



Murrindindi
Shire Council

Scheduled Meeting of Council

Minutes

Wednesday 1 March 2023
(22 February 2023 – postponement)
Yea Council Chambers
The Semi Circle
6:00 PM

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY AND COUNCILLORS' PLEDGE	2
2 PROCEDURAL MATTERS	2
3 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION	4
4 REPORTS - ASSETS AND DEVELOPMENT DIRECTORATE	5
4.1 Capital Works Mid-Year Review	5
5 REPORTS - COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT DIRECTORATE.....	6
5.1 Grant and Contributions Program - January and February Allocations	6
6 REPORTS - CORPORATE & SHARED SERVICES DIRECTORATE.....	7
6.1 Service Provision and Fire Danger Ratings Policy	7
6.2 Public Interest Disclosure Policy Review	7
6.3 Council Plan 2021-2025 Quarterly Performance Report - 1 October to 31 December 2022	8
6.4 Quarterly Finance Report - December 2022.....	9
7 COUNCILLOR AND CEO REPORTS	10
8 RECORD OF COUNCIL BRIEFING SESSIONS.....	18
9 SEALING REGISTER.....	20

1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY AND COUNCILLORS' PLEDGE

1.1 Acknowledgement of Country

The meeting was 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

There were no apologies or requests for leave of absence tendered.

Present:

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

In attendance:

Chief Executive Officer: Livia Bonazzi
Director Corporate and Shared Services: Michael Chesworth
Interim Director Community Engagement: Kate Siebert
Director Assets and Development: Vito Albicini
Manager Governance and Risk: Tara Carter
Manager Customer Experience: Anna Cullen

2.3 Disclosure of Interest or Conflict of Interest

Nil.

2.4 Confirmation of Minutes

Minutes of the Scheduled Meeting of Council held on 14 December 2022.

RESOLUTION

Cr I Gerencser / Cr E Lording
That Council confirm the minutes of the 14 December 2022 Scheduled Meeting of Council.

CARRIED

2.5 Petitions

Nil.

2.6 Community Recognition

Nil.

2.7 Matters Deferred from Previous Meeting

Nil.

2.8 Urgent Business

Nil.

3 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

3.1 Open Forum

Ritchie Frew spoke about "who owns Murrindindi Shire"?

Shelley Creighton spoke about Goulburn Valley Water and the water quality in Rubicon.

3.2 Questions of Council

Nil.

4 REPORTS - ASSETS AND DEVELOPMENT DIRECTORATE

4.1 Capital Works Mid-Year Review

Attachment(s)	Attachment 1 - Capital Works Program - Mid Year Review - December 2022 - Proposed Funding Adjustments [4.1.1 - 7 pages] Attachment 2 - Capital Works Program - Mid Year Review - December 2022 - Proposed Carry Fowards [4.1.2 - 4 pages] Attachment 3 - Capital Works Program - Mid Year Review - December 2022 - Program Financials [4.1.3 - 5 pages] Attachment 4 - Capital Works Program - Mid Year Review - December 2022 - Program Comments [4.1.4 - 7 pages]
Presenter	Vito Albicini, Director Assets & Development
Approved by	Director Assets & Development
Purpose	For decision

Executive Summary

This is the Mid-Year progress report of the capital works program (CWP) for the 2022/23 financial year. The period of reporting is from 1 July 2022 to the end of December 2022. The CWP is made up of those projects endorsed by Council as part of the 2022/23 budget, projects shown for carry forward from the 2021/22 program and any approved projects that have received grant funding during the financial year.

RESOLUTION

Cr S Carpenter / Cr D Gallagher

That Council:

- 1. Receive the mid-year report for the quarter ending 31 December 2022 on the status of the delivery of the Capital Works Program**
- 2. Approve the funding adjustments and carry forward amounts as presented in Attachments 4.1.1, and 4.1.2 and 4.1.3.**

CARRIED

5 REPORTS - COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT DIRECTORATE

5.1 Grant and Contributions Program - January and February Allocations

Attachment(s)	Nil
Presenter	Kate Siebert, Interim Director Community Engagement
Approved by	Interim Director Community Engagement
Purpose	For decision

Executive Summary

This report provides Council with the December and January Grants and Contribution Program applications and variation requests and the Panel Assessment Report ahead of the February Scheduled Meeting of Council.

RESOLUTION

Cr I Gerencser / Cr E Lording

That Council:

- 1. That Council endorse the following allocations recommended by the Grants and Contributions Assessment Panel:**
 - a) Creative Bytes Inc - Creative Youth Coding Program for \$1,688**
 - b) Kids - NAIDOC Week School Initiatives for \$500**
 - c) Rotary Club of Alexandra - Easter Art Show 2023 for \$2,500**
 - d) Goulburn Valley Suicide Awareness Group - Suicide Awareness Walk #3 for \$2,250**
 - e) Kinglake District Cricket Club – Kinglake Trash ‘n’ Treasure Market for \$2,000.**

- 2. That Council note the following variations granted by the Grants and Contributions Assessment Panel:**
 - a) The Outdoor Education Foundation – Young Men, Old Mountains to remove gender specification**
 - b) Pathway Carers Murrindindi – Pathway for Carers for extension of time.**

CARRIED

6 REPORTS - CORPORATE & SHARED SERVICES DIRECTORATE

6.1 Service Provision and Fire Danger Ratings Policy

Attachment(s)	Attachment 1 - Policy - Service Provision and Fire Danger Ratings (Revision) [6.1.1 - 6 pages]
Presenter	Michael Chesworth, Director Corporate & Shared Services
Approved by	Director Corporate & Shared Services
Purpose	For decision

Executive Summary

This report seeks Council's endorsement of the revised Service Provision and Fire Danger Ratings Policy.

Council has a legal obligation to ensure its employees, Councillors and the general public are not placed in situations of risk to safety due to its services and actions. The Service Provision and Fire Danger Ratings Policy outlines changes to Council's services on days declared to be the most dangerous if a fire started, to minimise potential risks to personal safety.

The policy has been updated to reflect the new Fire Danger Ratings that were adopted in Victoria on 1 September 2022. The policy will be invoked on days of Catastrophic fire danger or, at the discretion of the CEO, on days of Extreme fire danger where the Fire Behaviour Index is predicted to be greater than 75.

RESOLUTION

Cr K Haslam / Cr I Gerencser

That Council endorse the revised Service Provision and Fire Danger Ratings Policy.

CARRIED

6.2 Public Interest Disclosure Policy Review

Attachment(s)	Attachment 1 - Policy - Public Interest Disclosures (Revised) [6.2.1 - 8 pages]
Presenter	T Carter, Manager Governance & Risk
Approved by	Director Corporate & Shared Services
Purpose	For decision

Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to present to Council for endorsement the revised Public Interest Disclosures (whistleblowers) Policy.

Since the adoption of the policy in 2020, there have been no changes in legislation or regulations in relation to the Public Interest Disclosure scheme. As a result, the policy remains current, only requiring minor administrative updates.

The policy was presented to the Audit and Risk Advisory Committee in December 2022 for comment. The Committee suggested two minor wording changes to facilitate understanding of the policy by the general public. These changes have been included in the current version of the policy attached.

RESOLUTION

Cr D Gallagher / Cr S Carpenter
That Council endorse the revised Public Interest Disclosures (whistleblowers) Policy.

CARRIED

6.3 Council Plan 2021-2025 Quarterly Performance Report - 1 October to 31 December 2022

Attachment(s)	Council Plan 2021-2025 - Quarterly Report - October to December 2022 [6.3.1 - 39 pages]
Presenter	T Carter, Manager Governance & Risk
Approved by	Director Corporate & Shared Services
Purpose	For noting

Executive Summary

This report provides a summary of the progress to date and the action taken in the 1 October 2022 to 31 December 2022 period in delivering Council's Priority Action Plan 2022/23 and Council Plan 2021-2025.

RESOLUTION

Cr D Gallagher / Cr K Haslam
That Council note the Council Plan 2021-2025 Progress Report – 1 October 2022 to 31 December 2022 period as contained in Attachment 6.3.1.

CARRIED

6.4 Quarterly Finance Report - December 2022

Attachment(s)	Attachment 1 - Management Statements December 2022 [6.4.1 - 4 pages]
Presenter	M Chesworth, Director Corporate & Shared Services
Approved by	Director Corporate & Shared Services
Purpose	For decision

Executive Summary

This report provides the quarterly financial report for the period ending 31 December 2022. The Annual Revised Budget forecasts an operating surplus for the year of \$7.14 million.

RESOLUTION

**Cr D Gallagher / Cr K Haslam
That Council**

- 1. receive the Quarterly Financial Report to 31 December 2022.**
- 2. note that the Chief Executive Officer advises that the formal adoption of a revised budget for the 2022/23 financial year is not required.**

CARRIED

7 COUNCILLOR AND CEO REPORTS

7.1 Notices of Motions

Attachment(s)	Nil
Presenter	L Bonazzi, Chief Executive Officer
Approved by	Chief Executive Officer
Purpose	For decision

Executive Summary

Cr John Walsh submitted a notice of motion to the Chief Executive Officer in accordance with section 10.13 of Council's Governance Rules. The notice of motion concerns Council donating to the Türkiye and Syria Earthquake Emergency Relief effort.

Motion (submitted by Cr J Walsh)

That Council donate \$5,000 to purchase five Shelter Boxes in aid for Türkiye and Syria Earthquake Emergency Relief by reallocating funds from the Grants and Contributions budget.

RESOLUTION

Cr J Walsh / Cr S Carpenter

That Council donate \$5,000 to purchase five Shelter Boxes in aid for Türkiye and Syria Earthquake Emergency Relief by reallocating funds from the Grants and Contributions budget.

CARRIED

7.2 Cr Sue Carpenter

Community Engagement and Wellbeing Portfolio

Council continues to consult with the community on a variety of matters. It is vitally important to listen to our communities concerns and opinions so that we can include their thoughts when we consider and make decisions that may affect them. I encourage the community to engage with council when opinions or feedback are asked for. These can be by responding to surveys or attending meetings that are held in your town or local community.

The Break O Day bridge in Glenburn is due for replacement and the council has listened to the communities concerns regarding the critical update to this capital works project. That consultation will continue so that the best decision can be made.

Another project using community consultation is the Eildon redevelopment. The community has responded to a request for interested people to be part of a deliberative process to be informed of the options available for the development and make a decision on the best way forward for the community. A skilled facilitator has been sought to inform and support the deliberative panel to make their determination.

The Community Planning program is continuing in Thornton/Rubicon. A dinner is to be held on 29 March 2023 for all interested community members to discuss and prioritize community projects. This is an exciting time for Thornton and Rubicon as Community planning sessions in other parts of the shire have seen some great projects developed, and I encourage this community to have their turn.

The Glenburn community has started their community planning program with brainstorming of potential projects. More action will follow.

Ward matters

I would like to congratulate all the emergency services and organisations for their input at the community meeting held in Yea last Wednesday regarding the Flowerdale fire. The meeting was very well attended by locals. We got a good mix of information and were well informed of the fires progress. I personally was most reassured of how the fire was being managed.

Finally I would like to thank all the volunteers, fire-fighters and support crews that assisted to bring the fire under control in such challenging terrain.

7.3 Cr Damien Gallagher

I wonder how many of us have used the phrase “to bank on”, to mean to “depend on”, or to “rely upon”. These phrases were all once synonymous, but in Murrindindi Shire the biggest banks have taught us that “to bank on” them means a two-hour round-trip to Mansfield or Seymour or Healesville. Businesses are challenged with cash handling, and the wider community, many in communications blackspots have been directed online. I renew the call for all banks to engage in the Australian Senate Committee into “*Bank closures in regional Australia*” in good faith. Please postpone any bank closures until the Senate Committee has reported in December this year.

Amidst bank closures, I hasten to acknowledge the local NAB staff in Alexandra who are spending all the necessary time helping members of the community to become familiar with electronic services like online banking and ATMs.

On 26 January this year, Australia Day was observed and conversation progressed about how and when to best to commemorate our national day as a united community. The conversation then progressed to The Voice, the national referendum which challenges Australia to come together for a fuller constitutional expression of who we are as a nation. We will consider the proposition of The Voice, as 2023 unfolds.

With thanks to Murrindindi Shire Council and Rural Councils Victoria, I have been supported to complete the Company Directors Course offered by the Australian Institute of Company Directors (AICD). The course provides valuable guidance on our role as Councillors:

- as strategists,
- as drivers of sustainable performance, and
- as risk managers.

The opportunity to engage on matters of good governance and achieving stronger financial literacy will support me in my role. I thoroughly commend the course as a valuable preparatory exercise to those members of the community considering nominating for a Council position in just nineteen short months from now.

To portfolio and representative matters

Councillors are carefully considering the draft budget for 2023-24. To now, Council has worked through recommended Capital and Operating budgets, fees and charges, and rates. A draft budget is scheduled to be adopted and published to the community in March or early April for a period of consultation then consideration of community submissions. The final budget is scheduled for adoption in May.

Our economic environment is challenging. Just like household budgets, Council is seeing costs exceed income. Despite Victoria's Essential Services Commission recommending to Government a 4.0 to 4.5% increase to the rate cap depending on December 2022 inflation results, the State Government's announcement of a 3.5% rate cap represents a sizable gap, and a challenge to Local Government. Given the imbalance, Council cannot deliver the same level of service as was offered in 2022-23.

Ahead of us, have been options:

- apply to the Essential Services Commission for a higher rate cap, and/or
- increase user fees and charges, and/or
- review the level of service delivery.

Council is reluctant to pursue a higher rate cap and so Council is united in managing the cost of services. Careful consideration is being given to minimising the cost impact to community, focusing discretionary spending on essential Council service priorities such as road maintenance and renewal, and attention to drainage infrastructure issues.

Of course, Council is continuing to pursue every available source of government grant funding to supplement rates revenue.

I would like to thank Council for the opportunity to share my perspectives on advocacy and asset management with Rubicon Outdoor School as Council's representative for the previous two years. What I didn't anticipate is exposure to the team's absolute dedication to the role of education in the life of young people. I wish Cr. Haslam well as the new co-opted representative on the Rubicon Outdoor School Council.

Finally

Despite the challenges of the last several months, the outlook is strong for Red Gate, and for Murrindindi.

- Our generous community has led a full calendar of summer events to attract and to engage the valued visitors to the region.
- Our business community is leading discussions on the future of face-to-face banking in Alexandra.
- Murrindindi Food and Wine Inc. helped us put Murrindindi on our table at Christmas time, and are leading the Jobs Expo on 8 March at Alexandra Football Club.
- Council's team is leading an emergency recovery and is committed to "re-building better" to ensure greater resilience.
- Council is hiring. A number of professional positions are currently advertised on Council's website, from Community Development and Process Improvement to Community Recovery.
- Again, dedicated emergency services and volunteers, including volunteers from neighbouring shires, offered their time and expertise to help our community to address a fire emergency.

In the face of challenges, we have every reason to look forward with optimism.

7.4 Cr Ilona Gerencser

Emergency Management

Fires

I wanted to give a heartfelt thank you to our staff, emergency service personnel, CFA, SES, DEECA, Parks, Victoria Police and the community for working together to bring the grass fire under control last week in Flowerdale. Council provided graders and large water tanker to assist with fire operations, as well as emergency management team in the ICC and represented at regional level. We also provided Yea Saleyards as a staging area for CFA crews. Our Shire has experienced more than its fair share of emergencies over the last few years. Last week's fire showed again how well everyone works together when events occur. Obviously this would have triggered a lot of angst for those involved in the 2009 fires and I just wanted to remind people that help is available. If you need someone to talk to, or are struggling with paperwork or anything else, please give our officers a call or visit our website for information. The links for information and assistance are on our home page for both the fire and 2022 floods and our phone number is 5772 0333.

- Currently there is one road closure still current on Minto road, which affects one property. Spring Valley Road has been reopened.
- At present we have somewhere in the vicinity of 13 impacted properties. We have attempted to make contact with all properties impacted.

Floods

The Flood Recovery Committee still meets every fortnight and there are still a lot of things going on behind the scenes. Our meeting this week focused on working with ERV, VCCEM, DFFH, NEXUS and others to ensure the community is looked after now and in the future. A Flood Recovery Plan is in progress, which is being led by one of our experienced community members, for which we are very grateful. We now have a newsletter live on our website, which will keep you up to date on progress and enable you to subscribe/contribute. Again, please reach out if you require assistance or have any questions.

Community Assets

- Council has commenced the review of the Road Asset Management Plan (RAMP) as it was placed on hold for Staff to focus on the October Floods. Later this year we plan to seek feedback from the community on the management of Council's roads to assist with the review of the RAMP
- Delivery of the Capital Works Program was delayed due to staff focussing on flood recovery. The Program is progressing with Alexandra Rotary Park Playground upgrades, Yarck bridge complete and Blue Gum Trail well progressed. Gravel Roads re-sheeting program is underway, sealed roads resealing project is also underway.
- The four yearly assessment of the condition of all 300 bridges in our Shire by independent bridge engineers near complete. Detailed analysis and reports for damaged bridges including Breakaway Bridge and Break O'Day Bridge are complete or underway
- Grading program underway however tracking 8 weeks behind due to floods in October and fire event last week.
- Annual line marking program with works around the municipality about to be undertaken.

Community Recognition

This week we lost one of our lifelong residents of Kinglake to illness. Margaret Hale was a community member who devoted a significant amount of her time to help, encourage and support people around her. Marg was involved in groups such as the Kinglake Neighbourhood House, Kinglake Historical Society, Kinglake Neighbourhood Watch, Kinglake Ranges Op Shop, Cubs and Scouts, as well as a number of sporting clubs - just to name a few!

Following the 2009 bushfires, Marg was instrumental in the Kinglake Historical Society recovery activities, including the Kinglake Heritage Trail, Honour Boards and the establishment of the Kinglake Heritage Centre. In 2022 I had the pleasure of presenting the Senior Citizen of the Year Award to her. As was her usual way, Marg thought herself not deserving of the accolade, but we all knew she was. I felt lucky to have known Marg and always looked forward to speaking to her and just seeing her smiling face in town. The family have extended the invitation to attend her funeral to community members via Facebook and if anyone would like to celebrate Marg's life with them, her funeral will be held at White Haven Funerals in Whittlesea on the 7 March 2023 at 1.30 pm. I would personally and on behalf of council, like to extend my heartfelt condolences to Marg's family and many friends. We will all miss her greatly.

7.5 Cr Eric Lording

I recommend that people look at the reports now publicly available on the Council website regarding the performance of our Planning Department for the last quarter.

Secondly, Council is well aware of the shortage of land and housing right across Australia. Council is using strategic planning to help alleviate this where we can, while still protecting the prime farmland in the shire.

Thank you.

7.6 Cr Sandice McAulay

With my Economic Development and Business Support Portfolio hat on, I reiterate Cr Gallagher's report that Council is very disappointed about the notification and speed of the proposed closure of the last bank branch within Murrindindi, and we will continue with our advocacy alongside the community to the National Australia Bank CEO. Currently, I am particularly mindful of the local staff who are most impacted and pass on my best wishes to them and their families. I thank our Mayor and CEO for their ongoing advocacy regarding this latest bank closure.

We are working with our community and state government to map the economic impact of the 2022 floods, which we know has disrupted our economy, both directly and indirectly. As I noted in my November portfolio report the full impact of the 2022 floods on public and private properties within Murrindindi Shire is continuing and it is estimated that the cost of these floods to Council assets alone is at least \$25M.

Many of our businesses are still being impacted by closures of roads and other tourism attractions. For example, my own business which like most has seen a pleasing tourism surge and investment in our region, has been affected by the closure of the local Cathedral Park which has seen significant damage from the floods and is closed for an indeterminate time. Likewise, tourists have been disappointed upon travelling to our region and finding this wonderful asset closed. Luckily, we can direct them to the many other local and natural points of interest.

We are looking forward to the finalisation of the recruitment into the Manager of Economic Development - who will be able to lead us into the future - which will include revitalisation of our Business Advisory Council.

It was very exciting to be part of a business focus breakfast last week where NBN Local provided an update regarding the upgrades to the NBN network whereby over the next couple of years the Victorian Government and NBN Co are making upgrades from Satellite Fibre to the premiss investments in Marysville. Marysville currently can only access NBN via satellite. Marysville is one of only two towns in Victoria that will receive this massive upgrade – with Mount Buller being the other. This upgrade of NBN in Marysville will have not only significant economic benefit but will also go a long way to increasing the comfort and safety to the residents. Last year it was announced that Alexandra will also be upgraded from Fibre to the Node to Fibre to the Premiss. Some significant upgrades in our Shire. I am so proud of this positive result of significant and ongoing advocacy by Councillors and Officers as well as several keen community members and agencies. Well done team!

From both a portfolio and a community perspective I can't let an opportunity go to congratulate the Alexandra District Traders and Tourism Association on yet another highly successful Alexandra Pro Rodeo. The Rodeo continues to have a great impact on the local community. Not only did the rodeo enhance the summer experience for the thousands who travelled to attend the event; the economic benefits were felt across the whole region. I am sure I speak for other Councillors and extend my congratulations to the committee and thank the volunteers, competitors, sponsors, supporters and many, many welcome patrons who added to the colour of the evening. Murrindindi Shire Council and our community continues to enjoy the benefits of sponsoring this fixture in the summer calendar.

Thank you.

7.7 Cr Karine Haslam

Bushland & Roadside

- This year has been challenging for weed control, with increased weeds due to the wet season. The weed program is about 60% complete and priority in the next works will be dense infestations. Not all areas may be treated, but next year's 2023/4 program will follow up.
- Specific weed control is being undertaken by the Pheasant Creek Blackberry Action Group to reduce fruit fly risk.

Resource Recovery

- Regional tender for future waste services have been submitted.
- Kerbside services to be discussed are:
 - Waste collection and disposal services
 - Recycling collection and recovery (will include plastic film, bags etc)
 - Glass collection and recovery (will include local recycling options)
 - Food and Organics (FOGO) collection and processing. (High grade compost processing)
 - The four bin service is a state government mandate. The only choice Council has is how the service is delivered. Whether kerbside pickup or drop off service offered. Feedback has been received from the community and we are working through that.

The Climate Change Action Plan is also being developed.

7.8 Cr John Walsh - Mayoral Report

As everyone should be aware, I sent a letter to the CEO of the National Australia Bank but I have yet to receive a response. Council is making a submission to the Senate enquiry into Rural and Regional banking.

I want to again thank and congratulate the emergency services on the response to the Flowerdale fire. It is impressive to see the immediate response of the CFA and the support from Council SES, UGFM, Victoria Police and other community groups and the way the community responded was particularly pleasing. I am on record saying we do not want to be defined by fires and floods but rather by the outstanding community spirit where everyone plays their part in meeting the challenges that occasionally confront us. That is our true strength and brand.

The CEO and I had a good meeting with Helen Haines and the other Mayors and CEOs in Indi. The aim was to consolidate the submission to the Federal Government's budget consideration with the main emphasis being on the need for greater roads funding. It was also agreed that Federal Government support was needed to address the on-going diversion of housing stock to short term rental accommodation for tourists. The positive impacts of the State and Federal Government's initiative to increase funds for low-cost housing are being negated by the change in use of existing housing particularly in our tourism-based towns. A motion will be prepared for consideration by the National Council of the Australian Local Government Association in June.

7.9 Chief Executive Officer Report

Flowerdale Fires

Last Tuesday 21 February a major grass fire started on Spring Valley Rd in Flowerdale and spread to nearby bushland and forest, reaching more than 1000 Ha and a perimeter of 25km. Watch and Act, and Leave Now alerts were issued by the emergency services. A mineral earth firebreak was constructed and the fire was declared under control by Friday evening. A full impact assessment is yet to be completed but we have reports of 13 properties impacted, multiple sheds, vehicles, livestock and farming equipment damaged, with unknown wildlife losses. I would like to acknowledge and thank all the volunteers, UGFM Radio, and the local, regional and state agencies for their mighty efforts around the clock, and also thank the local community who quickly mobilised to provide support for each other, attended the local information meeting, and heeded the emergency warnings.

All roads are now open to the public except for Minto Rd which only allows local traffic until repair works are completed.

This fire event is not deemed by EMV to be claimable under the revised rules as it does not meet the minimum cost threshold by Council, which means Council will be out of pocket for the response support, recovery costs and any associated infrastructure repairs.

Flood Recovery

- Recovery from the October Floods is ongoing, our teams, together with local health service providers and case managers are reaching impacted residents and property owners to make sure every eligible resident is connected to available support.
- In collaboration with the Municipal Recovery Committee – a floods recovery community newsletter is now being issued monthly, providing key information relating to wellbeing, financial support and the reconstruction of damaged infrastructure – this will also inform the Municipal Recovery Plan.

- Council is pleased to have received confirmation of funding to assist with the clean-up, reconstruction and recovery efforts to cover much of the cost of damage in Murrindindi.

Grant Funding received

We have recently received the following grant funding:

- \$1,083,272 from the Australian Government through the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program, Phase 4, to deliver priority local road and community infrastructure projects. We will be able to access this Phase 4 funding allocations from July 2023, with projects to be delivered by June 2025.
- Our application to the Traffic Accident Commission for \$30,000 under the Community Road Safety Grant Program was successful. This is for the Murrindindi Road Safety Strategy and Action Plan.
- \$14,281 from Local Government Victoria through the Digital Literacy for Seniors Program, for public libraries to conduct targeted, hands-on digital training programs for older members of the community during 2023.

Advocacy and Submissions

Officers have lodged a submission to House of Representatives Standing Committee on Regional Development, Infrastructure and Transport as part of the inquiry into the implications of severe weather events on the national regional, rural, and remote road network. Being located on the upper reaches of major waterways and due to the topography of Murrindindi Shire, the prolonged wet weather in the last few years, and the extreme rain events have damaged our road network by inundation, water runoff and overland flows. Our roads can be severely damaged by the strong water flows as well as from long standing flood waters.

We have also made a submission to the Victorian Grants Commission in relation to the allocation of the financial assistance grants for 2023-24, to seek our fair share of the available funding pool, through a thorough review of the allocation methodology which, we hope will result in Murrindindi Shire receiving a greater amount.

In response to Council's advocacy efforts during and post the major flooding event in October 2022, we have been advised that the State Government will undertake a technical assessment of the operating and infrastructure arrangements at Lake Eildon, to determine if changing the operating rules or infrastructure could improve protection for downstream communities from future flooding. Similar work is also being undertaken for Lake Eppalock in Campaspe Shire.

Summer Update

Pool Attendance and pre-planned Activities

This Summer pool season across the shire we had a total of 21,121 pool visits. Pools are closed when the temperature is forecast to be below 23 degrees. – we had between 17 and 25 closed days

Council held ten Youth and School Holiday Events:

Eight Pool parties and two Eildon Twilight Market youth art space events with a total of 1,500 young people engaged.

8 RECORD OF COUNCIL BRIEFING SESSIONS

Purpose

For noting.

Executive Summary

This report presents the records of Council Briefing Sessions for 14 December 2022 to 15 February 2023, for Council to note.

The following summary details are for 14 December 2022 to 15 February 2023:

Meeting Name/Type	Council Pre-Meet			
Meeting Date:	14 December 2022			
Matters Discussed:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Contract 22/12 – Panel Contract Plant and Heavy Fleet – Maintenance Services 2. Contract 22/17 – Gravel Roads Resheeting Program 2022/2023 3. Flat Lead Road and Emissions Mitigation 4. Public Open Space Contributions Policy 5. Housing & Settlement Strategy 6. Response to Petition – Rainbow Flag 7. Eildon Reserves Redevelopment consultation extended 8. Reconciliation Action Plan – conditional endorsement 9. Grants and Contributions Program – December Allocations 10. CEO Employment and Remuneration Policy Review 11. Contract 22/10 – Temporary Labour Hire Services 12. Contract 22/28 – Telecommunications Services 			
Councillor Attendees:	Cr J Walsh (V), Cr K Haslam (V), Cr S Carpenter (V), Cr D Gallagher (V), Cr E Lording (V), Cr I Gerencser (V)			
Council Officer Attendees:	L Bonazzi (V), M Chesworth (V), K Siebert (V), V Albicini (V), T Carter (V), N Stewart (V), E Kubeil (V)			
Conflict of Interest Disclosures: Yes				
Matter No.	Councillor making disclosure	Was a vote taken?	Did the Councillor leave the room?	When? Before or after discussion?
9	Cr S Carpenter	No	No	No discussion
9	Cr D Gallagher	No	No	No discussion

Meeting Name/Type	Briefing Session			
Meeting Date:	14 December 2022			
Matters Discussed:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. CFA & DELWP 2022-2023 Pre-Fire Season presentation 2. Budget Priorities – Initial Discussion 3. Capital Works Planning 2023/2024 Financial Year 			
Councillor Attendees:	Cr J Walsh, Cr K Haslam, Cr S Carpenter (V), Cr D Gallagher, Cr I Gerencser			
Council Officer Attendees:	L Bonazzi, M Chesworth, K Siebert, V Albicini, C Price			
Conflict of Interest Disclosures: Nil				

Meeting Name/Type	Briefing Session
Meeting Date:	25 January 2023
Matters Discussed:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Eildon Reserves Redevelopment - Community Engagement - Officer Briefing 2. Eildon Reserves Redevelopment - Community Engagement – Meet the consultants 3. Eildon Reserves Redevelopment - Community Engagement – Final comments 4. Yea Wetlands Flood and Governance arrangements update
Councillor Attendees:	Cr J Walsh, Cr K Haslam, Cr S Carpenter, Cr D Gallagher, Cr E Lording, Cr S McAulay, Cr I Gerencser (V)
Council Officer Attendees:	L Bonazzi, M Chesworth, K Siebert, N Stewart, N Carter, N Matheson
Conflict of Interest Disclosures:	Nil

Meeting Name/Type	Briefing Session
Meeting Date:	1 February 2023
Matters Discussed:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Councillor Integrity Requirements under the Local Government Act 2020 2. Public Interest Disclosure Policy Review 3. Update on the three bridge projects including Break O'Day Road Bridge
Councillor Attendees:	Cr J Walsh, Cr K Haslam, Cr S Carpenter, Cr D Gallagher, Cr E Lording, Cr S McAulay
Council Officer Attendees:	L Bonazzi, M Chesworth, K Siebert, V Albicini, T Carter, D Echeverry, P Bain
Conflict of Interest Disclosures:	Nil

Meeting Name/Type	Briefing Session
Meeting Date:	8 February 2023
Matters Discussed:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Guest Speaker - Andrew Shields - River Operations Manager at GMW - Flood Mitigation and Releases 2. Eildon Reserves Redevelopment – Update 3. Service Provision and Fire Danger Ratings Policy 4. Planning Application - 10 Murchison Street, Marysville - Signage - Multiple objections 5. Development Services - Planning Report January 2023
Councillor Attendees:	Cr J Walsh, Cr K Haslam, Cr S Carpenter (V), Cr D Gallagher, Cr E Lording, Cr S McAulay (V)
Council Officer Attendees:	L Bonazzi, M Chesworth, K Siebert, V Albicini, P Bain, J Carns, N Stewart, C Fraser, N Maguire
Conflict of Interest Disclosures:	Nil

Meeting Name/Type	Briefing Session
Meeting Date:	15 February 2023
Matters Discussed:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 2023/24 Annual Budget - Operational - Fees and Charges / new projects 2. 2023/24 Annual Budget - Proposed Capital Works Program 3. Mid-Year Capital Works Budget Review 4. Future Kerbside Waste and Recycling Services Workshop
Councillor Attendees:	Cr J Walsh, Cr K Haslam, Cr S Carpenter, Cr D Gallagher, Cr E Lording, Cr S McAulay
Council Officer Attendees:	L Bonazzi, M Chesworth, K Siebert, V Albicini, P Bain, J Russell, C Nickels-Beattie, J Carns
Conflict of Interest Disclosures:	Nil

RESOLUTION

Cr D Gallagher / Cr I Gerencser

That Council receive and note the records of Council Briefing Sessions for 12 December 2022 to 17 February 2023.

CARRIED

9 SEALING REGISTER

File Reference	Date Seal Affixed	Description of Documents	Signatures of Persons Sealing
CONT21/12	22 December 2022	Formal Instrument of Agreement between Murrindindi Shire Council and M.T. Mechanical Pty Ltd	Livia Bonazzi Cr John Walsh
CONT21/12	22 December 2022	Formal Instrument of Agreement between Murrindindi Shire Council and Diverse Diesel Services & Repairs	Livia Bonazzi Cr John Walsh
CONT22/10	24 January 2023	Formal Instrument of Agreement between Murrindindi Shire Council and Work Solutions (Melb) Pty Ltd	Livia Bonazzi Cr John Walsh
CONT22/10	24 January 2023	Formal Instrument of Agreement between Murrindindi Shire Council and CT Management Group Pty Ltd	Livia Bonazzi Cr John Walsh
CONT22/10	31 January 2023	Formal Instrument of Agreement between Murrindindi Shire Council and Public Sector People as part of Design & Build Recruitment Unit Trust PTY LTD	Livia Bonazzi Cr John Walsh
CONT22/10	31 January 2023	Formal Instrument of Agreement between Murrindindi Shire Council and Zancott Recruitment (VIC) Pty Ltd	Livia Bonazzi Cr John Walsh
CONT22/10	1 February 2023	Formal Instrument of Agreement between Murrindindi Shire Council and Fetch Personnel 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 7:25 pm.

CONFIRMED THIS



CHAIRPERSON Cr J Walsh