



Murrindindi
Shire Council

Scheduled Meeting of Council

Minutes

Wednesday 27 July 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 its website along with the official Minutes of this meeting.

2.2 Apologies and Request for Leave of Absence

Cr Haslam requested leave of absence from 31 July 2022 to 15 August 2022.

RESOLUTION

**Cr J Walsh / Cr I Gerencser
That Council approve Cr Haslam's request for leave of absence for the period 31 July 2022 to 15 August 2022.**

CARRIED

Present:

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

In attendance:

Chief Executive Officer: Livia Bonazzi
Director Corporate and Shared Services: Michael Chesworth
Director Community Engagement: Shivaun Brown
Director Assets and Development: Vito Albicini

2.3 Disclosure of Interest or Conflict of Interest

Cr J Walsh declared a general conflict of interest in Agenda item 5.2 being the “Grants and Contributions program – July Allocation” due to being a member of Upper Goulburn Community Radio Incorporated.

Cr K Haslam declared a general conflict of interest in Agenda item 5.2 being the “Grants and Contributions program – July Allocation” due to being a member of Upper Goulburn Community Radio Incorporated and the Alexandra Community Shed.

Cr S McAulay declared a general conflict of interest in Agenda item 5.2 being the “Grants and Contributions program – July Allocation” as her business is a paid member of Upper Goulburn Community Radio Incorporated.

2.4 Confirmation of Minutes

Minutes of the Scheduled meeting of Council held on 22 June 2022.

RESOLUTION

**Cr J Walsh / Cr I Gerencser
That Council confirm the minutes of the 22 June 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

Mr John P O'Brien spoke about minor street names for the development at 2401 Goulburn Valley Highway, Alexandra.

3.2 Questions of Council

Two questions were received from Mr Jack Russell.

Question 1

That Council fully and truthfully explain why the abandoned and now underused maintenance complex at Yea of approximately 4 acres of commercial / industrial flat land (and where two loads of spoil and broken concrete was dumped outside the gates some four months ago without regard for community safety), will be sold to achieve the best outcome and not one parcel?

The Director Corporate & Shared Services responded to Question 1:

Council is yet to determine the future use of the former depot site in Yea, and whether the land will be redeveloped for council's purposes, subdivided and/or sold. Although no longer operating as a depot, the site is still being used to support Council's infrastructure maintenance operations.

With respect to the load of spoils and broken concrete, arrangements have been made to remove the material.

Question 2

What, over the Shire and surrounds, are similar examples of properties that can be sold or better utilised in the immediate future and no false promises and distractions.

The Director Corporate & Shared Services responded to Question 2:

Council has a number of vacant land parcels it owns across the Municipality. Council has no current plans for these parcels of land however as part of the Council Plan Strategic Action: "5.1.2 Ensure Council remains financially sustainable through sound management, forward planning, innovative service delivery and asset consolidation as appropriate' Council will review its property portfolio as part of the annual Asset Plan reviews. Any decisions to rationalise, consolidate, develop or dispose of assets or property will be determined after consultation with the community.

Two questions were received from Mr Rolf Zimmerman.

Question 1

Can you please elaborate on the intended distribution of \$400,000 in Forestry Industry Transition Funds outlined in June/July Murrindindi Newsletter. It was stated that the funds will be spent on Alexandra, Taggerty and Marysville. Are the Forestry Industry Transition funds to be targeted on these locations only to address the needs of parties who addressed the May meeting? (and if so, why?)

The Director Corporate & Shared Services responded to Question 1:

The \$400,000 grant is to deliver a Local Development strategy. It is a partnership project between the State Government and Murrindindi Shire Council and its community.

The State Government have defined the townships based on their understanding of where the economic impact will be felt in the next couple of years – where the existing businesses are based. The outcomes of the project can benefit more broadly across the Shire, but they MUST be relevant for the communities of Alexandra, Taggerty and Marysville.

Question 2

What (in detail) are the activities the Forestry Industry Transition funds are to be spent on – and how will they benefit other parts of the LGA already hardest hit by both the logging activities themselves, and the subsequent cessation of logging within these areas?

The Director Corporate & Shared Services responded to Question 2:

The Grant funds will be used to employ Project Employees, being a full-time project manager and a part-time administration support officer, over a 24 month period. These roles will deliver the community engagement activities; delivery of the Context Analysis Report; engagement of specialist consultants for the delivery of the second stage of the Project (as outlined below) and prepare the final Local Development Strategy for the Alexandra, Taggerty and Marysville communities.

The first stage is to undertake a context analysis, to understand innovative activities, economic strengths and assets, and local ways of working. This will draw on quantitative data sets, existing reports and analyses of each community and local economy, and in-depth interviews with a range of community members, local businesses and wider stakeholders.

The second stage of the Project will involve detailed exploration, inquiry and testing to determine the potential of proposals for competitive advantage. Value propositions, business cases and other development activities will follow for projects that are prioritised through this process. This will be conducted in partnership between the Department, the Recipient, and participant members of the local community. Where required, it will draw on external advice and information.

The final stage will be the finalisation of the Local Development Strategy for the Alexandra, Taggerty and Marysville communities.

The project will not supply direct support to the existing businesses, if a business or employee requires direct support, it should get in touch with Kara Zdrzalka (Hinton), Business Transition Support Officer at DJPR as there are assistance packages available.

4 REPORTS - ASSETS AND DEVELOPMENT DIRECTORATE

4.1 Climate Change Policy

Attachment(s)	Attachment 1 - Climate Change Policy Draft [4.1.1 - 6 pages]
Presenter	Vito Albicini, Director Assets & Development
Approved by	Director Assets & Development
Purpose	For decision

Executive Summary

This report seeks Council's endorsement of the Draft Climate Change Policy for public consultation to seek feedback from the community prior to formal adoption by Council.

The Policy has been prepared as the second of a triad of documents proposed to guide Council in its response to climate change; the other two documents are the Climate Change Pledge (as previously adopted) and a Climate Change Action Plan (presently under preparation).

This report responds to the action from the 2021/2022 Council Plan to "Develop a Climate Change Policy".

RESOLUTION

Cr K Haslam / Cr E Lording

That Council release the Draft Climate Change Policy for public consultation to seek feedback from the community prior to formal adoption by Council, subject to amending the wording in Part 2. Rationale to read "by dramatically reducing the organisation's greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2035, and supporting the municipal community to achieve the same target", instead of "by dramatically reducing the organisation's and municipality's greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2035.

CARRIED

4.2 Contract 22/4 Street Sweeping Services 2022-2025

Attachment(s)	Confidential Attachment 1 – CONT22/4 Street Sweeping Services
Presenter	V Albicini, Director Assets & Development
Approved by	Director Assets & Development
Purpose	For decision

Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is for Council to appoint a supplier for CONT22/4 Street Sweeping Services for a three year contract not exceeding a total of five years including all optional extensions.

The tender for these works closed at 3pm on 19 May 2022. Three submissions were received with two Tender prices being under the current street sweeping budget and one over the budget allocation.

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

Given that the Tender prices were received well under the available budget, options were considered for an enhanced street sweeping and township beautification services.

Based on the analysis undertaken, the Committee recommended that Tender 2 be awarded CONT22/4 Street Sweeping Services for a three year contract not exceeding a total of five years including all optional extensions. The contract will be for a lump sum price of \$172,707 for the three year contract that includes regular kerb and channel, heavy leaf fall cleansing services and a contingency allowance of \$20,000 per annum for an as needs footpath sweeping service for each town with an option for a further two years subject to satisfactory performance.

The Committee further recommended that the total contract amount should be \$387,845 over the period of the contract and that the remaining funds available for street sweeping is used for road maintenance works.

RESOLUTION

Cr D Gallagher / Cr S McAulay

That Council:

- 1. appoint CONT22/4 – Street Sweeping Services to Specialised Pavement Services for an initial period of three years starting 20 August 2022 for a lump sum price of \$172,707 that includes regular kerb and channel and heavy leaf fall cleansing services with an option for a further two years subject to satisfactory performance;**
- 2. approve an annual allocation amount of \$20,000 for the provision of footpath cleaning to occur on an as needed basis for the main towns;**
- 3. approve a total contract amount of \$387,845 over the period of the contract of five years should all extension options be authorised;**
- 4. approve that the remaining budget of \$50,738 allocated for street sweeping be redistributed to road maintenance activities across the Municipality;**
- 5. authorise the Chief Executive Officer to extend CONT22/4 Street Sweeping Services beyond the initial term for a further two-year period subject to satisfactory performance; and**
- 6. release this resolution and the name of Specialised Pavement Services into the Minutes of the Scheduled Meeting of 27 July 2022.**

CARRIED

4.3 Blue Gums To Eildon Recreational Trail Contract Award

Attachment(s)	Confidential Attachment 1 – Contract 22/2 - Blue Gums Caravan Park to Eildon Recreational Trail
Presenter	Vito Albicini, Director Assets & Development
Approved by	Director Assets & Development
Purpose	For decision

Executive Summary

At its 27 April Scheduled Meeting, Council resolved to award Contract 22/2 – Blue Gums Caravan Park to Eildon Recreational Trail to Holman Vic Constructions for a lump sum price of \$1,596,809, subject to a favourable financial check.

Further to that decision this report seeks Council endorsement to accept a \$200,000 bank guarantee in place of the receipt of a favourable financial check to enable the awarding of the contract.

RESOLUTION

Cr K Haslam / Cr D Gallagher

That further to the Council decision on item 4.5 at the Scheduled Meeting on 27 April 2022, Council endorse the acceptance of a \$200,000 bank guarantee in place of a financial check, to enable the awarding of CONT22/2 - Blue Gums Caravan Park to Eildon – Recreational Trail to Holman Vic Constructions for a lump sum price of \$1,596,809 to complete all required works.

CARRIED

5 REPORTS - COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT DIRECTORATE

5.1 Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy

Attachment(s)	Attachment 1 - Child Safety and Wellbeing Draft Policy [5.1.1 - 9 pages] Attachment 2 - Draft Statement of Commitment 2022 05 25 [5.1.2 - 1 page]
Presenter	S Murphy, Director Community Engagement
Approved by	Director Community Engagement
Purpose	For decision

Executive Summary

This report:

- Outlines key changes to the Child Safe Policy
- Highlights areas requiring further resource allocation
- Presents the revised Statement of Commitment.

RECOMMENDATION

**Cr E Lording / Cr D Gallagher
That Council**

- 1. adopt the revised Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy as contained in Attachment 5.1.1**
- 2. endorse the Statement of Commitment as contained in Attachment 5.1.2.**

CARRIED

Cr S McAulay left the meeting at 6:39 pm.

Cr K Haslam left the meeting at 6:39 pm.

Cr J Walsh left the meeting at 6:39 pm.

5.2 Grants and Contributions Program - July Allocations

Attachment(s)	Nil
Presenter	S Murphy, Director Community Engagement
Approved by	Director Community Engagement
Purpose	For decision

Executive Summary

This purpose of this report is to present Council with the June 2022 Grants and Contribution Program applications and variations for noting and endorsement.

RESOLUTION

Cr D Gallagher / Cr E Lording

That Council:

1. endorse the following variations recommended by the Grants and Contributions Assessment Panel:

Application	Original Grant Awarded	Variation Request
BGE20/21-031 – The Outdoor Education Group - Eildon Wanggai Business Case Development Project	\$15,000	Timing change

2. endorse the following allocations recommended by the Grants and Contributions Assessment Panel:

Application	Amount
CPE-21/22-031 - Upper Goulburn Community Radio Incorporated - Taste of Tamworth	\$2,500
CPE-21/22-032 - Alexandra Community Shed/Eildon & District Woodworkers Guild - Wood Moving Trailer	\$2,500
CPE-21/22-036 - Triangle Arts Group Inc - Marysville Artsfest 2022	\$2,000
CS-21/22-015 - Triangle Arts Group Incorporated - Marysville Art Show 2022	\$2,500

3. note the following allocations made by the Grants and Contributions Assessment Panel:

Application	Amount
CPE-21/22-035 - Buxton Progress Association Inc - Buxton Community Christmas Party 2022	\$1,000
CS-21/22-013 - Caleb Hall - 2022 Australian Men's Sixes Lacrosse Team Individual Athlete Sponsorship	\$1,000

CARRIED

Cr J Walsh returned to the meeting at 6:45 pm.

Cr K Haslam returned to the meeting at 6:45 pm.

Cr S McAulay returned to the meeting at 6:45 pm.

6 REPORTS - CORPORATE & SHARED SERVICES DIRECTORATE

6.1 S6. Instrument of Delegation to Staff

Attachment(s)	S 6. Instrument of Delegation to Council Staff (27 July 2022) [6.1.1 - 63 pages]
Presenter	M Chesworth, Director Corporate & Shared Services
Approved by	Director Corporate & Shared Services
Purpose	For decision

Executive Summary

This report seeks Council's adoption of the Delegations to the Chief Executive Officer and staff under the prescribed legislation.

RESOLUTION

Cr J Walsh / Cr S McAulay

In the exercise of the powers conferred by the legislation referred to in the attached instrument of delegation, Murrindindi Shire Council (Council) **RESOLVES THAT –**

1. It delegates to the members of Council staff holding, acting in or performing the duties of the offices or positions referred to in the attached *Instrument of Delegation to members of Council staff*, the powers, duties and functions set out in that instrument, subject to the conditions and limitations specified in that Instrument.
2. The instrument comes into force the moment the common seal of Council is affixed to the instrument.
3. On the coming into force of the instrument, all previous delegations to members of Council staff (other than the Chief Executive Officer) are revoked.
4. The duties and functions set out in the instrument must be performed, and the powers set out in the instruments must be executed, in accordance with any guidelines or policies of Council that it may from time to time adopt.

CARRIED

7 COUNCILLOR AND CEO REPORTS

7.1 Notices of Motions

Nil.

7.2 Cr Karine Haslam

Nil to report.

7.3 Cr Ilona Gerencser

Nil to report.

7.4 Cr Eric Lording

Cr Lording provided a brief report on the determination of planning applications for the month of July 2022.

7.5 Cr John Walsh

Nil to report.

7.6 Cr Sandice McAulay

For my report I would like to highlight that Council has been successful in its grant application for over \$2 million to deliver a further 15 priority projects, as part of the third round of funding under the Australian Government's 'Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program' (LRCI Program).

These projects are important in helping support local communities, jobs and businesses across the Shire to bounce back from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The funds will be put towards a range of infrastructure upgrades.

\$400,000 of the LRCI Program will support key elements of the redevelopment of Thomas Marr and Walter Moore Reserves - as part of Council's Eildon Splash and Skate Park. This will complement the recent funding announcement from the Victorian Government for this important project.

Eildon's Main Street shopping precinct is also set to receive a makeover, with funding allocated to revitalise the vegetation and landscaping in this area and to install irrigation to allow the gardens to thrive during drier months.

In Marysville, we're constructing stage two of the footpath along Falls Road in Marysville from Gould Terrace to Hill Avenue. We're working towards having a continuous footpath from Park Road to Hill Avenue along Falls Road, allowing greater access for residents and visitors so they can walk to the town centre and easily enjoy the fabulous walking trails in that area. As part of these works, we'll also be replacing some of the trees along this section of Falls Road. The

planting will generally follow the new section of pathway to provide shade for people using the path in the future.

As part of the Alexandra Rotary Park and Visitor Activity Precinct Project, we will use funding to install improved lighting in the area, allowing users to feel safe when enjoying the Precinct after dark. We'll also upgrade the gravel carpark on Downey Street in Alexandra to create a more formal carpark area for residents and visitors to use when accessing the Precinct.

Reinforcing our commitment to taking action on climate change, we'll install new electric vehicle (EV) charging stations in the township of Alexandra.

With the recent morning frosts, I doubt anyone is thinking about a dip at one of our local pools. However, once summer rolls around, the Yea Swimming Pool will be a sight for sore eyes, with a brand new swimming pool liner being installed.

Infrastructure and community facilities at the Yea Recreation Reserve will be receiving some upgrades, including the main entry from Snodgrass Street, the football pavilion building and the clubrooms. We're also making improvements to the tennis clubrooms on Spring Road in Terip-Terip.

The final elements of the Kinglake Streetscape Project will be delivered with funding from the LRCI Program. Once construction of the Kinglake Village is complete, we'll work with the developers to update the footpath and kerb interface and ensure the Streetscape Project works in nicely with the Village retail precinct.

Based on Council's Kinglake Ranges, Flowerdale and Toolangi – Plan and Design Framework, which was prepared in consultation with local communities and adopted by Council in 2015, it was determined that the suburbs of Pheasant Creek and Kinglake West need clearer identities to encourage visitation and localised development. One of the first steps we're taking to support these outcomes is to install township entry signs at three different entry points to signify the different suburbs.

We are very grateful to the Australian Government for this additional funding opportunity. These projects will have a significant impact on our community and the quality of life we all enjoy in Murrindindi Shire.

Due to illness this month I was limited in community participation activities and was disappointed to not attend many of the NAIDOC Week activities organised by the Yea Wetlands Discovery Centre. I was fortunate however to attend the weeks final presentation by Matthew Burns the CEO of the Taungurung Land and Waters Council. I would like to express my thanks to both the Yea Discovery Centre and Matthew Burns for his presentation 'Get up, stand up, show up – Treaty Talk'.

7.7 Cr Damien Gallagher

This month, members of the Alexandra and District Senior Citizens Club assembled for their AGM. The meeting commenced with the national anthem and the club song which declares those present "*all good pals, and jolly good company!*". The meeting acknowledged the good work of Treasurer, David Tanner who could not be present and the leadership of outgoing President Gai Smith, and Secretary, Phil Smith who are leaving the district. I was very honoured to be asked to chair the nominations proceedings which saw Jan Palloaro installed as the new President. The very close-knit *family* of senior citizens then moved on to the serious business of Bridge and Uno.

The annual Murrindindi Beanie and Fibre Festival added colour and warmth to Alexandra this past weekend with a showcase of local talent bringing the Alexandra Town Hall to life. Local street lights and the Grant Street rotunda too, received the Beanie-fest treatment. Rotary Club of Alexandra and Cindy McLeish were on hand to support the committee. Buxton Primary School served up some tasty treats. Congratulations to the committee for their creative cultural attraction again in 2022.

To portfolio and external committee matters

Of late, Murrindindi Shire Council officers have generously supported Council's aim to take briefings to all parts of the shire. On the fifth Wednesday of June, Cr. Carpenter chaired a briefing session in at the Kinglake Ranges Neighbourhood House. Community members shared their variety of interests with Council in a relaxed setting close to their home. On 31 August (that's the fifth Wednesday again), Council looks forward to hearing from the Eildon community at Eildon Primary School from 5PM to 7PM.

The Rubicon Outdoor School Council met in July to discuss Child Safety Policy and reporting obligations along with the school's Reconciliation Action Plan to Feb, 2023. Council also discussed its approach to advocacy and was united in seeking a Government commitment for every government school student to be supported to attend a funded outdoor school experience during the term of their schooling, along with housing strategy development to support workforce attraction and retention.

Shire Mayor, Cr. Carpenter and I attended a Ukrainian Youth Association Event in Buxton. It was a privilege to meet those displaced by the Ukrainian invasion and to see the dedicated members of our community giving such a uniquely Australian experience to children and their mothers whose fathers, husbands, brothers, and uncles are at home, defending their homeland. Nick Soloczynskij will brief Council in August on the value of the support from Council and from Council staff and local businesses in securing bedding and supplies for the visitors.

Early July saw the observance of NAIDOC Week at Yea Wetlands Discovery Centre. Aunty Angela Ten Buuren welcomed the community to county and again helped develop a packed program for the week. NAIDOC week culminated locally with a thoroughly illuminating presentation on *Treaty* from Matthew Burns, Taungurung Land and Waters Council CEO and First People's Assembly representative for the Metropolitan region. Matthew spoke of the importance of recognising sovereignty, and of the heinous Half-Caste Act, 1886 which gave rise to thousands of criminal charges being brought upon infant children for being Indigenous and in 'need of protection'. NAIDOC 2022 calls on all of us to make a genuine commitment to structural and cooperative reforms.

Finally

I applaud Yea Saleyards Committee of Management for their leadership on the Foot and Mouth Disease biosecurity risk. I also acknowledge Meat and Livestock Australia and Murrindindi Shire livestock agents for sharing awareness and for clearly informing producers on FMD detection and mitigation vigilance. Council has heard agriculture sector concerns regarding the risk to the local agricultural economy, and has advocated to federal and state agriculture ministers and department officials for meaningful border interventions. I welcome news this week of border sanitation mats for inbound passengers and additional screening measures for mail.

For more information on FMD, refer to: <https://www.agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity-trade/pests-diseases-weeds/animal/fmd>

For the sake of community wellbeing, I urge our community to acknowledge that the COVID-19 pandemic is far from over. Please give due consideration to health advice which includes getting vaccinated, maintaining good sensible hygiene, and practicing social distancing. While is it not

mandated, Victorian Health authorities recommend the wearing of masks when indoors or if experiencing cold or flu symptoms. Keep well, everyone.

7.8 Cr Sue Carpenter - Mayoral Report

I feel that this winter is particularly cold with many frosty mornings in recent weeks. Never the less the Councillors and I continue to be busy attending to the myriad of briefings and meetings that we have all become quite accustomed to.

NAIDOC week was held this month and many of us attended a Welcome to Country and session on cultural heritage, held at the Yea Wetlands Discovery Centre at the start of NAIDOC week. We were able to see many artifacts that have been discovered and developed an understanding of Cultural Heritage Management.

A treaty talk by Matt Burns, the CEO of the Taungurung Land and Waters Council gave us a great insight into the issues surrounding Reconciliation between our peoples and was a thought-provoking and fascinating end to the NAIDOC week celebrations.

I had the opportunity to meet with Minister Steven Dimopoulos MP, the new Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events who announced the Regional Tourism Investment Fund grant of \$3.5 million funding for the redevelopment of Thomas Marr and Walter Moore Reserves, as part of Council's 'Eildon Splash and Skate Park' project.

I was invited to attend the Victorian Top Tourism town awards. Rural towns were selected for the awards in several categories. Some of our towns could be future winners, encouraging increased visitation to our Shire.

Our Acting CEO and I met with Federal member Helen Haines and the Mayors and CEO's from within the seat of Indi for a Local Government Roundtable Forum. This was a great opportunity for us to present our issues and concerns directly to Helen. Many of our neighbouring shires share the same issues and it was a productive morning. It is pleasing to know that our Federal Member is keen to know what our issues are and what she can do to support the local government areas in her seat.

I continue to have weekly chats on UGFM radio on Saturday mornings and hope that listeners find my segment useful.

The Councillors gathered last week to assess our term so far. We looked at our successes and noted that we have all established ourselves in the role of Councillor and been able to make decisions that are the best for our community.

We reviewed what we have done, looked at what worked and where we might improve.

We discussed expectations we have of the Mayor, ourselves, the CEO and the Executives.

I believe that frank and open discussion will be of great benefit to us as we fulfil our roles, and I thank the Councillors for their commitment.

Finally I wish to thank Michael Chesworth for his role as Acting CEO while Livia Bonazzi took some well-earned leave after her first year at the helm.

7.9 Chief Executive Officer Report

COVID-19 Update

Victoria is seeing a significant increase in COVID cases and hospitalisations this winter due to the Omicron BA4 and BA5 subvariants, with new cases expected to peak in mid August. Whilst the

State Government is not mandating restrictions, it is strongly encouraging the community and employers to take every precaution to minimise the spread of COVID and influenza in order to protect our health workers and the most vulnerable in the community.

To this end we made the decision to ask our staff to again work from home if their roles support this, and it is safe and efficient to do so. It is anticipated this arrangement will be in place until late August. Our offices are still open, and all services are operating as normal. Council's customer service centres and public facilities remain open, and our staff are required to wear masks when indoors at our worksites. We also strongly encourage members of the public to wear masks when visiting our indoor facilities to minimise risk of virus spread during this current wave.

All our staff have had at least the first two COVID vaccinations and we continue to encourage our staff and all members of the community to be up to date with their third and recently announced fourth vaccinations if eligible.

Foot and Mouth Disease

In relation to the threat of foot and mouth disease, we are very concerned about the outbreak in Indonesia, including in the tourism destination of Bali. It is estimated that an outbreak in Australia could cost the country up to \$80 billion over the next decade and have a catastrophic impact on the livelihoods of many in rural communities like the Murrindindi Shire, whose economies are highly dependent on the cattle and livestock industry.

During this month we received a briefing from the Chair of the Yea Saleyards Committee who expressed the deep concern and apprehension felt by many local farmers with respect to the threat of this disease entering the country and whether enough was being done by the State and Federal Governments to prevent a local outbreak.

To this end, we sent letters to the State and Federal Agriculture and Tourism Ministers advocating for the strongest possible biosecurity measures to be implemented. We also sought the assistance of the MAV and Rural Councils Victoria to jointly advocate on behalf of our farmers when meeting with State and Federal government representatives and agencies. Our Yea Saleyards Coordinator is also receiving briefings from State Agricultural representatives on preparedness actions and contingency plans that can be put in place should the threat posed by F&M disease escalate.

Kinglake Community Meeting with Council

In late June council hosted an opportunity for members of the Kinglake Ranges communities to address Council on matters relevant to them. Although it was a very cold and wintery evening, we were very pleased with a strong turn out and many local issues were able to be canvassed and discussed. We are planning to hold similar sessions in coming months across the Shire with the next one scheduled for Eildon on the evening of Wednesday 31 August at the Primary School's multi purpose building. Any individuals or representatives of community groups are welcome to attend – we'll have more publicity on this in coming weeks.

Road conditions

We are at that time of year when the more frequent rain can have an impact on our unsealed road network. This at times can cause significant drainage issues and some deterioration of the road surface, including the emergence of more serious potholes. Unfortunately wet weather is not a good time to grade roads, due to the risk of creating very slippery and dangerous conditions, but we are making arrangements to deploy additional resources to ensure we can provide the best maintenance response for the prevailing conditions, as promptly as possible. I wish to take this opportunity to remind all our residents and visitors to always drive to the conditions and to take extra care in poorer weather when driving on unsealed roads.

8 ASSEMBLIES OF COUNCILLORS

Purpose

For noting.

Executive Summary

This report presents the records of assemblies of Councillors for 22 June 2022 to 20 July 2022, for Council to note.

The following summary details are for 22 June 2022 to 20 July 2022:

Meeting Name/Type	Council Pre-Meet
Meeting Date:	22 June 2022
Matters Discussed:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Planning Application - 61 Acheron Road, Acheron - Use and Development of the Land for a Dwelling 2. Murrindindi Shire Council 10 Year Asset Plan (LGA2020) - For adoption 3. Councillor nomination for Local Government State-wide Waste Forum 4. Contract 22/1 - Great Victorian Rail Trail Art Installations Project 5. Grants and Contributions Program - June Allocations 6. 2022/23 Annual Budget 7. Priority Action Plan 2022-23
Councillor Attendees:	Cr S Carpenter, Cr D Gallagher, Cr K Haslam, Cr E Lording, Cr S McAulay, Cr J Walsh, Cr I Gerencser
Council Officer Attendees:	L Bonazzi, M Chesworth, S Murphy, V Albicini, T Carter, N Stewart, C Fraser, N Grey, D Echeverry
Conflict of Interest Disclosures:	Nil

Meeting Name/Type	Briefing Session & Open Community Meeting
Meeting Date:	29 June 2022
Matters Discussed:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Friends of Frank Thomson Reserve 2. Library Review and Draft Strategy and Action Plan 2022-2026 3. Open Community Meeting from 4:00pm
Councillor Attendees:	Cr S Carpenter, Cr D Gallagher, Cr K Haslam, Cr J Walsh, Cr I Gerencser
Council Officer Attendees:	M Chesworth, S Murphy, V Albicini, T Carter, D Echeverry, J Rabel, C Ramsden, C Fraser
Conflict of Interest Disclosures:	Nil

Meeting Name/Type	Briefing Session
Meeting Date:	6 July 2022
Matters Discussed:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Yea Saleyards Strategy and Business Plan 2022-2032 2. Flat Lead Road Farm Forestry Update & Timing
Councillor Attendees:	Cr S Carpenter, Cr D Gallagher, Cr K Haslam, Cr S McAulay (V), Cr J Walsh, Cr I Gerencser
Council Officer Attendees:	M Chesworth, S Murphy, V Albicini, S Russell, L Elward, L Harrison
Conflict of Interest Disclosures:	Nil

Meeting Name/Type	Briefing Session
Meeting Date:	13 July 2022
Matters Discussed:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Kinglake Village & Streetscape integration plan 2. Proposed Council Road Discontinuance – Part of Hull Road, Marysville 3. Child Safe & Wellbeing Policy update 4. Planning –Facts about planning #2
Councillor Attendees:	Cr S Carpenter, Cr D Gallagher, Cr K Haslam, Cr E Lording, Cr S McAulay, Cr J Walsh, Cr I Gerencser
Council Officer Attendees:	M Chesworth, S Murphy, V Albicini, L Harrison, B Scott, S Coller, S Porter, C Fraser, N Stewart, G Taylor (V)
Conflict of Interest Disclosures: Nil	

Meeting Name/Type	Briefing Session			
Meeting Date:	20 July 2022			
Matters Discussed:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Free from Violence Local Government Program 2. Development Services - Planning Report June 2022 3. Murrindindi Forestry Plan - update by State Government 4. Draft Climate Change Policy 5. Capital Works Monthly Report 6. Blue Gums To Eildon Recreational Trail Contract Award 7. CONT22/4 Provision of Street Sweeping Services 8. Grants and Contributions Program - July Allocations 			
Councillor Attendees:	Cr S Carpenter, Cr D Gallagher, Cr K Haslam, Cr E Lording, Cr S McAulay, Cr J Walsh, Cr I Gerencser			
Council Officer Attendees:	M Chesworth, S Murphy, V Albicini, L Harrison (V), B Scott, S Coller (V), N Carter (V), C Fraser (V), N Stewart (V), S Russell, M Spinks (V), P Dundas (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?
8	Cr J Walsh	No	Yes	Before
8	Cr S McAulay	No	Yes	Before
8	Cr K Haslam	No	Yes	Before

RESOLUTION

Cr J Walsh / Cr I Gerencser
That Council receive and note the records of assembly of Councillors for 20 June 2022 to 22 July 2022.

CARRIED

The meeting was closed at 7:09pm.

CONFIRMED THIS



CHAIRPERSON Cr S Carpenter