



Yarriambiack
SHIRE COUNCIL

Minutes

Ordinary Meeting of Council

27 SEPTEMBER 1, 2023
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
34 Lyle Street, Warracknabeal

We acknowledge that the activities of Yarriambiack Shire Council are being held under the traditional skies and in the waterways and lands of the Wotjobaluk, Jaadwa, Jadawadjali, Wergaia and Jupagulk people.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC MAY VIEW THE MEETING VIRTUALLY VIA THE LIVESTREAM

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OUR VISION

A connected rural community who values its land and wellbeing.

We will achieve this vision through:

- ✓ Supporting agriculture
- ✓ Strengthening business and tourism
- ✓ Staying connected through infrastructure
- ✓ Being a supportive Council
- ✓ Looking after our communities
- ✓ Being environmentally friendly

CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

We drive continuous and sustainable improvement in service provision, operational efficiency, and stakeholder relations to create a leading organisation.

LIVE STREAMING

Council meetings will now be live streamed to allow those interested in viewing proceedings greater access to Council decisions and debate without attending the meeting in person.

1 WELCOME

2 STREAMING PREAMBLE

As the meeting Chair, I give my consent for this Open Council Meeting to be streamed live, recorded and published online.

Anyone who is invited to read out a question as part of item 13 – Public Questions will be recorded and their voice, image and comments will form part of the livestream and recording.

Anyone who submits a question as part of item 13 – Public Questions will have their name stated and recorded as part of the livestreaming and recording.

The Chair and/or the Chief Executive Officer have the discretion and authority at any time to direct the termination or interruption of livestreaming. Such direction will only be given in exceptional circumstances, where deemed relevant. Circumstances may include instances where the content of debate is considered misleading, defamatory, or potentially inappropriate to be published.

The stream will stop prior to the closed section of the meeting.

The public can view this livestream via Council's YouTube Channel, with the link available via Council's website. The recording of Council Meetings will be available for viewing until the next scheduled Council Meeting.

Should technical issues prevent the continuation of the stream, the meeting will be adjourned until the issue is resolved or the meeting will be postponed to another time and date in accordance with Council's meeting procedures and Governance Rules.

Confirmation that Councillors in the Chambers can see and hear Councillor Kirk and that Councillor Kirk can see and hear Councillors in the Chambers.

3 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND PRAYER

Mayor K Zanker to open the meeting at 9:30am by acknowledging the Indigenous Community and offering the opening prayer.

3.1 ACKNOWLEDGING TRADITIONAL OWNERS OF THE LAND

'We acknowledge that the activities of Yarriambiack Shire Council are held under the traditional skies and in the waterways and lands of the Wotjobaluk, Jaadwa, Jadawadjali, Wergaia and Jupagulk people, and we pay respects to their Elders, past, present and emerging'.

3.2 PRAYER

Almighty God, without whom no Council can stand, nor anything prosper we ask that you be present and guide us in our deliberations today. We pray that we will be fair in our judgements and wise in our actions and that decisions will be made with goodwill and a clear conscience for the betterment and welfare of the people of Yarriambiack Shire.

Amen

4 PRESENT

Mayor	Kylie Zanker	Warracknabeal Ward	In person
Councillor	Andrew McLean	Hopetoun Ward	In person
Councillor	Tom Hamilton	Dunmunkle Ward	In person
Councillor	Graeme Massey	Warracknabeal Ward	In person
Councillor	Chris Lehmann	Hopetoun Ward	In person
Councillor	Corinne Heintze	Dunmunkle Ward	In person
Councillor	Karly Kirk	Warracknabeal Ward	Online

Council Officer	Tammy Smith	Chief Executive Officer	In person
Council Officer	Belinda Penny	Governance Officer	In person
Council Officer	Gavin Blinman	Director, Special Projects	In person
Council Officer	Anita McFarlane	Manager Corporate Services	In person
Council Officer	Adam Moar	Manager Development and Environmental Services	In Person
Council Officer	Sarah Collins	Manager Community Strengthening and Engagement	In person
Council Officer	Joel Turner	Manager Infrastructure and Works	In person

5 APOLOGIES OR REQUEST FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Name / Role	Description of Leave / Absence
Tony Caccaviello, Chief Operating Officer	Apology - On Leave

6 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

6.1 MINUTES 23 AUGUST 2023 – ORDINARY MEETING

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 23 August 2023 be taken as an accurate record and confirmed.

Recommended Motion:

That the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 23 August 2023, as circulated be taken as read and confirmed.

Resolution:

Moved Cr T Hamilton Seconded Cr C Heintze

That the recommendation be adopted

Carried

6.2 MINUTES 23 AUGUST 2023 – CLOSED (CONFIDENTIAL) MEETING

Minutes of the Closed (Confidential) Meeting of Council held on 23 August 2023 be taken as an accurate record and confirmed.

Recommended Motion:

That the minutes of the Closed (Confidential) Council Meeting of Council held on 23 August 2023, as circulated, be taken as read and confirmed.

Resolution:

Moved Cr G Massey Seconded Cr C Heintze

That the recommendation be adopted

Carried

6.3 MINUTES 13 SEPTEMBER 2023 – UNSCHEDULED CLOSED (CONFIDENTIAL) MEETING

Minutes of the Closed Unscheduled (Confidential) Meeting of Council held on 13 September 2023 be taken as an accurate record and confirmed.

Recommended Motion:

That the minutes of the Closed (Confidential) Council Meeting of Council held on 13 September 2023, as circulated, be taken as read and confirmed.

Resolution:

Moved Cr T Hamilton Seconded Cr G Massey

That the recommendation be adopted

Carried

7 DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Pursuant to Division 2 – Conflict of Interest, of the *Local Government Act 2020* general and material conflict of interest must be declared prior to debate on specific items within the agenda; or in writing to the Chief Executive Officer before the meeting.

A Councillor who has declared a conflict of interest in respect of a matter must:

- a) Disclose the conflict of interest in the manner required by the Yarriambiack Shire Council Governance Rules.
- b) Exclude themselves from the decision-making process in relation to that matter, including any discussion or votes on the matter at any Council meeting or delegated committee, and any action in relation to the matter.

General conflict of interest is if a relevant person has an interest in a matter if an impartial, fair-minded person would consider that the person's private interests could result in that person acting in a manner that is contrary to their public duty

- a) *Private interests* mean any direct or indirect interest of a relevant person that does not derive from their public duty and does not include an interest that is only a matter of personal opinion or belief.
- b) *Public duty* means the responsibilities and obligations that a relevant person has to members of the public in their role as a relevant person.

Material conflict of interest is if a relevant person has an interest in respect of a matter if an affected person would gain a benefit or suffer a loss depending on the outcome of the matter

- a) The benefit or loss incurred may be directly or indirectly

OR

- b) In a pecuniary or non-pecuniary form.

Councillors are also encouraged to declare circumstances where there may be a perceived conflict of interest.

7.1 CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARED

Conflict Declared by	Agenda Item	Reason - Explanation

8 BUSINESS ARISING

8.1 BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

Nil

8.2 ONGOING AND PENDING ACTION LIST

Council Meeting	Recommendation Action	Action Taken
28 September 2022	Council to undertake a recycling collection service survey in October 2023	Task added to the Council Meeting and Forum Agenda Planner 2023.
23 November 2022 Item 15.2	Request to install wombat crossing in Scott Street, Warracknabeal.	<p>Council to commence applying for funding opportunities to pay for the installation of the crossing.</p> <p>Revisit proposal in 12 months' time (November 2023) if Council has been unsuccessful in securing funding.</p> <p>Council currently has a TAC application submitted for wombat crossing funding. We are awaiting outcome.</p>
26 April 2023 Item 17.2	Commence public notice period to receive community feedback regarding the closure and discontinuation of Hobson Street, Rupanyup.	<p>Commence Public Notice in accordance with legislative requirements.</p> <p>If no objections received, Hobson Street, Rupanyup is to be removed from Council's Road Register.</p> <p>Gazettal notice to close, discontinue Hobson Street Rupanyup was published in G23, on 08 June 2023.</p>
26 July 2023 Item 15.7	Update on status of the Rabl Park Bridges to be provided at the next Council meeting.	<p>Item 15.9 Rabl Park Bridges Update Report included in the Agenda 23 August 2023.</p> <p>Item 16.3 Rabl Park Bridges Update Report included in this Agenda.</p>

9 PETITIONS

Nil

10 CORRESPONDENCE

Outgoing		
Date	Recipient	Details
13/09/23	Minyip and District Field and Game	Letter of Support for Grant Application
11/09/23	OwnWords	Letter of Support – Local Recovery Fund Activities 2023-25. Connect Job Seekers to employers in Yarriambiack Shire through the OwnWords platform.
30/08/23	West Vic Business	Letter of Support – Strengthening Rural Communities – Small and Vital Grant Application

Incoming		
Date	Sender	Details
22/08/23	Country Women's Association of Victoria, Willenabrina Branch	Letter requesting a defibrillator machine be installed in the Warracknabeal Senior Citizens Building.

11 SPECIAL COMMITTEES

11.1 Audit and Risk Committee Meeting

Audit and Risk Committee Meeting was held 25 September 2023 at Warracknabeal.

Draft minutes, please refer to the attachment in item 15.2 – Draft Financial Statements and Performance Statement for year end 30 June 2023

The proposed scheduled meeting program is as follows for the next 12 months for the Audit and Risk Committee:

Date	Description
Monday 17 July 2023	Ordinary Meeting
Monday 25 September 2023	Special Meeting – Financial Statements
Monday 16 October 2023	Ordinary Meeting
Monday 19 February 2024	Ordinary Meeting

12 ACTIVITY REPORTS

12.1 MAYOR ACTIVITY REPORT – SEPTEMBER 2023

Mayor Kylie Zanker – Warracknabeal Ward		
Date	Activity	Location
24/08/2023	Rural Business and Community Meeting (formerly Rural Financial Counselling Services Southern Mallee)	Online
25/08/2023	Western Highway Action Committee Meeting	Online
27/08/2023	Attended opening of Woomelang Bowls new greens with Councillor McLean	Woomelang
28/08/2023	With CEO, Tammy Smith, Sarah Collins Manager Community Strengthening and Engagement, and Tom Huf Community and Economic Development Officer, the Hopetoun Community Action Plan and Progress Association relaunch Meeting	Hopetoun
13/09/2023	Mayor – CEO catch up	Phone
15/09/2023	Mayor – CEO catch up	Phone
22/09/2023	Mayor – CEO catch up	Phone
24/09/2023	Attended as guest speaker at Royal Flying Doctor Service fundraiser hosted by retiring board member Robyn Lardner	Minyip

12.2 COUNCILLOR ACTIVITY REPORTS – SEPTEMBER 2023

Cr Andrew McLean – Hopetoun Ward		
Date	Activity	Location
27/08/2023	Attended opening of Woomelang Bowls new greens with Mayor Zanker	Woomelang
06/09/23	Jacinta Ermacora Member of the Victorian Legislative Council, Member for Western Victoria, visit to Murtoa opening of Pump Track	Murtoa
13/09/2023	Council Forum and Unscheduled Closed Meeting	Warracknabeal
22/09/2023	Open Art show at the Hopetoun Powerhouse	Hopetoun

Cr Tom Hamilton – Dunmunkle Ward		
Date	Activity	Location
06/09/23	Jacinta Ermacora Member of the Victorian Legislative Council, Member for Western Victoria, visit to Murtoa opening of Pump Track	Murtoa
11/09/2023	Attended Rupanyup Progress Meeting	Rupanyup
13/09/2023	Council Forum and Unscheduled Closed Meeting	Warracknabeal
14/09/2023	Attended Murtoa Stick Shed Meeting	Murtoa
18/09/2023	Attended Murtoa Big Weekend Meeting	Murtoa
19/09/2023	Attended Murtoa Progress AGM	Murtoa

Cr Graeme Massey – Warracknabeal Ward		
Date	Activity	Location
29/08/2023	Wimmera Mallee Tourism Meeting	Online
06/09/23	Jacinta Ermacora Member of the Victorian Legislative Council, Member for Western Victoria, visit to Murtoa opening of Pump Track	Murtoa
	Warracknabeal Information Centre Meeting	Warracknabeal
08/09/2023	Opening of Warracknabeal Education Precinct	Warracknabeal
09/09/2023	Opening of new Warracknabeal CFA Station	Warracknabeal
12/09/2023	Warracknabeal Action Group (WAG) AGM Meeting	Warracknabeal
13/09/2023	Council Forum and Unscheduled Closed Meeting	Warracknabeal

Cr Chris Lehmann – Hopetoun Ward		
Date	Activity	Location
27/08/2023	Attended opening of Woomelang Bowls new greens with Mayor Zanker	Woomelang
26/09/2023	Rural Northwest Health Meeting	Beulah

Cr Corinne Heintze – Dunmunkle Ward		
Date	Activity	Location
29/08/2023	Yarrilinks Planning Day	
06/09/23	Jacinta Ermacora Member of the Victorian Legislative Council, Member for Western Victoria, visit to Murtoa Opening of Pump Track	Murtoa
10/09/2023	Wallup Hall 100 th year celebrations	Wallup
13/09/2023	Council Forum & Unscheduled Closed Session	Warracknabeal
14/09/2023	RU OK Walk	Warracknabeal

Cr Karly Kirk – Warracknabeal Ward		
Date	Activity	Location
13/09/23	Council Forum and Unscheduled Closed Session	Warracknabeal

12.3 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER ACTIVITY REPORT – SEPTEMBER 2023

Tammy Smith		
Date	Activity	Location
24/08/23	By Five Quarterly Steering Committee Meeting	Online
24/08/23	Best Start Best Life Reforms – meeting with Assistant Deputy Secretary, Kindergarten Expansion and Pre-Prep Division	Online
24/08/23	Department of Families, Fairness and Housing Community Partnership Meeting – Discuss Housing availability across the Shire and upcoming projects.	Online
25/08/23	Meeting with Haven Home Safe and White Foundation	Online
25/08/23	Rural Councils Victoria Committee Meeting – Councillor Code of Conduct and Sandon Special Report	Online
27/08/23	Woomelang Bowling Club New Green Opening with Mayor Zanker and Councillor McLean	Woomelang
28/08/23	Meeting with Mayor and Officers regarding planning for Hopetoun Community Meeting	Warracknabeal
30/08/23	Wimmera Southern Mallee Regional Partnership Connectivity Action Group Meeting	Online
31/08/23	Wimmera Southern Mallee Regional Partnership Visitor Economy Action Group Meeting	Online
31/08/23	Department of Transport and Planning – 10 Year Road Maintenance Strategy Presentation	Online
04/09/23	Meeting with Uniting Wimmera discuss Youth Programs	Online
04/09/23	Wimmera Southern Mallee Regional Partnership Workforce Action Group Meeting	Online
05/09/23	Rural Councils Victoria GIS and Aerial Photography Cost Increase Discussion	Online
05/09/23	Meeting with Dunmunkle Lodge	Warracknabeal
06/09/23	Jacinta Ermacora Member of the Victorian Legislative Council, Member for Western Victoria, visit to Murtoa Opening of Pump Track	Murtoa
07/09/23	Meeting at Livestock Exchange with Agents and Officers	Warracknabeal
07/09/23	Fire Station Opening Warracknabeal	Warracknabeal
11/09/23	Meeting with Wimmera Southern Mallee Development to discuss Housing	Horsham

12/09/23	Meeting with Stickshed Chairperson	Warracknabeal
12/09/23	Meeting with Woomelang Retirement Units Community Asset Committee members to discuss landscaping at Woomelang	Online
12/09/23	Warracknabeal Action Group Annual General Meeting	Warracknabeal
13/09/23	Council Forum	Warracknabeal
13/09/23	Meeting with Community Member regarding subdivision	Warracknabeal
13/09/23	Mayor and CEO catch up	Phone
14/09/23	Institute Public Professionals Australia (Victoria) Senior Executive Integrity and Leadership Program Welcome Session	Melbourne
14/09/23	Dr Nikki Vincent – Public Sector Gender Equality Commissioner Visit	Warracknabeal
15/09/23	Meeting with Rupanyup Future Fund Committee Members	Horsham
15/09/23	Mayor and CEO catch up	Phone
20/09/23	Institute Public Professionals Australia (Victoria) Senior Executive Integrity and Leadership Program Wave 1 Session	Melbourne
21/09/23	Institute Public Professionals Australia (Victoria) Senior Executive Integrity and Leadership Program Wave 1 Session	Melbourne
22/09/23	Community Transport Discussion with Neighbourhood House Chief Operating Officer and Rural Northwest Health	Online
22/09/23	Meeting with Regional Development Victoria and Stickshed Chairperson	Warracknabeal
22/09/23	Rural Councils Victoria Committee Meeting	Online
22/09/23	Mayor and CEO catch up	Phone
25/09/23	Audit and Risk Committee Meeting (Special Meeting)	Online

13 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

Division 8 – Public Question Time (Yarriambiack Shire Council Governance Rules)

Community Members (excluding Councillors) may submit a question to Council.

Questions must be submitted in writing, stating the name and address of the person submitting the question, on an approved or permitted form by Council. [Public Questions for Council – Yarriambiack Shire Council](#).

Questions must be submitted 24 hours prior to a Council Meeting.

The questions will be answered at a Council meeting by the Chief Executive Officer or a nominated Officer.

If questions are submitted less than 24 hours before the Council meeting, they will be answered at the meeting where possible, and if no answer can be given, then a written answer will be given to the person as soon as possible after the Council meeting.

No person can submit more than two questions at any Council meeting (unless permitted by the Chair – Mayor).

The question will not be allowed if:

- i. relates to a matter outside the duties, functions and powers of Council;
- ii. is defamatory, indecent, abusive, offensive, irrelevant, trivial or objectionable in language or substance;
- iii. deals with a subject matter already answered;
- iv. is aimed at embarrassing a Councillor or an Officer;
- v. relates to a personnel matter; or
- vi. contains or refers or relates to Confidential Information.

Questions and answers must be as brief as possible, and no discussion is allowed other than for the purpose of clarification.

The Name of Person and Question will be read out by either the Mayor or Chief Executive Officer, and the nominated Officer is to respond.

13.1 QUESTIONS SUBMITTED

Name: Colin Newell	Town: Warracknabeal
Question: What is Council doing about opening-up residential and industrial land?	
Respondent: Tammy Smith, Chief Executive Officer	
Response: Please refer to report – 16.2 within this Agenda.	

14 COUNCILLOR REPORTS

This section of the Agenda includes the Mayor's Advocacy Report, Funding Updates and Notice of Motions.

14.1 MAYORS REPORT

Prepared by Mayor Kylie Zanker

Access and Inclusion Plan Community Consultation

We have recently undertaken a review of our Access and Inclusion Plan and invite feedback from the community on our draft revision. The document has been revised, and we invite the community to review the draft, specifically the Action Plan, over the next 5 years. The document can be viewed on our website, and alternatively if community members would like a hardcopy, they may request that a copy be posted to them via mail, by calling our Customer Service team who will be more than happy to assist.

Road Hierarchy Community Consultation – Two Part Approach

We commenced our Road Management Plan and Road Hierarchy Community Consultation process back in 2021 and it continued into 2022. The Road Management Plan was revised and adopted in June 2022. The next stage of the process was to revise the Road Hierarchy document.

This hierarchy provides direction in the following aspects of road management:

- Target specification for the physical characteristics of the road.
- Frequency of routine maintenance inspections to be carried out on a regular basis by Council staff.

The hierarchal classifications reflect the relative community importance of roads and enable us to effectively define an appropriate level of service to all roads in the Council Road network.

The Hierarchy document has undertaken a road category review, and the changes incorporated are aimed to create a more user-friendly document that aligns the categories with other Local Government Authorities. This document is now available for review as part of our Community Consultation process.

Once the revised Road Hierarchy is adopted by Council, the second stage of the Road Hierarchy consultation will commence.

The second stage has considered the previous community consultation that was undertaken in 2021-22 in relation to road categories and usage. This stage includes Council roads and their categories in alignment to the Road Hierarchy.

This is an important consultation process, and we encourage all residents, particularly our rural residents to engage with both stages of consultation and provide feedback.

We will be advertising this review extensively via radio, newspaper, newsletter, social media and we will be requesting that our local CFA groups, Progress Associations (and equivalent) and Lions Clubs assist with disseminating the information across the Shire.

Dunmunkle Lodge Lease Agreement

We recently advertised for expressions of interest to manage Council's housing units that are currently either constructed, under construction or to be constructed in the following townships of:

Murtoa, Rupanyup, Warracknabeal and Hopetoun.

On the 23 August 2023, Councillors considered the applications received and resolved to move forward with negotiations to appoint Dunmunkle Lodge to manage Council's housing units.

As part of this process, it is proposed that Council enter into a 50-year lease with Dunmunkle Lodge to manage the housing units on behalf of Council.

We are seeking the community's feedback in relation to the proposal to enter into a 50-year lease with Dunmunkle Lodge. All details will be available on our website and via Yarri Yarns, and will be included in our newspaper articles.

Hopetoun Community Meeting – 04 October 2023

We are holding a Community Meeting in Hopetoun on 04 October 2023 to discuss the vision for Hopetoun, and the priority projects that are important to residents, businesses and community groups. A BBQ dinner will be available from 5.30pm, with the meeting to commence from 6pm. Our CEO will be facilitating the evening, with assistance from Sarah Collins Manager Community Strengthening and Engagement and Tom Huf, Community and Economic Development Officer. Councillors will be in attendance, with the aim of informing and revising the Community Action Plan. We look forward to the community joining us for this occasion.

15 REPORTS FOR DECISION

15.1 Yaapeet Streetscape Masterplan

Prepared by Tom Huf, Community and Economic Development Officer

Presented by Sarah Collins, Manager Community Strengthening and Engagement

SUMMARY

The need to plan for future projects and to address several issues such as maintenance and amenity, led to the development of a Masterplan for the streetscape of Byrne Street, Yaapeet. This report presents the Masterplans to Council for consideration and endorsement.

Recommended Motion:

That Council:

- a) Adopt the Byrne Street Streetscape and Yaapeet Streetscape Masterplans; taking into account that further community consultation will be required regarding tree plantings as outlined in the body of this report; and
- b) Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to:
 - i. Explore and negotiate funding opportunities for the implementation of the of Byrne Street Streetscape and Yaapeet Streetscape Masterplans.
 - ii. Prioritise the establishment of the low maintenance garden beds and native tree plantings along Byrne Street.

Resolution:

Moved Cr A McLean Seconded Cr C Lehmann

That the recommendation be adopted

Carried

ATTACHMENTS

[Attachment: Byrne St Streetscape Master Plan](#)

[Attachment: Yaapeet Streetscape Master Plan](#)

[Attachment: Yaapeet Streetscapes Cost Estimate](#)

DISCUSSION

This Byrne St Streetscape Masterplan provides a holistic vision for Byrne Street, Yaapeet with proposed key moves aimed at maximising the overall health and function of the street. During preparation of this plan, additional potential projects relating to a school bus stop in Cowan Street and the wetlands adjoining Byrne Street were identified. As such, the Yaapeet Streetscape Masterplan was compiled to support these as separate projects and included in the overall project costing estimate.

Site visits and community workshops to inform the plan were conducted and attended by the Yaapeet community. The Yaapeet Streetscape Masterplan was also made available publicly on Council's website for public comment and a letter drop was undertaken to residents seeking feedback on the draft.

Four key moves were identified following community consultation. These key moves looked to address landmarks and signage, planting, footpaths and kerbs and rest stops.

The Masterplan includes the suggestion for new town entrance signage, as well as wayfinding signage to direct visitors to Turkey Botton Lake, the recreation reserve, and the rest area.

Several suggestions were made regarding plantings along Byrne Street aimed at improving the amenity and aesthetic of Yaapect's main street, as well as reduce and address maintenance within the town. Suggested tree plantings were met with a mixed response from the community indicating that consultation with individual residents during project planning may be required, though the intended outcomes to add to the amenity of the street are generally supported.

A mixture of footpath and kerb replacement and retention were suggested along Byrne Street, as well as the addition of potential crossing points. Issues relating to drainage along Cowan Street, and issues relating to footpaths along Byrne Street that were identified as part of the community consultation were concurrently identified through the review of the footpath hierarchy, supporting this body of work. Council's most recent funding submission to address drainage issues was unsuccessful, with future opportunities for funding to be explored as they become available.

The Masterplan has been designed for staged implementation. This approach allows the overarching project to be delivered in components or actionable phases, which can be implemented at varying times subject to available funding. It is recommended that the initial priorities and resources be utilised to establish the low maintenance garden beds and native tree plantings in the nature strip along Byrne Street. It is also recommended that funding be explored to deliver the remaining components of the project.

Following the development of the Masterplan, a quantity surveyor has costed the Masterplans at \$869,060. The table below summarizes the indicative costings:

Project Component	Cost
1 – Site Preparation	\$64,490
2 – Hardsurface Work	\$349,550
3 – Landscape Work	\$423,220
4 – Furniture & Fixtures	\$31,800
Total Project Cost	\$869,060

RELEVANT LAW

Not Applicable

COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES

- Yaapect Community Action Plan
- Council Plan 2021-2025

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

Council meeting minutes – 29 June 2022 – adoption of 2023-23 budget including budget for streetscape planning.

OPTIONS

- Council could choose to reject the recommendation and request further community consultation be undertaken on the Byrne Street, Yaapect Streetscape Masterplan.

- Council could choose to alter the prioritisation of components within the Masterplans.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Environmental – the Masterplan gives consideration and expert advice to the maintenance and longevity of plantings in Byrne Street to ensure their sustainability. It focuses on increasing amenity and aesthetic to maximising the overall health and function of the street.

Financial – indicative investment of \$869,060 has been identified to deliver on the Masterplans. The Masterplans have been designed for staged implementation. This approach allows the overarching project to be delivered in components or actionable phases, which can be implemented at varying times subject to available funding.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

In consultation with the Yaapect Community Club, two community consultation sessions were held with the consultants and Council staff. Community consultation sessions were advertised through the Yaapect Community Club, Council's website and social media, newspaper ads and Council's newsletter.

Following the final draft, the Masterplan was made available on Council's website for public comment. A letter drop was used to notify residents, and the timeframe for feedback was also extended beyond 28 days. Minor amendments were made following the one submission received where the submission supported or reinforced views of residents at the community consultation sessions.

GENDER IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Gender Impact Assessment (GIA)		Status
Does this Council report recommendation		YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
a) Introduce a new policy, program and/or service; or		A GIA has been completed.
b) Is it a review of a policy, program and/or service;		NO <input type="checkbox"/>
that directly and significantly impacts the public?		A GIA is not required.
Link to Gender Impact Assessment		GIA Yaapect Streetscape Master Plan.docx

RISK

Utilising the Risk Management Framework the following assessment has been made:

Strategic Risk Description and Residual Risk Level	Action to Mitigate/Reduce Risk	Does Action maintain or reduce Residual Risk Level
Program and Project Risk - Residual Risk Level Medium	The development of the Masterplan identifying different projects as part of one overarching document allows for strategic and coordinated project planning. The structure of the plan into clear deliverable phases provides direction for required funding applications for future infrastructure investment.	Maintains Residual Risk Level
Reputational Risk - Residual Risk Level Low	Developing a Masterplan shows Council's commitment to working with the Yaapect Community on identified projects of community value and subsequently have a strategic plan in place to guide future infrastructure investment.	Maintains Residual Risk Level

REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES

Not Applicable

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

All officers involved in the preparation of this report have declared that they do not have a conflict of interest in the subject matter of this report.

15.2 Draft Financial Statements and Performance Statement for Year End 30 June 2023

Prepared by: Anita McFarlane, Manager Corporate Services (Principal Accounting Officer)

SUMMARY

In accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020* (Section 98 and 99), that came into effect on 24 October 2020, Council is required to approve a set of financial statements in principle and submit the resolution with the Financial Statements to the Victorian Auditor General Office (VAGO).

The Audit and Risk Committee considered the Annual Financial Accounts and Performance Statement at its meeting held on 25 September 2023. The Committee moved a recommendation that Council approve the Annual Financial Statements and Performance Statement in principle, subject to no material change as a result of the Victorian Audit General's Office (VAGO) review.

Recommended Motion:

That Council:

1. Approves "in principle" subject to no material changes as a result of the Victorian Auditor General Office review, the draft Annual Financial Report (attachment 1) for the year ended 30 June 2023, and the draft Performance Statement (attachment 2); and
2. Nominates Councillor Kylie Zanker and Councillor Graeme Massey to be authorised to sign the Financial Statement and Performance Statement in their final form after any changes recommended, or agreed to, by auditor have been made.

Resolution:

Moved Cr T Hamilton Seconded Cr K Kirk

That the recommendation be adopted

Carried

ATTACHMENTS

[Attachment 1: Draft Financial Reports](#)

[Attachment 2: Draft Performance Statement](#)

[Attachment 3: Minutes from the Audit and Risk Committee Meeting 25 September 2023](#)

DISCUSSION

Financial Report

Key financial data for the 2022-23 financial year includes:

Financial Overview	2022 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Total income	32,951	33,621
Total expenses	(26,869)	(29,292)
Surplus	6,082	4,329
Comprehensive result	(1,823)	29,586
Cash balance	16,428	17,185
Total equity	150,549	179,888

- The 2023 total income of \$33.621 million is greater than 2022 due to the increase in the number of capital grants.
- Total expenses for 2023 of \$29.292 million are \$2.424 million greater than the prior year mainly due to an increase in employee costs and other expenses.
- The comprehensive result is \$29.586 million for the 2022/23 year. This is mainly due to a full revaluation of Land and Buildings and infrastructure assets.
- Council's cash balance as of 30 June 2023 was \$17.619 million comprising \$13.477 million 'cash and cash equivalents' plus \$4.141 million cash from term deposits that are disclosed as 'other financial assets'. The total cash balance of \$17.619 million is \$1.194 million higher than the prior year of \$16.425 million mainly due to grants being received prior to 30 June.
- Total equity has increased from \$150.549 million to \$179.888 million.
- Capital spending was under budget during 2022/23 by \$874,000 due to delays in being able to engage contractors.

Performance Statement

- The draft Performance Statement 2022/23 is in the ninth year of reporting against the auditable measures of the Local Government Performance Reporting Framework (LGPRF).
- Reporting has been prepared in accordance with relevant Local Government Better Practice Guides - Performance Reporting Framework Indicator Workbook.
- Comments have been provided for all performance measures, and where possible comment on trend over time and any material variations (+/- 10%) for current year versus prior year results. Variations of +/- have occurred in a significant number of performance measures.
- Financial Performance Measures are identified by the following LGPRF broad classifications:
 - Liquidity – Council is able to meet its liabilities when they fall due.
 - Obligations – including the ability to fund asset renewal while maintaining loan borrowing within prudent limits.
 - Stability – a measure of rate concentration and rate effort. The stability measure assesses the total of rate revenue relative to total revenue and relative to property values.
 - Underlying surplus – Council's ability to generate a surplus from day to day activities.

RELEVANT LAW

- *Local Government Act 2020*, Division 3 Reporting.

COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES

Yarriambiack Shire Council Plan 2021-2025

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

Nil

OPTIONS

Council must comply with its obligations under Section 98 and 99 of the *Local Government Act 2020* by passing a resolution giving its approval in principle to the performance statement and financial statements.

Council has the option of either:

- nominating two Councillors to certify the Financial Statements and the Performance Statements; or
- Can appoint any other persons prescribed by the regulations for the purposes of Section 99 sub-section 3(b) of the Act;

to sign the certified statements.

Once all certifications are received, the Annual Report must be adopted by the 31 October 2022 and made available in accordance with our Public Transparency Policy.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

One of the Overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that the economic, social and environmental sustainability of the municipal district, including mitigation and planning for climate change risks, is to be promoted.

The subject matter of the report does not raise any sustainability implications.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The development of the draft Annual Financial Report and Performance Statement has been undertaken in consultation with Council's external auditors on behalf of the Victorian Auditor General, and the Audit and Risk Committee.

GENDER IMPACT ASSESSMENT

A Gender Impact Assessment is not required for this report.

RISK

Utilising the Risk Management Framework the following assessment has been made:

<i>Strategic Risk Description and Residual Risk Level</i>	<i>Action to Mitigate/Reduce Risk</i>	<i>Does Action maintain or reduce Residual Risk Level</i>
Financial Risk - Residual Risk Level Medium	The Financial and Performance Statements do not identify any risks that would increase Council's financial strategic risk levels.	Maintains Residual Risk Level
Corporate Governance, Compliance and Liability Risk - Residual Risk Level Low	The preparation of the Annual Report and adhering to the legislation requirements ensure good corporate governance is being achieved.	Maintains Residual Risk Level

REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES

Not applicable

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

All officers involved in the preparation of this report have declared that they do not have a conflict of interest in the subject matter of this report.

16 COUNCIL REPORTS FOR NOTING

16.1 Share Grant Report

Prepared by Tom Huf, Community and Economic Development Officer

Presented by Sarah Collins, Manager Community Strengthening and Engagement

SUMMARY

Council provides financial assistance to community groups and businesses to support the provision of events and services which respond to identified community need, contribute to the building of stronger communities and are in accordance with Council's strategic outcomes through its Share Grant program.

This report details the approach and results to the allocation of the 2023-24 Share Grant program.

Recommended Motion:

That Council:

Note the Report as presented.

Resolution:

Moved Cr C Lehmann Seconded Cr G Massey

That the recommendation be adopted

Carried

ATTACHMENTS

Not applicable

DISCUSSION

The purpose of the Council's Share Grant program is to develop and actively support community organisations and businesses who positively contribute to community wellbeing and the cultural life of the region. As per the adopted 2023-24 budget, the program has a total available pool of funding of \$60,000.

Applications were opened 17 July 2023 and closed 6 August 2023. The program has four funding streams, each with the funding stream guidelines that were adopted by Council.

At the Council Forum on 23 August 2023, it was agreed by the Councillors to delegate the Share Grant approval process to the Chief Executive Officer.

Applications were evaluated in accordance with the qualitative criteria in accordance with Council's Share Grants Policy, the evaluation team were selected from within Council's employees. All participants declared no conflict of interest.

There were 20 submissions requesting a total of \$48,426.37 of the SHARE Grant program.

A summary of the applications to each stream is as follows:

- Community Events – 12
- Community Building (Minor) – 5
- Community Building (Major) – 2
- Business & Streetscapes - 1

Of all applications 15 have been successful in achieving funding, 5 applications were unsuccessful. Feedback outlining the reasons these applications were unsuccessful has

been provided to the applicant community groups along with tailored advice aimed to assist the groups in future funding programs.

Successful Recipients

Applicant	Project	Stream	Amount funded
Hopetoun Community Hotel	Austin St Tables & Chairs	Business & Streetscape	2,000
Murtoa & District Historical Society Inc.	Murtoa Community Museum Improvements & Repairs	Building - Major	3,638
Yaapeet Community Club	Re-roof the old dressing shed	Building - Major	10,000
Hopetoun & District Historical Society	Installation of a work station at the Archival Museum	Building - Minor	2,827
Minyip Progress Association	Minyip Fuel Station Landscape Project	Building - Minor	3,000
Patchewollock Music Festival	Patchewollock Music Festival 2023	Building - Minor	1,500
Beulah Historic Learning & Progress Association Inc.	Wide Open Spaces Festival	Events	1,500
Movies Under The Stars - Auspiced by Murtoa Events	Movies Under The Stars	Events	1,500
Murtoa Agricultural & Pastoral Society	Level Up! Gaming feature at the 2023 Murtoa Show	Events	1,500
Warracknabeal Action Group	Meal in the Beal	Events	1,500
Warracknabeal Agricultural & Pastoral Society	Virtual Reality Header Harvester	Events	1,500
Warracknabeal Golf Bowling Club	Annual Bowling Tournament	Events	1,500
Warracknabeal Playgroup	Mini kids carnival and market	Events	1,500
Woods Farming & Heritage Museum	2023 Murtoa Big Weekend Shuttle Bus	Events	1,000
Woomelang Bush Nursing Centre	Laugh and learn about RUOK	Events	1,500

The total leveraged value of projects receiving contributions as part of the Community Share grant program for this round is \$187,749.

The total value of funding being allocated in this round is \$35,965.72, with the \$24,034.28 of the remaining funding pool to be carried forward to future funding rounds.

RELEVANT LAW

Not Applicable

COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES

Council Plan 2021-2025: Key Objective 1: A Vibrant and Diversified Economy

Council Plan 2021-2025: Key Objective 2: A Healthy and Inclusive Community

Community Share Grants Program Policy

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

Ordinary Meeting of Council – 25 January 2023 – Item 16.3 – Community Share Grant and Spark Tank Program

OPTIONS

Not Applicable

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Social: Provides funding of many community projects.

Environmental: all projects comply with community grant sustainability requirements.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

As with previous rounds, the program was advertised via the Council newsletter, newspaper ads, social media and on Council's website. A list of previous applicants, community groups and progress associations were also emailed with information on the program.

Additionally, for this round a radio advertisement was used to advertise the program, and the program was advertised throughout a series of grant writing workshops held by Council, facilitated by an external consultant.

Applications were opened 17 July 2023 and closed 6 August 2023. All applications received were received within these timelines.

GENDER IMPACT ASSESSMENT

A Gender Impact Assessment is not required for this report.

RISK

Utilising the Risk Management Framework the following assessment has been made:

<i>Strategic Risk Description and Residual Risk Level</i>	<i>Action to Mitigate/Reduce Risk</i>	<i>Does Action maintain or reduce Residual Risk Level</i>
Reputational Risk - Residual Risk Level Low	Evaluation of the program in line with program guidelines provides transparency and accountability to the community on the of distribution of grant funding.	Maintains Residual Risk Level

REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES

Not Applicable

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

All officers involved in the preparation of this report have declared that they do not have a conflict of interest in the subject matter of this report.

16.2 Housing and Land Update

Prepared and presented by Tammy Smith, Chief Executive Officer; and Adam Moar, Manager Development and Environmental Services

SUMMARY

This report aims to provide an update to the community on the project planning and advocacy activities Council is undertaking in relation to addressing the housing shortage across the Shire.

Recommended Motion:

That Council:

Note the Report as presented.

Resolution:

Moved Cr T Hamilton Seconded Cr G Massey

That the recommendation be adopted

Carried

ATTACHMENTS

Not applicable

DISCUSSION

Our Council is proactive and committed to addressing the housing shortage across our Shire, utilising the limited resources we have to maximise benefits for our community. Below is a summary of key activities Council is currently undertaking to address the housing crisis.

1. Housing

Affordable Housing Units

There is much excitement being generated across our community at the moment with the installation of four of our seven affordable housing units being constructed in Woomelang and Murtoa.

The units are being constructed by Fleetwood Australia, and are prefabricated two-bedroom units, with a carport and access ramps. The units are being landscaped as part of the project, and it is envisaged that the first four units will be available for tenants in mid to late November this year.

The two Woomelang units have arrived and are being constructed on the corner of Dettman Lane and Brock Street. Landscaping works have commenced. The units will be managed by the Woomelang Retirement Units, Community Asset Committee of Council. The Committee currently has a waiting list for the units, as they already manage five existing units located on Gloucester Avenue. The Committee has a well-developed, existing policy and procedure to appoint tenants to units. The units are aimed to accommodate aged residents within Woomelang and district to enable them to reside longer within their communities. The units in Woomelang have been designed in consultation with the Community Asset Committee.

The Murtoa units have also arrived, and they are being constructed on the parcel of land Council purchased with funds raised by the Murtoa Housing Units, Community Asset Committee of Council. The land parcel is on the corner of Degenhardt Street and Cromie Street and has been subdivided from the Old Primary School site, which is to be referred to as 16 Cromie Street. The new houses are being constructed to face Cromie Street,

opposite the Police Station. The new units have been designed in consultation with the Community Asset Committee. The units being built in Murtoa will be the same colour scheme as selected for the Rupanyup, Warracknabeal and Hopetoun units.

The final three units will be constructed in Warracknabeal, Rupanyup and Hopetoun. It is envisaged that the units will be built by May 2024. The Warracknabeal unit will be located on 98 Anderson Street. The Rupanyup unit will be located on Gibson Street, on one of the subdivided parcels of land that will be returned to Council as part of the agreement with Rupanyup Future Fund. Council gifted land to the Rupanyup Future Fund, who has subdivided the parcel of land in Gibson Street into eight lots, with one of the lots being returned to Council for affordable housing. Whilst Council has funds to build only one unit now, it is hoped we may be able to secure funds in the future to build a further two on the site. The Hopetoun unit will be constructed on the old school site in Hopetoun, which will face Garrard Street.

The Murtoa, Warracknabeal, Rupanyup and Hopetoun units will be managed by Dunmunkle Lodge.

These units are being built to transition people who are currently residing in our community, who are renting and are over 55 years, into smaller homes, freeing up housing stock to attract families to our Shire.

Hopetoun Old School Site

Councillors have endorsed the Feasibility Study and Business Case for the Hopetoun Old School Site. This endorsement included commencing planning for the housing section of the site.

Council is applying for funding as part of the Commonwealth Government Regional Precincts and Partnership Program – Steam One: Precinct development and planning to commence the design and planning works across the whole site.

In partnership with Haven Home Safe, a section of this site has been earmarked for future opportunities as part of the Victorian State Governments commitment for a regional package to include a new \$1billion Regional Housing Fund to deliver more than 1300 new homes across regional Victoria, and \$150million in a Regional Worker Accommodation Fund.

In addition, Council has been in positive discussions with a philanthropic investor in conjunction with Haven Home Safe to explore housing opportunities on this site and will also be exploring an element of the land being subdivided for private sale and/or a special purpose vehicle investment arrangement.

The Mayor and CEO have been attending numerous meetings advocating and promoting this project.

34 Anderson Street Warracknabeal

Similarly, to the old school site above, Council has partnered with Haven Home Safe and is awaiting future State Government funding opportunities. This site is also being explored as an opportunity to attract philanthropic investment.

Gibson Street Rupanyup

Council is working with Rupanyup Future Fund to develop land on Gibson Street Rupanyup, with the aim of opening up land parcels for people to either move to Rupanyup and build, or for current residents to build, which will free up existing housing in the township. Gibson Street requires a power upgrade and sewer and water service connections to support this development. Funding opportunities are being explored to progress this project.

The Gibson Street block of land where the affordable house will be located can also accommodate a further two more units. We are currently exploring opportunities to expand housing on this site.

Murtoa – 16 Cromie Street (Old School Site)

The site that is currently home to the two affordable housing units currently being constructed, and can also accommodate a further four more two-bedroom units. Council is strongly advocating for further funds and is awaiting opportunities to arise from the cancellation of the Commonwealth Games and the funding redistribution.

Connection Services – Sewer, Water and Power

Council is currently advocating to the Government for funding to support the expansion of water, sewer and power connecting infrastructure across townships such as Rupanyup, Minyip, Murtoa, Warracknabeal and Hopetoun to unlock private, subdivided land, and to address our housing shortage across the Shire (and region). Our Council Officers receive numerous enquiries relating to sewer connections in declared sewer districts. The cost to connect sewer mains to properties that are currently unserviced can be cost prohibitive and stifle development within small rural townships. We are currently working with GWMWater on costings to inform current and future advocacy.

Special Purpose Vehicles – Wimmera Southern Mallee Development

Our communities in Minyip, Murtoa and Hopetoun are working with Wimmera Southern Mallee Development (WSMD) to explore the establishment of Special Purpose Vehicles to attract private investment across the Shire, to purchase land and build houses to address the housing shortage. Council is supporting this activity via WSMD.

2. Land – Industrial and Residential Land***Warracknabeal Former School Site***

In May 2022, Council made the request to the Department of Education to clear, rezone and make the former Warracknabeal Secondary School site available for future investment to address the housing shortage across the township. This can be a lengthy process and can take some years before the land does become available for sale.

Industrial and Residential Land Update

The recent review of the Yarriambiack Planning Scheme has recommended that Council *prepare structure plans for Warracknabeal, Murtoa and Hopetoun, and to develop township settlement plans for Minyip, Rupanyup, Beulah and Woomelang*. Council officers are considering whether township settlement plans are appropriate and whether they should become structure plans as well.

Structure plans define a Council's preferred direction of future growth within an area and articulate how it will be managed. They guide the major changes to land use, built form and public spaces that together can achieve economic, social and environmental objectives for the centre.

The structure plan process will consider the availability of all land uses and zonings and make recommendations of where land should or could be rezoned. It is anticipated that the structure plan processes for Warracknabeal, Murtoa and Hopetoun would commence in the 2024/25 budget year.

RELEVANT LAW

- *Local Government Act 2020*
- *Local Government Act 1989*
- *Planning and Environment Act 1987*

COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES

Council Plan 2021-2025: Key Objective 1: A Vibrant and Diversified Economy

Strategic Priority: Plan for and support diverse housing options to meet community needs now and into the future.

Council Plan 2021-2025: Key Objective 2: A Healthy and Inclusive Community

Strategic Priority: Support infrastructure that promotes an inclusive and socially connected community to enhance liveability.

Strategic Priority: Advocate for funding to provide opportunities to support our aged community to reside and remain connected within our community.

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

- 23 August 2023 – Minutes Ordinary Council Meeting – Item 15.2 Endorsement of Hopetoun Former School Site Feasibility Study and Business Case

OPTIONS

- Council could choose not to intervene in the market and rely on private investment and other government agencies to address the housing shortage. This could have an impact on the economic development of our Shire, and region.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Economic: Housing is required to assist with the skills shortage being experienced across our Shire. Workers cannot move to our shire as there is a lack of available housing. Building affordable houses assists to enable current residents to downsize, freeing up housing stock within the community.

Social: Aged care, independent living style homes are required to enable people to live longer in their homes and within their communities. This enables them to remain socially connected and enhances health and wellbeing outcomes for our residents.

Environmental: New houses being built meet energy efficiency ratings, which have a positive impact on our environment and energy consumption.

Financial: Council's investment into housing does take funds away from key services such as roads. Council has limited funds and it needs to invest its funds to meet its core obligations first. Council's annual revenue consists of approximately 51% in grant funding, and Yarriambiack Shire Council is identified as an unsustainable Council.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Council undertook community consultation as part of the development of the 2021-2025 Council Plan and the review of Council's strategic objectives and actions each year.

GENDER IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Not applicable for this report, as it is for noting.

RISK

Utilising the Risk Management Framework the following assessment has been made:

Strategic Risk Description and Residual Risk Level	Action to Mitigate/Reduce Risk	Does Action maintain or reduce Residual Risk Level
Corporate Governance, Compliance and Liability Risk - Residual Risk Level Low	Appointing Dunmunkle Lodge to manage the housing units assists with Council managing its legislative compliance obligations. Council does not have the internal expertise to manage housing units and tenancy agreements.	Reduces Residual Risk Level
Program and Project Risk - Residual Risk Level Medium	Council does not have the resources and current skills or expertise in house to design, develop and project manage housing developments. To manage this risk, Council partners with organisations with these skills and expertise.	Maintains Residual Risk Level
Financial Risk - Residual Risk Level Medium	Investing in housing redirects funds from core services such as roads, footpaths and waste.	Increases Residual Risk Level

<i>Strategic Risk Description and Residual Risk Level</i>	<i>Action to Mitigate/Reduce Risk</i>	<i>Does Action maintain or reduce Residual Risk Level</i>
Reputational Risk - Residual Risk Level Low	Council's actions in being proactive in advocacy and addressing the housing shortage assists with maintaining a positive relationship between Council and Community.	Reduces Residual Risk Level

REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES

- Horizon Highway – Wimmera Southern Mallee Regional Partnership Strategy
- Regional Economic Development Strategies
- Rural Councils Victoria Strategy
- Victorian Skills Authority – WSM Skills Profile
- Wimmera Southern Mallee Development Strategic Plan
- Victorian State Government 10 Year Strategy for Social and Affordable Housing
- The National Housing and Homelessness Plan

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

All officers involved in the preparation of this report have declared that they do not have a conflict of interest in the subject matter of this report.

16.3 Update on Murtoa Rabl Park Bridges

Prepared by Joel Turner, Manager Infrastructure and Works

SUMMARY

This report provides an update to the Councillors and the Community on the status of the Rabl Park bridges and the works being undertaken.

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

That Council:

Note the Rabl Park wooden bridges update.

Resolution:

Moved Cr T Hamilton Seconded Cr C Heintze

That the recommendation be adopted

Carried

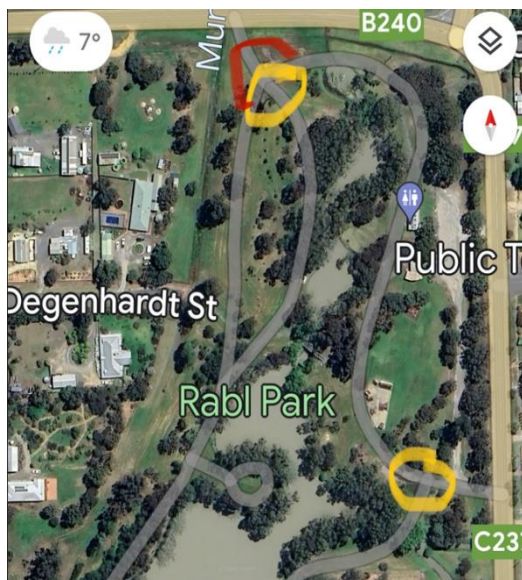
ATTACHMENTS

Not applicable

DISCUSSION

As identified in previous Council Reports the timber bridges at Rabl Park were in a state of disrepair and posed a serious risk to the community. The Councillors endorsed via a resolution of Council to remove the bridges and replace only the southern bridge with a culvert structure.

Council previously constructed a walkway around the northern section of the pond and has received praise about the quality of the job that was done (photos below). Since the adoption of the Rabl Park bridge report from the Council meeting on the 26/07/2023 Council staff have removed the bridges and tidied up the surround site utilising in house machinery.



Yellow markers identify the previous locations of the wooden bridges.

The red marker outlines where Council put an alternative track in and a culvert so people can still access the park without going onto the Highway.

Southern bridge to be replaced with culvert structure.



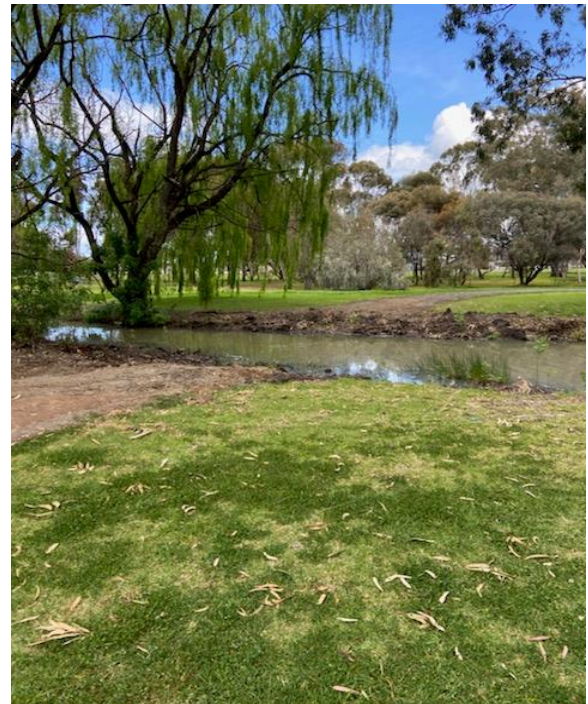
New pathway



Bridge removal



Southern end finished site



Northern end finished site

Actions and Next Steps

Currently the culvert crowns and lids are being cast in Horsham at Wimmera Precon and are still 2 weeks off completion. Once cast, we will work with a contractor to have the culvert crowns and lids installed, and handrails manufactured.

An update on the installation of the culvert structure will be provided at the next Council meeting.

RELEVANT LAW

- *Building Act 1993*
- *Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004*

COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES

Council Plan 2021-2025 – Key Objective 2: A Health and Inclusive Community

Council Plan 2021-2025 – Key Objective 4: A Council Who Serves Its Community

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

Not applicable

OPTIONS

N/A

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Social: The bridges contribute towards providing an inclusive outdoor space, that enables residents of the Murtoa community to undertake activities that enhance their overall health and wellbeing. The selected solution addresses these concerns.

Financial: A commitment to replacing the bridges in the current budget 23-24 could have financial sustainability implications. The removal of the bridges has not been budgeted for and will have a minor financial impact on Council. This could be absorbed from a minor “top-up” allocation that is anticipated to be received from the Financial Assistance Grant funding.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

A community consultation process occurred at the Murtoa Neighbourhood house where a clear overview of the issues and proposed solution was delivered to the community. The presentation by Tammy Smith council CEO was well received and the solution also received positive feedback. These outcomes were then adopted through council and currently underway on the ground.

GENDER IMPACT ASSESSMENT

A Gender Impact Assessment will be completed as part of the overall project assessment and costing analysis.

RISK

Utilising the Risk Management Framework the following assessment has been made:

<i>Strategic Risk Description and Residual Risk Level</i>	<i>Action to Mitigate/Reduce Risk</i>	<i>Does Action maintain or reduce Residual Risk Level</i>
Reputational Risk - Residual Risk Level Low	Closing the bridges for an indefinite period poses a risk to Council. There is an expectation that Council will replace the bridges in the short term. There are no funds in the budget to replace the bridges.	Increases Residual Risk Level
Corporate Governance, Compliance and Liability Risk - Residual Risk Level Low	Closing the bridges reduces Council's risk of a liability claim.	Reduces Residual Risk Level
Financial Risk - Residual Risk Level Medium	There is a financial risk to Council, as the replacement of the bridges maybe costly.	Increases Residual Risk Level

REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES

Nil

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

All officers involved in the preparation of this report have declared that they do not have a conflict of interest in the subject matter of this report.

17 PERMITS ISSUED AUGUST 2023

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

That Council:

Note the permits issued by Council between 1 August and 31 August 2023

Resolution:

Moved Cr G Massey Seconded Cr K Kirk

That the recommendation be adopted

Carried

Reference No	Description	Address	Date of Issue
Building Permits			
BLD20230351	Extension to a dwelling	Hopetoun	10/08/23
Planning Permits			
TP13-23	Removal of an easement	Woomelang	4/08/23
TP17-23	Construct a farm shed	Warracknabeal	18/08/23

Reference No	Description	Name / Location	Date of Issue
Local Laws Permits			
09/23	Street Trade	Small Business Bus Gateway BEET, Hopetoun	07/08/23
10/23	Street Trade	Gateway BEET Hopetoun	11/08/23
11/23	Street Trade	Hopetoun & District Neighbourhood House	16/08/23
12/23	Street Trade	Warracknabeal Primary School Parent Committee Tourist Centre Scott Street, Warracknabeal	22/08/23
13/23	Street Trade	Ace Radio – We Love Warracknabeal Promotion Tourist Centre Scott Street, Warracknabeal	30/08/23
08/23	Local Laws	Camping on private land Hopetoun	14/08/23
Firewood collection Permits			
	Roadside Wood Collection	Warracknabeal	28/08/2023
Septic Tank Permits			
Road Reserve Works Permits & Asset Protection Permits			
2023-07	Crossover Installation	Warracknabeal	09/08/2023
2023-08	Installation of Modular Buildings	Woomelang	14/08/2023
2023-09	Water Main Connection	Warracknabeal	16/08/2023
2023-10	Installation of Modular Buildings	Murtoa	25/08/2023

18 URGENT BUSINESS

Business cannot be admitted as urgent business, other than by resolution of Council. Council must only admit business as urgent if the business:

- a) Cannot safely be deferred until the next Council meeting; or
- b) Involves a matter of urgency, as determined by the CEO.

Councillors may ensure that an issue is listed on an Agenda by submitting a Notice of Motion in accordance with Governance rules, item 2.13.

If the CEO rejects the Notice of Motion, she must provide a response to the Councillor as outlined in 2.13 (e) of the Governance Rules.

Moved Cr G Massey Seconded Cr T Hamilton that Council move into Closed Session at

Carried

19 CLOSED (CONFIDENTIAL) SESSION

That, in accordance with sections 66(1) and 66(2)(a) of the *Local Government Act 2020*, the meeting be closed to members of the public for consideration of the following confidential items:

19.1 Custs Store Lease – Tenant Recommendation

This Agenda item is confidential information for the purpose of section 3(1) of the *Local Government Act 2020*:

1. Because it is Council business information, being information that would prejudice Council's position in commercial negotiations if prematurely released (section 3(1)(a)); and
2. This ground applies because the Agenda Item concerns the progress of ongoing contractual negotiations that would, if prematurely released, diminish the strength of Council's position in those negotiations.

Confirmation that Councillors in the Chambers can see and hear Councillor Kirk and that Councillor Kirk can see and hear Councillors in the Chambers.

Moved Cr C Lehmann Seconded Cr G Massey that Council move back into Open Session at

Carried

20 NEXT MEETING

25 October 2023

21 CLOSED

10:34am