



# **ORDER OF BUSINESS**

1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY AND COUNCILLORS' PLEDGE	3
2 PROCEDURAL MATTERS	3
3 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION	6
4 REPORTS - COMMUNITY & DEVELOPMENT GROUP	7
4.1 Presenting the Glenburn Community Plan	
5 REPORTS - PEOPLE & CORPORATE PERFORMANCE GROUP	9
5.1 Quarterly Finance Report - June 2023	
6 COUNCILLOR AND CEO REPORTS	11
7 RECORD OF COUNCIL BRIEFING SESSIONS	16
8 SEALING REGISTER	18



### 1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY AND COUNCILLORS' PLEDGE

# 1.1 Acknowledgement of Country

The meeting was opened with the Chief Executive Officer declaring the following Pledge 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 are committed to working together in the best interests of the people who live in our municipality, who conduct business here and those who visit.

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 was 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 Gerencser was an apology.

# Present:

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

#### In attendance:

Chief Executive Officer: Livia Bonazzi

Director People & Corporate Performance: Michael Chesworth

Director Community & Development: Andrew Paxton

Director Assets & Environment: Vito Albicini

Acting Manager Governance and Risk: David Echeverry Manager Business Services: Cheryl Nickels-Beattie

### 2.3 Disclosure of Interest or Conflict of Interest

Nil.



#### 2.4 Confirmation of Minutes

Minutes of the Scheduled Meeting of Council held on 26 July 2023.

### **RESOLUTION**

Cr E Lording / Cr S McAulay
That Council confirm the minutes of the 26 July 2023 Scheduled Meeting of Council.

**CARRIED** 

#### 2.5 Petitions

Nil.

# 2.6 Community Recognition

## The Contribution and Passing of Joe Exton

Read by Mayor Cr John Walsh

The Murrindindi Shire wouldn't be the great place it is now if it wasn't for the generosity and contribution of many individual citizens over the years who have voluntarily given of their time and resources to support worthy causes for the benefit of our communities.

Today it is my great pleasure to reflect on, acknowledge and celebrate the significant contribution of one such individual, Joe Exton and his family's contribution to the betterment of the communities of the Kinglake Ranges.

Back in the late 70's and early 80's the communities of the Kinglake Ranges, which at the time were part of 4 different municipalities, embarked on an exciting initiative to create a Community Centre for the communities of the Kinglake Ranges.

Whilst there was much fundraising by the community to support this initiative, along with funding from Local and State governments, a key catalyst for the project was the donation of land by Joe and his family at the corner of the Whittlesea-Kinglake Rd and Extons Roads in Kinglake Central, strategically located to service both Kinglake and Kinglake West.

The Kinglake District Community Centre was built in two stages, with the Senior Citizens room, arts room and community hall built in the early 1980s, followed in the early 1990s by the building of the Sports Stadium. Along with the existing Infant Welfare Centre and Child Care Centres, the Community Centre completed a significant community precinct to service communities across the Kinglake Ranges.

This precinct became a central community hub, enabling community gatherings and supporting families and many community groups and sporting clubs - all essential for a healthy and growing community and made possible through Joe and his family's generosity.

Tragically the Kinglake Ranges bore the wrath of the devastating 2009 bushfires and the Child Care and Maternal and Child Health Centres were lost, but miraculously the Community Centre survived with only minor damage.



The Middle Kinglake Primary School, located across the road from the Community Centre and was also destroyed in the fires.

In the following months as the communities started their recovery, the focus shifted to rebuilding across the Ranges, including the facilities lost at Kinglake Central. However, the need to replace the former Primary School, Child Care Centre and Maternal Child Health Centre with more contemporary and integrated facilities, to cater for a growing population, was not going to be possible on the land available.

With enormous generosity Joe and Elaine again offered to donate a significant piece of land adjacent to the Kinglake Community Centre to support this rebuilding effort. It was the way Joe and Elaine wanted to support the community's recovery.

Being a community minded person, and like the original donation, Joe wanted this additional land to remain under the ownership of Murrindindi Shire Council and the Kinglake Ranges community, and not transferred to the State Government or the State Education Department.

As a consequence, and with Joe's agreement, the land has been leased and not transferred to the Education Department which enabled the new facilities to be built. It is very unusual in Victoria for a State school to be built on leased land, however it preserves the wishes of Joe and Elaine to ensure their contribution to the Kinglake Ranges community remains in local hands.

And so a brand new Early Learning facility incorporating a Child Care Centre and Kindergarten, Maternal and Child Health Centre, Primary School and multi purpose building was built in 2011 much to Joe and Elaine's and the community's delight.

Sadly, on 1st July this year, whilst on his annual pilgrimage to the warmer climate of Australia's north, and with his wife Elaine, Joe passed away at age 87. Whilst the family grieve the loss of a loving husband, father, grand father and great grandfather, the Kinglake Ranges community has lost a benefactor of considerable generosity.

Former Councillor with the Yea and Murrindindi Shire Councils Peter Beales summed it up as follows:

"Joe donated the land with a clear understanding that he felt it was his responsibility to give back to the community. He was a true gentleman, whose word was his bond.

Please pass on to Joe's family my and Jenny's condolences on Joe's passing"

And likewise on behalf of the Murrindindi Shire Council I would like to extend our sincere condolences to you on Joe's passing, but also our respect and appreciation for the significant contribution Joe and your family have made for the benefit of the communities of the Kinglake Ranges and the Murrindindi Shire. His and yours will be an enduring legacy and I sincerely thank you.

# 2.7 Matters Deferred from Previous Meeting

Nil.

# 2.8 Urgent Business

Nil.



# 3 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

3.1 Open Forum

Nil.

3.2 Questions of Council

Nil.



### 4 REPORTS - COMMUNITY & DEVELOPMENT GROUP

# 4.1 Presenting the Glenburn Community Plan

Attachment(s) Attachment 1 - Glenburn Community Plan [4.1.1 - 2 pages]

Presenter A Paxton, Director Community & Development

Approved by Director Community & Development

Purpose For noting

### **Executive Summary**

Council Officers have been working with the Glenburn Community to develop the Glenburn Community Plan, which has been led by a core team from the Glenburn Community through a series of community workshops.

The purpose of this report is for the Glenburn Community Plan to be presented to Council for noting.

#### **RESOLUTION**

Cr E Lording / Cr D Gallagher

That Council note the Glenburn Community Plan as contained in Attachment 4.1.1.

**CARRIED** 

# 4.2 Murrindindi Flood Recovery Plan

Attachment(s) Attachment 1 - Murrindindi Flood Recovery Plan - Endorsed 2 May 2023

[**4.2.1** - 67 pages]

Presenter A Paxton, Director Community & Development

Approved by Director Community & Development

Purpose For noting

#### **Executive Summary**

The October 2022 flood event had a significant impact upon the Shire of Murrindindi, its assets, communities and businesses. A Murrindindi flood recovery plan was developed in consultation with many of the agencies involved in the flood response and recovery stages, based on a best practice model. It is timely and important for the flood recovery plan to be available to broader community input and review, to guide recovery across all pillars of the Flood Recovery Plan.



# **RESOLUTION**

Cr K Haslam / Cr D Gallagher That Council note the Murrindindi Flood Recovery Plan, which will guide the provision of services and actions to deliver flood recovery priorities identified within Murrindindi Shire and seek community engagement in its review.

**CARRIED** 



### 5 REPORTS - PEOPLE & CORPORATE PERFORMANCE GROUP

# 5.1 Quarterly Finance Report - June 2023

Attachment(s) Attachment 1 - Quarterly Financial Statements - June 2023 [5.1.1 - 4

pages]

Presenter C Nickels-Beattie, Manager Business Services
Approved by Director People & Corporate Performance

Purpose For noting

# **Executive Summary**

This report provides the quarterly financial report for the period ending 30 June 2023. It should be noted that the figures included in the report are the interim, pre-audited results, and may differ from the final audited annual financial results included in the 2022/23 Annual Report.

### **RESOLUTION**

Cr D Gallagher / Cr E Lording

That Council receive the Quarterly Financial Report to 30 June 2023.

**CARRIED** 

# 5.2 2022/23 Carry Forward Budgets

Attachment(s) Attachment 1 - 2022/23 Carry Forward Budgets [5.2.1 - 7 pages]

Presenter C Nickels-Beattie, Manager Business Services
Approved by Director People & Corporate Performance

Purpose For decision

#### **Executive Summary**

This report provides the 2023/24 revised budget position after consideration of operating and capital expenditure and revenue budgets recommended for carry forward from 2022/23 to 2023/24.



# **RESOLUTION**

Cr D Gallagher / Cr S McAulay
That Council endorse the revised 2023/24 Annual Budget incorporating the carry
forward budgets from the 2022/23 financial year.

**CARRIED** 



### 6 COUNCILLOR AND CEO REPORTS

6.1 Notices of Motions

Nil.

6.2 Cr Sue Carpenter

Nil to report.

# 6.3 Cr Damien Gallagher

It was a very great honour to be invited to represent the Alexandra community at the official opening of the new St. Mary's Primary School building refurbishment last week. My very sincere thanks to Principal, Kathryn Stuart, staff, students, and families of Alexandra for their warm welcome. Congratulations to school captains Chase and Sienna for expertly leading proceedings with speeches to those assembled, including Senator Linda White, Murrindindi Shire Council Mayor, Cr. Walsh, Fr. Jose (St Mary's Parish), and Uncle Shane Monk (Taungurung Land & Waters Council). The new facilities are well worthy of celebration.

Lake Eildon Houseboat Industry Association (LEHIA) maintains a strong Lake Eildon advocacy agenda and enjoys strong representation from across the region and across business sectors. The August meeting, chaired by Mike Dalmau heard from the new Central Ranges Local Learning and Employment Network CEO, Nicky Leitch, and representatives of Boating Industry Association of Victoria. A further presentation from LEHIA on boat licensing and sewage lines to support development was made later in the week by a local assembly of the Goulburn Regional Partnership.

#### To portfolio and representative matters

During August, I attended the Municipal Association of Victoria Gender Equality Workshop alongside Cr. McAulay. The session was far more than a discussion on social equity, with detailed consideration of the obligations on the public sector under the Gender Equality Act. There was further valuable discussion on the notion of *intersectionality* which sees different aspects of a person's identity overlapping and giving rise to amplified discrimination and marginalisation. There are governance impacts including Gender Impact Assessments when reviewing all Council policies, programs, and services. I acknowledge our responsibility to strive for pay parity, equal representation, and equity of access to opportunities. The welcome reforms are designed to enable an acceleration towards gender equality in local Government and ultimately across our community.

Some Murrindindi Shire residents may receive a letter from LG Valuation Services. LG Valuation Services has been appointed by the Victorian Valuer General and they are reaching out to seek assistance to accurately and appropriately value properties in our region for rating and taxation purposes. If you have any concerns about the process, please contact the Senior Valuer or the Chief Executive via the contact details provided in your letter.

#### Finally

Municipal rates notices are due to be distributed in early September. As always, if you or someone close to you is experiencing financial hardship, then please communicate your circumstances to Council's Rates Department and discuss payment arrangements. Their number is 5772 0333.



# 6.4 Cr Eric Lording

Nil to report.

# 6.5 Cr Sandice McAulay

The Shaping Murrindindi's project is progressing well with over 120 people already participating in workshops and interviews. Thank you so much to those people who have participated on Shaping Murrindindi so far. This information collected so far will go a long way to developing the context and structure of this important project going forward. The summary of this context analysis will be coming to the September Council meeting.

Tourism North East (TNE) launched their free Victoria's High Country mobile app this week which I was able to very easily download on my iPhone – it is also available for Android users. The app showcases many of our local restaurants, cycling and walking options, accommodation and so much more. It also features a mobile trip planner.

TNE also have their Destination Management Plan (2023-2033) out for consultation with partner organisations for feedback.

The app and Plan are examples of the great ways that TNE is boosting our local tourism, economic growth, and jobs for local businesses. I encourage anyone interested, to register on the TNE Facebook page or download the app.

Congratulations to the Yea Wetlands – the doors are open again for visitors after their hard work cleaning and repairing after the 2022 October flooding event. This active committee is seeking grant funding to further enhance the experience of this valuable destination.

Goulburn Regional Partnership had a valuable meeting at Eildon last week with our CEO and key staff, as well as Senior Staff from State Government Departments. This was a great opportunity to showcase Eildon and promote the Eildon Activation Plan.

The highlight of my last month was attending the official launch of the much-anticipated book – "Buxton – its past, present, people and places" at the Buxton Hall. The book is "a collection of personal stories of those who have known Buxton, Victoria, Australia." The book was edited and compiled by Julia Foletta assisted by Graham Eddy for the Buxton History Group. I was fortunate to purchase a signed copy of this beautiful book at the launch and I have it proudly on display in my home library.

#### 6.6 Cr Karine Haslam

It is with a very heavy heart that I start my report tonight. I would like to take this opportunity to pay respect to a very special person, Jenni Shaw who passed away suddenly on the 28 July 2023.

Jenni was a quiet achiever who called Eildon home. She was heavily involved in many community groups such as Eildon Action and U3A. She was well known at the local primary school.

After the devastating effect of the COVID-19 pandemic Jenni was the instigator to get the Eildon Information Centre up and running again. She was also the editor of Eildon Edition, which is the



Eildon newsletter. She would always lend a hand whenever one was needed; you could always depend on Jenni's support.

Jenni you will be greatly missed by so many. It was a privilege to know you. R.I.P.

# Portfolio Matters - Recycling

On 1 November 2023, the container deposit scheme, will be introduced into Victoria. This will be called CDS Vic.

It will reward Victorians with a 10-cent refund for every eligible can, carton and bottle they return. The scheme provides charities, schools, community and sporting groups, an easy way to raise funds, and will create an estimated 215 jobs directly in the network, with a potential further 500 indirect jobs created across the Victorian economy.

Visy, has been announced as the network operator for Victoria.

I was very happy to hear, Jason Lodge, who is the owner of Nanny Jan's Emporium, at the Eildon Shopping Village, has been signed up as the first collection point operators in our zone for the Victorian Container deposit Scheme.

They will act as a drop off point for the community and the many tourists, who visit the town, and will earn a 10-cent refund for every eligible can, carton and bottle they return.

CDS Vic is part of the Labor Government's \$515 million investment, to transform the state's waste and recycling sector. This includes the new standardised four-stream waste and recycling system, which will help meet our target of diverting 80 per cent of all material away from landfill by 2030.

CDS Vic will target beverage containers that most commonly contribute to litter and are often consumed away from home. This includes plastic soft drink bottles, glass beer bottles, soft drinks and alcohol sold in cans, and small fruit juice cartons.

If your school, not for profit, business, community or sporting group is interested in raising funds and helping with recycling, get in touch at <a href="https://www.visy.com.au/about-cds">https://www.visy.com.au/about-cds</a>

Well Done Nanny Jan's for leading the way.

Lastly, it is great to see the Eildon Recreation Trail has been completed and is already being well used. A great asset for our Shire.

# 6.7 Cr John Walsh - Mayoral Report

I have had the pleasure this month to be involved in a series of activities relating to the youth of the Murrindindi Shire. Finally, after COVID-19 disruptions and scheduling issues, it was a delight to attend the opening of the new extensions at St Mary's Primary School and also in the following week present Leadership Certificates to their students. Between those two engagements I also had the privilege of presenting Leadership Certificates at Yea High School following an impressive welcoming performance by three budding rockers.

I also participated in a Grow Well Dindi workshop, the second in a series aimed at developing activities and information in a practical way to improve the health of local children. The work is being undertaken by Alexandra District Health, Yea and District Memorial Hospital, Nexus Primary Health, Seymour Health, Goulburn Valley Primary Health Unit and Council, with assistance from Deakin University. The third and final workshop in the series is being held on Thursday 7 Sep 23 from 4-7pm at the Yea Shire Hall.



I would encourage all community members to attend.

We are all aware of the devastation fires that engulfed the town of Lahani in Maui County in Hawaii. On behalf of Council, I have written to the Mayor of Maui County, Mayor Richard Bissen Jr and to the Chair of the Maui County Council, Alice Lee, expressing our condolences and best wishes for their community recovery. In 2009, we received many similar letters of support and encouragement from Councils around the world and they always lifted our spirits.

I would also join with Councillor Haslam in expressing my condolences to the family of Jenny Shaw and note the tremendous service to the community that she provided at Gobur and Yarck.

### 6.8 Chief Executive Officer Report

### Goulburn Partnership Forum in Eildon

On Thursday 17 August we hosted the Goulburn Regional Partnership forum at the Jerusalem Creek Marina on Lake Eildon. The role of the Partnership is to foster collaboration, bringing together regional stakeholders to identify challenges and opportunities unique to our community, and prioritise projects and initiatives for potential government funding. Through strategic planning and resource allocation, it drives economic development, sustainable growth, and ensures our region's voice is heard at higher levels and withing government.

In attendance we had CEOs from councils in the Goulburn region, senior officers from key state government department and agencies, and the appointed community representatives. We took the opportunity to showcase our local area, and the focus of the discussion was on advocacy to progress the implementation of the Lake Eildon Activation Master Plan, as well as outlining Murrindindi's broader key strategic issues and priorities.

The boat building industry is a key employer in this region and Partnership members were invited to visit some of the boatbuilding sites in Eildon, and I thank local businessman Mike Dalmau for facilitating the site visit and a bus tour.

#### Funding to improve asset resilience

A key plank of our advocacy to both federal and state governments has been to increase the disaster recovery funding to allow us to build back better and more resilient assets damaged or destroyed by natural disasters. As we all know, replacing roads, culverts and bridges in a like-for-like way, is a waste of resources as they are bound to be damaged again in the next storm, flood or fire

The cost to Council of the recovery is in the order of \$35+M and we are seeking to ensure these costs are covered by government disaster funding. In addition, I am very pleased to advise that Murrindindi Shire has been allocated \$1M to improve the resilience of the restored assets against future disasters.

We are one of the fourteen severely impacted councils from the October 2022 floods, to share in the \$9.4M Council Priority Betterment Program, funded through the Commonwealth-State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA). This will allow some enhancements, such as the use of more resilient materials, to mitigate future disruptions. This new funding program reflects a joint effort to alleviate the impacts of natural disasters and foster community recovery.

#### Feedback on the draft of Victoria's Bushfire Management Strategy

Council made a submission to DEECA on the draft Victoria's Bushfire Management Strategy, which was open for feedback.

We raised concerns over vague implementation, unclear roles, and insufficient funding. The strategy doesn't provide insight into the resources needed for implementation so we asked that funding from the State Government be made available to support actions requiring council participation. We stressed the impact on bushland and bushfire management associated with the cessation of native forest logging, and emphasized enhancing community safety and collaboration. Overall, while the strategy's direction is sensible, we seek from the State



Government more detailed guidance, role clarity, and adequate resources to effectively address bushfire risks and community needs.

# **The Forestry Transition Fund**

Today the State Government announced elements of the support package for timber workers. The Forestry Transition Fund is now open for businesses and industry groups - including chambers of commerce and associations, peak bodies and businesses networks - to apply for grants to expand, diversify or start new businesses.

A \$20,000 wage subsidy is available to employers for each native timber worker employed. The Forestry Transition Fund supports job creation and business development in or around the native timber communities in Victoria, including our shire.

For more information visit the Forestry Transition Fund website.



# 7 RECORD OF COUNCIL BRIEFING SESSIONS

# **Purpose**

For noting.

# **Executive Summary**

This report presents the records of Council Briefing Sessions for 26 July 2023 to 16 August 2023, for Council to note.

The following summary details are for 26 July 2023 to 16 August 2023:

Meeting Name/Type	Council Pre-Meet
Meeting Date:	26 July 2023
Matters Discussed:	<ol> <li>Planning Application - 10 Murchison Street, Marysville – Signage</li> <li>Planning Application - 204 Killingworth Road, Killingworth - Development Plan</li> <li>Planning Application – 7 Peterkin Street Alexandra – 19 Lot Subdivision</li> <li>Murrindindi Planning Scheme Review</li> <li>Tender for Collaborative Digital Innovation (CODI) IT Systems Alignment Project</li> <li>Public Liability Insurance Renewal</li> <li>Referendum on an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice to Parliament - Information sharing campaign</li> <li>Motion to MAV State Council</li> <li>Contract 23/1 - Sealed Roads Rehabilitation Program - Tender Award</li> </ol>
Councillor Attendees:	Cr J Walsh, Cr K Haslam, Cr S Carpenter, Cr D Gallagher, Cr E Lording, Cr S McAulay, Cr I Gerencser
Council Officer Attendees:	L Bonazzi, M Chesworth, A Paxton, V Albicini, D Echeverry, N Stewart, C Fraser, P Bain, C Nickels-Beattie
Conflict of Interest Disclosures: I	Nil

Meeting Name/Type	Briefing Session	
Meeting Date:	2 August 2023	
Matters Discussed:	Workshop – Local Government Guide for Preventing Family     Violence and All Forms of Violence	
Councillor Attendees:	Cr J Walsh, Cr K Haslam, Cr D Gallagher, Cr E Lording, Cr S McAulay, Cr I Gerencser	
Council Officer Attendees:	L Bonazzi, A Paxton, V Albicini	
Conflict of Interest Disclosures: Nil		

Meeting Name/Type	Briefing Session	
Meeting Date:	9 August 2023	
Matters Discussed:	Glenburn Community Plan – Presented by community members     Murrindindi Flood Recovery Plan	
Councillor Attendees:	Cr J Walsh, Cr K Haslam (V), Cr S Carpenter, Cr D Gallagher, Cr E Lording, Cr S McAulay (V), Cr I Gerencser	
Council Officer Attendees:	L Bonazzi, M Chesworth, A Paxton, V Albicini, A Paix, K Chadband	
Conflict of Interest Disclosures: Nil		



Meeting Name/Type	Briefing Session
Meeting Date:	16 August 2023
Matters Discussed:	<ol> <li>June Quarterly Report &amp; Carry Forward requests (OpEx &amp; CapEx)</li> <li>Capital Works Program Review – July 2023</li> <li>Bushfire Memorial Works</li> <li>Municipal Emergency Management Plan (MEMP)</li> <li>Development Services Monthly Report</li> </ol>
Councillor Attendees:	Cr J Walsh, Cr K Haslam, Cr D Gallagher, Cr S McAulay, Cr I Gerencser
Council Officer Attendees:	L Bonazzi, M Chesworth, A Paxton, V Albicini, C Nickels-Beattie, P Bain, D Liyanage, S Russell, J Miller
Conflict of Interest Disclosures:	Nil

# **RESOLUTION**

Cr S McAulay / Cr K Haslam That Council receive and note the records of Council Briefing Sessions for 24 July 2023 to 18 August 2023.

**CARRIED** 



#### 8 **SEALING REGISTER**

File Reference	Date Seal Affixed	Description of Documents	Signatures of Persons Sealing
CONT/22/23	15 August 2023	Formal Instrument of Agreement between Murrindindi Shire Council and Fineblade Pty Ltd	Livia Bonazzi Cr John Walsh

# **RESOLUTION**

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

**CARRIED** 

The meeting was closed at 6:45 pm.

**CONFIRMED THIS** 

**CHAIRPERSON** Cr J Walsh