



Date: Wednesday, 26 April 2023
Time: 3.00pm
Location: Loddon Shire Council Chambers, Wedderburn

MINUTES

Council Meeting

**MINUTES OF LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL
COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT THE LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, WEDDERBURN
ON WEDNESDAY, 26 APRIL 2023 AT 3.00PM**

PRESENT: Cr Dan Straub (Mayor), Cr Neil Beattie, Cr Gavan Holt, Cr Linda Jungwirth and Cr Wendy Murphy

IN ATTENDANCE: Lincoln Fitzgerald (Chief Executive Officer), Wendy Gladman (Director Community Wellbeing), Steven Phillips (Director Operations), Amanda Wilson (Director Corporate), Lisa Clue (Manager Governance) and Tracy Hunt (Governance Coordinator)

1 OPENING AFFIRMATION

The Mayor read the opening affirmation.

2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Chief Executive Officer read the Acknowledgment of Country.

3 APOLOGIES

Nil

4 DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Cr Murphy – Refer to Agenda Item 10.1

5 PREVIOUS MINUTES**5.1 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

File Number: FOL/19/45615
Author: Lisa Clue, Manager Governance
Authoriser: Lincoln Fitzgerald, Chief Executive Officer
Attachments: Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That Council confirm the Minutes of the following meetings as previously circulated to Councillors:

1. Council Briefing of 28 March 2023
2. Council Meeting of 28 March 2023
3. Council Forum of 11 April 2023.

REPORT

This report seeks Council confirmation of Minutes from the March 2023 Council Briefing and Council Meeting, and April 2023 Council Forum as previously circulated to Councillors.

RESOLUTION 2023/43

Moved: Cr Wendy Murphy
Seconded: Cr Neil Beattie

That Council confirm the Minutes of the following meetings as previously circulated to Councillors:

1. Council Briefing of 28 March 2023
2. Council Meeting of 28 March 2023
3. Council Forum of 11 April 2023.

CARRIED

6 ADVISORY MEETINGS**6.1 RECORD OF ADVISORY MEETINGS****File Number: 02/01/001****Author: Lisa Clue, Manager Governance****Authoriser: Lincoln Fitzgerald, Chief Executive Officer****Attachments: Nil****RECOMMENDATION**

That Council confirm records of the following as detailed within this report :

1. Council Briefing 28 March 2023
2. Council Forum 11 April 2023

Rule 51 of Council's Governance Rules requires a record of Councillor briefings, Councillor forums and advisory committees to be confirmed at scheduled Council meetings, and that the record include:

- a) a record of which Councillors attended the meeting;
- b) a summary of the matters considered in the meeting; and
- c) a record of any conflicts of interest disclosed by Councillors.

This report seeks confirmation of the following meetings and forums, conducted since the last scheduled meeting of Council and detailed within this report:

1. Council Briefing 28 March 2023
2. Council Forum 11 April 2023

Meeting details	Briefing
Date	28 March 2023
Councillor Attendees	Cr Beattie Cr Holt Cr Jungwirth Cr Murphy Cr Straub
Staff/Stakeholder representatives	Lincoln Fitzgerald, Chief Executive Officer Wendy Gladman, Director Community Wellbeing Steven Phillips, Director Operations Amanda Wilson, Director Corporate Lisa Clue, Manager Governance Tracy Hunt, Governance Coordinator Deanne Caserta, Manager Financial Services (for items 1 and 2 below) Carly McNaulty, Procurement Coordinator and Graeme Gilmore, Contracts Supervisor (for item 3 below)
Items discussed.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Draft Fees and Charges 2023/24 2. Review of the Procurement Policy v12 3. Land and Building Development Projects Policy 4. PA 5711 – Use and development of a dwelling at Lot 1 Newbridge Road, Newbridge – Lodgement of amended plans 5. Correspondence regarding Gazania linearis spread on roadsides 6. Council’s submission on the AEMO VNI West project
Conflict of Interest Disclosures - Councillor/officer making disclosure	Nil
Councillor/officer left room	N/A

Meeting details	Forum
Date	11 April 2023
Councillor Attendees	Cr Beattie Cr Holt Cr Jungwirth Cr Murphy Cr Straub
Staff/Stakeholder representatives	Lincoln Fitzgerald, Chief Executive Officer Wendy Gladman, Director Community Wellbeing Steven Phillips, Director Operations Amanda Wilson, Director Corporate Lisa Clue, Manager Governance Deanne Caserta, Manager Financial Services (for items 2 and 3 below) Adam Place, General Manager, Victorian Operations of Catalyst Ltd and Stephen Adamthwaite, Manager Earth Resources Regulation, DEECA (for item 4 below) David Stretch, Manager Tourism and Economic Development (for items 6 and 8 below)
Items discussed.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. CEO and Councillor discussion 2. Draft Annual Budget 2023/24 3. Review of the Procurement Policy v12 4. Catalyst Metals Project Update 5. Draft Community Support Policy for Consideration 6. Tourism and Economic Development – Work Plan 7. Legislative Council Environment and Planning Committee – Inquiry into the 2022 Flood Event in Victoria 8. Wedderburn Housing Development Stage 2, Yelka Street 9. Bendigo Bank closures 10. Proposed Notice of Motion 11. Dr Anne Webster MP visit to Inglewood 12. Timing of further budget discussion
Conflict of Interest Disclosures - Councillor/officer making disclosure	CEO, Lincoln Fitzgerald – Material Conflict of Interest – Agenda Item 3.8 (item 8 above)
Councillor/officer left room	No

RESOLUTION 2023/44

Moved: Cr Wendy Murphy

Seconded: Cr Neil Beattie

That Council confirm records of the following as detailed within this report :

1. Council Briefing 28 March 2023
2. Council Forum 11 April 2023

CARRIED

7 REVIEW OF ACTIONS**7.1 REVIEW OF ACTIONS****File Number: 02/01/002****Author: Lisa Clue, Manager Governance****Authoriser: Lincoln Fitzgerald, Chief Executive Officer****Attachments: 1. Resolutions acted upon since the March 2023 Council meeting****RECOMMENDATION**

That Council receive and note resolutions acted upon since the March 2023 Council meeting as attached to this report.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There is no conflict of interest for any Council staff member involved in the preparation of this report, or involved in the subject matter of the report.

REPORT

A document containing the status of actions from Council meeting resolutions is attached to this report.

There were no outstanding actions from Council meeting resolutions prior to March 2023.

All actions from March 2023 Council meeting resolutions have been completed.

RESOLUTION 2023/45**Moved: Cr Linda Jungwirth****Seconded: Cr Gavan Holt**

That Council receive and note resolutions acted upon since the March 2023 Council meeting as attached to this report.

CARRIED

8 MAYORAL REPORT**8.1 MAYORAL REPORT****File Number:** 02/01/001**Author:** Lisa Clue, Manager Governance**Authoriser:** Lincoln Fitzgerald, Chief Executive Officer**Attachments:** Nil**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council receive and note the Mayoral Report.

REPORT

The Mayor, Cr Straub commenced his report by acknowledging the ANZAC day services held across the Loddon Shire; remembering those that have served in military and peacekeeping operations, and thanked those who organised the services.

Loddon Campaspe Councils	
14/04/2023 – Meeting - Castlemaine	
Murray River Group of Councils	
20/04/2023 – Meeting - Mildura (including a meeting with Minister Shing)	
Other Council activities	
Date	Activity
05/04/2023	Loddon Shire Council AEMO VNI West Consultation Report Response Submission
10/04/2023	150 th Rheola Charity Carnival
13/04/2023	Loddon Shire Municipal Flood Recovery Committee Meeting - Serpentine
19/04/2023	Discussions with Pyramid Hill Progress Association President and community regarding housing opportunities
26/04/2023	Opening of Victoria Duck Hunting Season (Noted)

RESOLUTION 2023/46

Moved: Cr Dan Straub (Mayor)

Seconded: Cr Wendy Murphy

That Council receive and note the Mayoral Report.

CARRIED

9 COUNCILLORS' REPORT**9.1 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS**

File Number: 02/01/001

Author: Lisa Clue, Manager Governance

Authoriser: Lincoln Fitzgerald, Chief Executive Officer

Attachments: Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and note the Councillors' reports.

REPORT

Each Councillor presented a verbal report at the meeting.

Cr Murphy

Calder Highway Improvement Committee	
21/04/2023 – Meeting - Online	
Healthy Minds Network	
20/04/2023 – Meeting - Online (Chaired)	
Section 65 Community Asset Committees:	
03/04/2023 - Inglewood Town Hall Hub – Inglewood - Meeting	
Other Council activities	
Date	Activity
28/03/2023	Council Briefing Council Meeting
29/03/2023	Inglewood Eucalyptus Museum Planning Workshop
30/03/2023	Fraud and Corruption Prevention and Awareness Training - Serpentine
06/04/2023	East Loddon P-12 Debutante Ball
10/04/2023	150 th Rheola Charity Carnival
11/04/2023	Council Forum
12/04/2023	Loddon Shire Municipal Flood Recovery Committee Meeting - Serpentine
17/04/2023	Martha Haylett MP for Ripon Meeting – Bridgewater Wychitella District Landcare Group - Buckrabanyule

Cr Murphy (Continued)

20/04/2023	BOLD Inc Meeting - Bridgewater
25/04/2023	Bridgewater ANZAC Day Service Inglewood ANZAC Day Service

Cr Beattie

Section 65 Community Asset Committees:	
30/03/2023 - Boort Park - Meeting	
Other Council activities	
Date	Activity
08/04/2023	Boort Easter Tournament
11/04/2023	Council Forum
12/04/2023	Lake Boort Pump Recalibration
22/04/2023	North Central Football League Match - Boort vs Charlton
25/04/2023	Boort ANZAC Day Service

Cr Holt

Council activities	
Date	Activity
11/04/2023	Council Forum
15/04/2023	Wedderburn vs Charlton Winter Sports Day - Donaldson Park
25/04/2023	Soldiers Memorial Park Wedderburn ANZAC Day Service Borella Park Korong Vale ANZACC Day Service Wedderburn Korong Vale RSL ANZAC Day Service
<p>Cr Holt advised the meeting of three resolutions recently endorsed by Victorian Farmers Federation members regarding AEMO's VNI West project, noting that Council has made a submission in response to the VNI West Consultation Report and a panel discussion on the project will be held on 5 May 2023 at 2pm in the Loddon Shire Council Chambers.</p>	

Cr Jungwirth

Council activities	
Date	Activity
28/03/2023	Council Briefing Council Meeting
30/03/2023	Council All Staff Meeting including Fraud and Corruption Prevention and Awareness Training - Serpentine
31/03/2023	Newbridge Flood Recovery Committee Meeting
05/04/2023	Newbridge Flood Recovery Committee Meeting
10/04/2023	150 th Rheola Charity Carnival
11/04/2023	Council Forum
13/04/2023	Loddon Shire Municipal Flood Recovery Committee Meeting – Serpentine
25/04/2023	Newbridge ANZAC Day Service Rheola ANZAC Day Service Tarnagulla ANZAC Day Service

RESOLUTION 2023/47

Moved: Cr Wendy Murphy

Seconded: Cr Gavan Holt

That Council receive and note the Councillors' reports.

CARRIED

QUESTION TIME

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

RESOLUTION 2023/48

Moved: Cr Gavan Holt

Seconded: Cr Neil Beattie

That Council suspend standing orders to address questions submitted by members of the public.

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CARRIED

RESUMPTION OF STANDING ORDERS

RESOLUTION 2023/49

Moved: Cr Wendy Murphy

Seconded: Cr Neil Beattie

That Council resume standing orders.

CARRIED

10 DECISION REPORTS

Cr Wendy Murphy declared a General Conflict of Interest in relation to Agenda Item 10.1, being a member of the Inglewood Primary School Council, an objector to the Planning Permit Application. Cr Murphy left the meeting at 3.43pm.

10.1 PLANNING PERMIT APPLICATION 5850 - DEVELOPMENT OF FOUR DWELLINGS AND A FOUR LOT SUBDIVISION AT 71 SULLIVAN STREET, INGLEWOOD

File Number:

Author: Louise Johnston, Statutory Planning Coordinator

Authoriser: Steven Phillips, Director Operations

Attachments:

1. Planning Application 5850 - Decision Report
2. Planning Application 5850 - Proposed Plans

RECOMMENDATION

That the Responsible Authority having considered all matters which the Planning and Environment Act, 1987, requires it to consider, decides to issue a Notice of Decision to grant a planning permit 5850 to develop the land for four dwellings and a four lot subdivision at 71 Sullivan Street, Inglewood subject to the following conditions:

1. AMENDED PLANS REQUIRED

Before the development start(s), amended plans to the satisfaction of the responsible authority must be submitted to and approved by the responsible authority. When approved, the plans will be endorsed and will then form part of the permit. The plans must be drawn to scale with dimensions and three copies must be provided. The plans must be generally in accordance with *the plans submitted with the application* but modified to show:

- a) All windows on the south elevation of dwellings 2 & 4 must be frosted glass to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority

2. LAYOUT NOT ALTERED

The layout of the development on the endorsed plans must not be altered without the written consent of the Responsible Authority.

3. SUBDIVISION LAYOUT

The subdivision, as shown on the endorsed plan(s), must not be altered without the prior written consent of the Responsible Authority.

4. COMPLETION OF LANDSCAPING

Before the occupation of the development starts or by such later date as is approved by the Responsible Authority in writing, the landscaping works shown on the endorsed plans must be carried out and completed to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.

5. LANDSCAPING MAINTENANCE

The landscaping shown on the endorsed plans must be maintained to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority, including that any dead, diseased or damaged plants are to be replaced.

6. MINIMISING GLARE

The exterior colour and cladding of the building(s) must be of a non-reflective nature to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.

7. CONTROL OF LIGHT SPILL

External lighting must be designed, baffled and located so as to prevent any adverse effect on adjoining land to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.

8. MATERIALS

All external materials must be non-reflective and finished in natural colours or shades to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.

9. ENGINEERING PLANS

Prior to commencement of any construction works associated with the subdivision and the development, detailed access & drainage construction plans must be submitted to and approved by Council. When approved, the plans will be endorsed and form part of the permit. The engineering plans must accord with the Infrastructure Design Manual. All works constructed or carried out must be in accordance with those approved plans and completed to a standard satisfactory to Council prior to the issuing of Statement of Compliance.

10. DRAINAGE

The whole of the subject land, including landscaped and paved areas, must be graded and drained to the satisfaction of the council as the responsible drainage authority so as to prevent the discharge of water from the subject land across any road or onto any adjoining land.

Prior to the design of any internal drainage system the owner/applicant must submit a Property Information Request and be issued a Legal Point of Discharge Permit to discharge stormwater.

11. SEDIMENT POLLUTION CONTROL

The developer must restrict sediment discharges from any construction sites within the land in accordance with Construction Techniques for Sediment Pollution Control (EPA 1991) and Environmental Guidelines for Major Construction Sites (EPA 1995).

12. CONSENT FOR CONSTRUCTIONS

Prior to the commencement of any works on the road reserve the owner/applicant must submit a Works in a Road Reserve application and be issued a permit to occupy the road for works.

13. INFRASTRUCTURE STATUS

All existing road reservation assets are to be protected and maintained throughout the works including all utilities and services. Any damage is to be restored prior to issuing of statement of compliance.

The internal driveway access shall be constructed to appropriate engineering standards approved by Council along with appropriate cut off table drains and cross culverts.

14. STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

Prior to issue of a Statement of Compliance for the subdivision, drainage, access and driveway works must be completed to satisfaction of Council in accordance with the approved plans.

15. COLIBAN WATER

The owner is required to provide reticulated water and sewerage services to each of the lots within the subdivision and comply with any requirements arising from any effect of the proposed development on Coliban Water assets. Services are to be provided in accordance with our specifications. Sewer mains extension will be required in the common property to provide sewerage services to each of the lots proposed in this subdivision.

All Coliban Water assets within the subdivision, both existing and proposed, are to be protected by an easement in favour of Coliban Region Water Corporation.

Before the issue of a Statement of Compliance for any stage of the subdivision under the Subdivision Act 1988, the owner of the land must make payment to Coliban Water of New Customer Contributions (NCCs). These contributions are based upon the number of additional allotments connected (or to be connected) to Coliban Water's water, sewer or recycled water networks. A quote will be supplied to the owner on the referral of the Certified plan of subdivision.

16. POWERCOR

This letter shall be supplied to the applicant in its entirety.

The plan of subdivision submitted for certification under the Subdivision Act 1988 shall be referred to the Distributor in accordance with Section 8 of that Act.

The applicant shall provide an electricity supply to all lots in the subdivision in accordance with the Distributor's requirements and standards.

Notes: Extension, augmentation or rearrangement of the Distributor's electrical assets may be required to make such supplies available, with the cost of such works generally borne by the applicant.

The applicant shall ensure that existing and proposed buildings and electrical installations on the subject land are compliant with the Victorian Service and Installation Rules (VSIR).

Notes: Where electrical works are required to achieve VSIR compliance, a registered electrical contractor must be engaged to undertake such works.

17. TELECOMMUNICATION SERVICES

The owner of the land must enter into an agreement with:

- a telecommunications network or service provider for the provision of telecommunication services to each lot shown on the endorsed plan in accordance with the provider's requirements and relevant legislation at the time; and
- a suitably qualified person for the provision of fibre ready telecommunication facilities to each lot shown on the endorsed plan in accordance with any industry specifications or any standards set by the Australian Communications and Media Authority, unless the applicant can demonstrate that the land is in an area where the National Broadband Network will not be provided by optical fibre.

Before the issue of a Statement of Compliance for any stage of the subdivision under the Subdivision Act 1988, the owner of the land must provide written confirmation from:

- a telecommunications network or service provider that all lots are connected to or are ready for connection to telecommunications services in accordance with the provider's requirements and relevant legislation at the time; and
- a suitably qualified person that fibre ready telecommunication facilities have been provided in accordance with any industry specifications or any standards set by the Australian Communications and Media Authority, unless the applicant can demonstrate that the land is in an area where the National Broadband Network will not be provided by optical fibre.

18. PROVISION OF SERVICES

The owner of the land must enter into agreements with the relevant authorities for the provision of water supply, drainage, sewerage facilities, electricity and gas services to each lot shown on the approved plan in accordance with the authority's requirements and relevant legislation at the time.

All existing and proposed easements and sites for existing or required utility services and roads on the land must be set aside in the plan of subdivision submitted for certification in favour of the relevant authority for which the easement or site is to be created.

The plan of subdivision submitted for certification under the Subdivision Act 1988 must be referred to the relevant authority in accordance with Section 8 of that Act.

19. PERMIT EXPIRY

This permit will expire if the permitted development is not started within two years of the date of this permit, or is not completed within four years of that date.

The Responsible Authority may extend these periods if a request is made in writing before the permit expires, or within six months afterwards (for a request to extend the time to commence the development) or twelve months after the permit expires (for a request to extend the time to complete the development).

20. SUBDIVISION EXPIRY

This permit will expire if the plan of subdivision is not certified within two years of the date of this permit.

The responsible authority may extend this period if a request is made in writing before the permit expires, or within six months afterwards.

Under section 7 of the Subdivision Act 1988, the plan of subdivision must be registered within five years of the date of certification.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There is no conflict of interest for any Council staff member involved in the preparation of this report, or involved in the subject matter of the report.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

There have been no previous Council discussions on this matter.

BACKGROUND

The application was lodged on 21 December, 2022 for the development of four dwellings and a four lot subdivision at 71 Sullivan Street, Inglewood.

The application was advertised to adjoining and adjacent landowners and a notice placed on the site, two objections have been received, including a petition with seven signatures.

The application was externally referred to Powercor and Coliban Water and internally to Council's Engineering Department, who all have provided conditional consent.

In response to the objections received, the Applicant lodged amended plans that made changes to the design to try to address Objectors concerns.

The amended plans were circulated to objectors, no additional concerns have been raised and no objections have been withdrawn.

The report has assessed the amended plans.

The application is considered to achieve compliance with the relevant policies and provisions of the Loddon Planning Scheme as they relate to infill development and settlement as demonstrated in this report.

It is recommended that a Notice of Decision to grant a planning permit be issued.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

Under the Planning and Environment Act 1987 (the Act) the Minister of Planning delegates a municipal council power to become the planning authority for any planning scheme in force in its municipal district.

A municipal council is obligated to enforce and administer the relevant Planning Scheme and must use the scheme to determine applications. The Loddon Planning Scheme is the relevant Planning Scheme for Council. An application is referred to Council for determination, which:

- receive one or more objections, and/or
- are to be recommended for refusal by the Planning officer.

Pursuant to Section 52 of the Planning and Environment Act 1987, notices were sent to owners and occupiers of adjoining land as well as land opposite and surrounding the site. Council has received two objections as the result of the public notification and as such, the matter is being brought to Council for determination. A decision report detailing this application has been prepared and can be found in Attachment 1 and the proposed plans can be found in Attachment 2.

COST/BENEFITS

There are various costs associated with having a delegated Planning Officer consider an application and make a recommendation as well as with the time of the Councillors to consider this recommendation.

The benefits associated with this report is the ability of Council to fulfil its requirement under law and provide the community with a statutory service that delivers well-managed and appropriate development.

RISK ANALYSIS

The risks of Council not fulfilling its statutory obligation under the Act include:

- inappropriate use and development which could endanger life and property
- Council's reputation as a Responsible Authority
- breaches of the Planning & Environment Act 1987 requiring compliance action.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

Refer to the decision report for further detail on the application.

RESOLUTION 2023/50

Moved: Cr Gavan Holt

Seconded: Cr Neil Beattie

That the Responsible Authority having considered all matters which the Planning and Environment Act, 1987, requires it to consider, decides to issue a Notice of Decision to grant a planning permit 5850 to develop the land for four dwellings and a four lot subdivision at 71 Sullivan Street, Inglewood subject to the following conditions:

1. AMENDED PLANS REQUIRED

Before the development start(s), amended plans to the satisfaction of the responsible authority must be submitted to and approved by the responsible authority. When approved, the plans will be endorsed and will then form part of the permit. The plans must be drawn to scale with dimensions and three copies must be provided. The plans must be generally in accordance with *the plans submitted with the application* but modified to show:

- a) All windows on the south elevation of dwellings 2 & 4 must be frosted glass to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority

2. LAYOUT NOT ALTERED

The layout of the development on the endorsed plans must not be altered without the written consent of the Responsible Authority.

3. SUBDIVISION LAYOUT

The subdivision, as shown on the endorsed plan(s), must not be altered without the prior written consent of the Responsible Authority.

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8. MATERIALS

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9. ENGINEERING PLANS

Prior to commencement of any construction works associated with the subdivision and the development, detailed access & drainage construction plans must be submitted to and approved by Council. When approved, the plans will be endorsed and form part of the permit. The engineering plans must accord with the Infrastructure Design Manual. All works constructed or carried out must be in accordance with those approved plans and completed to a standard satisfactory to Council prior to the issuing of Statement of Compliance.

10. DRAINAGE

The whole of the subject land, including landscaped and paved areas, must be graded and drained to the satisfaction of the council as the responsible drainage authority so as to prevent the discharge of water from the subject land across any road or onto any adjoining land.

Prior to the design of any internal drainage system the owner/applicant must submit a Property Information Request and be issued a Legal Point of Discharge Permit to discharge stormwater.

11. SEDIMENT POLLUTION CONTROL

The developer must restrict sediment discharges from any construction sites within the land in accordance with Construction Techniques for Sediment Pollution Control (EPA 1991) and Environmental Guidelines for Major Construction Sites (EPA 1995).

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All Coliban Water assets within the subdivision, both existing and proposed, are to be protected by an easement in favour of Coliban Region Water Corporation.

Before the issue of a Statement of Compliance for any stage of the subdivision under the Subdivision Act 1988, the owner of the land must make payment to Coliban Water of New Customer Contributions (NCCs). These contributions are based upon the number of additional allotments connected (or to be connected) to Coliban Water's water, sewer or recycled water networks. A quote will be supplied to the owner on the referral of the Certified plan of subdivision.

16. POWERCOR

This letter shall be supplied to the applicant in its entirety.

The plan of subdivision submitted for certification under the Subdivision Act 1988 shall be referred to the Distributor in accordance with Section 8 of that Act.

The applicant shall provide an electricity supply to all lots in the subdivision in accordance with the Distributor's requirements and standards.

Notes: Extension, augmentation or rearrangement of the Distributor's electrical assets may be required to make such supplies available, with the cost of such works generally borne by the applicant.

The applicant shall ensure that existing and proposed buildings and electrical installations on the subject land are compliant with the Victorian Service and Installation Rules (VSIR).

Notes: Where electrical works are required to achieve VSIR compliance, a registered electrical contractor must be engaged to undertake such works.

17. TELECOMMUNICATION SERVICES

The owner of the land must enter into an agreement with:

- a telecommunications network or service provider for the provision of telecommunication services to each lot shown on the endorsed plan in accordance with the provider's requirements and relevant legislation at the time; and
- a suitably qualified person for the provision of fibre ready telecommunication facilities to each lot shown on the endorsed plan in accordance with any industry specifications or any standards set by the Australian Communications and Media Authority, unless the applicant can demonstrate that the land is in an area where the National Broadband Network will not be provided by optical fibre.

Before the issue of a Statement of Compliance for any stage of the subdivision under the Subdivision Act 1988, the owner of the land must provide written confirmation from:

- a telecommunications network or service provider that all lots are connected to or are ready for connection to telecommunications services in accordance with the provider's requirements and relevant legislation at the time; and
- a suitably qualified person that fibre ready telecommunication facilities have been provided in accordance with any industry specifications or any standards set by the Australian Communications and Media Authority, unless the applicant can demonstrate that the land is in an area where the National Broadband Network will not be provided by optical fibre.

18. PROVISION OF SERVICES

The owner of the land must enter into agreements with the relevant authorities for the provision of water supply, drainage, sewerage facilities, electricity and gas services to each lot shown on the approved plan in accordance with the authority's requirements and relevant legislation at the time.

All existing and proposed easements and sites for existing or required utility services and roads on the land must be set aside in the plan of subdivision submitted for certification in favour of the relevant authority for which the easement or site is to be created.

The plan of subdivision submitted for certification under the Subdivision Act 1988 must be referred to the relevant authority in accordance with Section 8 of that Act.

19. PERMIT EXPIRY

This permit will expire if the permitted development is not started within two years of the date of this permit, or is not completed within four years of that date.

The Responsible Authority may extend these periods if a request is made in writing before the permit expires, or within six months afterwards (for a request to extend the time to commence the development) or twelve months after the permit expires (for a request to extend the time to complete the development).

20. SUBDIVISION EXPIRY

This permit will expire if the plan of subdivision is not certified within two years of the date of this permit.

The responsible authority may extend this period if a request is made in writing before the permit expires, or within six months afterwards.

Under section 7 of the Subdivision Act 1988, the plan of subdivision must be registered within five years of the date of certification.

CARRIED

Cr Wendy Murphy returned to the meeting at 3.49pm

10.2 FEES AND CHARGES FOR THE YEAR 1 JULY 2023 TO 30 JUNE 2024

File Number: FOL/22/5338
Author: Deanne Caserta, Manager Financial Services
Authoriser: Amanda Wilson, Director Corporate
Attachments: 1. Draft Fees and Charges Schedule 2023/24

RECOMMENDATION

That Council

1. Approves the Fees and Charges for the year 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024 for the purposes of seeking public comment with the Draft Budget
2. Provide preliminary notification of residential accommodation charge changes to tenants.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There is no conflict of interest for any Council staff member involved in the preparation of this report, or involved in the subject matter of the report.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

A draft Fees and Charges Schedule (Schedule) was submitted for consideration at the Council Briefing held on 28 March 2023.

BACKGROUND

Each year as a part of the budget process a Schedule is prepared and submitted for approval by Council. This year it is proposed that the *Fees and Charges for the year 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024 be advertised together with the Draft Budget so that the community is able to see the whole suite of Council finances in context.*

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

Generally, the new Schedule takes effect from the start of the financial year; however included in the Schedule are residential accommodation charges that require a minimum notice period of 60 days. Notification will be forwarded to tenants as soon as practicable after approval by Council.

The approach to the 2023/24 Schedule was to index fees and charges in line with the 3.5% rate cap advised by the Minister for Local Government for 2023/24. This decision is guided by the principles located within the Revenue and Rating Plan. This indexation rate last year was 1.75%.

Some cost areas within the Schedule have had an increase of more than the indexation due to rounding to nearest dollars (or five dollars).

There is no increase to swimming pool fees.

COST/BENEFITS

The adoption of the Schedule provides a transparent process and allows the community to provide feedback about the proposed fees and charges prior to approval by Council.

Raising fees and charges on particular services helps to provide an equitable contribution of revenue towards the cost of service delivery.

RISK ANALYSIS

There is a minor risk of avoidance of payment by customers.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

The Fees and Charges provided in the Schedule have been considered in detail by the Management Executive Group and Council.

RESOLUTION 2023/51

Moved: Cr Linda Jungwirth

Seconded: Cr Wendy Murphy

That Council

1. Approves the Fees and Charges for the year 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024 for the purposes of seeking public comment with the Draft Budget
2. Provide preliminary notification of residential accommodation charge changes to tenants.

CARRIED

10.3 SEEKING FEEDBACK FOR THE 2023/24 DRAFT ANNUAL BUDGET

File Number: FOL/22/5338
Author: Deanne Caserta, Manager Financial Services
Authoriser: Amanda Wilson, Director Corporate
Attachments: 1. 2023/24 Draft Annual Budget

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. seek feedback on the Draft Annual Budget in accordance with the Community Engagement Policy
2. adopt the proportion of rates raised within various valuation categories as follows:
Rural Production to have a differential rate 12% lower than the General (Residential, Commercial and Other) differential rate
3. agree that the above distribution of rates raised demonstrates fairness and equity across the municipality
4. implement a differential rate to be struck between categories of Rural Production and General as follows:
 - General (Residential, Commercial and Other) - 0.002137 Cents in the Dollar of Capital Improved Value
 - Rural Production - 0.001881 Cents in the Dollar of Capital Improved Value
5. apply a Municipal Charge of \$237 to all properties, except where an exemption has been granted for a Single Farm Enterprise under the Local Government Act 1989
6. apply a Garbage Charge of \$401 per Residential Garbage Service (140 Litre Bin) and \$545 per Commercial Garbage Service (240 Litre Bin)
7. apply a Kerbside Recycling Service Charge of \$151 per service (240 Litre Bin).

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There is no conflict of interest for any Council staff member involved in the preparation of this report, or involved in the subject matter of the report.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Council was presented with the 2023/24 Draft Annual Budget (the Budget) at a Council Forum on 11 April 2023.

BACKGROUND

The Budget has been prepared in draft following discussions with Councillors and senior officers.

Council has once again used the Best Practice Guide 'Model Budget' to assist with developing the budget. The Executive Summary is based on this model and has been prepared to provide an explanation of the major components of the budget.

A number of financial reports have also been developed outlining expected income and expenditure for all areas of Council in 2023/24, and comparing these to the forecast actual results for 2022/23.

The Budget includes:

- the continuation of a strong cash position
- the continuation of the Community Planning program
- projects and initiatives included in Council's various strategic plans
- no new borrowings
- continuation of the use of discretionary reserves.

Council's rating increase for 2023/24 is in line with the Victorian State Government's Rate Capping Policy which has been set at 3.5% on the 2022/23 forecast budget rate income. Council has discretion over increases relating to garbage and recycling charges, and has included in the Budget an increase of 3.0% to assist in ensuring a cost neutral position for waste collection services with the introduction of additional statutory requirements.

The Budget was developed during a recovery period of the 2022 major flooding events. It is acknowledged that the Budget may change to respond to future flood relief and recovery efforts.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

Subject to Council approval, the Budget will be advertised seeking feedback. Council will receive submissions until close of business on Friday 19 May 2023. This is the same timeframe for the Draft Fees and Charges Schedule.

It is proposed that Council consider any feedback received at the Council Forum to be held on Tuesday 6 June 2023 and formally adopt the Budget at the Ordinary Meeting of Council to be held on Tuesday 27 June 2023.

COST/BENEFITS

The benefits to Council and the community are that a consultative budget process complies with the Local Government Act 1989 and the Local Government Act 2020, the Budget provides a measure for accurate planning, and ensures that Council can deliver services and projects included in the document.

RISK ANALYSIS

The risk to Council of not considering and then advertising the Budget is that it will not comply with requirements under the Local Government Act 1989 and the Local Government Act 2020.

There is also a risk that the Budget may change as a result of Council's response to flood relief and recovery efforts.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

The Community Engagement Policy outlines community engagement as an ongoing dialogue with our community to identify civic issues and opportunities and assist Council with planning and informed decision-making.

The feedback and input from community engagement promotes:

- transparency in decision making
- relationship building with communities and stakeholders
- increase community and stakeholder capacity to understand issues facing Council.

Council acknowledges and adheres to the Community Engagement Principles contained in section 56 of the Act.

RESOLUTION 2023/52

Moved: Cr Linda Jungwirth

Seconded: Cr Wendy Murphy

That Council:

1. seek feedback on the Draft Annual Budget in accordance with the Community Engagement Policy
2. adopt the proportion of rates raised within various valuation categories as follows:
 - Rural Production to have a differential rate 12% lower than the General (Residential, Commercial and Other) differential rate
3. agree that the above distribution of rates raised demonstrates fairness and equity across the municipality
4. implement a differential rate to be struck between categories of Rural Production and General as follows:
 - General (Residential, Commercial and Other) - 0.002137 Cents in the Dollar of Capital Improved Value
 - Rural Production - 0.001881 Cents in the Dollar of Capital Improved Value
5. apply a Municipal Charge of \$237 to all properties, except where an exemption has been granted for a Single Farm Enterprise under the Local Government Act 1989
6. apply a Garbage Charge of \$401 per Residential Garbage Service (140 Litre Bin) and \$545 per Commercial Garbage Service (240 Litre Bin)
7. apply a Kerbside Recycling Service Charge of \$151 per service (240 Litre Bin).

CARRIED

10.4 COMMUNITY SUPPORT POLICY FOR ADOPTION

File Number: PRO/21/4
Author: Wendy Gladman, Director Community Wellbeing
Authoriser: Lincoln Fitzgerald, Chief Executive Officer
Attachments: 1. Community Support Policy

RECOMMENDATION

That Council

1. adopt the Community Support Policy as attached to the Agenda report; and
2. rescind the Major recreation reserve oval mower replacement assistance policy.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There is no conflict of interest for any Council staff member involved in the preparation of this report, or involved in the subject matter of the report.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

A draft Community Support Policy was provided to the February and April Council forum.

BACKGROUND

Council's Community Support Policy has served the community well. A scheduled review of the existing Policy identified that the document did not capture all activities Council provides to support the Loddon community and provided the opportunity to include community support items that had been:

- provided to the community historically
- identified in individually developed policies
- approved through a previous council report.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

The reviewed Community Support Policy attached to this report details the community support programs provided by Loddon Shire to its community groups for economic and tourism development, recreational and community activities, facilities and services, education and developing sustainable communities.

The principles under which Council will manage community support programs include:

- All community support programs will be outlined in this policy.
- Competitive grants will be subject to an assessment process to ensure that all grants are allocated in an open and transparent way.
- As of right allocations will be determined through the annual budget process.
- All community support programs with financial allocations will be managed through SmartyGrants portal¹ to provide a consistent approach for management of the lifecycle of the community support program.
- Conflict of interest requirements will be clearly outlined in this policy and any procedures supporting implementation of this policy.

¹ <https://loddon.smartygrants.com.au/>

The community support programs provided by Council to the Loddon community have been divided into three categories:

- Allocations, including:
 - Community planning allocation
 - Public halls and recreation reserves allocation
 - Major active recreation reserves water subsidy
 - Recreation waterway maintenance allocation
 - Major recreation reserve oval mower replacement (with existing policy to be rescinded)
 - Community newsletter allocation
 - Development, progress, tourism and community plan committee administration allocation
 - Scholarships
 - LEAD Loddon Murray Leadership program
 - Sponsorship and donations
 - Australia Day events
- Competitive grants, including:
 - Community grants
 - Interest-free loans
 - Event promotion scheme
 - Sport and recreation grants
- In kind support, including:
 - Sport and recreation grants
 - Road closures for events
 - Support for waterway events
 - Tourism and event promotions
 - Australia Day events
 - ANZAC Day commemorations
 - Waste management support
 - Reduction of food premises registration fees
 - Loddon Shire Business and Community directories
 - Support for Section 65 committees of management
 - Support for our staff who volunteer

COST/BENEFITS

The policy respects and recognises the significant volunteer contribution provided by various community groups operating throughout the shire and acknowledges that without our volunteers those activities would not happen, or would be provided directly by Council at an additional cost to ratepayers.

All but two items have existing budget allocations in place. New budgets will be required for two items:

- the inclusion of primary school awards increasing the cost to Council by \$900 per annum
- the inclusion of the new recreation waterway maintenance allowance which would result in an allocation of \$18,000 per annum, an increase of \$11,000 to the current budgeted amount of \$7,000.

RISK ANALYSIS

The development of this policy document to include the associated eligibility criteria, assessment criteria for the community support programs provides Council staff with clear guidelines to administer Council's policy direction.

The use of smarty grants provides one source of information to cover all components of the administration of community support programs from application, to assessment, allocation of funds through to acquittal.

The development of the Policy mitigates risks identified in the 2022 VAGO Fraud Control Over Local Government Grants audit, and addresses a number of actions from that audit that Council has committed to fulfil.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

Relevant responsible officers have provided information on each of the programs within their remit to include in the policy document.

RESOLUTION 2023/53

Moved: Cr Wendy Murphy
Seconded: Cr Linda Jungwirth

That Council

1. adopt the Community Support Policy as attached to the Agenda report; and
2. rescind the Major recreation reserve oval mower replacement assistance policy.

CARRIED

10.5 REVIEW OF THE PROCUREMENT POLICY V12

File Number: FOL/19/612
Author: Deanne Caserta, Manager Financial Services
Authoriser: Amanda Wilson, Director Corporate
Attachments: 1. Procurement Policy v12

RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopts the Procurement Policy v12.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There is no conflict of interest for any Council staff member involved in the preparation of this report, or involved in the subject matter of the report.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

The last version of the Procurement Policy was adopted by Council on 14 December 2021.

BACKGROUND

The purpose of the Procurement Policy (the Policy) is to outline Council's approach to the procurement of goods, services and works by Council in the delivery of services to the community and the operations of the organisation.

The Audit and Risk Committee have reviewed this document from a risk perspective in line with the requirements of the Audit and Risk Committee Charter.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

A summary of the changes within version 12 of the Policy is listed below. These changes seek to reflect additional improvements within procurement processes at Loddon:

- threshold changes within Appendix 3 for those lower tier / lower risk procurement functions
- update the highest panel contracts from \$200K to \$300K to align with top level delegations
- additional wording to provide direction where Council have approved expenditure via a panel contract
- removal of Financial Delegations appendix. This is now included within the formal delegations document
- removal of Key Performance Indicators appendix. This will be included within the revised Procurement Strategy
- updates to local procurement and aboriginal procurement sections to a recommended weighted score of at least 5%
- additional section to provide direction where a public tender process has been completed and does not receive any tenders or rejects all tenders on a basis that they did not meet council's specifications outlined in the tender document.

COST/BENEFITS

There are no direct costs associated with the adoption of this Policy.

There are benefits of further streamlining processes and providing robust guidelines to staff which ensures compliance for Council. The simplified and higher delegation levels will of benefit in streamlining the purchasing and approval processes.

Improvements made will also improve the time taken to get from initial stage to commitment of goods or services with more streamlined activities.

RISK ANALYSIS

The Policy assists in mitigating any potential financial as adoption of the Policy contributes to Council achieving value for money in its procurement while maintaining effective and productive supplier relationships.

The Policy will assist in providing guidance for all procurement activities at Council and is binding upon all Councillors, staff, volunteers, contractors, consultants and persons employed or engaged by, or acting on behalf of Council.

The Audit and Risk Committee have reviewed this document from a risk perspective in line with the requirements of their Charter.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

The document has been subject to the review process of Loddon Leaders. It has also been through an approval process with the Loddon Procurement Network and discussion at Management Executive Group prior to presentation to the Audit and Risk Committee and Council Forum/Briefing.

RESOLUTION 2023/54

Moved: Cr Neil Beattie

Seconded: Cr Linda Jungwirth

That Council adopts the Procurement Policy v12.

CARRIED

10.6 FINANCE REPORT FOR THE QUARTER ENDING 31 MARCH 2023

File Number: FOL/22/4399

Author: Deanne Caserta, Manager Financial Services

Authoriser: Amanda Wilson, Director Corporate

Attachments: 1. Finance Report for the quarter ending 31 March 2023

RECOMMENDATION

That Council

1. receives and notes 'Finance Report for the quarter ending 31 March 2023'
2. approves budget revisions included in the report for internal reporting purposes only
3. approves the supplementary valuations of rateable and non-rateable properties in respect of the 2022/23 financial year, as returned by the Shire Valuer, LG Valuations Pty Ltd, and endorses them being incorporated into the Register of Rateable and Non Rateable Properties and Rate Book for 2022/23.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There is no conflict of interest for any Council staff member involved in the preparation of this report, or involved in the subject matter of the report.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

A report was presented and adopted in April 2021 that recommended that Council be provided with finance reports on a quarterly basis. The only exception is when changes to the Council Meeting timetable result in the Council Meeting occurring before the completion of the end of month finance procedures.

The last quarterly report presented was for the December 2022 quarter at the January 2023 Council Meeting. The 2021/22 full financials were presented to Council at the August 2022 Council Meeting.

BACKGROUND

The Finance Report for the quarter ended 31 March 2023 includes standard quarterly information about budget variations, cash, investments, interest, debtors and creditors, and provides a comparison of year-to-date actual results to year-to-date budget (by dollars and percentage) and total revised budget (by percentage).

The information is in the format provided in the adopted 2022/23 Budget, and includes operating results, capital expenditure and funding sources. The report also includes a cash flow statement and the community planning program financials.

This Finance Report also includes reporting on supplementary valuations. Each year Council makes a number of additions, subtractions and alterations to the valuations contained in the annual rate book. These changes arise from various sources including:

- splitting of parcels into new rateable assessments
- development of vacant or unproductive land (urban and rural)
- consolidation of separate rateable assessments into one assessment
- re-assessment of property valuations arising from objections to the initial valuation
- additions and cancellations of licences (grazing and water frontages)

- change of use
- covenant on Title
- area amendment
- change of Australian Valuation Property Classification Code (AVPCC)
- supplementary valuation corrections.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

Budgeted Surplus - Council's budgeted cash surplus has increased from December 2022 by \$1.7M to \$7.51M. The main variations include an increase to the expected interest to be received for the financial year offset by additional funds allocated to the capital works program of the swimming pools.

Income Statement (revenue) - Council's year to date (YTD) operating revenue is at 74% of total budget. Revenue brought to account for the quarter was \$2.6M. Fees and charges actuals are all behind YTD budget. Other grant incomes including non-recurrent operating, recurrent operating and non-recurrent capital are also behind YTD budget.

Income Statement (expenditure) - Council's operating expenditure is at 61% of total budget. Payments for this quarter totalled \$7.83M (\$9.13M in December 2022). All expense items are tracking behind expected budget expenditure with creditors and contractors the most significant.

Capital Works - The revised budget for capital works is \$24.2M and is 26% (16% at the end of December 2022) complete in financial terms for the current financial year.

The main variations within capital expenditure relate to:

- building and property maintenance of \$474K, the Building Asset Management Plan allocations are now finalised and some works are underway, but others are still in the design phase
- multiple community planning projects which have not yet been started or have commenced but expenditure is tracking behind budget, these are generally multi-year projects which will progress over the year
- plant replacement of \$1.73M. Equipment has been ordered but there is an extensive delivery delay with some items of plant.

Service Areas – Appendix 3 provides Council with net results for each service area. As further work is undertaken on service planning and reviews throughout the year, the cost of each service will be refined.

Balance Sheet - Council has a cash total of \$41.3M with \$4.13M in general accounts. Total debtors at the end of March 2023 are \$2.13M, this includes \$1.6M in rates (\$10.07M rates at the end of December 2022). Sundry debtors total \$0.1M with invoices outstanding for 90 or more days relating to community wellbeing debtors and local community groups totalling approximately \$0.2M.

Reports are also provided on the community planning programs to show the progress against budget along with the expenditure and income to date for the caravan parks.

COST/BENEFITS

The benefit to Council and the community is that accurate and regular financial reporting is disclosed, along with an accurate representation of property valuations being reflected in Council's rating system and the distribution of rate notices for the year 2022/23.

Provision of financial reports on at least a quarterly basis is a requirement of the Local Government Act.

RISK ANALYSIS

The provision of regular and accurate finance reports to Council minimises the risk of Council not delivering projects within the approved budget. Council's risk exposure is increased if the rating system does not reflect the valuation changes associated with supplementary valuations as Council will not be aware of the changes, which can alter the rate revenue in the current year and in future rating years.

During October 2022 Loddon Shire experienced significant flooding which has resulted in many operational staff being diverted to respond or support flood recovery. This reallocation of human resources limits delivery of programmed services and infrastructure. There is potential that this could continue over the coming years as infrastructure is rebuilt creating variance between budget and delivery.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

There has been considerable consultation internally with respective managers in understanding budget responsibilities and keeping within budgetary constraints.

Consultation with ratepayers and authorities that act on behalf of ratepayers occurs when a change to a property is required or occurs by virtue of a sale.

External engagement with the community was undertaken during the submission period of the budget, and regular reporting provides a mechanism of monitoring the financial outcomes of Council against that expectation.

RESOLUTION 2023/55

Moved: Cr Gavan Holt

Seconded: Cr Wendy Murphy

That Council

1. receives and notes 'Finance Report for the quarter ending 31 March 2023'
2. approves budget revisions included in the report for internal reporting purposes only
3. approves the supplementary valuations of rateable and non-rateable properties in respect of the 2022/23 financial year, as returned by the Shire Valuer, LG Valuations Pty Ltd, and endorses them being incorporated into the Register of Rateable and Non Rateable Properties and Rate Book for 2022/23.

CARRIED

10.7 COMMUNITY PLANNING COMMITTEE FORMAL RECOGNITION - BOORT AND YARRAWALLA**File Number:** GF/21/284**Author:** Martin Mark, Community Development Officer**Authoriser:** Paul Scullie, Acting Manager Community Support**Attachments:** Nil**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council formally recognises the following two organisations as the Community Planning Committees for their respective communities:

1. Boort Tourism and Development Inc.
2. Yarrawalla Community Planning Committee Inc.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There is no conflict of interest for any Council staff member involved in the preparation of this report, or involved in the subject matter of the report.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

At the April 2019 Council Forum, the criteria and framework for community groups to become the recognised *Community Planning Committee* was discussed.

Following further consultation, the Community Planning Framework (the Framework), including criteria, was endorsed at the November 2019 Council Meeting.

Council has formally recognised twelve Community Planning Committees at Council meetings as detailed in the table below:

Community	Community Planning Group	Formal Recognition at Council meeting
Calivil	Calivil Hall & Recreation Reserve	23/02/2021
Dingee	Dingee Progress Association Inc.	23/02/2021
Inglewood	Inglewood Development and Tourism Committee Inc.	23/02/2021
Mitiamo	Mitiamo Progress Association Inc.	23/02/2021
Serpentine	Serpentine Community Planning Group Inc.	23/02/2021
Wedderburn	Wedderburn Development Association Inc.	23/02/2021
Campbells Forest & Yarraberb	Campbells Forest & District Community Action Planning Group Inc.	25/05/2021
Newbridge, Arnold, & Llanelly	Newbridge Arnold Llanelly Community Plan Committee Inc.	25/05/2021
Kingower	Kingower Development & Tourism Committee Inc.	24/05/2022
Bridgewater	Bridgewater on Loddon Development Inc.	26/07/2022
Eddington	Eddington Community Planning Group Inc.	26/07/2022
Tarnagulla	Tarnagulla Community Planning Group Inc.	26/07/2022

BACKGROUND

The Framework was developed to assist communities as they formulate local community plans and to formalise the relationship between the community planning committees and Council.

As detailed in the Framework, community groups that meet the following criteria are eligible to request formal recognition from Council as a community planning committee:

- are incorporated bodies
- have community planning detailed in their constitution's purpose, and
- have a membership structure that allows wider community participation

Following this initial transition period, access to Council's annual community planning funding program will be prioritised for those groups who have received formal recognition and who have developed their community plan consistent with the principles of the Framework.

It was intended that groups would be in a position to meet the requirements of the Framework and request Council recognition by the end of 2020. Due to delays caused by COVID-19 restrictions this was extended to the end of 2022. The flood event in October 2022 caused further delays for the remaining five community planning committees. This report presents Boort and Yarrowalla community planning committees for recognition by Council and it is anticipated that the remaining three committees from Korong Vale, Laanecoorie and Pyramid Hill will be eligible for formal recognition during the remainder of 2023.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

Boort Tourism and Development Inc. and Yarrowalla Community Planning Committee Inc. (Committees) have requested Council recognition as the community planning committee for their respective communities and have demonstrated that they meet the minimum requirements as detailed in the Framework.

Community	Community planning group	Request for recognition received	Information request form received	Incorporated	Constitution purpose includes community planning	Open membership
Boort	Boort Tourism and Development Inc.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Yarrowalla	Yarrowalla Community Planning Committee Inc.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

The Committees are developing their new Community Plans and representatives plan to attend a future Council Forum to present their plan and its priorities to Council.

COST/BENEFITS

Formal recognition signals to the community that the group has agreed to:

- develop a community plan in accordance with the principles outlined in the Framework
- have open membership for community members
- be representative of their community.

The community plan committees provide the conduit for their community to represent their collective views, ideas and strategic direction to Council and beyond.

Council provides financial assistance to community planning committees to offset administrative and insurance costs. The table below outlines the support that will be provided to each Committee on an annual basis:

Community Planning Committee	Proposed allocation – Administration	Proposed allocation - Insurance	Total
Boort Tourism and Development Committee Inc.	\$500	\$1,050	\$1,550
Yarrawalla Community Planning Committee Inc.	\$200	\$1,050	\$1,250

RISK ANALYSIS

The COVID-19 pandemic and recent flood event slowed momentum in 2020 – 2022 for the remaining groups as they transitioned to meet the recognition requirements of the Framework and commence the review and/or redevelopment of their community plan. The framework specifies that projects submitted by non-recognised community planning committees receive a lower prioritisation. This may impact the remaining three committees should they not be recognised when the next round of community planning commences.

By transitioning to the parameters around Council’s framework, the community planning committees will be operating in the spirit of the framework and providing assurance around open membership and representation of their respective community’s views.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

Council’s Community Support team liaise with and guide the committees as they complete the actions needed to meet the eligibility criteria needed to be recognised by Council as their community’s community planning committee.

RESOLUTION 2023/56

Moved: Cr Neil Beattie

Seconded: Cr Gavan Holt

That Council formally recognises the following two organisations as the Community Planning Committees for their respective communities:

1. Boort Tourism and Development Inc.
2. Yarrawalla Community Planning Committee Inc.

CARRIED

11 INFORMATION REPORTS

Nil

12 COMPLIANCE REPORTS

12.1 NOTICE OF MOTION - CR JUNGWIRTH - CLIMATE IMPACT REPORT

File Number:

Attachments: Nil

MOTION

That Council

1. acknowledge the risk which negative climate impacts pose to both our organization and our community;
2. receive a report within six months on -
 - (a) the risks of climate change to our community and our organization
 - (b) the risks of extreme weather events and economic and social risks
 - (c) future climate scenarios for the Loddon region
 - (d) actions taken by other rural councils to address the current and future risks of climate change

RATIONALE

In light of the flooding in October 2022 and community concern regarding future risks, together with the recent report from the IPCC it would be prudent to understand impacts of climate change at a local level. The floods had a huge impact on our shire causing economic and emotional stress with many people still actively dealing with effects six months after the event. The community have expressed concern about future flooding events.

We cannot tackle climate change alone. We'll need support from partners and from state and federal government to manage the current impacts and to mitigate emissions and adapt to changes in climate. We do, however, have a moral and ethical responsibility to do as much as we can to address the issue of climate change at a local level for our current population and future generations.

Loddon Shire has previously implemented many positive actions to mitigate emissions. We have collaborated with 46 other councils to switch to 100% renewable energy. We are members of the Central Victorian Greenhouse Alliances and have supported many initiatives to reduce emissions locally. Climate risks demand a coordinated and detailed approach and carry financial implications for the shire.

Agricultural industries make up the main income streams in Loddon. Our farmers are more closely tied to the vagaries of climate than most of our community and are dependent on weather for production. The Victorian Farmers Federation Climate Change policy states

"The Victorian Farmers Federation acknowledges that climate change both poses challenges and presents potential opportunities for Victorian farmers."

Farmers ask that they be supported and included in planning on how they can help reduce emissions.

Farmers and the community at large have an expectation that Council will plan for Climate Change and develop strategies for mitigation and adaptation.

Local Government act 2020 makes it clear under the description of the role of a Council. Section 9 (2) which gives Councils their overarching principals states

- (b) *Priority is to be given to achieving the best outcome for the municipal community, **including future generations**;*
- (c) *The economic, social and environmental sustainability of the municipal district, **including mitigation and planning for climate change risks**, is to be promoted*

This Motion is in accordance with the act and meets the expectation of the community for future action by Council to address Climate Change through mitigation and adaptation.

MOTION

Moved: Cr Linda Jungwirth

Seconded: Cr Wendy Murphy

That Council

1. acknowledge the risk which negative climate impacts pose to both our organization and our community;
2. receive a report within six months on -
 - (a) the risks of climate change to our community and our organization
 - (b) the risks of extreme weather events and economic and social risks
 - (c) future climate scenarios for the Loddon region
 - (d) actions taken by other rural councils to address the current and future risks of climate change

LOST

Cr Jungwirth called for a Division:

In Favour: Crs Jungwirth and Murphy

Against: Crs Holt, Beattie and Straub

12.2 NOTICE OF MOTION - CR STRAUB - INQUIRY INTO VICTORIAN RECREATIONAL NATIVE BIRD HUNTING ARRANGEMENTS

File Number:

Attachments: 1. **ARI - Technical Report - Abundance Estimates for Game Ducks in Victoria 2022**

MOTION

That Council submit to the Select Committee Inquiry into Victoria's Recreational Native Bird Hunting Arrangements outlining:

1. The positive economic impact duck hunting has upon the local community.
2. The positive mental health impact of this activity for many people in our community.
3. That duck hunting is a long standing tradition for many families within our Shire and visitors to our Shire.

RATIONALE

A Select Committee will inquire into and report on Victoria's recreational native bird hunting arrangements including the operation of annual bird hunting seasons, arrangements in other jurisdictions, the environmental sustainability and impacts and the social and economic impact.

Terms of Reference:

A select committee of nine members be established to inquire into, consider and report by 31 August 2023 on Victoria's recreational native bird hunting arrangements, including but not limited to-

- (a) the operation of annual native bird hunting seasons;*
- (b) arrangements in other Australian jurisdictions;*
- (c) their environmental sustainability and impact on amenity;*
- (d) their social and economic impact.*

Further detail about the inquiry can be found here:

<https://new.parliament.vic.gov.au/nativebirdhunting>

The Inquiry is accepting online submissions until Monday 8 May 2023. The Committee invites submissions from individuals and organisations addressing one or more of the issues identified in the terms of reference. The Committee prefers submissions to be made online via the e-submission form but submissions can be accepted in a written and email format. Submissions will be published online.

Details about the submissions process can be found here: <https://new.parliament.vic.gov.au/get-involved/submissions/>

Native Bird Hunting in the State of Victoria has its origins in modern day Australia dating back to 1800's and still a common practice for our First Nations People thousands of years on. Under the 1862 Act to provide for the Preservation of Imported Game and during the Breeding Season of Native Game, the Season commenced on the 1st December and closed on 31st July of the following year.

http://classic.austlii.edu.au/au/legis/vic/hist_act/aatpftpoigadtbsong840/

Just short of 100 years later in 1959 the creation of 199 State Game Reserves were established, driven by Hunting and Conservation organization Field & Game for the protection of habitat for all native water birds. This was made possible by the introduction of the first Hunting License structure or (Duck Stamp).

www.fieldandgame.com.au/page/state-game-reserves/

The Loddon Shire area has long been one of Victoria's most popular Duck Hunting location. With a vast number of hunting locations including some of the best State Game Reserves in Victoria, like Tang Tang Swamp, Thunder Swamp, Woolshed Swamp, Lake Boort, Lake Lyndger and Lake Yando to name but a few of the most popular.

The economic stimulus promoted by the Game Hunting in Victoria estimates recreational hunting was worth \$356 million to the Victorian economy in 2019. (DJSIR)

A great portion of this is generated throughout Northern Victoria, with Loddon Shire one of the recipients benefiting our tourism and small business sectors.

Mental health is a continuous concern within society, many Loddon residents have raised this issue with me a number of times, stating the ability to connect with likeminded people, reconnect to nature in the natural environment and the ability to harvest organic game meat, whilst spending quality time with their family and friends are some of the most imported reasons they continue to hunt.

The long standing tradition of duck hunting in Victoria is generational and nondiscriminatory. The ability for cross generational participation and options for multiple fitness levels sees duck hunting across Loddon Shire very popular, not just as a recreational activity but a lifestyle choice.

Duck Hunting in Victoria is regulated under the Wildlife (Game) Regulations 2012.

https://www.gma.vic.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0006/493737/Wildlife-Game-Regulations-2012v5.pdf

Robust and stringent measures are put in place to set any given Duck Hunting Season, the Game Management Authority GMA are the responsible Government department that put forward hunting season recommendations to their relevant Government Ministry. These recommendations are supported by stakeholder engagement and scientific studies. Arthur Rylah Institute is one of Australia's leading Environmental Research Institutions and have been conducting water fowl and wetland studies since the 1970's. I have added the most recent ARI report for the context of the scientific method of data analysis. The formulation of the interim harvest model then use these and other data sets to calculate year by year any amendments to that upcoming duck hunting season.

(The interim harvest model matrix is not always a true depiction of game bird abundance).

https://www.gma.vic.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0006/863610/Combined-Final-Report-and-Attachment.pdf

Duck Hunting in the state of Victoria and in particular across Loddon Shire continues to be supported by residents and by many that travel to and or through our municipality. A survey conducted by the Loddon Herald newspaper on January 19 this year showed 83% of people in favor of a Duck Hunting Season in Victoria.

Our towns and business continue to recover from the October 2022 flood event, nature tourism of our natural environment of many user groups including duck hunting, helps support the economic stimulus across our shire, it helps to promote a positive mental health objective and it continues to support tradition and culture across the generations, connecting friends, family and self to the land.

Strategic Context

This motion is supported by the Loddon Shire Council Plan. Specifically the following Council Plan Objectives and Strategies

1.2 *We will work with our partners to preserve and protect our local environment. We will support our community to respond to the impacts of climate change*

- 1.2.2 *Work with our partners to support biodiversity and habitat in our area*

3.1 *We will promote our unique tourism opportunities and support our local tourism industry to increase visitation to our area*

- 3.1.1 – *Increase the volume and value of tourism visitation*
- 3.1.2 – *Increase the volume and value of the local economy*

RESOLUTION 2023/57

Moved: Cr Dan Straub

Seconded: Cr Neil Beattie

That Council submit to the Select Committee Inquiry into Victoria's Recreational Native Bird Hunting Arrangements outlining:

1. The positive economic impact duck hunting has upon the local community.
2. The positive mental health impact of this activity for many people in our community.
3. That duck hunting is a long standing tradition for many families within our Shire and visitors to our Shire.

CARRIED

13 URGENT BUSINESS

Nil

14 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

Nil

NEXT MEETING

The next Meeting of Council will be held on 23 May 2023 at Wedderburn commencing at 3.00pm.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 4.53PM.

Confirmed this.....day of..... 2023

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CHAIRPERSON