



Murrindindi
Shire Council

Scheduled Meeting of Council

Minutes

Wednesday 22 March 2023
Alexandra Shire Hall
Perkins Street
6:00 PM

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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), S Carpenter, K Haslam, I Gerencser, E Lording, S McAulay, D Gallagher

In attendance:

Chief Executive Officer: Livia Bonazzi
Acting Director Corporate and Shared Services: Tara Carter
Interim Director Community Engagement: Kate Siebert
Director Assets and Development: Vito Albicini
Acting Manager Governance and Risk: David Echeverry
Manager Development Services: Natalie Stewart
Manager Sustainability & Assets: Peter Bain
Coordinator Planning: Cameron Fraser

2.3 Disclosure of Interest or Conflict of Interest

Cr K Haslam declared a general conflict of interest in Agenda item 5.2 Part B being the Grants and Contributions Program - March Allocations due to being a member of Eildon Action Inc.

Cr D Gallagher declared a material conflict of interest Agenda item 5.2 Part A being the Grants and Contributions Program - March Allocations due to being a member of the Alexandra RSL and a Patron at Alexandra Football Netball Club.

Cr J Walsh declared a material conflict of interest in Agenda item 5.2 Part A being the Grants and Contributions Program - March Allocations due to being a member of the Alexandra RSL.

2.4 Confirmation of Minutes

Minutes of the Scheduled Meeting of Council held on 1 March 2023.

RESOLUTION

Cr D Gallagher / Cr I Gerencser
That Council confirm the minutes of the 1 March 2023 Scheduled Meeting of Council.

CARRIED

2.5 Petitions

Council has received a petition titled “Discontinuance of proposed mini wetlands and removal of red gum posts and rubbish” from Kerry Burge, a resident of Alexandra. The petition is signed by 37 people and the petition is confirmed as meeting the requirements of the Governance Rules.

RESOLUTION

Cr D Gallagher / Cr E Lording
That Council:

- 1. receive the petition**
- 2. refer the petition to the Director Assets and Development for consideration and response.**

CARRIED

2.6 Community Recognition

Council invited representatives of the key volunteer agencies that supported the Murrindindi Shire communities through the emergency response and ongoing recovery following the October 2022 Floods to attend and be formally recognised and thanked by Council.

2.7 Matters Deferred from Previous Meeting

Nil.

2.8 Urgent Business

Nil.

3 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

3.1 Open Forum

Mr Matthew Bailey spoke against Planning Application - 181 Switzerland Road, Ghin Ghin.

Mr Andrew Murchie spoke against Planning Application - 181 Switzerland Road, Ghin Ghin.

Mr Jacob Rayner spoke in support of Planning Application - 181 Switzerland Road, Ghin Ghin.

Kerry Burge spoke in support of petition titled Discontinuance of proposed mini wetlands and removal of red gum posts and rubbish.

3.2 Questions of Council

Nil.

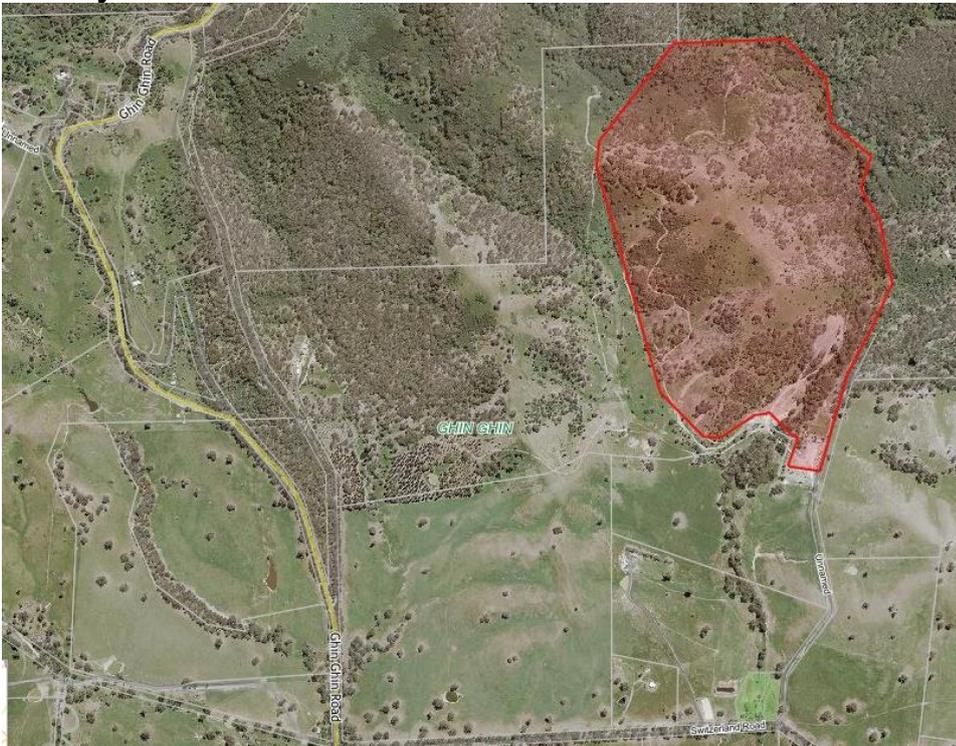
4 REPORTS - ASSETS AND DEVELOPMENT DIRECTORATE

4.1 Planning Application - 181 Switzerland Road, Ghin Ghin - Extractive Industry

Attachment(s)	Attachment 1 - Planning Application - 181 Switzerland Road, Ghin Ghin - Application Documents [4.1.1 - 68 pages] Confidential Attachment 1 – Submissions (<i>distributed to Councillors separately</i>)
Presenter	C Fraser, Coordinator Planning
Approved by	Director Assets and Development
Purpose	For decision

Land:	181 Switzerland Road, Ghin Ghin (Lot 1 PS704695L Volume 11406 Folio 779 and Lot 2 PS 704695L Volume 11406 Folio 780)
Proposal:	Use and Development of land for gravel extraction
Applicant:	Rayner Group Pty Ltd
Zoning:	Farming Zone
Overlays:	Erosion Management Overlay & Bushfire Management Overlay
Triggers:	Use and development pursuant to Clause 35.07 (Farming Zone), building and works pursuant to Clauses 44.01 (EMO) and 52.08 (Earth and Energy Resource Industry)

Locality Plan



Executive Summary

An application has been received for the use and development of land for gravel extraction under the Murrindindi Planning Scheme. The use of the land is a change from the extraction activities currently allowed on the site.

The land is in the Farming Zone and is affected by the Erosion Management Overlay and the Bushfire Management Overlay.

The land is located on the northern side of Switzerland Road with access via an unnamed road. The site has an area of approximately 79 Hectares and is currently used for extractive purposes and agriculture.

The application has been broadly advertised to all properties in Switzerland Road and 5 objections were received. The objections raise issues in relation to Traffic, Amenity and Agriculture.

The Earth Resources Regulation (ERR) branch of the Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions (DJPR) statutorily endorsed Work Plan PLN-001531 for WA007536 for the Proposed Quarry on 1 October 2021 (the Endorsed Work Plan), pursuant to section 77TD of the Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Act 1990 (the MRSDA).

This report recommends that a notice of decision to grant a permit be issued for the Use and Development of land for gravel extraction at 181 Switzerland Road, Ghin Ghin (Lot 1 PS704695L Volume 11406 Folio 779 and Lot 2 PS 704695L Volume 11406 Folio 780).

MOTION

Cr S Carpenter / Cr I Gerencser

That Council defer a decision for one month on this topic so that the residents and operators can meet for some constructive dialog.

AMENDMENT

Cr J Walsh / Cr Lording

That Council:

- 1. defer the decision on this matter to the 26 April Scheduled Meeting of Council**
- 2. request that Council officers convene and facilitate a meeting of all interested parties to occur in the next week and that be used as the basis for any new recommendation presented to Council at its 26 April Scheduled Meeting.**

RESOLUTION

Cr J Walsh / Cr E Lording

That Council:

- 1. defer the decision on this matter to the 26 April Scheduled Meeting of Council**
- 2. request that Council officers convene and facilitate a meeting of all interested parties to occur in the next week and that be used as the basis for any new recommendation presented to Council at its 26 April Scheduled Meeting.**

CARRIED

4.2 Climate Change Action Plan

Attachment(s)	Attachment 1 - Draft Climate Change Action Plan [4.2.1 - 48 pages]
Presenter	P Bain, Manager Sustainability & Assets
Approved by	Director Assets & Development
Purpose	For decision

Executive Summary

The Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP) is an adaptation and mitigation plan which responds to the 2021/22 Council Plan action “develop a climate policy” and supports the Climate Change Policy 2022. The CCAP has been developed with preliminary input from community and Council staff and managers, and now includes specific actions. This stage of consultation seeks detailed feedback from managers and Councillors to achieve a draft CCAP that will be approved for release for community consultation.

RESOLUTION

Cr K Haslam / Cr I Gerencser

That Council:

1. endorse the draft Climate Change Action Plan (Towards 2035)
2. request that the draft CCAP be released for community consultation for an eight-week period which will include a range of information and consultation options
3. request Council Officers to provide a subsequent report to Council on the outcome of the community consultation process and to present the final Climate Change Action Plan (Towards 2035) for adoption.

CARRIED

4.3 Contract 22/9 - Kerbside Waste and Recycling Collection and Processing Services – Contract Award

Attachment(s)	Confidential Attachment 1 – Contract 22/9 Kerbside Waste and Recycling Collection and Processing Services (<i>distributed to Councillors separately</i>)
Presenter	P Bain, Manager Sustainability & Assets
Approved by	Director Assets & Development
Purpose	For decision

Executive Summary

This report summarises council’s participation in the ‘Resource Recovery Collective – Hume,’ a regional collaborative tender for waste and recycling collection and processing services. It seeks council’s consideration of the recommendations from the appointed Tender Evaluation Panel, and authority to negotiate final levels of service and enter a contract with the preferred tenderers.

RESOLUTION

Cr K Haslam / Cr S Carpenter

That Council:

- 1. note the report RRCH Waste Services Tender Evaluation Report and Murrindindi appendix from the Tender Evaluation Panel**
- 2. delegate the Chief Executive Officer to formalise the final levels of service and execute the Schedule of Rates contracts with the preferred tenderers for the following services to commence no later than 1 July 2025 for a contract period ending 31 December 2032 for a maximum of \$21m:**
 - a. Solo Resource Recovery for kerbside collection and related services (CONT22/9A) on the basis of a collection service model that includes:**
 - i. Fortnightly collection of general waste**
 - ii. Fortnightly collection of mixed recycling**
 - iii. Weekly collection of food and garden organics**
 - iv. Monthly collection of separate glass recycling**
 - b. Cleanaway Pty Ltd for processing of commingled recycling and separate glass recycling services (CONT22/9B)**
- 3. Repurpose-It for processing of food and garden organics (CONT22/9C)**
- 4. release the names of the preferred Tenderers into the Minutes of the 22 March 2023 Scheduled Meeting of Council.**

CARRIED

4.4 Contract 22/19 - Tree and Weed Services 2023-2029

Attachment(s)	Confidential Attachment 1 – Tree and Weed Services 2023-2029 Award Report (<i>distributed to Councillors separately</i>) Confidential Attachment 2 – Weeds Services – Evaluation Report (<i>distributed to Councillors separately</i>) Confidential Attachment 3 – Tree Services – Evaluation Report (<i>distributed to Councillors separately</i>)
Presenter	V Albicini, Interim Director Assets & Development
Approved by	Director Assets & Development
Purpose	For decision

Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to appoint suitable suppliers for CONT 22/19 Panel Contract - Tree and Weed Services for a three-year contract not exceeding a total of six years including all optional extensions.

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

Based on the analysis undertaken, the Committee recommended that 18 tenderers be appointed to the panel CONT22/19 Panel Contract - Tree and Weed Services for a three-year contract with an option of a three-year extension, not exceeding a total of six years commencing 1 April 2023 and ending no later than 30 March 2029 if all available extension options are executed. The

Contract being a schedule of rates panel contract, will not exceed a total spend of \$4,500,000 over the six-year term if all options are exercised.

RESOLUTION

Cr E Lording / Cr I Gerencser

That Council:

- 1. appoint CONT22/19 - Panel Contract - Tree and Weed Services to the following suppliers:**

- Hillside Weed Spraying
- HLM Aust. Pty Ltd.
- Woods Environmental Services
- TREC Land Services
- Practical Ecology
- G&T Weed Management
- Total Tree & Stump Removal
- Morgans Tree Services
- Landlinks Environmental Services P/L
- Advanced Tree Care
- Unlimbited Tree Services Pty. Ltd.
- Murrindindi Tree Services
- Stevens Specialist Tree Services Pty. Ltd.
- GTC Environmental Pty. Ltd.
- Antler Environmental
- Leaf and Limb Tree Services Pty. Ltd.
- Brennan Contracting Pty. Ltd.
- Sherbook Tree Services

for an initial period of three years commencing 1 April 2023 and ending 31 March 2026 with an option for a three-year extension

- 2. approve a total contract amount of \$4,500,000 over the six-year contract period**
- 3. authorise the Chief Executive Officer to extend CONT22/19 Panel Contract - Tree and Weed Services for the optional three-year period subject to satisfactory performance**
- 4. release the names of the Tenderers into the Minutes of the Scheduled Meeting of 22 March 2023.**

CARRIED

5 REPORTS - COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT DIRECTORATE

5.1 Eildon Reserve Redevelopment deliberative panel recommendations

Attachment(s)	Attachment 1 - Eildon Reserves Redevelopment Deliberative Panel Summary Report V1 [5.1.1 - 24 pages]
Presenter	K Siebert, Interim Director Community Engagement
Approved by	Interim Director Community Engagement
Purpose	For decision

Executive Summary

This report provides Council with a summary of the deliberative engagement program associated with the proposed land sales at 18 Twenty First Street, 10 Eighth Street and 11 Seventh Street in Eildon.

RESOLUTION

Cr K Haslam / Cr S Carpenter

That Council:

- 1. note the Deliberative Panel Summary report as contained in Attachment 5.1.1.**
- 2. note the panel recommendation to “Proceed with the sale of land to support project delivery within the current scope, as per proposed timelines. This will include considerations for new use opportunities for the land parcels if sold”**
- 3. request that officers initiate of the necessary steps to prepare 18 Twenty First Street, 10 Eighth Street and 11 Seventh Street, Eildon, for sale**
- 4. request that a report be presented to Council prior to formally commencing the sale process under section 114 of the Local Government Act 2020 for the above blocks of land.**

CARRIED

Cr J Walsh and Cr D Gallagher left the meeting at 8.06 pm.

5.2 Grants and Contributions Program - March Allocations

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

Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to present Council with the March 2023 Grants and Contributions Program allocations and variations for noting and endorsement.

PART A RESOLUTION

Cr S Carpenter / Cr E Lording

That Council:

- 1. Endorse the following variations recommended by the Grants and Contributions Assessment Panel:**
 - a) Yea & District Historical Society - The History of the Yea and District Memorial Hospital – Scope variation**

- 2. Note the following allocations made by the Grants and Contributions Assessment Panel under delegation:**
 - a) Yea Urban Fire Brigade Awards Night & 120 Year Anniversary – Yea Town Hall - Fee Reduction - \$270**

- 3. Endorse the following allocations recommended by the Grants and Contributions Assessment Panel:**
 - a) Yea Wetlands Discovery Centre – Meetup Device - \$1,599**
 - b) Alexandra Football Netball Club - Anzac Spirit and Community Celebration - \$2,200**
 - c) Brodie Hull - Support young Castella athlete to attend National Junior Basketball Championships in Brisbane in April 2023 - \$1,000.**

CARRIED

Cr J Walsh and Cr D Gallagher returned to the meeting at 8.12 pm.

Cr K Haslam left the meeting at 8.12 pm.

In accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020* section 59 (d) Cr J Walsh exercised his second vote as Chairperson, following a tied vote.

PART B RESOLUTION

Cr I Gerencser / Cr S McAulay

That Council:

- 1. Endorse the following variations recommended by the Grants and Contributions Assessment Panel:**
 - a) Eildon Action Incorporated - Eildon Community Stage – Timing variation**

- 2. Endorse the following allocations recommended by the Grants and Contributions Assessment Panel:**
 - a) Eildon Action Incorporated - Eildon Twilight Market Easter Fireworks - \$4,180.**

LOST

Cr K Haslam returned to the meeting at 8.18 pm.

6 REPORTS - CORPORATE & SHARED SERVICES DIRECTORATE

6.1 Delegations and Authorisations (Planning and Environment Act 1987)

Attachment(s)	Attachment 1 - S 11 A - Instrument of Appointment & Authorisation (Planning and Environment Act 1987) March 2023 [6.1.1 - 3 pages]
Presenter	T Carter, Acting Director Corporate & Shared Services
Approved by	Acting Director Corporate & Shared Services
Purpose	For decision

Executive Summary

This report is to seek Council's endorsement of the Appointment and Authorisations of Staff and others under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, authorising persons for the purposes of the administration and enforcement of the Act.

Section 224 of the *Local Government Act 1989* has not been repealed therefore Council also retains its power to Authorise Officers under the *Local Government Act 1989* for the purposes of enforcement of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and other various legislation.

RESOLUTION

Cr K Haslam / Cr D Gallagher

That Council, in the exercise of the powers conferred by s 147(4) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* resolve that:

- 1. The members of Council staff referred to in the instrument attached be appointed and authorised as set out in the instrument (S11A – Attachment 6.1.2)**
- 2. The instrument comes into force immediately the common seal of Council is affixed to the instrument, and remains in force until Council determines to vary or revoke it**
- 3. The instrument be sealed.**

CARRIED

6.2 Biannual Audit and Risk Committee Report

Attachment(s)	Nil
Presenter	T Carter, Acting Director Corporate & Shared Services
Approved by	Audit and Risk Committee 9 March 2023
Purpose	For noting

The following report was tabled by Dr C Nisbet, Chair of the Murrindindi Shire Council Audit and Risk Committee at its 9 March 2023 meeting.

Executive Summary

This report is provided in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020*, Section 54 (5a) and describes the activities of the Audit and Risk Committee for the second half of 2022 and includes Committee findings and recommendations.

RESOLUTION

Cr I Gerencser / Cr D Gallagher
That Council note the Audit and Risk Committee Biannual Report (9 March 2023)
prepared by the Committee Chair.

CARRIED

6.3 Audit and Risk Committee Confirmation of Minutes

Attachment(s)	Attachment 1 - 2022-12-08 Audit and Risk Committee Minutes [6.3.1 - 14 pages] Attachment 2 - 2023-03-09 Audit and Risk Committee Minutes [6.3.2 - 17 pages]
Presenter	T Carter, Acting Director Corporate & Shared Services
Approved by	Acting Director Corporate & Shared Services
Purpose	For noting

Executive Summary

This report presents the minutes of the 8 December 2022 and the 9 March 2023 Audit and Risk Committee Meetings to Council for noting.

RESOLUTION

Cr D Gallagher / Cr K Haslam

That Council receive and note:

- 1. the minutes of the 8 December 2022 Audit and Risk Committee Meeting as enclosed in Attachment 6.3.1.**
- 2. The minutes of the 9 March 2023 Audit and Risk Committee Meeting as enclosed in Attachment 6.3.2 with the following amendments as requested by the Audit and Risk Committee Chair:**
 - a. The seconder for items 6.3 and 6.11 be listed as Cr S Carpenter**
 - b. The resolution for item 6.2 be amended to read as follows:**

“That the Audit and Risk Committee:

 - 1. note the Chief Executive Officer’s update**
 - 2. note that the Committee discussed the outcomes of the Commission of Inquiry into Moira Shire Council**
 - 3. note the Chief Executive Officer is leading an internal review based on findings from the Inquiry into Moira Shire Council**
 - 4. recommend that the Chief Executive Officer consider engaging the Internal Auditor to conduct a high-level culture survey including Audit and Risk Committee independent members, Leadership Team members and Councillors**
 - 5. recommend that the culture survey be considered by the Chief Executive Officer for incorporation into regular business of the Committee.”**

CARRIED

7 COUNCILLOR AND CEO REPORTS

7.1 Notices of Motions

Nil.

7.2 Cr Sue Carpenter

Summer is nearly behind us, and we are moving into Autumn, a lovely time of year to enjoy our beautiful shire and the spectacular scenery that we are surrounded by.

Community Planning sessions have been held in Thornton/Rubicon and Glenburn. Thornton and Rubicon have held community conversations and are now ready to hold their prioritisation session and dinner next Wednesday 29 March at the Thornton Memorial Hall. This will be where the community can look at the suggestions made so far and work out what the top ideas are.

Glenburn are also conducting their prioritisation session and dinner this Saturday 25 March at the Glenburn Hall where the community can vote for their suggestions for the area. Please register on the loop if you are able to attend either of the sessions.

The Eildon community has recently been invited to form a Deliberative Panel to help decide the way forward for the Eildon Reserves Redevelopment. This is the first time Murrindindi Shire has used this form of independent engagement process. I believe it is a good process for communities to constructively be involved with making decisions that will impact their communities. I congratulate the members of the Eildon community that stepped up to be a part of this process.

We have set a new standard of community engagement, particularly with a complex issue. We can be assured that the community was well consulted regarding this development. I look forwards to using the Deliberative Engagement process to guide council in future decision making if required.

7.3 Cr Damien Gallagher

On the passing of Mr. Peter Tossol of Thornton, I offer condolences to Mrs. Tossol and Peter's extended family and their friends from right across the Murrindindi Shire; through whom lives on a great legacy. May he rest in peace.

Alexandra Community Hub is a Neighbourhood House and Registered Training Organisation and host to a number of community-enhancing initiatives. The Alex Community Hub AGM was conducted this week with Robyn Ellis appointed Board Chair. Congratulations to Robyn, and to Philip Williams for his leadership in 2022.

In warm conditions, the Alexandra Race Club hosted the Alexandra Cup, in another season affected by prevailing emergencies. I acknowledge the resilience of the volunteer committee and their innovative approaches to engaging volunteer support.

Clean Up Australia Day was well supported by the community on 5 March, and I'd like to acknowledge Cr. Haslam for her leadership as portfolio Councillor in spreading the word and for her own participation. Councillors, alongside Environment Officers and staff from across the

Murrindindi Shire Council organisation contributed to *Business Clean Up Day* on 7 March which saw just shy of 1 Ton of waste removed from public spaces.

Dr. Helen Haines, our House of Representatives member for Indi is to be congratulated for her recent McKinnon Prize for Emerging Political Leader of the Year, which she shared with Senator Penny Wong. The prestigious award is an exceptional achievement and speaks to Dr. Haines' non-partisan, inclusive leadership style of prioritising policy over politics.

Face to face banking is not for everyone, but there are those in the community who rely on the service and support of *people* to perform fundamental banking transactions. Whether you rely on such services yourself, or if you have friends, family, or neighbours who require local banking services, I encourage you to support them, and to support local businesses by attending a community meeting in Alexandra Shire Hall on Thursday 23 March, at 6.00 pm. The meeting is an initiative of the Alexandra Traders Association following a great deal of effort by that group to discuss service and banking venue options with a variety of stakeholders.

That meeting again, is tomorrow evening in this Alexandra Shire Hall at 6.00 pm.

To portfolio and representative matters

Council has continued to contemplate the 2023-24 Budget document. The draft budget is due for endorsement on 5 April at a Special Meeting of Council. After a period of public consultation, during which submissions are welcome, Council plans to adopt the budget at the scheduled Council Meeting in May.

Good governance is not a particularly engaging discipline for our community to embrace and perversely that's especially the case when it's done right. And so, I'd like to share a governance success story which has emerged from the flood emergency, as identified by the Department of Energy, Environment, and Climate Action; that being the accelerated opening of the Molesworth Caravan Park which was acutely impacted in October, 2022. Owing to sound Council support for the Crown Land Committee of Management and specifically for insurance policy and claim management, the Molesworth facility is opening ahead of less-affected Crown Land caravan parks across the state. All credit to Murrindindi Shire Council governance team for assuring that outcome.

Finally

I extend the community's appreciation for emergency services professionals and volunteers who give their time throughout the year to train and develop expertise, and then in the face of an emergency, keep the community well informed and put the safety and wellbeing of our community ahead of their own. On this evening of recognition: Sincerely, thank you all.

That concludes my report, however I will share the unfortunate late news: That the disembodied voice of Council's *Meeting Support* is moving on and this will be our last meeting with Adam pushing the buttons. After 5 years with Murrindindi Shire Council, Adam Dennis leaves a fine legacy having implemented technologies to facilitate remote working and broadcasting of Council meetings, and has offered technical leadership to the vital Digital Future project. I'm sure that Adam goes with our best wishes for success and good health.

7.4 Cr Ilona Gerencser

Operations

- The Art Mural on the Kinglake Community Centre is just about complete and looks fantastic. This will almost complete the Ranges Art Trail that Council has supported with local artists in delivering artwork on Council Assets. Please visit 'The Loop' for pictures of all the projects or take a drive around our beautiful shire and have a look.
- Road grading program underway we have approx. 250km of roads identified for grading works approximately 70km completed to date. Weather is looking promising for completion on schedule.
- Line marking program underway will take approx. 2 weeks work.
- 443 street trees planted this financial year throughout Eildon, Alexandra, Yea and Molesworth.

Emergency Management:

- Unfortunately, the EMV Kinglake Emergency exercise planned for the 25 March has been postponed due to lack of community interest. Once we are made aware of a future date, we will let you know.

A further reminder that the Glenburn Community Planning dinner is on this Saturday 25 March at Glenburn Hall. Registrations are required via 'The Loop' at communityplanning@murrindindi.vic.gov.au or call Council on 5772 0333.

I'll end my report by reminding everyone that the Kinglake Rotary Club Market is on from 10.00 am to 2.00 pm this coming Sunday 26 March. The address is 436 Whittlesea-Kinglake Road, on the corner of Extons Road. Please bring your gold coins for the Rotary fund raising and your shopping bags. It's looking like another fantastic day on the mountain.

7.5 Cr Eric Lording

Inviting all residents and interested persons of Glenburn and surrounds to the free Glenburn Planning Dinner on the evening of Saturday 25 March.

Looking forward to seeing you all there. It is quite exciting to develop the future plan for our little township.

Please don't forget to register with the Council to ensure there is sufficient food for all.

7.6 Cr Sandice McAulay

I would like to refer community members to last week's Alexandra Standard's article titled - NAB replies to Mayor Walsh Open Letter.

With my Economic Development Portfolio hat on I would like to reiterate that Council is very disappointed with this response, and I am personally very saddened with this response. While many people do use digital channels to do their banking, there are many in our rural area who rely on accessing services at a local bank. Many will be forced to drive hours to the closest branch in either Healesville or Mansfield – that is until they are also possibly closed in the future. This closure will have real implications for both the community members and businesses. I personally commend the local Alexandra District and Traders Association (ADTA) and community representatives who have formed a working group to review alternate services being brought to Alexandra to offer face to face banking. The ADTA has made it clear that they believe that having

a bank branch in Alexandra is a critical service not just for residents but also for the many businesses that trade in Alexandra and the wider district. This is going to be a real challenge for our community going into the future.

On a more positive note, I am so excited and looking forward to attending the Murrindindi Jobs Expo on Monday 27 March from 2.00 – 8.00 pm at the new Alexandra Football Club rooms. The Murrindindi Food and Wine Inc are presenting this timely and relevant expo. There will be skill development, networking, resource sharing as well as innovative keynote speakers and two panels of local and regional experts to share industry insights and answer questions. Business owners and jobseekers will be able to connect with many networking opportunities. Attending will provide everyone with the chance to connect with jobseekers, employers, service providers, and agencies in a relaxed and informal setting. I look forward to seeing many community members there.

For information, to register for the event and to see the program visit murrindindifoodandwine.org.au.

Briefly I would like to update the community on the Great Victorian Rail Trail Art Installation Project. This project is a collaboration between the Shires of Murrindindi, Mansfield and Mitchell. The aim of the project is to 'Establish the Great Victorian Rail Trail as a thriving recreational tourism experience that drives positive visitor economy outcomes for the destinations, businesses and communities associated with it.'

The Victorian State Government grant of \$1.2M has funded this major project and I am excited to say that the project is now nearing completion with the installation of the significant and varied artworks as well as the completion of beautiful Scar Trees Trail by Uncle Mick Harding. There is a major buzz being heard across the art world and local communities. This coming spring, we will see a significant campaign by Tourism North-East in Melbourne as well as locally – I am so excited and look forward to seeing this major marketing campaign.

I was excited to be invited to a BBQ in Marysville to connect with the community members who participated in the Community Planning exercise in 2020. The community had voted on priority projects for inclusion in the Marysville Community Plan. Action Teams were formed to bring eight priority projects to life. Fast forward to last week where we heard from the Action Teams on what they have achieved to date. Congratulations to all involved who despite the many and varied roadblocks (including COVID) have managed to complete their project or are well into their long-term actions.

Just a reminder, the eight prioritised projects were:

- Garden beautification in public spaces.
- Decorative lighting in the streets.
- Opening the gym.
- Helping finish Marysville's 'Youth Space' facility.
- Iconic multi-day walk from Melbourne to Marysville.
- RV Friendly accreditation.
- Cycling trails for Marysville.
- Improvements to the swimming pool.

For more information and to read the Marysville Community Plan, visit the 'Community Planning' section of Council's website at murrindindi.vic.gov.au or give Council a call on 5772 0333.

7.7 Cr Karine Haslam

I too would like to offer my deepest sympathy to Aileen and family on the passing of Peter Tossil. R.I.P Peter, you will be missed.

Portfolio matters

Environment Programs

- I am pleased the Climate Change Action Plan has been endorsed by Council tonight. We can now put this in place and start to take action. This is an important step towards net zero greenhouse emissions by 2035.
- Climate related risks and departmental actions are being included in council's risk register, progressively following internal discussions with managers.
- A Public Electric Vehicle charging station installation project has commenced in Bakers Lane, Alexandra.
- Isis the Council Electric Vehicle charging station installation project in the UGFM carpark.
- Work has commenced with the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority on a flood and resilience study for UT Creek. This is funded by Emergency Management Victoria.

Bushland & Roadside

- This year has been challenging for weed control, with increased weeds due to the wet season. The weed program is about 80% complete and priority in the next works will be dense infestations.
- Not all areas may be treated, but next year's 2023/24 program will follow up.
- Specific weed control is being undertaken by the Pheasant Creek Blackberry Action Group, to reduce fruit fly risk. This includes the use of goats in difficult location.

Goulburn Murray Climate Alliance

- Environmentally sustainable development planning project are continuing.
- Regional resilient public estate program consultants have been appointed, and the project has commenced, this is in regard to built asset resilience under climate change.
- Regional program for net-zero opportunities in Goulburn-Murray Region are in progress (this includes opportunities for bulk procurement)

Resource Recovery

- Council endorsed contracts 22/9 for the Kerbside Waste and Recycling Collection tonight. From 2025 all councils across Victoria must provide a four-stream waste service under the State Government's Recycling Victoria Policy.
- It is essential to reduce waste to landfill as soon as possible. Education is of the utmost importance; contamination will be reduced if we all understand what goes where. Council will be proactive in providing this guidance.
- There will be further community engagement in regard to the finer details of the service.

Murrindindi Shire Council Clean Up Australia Day Corporate Event 7 March 2023

- There were 15 participants in this year's event, including Councillor Gallagher and myself.
- 5 sites were attended - Blakeney's Cutting, Acheron Cutting, Gilmore's Bridge, Thornton Beach and the outskirts of Eildon.
- 400kgs rubbish and 540kgs recycling, were collected and sorted.
- Big items collected included a large mattress, a reclining chair, a fridge, a freezer, a portable stove, a TV, a laptop, a wheelbarrow, chairs, a tent, bedding and clothes.

- Approximate percentage of the types of materials collected:
 - Plastics 25%
 - Rubber 25% - approximately 25 tyres
 - Glass 15%
 - Metal 15%
 - Paper/cardboard 8%
 - Textiles 5%
 - E Waste 4%
 - Wood 3%

- Illegal waste disposal has increased over the last four years:
 - 2020 – 700kg
 - 2021 – 240kg
 - 2022 – 230kg
 - 2023 – 940kg

Our bushland looks much better thanks to the help of these volunteers. It is disappointing to see such disrespect and illegal dumping of rubbish in our Shire. It is highly unlikely this is done by visitors to our area! Shame on whoever did this! We are so fortunate to live in such a beautiful area where nature abounds. Let us work together to protect it. If you see illegal dumping, please report it.

On a happier note

I am very proud of how our community came together in an inaugural deliberative panel to discuss the possible sale of land and the future of the Eildon Reserve Redevelopment Project.

As you heard tonight, representatives from the panel presented their recommendations to Council. This had to have a majority agreement of at least 80%. This in itself is a great achievement, when a group of people can come together to discuss all the pros and cons of a very heated issue and arrive at a unanimous decision for the overall betterment, of not only their community, but the whole Shire. Well done to all involved and thank you to the officers and the Capire Consulting Group for facilitating this.

We had an influx of visitors to the region on the March long weekend which was fantastic for our local businesses. From all reports Easter is also going to be very busy with caravan parks fully booked.

I hope you have a safe and happy Easter and enjoy all the local activities over this period.

Till next time.

7.8 Cr John Walsh - Mayoral Report

Advocacy in the Local Government environment is a frustrating pursuit. Clearly our efforts to have the National Bank reconsider its closure of the Alexandra Branch have not borne fruit. So, as is often the case in our communities the fallback position is “Self Help”. I’m looking forward to tomorrow night’s meeting in Alexandra to see if a community-based solution is forthcoming. It is an opportunity for everyone in the Shire, not just Alexandra, to ask ourselves what am I prepared to contribute to ensure we can develop a complete, sustainable banking service for our Shire-wide community. We all need to be prepared to change the bank we deal with. I have asked the CEO to investigate the options for Council to do so.

I recently attended a climate action leadership forum run by the Goulburn Murray Climate Alliance. Topics included climate change impacts in NE Victoria, advocacy tips from Helen Haines, Member for Indi and developing community climate change mitigation projects. Helen Haines is advocating for agricultural field officers to assist farmers in making necessary changes to their operations. In a recent survey of 1000 farmers in the NE of the State, 73% said they had already started to change their farming practices because of changes in climate. The NE Catchment Management Authority said that the 20 year average river flows in their region had dropped by one third over the past 20 years compared to the previous long term average.

Our Climate Action Plan matches the proposals from the GMCA forum covering advocacy, support for community projects and assistance to farmers and the whole community in meeting the climate challenges. It is clearly needed and if possible, should be accelerated.

7.9 Chief Executive Officer Report

Council celebrated International Women’s Day earlier this month - we are proud that our workplace supports gender equality and that we have a strong cohort of women in leadership positions. Women make up 58% of our Leadership Team and 56% of our Coordinator Team as well as four of our seven councillors being women. However as an organisation we still have a gender pay gap of 2.5%. This is lower than the Australian average of 13.3% but it means we have a bit more work to do in this area to reach parity.

Preparation of the annual budget for the next financial year is underway. The Draft Budget will be considered at a Special Meeting of Council on Wednesday 5 April and released for Public consultation until 30 April. Submissions will be considered before the Final Budget is scheduled for adoption at the 24 May Scheduled Meeting of Council. The community will have an opportunity to present their submissions at the open forum at the May meeting.

Reminders for overdue Council rates have been posted this week – we would like to remind rate payers that if they are facing financial difficulties, to please get in contact with our team who can assist with a payment plan.

Council hosted Gnarly Neighbours skate sessions over the weekend, which were a great success with positive feedback from the young participants.

We have started to receive nominations for the Murrindindi Citizen of Year - which is pleasing to see, this is a great opportunity for people in our community to recognise the contributions of local residents, who do marvellous things across our shire. Nominations close on Sunday 2 April. The theme for this year is 'Who Inspires You?'. Please take the time to submit an application.

The October floods continue to have a lasting effect on many members of our community:

As we know, the Breakaway Bridge in Acheron has suffered significant damage, and access will be cut off for many months. Council has been advocating with State agencies to make this a priority project for funding, so that we can restore access. In the coming months we will work with our community on potential options and design solutions.

The Yea Wetlands have been partially reopened to the public, which is great news. The delicate assessment of the impact is still ongoing, and so the careful removal of debris. Work is being done with the Taungurung Land and Water Council, the state government and the local Yea Wetlands Committee, reflecting the importance of the Wetlands for our community and visitors to our region.

The next issue of the flood recovery newsletter is due to be emailed out soon, it will also be available on our website, and we are asking community members to get in touch with Council to subscribe to receive the latest flood recovery news, including grants, support, key information and advice.

In Thornton, plans are underway to upgrade drainage infrastructure, while we commence a flood study to learn from the events of 2022, and how best to reduce the likelihood or impacts of future flooding.

8 RECORD OF COUNCIL BRIEFING SESSIONS

Purpose

For noting.

Executive Summary

This report presents the records of Council Briefing Sessions for 22 February 2023 to 15 March 2023, for Council to note.

The following summary details are for 22 February 2023 to 15 March 2023:

Meeting Name/Type	Council Pre-Meet
Meeting Date:	22 February 2023
Matters Discussed:	1. Meeting postponement
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, C Nickels-Beattie
Conflict of Interest Disclosures:	Nil

Meeting Name/Type	Briefing Session
Meeting Date:	1 March 2023
Matters Discussed:	1. Tourism North East Memorandum of Understanding 2. Free from Violence project brief 3. Future Kerbside Waste Services Workshop
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, K Siebert, V Albicini, J Blyth, N Carter, L Tomholt, P Bain
Conflict of Interest Disclosures:	Nil

Meeting Name/Type	Briefing Session
Meeting Date:	8 March 2023
Matters Discussed:	1. Childcare service and infrastructure review presentation (external) 2. Strategic Planning – Eildon Pondage Masterplan 3. Planning Application – 181 Switzerland Road, Ghin Ghin 4. Draft 2023/24 Annual Budget – Financial Statements 5. Grants and Contributions Processes 6. Draft Climate Change Action Plan
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, K Siebert, V Albicini, C Nickels-Beattie, S Coller, S Porter, N Stewart, E Kubeil, C Fraser, B Chapman
Conflict of Interest Disclosures:	Nil

Meeting Name/Type	Briefing Session
Meeting Date:	15 March 2023
Matters Discussed:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Community Planning – Future Locations for consideration 2. Eildon Reserve Redevelopment deliberative panel recommendations 3. Draft 2023/24 Annual Budget - update 4. Development Services - Planning Report February 2023 5. Contract 22/9 Kerbside Waste & Recyclables Collection & Processing Services 6. Capital Works Program Review
Councillor Attendees:	Cr J Walsh, Cr K Haslam, Cr S Carpenter, Cr D Gallagher, Cr S McAulay, Cr I Gerencser
Council Officer Attendees:	L Bonazzi, T Carter, K Siebert, V Albicini, C Nickels-Beattie (V), S Coller, A Paix, N Matheson, C Fraser, P Bain, J Carns
Conflict of Interest Disclosures:	Nil

RESOLUTION

Cr S Carpenter / Cr K Haslam

That Council receive and note the records of Council Briefing Sessions for 20 February 2023 to 17 March 2023.

CARRIED

9 SEALING REGISTER

File Reference	Date Seal Affixed	Description of Documents	Signatures of Persons Sealing
CONT21/38	3 March 2023	Formal Instrument of Agreement between Murrindindi Shire Council and Prestige Paving Pty Ltd	Livia Bonazzi Cr John Walsh
CONT22/17	16 March 2023	Formal Instrument of Agreement between Murrindindi Shire Council & Fineblade Pty Ltd	Livia Bonazzi Cr John Walsh

RESOLUTION

Cr K Haslam / Cr S McAulay
That the list of items to which the Council seal has been affixed be noted.

The meeting was closed at 9:00 pm.

CONFIRMED THIS



CHAIRPERSON

Cr J Walsh