



Scheduled Meeting of Council

Agenda

Wednesday 23 April 2025
Yea Council Chambers
15 The Semi Circle
6:00 PM

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1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY AND COUNCILLORS' PLEDGE

1.1 Acknowledgement of Country

The meeting will be 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

Nil.

2.3 Disclosure of Interest or Conflict of Interest

In accordance with section 130 (1)(a) of the *Local Government Act 2020* Councillors are required to disclose any “conflict of interest” in respect of a matter to be considered at a Council Meeting.

Disclosure must occur immediately before the matter is considered or discussed.

2.4 Confirmation of Minutes

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 26 March 2025.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council confirm the minutes of the 26 March 2025, Council Meeting.

2.5 Petitions

Petitions received will be tabled at the Scheduled Meeting of Council.

2.6 Community Recognition

Council may suspend standing orders to thank and acknowledge particular community achievements.

2.7 Matters Deferred from Previous Meeting

Council may resolve to defer a matter to a future meeting for consideration for various reasons. Where a matter has been previously deferred it will be tabled for consideration under this section.

2.8 Urgent Business

Council may by resolution admit an item of urgent business only if:

- a. it relates to or arises out of a matter which has arisen since distribution of the Agenda; and
- b. deferring the item until the next Meeting will mean a decision on the item will not have any effect on the matter; or
- c. the item involves a matter of urgency as determined by the Chief Executive Officer; and
- d. it cannot be addressed through an operational service request process.
- e. Provided the matter does not:
 - I. substantially affect the levels of Council service
 - II. commit Council to significant expenditure not included in the adopted budget
 - III. establish or amend Council Policy.

3 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

3.1 Open Forum

Section 8 of the *Governance Rules 2020* allows for Community Participation in Council Meetings. Open Forum is an opportunity for the general public to present to Council on a matter listed on the Agenda or any other matter.

3.2 Questions of Council

Questions of Council are an opportunity for the general public to submit a question prior to the Scheduled Meeting and receive a response from Council in the Questions of Council time.

4 REPORTS - COMMUNITY & DEVELOPMENT GROUP

Nil.

5 REPORTS - PEOPLE & CORPORATE PERFORMANCE GROUP

5.1 Councillor Induction Program

Department	People & Corporate Performance
Approved by	M Chesworth, Director People and Corporate Performance
Presenter	Cr P Hilderbrand
Portfolio	Integrity, Finance, and Resilience
Purpose	For Noting
Attachment(s)	Nil

Executive Summary

The *Local Government Amendment (Governance and Integrity) Act 2024* introduced new induction training requirements for Councillors, and specific training requirements for the Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

The Mayor and Deputy Mayor completed the required mayoral induction training on 12 and 13 December 2024, well ahead of the statutory deadline of 20 December 2024. All Councillors completed their induction training on 5 February 2025, well ahead of the statutory deadline of 13 March 2025.

The Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillors have all signed declarations before the CEO confirming that they have completed the required induction training in accordance with the requirements of the Act.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council note that the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillors have signed declarations before the Chief Executive Officer confirming that they have completed the required induction training in accordance with the *Local Government Amendment (Governance and Integrity) Act*.

Background

The *Local Government Amendment (Governance and Integrity) Act 2024* (the Act) and Regulations 2024 introduced new induction training requirements for Councillors, Mayor and Deputy Mayor and set mandatory timeframes. The Local Government Inspectorate is responsible for ensuring compliance with these requirements.

Discussion

The Mayor and Deputy Mayor induction training must be completed within one month of their appointment in accordance with Section 27a of the Act (i.e. by 20 December 2024). The Regulations require the Mayor/Deputy Mayor induction training to cover:

- roles and responsibilities
- chairing meetings
- engagement and advocacy
- leadership.

All Councillors are required to complete Councillor induction training within 4 months of taking their oath/affirmation in accordance with Section 32 of the Act (i.e. by 13 March 2025). The Regulations require the Councillor induction process to cover the following areas:

- working together in a Council
- decision making, integrity and accountability
- community representation
- strategic planning and financial management
- conduct
- land use planning.

On 9 April 2025, the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillors signed declarations before the Council's Chief Executive Officer confirming that they had completed the required induction training in accordance with the requirements of 27A(4) and 32(3).

Council Plan/Strategies/Policies

This report supports the Council Plan 2021-2025 Transparency, Inclusion and Accountability strategy to “maintain transparent, inclusive and accountable governance practices”.

Relevant Legislation

The Act and Regulations 2024 introduced new induction training requirements for Councillors and set mandatory timeframes.

Financial and Risk Implications

Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillor induction training has been funded from existing budget allocations for Councillor training and development in accordance with the Councillor Expenses and Support Policy.

Conflict of Interest

There were no conflicts of interest declared by Council officers in relation to the matters contained in this report.

Community, Stakeholder and Communication Consultation

External community or stakeholder consultation was not applicable.

5.2 Council Plan Priority Action Plan - Quarterly Progress Report

Department	Governance and Risk
Approved by	M Chesworth, Director People and Corporate Performance
Presenter	Cr P Hildebrand
Portfolio	Integrity, Finance and Resilience
Purpose	For Noting
Attachment(s)	1. Attachment 1 - Council Plan Priority Action Plan Quarterly Report - Q 3 - Jan to Mar 2025 v 2 [5.2.1 - 40 pages]

Executive Summary

Each year the Council creates a Priority Action Plan to guide the implementation of the 4 year Council Plan.

The Priority Action Plan for this financial year was approved on 26 June 2024. This item provides a progress report covering the third quarter of the year from January to March 2025.

There are 68 actions in total:

- 66 of them are going well and are on track
- 1 has been temporarily delayed and is being monitored, and
- 1 has been postponed due to budget constraints.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council note the progress report for the Priority Action Plan for the March quarter 2025, provided in Attachment 5.2.1.

Background

The Council Plan is a key document for our local community as it outlines the strategic directions and priorities to achieve the aspirations set out in the Murrindindi 10-year Community Vision over the four-year period and guides the allocation of resources.

Council adopted the Council Plan 2021-2025 at the 27 October 2021 Scheduled Meeting, after collaboration between Council and the Murrindindi Shire community. The Council Plan has five strategic directions:

- Resilient Communities
- Beautiful Townships and Rural Settings
- Growth and Opportunity
- Our Protected Environment
- Transparency, Inclusion and Accountability.

The Council Plan is supported by an annual Priority Action Plan. The Priority Action Plan 2023/2024 was adopted by Council on 26 June 2024 and outlines the actions required to progress Council's strategic directions.

Discussion

Resilient Communities – 16 actions on track

- We supported 15 successful applications under the Grants and Sponsorship program to a value of \$31,141. Year to date a total of 60 applications valued \$127,254 have been supported.
- We continued building relationships with the Taungurung Land and Waters Council by co-hosting the Local Government forum in Murrindindi, supporting efficient collaboration and priority setting across Taungurung Country.
- We received 46 nominations for the community awards to be celebrated during National Volunteers Week between 19 to 25 May 2025.
- We supported the Kinglake Ranges Community Planning Working Group, to design an engagement program. We arranged a community planning dinner in Molesworth with 60 community members attending, where four priorities actions were identified.

Beautiful Townships and Rural Settings – 12 actions on track

- We officially opened Baanh ba Djila, with the Hon. Jaclyn Symes, MP, marking the completion of the Eildon Reserves Redevelopment project.
- We secured funding and project management support for the Yea Structure Plan through the Regional Planning Hub – Support for Flood-affected Councils Program.
- We successfully advocated for the Department of Transport and Planning to improve safety on Gould Memorial Drive, Marysville, in preparation for the busy autumn tourist season.
- We partnered with the community to provide feedback to the Department of Transport and Planning on the timing and planned road closures to repair the Melba Highway and the location of flood warning signs between Molesworth and Cathkin.

Growth and Opportunity – 7 actions on track

- We continued implementing the Economic Development Strategy including:
 - The 'All Things Business' events at Kinglake
 - The Co-op Curious - Food and Farming in Murrindindi Workshop
 - 5 Good Governance Workshops · Secrets of Grant Writing Success Workshop
 - Development and roll-out of ag-business resources
 - Promotion of Goulburn Murray Solar Savers program
 - Commenced Yea Structure Plan community engagement
 - Commenced Alexandra East Development Plan community engagement.

Our Protected Environment. – 18 on track, 1 currently in delay and being monitored

- We continued to roll out the four-bin kerbside service model. The new collection contractor took delivery of the new bins which are starting to be delivered across the shire.
- We provided communications and information to help residents prepare for the new four-bin service including the development of hard copy brochures, a letter to all residents and online education material.
- We partnered with six neighbouring councils in the Goulburn Murray Solar Savers Program to provide Murrindindi residents and businesses with access to discounted prices for solar panels and efficient hot water systems.
- We were successful in advocacy to obtain funding for the Yea Flood Study.

Transparency, Inclusion and Accountability – 13 actions on track, 1 action on-hold, as not funded

- The Big Conversation engagement was rolled out in February and March 2025 to enable community input into the new Council Plan 2025-2029 which is now under development. The

engagement involved five community workshops, pop-up kiosks, targeted sessions, and a survey with 150 responses.

- We continued to collaborate with Mansfield, Strathbogie and Benalla Councils to implement new business systems for finance, property, rates, customer, payroll, records management, planning, building and regulatory services.
- We successfully completed the Councillor Induction Program during the quarter.
- We met with state and federal ministers and key agency leaders to raise concerns about water security, housing support, outdoor recreation planning, mobile coverage, and emergency preparedness.

Council Plan/Strategies/Policies

This report supports the Council Plan 2021-2025 Transparency, Inclusion and Accountability strategy to “maintain transparent, inclusive and accountable governance practices”.

Relevant Legislation

The Council Plan is required under section 90 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, and the Mayor must report to the Shire, at least once annually, on the implementation of the Council Plan (s.18(d)).

Financial and Risk Implications

The *Council Plan 2021-2025* has been prepared to ensure the implications of Council's longer term financial and strategic risks are mitigated. The Council Plan initiatives and priorities for services, infrastructure, and amenity are reflected in the Priority Action Plan and the 2024/25 Annual Budget.

Conflict of Interest

There were no conflicts of interest declared by Council officers in relation to the matters contained in this report.

Community, Stakeholder and Communication Consultation

As part of the development of the Council Plan 2021-2025 an extensive deliberative engagement process was undertaken.

6 REPORTS - ASSETS & ENVIRONMENT GROUP

6.1 CONT24/3 Landfill Environmental Monitoring Tender

Department	Environmental Sustainability
Approved by	P Bain, Acting Director Assets & Environment
Presenter	Cr S Carpenter
Portfolio	Sustainability and Assets
Purpose	For Decision
Attachment(s)	1. CONFIDENTIAL REDACTED - Confidential Attachment 1 - CONT24 3 Landfill Environmental Monitoring Tender [6.1.1 - 4 pages]

Executive Summary

This report recommends the award of the contract to undertake environmental monitoring activities and compliance reporting for up to 5 years to support the operation of the Alexandra Landfill and to meet Council's general environmental duty in relation to closed landfill sites.

The Alexandra Landfill is operated under approval from the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) via operating licence OL000012039. A key requirement of this licence is to have in place an environmental monitoring program which demonstrates that the operation of the landfill has a minimum impact on the environment and human health. Council also undertakes environmental monitoring at several closed landfills as part of Council's General Environmental Duty, and to comply with the aftercare plans where these are in place.

Council contracts external consultants to undertake the environmental monitoring activities, send samples to be laboratory tested and to prepare compliance reports. Reports for the Alexandra Landfill are reviewed annually by EPA to ascertain licence compliance.

A public tender was conducted for the works which closed on 29 November 2024. Ten submissions were received at the close of tender. This report, along with the confidential attachment, outlines the procurement and evaluation process undertaken to appoint a suitable consultant for Contract 24/3 - Landfill Environmental Monitoring. Note that no local firms tendered for these services.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Award Contract 24/3 Landfill Environmental Monitoring to Tenderer 1 on a schedule of rates contract with a maximum spend of \$367,837.
2. Release the name of the successful Tender into the Minutes of the 23 April 2025 Scheduled Meeting of Council.

Background

The Risk Management and Monitoring Plan for the Alexandra Landfill requires that Council undertake two annual rounds of environmental monitoring which seek to confirm that the

operation of the landfill has no impact on surface water, groundwater and the air through a program of on-site assessment, sampling and laboratory analysis.

Council also has several closed landfill sites located at Kinglake, Flowerdale, Yea, Alexandra and Eildon. Most have operating Resource Recovery Centres located on top of the old landfill. All sites have some monitoring bores in place, and environmental monitoring is undertaken as part of Council's General Environmental Duty, and to comply with the aftercare plans where these are in place.

Council engages external consultants to undertake the environmental monitoring activities, send samples to be laboratory tested and to prepare compliance reports. Reports for the Alexandra Landfill are reviewed annually by EPA to ascertain licence compliance.

The scope of services for the monitoring contract includes provision of ad-hoc consulting advice related to environmental monitoring or relevant document preparation that may be required as a result of the annual audit process, EPA inspections or other operational requirements.

Discussion

The previous contract for Environmental Monitoring Services has expired and this tender seeks to appoint a new contractor for these services for a period of three years with two optional one-year extensions.

The tender was advertised on Council's online procurement portal from 11 – 29 November 2024. There were ten submissions received at the close of tender.

In accordance with Council's Procurement Policy a tender evaluation team was formed to evaluate the submissions. The tender evaluation team members firstly independently assessed the tender submissions to determine if they conformed with the requirements. Following the review of the documentation all tenders were deemed conforming and proceeded to full evaluation.

Based on the evaluation the panel recommends that Tenderer 1 be awarded Contract CONT24/3 for the Landfill Environmental Monitoring Services.

Council Plan/Strategies/Policies

This report supports the *Council Plan 2021-2025 Our Protected Environment* strategy "minimise waste and increase recycling to reduce our environmental footprint".

Relevant Legislation

The procurement process for these works was carried out in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020* (section 101; Financial Management Principles, and Section 109: Procurement) and with Council's Procurement Policy.

The proposed services are to be engaged to satisfy the requirements of the *Environment Protection Act 2021* in relation to the operation of the Alexandra Landfill and for Council to meet its General Environmental Duty under the Act.

Financial and Risk Implications

The ongoing cost of these services has been modelled into the Alexandra Landfill Cost Model which informs the setting of charges for landfill services.

Conflict of Interest

There were no conflicts of interest declared by Council officers in relation to the matters contained in this report.

Community, Stakeholder and Communication Consultation

External community or stakeholder consultation was not required.

7 COUNCILLOR AND CEO REPORTS

7.1 Notices of Motions

7.2 Cr Jodie Adams

7.3 Cr Sue Carpenter

7.4 Cr Sandice McAulay

7.5 Cr Eric Lording

7.6 Cr Paul Hildebrand

7.7 Cr Anita Carr

7.8 Cr Damien Gallagher

7.9 Chief Executive Officer Report

8 RECORD OF COUNCIL BRIEFING SESSIONS

Purpose: For noting.

Executive Summary

This report presents the records of Council Briefing Sessions for 26 March 2025 to 23 April 2025, for Council to note.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and note the records of Council Briefing Sessions for 26 March 2025 to 23 April 2025.

Background

The Governance Rules adopted by Council at its 24 August 2022 meeting sets the order of

business for scheduled meetings. As part of section 7.2.1 “Record of Council Briefing Sessions” is listed as to be included in the order of business.

Discussion

The purpose of keeping a record of Council Briefing Sessions is so that the content of the Briefing Session, the attendance and any declared conflicts of interest are recorded in a formal document. Council is making every effort to ensure that it is transparent in the content of Briefing Sessions and any conflicts of interest, therefore the formal record is presented for noting as part of the Scheduled Meeting Agenda.

The following summary details are for 26 March 2025 to 23 April 2025.

Meeting Name/Type	Council Pre-Meet
Meeting Date:	26 March 2025
Matters Discussed:	1. Delegations - Council endorsement - 3 separate reports 2. Audit and Risk Committee Confirmation of Minutes 3. Audit and Risk Committee Biannual Report 4. CONT24/25 - Wilhelmina Falls Road Reconstruction & Sealing contract award 5. CONT24/16 - ARGN 1037 October 2022 Flood Recovery - Snobs Creek Rd Landslip
Councillor Attendees:	Cr D Gallagher, Cr A Carr, Cr S McAulay, Cr J Adams, Cr E Lording, Cr S Carpenter, Cr P Hildebrand
Council Officer Attendees	L Bonazzi, M Chesworth, C Lintott, A Paxton, A Vogt, S Schinck, P Bain, S Russell.
Conflict of Interest Disclosures:	Nil

Meeting Name/Type	Briefing Session
Meeting Date:	2 April 2025
Matters Discussed:	1. Parks Victoria - Charlie Bisset 2. Be Power 3. Advocacy Priorities - James Trenery - Liberal Candidate for Indi 4. Saleyards 1/2 yearly report and Allied Health Services report 5. Council Plan Development Workshop 6. Draft Budget 2025/26 - Financial Statements 7. Councillor Induction Training - Confirmation of completion
Councillor Attendees:	Cr D Gallagher, Cr A Carr, Cr S McAulay, Cr J Adams (virtual), Cr S Carpenter, Cr P Hildebrand
Council Officer Attendees	L Bonazzi, M Chesworth, A Paxton, C Lintott, L Elward, M Hill, J Beer, N Rongong, A Vogt
Conflict of Interest Disclosures:	Nil

Meeting Name/Type	Briefing Session
Meeting Date:	9 April 2025
Matters Discussed:	1. Advocacy Priorities - Helen Haines – Federal Member for Indi 2. Kinglake Friends of the Forest Presentation

	3. Waste and Recycling Budget 4. CONT24/3 – Landfill Environmental Services Contract Award
Councillor Attendees:	Cr D Gallagher, Cr A Carr, Cr S McAulay, Cr E Lording, Cr S Carpenter, Cr P Hildebrand
Council Officer Attendees	L Bonazzi, M Chesworth, A Paxton, P Bain, T Herd, J Russell
Conflict of Interest Disclosures: Nil	

Meeting Name/Type	Briefing Session
Meeting Date:	16 April 2025
Matters Discussed:	1. Council Plan Development Workshop 2. Council Plan Priority Action Plan Q3 (Jan to March) 3. Councillor Professional Development Plan - Draft
Councillor Attendees:	Cr D Gallagher, Cr A Carr, Cr S McAulay, Cr E Lording, Cr J Adams, Cr S Carpenter, Cr P Hildebrand
Council Officer Attendees	L Bonazzi, M Chesworth, A Paxton, P Bain, A Vogt
Conflict of Interest Disclosures: Nil	

Council Plan/Strategies/Policies

This matter is consistent with the *Council Plan 2021-2025 Transparency, Inclusion and Accountability* strategy to “maintain transparent, inclusive and accountable governance practices”.

Relevant Legislation

This report supports the *Local Government Act 2020* overarching governance principles, in particular “the transparency of Council decisions, actions and information is to be ensured”.

Financial Implications and Risk

There are no financial or risk implications.

Conflict of Interest

Any conflicts of interest are noted in the records of Council Briefing Sessions tables listed above.

9 SEALING REGISTER

Nil.

10 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

Nil.