and infrastructure provision.*
- *To provide for the use and development of land for the specific purposes identified in a schedule to this zone.*

Clause 36.01 - Public Use Zone

Purpose

- *To implement the Municipal Planning Strategy and the Planning Policy Framework.*
- *To recognise public land use for public utility and community services and facilities.*
- *To provide for associated uses that are consistent with the intent of the public land reservation or purpose.*

The proposed development will add one boat storage shed at the existing boat club facility, which will not alter the current use of the land. However, landowner consent was not provided with the application.

Overlays

Clause 42.03 - Significant Landscape Overlay

Purpose

- *To implement the Municipal Planning Strategy and the Planning Policy Framework.*
- *To identify significant landscapes.*
- *To conserve and enhance the character of significant landscapes.*

Schedule 2 to the Significant Landscape Overlay contains the following:

- *Statement of nature and key elements of landscape*
 - *Lake Eildon is a significant water storage that is located within the Lake Eildon National Park. The lake is surrounded by prominent vegetated hills and ranges that form part of the Central Highlands.*
- *Landscape character objectives to be achieved*
 - *Protect the visual quality and significance of the prominent hills, slopes and extensive open landscapes in the Shire, including those classified by the National Trust.*
 - *Protect the nature of the rural areas surrounding Lake Eildon and its tributaries.*
 - *Protect the rural landscape from insensitivity designed development.*
 - *Maintain and protect the diversity of landscapes, native fauna, remnant vegetation and sites of historical, botanical and zoological significance.*
 - *Provide that the development of tourism oriented activities complementing the special nature of Lake Eildon.*
 - *Recognise and protect the landscape conservation and scientific importance of the Lake Eildon.*
 - *Protect the lake and the surrounding landscapes from visual intrusion and inappropriate development.*
 - *Maintain passive recreational development of the land for the enjoyment of all visitors.*
 - *Encourage development that is consistent with sustainable rural land management.*

The proposed building is an additional boat storage shed at an existing boat club facility and will be finished in non-reflective materials of muted colours, to blend into its woodland backdrop. However, the siting of the building is within the Full Supply Level of Lake Eildon, which is not appropriate and detracts from the visual quality and significance of the landscape.

Clause 44.03 - Floodway Overlay

Purpose

- *To implement the Municipal Planning Strategy and the Planning Policy Framework.*
- *To identify waterways, major floodpaths, drainage depressions and high hazard areas which have the greatest risk and frequency of being affected by flooding.*
- *To ensure that any development maintains the free passage and temporary storage of floodwater, minimises flood damage and is compatible with flood hazard, local drainage conditions and the minimisation of soil erosion, sedimentation and silting.*
- *To reflect any declarations under Division 4 of Part 10 of the Water Act, 1989 if a declaration has been made.*

- *To protect water quality and waterways as natural resources by managing urban stormwater, protecting water supply catchment areas, and managing saline discharges to minimise the risks to the environmental quality of water and groundwater.*
- *To ensure that development maintains or improves river and wetland health, waterway protection and flood plain health.*

The proposed building site is located within the Floodway Overlay. The application is not supported by the floodplain manager, GBCMA, who advised the siting of the building does not comply with the *Guidelines for the Protection of Water Quality* (North East Planning Referrals Committee, 2016).

Clause 44.06 - Bushfire Management Overlay

Purpose

- *To implement the Municipal Planning Strategy and the Planning Policy Framework.*
- *To ensure that the development of land prioritises the protection of human life and strengthens community resilience to bushfire.*
- *To identify areas where the bushfire hazard warrants bushfire protection measures to be implemented.*
- *To ensure development is only permitted where the risk to life and property from bushfire can be reduced to an acceptable level.*

The proposed building site is not affected by the Bushfire Management Overlay.

Conclusion

It is considered that the development of the land for a boat storage building is inappropriate and inconsistent with the provisions of the Murrindindi Planning Scheme.

Council Plan/Strategies/Policies

This report supports the *Council Plan 2021-2025 Beautiful Towns and Rural Settings* strategy to “deliver efficient, sustainable land use planning outcomes to enhance liveability, protect our unique rural character and natural beauty, and to enable growth”.

Relevant Legislation

The proposal is being considered under the provisions of the *Murrindindi Planning Scheme* and the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*.

Financial Implications and Risk

There are no financials implications or risks associated with the consideration of this application for planning permit.

Conflict of Interest

There were no conflicts of interest declared by Council officers in relation to the matters contained in this report.

4.2 Tourism and Promotion Update

Attachment(s):

1. Attachment 1 - GVRT Spring Marketing Campaign - 2023 [4.2.1 - 15 pages]
2. Attachment 2 - TNE - Quarterly Report Q 1 2023-24 [4.2.2 - 25 pages]

| | |
|-------------|--|
| Presenter | Ben Harnwell – Manager Economic Development Julie Blyth – Coordinator Business, Investment and Innovation |
| Approved by | Director Community & Development |
| Purpose | For information |

Executive Summary

This report provides an update to Council on key marketing activities and tourism initiatives undertaken in 2023 to support the visitor economy in Murrindindi Shire, including those undertaken within the partnership with Tourism North East.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council note the update on Tourism and Visitor Promotion across the Shire.

Background

The *Murrindindi Shire Council Tourism and Events Strategy (Strategy) 2019-2025* was adopted by Council in November 2019. In 2023 we have focussed on delivery of actions from this Strategy and other strategic priorities of Council aligned to tourism and the visitor economy.

In 2020 we entered a partnership with Tourism North East, to leverage regional advocacy, marketing and investment opportunities to benefit the visitor economy in Murrindindi Shire. Following a briefing session with Council on 1 March 2023, the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Tourism North East was renewed for a further three-year period, from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2026.

Discussion

Tourism North East

Tourism North East (TNE) and its Regional Tourism Partners work collaboratively to drive and optimise tourism related visitation and yield opportunities for the High Country, and establish the region as a premier tourism destination that offers a consistent and engaging visitor experience. Our partnership with TNE provides us with access to a wide range of support and expertise including:

- Tourism industry development
- Tourism product development
- Regional marketing
- Skills training
- Leadership and mentoring
- Identifying investment and infrastructure
- Advocacy and research
- Strategic planning

Key marketing activities undertaken this year within this partnership include:

Great Victorian Rail Trail Marketing

Development of a marketing campaign to promote the Great Victorian Rail Trail (GVRT), including the new art installations. The campaign *Great Rides, Great Walks, Great Art – Rediscover the Great Victorian Rail Trail* will promote the rail trail visitor holiday experience to convert Melbourne and Victorian audiences to plan and book their own GVRT getaway. The campaign will include paid and organic social media promotion across the GVRT, Visit High Country, Ride High Country and Visit Victoria channels as well as the Discover Dindi channels. A comprehensive media campaign will support this with content provided by journalist Belinda Jackson. See Attachment 1 – GVRT Spring Marketing Campaign.

To further support the GVRT campaign and the wider GVRT experiences, and in partnership with Murrindindi, Mansfield and Mitchell Shire Councils, TNE has coordinated a refresh of the GVRT website and content capture to produce a suite of new and engaging promotional images and videos for use across multimedia platforms. These can be viewed at www.greatvictorianrailtrail.com.au

High Country App

Visitors to Murrindindi Shire can now customise their own travel itineraries with the launch of the new High Country app, showcasing the incredible choices on offer in the region. The innovative app delivers a more personalised experience for visitors, making it easier to find local activities and events that appeal to their interests. Visitors can create their own trip plans, with the app's search function providing location-based recommendations that can be filtered by distance and type. Businesses that list on the Australian Tourism Data Warehouse (ATDW) will automatically feature on this app. www.victoriashighcountry.com.au/download-the-visitor-app

Destination Management Plan

With the expiry of the original *High Country Destination Management Plan (2013-2023)*, TNE conducted a review and refresh of the plan in consultation with key partners and industry stakeholders, to serve the region for the coming decade. Aligned to the Victorian statewide tourism strategy *Experience Victoria 2033*, the *High Country Destination Management Plan 2023 - 2033*, focuses on priority initiatives that are best positioned to leverage the region's collaborative efforts and to deliver positive tourism results for the High Country. These efforts are focused on the High Country's five recognised product strengths in Cycle, The Victorian Alps, Nature-Based Tourism; Food, Drink and Produce; and Arts, Cultural Heritage and Events. Key priority projects for Murrindindi Shire are included within this plan.

Further information on recent TNE activities is contained within the Attachment 2 - TNE Quarterly Report - Q1 2023 – 24.

Great Victorian Rail Trail

In 2021 Murrindindi, Mitchell and Mansfield Shire Councils were successful in receiving \$1.2M in funding through the Victorian Government's Regional Tourism Investment Fund to create large-scale art installations along the Great Victorian Rail Trail. This project was completed in 2023.

Eight artists were engaged to create seven major art installations and 20 smaller works (scar trees) that have been placed along the length of the trail.

As part of the project, a series of new wayfinding and interpretive signs have also been installed to improve the visitor experience and share First Peoples stories to connect walkers and riders with sites along the trail.

Marketing initiatives to promote these new experiences in 2023 have included:

- Development of videos documenting each of the artists and their works from concept to installation, and short and long play videos to promote all of the art pieces along the trail
- Content creation on the GVRT website www.greatvictorianrailtrail.com.au/art
- Creation of a DL flyer
- Updates to the GVRT Pocket Guide
- Advertising in Rail Trails Australia magazine and website

The *Great Victorian Rail Trail Management Memorandum of Understanding* (MOU) between Murrindindi, Mitchell and Mansfield Shire Councils was renewed for a further three-year term – 2023 to 2026. This MOU provides direction and oversight for the ongoing maintenance, promotion and strategic development of the trail and is overseen by the GVRT Working Group and the GVRT Management Committee consisting of representatives from each of the three Councils.

Discover Dindi

Our Discover Dindi website and social media marketing platforms are managed by Council and we have undertaken the following activities during 2023:

- Quarterly eNewsletters to 1500 subscribers
- Updates to the Discover Dindi website
- Promotion and support to businesses to list on ATDW
- Advertising in regional and national publications including the Murrindindi Guide and Caravanning Australia magazine
- Regular social media promotion on Facebook (29,000 followers) and Instagram (16,500 followers)
- Spring marketing social media campaign with Elise's Travel Diary. Elise is a full-time travel content creator and social media influencer dedicated to nature and adventure travel with over 50,000 followers on Instagram. The campaign highlighted Marysville, Eildon, Rubicon and Thornton, featuring several local businesses and attractions via Instagram stories and reels – achieving great results. The reels were viewed more than 80,000 times and the stories had almost 18,000 views.

The Fishing Show

In October 2023 we supported the Australian Fishing Network to produce an episode of *The Fishing Show* highlighting the fishing and destination experiences available at Lake Eildon. This episode will air in early 2024 on the 7mate network. *The Fishing Show* regularly attracts almost 100,000 viewers per episode.

Put Murrindindi on Your Table

We are supporting Murrindindi Food & Wine Inc to deliver a shop local campaign within Murrindindi Shire. The campaign includes print, radio and social media advertising and is supported by point-of-sale display materials including posters, window decals and countertop cards.

Council Plan/Strategies/Policies

This report supports the *Council Plan 2021-2025 Growth and Opportunity* strategy “support and promote our tourism and events sector to boost the economy through increased visitation”.
Murrindindi Shire Council Tourism and Events Strategy 2019-2025

Relevant Legislation

Nil

Financial Implications and Risk

The programs around visitor economy and promotion of Murrindindi as a tourism destination are included in operational budget.

Conflict of Interest

There were no conflicts of interest declared by Council officers in relation to the matters contained in this report.

Community and Stakeholder Consultation

No external community or stakeholder consultation was required for this matter.

5 REPORTS - PEOPLE & CORPORATE PERFORMANCE GROUP

5.1 Project CODI Information Management Tender Pricing Update

Attachment(s): Nil

Presenter Michael Chesworth, Director People and Corporate Performance

Purpose For decision

Executive Summary

In July 2023, as part of the Victoria Government's Rural Council Transformation Program (RCTP) the four councils of Murrindindi, Mansfield, Benalla and Strathbogie resolved to support the awarding of a contract by Mansfield Shire Council (Project lead) to Logicalis Pty Ltd to implement an information management business solution across the four councils.

Following the signing of contracts Logicalis has advised Mansfield Shire Council of a material cost error in their original tender response and requested that the implementation costs be amended from \$469,200 to \$588,900 (Excluding GST).

It is agreed by the tender evaluation team, consisting of representation across the four councils, that the pricing error was a genuine mistake. Logicalis has discounted the pricing error to minimize the cost impact on the project budget and they remained the best value and preferred supplier after adjusting the tender evaluation scoring to take the pricing change into account.

The price increase can be funded from the existing grant-funded project budget without requiring additional funds from the councils. Holding Logicalis to the original price was considered a high-risk approach, with the likelihood that project outcomes may be significantly diminished.

It is recommended that Council endorse a variation to the contract between Mansfield Shire Council and Logicalis to recognise the price increase.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council advise the Mansfield Shire Council that it:

1. supports Logicalis Pty Ltd remaining the preferred supplier of the Information Management solution
2. endorses a variation to the contract between Mansfield Shire Council and Logicalis to recognise the amended implementation cost of \$588,900 (\$647,790, including a 10% contingency) excluding GST.

Background

In May 2023, as part of the Victoria Government's Rural Council Transformation Program (RCTP), the Lower North East Rural Councils, consisting of Mansfield (grant auspice), Murrindindi, Benalla and Strathbogie issued a public tender for the replacement of the following business systems:

- Information Management
- Planning, Building and Regulatory
- Customer Relationship Management
- Property/Rates
- Finance.

Two Vendors submitted responses to deliver the Information Management solution. Both Vendors proposed AvePoint as the underlying technology platform for the solution.

At the 26 July 2023 Scheduled Meeting, following a collaborative tender evaluation, Council resolved to endorse the awarding of a lump sum contract by Mansfield Shire Council to Logicalis Pty Ltd for implementation of the Information Management module across the four partner councils.

In October 2023 and post contract signing, Logicalis advised in writing that they had identified a material cost error in their original tender response and requested that the implementation costs be amended from \$469,200 to \$588,900 (excluding any contingency, including the options of workflow and user training), an increase of \$119,700. This pricing increase related to costs associated with AvePoint services for the implementation of Cloud Records solution and related data migration.

This report considers the impact of this potential price increase and seeks Council's endorsement for Mansfield Shire Council to amend the contract with Logicalis to recognise the pricing increase.

Discussion

Following discussions between Logicalis and the project management team, it was agreed that the costing error was a legitimate and genuine mistake made when transcribing implementation costs. Logicalis have readily admitted the mistakes and have taken steps to minimise the actual cost increase to the project with their amended price discounted by \$144,300 from the intended original price.

The project team concurrently sought legal advice on the pricing amendment request, which indicated that the options available to the councils were to:

1. Hold Logicalis to the current price
2. Entertain a fee uplift (provided Logicalis still represent overall best value for money)
3. Terminate the signed contracts by consent and enliven the earlier tender process to go to another tenderer (assuming that is still possible under the request for tender terms).

The legal advice confirmed that typically in these scenarios option 1 would likely create negative outcomes for a project by encouraging a vendor to do the bare minimum when performing the requirements of the contract and reducing the service delivery to match the submitted price resulting in an inferior outcome. Furthermore, any requests for changes would likely result in significant additional costs with a significant risk of further disputes.

Tender Evaluation Outcome

With respect to option 2, the following table provides a comparison of the tender evaluation criteria scores before and after the price correction.

| Criteria | Tenderer 1 | Logicalis Original | Logicalis Revised |
|---|-------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Price (40%) | 40.0 | 36.0 | 32.0 |
| Previous Performance and capability (25%) | 10.6 | 20.6 | 20.6 |
| Delivery Capacity / able to meet requirements (25%) | 16.0 | 18.5 | 18.5 |
| Local Benefit (5%) | 3.5 | 1 | 1 |
| Environmental Sustainability (5%) | 1.0 | 2.5 | 2.5 |
| Weighted Final Score | 71.1 | 78.6 | 74.6 |

Despite the pricing increase, the scoring indicates that Logicalis remains the best value provider for the Information Management solution.

It is important to note that the Logicalis' costing error only relates to once-off implementation costs which are funded through the RCTP Grant funded project. The cost increase can be accommodated in the overall project budget and there is no change to the ongoing/annual subscription costs funded by each individual Council.

Further the original tender evaluation noted that whilst Logicalis pricing was higher, the offer was considered to provide better value due to:

- Demonstrated successful use of the product across councils in Victoria
- Superior implementation and technical support
- Proven capability to implement the systems across all four councils within the required timeframes.
- In-house specialists able to fully address the specific regulatory requirements for these areas
- Superior Change management processes

Additionally, it was highlighted that Tenderer One was not able to provide any references within Victoria to support their program, even though there are a range of Council's known to be using their products.

In summary:

- It is considered that the pricing issue was a genuine mistake when transposing the AvePoint costs into the Logicalis proposal
- Logicalis has discounted the pricing error to minimize the cost impact on the project
- It may be legally possible to hold Logicalis to the original price submitted, however it is considered that this would result in an inferior outcome for the four councils
- The revised tender evaluation scoring results in Logicalis remaining the preferred supplier

- The pricing only impacts the once-off implementation costs which are all contained within the Mansfield contract with Logicalis, as the auspice council.
- The cost increase can be absorbed within the existing project budget, and no additional funding is required from councils.

It is therefore recommended that Council advise Mansfield Shire Council that it supports Logicalis remaining the preferred supplier of the Information Management solution, and it supports a variation to the contract to recognise the amended implementation cost of \$588,900 (or \$647,790, including the 10% contingency).

Council Plan/Strategies/Policies

This report supports the *Council Plan 2021-2025 Transparency, Inclusion and Accountability* strategy to “ensure Council remains financially-sustainable through sound management, forward planning, innovative service delivery and asset consolidation as appropriate”.

This report supports the *Council Plan 2021-2025 Transparency, Inclusion and Accountability* strategy to “maintain transparent, inclusive and accountable governance practices”.

Relevant Legislation

The tender has been undertaken in compliance with all four Council partners procurement policies, as required by the local Government Act 2020.

Financial Implications and Risk

This CODI project has been funded with \$1,000,000 grant from the Rural Council’s Transformation Program (RCTP), \$888,000 from the Business Acceleration Fund and \$2,276,480 from the four partner Councils, across three financial years.

Conflict of Interest

There were no conflicts of interest declared by Council officers in relation to the matters contained in this report.

Community and Stakeholder Consultation

No external community or stakeholder consultation was required for this matter.

6 REPORTS - ASSETS & ENVIRONMENT GROUP

6.1 Response to Petition - Road Sealing - Steavenson Road & Aroona

| | |
|----------------|--|
| Attachment(s): | Nil |
| Presenter | David Richardson, Coordinator Engineering Services |
| Approved by | Interim Director Assets & Environment |
| Purpose | For decision |

Executive Summary

Steavenson Road and Aroona Drive in Buxton are local gravel access streets that provide access to 28 properties. Residents are frustrated with the poor condition of the roads and have petitioned to have the roads sealed to meet the typical standard for a residential area.

In February 2020, Council surveyed property owners to gauge their interest in a special charge scheme to construct these roads. At that time, there was minimal interest and the threshold to continue with a special charge was not met. Under Murrindindi's Special Charge Scheme Policy, Council cannot consider investigating a special charge scheme for four years after abandoning the process. Therefore, Council could consider consulting with property owners in March 2024 to determine their interest in a contribution scheme, in accordance with the Special Charge Scheme for Infrastructure Policy.

The legislation governing special rate schemes has been updated in the last year and there are some additional constraints on the length of time a potential scheme can be held open. As a result, the Murrindindi Special Charge Schemes for Infrastructure Policy will be reviewed in accordance with the updated legislation.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 1. Consult with property owners in Steavenson Road and Aroona Drive in March 2024, regarding a contribution scheme for the sealing of Steavenson Road and Aroona Drive and report the results of this consultation to Council in July 2024.**

Background

Council received a petition at its meeting on 26 July 2023 and resolved the following:

That Council:

- 1. Receive the petition titled 'Road Sealing – Steavenson Road & Aroona Drive Buxton' from Susan Maffei.*
- 2. Refer the petition to the Director Assets & Environment for consideration and response.*

Discussion

Steavenson Road and Aroona Drive

Steavenson Road and Aroona Drive are unsealed gravel access streets in Buxton that provide access to nearby residential properties. Together, they form a no-through route however they do provide public access to the Acheron River. The petition highlighted the poor and variable condition of these streets, which is typical of gravel roads in urban areas.

There are also known drainage issues associated with the two roads and several of the adjacent properties are within a Land Subject to Inundation planning overlay.

Under poor weather conditions and normal traffic loads, gravel roads deteriorate. In summer, they become corrugated and dusty, while in wet weather, they become potholed and muddy. To prevent these problems, typical urban roads are constructed with a sealed surface, kerb and channel with underground stormwater drainage.



Construction of Steavenson Road and Aroona Drive

The construction of gravel roads requires a significant upfront investment. This cost is typically borne by the landowners who benefit from the roads. The following are two ways to fund the construction of local gravel access streets:

- **Planning condition:** A planning condition can be placed on developers in the area to construct the road. This is the most common way to fund roads in new urban residential areas. The developer recoups their costs by selling the lots in the subdivision.

This option is not possible as both Steavenson Road and Aroona Drive are fully developed with homes on all blocks and has no future subdivision opportunities.

- **Special charge scheme:** A special charge scheme can be initiated by the council, where the property owners who benefit from the proposed construction contribute to the cost. Steavenson Road and Aroona Drive could be funded under this method.

In February 2020, Council consulted with the property owners abutting Steavenson Road and Aroona Drive on their interest in contributing to the construction of the roads. A majority of the property owners did not support the proposed special charge scheme.

Special Charge Scheme

Council's special charge scheme policy states that if a proposed scheme does not receive sufficient support, it will not be considered again for four years, or unless requested by property owners liable to contribute.

Therefore, Council cannot consider a special charge scheme for Steavenson Road and Aroona Drive again until after 29 February 2024. The survey for the last special charge scheme for these roads closed on 29 February 2020, and only received 32% support for an average estimated cost of \$9,500 per property owner.

Objections to the past scheme included:

- Property owners bought their properties with the abutting road unsealed and did not perceive any benefit in construction.
- Council should fund the roads' construction from general rates.
- Council should contribute part or all of the costs for the roads' construction to the broader community benefit of accessing the river.
- The proposed charge was unaffordable.
- The estimated cost to construct the road and charge was too high.
- The drainage should be fixed first, or the proposed road standards were too high.

New Special Charge Scheme Proposal for Steavenson Road and Aroona Drive

The estimated cost to construct Steavenson Road and Aroona Drive has been updated to \$441,000. The new cost reflects the general significant indexed increases in construction costs in the last 4 years. This includes:

- A 6m wide sprayed seal on a crushed rock pavement.
- Open drain construction.
- Reconstruction of existing crossovers with culvert crossovers.

There are 28 properties abutting Aroona Drive and Steavenson Road, so the average cost per property at full cost to property owners would be \$15,800.

Note:

- The actual cost for an individual property will vary significantly from the average cost, depending on the special benefit allocated to the property.
- The average cost per property could be reduced if a community benefit is added for accessing the Acheron River reserve. Council would need to contribute towards the costs of the community benefit, reducing the costs required to be funded by property owners.
- The average estimated cost per property is over 50% higher than the estimated costs in 2020.
- Under the legislation, property owners can elect to pay off the special charges over a 10-year period.

Special Charge Scheme Policy

There is a demand for the construction of Steavenson Road and Aroona Drive from some property owners, but the 2020 survey showed that only a minority of property owners are willing to contribute to the full cost of construction. The estimated costs have also increased significantly.

Since 2020, there have been changes to the Local Government Act relating to Special Charge Schemes. Therefore, it is appropriate to review the Murrindindi Special Charge Scheme Policy and consider how to apportion a proposed scheme, including a Council contribution for access to the Acheron River.

The next step is to engage with all property owners and determine their support for the scheme and then report the result of this consultation to Council.

Council Plan/Strategies/Policies

This report supports the *Council Plan 2021-2025 Beautiful Towns and Rural Settings* strategy to “Connect our communities through improved roads, footpaths and public transport”.

Relevant Legislation

Local Government Act 2020

Financial Implications and Risk

There are currently no financial implications for the construction of Steavenson Road and Aroona Drive until Council makes a decision to proceed.

Conflict of Interest

There were no conflicts of interest declared by Council officers in relation to the matters contained in this report.

Community and Stakeholder Consultation

This report was generated in response to a petition. The lead petitioner will be notified of Council's decision.

6.2 Response to Petition - Traffic Management - Bon Street Alexandra

Attachment(s):

1. CONFIDENTIAL REDACTED - Attachment 1 - Petition - Bon St Residents [6.2.1 - 13 pages]
2. CONFIDENTIAL REDACTED - Attachment 2 - Bon Street Submission [6.2.2 - 5 pages]

| | |
|-------------|--|
| Presenter | David Richardson, Engineering Services Coordinator |
| Approved by | Interim Director Assets & Environment |
| Purpose | For decision |

Executive Summary

Bon Street in Alexandra is a local residential street primarily used by residents to access their properties. Over time, the street has been gradually developed with sections of kerb and channel, underground drainage, and varying road seal width. There is an over-dimensional route parallel to Bon Street along William Street, which is intended to carry commercial traffic traveling between the Maroondah Highway north of Alexandra and the Goulburn Valley Highway east of Alexandra.

Despite the existence of this over-dimensional route, residents have petitioned the council to widen and upgrade Bon Street due to an increase in commercial traffic using the street. A traffic count of Bon Street confirms the petitioners' observations, indicating a high percentage of

commercial vehicles using the street. Additionally, Bon Street is narrower and lacks kerb and channel, making it unsuitable for heavy commercial traffic.

To address the concerns of Bon Street residents and improve traffic safety, the following solutions are proposed:

- Consult with the Department of Transport and Planning on upgrading and renewing the over-dimensional signage along William Street to make it more visible and effective.
- Consider future funding for constructing threshold treatments at the intersection of Bon Street to discourage commercial traffic from using the street. Threshold treatments are physical barriers or pavement markings that can deter larger vehicles from entering a particular area.
- Consider future funding options including a co-contribution through a special charge scheme with adjoining owners, for widening Bon Street and constructing kerb and channel to improve the road's safety and capacity for residential traffic.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 1. Following consultation with the Department of Transport and Planning, upgrade and renew the over dimensional route signage in Alexandra.**
- 2. Refer the construction of threshold treatments to the forward capital works program at:**
 - **The intersection of Station Street and Bon Street, Alexandra.**
 - **The intersection of Bon Street and Aitkens/Grant Street (Maroondah Hwy).**
- 3. Refer the road upgrade to include road widening, kerb and channel construction with associated underground drainage of Bon Street between Station Street and Aitkens/Grant Street (Maroondah Highway), Alexandra to the forward capital works program with consideration for a co-contribution through a special charge scheme from adjoining owners.**

Background

At the Council Meeting on the 27 September 2023, a petition relating to the traffic issues in Bon Street Alexandra was tabled. Council resolved the following:

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.*

Discussion

Bon Street, Alexandra

Bon Street is local residential street in Alexandra. The street intersects with Station Street at the North-East end and the Maroondah Highway (Aitkens/Grant Street) at the South-West end. Bon Street's primary purpose is to provide access to the abutting residential properties that includes a residential aged care centre.



The street serves approximately 47 properties and is 680m long with three intersecting local streets. Over time the street has been upgraded in parts which has created part of the issue raised in the petition.

Petition:

13 properties along Bon Street have signed a petition, highlighting the following two traffic issues:

1. Narrow road width.
The petition, (refer to the confidential attachment) is seeking capacity for parking lanes and two through traffic lanes. The petition highlighted examples of existing conditions in Bon Street comparative to other wider streets in Alexandra.
2. Over Dimensional Route.
The petition highlighted that commercial traffic is using Bon Street between the Maroondah Highway and Station Street rather than the over dimension route along William Street. The signage for the over dimensions route along Willam Street is old, does not stand out and is missing in locations. Hence commercial traffic is using Bon Street as an alternative route.

Road Cross Section

Bon Street has been developed, historically, over time in a piecemeal fashion indicative to the budget available and the needs at that time. Hence the variable road widths along Bon Street.

The road width of Bon Street varies. The road reserve is approximately 20m wide with the actual road width varying as follows:

- Between Grant Street to John Street.
5m seal from south kerb lip to edge of seal with 1.0m shoulder.
- Between John Street and Shamrock Street.

1. Install new and renewed signage along Station Street and Aitken Street (Maroondah Highway) to direct commercial vehicles to the Over Dimensional Route.
Council can replace the existing signage, however the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) are the agency that authorises changes to the signage, signage in new areas and truck banning signs. The Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) will be consulted on improvements to the signage to better define the bypass route and avoid commercial traffic inadvertently using Bon Street.

The estimated cost of to improve the signage for the Over Dimensional Route is \$3,000. However, improved signage may not be enough to discourage all commercial traffic from using Bon Street.

2. Construct intersection threshold treatments at the intersections of Bon Street with Station Street and Bon Street with the Maroondah Highway. These treatments would involve kerb extensions and islands, as well as pavement treatments, to make it more difficult for larger vehicles to turn onto Bon Street. The estimated cost for two threshold treatments is \$135,000

Proposal

The Petitioners concerns are valid. Bon Street, like many other streets in Murrindindi Shire, was developed over time and does not meet current standards for urban access streets. However, Bon Street is unique in that it is being used by commercial traffic to bypass the centre of Alexandra.

Improving the traffic environment on Bon Street will come at a cost. Therefore, the following is proposed:

- Upgrade signage using the current traffic treatment budget.
- Refer the road upgrade with threshold treatments to the future Capital Works Program for funding consideration. A future Special Charge Scheme should also be considered as co-contribution for the road upgrade due to the classification of the road and its main purpose as an access road to adjoining properties.

Council Plan/Strategies/Policies

This report supports the *Council Plan 2021-2025 Beautiful Townships and Rural Settings* strategy “to create a better place for our community and visitors to live in harmony with our rural character, natural beauty and heritage”.

This report supports the *Council Plan 2021-2025 Beautiful Towns and Rural Settings* strategy to “connect our communities through improved roads, footpaths and public transport”.

Relevant Legislation

Road Safety Road Rules 2017

Financial Implications and Risk

Renewing the existing signage for the over dimensional route is approximately \$3000, which can be funded from the operational maintenance budget.

For consideration as part of the forward capital works budget, threshold treatments on Bon Street at a cost of \$135,000.

For consideration as part of the forward capital works budget and/or Special Charge Scheme, Bon Street pavement widening, kerb and channel and underground drainage at a cost of \$600,000

Conflict of Interest

There were no conflicts of interest declared by Council officers in relation to the matters contained in this report.

Community and Stakeholder Consultation

If changes are proposed to Over Dimensional Route or truck bans following consultation with Department of Transport and Planning, there will be a requirement for freight industry and general community consultation before proceeding with implementation.

7 COUNCILLOR AND CEO REPORTS

7.1 Notices of Motions

7.2 Cr Karine Haslam

7.3 Cr John Walsh

7.4 Cr Ilona Gerencser

7.5 Cr Eric Lording

7.6 Cr Sandice McAulay

7.7 Cr Sue Carpenter

7.8 Cr Damien Gallagher - Mayoral Report

7.9 Chief Executive Officer Report

8 ASSEMBLIES OF COUNCILLORS

Purpose

For noting.

Executive Summary

This report presents the records of Assemblies of Councillors for 17 November 2023 to 7 December 2023, for Council to note.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and note the records of Assemblies of Councillors for 15 November 2023 to 9 December 2023.

Background

The Governance Rules adopted by Council at its 24 August 2022 meeting sets the order of business for scheduled meetings. As part of section 7.2.1 “Record of Council Briefing Sessions” is listed as to be included in the order of business.

Discussion

The purpose of keeping a record of Council Briefing Sessions is so that the content of the Briefing Session, the attendance and any declared conflicts of interest are recorded in a formal document. Council is making every effort to ensure that it is transparent in the content of Briefing Sessions and any conflicts of interest, therefore the formal record is presented for noting as part of the Scheduled Meeting Agenda.

The following summary details are for 17 November 2023 to 7 December 2023:

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Meeting Name/Type | Council Pre-Meet |
| Meeting Date: | 22 November 2023 |
| Matters Discussed: | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Planning Application – 2456 Goulburn Valley Highway 2. Planning Scheme Review Report – Adoption 3. Shaping Murrindindi – Context Analysis 4. Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan – Year 2 Report 5. Grants and Sponsorships Program – November Allocation 6. Tertiary Education Hub – Funding Application for Council Report Nov 2023 7. Contract – 23/13 – Sealed Roads Resealing Program 2023/24 |
| Councillor Attendees: | Cr J Walsh, Cr K Haslam, Cr S Carpenter, Cr D Gallagher, Cr S McAulay, Cr E Lording |
| Council Officer Attendees | Livia Bonazzi, Michael Chesworth, Vito Albicini, Andrew Paxton, David, Echeverry, Natalie Stewart, Cameron Fraser |
| Conflict of Interest Disclosures: | Nil |

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Meeting Name/Type | Briefing Session |
| Meeting Date: | 6 December 2023 |
| Matters Discussed: | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Road Safety Strategy and Action Plan 2. Response to Petition - Road Sealing - Steavenson Road & Aroona Drive Buxton 3. Response to Petition - Traffic Management - Bon Street Alexandra 4. Planning Application - 205 Sugarloaf Road Eildon - Development of the land for boat storage building 5. Early Years Infrastructure Project Update 6. Key Worker Housing Strategy 7. Tourism and Promotion Update 8. National Volunteer Week program update 9. Eildon Pondage Masterplan 10. Planning Scheme Amendment C71 - Toolangi Forest Discovery Centre 11. Website Re-design Project |
| Councillor Attendees: | Cr J Walsh, Cr K Haslam, Cr S Carpenter, Cr D Gallagher, Cr S McAulay, Cr E Lording, Virtual - Cr I Gerencser |
| Council Officer Attendees | Livia Bonazzi, Michael Chesworth, Caroline Lintott, Andrew Paxton, Peter Bain, Natalie Stewart, Cameron Fraser, Ben Harnwell, Julie Blyth, Sue Porter, Nat Matheson, Stuart Coller, Anna Cullen, Rosie Kane, Max Ree-Goodings |
| Conflict of Interest Disclosures: Nil | |

Council Plan/Strategies/Policies

This matter is consistent with the *Council Plan 2021-2025 Transparency, Inclusion and Accountability* strategy to “maintain transparent, inclusive and accountable governance practices”.

Relevant Legislation

This report supports the *Local Government Act 2020* overarching governance principles, in particular “the transparency of Council decisions, actions and information is to be ensured”.

Financial Implications and Risk

There are no financial or risk implications.

Conflict of Interest

Any conflicts of interest are noted in the records of Council Briefing Sessions tables listed above.

9 SEALING REGISTER

| File Reference | Date Seal Affixed | Description of Documents | Signatures of Persons Sealing |
|----------------|-------------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| CONT33/31 | 7 December 2023 | Formal Instrument of Agreement between Murrindindi Shire Council and Goldsmith Civil & Environmental Pty Ltd | Livia Bonazzi Cr Damien Gallagher |

RECOMMENDATION

That the list of items to which the Council seal has been affixed be noted.