



Murrindindi
Shire Council

Scheduled Meeting of Council

Minutes

Wednesday 23 November 2022
Alexandra Council Chambers
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 made available for public access on our website along with the official Minutes of this meeting.

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 Carpenter, I Gerencser, S McAulay, 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

2.3 Disclosure of Interest or Conflict of Interest

Cr S Carpenter declared a general conflict of interest in Agenda item 4.1(2d.) being the Grants and Contributions Program - November Allocations given that she is a Board Member of the Yea Rotary which is an applicant under the grant program.

2.4 Confirmation of Minutes

Minutes of the Scheduled Meeting of Council held on 26 October 2022.

RESOLUTION

Cr I Gerencser / Cr S Carpenter
That Council confirm the minutes of the 26 October 2022 Scheduled Meeting of Council.

CARRIED

Minutes of the Scheduled Meeting of Council (Election of the Mayor) held on 16 November 2022.

RESOLUTION

Cr S McAulay / Cr E Lording
That Council confirm the minutes of the 16 November 2022 Scheduled Meeting of Council (Election of the Mayor).

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

Nil.

3.2 Questions of Council

Nil.

4 REPORTS - COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT DIRECTORATE

4.1 Grants and Contributions Program - November 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 October 2022 Grants and Contributions Program allocations and variations for noting and endorsement.

RESOLUTION

Cr S Carpenter / Cr I Gerencser

That Council:

- 1. note the following allocations made by the Grants and Contributions Assessment Panel under delegation:**
 - a) Yea Community House – Yea Cruise Night (12 Nov date) for \$500**
- 2. endorse the following allocations recommended by the Grants and Contributions Assessment Panel:**
 - a) Yea Community House – Yea Christmas Festival and Market for \$3,600**
 - b) Yea Community House – Yea Cruise Night for \$2,000**
 - c) Alexandra Community Christmas Tree Festival – Alexandra Town Hall for \$2,000.**

CARRIED

Cr S Carpenter left the meeting at 6:09 pm prior to the discussion of recommendation 2 d).

RESOLUTION

Cr D Gallagher / Cr E Lording

That Council:

- 2. endorse the following allocations recommended by the Grants and Contributions Assessment Panel:**
 - d) Rotary Club of Yea Inc – Yea Rotary Art Show \$2,500**

CARRIED

Cr S Carpenter returned to meeting at 6:13 pm.

5 REPORTS - CORPORATE & SHARED SERVICES DIRECTORATE

5.1 Council Plan 2021-2025 Quarterly Performance Report - 1 July to 30 September 2022

Attachment(s)	Attachment 1 - Council Plan Quarterly Report Q 1 2022-23 as at 18-11-2022 [5.1.1 - 40 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 July to 30 September 2022 period in delivering Council's Priority Action Plan 2022/23 and Council Plan 2021-2025.

MOTION

Cr E Lording / Cr K Haslam

That Council note the Council Plan 2021-2025 Progress Report – 1 July to 30 September 2022 period as contained in Attachment 6.1.

AMENDMENT

Cr D Gallagher / Cr I Gerencser

That Council:

- 1. note the Council Plan 2021-2025 Progress Report – 1 July to 30 September 2022 period as contained in Attachment 6.1.1.**
- 2. Add an action to Council's Priority Action Plan 2022/23 for the purpose of reporting upon the emergency response and recovery.**

RESOLUTION

Cr E Lording / Cr K Haslam

That Council:

- 1. note the Council Plan 2021-2025 Progress Report – 1 July to 30 September 2022 period as contained in Attachment 6.1.1.**
- 2. add an action to Council's Priority Action Plan 2022/23 for the purpose of reporting upon the emergency response and recovery.**

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

Firstly I offer my congratulations to Mayor, Cr. Walsh and to Deputy Mayor, Cr. Haslam on their appointments. What a remarkable honour it is for them both.

November in Alexandra has been wetter and colder than locals are used to, but nevertheless, Alexandra was the place to be.

The Red Gate CWA annual general meeting was conducted with Sue Wynn, Jane Laws, Holly Wal, Maureen Holohan, and Martine Sloan taking executive roles for the coming year. The talent of the local CWA members is something to behold; as is the support, education, and friendship that members offer to the community and to one another.

Similarly skilled and supportive, the Eildon & District Woodworkers Guild Inc. met on Melbourne Cup Day to celebrate the purchase of a trailer which will help transport logs and milled timber. Members of the guild acknowledged with appreciation, that the investment in the trailer was made possible by the support of Council.

On Friday, November 11, the annual Victorian Country Press Association awards night in Melbourne saw Anne Richey, of The Alexandra Standard win the 2022 Best News Photo Award with a picture of the Alexandra Primary School Colour Run. Congratulations Anne for your acknowledgement and for your commitment to local news coverage.

Earlier on 11/11, the Alexandra RSL led commemoration services at Yarck and at Leckie Park in Alexandra for a community eager to pay its respects to those who served in Australia's defence forces, and particularly to those who transacted their life for our freedom.

I had the great privilege of presiding over the election of office-bearers at the Alexandra Race Club AGM. Returning President Chris Walsh welcomed his executive comprised of Robyn Walsh, Barbara Gamble, and Ty Walsh. After yet another cancelled October race day, the committee looks forward to some great racing events, and the Alexandra Cup in the new year.

Kim Croxford led a Fair Forestry Transition community meeting at Alexandra Town Hall. The forum looked for opportunities to support community members directly affected by Victoria's departure from native hardwood harvest industry. As I listened to those assembled, it was clear that environmentalists, entrepreneurs, forest fire managers, first nations representatives, landholders, teachers, artists, farmers, scientists, and even fourth-generation foresters have an indistinguishable passion for the bush, and for enhancing Alexandra and Triangle's relationship with the forest. I look forward to supporting development of Murrindindi Shire Council's meaningful Local Development Strategy.

At the 137th Alexandra Agricultural Show Day on 12 November it was simply inspiring to see so many locals supporting our show. In the face of weather events and a limited program of attractions, families arrived and celebrated the day in great numbers. The hardworking committee is to be congratulated and appreciated for persisting after years of COVID cancellations. The community has certainly expressed its desire for the show to continue and to thrive.

To portfolio and representative matters

In mid-October, in the days immediately following the commencement of the flood emergency, as then Mayor, Cr. Carpenter was fielding offers of support from State Government, I received a call from Brent Pederick of Rapid Relief Team. Rapid Relief Team offers connection of people to support and financial services. I immediately introduced Brent to local livestock agent, Andrew Embling (Embling Rural) who would assist in the distribution of aid at a community event. We later met with Council Officers and it was declared that an event is to be held at the Yea Saleyards complex on 8 December. All our flood-affected community is welcome, and those who have lost pasture or fencing are encouraged to [pre-register](#) for some additional aid. Embling Rural and RRT have been able to secure fencing wire and a generous pasture seed donation from Murrindindi's own Valley Seeds, Yarck, which will be distributed to those who register. I'd like to acknowledge the efforts of Brent and Andrew, and of Council Officers who have worked with their respective teams to bring about this community wellbeing event.

Councillors and Council staff have taken the opportunity to meet with community and pop-up events over the last month. I attended the Alexandra Spring Fair, Taggerty Twilight Market, and Yea Market as community feedback was sought primarily on our transition to a four-stream waste and recycling system and Council's Housing and Settlement Strategy.

Moving forward

I thank Council for entrusting me with the Corporate and Governance portfolio for the coming year and I look forward to sharing with our community the strategic journey this Council will embark upon as 2023-24 budgets and priorities are proposed for community consideration over the months ahead. Community members looking to contribute to discussions on Capital Works priorities or fees and charges, please continue to take the opportunity online and in person, to express your feedback.

Finally

My thanks to CEO, Ms. Bonazzi for so rapidly responding to my request to assemble a forum for those community members in Acheron who have been acutely affected by the ongoing flood event. Councillor Walsh sensitively led the proceedings. The goal was for senior Council representatives to meet those most directly impacted, to express the enormity of the situation, to seek local intelligence on the most pressing needs, and to set appropriate remediation expectations for the community.

Frustrations and anxiety remain, but the community's concerns were heard and some valuable conversations have since ensued. Crucially, some local and historical bridge management intelligence has been heeded by the shire engineers.

I extend a grateful community's most sincere appreciation to our emergency services personnel, Council staff, and particularly the volunteers, friends and neighbours who continue to turn out, and to turn up in support – right across the shire – because friends, neighbours, and community matters.

6.4 Cr Ilona Gerencser

Nil to report.

6.5 Cr Eric Lording

Nil to report.

6.6 Cr Sandice McAulay

October and November Flood Event

As a result of the rain and associated flooding events spanning several weeks across Victoria our Shire has been significantly impacted like many others and this damage will have a lasting impact on the Murrindindi community. Each of the towns within the municipality has been affected by this significant event, either directly or indirectly.

The area suffered mass road closures and widespread property damage, particularly on Thursday 13 October and Friday 14 October 2022. This resulted in significant disruption to our community members being locked into or out of their own properties as well as impacting revenue for small business and tourist operators.

The full impact of the 2022 floods on public and private properties within Murrindindi Shire is constantly evolving as more information is obtained. At this stage it is estimated that the cost of these floods to Council assets alone is at least \$25m. However, if we consider the true cost of the ongoing wet weather and the degradation of our roads network, the extra cost runs into tens of millions.

With respect to Council Assets there has been major impact on roads and bridges with six badly damaged bridges, maybe up to 19 in total. Surveys are continuing after each subsequent rain event.

150 sections of roads are seriously damaged across 15 of Council's Arterial roads. There is suspected pavement damage to many other sections as well – this has been seen widely where repairs are made and there is subsequent sinking of the repair within a couple weeks. It is important to drive with caution and vigilance.

Ongoing Project Delivery and Operations

Meanwhile whilst the Council is responding to this emergency and entering the recovery phase, officers are still maintaining the capital works program and have begun the planning process for 2023/24.

We have about 130 projects to deliver this year, with many started or tendered to start.

Some key projects reaching completion including the Alexandra Youth Precinct which will be completed by Christmas. New car parks on Downey and Bayley Streets are to commence soon.

Major projects just starting, include the Blue Gums Trail and the Falls Road / Mt Kitchener path and drainage projects.

The Road Asset Management Plan review has had a delayed by the Flood Emergency.

Emergency Management

The Emergency Management team are continuing to lead the work on planning and implementing flood recovery for Council.

Community

Our communities continue to demonstrate their resilience and determination and I was delighted to be invited to be part of the official opening of the MiRA and Community Gardens and to then attend the opening of the Marysville Art Show later that same night. The MiRA and Community Garden is yet another successful project that was an outcome of the Community Planning Project initiated by Council during 2019 and 2020. The vision for the garden which was designed during the rolling COVID 19 lockdowns was to provide colour, life and a free source of edible herbs and greens for locals and visitors. The garden also provides a chance for people to connect and get to know each other as they care for the space or stop to have a look. Both the garden and Art Show are a credit to the Marysville community members – all volunteers - who continue to provide opportunities for people to connect even during difficult times.

6.7 Cr Karine Haslam

Nil to report.

6.8 Cr John Walsh - Mayoral Report

In line with many others in Council and in the Community, my activities as a Ward Councillor and, for the past week, as Mayor, during November, can easily be summarized in three words – floods, rain, storms. The impacts of the floods has been obvious, then the rains have extensively damaged the rest of our road network with fallen trees having to be cleared. While taking the opportunity earlier today to thank our outdoor and engineering teams for their efforts over this time, I want to formally thank them again tonight.

A meeting last week at Acheron to discuss road access and the damaged Breakaway Bridge was particularly pleasing. Initial tensions transitioned into a frank and open discussion. I thank the community members for the points they made and their suggestions for the way ahead. As a result we have a much greater appreciation of their concerns and I'm sure will lead to more rapid, better results.

With respect to my former Portfolio of Corporate and Governance the work has concentrated on the financial impacts of the floods and planning a whole new budget as a result. On a personal note I wish to thank Mr. Chesworth and Ms. Nickels Beattie for providing valuable information and tolerating my wilder ideas at each of our monthly meetings over the past two years.

6.9 Chief Executive Officer Report

Last Friday I signed the Transition from Response to Recovery Agreement for the October 2022 floods, which is the formal hand over document in Emergency Management in Victoria. This means that the Victoria State Emergency Service (VICSES) has handed over the responsibility for recovery coordination to Murrindindi Shire Council. We acknowledge that Recovery in Murrindindi is going to take a number of years, whether it be recovery for the lost homes, farming impacts or damage to critical council and community infrastructure.

As part of our recovery planning, Council held the inaugural Municipal Flood Recovery Committee meeting on Tuesday 15 November.

This is a subcommittee of the Municipal Emergency Management Committee and its roles include to:

1. Engage with and support our community over the times ahead.
2. Identify and monitor known and emerging recovery issues within the municipality.
3. Advocate for services and resources to enhance recovery outcomes.
4. Assess local risks or issues escalated to the Committee and develop mitigation actions.

The committee comprises of a mix of agencies, local organisations and community representatives and state government departments. Over the coming weeks we will be engaging with impacted local communities to collectively plan for the future. There will be a number of events designed to bring communities together, connect people into available support and funding, and support the wellbeing of our communities.

One such opportunity is the Farmers Community Connect event on Thursday 8 December mentioned by Cr Gallagher, I encourage Farmers to register before 1 December on the RRT website by searching “farmers community connect yea”

I am very pleased to advised that we have received endorsement from Reconciliation Australia for our Reflect Reconciliation Action Plan. This is a great milestone in our reconciliation journey. The next step is to bring the RAP to life in our organisation and we will be working with our local TOs on this process.

On Saturday 5 November I was honoured, together with the then Mayor Cr Carpenter, to speak at the 2022 Alexandra Fire Brigade Awards Presentation Evening, at the Alexandra Football and Netball Club, to recognise and pay tribute to the members for their years of service.

Since the last Council meeting I had the pleasure of opening the Marysville Art Show held at the MiRa building. This Art Show has a history that goes back 50 years and provides a great way for local and regional artists to showcase their talents and be recognised for their work. Last Saturday I was also invited to open the Jeff Hyde Sculpture Exhibition at Rennie Gallery in Acheron, titled “Losing My Marbles”, The event went ahead despite being delayed a few weeks due to the floods, when roads were under water cutting off access to the property for several days.

When we developed our Council Plan 2021-25 we heard that the community wanted more opportunities to come together and celebrate, and to have access to a diverse and culturally-enriching range of recreational opportunities. These kinds of events are important to restore a sense of normality as we recover from the floods. They build community connectedness and resilience, and they also help our visitor economy, providing even more reasons for people to spend time here and experience the many wonders our shire has to offer.

7 RECORD OF COUNCIL BRIEFING SESSIONS

Purpose

For noting.

Executive Summary

This report presents the records of Council Briefing Sessions for assemblies of Councillors for 26 October 2022 to 16 November 2022, for Council to note.

The following summary details are for 26 October 2022 to 16 November 2022:

Meeting Name/Type	Council Pre-Meet			
Meeting Date:	26 October 2022			
Matters Discussed:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Capital Works Quarterly Report – September 2022 2. Public Open Space Contributions Policy 3. Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021-25 Year 1 update 4. Grants and Contributions Program – October Allocations 5. Quarterly Finance Report – September 2022 6. Rural Councils Transformation Project – MOU 7. Annual Report 2021/21 8. Procurement Policy – Local Government Act 2020 			
Councillor Attendees:	Cr S Carpenter (V), Cr D Gallagher (V), Cr K Haslam (V), Cr E Lording (V), Cr S McAulay (V), Cr J Walsh (V), Cr I Gerencser (V)			
Council Officer Attendees:	L Bonazzi (V), M Chesworth (V), K Siebert (V), V Albicini (V), T Carter (V), C Nickels-Beattie (V), N Stewart (V), E Kubeil (V), N Maguire (V), D Echeverry (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?
4.	Cr S Carpenter	No	Yes	Before

Meeting Name/Type	Briefing Session			
Meeting Date:	2 November 2022			
Matters Discussed:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. External presentation by Bess Nolan-Cook – Tourism North East update 2. Flood impacts – Demonstration of crisis works 3. Kinglake Memorial Oval Reserve 4. Election of the Mayor agenda 5. Glenburn community consultation update – Break O’Day Bridge 			
Councillor Attendees:	Cr S Carpenter, Cr D Gallagher, Cr K Haslam, Cr S McAulay, Cr J Walsh, Cr I Gerencser			
Council Officer Attendees:	L Bonazzi, M Chesworth, K Siebert, V Albicini, T Carter (V), C Price, J Blyth (V), P Bain (V), N Carter, A Campbell			
Conflict of Interest Disclosures: Nil				

Meeting Name/Type	Briefing Session			
Meeting Date:	9 November 2022			
Matters Discussed:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Flood Recovery Planning discussion 			
Councillor Attendees:	Cr S Carpenter, Cr D Gallagher, Cr K Haslam, Cr E Lording, Cr S McAulay, Cr J Walsh			
Council Officer Attendees:	L Bonazzi, M Chesworth, K Siebert, V Albicini			
Conflict of Interest Disclosures: Nil				

Meeting Name/Type		Briefing Session		
Meeting Date:		16 November 2022		
Matters Discussed:		1. AGL Presentation 2. Eildon Reserve Redevelopment Update 3. Grants and Contributions Program – November Allocations 4. Development Services – Quarterly Report October 2022 5. Capital Works Program Review – October 2022 6. 2022-2023 Capital Works Program – Process and Parameters 7. Pre-brief – Election of the Mayor		
Councillor Attendees:		Cr S Carpenter, Cr D Gallagher, Cr K Haslam, Cr S McAulay, Cr J Walsh, Cr I Gerencser		
Council Officer Attendees:		L Bonazzi, M Chesworth, K Siebert, V Albicini, S Coller, T Elkington, J Carns, P Bain, N Stewart		
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?
3.	Cr S Carpenter	No	Yes	Before

RESOLUTION

Cr S Carpenter / Cr E Lording

That Council receive and note the records of assembly of Councillors for 24 October 2022 to 18 November 2022.

CARRIED

8 SEALING REGISTER

File Reference	Date Seal Affixed	Description of Documents	Signatures of Persons Sealing
SF/4160	8 November 2022	Formal Instrument of Agreement between Murrindindi Shire Council and Fineblade Blue Gums Caravan Park To Eildon Recreational Trail	Livia Bonazzi Cr Sue Carpenter

RESOLUTION

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

CARRIED

The meeting was closed at 6:40pm.

CONFIRMED THIS



CHAIRPERSON

Cr J Walsh