



MINUTES Ordinary Meeting of Council

9:30am Wednesday 28 September 2022

VENUE:

Council Chambers
Yarriambiack Shire Council
34 Lyle Street, Warracknabeal Vic 3393

Next Meeting
Wednesday 26 October 2022
Copies of the Yarriambiack Shire Council's Agendas and Minutes
can be obtained online at www.yarriambiack.vic.gov.au

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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.

Recording

Consistent with section 2.44.3 of our Governance Rules, consent given by the Chair to the recording of any Council Meeting must be obtained prior to the commencement of the Council Meeting.

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.

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1 WELCOME

2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND PRAYER

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

Acknowledging Traditional Owners

'I would like to acknowledge that this meeting is being held on the traditional lands of the Wotjobaluk, Jaadwa, Jadawadjali, Wergaia and Jupagulk people, and I pay respects to their Elders, both past, present and emerging'.

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

3 PRESENT

Councillor Kylie Zanker Warracknabeal Ward

COUNCILLORS:

Councillor Tom Hamilton Dunmunkle Ward
Councillor Corinne Heintze Dunmunkle Ward
Councillor Andrew McLean Hopetoun Ward
Councillor Chris Lehmann Hopetoun Ward

Councillor Graeme Massey Warracknabeal Ward

OFFICERS:

Tammy Smith Chief Executive Officer

Gavin Blinman Director Community Development and Wellbeing

Tony Caccaviello Director Business Strategy and Performance

Paul Brumby Acting Director Assets and Operations

Anita McFarlane Manager Corporate Services

Joel Turner Manager Operational

Adam Moar Manager Development & Environmental Services

4 APOLOGIES OR REQUEST FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Michael Evans Director Assets and Operations

Cr Karly Kirk Warracknabeal Ward (leave of absence)

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5 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

5.1 Minutes of the ordinary Council Meeting - Wednesday 24 August 2022

Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on Wednesday 24 August 2022 be taken as an accurate record and confirmed

Recommendation:

That the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on Wednesday 24 August 2022, as circulated be taken as read and confirmed.

Resolution:

Moved Cr T Hamilton Seconded Cr G Massey

That the recommendation be adopted

Carried

5.2 Minutes of the Closed Council Meeting - Wednesday 24 August 2022

Minutes of the Closed Council Meeting held on Wednesday 24 August 2022 be taken as an accurate record and confirmed

Recommendation:

That the minutes of the Closed Council Meeting of Council held on Wednesday 24 August 2022, as circulated, be taken as read and confirmed.

Resolution:

Moved Cr C Lehmann Seconded Cr C Heintze

That the recommendation be adopted

Carried

5.3 Minutes of the Special Council Meeting - Wednesday 14 September 2022

Minutes of the Special Council Meeting held on Wednesday 14 September 2022 be taken as an accurate record and confirmed.

Recommendation:

That the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on Wednesday 14 September 2022, as circulated be taken as read and confirmed.

Resolution:

Moved Cr T Hamilton Seconded Cr C Heintze

That the recommendation be adopted

Carried

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6 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

- 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.

Cr C Heintze declared a conflict of interest with item 14.3 – Capital Works Program Alterations 2022/2023

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7 BUSINESS ARISING

7.1 Business arising from previous Minutes

Nil

7.2 Ongoing and Pending Action List

Council Meeting	Recommendation Action	Action Taken
24 August 2022	Write a letter of reply to Warracknabeal Townscape Committee in response of the petition lodged for installation of Wombat Crossings	Letter dated 06 September 2022 hand delivered to Townscape Committee.
24 August 2022	Council Report to be presented in October on recommended actions from Wombat Crossing petition.	
24 August 2022	Write to David Hardy, Secretary Rail Futures Institute Inc regarding their seeking political commitment of Victoria's Rail Grain Handling System and reminding them of the regions Mineral Sands transport	Letter dated 21 September 2022 sent to

8 PETITIONS

Nil

9 CORRESPONDENCE

Nil

10 SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Nil

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11 ACTIVITY REPORTS

11.1 Mayor's Report

Prepared by Kylie Zanker

24 August	AICD-Briefing for Rural Councils Victoria Training for Directors and Councillors
29 August	Attended Presentation with CEO Tammy Smith to Rural North West Health regarding Council's Strategic Plan and Direction
30 August	Attended Radio interview with Flow FM
2 September	Attended Rural Council Victoria (RCV) Forum in Daylesford
6 September	Attended Warracknabeal Action Group (WAG) Annual General Meeting
14 September	Attended Council Forum and Special Meeting
	Attended Warracknabeal Housing Forum Discussion
16 September	Attended Municipal Association Victoria (MAV) Special State Council Meeting
19 September	Attended DOT Meeting
20 September	Attended Beulah Supermarket Discussions with Wayne Street and Beulah representatives
	Attended Warracknabeal Housing Availability Forum
	Attended Councillor / CEO informal briefing via TEAMS
26 September	Attended Internal Audit and Risk Committee Meeting
27 September	Attended Rural Northwest Health All Access Board Meeting in Hopetoun

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11.2 Councillor's Reports

Cr A McLean

14 September Attended Council Forum and Special Meeting

20 September Meeting with Street Ryan and Beulah Cooperative members to discuss

Beulah Supermarket

Attended Councillor / CEO informal briefing via ZOOM

Cr T Hamilton

30 August Attended Wimmera Development Association (WDA) Board Meeting

7 September Attended Murtoa Big Weekend Meeting

8 September Attended Stick Shed Meeting

9 September Attended Rail Freight Meeting via ZOOM

12 September Attended Rupanyup Progress Association Meeting

14 September Attended Council Forum and Special Meeting

20 September Attended Councillor / CEO informal briefing via ZOOM

Attended Murtoa Progress Association Annual General Meeting

Cr G Massey

31 August Attended RFDS Community Meeting on Patient Transport

6 September Attended Warracknabeal Action Group (WAG) Meeting

12 September Chaired Senior Citizens Annual General Meeting in Warracknabeal

14 September Attended Council Forum and Special Meeting

20 September Attended Community Housing Meeting in Warracknabeal

Cr C Lehmann

14 September Attended Council Forum and Special Meeting

16 September Hopetoun Old School Site Advisory Committee Meeting

20 September Meeting with Street Ryan and Beulah Cooperative members to discuss

Beulah Supermarket

Attended Councillor / CEO informal briefing via ZOOM

21 September Attended Beulah Progress Association Meeting

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Cr C Heintze

26 August Attended Partners in Ag event, Rupanyup

31 August Attended Royal Flying Doctors (RFDS) Community Meeting on Patient

Transport in Warracknabeal

2 September Attended Rural Councils Victoria meeting in Daylesford

7 September Attended Minyip Progress Association Meeting

8 September Attended Childcare Centre discussion at Murtoa

12 September Attended Rupanyup Progress Association Meeting via ZOOM

14 September Attended Yarrilinks Meeting in Minyip

20 September Attended Online Council Discussion

25 September Attended Royal Flying Doctors (RFDS) Community Meeting on Patient

Transport in Minyip

Cr K Kirk

Leave of Absence

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11.3 Chief Executive Officer Report

Prepared by Tammy Smith

24 August	AICD-Briefing for Rural Councils Victoria Training for Directors and Councillors
25 August	Wimmera Southern Mallee By Five Steering Committee Meeting
25 August	On-site meeting with Landowner in Speed
26 August	Wimmera Southern Mallee Taskforce Meeting
29 August	Rural Northwest Health Board Meeting Presentation (online) with Mayor Zanker
30 August	Wimmera Development Association Strategic Planning Consultation
31 August	Reforming in-home Aged Care and Regulations update
31 August	Stick Shed Meeting to discuss Place of Public Entertainment requirements
01 September	CEO and Director Forum Daylesford
02 September	Rural Council's Victoria Forum Daylesford
05 September	Rail Freight Alliance – online meeting with CEO
05 September	Have Home Safe and Homes Victoria Meeting
06 September	Wimmera Action Group AGM – special guest presentation
06 September	Townscape Meeting Warracknabeal
07 September	CEO's, Department Jobs Precincts and Regions and MAV online Meeting
08 September	Our Lady's Help of Christians Catholic School Murtoa Childcare Meeting
09 September	Mineral Sands – Key Stakeholders Meeting – Maroona to Portland Line
12 September	Seymour Heritage Railway Centre Meeting
14 September	Council Forum & Special Meeting
15 September	Rural Council's Victoria meeting with Department of Transport
16 September	Hopetoun Old School Site Advisory Committee Meeting
16 September	Meeting with Acting CEO Rural Northwest Health (online)
19 September	Meeting with Wimmera Development Association representatives, Donald Mineral Sands representative and Minyip Progress Association representatives to discuss Housing opportunities
19 September	Department of Transport Meeting (with Mayor Kylie Zanker)
20 September	Meeting with Street Ryan and Beulah Cooperative members to discuss Beulah Supermarket
20 September	Meeting with Department Health and Aged Care and Rural Council's Victoria regarding Aged Care reforms
20 September	Murtoa Progress Association Annual General Meeting – Guest Speaker

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20 September Attended Councillor / CEO informal briefing via Teams

21 September Yaapeet Community meeting regarding town maintenance

21 September Women's Health Grampians meeting with CEO

26 September Audit and Risk Committee Special Meeting

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12 REPORTS FOR INFORMATION AND DECISION - COUNCILLORS

Nil

13 REPORTS FOR DECISION – OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Nil

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14 REPORTS FOR DECISION – DIRECTORATE BUSINESS STRATEGY AND PERFORMANCE

Organisational Performance Responsibilities	Corporate Services Responsibilities
 Human Resources Customer Service Executive Assistant to CEO Records (Information Management) Information Communication Technology Governance Risk Audit and Planning Occupational Health and Safety Corporate System Administration (Happy HR, AvePoint, RelianSys, Learning Management System) Manager Organisational Performance delegated roles: Return to Work Coordinator Freedom of Information Officer Privacy Officer 	 Payroll Accounts Payable Procurement and Contracts Debtors Insurance Rates Corporate Planning (Performance Reporting) Media and Communications Corporate System Administration (Property, Rating, Animal Management, Infringement, Financial, Happy HR Payroll, Website) Manager Corporate Services delegated role: Principal Accounting Officer
Welfare Officer	

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14.1 Performance Reporting Framework

Prepared by Tony Caccaviello, Director Business Strategy and Performance SUMMARY

The Local Government Planning and Reporting Regulations 2020, Governance and Management Checklist in Report of Operations requires Council to have a Performance Reporting Framework. Council adopted its Performance Reporting Framework on 27 November 2019 and has completed a review of the document in line with the changes in the *Local Government Act 2020*, and the adoption of Council's Risk Management Manual and Risk Appetite.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- a) Adopted the revised Yarriambiack Shire Council Performance Reporting Framework as attached.
- b) Rescind the Yarriambiack Shire Council Performance Reporting Framework that was adopted in November 2019.

Resolution:

Moved Cr C Heintze Seconded Cr G Massey

That the recommendation be adopted

Carried

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment: Yarriambiack Shire Council Performance Reporting Framework (revision 2)

DISCUSSION

A review of Council's Performance Reporting Framework has been undertaken and has been revised to reflect the *Local Government Act 2020*, the revised Local Government Planning and Reporting Regulations 2020 and Council's Risk Appetite that is embedded in the Council adopted Risk Management Manual.

The Performance Reporting Framework outlines the legislative framework in which Council must operate and includes the reporting timeline and the documents to be presented to Council, to meet the statutory requirements.

RELEVANT LAW

Local Government Act 2020

Local Government Planning and Reporting Regulation 2020

COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES

- a) Council Plan 2021/2025 Key Objective 4: A Council Who Serves Its Community
- b) Council Budget 2022/2023
- c) Risk Management Manual
- d) Annual Report

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

Council Meeting - 27 November 2019, Performance Reporting Framework

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OPTIONS

The governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that priority is to be given to achieving the best outcomes for the municipal community, including future generations.

The option presented in this report to provide the Council with a revised and updated Performance Reporting Framework, that guides when performance reports are to be presented to Council and the Audit and Risk Committee, enhances governance and oversight, and promotes transparency in decision making.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Council must give effect to the overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, when considering sustainability implications.

Financial: Yarriambiack Shire Council is heavily reliant on operational and capital grants as a source of revenue funding. This poses a significant financial risk to Council. The reduction in the rate cap decreases Councils' ability to raise source revenue.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Engagement has not been undertaken to develop the Performance Reporting Framework.

In accordance with section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, Council must in the performance of its role give effect to the overarching governance principles.

The financial and non-financial performance indicators are utilised as a tool for decision making to achieve good governance.

Council adopted a Community Engagement Policy which is applied when developing and consulting with the community in relation to the Annual Budget development and adoption.

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:

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	Revised and updated the Performance Reporting Framework outlined in the Local Government Planning and Reporting Regulations 2020 Schedule 1.	Maintains Residual Risk Level
Financial Risk - Residual Risk Level Medium	The quarterly Financial and Non-Financial Performance Report included in the Performance Reporting Framework includes Budget v Actual reporting, which enables management, Audit and Risk Committee and Councillors to monitor the financial performance of Council and assess and address risks as they arise.	Maintains Residual Risk Level
Program and Project Risk - Residual Risk Level Medium	The quarterly Financial and Non-Financial Performance Report incorporates detailed project reporting, providing enhanced oversight on the performance of projects.	Maintains Residual Risk Level
Strategy Execution and Change Management Risk - Residual Risk Level Medium	The quarterly Council Plan actions update enables Council to monitor its strategy execution and assess its performance against its Council Plan actions.	Maintains Residual Risk Level

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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.

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14.22021/2022 Carry Forwards Project Report

Prepared by Paul Brumby, Acting Director Assets and Operations (who at the time of writing this report was Acting Director Business Strategy and Performance)

At the end of each financial year every Council has a number of budgeted capital works and operating projects that are yet to be completed. This report identifies the budgeted capital works and operating projects that will be brought forward from previous years and scheduled for completion in the 2022/2023 financial year and sets out the revised carry forward expenditure budget for each of these projects.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council notes the 2021/2022 Carry Forwards Project Report.

Resolution:

Moved Cr T Hamilton Seconded Cr C Heintze

That the recommendation be adopted

Carried

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment: 2021/2022 Carry Forwards Project Report

DISCUSSION

Each year Council adopts a budget that sets out the capital works and operating projects to be undertaken during that financial year. Due to several factors including the timing of grant funding announcements, inclement weather, and the availability of contractors, materials and staff (particularly during the COVID pandemic), at the end of the financial year (30 June) Council inevitably has a number of budgeted capital works and operating projects that are yet to be completed.

These projects are then rescheduled for completion in the following financial year, in order to ensure that the projects that were promised to our community are delivered to them. The 2021/2022 Carry Forwards Project Report identifies the projects that have been budgeted for in previous years, but are still yet to be delivered, and sets out the revised carry forward expenditure budget estimated for delivery of each of these projects.

RELEVANT LAW

Local Government Act 2020

Section 94 – the Budget

COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES

- a) Council Plan 2021/2025 Key Objective 4: A Council Who Serves Its Community
- b) Council Budget 2021/2022
- c) Council Budget 2022/2023
- d) Yarriambiack Shire Council Budget Framework & Guidelines

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

23 June 2021 Council Meeting

RECOMMENDATION

That in accordance with Section 94 of the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act) the 2021/22 Budget as tabled be adopted

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Resolution

Moved Cr K Kirk Seconded Cr T Hamilton

That the recommendation be adopted

Carried

OPTIONS

As this report recommends "that Council notes the 2021/2022 Carry Forwards Project Report", Council could choose not to adopt the recommendation.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Economic: Economic issues have been considered during the budget process.

Social: Social issues have been considered during the budget process. Media releases were developed to highlight the key projects and activities included in the proposed budget and members of the public were invited to make written submissions on the proposed budget.

Environmental Considerations: Environmental issues have been considered during the budget process.

Climate change: There are no climate change considerations arising from this report.

Financial: This report contains information on capital works and operating projects that have either been adopted during past budget processes or added into the Council projects list as a result of matters arising between budget cycles.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Proposed Council Budgets are placed on public exhibition for several weeks each year and members of the public are invited to make submissions on the proposed budget and any item contained within it. The proposed Budgets were advertised in local newspapers and made available for inspection at the Warracknabeal and Hopetoun Office and on Council's website. Community consultation sessions on the proposed Budget are traditionally held across the shire and online during April and May.

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:

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	This report provides Councillors and members of our community with a transparent view of the capital works and projects that were not completed at 30 June 2022 and which are scheduled for completion in the 2022/2023 financial year.	Maintains Residual Risk Level
Financial Risk - Residual Risk Level Medium	This report details the financial implications of delivering those capital works and projects that were not completed at 30 June 2022, but were funded in previous budgets.	Maintains Residual Risk Level
Reputational Risk - Residual Risk Level Low	Previous budgets have promised to our community the delivery of projects that were not delivered (either in part or in full) by 30 June 2022. This report provides an ongoing commitment to deliver these projects.	Reduces Residual Risk Level

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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.

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14.3 Draft Financial Statements and Performance Statement for Year End 30 June 2022

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 26 September 2022. 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.

RECOMMENDATION

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 2022, 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 C Lehmann Seconded Cr A McLean

That the recommendation be adopted

Carried

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Draft Financial Reports

Attachment 2: Draft Performance Statement

Attachment: Minutes from the Audit and Risk Committee Meeting 26 September 2022

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DISCUSSION

Financial Report

Key financial data for the 2021-22 financial year includes:

Financial Overview	2022 \$′000	
Total income	32,951	29,883
Total expenses	(26,869)	(25,350)
Surplus	6,082	4,532
Comprehensive result	(1,823)	2,113
Cash balance	16,428	18,577
Total equity	150,549	152,678

- The 2022 total income of \$32.951 million is greater than 2021 due to the increase in the number of capital and operating grants.
- Total expenses for 2022 of \$26.869 million are \$1.519 million greater than the prior year mainly due to an increase in materials and services relating to grant purchases.
- The comprehensive result is (\$1.823) million for the 2021/22 year.
- Council's cash balance as at 30 June 2022 was \$17.003 million comprising \$12.649 million 'cash and cash equivalents' plus \$4.350 million cash from term deposits that are disclosed as 'other financial assets'. The total cash balance of \$16.999 million is \$2.247 million lower than the prior year of \$19.246 million mainly due to projects and services being completed.
- Total equity has decreased from \$152.678 million to \$150.549 million.
- Capital spending was under budget during 2021/22 by \$4.937 million due to delays in being able to engage contractors as a result of COVID19.

Performance Statement

- The draft Performance Statement 2021/22 is in the eighth 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:
 - <u>Liquidity</u> 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.

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- <u>Stability</u> 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.
- <u>Underlying surplus</u> 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:

- a) nominating two Councillors to certify the Financial Statements and the Performance Statements; or
- b) 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:

Strategic Risk Description and Residual Risk Level	Action to Mitigate/Reduce Risk	Does Action maintain or reduce Residual Risk Level
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

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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.

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15 REPORTS FOR DECISION – DIRECTORATE ASSETS AND OPERATIONS

Operations Responsibilities	Assets Responsibilities	Development Services Responsibilities
Town Maintenance	 Aerodromes 	Planning
Capital Works &	 Technical 	Building
Maintenance Programs- Roads, footpaths, kerb &	Services Asset	Projects
Channel, Bridges & Culverts	Engineer Asset	Sustainability & Environment
Parks & Gardens Gravel Pits	 Inspectors 	Transfer Station Compliance
Plant & Equipment	• GIS	
Transfer Stations	Caravan Parks	

15.1 Permits issued by Assets and Operations Department – August 2022

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

Note the permits issued by Council between 1 August 2022 and 31 August 2022

Resolution:

Moved Cr C Heintze Seconded Cr G Massey

That the recommendation be adopted

Carried

Reference No	Description	Address	Date of Issue
Building Perr			
BLD 20220296	Extension to Dwelling	Areegra	18/08/2022
BLD 20220301	Installation of Shade Sails	Warracknabeal	08/08/2022
BLD 20220305	Installation of Flag Pole Warracknabeal		31/08/2022
Planning Permits			
TP21-22	Shed Construction	Warracknabeal	29/08/2022
TP22-22	Fuel Depot Caravan Dump Point	Minyip	11/08/2022
TP23-22	Garage Construction	Warracknabeal	29/08/2022
TP26-22	Shed Construction	Warracknabeal	29/08/2022
TP29-22	Garage Construction	Warracknabeal	29/08/2022
TP30-22	Farm Shed Construction	Kewell	19/08/2022

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Cr C Heintze left Council Chambers at 9:46am due to conflict of interest declared

15.2 Capital Works Program Alterations 2022/2023

Prepared by Joel Turner, Manager Infrastructure & Works

SUMMARY

This report recommends changes to the 2022/2023 Capital Works Program to respond to rapid changes in the condition of several roads in Council's network. The recommendation is that Council defers all or part of some capital works projects on roads that are able to remain serviceable until the 2023/2024 financial year, in order to undertake unscheduled capital works on roads that need urgent repair.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopts the changes to the 2022/2023 Capital Works Program as outlined below:

Resolution:

Moved Cr T Hamilton Seconded Cr C Lehmann

That the recommendation be adopted

Carried

Road Projects To Be Added Or Lengthened:

ROAD NAME	LENGTH TO BE ADDED	FUNDING	BUDGET AMOUNT ADDED
Burrum Lawler Road 4m RESHEET	1,000m	Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program Phase 3	\$36,000
Lawler Carron Road 4m RESHEET	3,000m	Roads to Recovery	\$108,000
Waller Road 4m RESHEET	550m	Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program Phase 3	\$20,000
Walden Road 4m RESHEET	2,800m	Roads to Recovery	\$101,000
Minyip Rich Avon Road 2m SHOULDERS	2,700m + Existing amount	Council/Victoria Grants Commission	\$119,000
3LK Road 4m RESHEET	380m + Existing amount	Roads to Recovery	\$14,000
Moyles Road 4m RESHEET	800m	Roads to Recovery	\$19,000
TOTAL	11,230m		\$417,000

Road Projects To Be Deferred Or Reduced

ROAD NAME	TOTAL LENGTH IN BUDGET	LENGTH TO BE REMOVED	FUNDING	BUDGET AMOUNT REMOVED
Linghams Road 4m RESHEET	820m	820m	Victoria Grants Commission	\$30,000
Dyers Estate Road 4m RESHEET	1,800m	1,800m	Council	\$58,000

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ROAD NAME	TOTAL LENGTH IN BUDGET	LENGTH TO BE REMOVED	FUNDING	BUDGET AMOUNT REMOVED
Len Matthews Road 4m RESHEET	550m	550m	LRCI3	\$20,000
Martins Road 4m RESHEET	1,600m	1,600m	Roads to Recovery	\$58,000
Pine Hill Road 4m RESHEET	1,620m	1,620m	Roads to Recovery	\$58,000
Walders Road 4m RESHEET	1,340m	1,340m	Roads to Recovery	\$48,000
Banyena Pimpinio Road 2m SHOULDERS	3,470m	900m	LRCI3	\$40,000
Dimboola Minyip Road 2m SHOULDERS	1,800m	1,800m	Roads to Recovery	\$79,000
Nandaly Tempy Road 2m SHOULDERS	1,600m	800m	Roads to Recovery	\$26,000
TOTAL	14,600m	11,230m		\$417,000

Alteration Summary

ACTIVITIES	Distance removed from Capital Works Plan	Distance added to Captial Works Plan
Shoulders	3500m	2700m
Resheets	7730m	8530m
TOTAL LENGTHS	11,230m	11,230m
TOTAL COST	\$417,000	\$417,000

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment: Capital Works Program Alterations - Photos

DISCUSSION

Road deterioration issues:

The current road condition issues can be attributed to a number of factors including the timing of the release of the capital works program, road inspection regimes and the crop sowing season; and wet weather after program adoption.

These factors can conceal roads that need repair but appear to be in reasonable condition. Roads that appear to be fine during inspections sometimes deteriorate more rapidly than expected and fail during late autumn/winter after the capital works program for the following financial year has been adopted.

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These factors are unavoidable and will continue to cause issues into the future. Through additional inspections, CRMs, and local knowledge the issue can be managed by additional monitoring, and program alterations can occur.

RELEVANT LAW

Section 10 of the *Local Government Act* provides that subject to any limitations or restrictions imposed by the Act or any other Act, Council has the power to do all things necessary or convenient to be done in connection with the performance of its role.

COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES

From the council plan strategic objectives 1 and 4 are applicable to this decision.

Objective 1: Good Governance

Objective 4: A Planned Future

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

This type of decision has occurred in most previous years, and I believe it will need to occur in the future as the strain on our road network increases. The roads can rapidly deteriorate in a matter of weeks. If this occurs after the Capital Works Program has been adopted, an alteration to the Capital Works Program is the only way to repair these roads in a timely manner.

OPTIONS

- 1. Leave the Capital Works Program as is and alleviate the safety concerns with signage and maintenance work until next financial year.
- 2. Alter the Capital Works Program and fund the roads that have recently come to light as dangerous sections in need of urgent repair.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Economic: Maintain the most economical routes for freight from farms to storage facilities and ports.

Social: Safety for road users, currently not very safe, traffic control is in place to reduce risk. Improve roads for improved transport routes from farms to major freight routes.

Financial: there are no financial implications for Council as the recommended option is a reallocation of the existing budget.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The community has voiced concerns for several of these roads and the need for them to be repaired. Others were identified through inspections after the sowing season and the wetter months.

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:

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	Divert existing budget resources from capital works on roads that pose a low or medium risk to drivers, to those roads that currently pose a high risk to drivers.	Reduces Residual Risk Level
Program and Project Risk - Residual Risk Level Medium	Budgeted capital works types are being reallocated from one physical location to	Maintains Residual Risk Level

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Strategic Risk Description and Residual Risk Level	Action to Mitigate/Reduce Risk	Does Action maintain or reduce Residual Risk Level
	another, but Council is still undertaking the same task types as budgeted	
Reputational Risk - Residual Risk Level Low	Council changing its capital works program in response to changed road conditions demonstrates that Council is flexible in managing its capital works program to reallocate funds to those roads that need the most urgent attention	Reduces Residual Risk Level

REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES

Roads to Recovery funding is provided to Council as a lump sum to allocate across the road network as Council determines. The Local Roads and Community Infrastructure funding program of works can be edited to match the recommended alterations to the Capital Works program.

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.

Cr C Heintze returned to Council Chambers at 9:51am

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15.3 Mixed Recycling and Glass Recycling Collection Service Survey Prepared by Paul Brumby, Acting Director Assets and Operations SUMMARY

In response to community feedback about the introduction of the glass recycling collection service in July 2022 and the simultaneous move from a fortnightly to four-weekly mixed recycling collection service, Council undertook a mixed recycling and glass recycling collection service survey to better understand the impact of these changes.

654 survey responses were received, which represents approximately 20% of the properties receiving the Council recycling collection service. Analysis of the feedback received in the survey has led to the following recommended changes to Council's recycling collection services:

- The mixed recycling collection service frequency is changed from four-weekly to fortnightly
- The glass recycling collection service frequency is changed from four-weekly to bimonthly.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 1. Reverts to a fortnightly mixed recycling collection service commencing the week beginning Monday 10 October 2022
- 2. Moves to a bimonthly glass recycling collection service commencing the week beginning Monday 26 September 2022
- 3. Provides one or more additional glass recycling bins to those properties requesting an extra bin or bins collection of additional bins will be charged at \$30.00 per bin per year
- 4. Offers free drop-off of glass recyclables at Council transfer stations
- 5. Communicates the changes to its recycling collection services across all Council media channels
- 6. Publishes and distributes a new 2022/2023 waste collection calendar to all households and businesses receiving a Council waste collection service
- 7. Undertakes a recycling collection service survey in October 2023.

Resolution:

Moved Cr C Lehmann Seconded Cr C Heintze

That the recommendation be adopted

Carried

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

DISCUSSION

The Victorian State Government's policy position on household waste management is documented at www.vic.gov.au/victorias-plan-circular-economy. Council is required to implement the initiatives included in the State policy position. Part of this policy platform is to move to a standard four-bin waste service for all households across the State of Victoria. The four standard bins are:

Glass (purple lid)

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- Food organics and garden organics (green lid)
- Mixed recyclables (yellow lid)
- Household rubbish (red lid)

The objective of introducing a glass recycling collection service is to reduce the overall contamination in mixed recycling and thereby increasing the value of sorted recyclables. The main problem with the current mixed recycling collection service is that glass containers break during the collection and compaction process, resulting in shards of glass embedding themselves in other recyclable materials such as paper, cardboard and plastic. This then reduces the value of the sorted recyclables (paper, cardboard and plastic) and increases the cost of reprocessing these items.

All Councils have until 2030 to introduce a glass recycling service. In an attempt to gain early traction with this change, the State Government provided grants to incentivise Councils to act early. Council was successful in obtaining a State grant to cover the majority of the cost (\$92,000) of Council purchasing the glass recycling bins. Had Council chosen to delay the introduction of the glass recycling service until closer to 2030, the full cost of purchasing the glass recycling bins would have had to be funded by Yarriambiack Shire ratepayers.

When introducing the glass recycling collection service, Council chose to minimise the cost of this change by simply substituting one fortnightly mixed recycling collection service with a glass recycling collection service. The new recycling collection service of four-weekly glass recycling collection and four-weekly mixed recycling collection was introduced from 1 July 2022.

In response to community feedback about the introduction of the new recycling collection service, Council undertook a mixed recycling and glass recycling collection service survey to better understand the impact of these changes.

Each household receiving a recycling collection service was sent a hard copy survey, and the survey was also available through Council's website. Council received 654 survey responses – 258 online and 396 hard copy responses.

The questions asked in the survey were:

1. How often do you prefer your yellow mixed recycling bin collected?

Fortnightly

Four-weekly

2. How often do you prefer your purple glass recycling bin collected?

Four weekly

Bimonthly

Quarterly

Half Yearly

3. How full is your recycling bin each fortnight?

Empty - 1/3 full

1/3-1/2 full

1/2-2/3 full

Full

4. Since the introduction of the purple bin, how full is your glass bin each fortnight?

Empty - 1/3 full

1/3-1/2 full

1/2-2/3 full

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Full

5. I am aware that increased bin collections will result in an increased municipal waste charge. I would support an increased waste charge for a better service?

Yes

No

6. Do you understand what items should be placed in your yellow mixed recycling bin?

Yes

No

Yes - but would like more information

7. Would you use a kerbside food and garden organic waste bin service?

Yes

No

Unsure

8. How often would you like the food and garden organic waste service?

Weekly

Fortnightly

Rarely/Never

9. Where do you live?

The survey results indicated there was a clear preference for a fortnightly mixed recycling collection service with 87% of respondents opting for a more regular service. This position was supported by a second indicator whereby 63% of respondents indicated that their mixed recycling bin was full each fortnight.

Given the majority of residents already have a 240-litre mixed recycling bin, there is relatively little scope for increasing bin sizes in lieu of returning to a fortnightly mixed recycling collection service, noting that there may be larger families who may still benefit form a 360-litre recycling bin. The overall Shire survey result was complimented by similar results across all communities with more than 80% of respondent communities choosing a fortnightly mixed recycling service.

The preferred frequency of the glass recycling collection service was more varied, and this is consistent with the reality that not all households use glass packaging equally. Indeed, some residents made it very clear that they hardly use any glass packaging at all or repurpose any glass jars that they have for other purposes (jams and preserves for example).

Survey respondents were relatively evenly divided about the frequency of the glass recycling collection service – with approximately 27% of respondents preferring four-weekly, quarterly or half yearly collections, whilst just over 17% preferring a bimonthly collection. In aggregate, 54% of respondents indicated that their preferred frequency for the glass recycling collection service was either quarterly or half-yearly, whilst 46% of respondents indicated that their preferred frequency for the glass recycling collection service was either fortnightly or bimonthly.

It should also be noted that the survey was conducted during winter, at a time when there is likely to be less glass packaging consumed than there might be the case over the spring/summer/autumn seasons. The timing of this survey may skew the responses to this question at this point in time.

The question regarding waste charges saw 62% of respondents indicate that they were not prepared to pay an increase in waste charges for an improved service, whilst 38% of respondents were willing to pay more if there was an improved recycling collection service.

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It was very pleasing to see that all bar two respondents indicated that they understood what should go into their mixed recycling bin, although 16% indicated that they would like more information on what items can be put into the mixed recycling collection.

Based on the survey results it is clear that:

- The vast majority of respondents want the mixed recycling service frequency returned to a fortnightly collection.
- There is an extremely varied view from respondents on the glass recycling service frequency with equal respondents wanting four-weekly and six-monthly collections.
- Around two-thirds of respondents indicated that they are price-sensitive to changes in the recycling service cost.

The cost of each glass recycling collection run across the Shire is approximately \$4,500. If Council adopts the recommendations in this report, it will result in an additional four glass recycling collection runs for the 2022/2023 financial year. This additional cost of approximately \$18,000 will need to be funded by reallocation of existing budgets, as part of the mid-year review of Council's overall budget.

RELEVANT LAW

Circular Economy (Waste Reduction & Recycling) Act 2021

Environment Protection Act 2017

Sustainability Victoria Act 2005

COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES

Yarriambiack Shire Resource Recovery and Waste management Strategy

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

Nil

OPTIONS

Resource recovery and waste management services are largely a non-negotiable service for Council to provide. What is negotiable is the frequency of the provision of these services.

Council has the option of setting the frequency of its recycling service collections as it sees fit. However, the survey results indicate that a fortnightly mixed recycling collection service is clearly a non-negotiable service for the vast majority of survey respondents.

Council has at least four options for the frequency of the glass recycling collection service:

- Monthly
- Bimonthly
- Quarterly
- Half-yearly

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Resource recovery and waste management is one of the few functions of Council that has a significant economic, financial and environmental impact, while at the same time impacting every member of the community. It is also an area where there are considerable changes in expectations from both a State and Federal Government perspective and as well as a community perspective.

The perceived lack of public trust in the recycling system has made introducing new recycling services more difficult. Council has received grant funding for the purchase and commissioning of a glass crushing machine in Warracknabeal. Once the glass crusher is operational (in early 2023) it will become easier to demonstrate the value of the glass recycling collection service to our community.

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Changes to the Environment Protection Act have increased the General Environmental Duty imposed on Council. One example of the impact of this change is the way that transfer stations deal with a variety of waste streams such as green waste, which will no longer be able to be burnt.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Community engagement on Council's mixed recycling and glass recycling collection service included many telephone calls, an online and hard copy survey. A detailed summary of the responses to this survey was presented to Councillors at the Council Forum held on 14 September 2022. The key findings of this survey have been incorporated into this report.

GENDER IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Gender Impact Assessment (GIA)		Status	
Does this Council report recommendation		YES ⊠	
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	
that directly and significantly impacts the public?		A GIA is not required.	
Link to Gender Impact Assessment		GIA -	GIA - Kerbside Recycling.pdf

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
Environmental Sustainability Risk - Residual Risk Level Medium	The Resource Recovery & Waste Management Strategy provides a framework to reduce environmental sustainability risks	Reduces Residual Risk Level
Financial Risk - Residual Risk Level Medium	The Resource Recovery & Waste Management Strategy will focus on reducing operational costs while maintaining service delivery in conjunction with the expectations of the community	Maintains Residual Risk Level
Reputational Risk - Residual Risk Level Low	The recommended changes to Council's recycling services demonstrates to the Community that Council has heard its frustrations with the changes made to the service and has taken remedial action to better align Council's recycling services with community expectations.	Reduces Residual Risk Level

REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES

National Waste Policy, Recycling Victoria, Grampians Central West Waste & Resource Recovery Group Waste & Resource Recovery Infrastructure 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.

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16 REPORTS FOR DECISION – DIRECTORATE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND WELLBEING

Community Health Responsibilities	Community and Economic Development Responsibilities
 Local Laws (including infringement and animal management) Sale Yards Environmental Health Sports and Recreation Positive Ageing (Commonwealth Home Support Program, Brokered & Packaged care) Leisure Centre Kindergartens Playgroup Maternal Child Health (including enhanced services) Immunisation Program 	 Libraries Economic Development Community Development Tourism Housing Youth Stakeholder Engagement

16.1 Permits Issued by Community Development and Wellbeing Department - August 2022

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

Note the permits issued by Council between 1 August 2022 and 31 August 2022.

Resolution:

Moved Cr G Massey Seconded Cr C Lehmann

That the recommendation be adopted

Carried

Reference No	Description	Name / Location	Date of Issue
Local Laws Permits			
07-22	Permit to keep a maximum of one beehive	Woomelang	31/08/2022
13-22	Street Trade Permit	Warracknabeal	04/08/2022
Firewood collection Permits			
	Roadside Firewood Collection Permit	Minyip	5/08/2022
Septic Tank Permits			

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17 OTHER BUSINESS

17.1 Councillor Matters

Cr A McLean

Question: Is the wet weather effecting our ability to continue with the current road works program?

Response: Yes, the weather is effecting current works with road maintenance and roadside slashing.

Cr T Hamilton

The Murtoa Big Weekend is being held this weekend. It is shaping up to be a great weekend

Cr C Lehmann

Vines were pruned in Hopetoun this week which was good to see.

Question: When are the successful applicants of the SHARE Grant funding going to be notified of the decision.

Response: The letters were signed this week.

Cr K Zanker

In light of all the rain it's good to see the weir gates at the north end of the Yarriambiack Creek in Warracknabeal are open. Flow of the water is monitored continuously throughout the town.

Moved Cr T Hamilton Seconded Cr C Heintze that Council move into Closed Session at $10.01 \mathrm{am}$

Carried

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18 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 item:

18.1 C313-2023 Design and Construct and Install, Two x 2 Bedroom Units in Woomelang and Murtoa

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.

Moved Cr C Heintze Seconded Cr G Massey that Council move back into Open Session at 10:15am

Carried

19 Next Meeting

26 October 2022

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CLOSE	
	Mavor

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