



Date: Tuesday, 27 June 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 TUESDAY, 27 JUNE 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), David Southcombe (Manager Assets and Infrastructure), Amanda Wilson (Director Corporate) and Lisa Clue (Manager Governance)

1 OPENING AFFIRMATION

The Mayor read the Opening Affirmation

2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Chief Executive Officer read the Acknowledgement of Country

3 APOLOGIES

Nil

4 DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Nil

5 PREVIOUS MINUTES**5.1 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES****File Number:** FOL/19/45615**Author:** Tracy Hunt, Governance Coordinator**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 23 May 2023
2. Council Meeting of 23 May 2023
3. Council Forum of 6 June 2023.

REPORT

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

RESOLUTION 2023/59**Moved:** Cr Linda Jungwirth**Seconded:** Cr Wendy Murphy

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

1. Council Briefing of 23 May 2023
2. Council Meeting of 23 May 2023
3. Council Forum of 6 June 2023.

CARRIED

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

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

1. Council Briefing 23 May 2023
2. Council Forum 6 June 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 23 May 2023
2. Council Forum 6 June 2023

Meeting details	Briefing
Date	23 May 2023
Councillor Attendees	Cr Beattie Cr Holt Cr Jungwirth Cr Murphy
Staff/ Stakeholder representatives	1. Lincoln Fitzgerald, Chief Executive Officer 2. Wendy Gladman, Director Community Wellbeing 3. Steven Phillips, Director Operations 4. Amanda Wilson, Director Corporate 5. Lisa Clue, Manager Governance 6. Tracy Hunt, Governance Coordinator
Item(s) discussed.	1. Process to appoint an Acting Mayor 2. Governance Rules Review 3. General Business: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Media re Council rate increases • MAV State Council Meeting • Rural Councils Victoria Forum • 2023 Lexus Melbourne Cup Tour
Conflict of Interest Disclosures – Councillor/ officer making disclosure	Nil
Councillor/officer left room	N/A

Meeting details	Forum
Date	6 June 2023
Councillor Attendees	Cr Murphy Cr Beattie Cr Holt
Staff/ Stakeholder representatives	Lincoln Fitzgerald, Chief Executive Officer Steven Phillips, Director Operations Amanda Wilson, Director Corporate Paul Scullie, Acting Manager Community Support Lisa Clue, Manager Governance Tracy Hunt, Governance Coordinator Sarah Perry, Acting Manager Community Wellbeing and members of Community Care team; Astrid Tolstoshev and Ruth Reading, Department of Social Services - for Item 1 below Christine Coombs, Executive and Commercial Services Officer and Travis Sanders (Ambulance Victoria) - for Item 2 below Deanne Caserta, Manager Financial Services - for Item 3 below David Stretch, Manager Tourism and Economic Development; Carolyn Stephenson, Senior Strategic Planner; and Glenn Harvey, Manager Development and Compliance - for Item 4 below David Southcombe, Manager Assets and Infrastructure - for Item 5 below Martin Mark, Community Project Development Coordinator - for Item 6 below
Item(s) discussed.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Aged Care Transition – Commonwealth Representative Visit 2. Ambulance Victoria – Proposal to purchase a portion of Council land 3. Feedback on Draft Budget and Fees and Charges Schedule 4. Industrial Land Strategy – Discussion Paper 5. Annual Infrastructure Program 2023 - 2023 6. Eddington Community Plan 2023 - 2033 7. Governance Rules Review 8. General Business: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councillor and staff expenses • Municipal Association of Victoria Report • Victorian Local Government Grants Commission Funding • Audit and Risk Committee Independent Member position • Council's Submission into the Inquiry into the 2022 Flood Event in Victoria
Conflict of Interest Disclosures - Councillor/ officer making disclosure	Nil
Councillor/officer left room	N/A

RESOLUTION 2023/60

Moved: Cr Wendy Murphy

Seconded: Cr Neil Beattie

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

1. Council Briefing 23 May 2023
2. Council Forum 6 June 2023

CARRIED

7 REVIEW OF ACTIONS**7.1 REVIEW OF ACTIONS****File Number: 02/01/002****Author: Tracy Hunt, Governance Coordinator****Authoriser: Lincoln Fitzgerald, Chief Executive Officer****Attachments: 1. Resolutions acted upon since the May 2023 Council Meeting****RECOMMENDATION**

That Council receive and note resolutions acted upon since the May 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 May 2023.

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

RESOLUTION 2023/61**Moved: Cr Wendy Murphy****Seconded: Cr Gavan Holt**

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

CARRIED

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

That Council receive and note the Mayoral Report.

REPORT

The Mayor presented a verbal report at the meeting, starting by thanking his fellow Councillors for proceeding with the May Council Meeting in his absence, and Cr Murphy for chairing that meeting. In addition to activities below, the Mayor wished representatives from Loddon Buloke Youth Parliament well with their visit to, and debate at Parliament House on 26 and 29 June.

Murray River Group of Councils	
23/06/2023 – Partnership Group of Murray River Group of Councils visit to Canberra to discuss Loddon Shire Council and regional issues with a number of Ministers including Minister for the Environment and Water on Murray Darling Basin issues; Minister for Climate Change and Energy on the power line project; and Federal Local Government Minister on flood recovery and related funding hurdles. The Group also met with the Member for Mallee to discuss local issues; and the Member for Nicholls and Leader of the Federal National Party to discuss flood recovery, transmission projects and possible water buybacks.	
North Central Local Learning and Employment Network	
20/06/2023 – AGM – Rex Theatre - Charlton	
Other Council activities	
Date	Activity
03/06/2023	Together with CEO, Lincoln Fitzgerald, met with a number of Ministers at Parliament House in Melbourne, including the Minister for Emergency Services regarding flood recovery and related funding challenges; the Minister for Energy and Resources regarding the VNI West project; and the Minister for Local Government regarding a range of local government issues.
06/06/2023	Melbourne Cup Tour announcement – Flemington, where Boort was announced as a 2023 Tour destination.
07/06/2023	Community Care Service Dinner – Bridgewater
08/06/2023	Municipal Flood Recovery Committee Meeting – Dingee
13/06/2023 – 15/06/2023	Australian Local Government Association National General Assembly – Canberra
24/06/2023	Flood Recovery Round - Newbridge

RESOLUTION 2023/62

Moved: Cr Gavan Holt

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:** Tracy Hunt, Governance Coordinator**Authoriser:** Lincoln Fitzgerald, Chief Executive Officer**Attachments:** Nil**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council receive and note the Councillors' reports.

REPORT

Each Councillor will present a verbal report at the meeting.

Cr Beattie

Council activities	
Date	Activity
31/05/2023	Boort Tennis Club meeting regarding Precinct Plan – Boort
05/06/2023	AEMO/TCV Presentation – Wedderburn
06/06/2023	Council Forum – Wedderburn
19/06/2023	HRV Audit – Boort Park
21/06/2023	A & P Society Pavilion inspection – Boort Park
26/06/2023	Fernihurst Road floodway and mitigation – meeting with Council staff and ratepayers
27/06/2023	Citizenship Ceremony, Council Briefing and Council Meeting - Wedderburn

Cr Holt

Council activities	
Date	Activity
6/6/2023	Council Forum - Wedderburn
13/06/2023 – 15/06/2023	Australian Local Government Association National General Assembly – Canberra (Communique included at the end of this Agenda item)
16/06/2023	Australian Local Government Association Meeting - Canberra
20/06/2023	Meeting with representatives from Wedderburn Lions Club and Ambulance Victoria regarding the site for an ambulance station in Wedderburn
22/06/2023	Community gathering – High Street Wedderburn regarding community safety concerns
24/06/2023	Wedderburn vs Charlton Winter Sports Program - Charlton

Cr Jungwirth

Council activities	
Date	Activity
23/05/2023	May Council Briefing and Council Meeting - Wedderburn
24/05/2023	Newbridge Flood Steering Committee Meeting
25/05/2023	Mentor session – Bendigo
	Tarnagulla Parks Committee Meeting
27/05/2023	Greater Bendigo Climate Summit
02/06/2023	CEO Catch-up
05/06/2023	VNI West Briefing
08/06/2023	Municipal Flood Recovery Meeting - Dingee
13/06/2023 – 16/06/2023	Australian Local Government Association National General Assembly – Canberra
20/06/2023	Tarnagulla Parks Committee meeting
24/06/2023	Flood Recovery Round - Newbridge

Cr Murphy

Healthy Minds Network	
22/06/2023 – Chaired meeting at Newbridge	
Other Council activities	
Date	Activity
23/05/2023	May Council Briefing and Council Meeting - Wedderburn
25/05/2023	Inglewood Development and Tourism Committee meeting
30/05/2023	Online Loddon Tourism Services review discussion with Danielle of Urban Enterprise organised by Inglewood Development & Tourism Committee
05/06/2023	VNI West transmission line discussion session for Councillors and the CEO
06/06/2023	Council Forum – Wedderburn
08/06/2023	Municipal Flood Recovery Meeting – Dingee
10/06/2023	Bridgewater & District Radiomodellers Club - Bridgewater Airstrip.
14/06/2023	VNI West stakeholder only workshop – Boort
	Tour of Boort with two residents to look at and discuss issues
14/06/2023 & 15/06/2023	Virtual attendance at the Australian Local Government Association National General Assembly

Cr Murphy (continued)

Other Council activities	
Date	Activity
15/06/2023	Bridgewater On Loddon Inc committee meeting
06/06/2023	Online Inglewood Development & Tourism Committee Loddon Shire Community Planning Committee consultation facilitated by Stubbs Consulting

RESOLUTION 2023/63

Moved: Cr Neil Beattie

Seconded: Cr Linda Jungwirth

That Council receive and note the Councillors' reports.

CARRIED



Communique

National General Assembly 2023

Over 1,100 local government leaders from across Australia gathered in Canberra from 13 – 15 June for the 29th National General Assembly of Local Government (NGA) to share innovations to support the public good and to speak to the Federal Government with one voice.

We acknowledged the Ngunnawal people as traditional custodians of the ACT and recognised any other people or families with connection to the lands of the ACT and region. The Assembly paid its respects to their elders past, present and emerging, and acknowledged the vital and ongoing contributions First Nations peoples continue to make to our nation.

Opening the NGA, the Governor-General, His Excellency General the Honourable David Hurley thanked and acknowledged local governments for their dedication and work for local communities especially responding to natural disasters. His words, noting councils were the level of government that looked communities in the eye, resonated with delegates.

Delegates reaffirmed their commitment to work in partnership with the Federal Government for the public good, while at the same time addressing the local and regional challenges faced by communities across the nation.

We welcomed and thanked the many federal members of parliament who attended and spoke at the NGA or associated events, including the Hon



Catherine King, the Hon Kristy McBain, the Hon Peter Dutton and the Hon Darren Chester.

Councils also welcomed His Excellency, Vasyl Myroshnychenko, Ukraine Ambassador, who provided an update on the Ukrainian people's progress to protect their national sovereignty; and welcomed and encouraged sister city arrangements between Australian and Ukrainian regions.

In response to ALGA's advocacy, councils thanked the Federal Government for its re-establishment of the Australian Council of Local Government (ACLG) which will be held on Friday 16 June 2023. The ACLG was first established in 2008 as a physical and symbolic acknowledgment of the respect and mutual interest of both levels of government and need to work together.

This year's Assembly program included consideration of 260 notices of motions submitted by councils. These motions identify opportunities where a strong partnership between the Federal Government and local government can progress our mutual policy interests, and the ALGA Board will now consider these in forming its policy positions and federal advocacy.

These motions included solutions to address the financial sustainability of councils, climate change adaptation and renewable energy, improved transport and communications, improved natural disaster preparedness and management, Closing the Gap and the Voice, enhancing the circular economy and improving housing and homelessness outcomes through partnerships.



On behalf of Australia’s 537 local governments, the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) will continue to work with the Federal Government to deliver better outcomes for all Australian communities.

10 DECISION REPORTS**10.1 PA 5869 - USE OF PART OF THE LAND FOR FOOD AND DRINKS PREMISES, SIGNAGE AND EXTENSION TO THE EXISTING DWELLING INCLUDING (PART) DEMOLITION AT 19 MAIN STREET, BRIDGEWATER**

File Number: PA 5869

Author: Louise Johnston, Acting Manager Development and Compliance

Authoriser: Glenn Harvey, Manager Development and Compliance

Attachments:

1. Decision Report 5869
2. 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 5869 to use part of the land for food and drinks premises, signage and extension to the existing dwelling including (part) demolition subject to the following conditions:

1. LAYOUT NOT ALTERED

The development and use as shown on the endorsed plans must not be altered without the prior written consent of the Responsible Authority.

2. DRAINAGE

The development, 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 onto any adjoining land.

3. ONGOING SOIL EROSION CONTROL

All works must be undertaken in a manner that minimises soil erosion, and any exposed areas of soil must be stabilised to prevent soil erosion, to the satisfaction of the responsible authority.

4. 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.

5. MATERIALS

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

6. NORTH CENTRAL CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

The finished floor level of the proposed extension must be constructed a minimum of 300 millimetres above the 1% AEP flood level of 137.8m AHD, i.e. no lower than 138.1m AHD.

7. HOURS OF OPERATION

The food and drinks premises use may operate between the hours of

- 9.00am to 5.00pm, every day, without the further consent of the Responsible Authority.

8. LIMIT ON NUMBER OF PATRONS

Not more than 10 patrons may be permitted within the garden area associated with the food and drinks premises every day without the further written consent of the responsible authority.

9. GENERAL AMENITY PROVISION

The use must be managed so that the amenity of the area is not detrimentally affected, through the:

- (a) transport of materials, goods or commodities to or from the land
- (b) appearance of any building, works or materials
- (c) emission of noise, artificial light, vibration, smell, fumes, smoke, vapour, steam, soot, ash, dust, waste water, waste products, grit or oil
- (d) presence of vermin
- (e) others as appropriate.

10. SIGNS NOT TO BE ALTERED

The location and details of the signs as shown on the endorsed plans, must not be altered without the written consent of the responsible authority.

11. NO SIGN ILLUMINATION

The sign(s) must not be illuminated by external or internal light except with the written consent of the responsible authority.

12. 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, or the permitted use is discontinued for a period of two years.

The responsible authority may extend these periods if a request is made in writing before the permit expires, or:

- Within six months afterwards if the development has not been started, or the development is complete but the use has not started, or the use has been discontinued for a period of two years.
- Within twelve months afterwards if the development started lawfully before the permit expired.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

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

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

There have been no previous Council discussions on this matter.

BACKGROUND

The application was lodged on 23 February, 2023 for the use of part of the land for a food and drinks premises, signage, fence and extension to the existing dwelling including (part) demolition.

The application was advertised to adjoining and adjacent landowners and a notice placed on the site, one objection has been received.

The application was externally referred to North Central Catchment Management Authority and internally to Council's Senior Environmental Health Officer & Engineering Department, who all have provided conditional consent.

The objection lodged raises issues with the wall on the boundary, lack of details of the application, location of the water meter, flood levels and lack of notification regarding a proposed shed at the rear of the dwelling.

The application is considered to achieve compliance with the relevant policies and provisions of the Loddon Planning Scheme as they relate to heritage design 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 one objection 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 2023/64

Moved: Cr Wendy Murphy
Seconded: Cr Linda Jungwirth

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 5869 to use part of the land for food and drinks premises, signage and extension to the existing dwelling including (part) demolition subject to the following conditions:

1. LAYOUT NOT ALTERED

The development and use as shown on the endorsed plans must not be altered without the prior written consent of the Responsible Authority.

2. DRAINAGE

The development, 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 onto any adjoining land.

3. ONGOING SOIL EROSION CONTROL

All works must be undertaken in a manner that minimises soil erosion, and any exposed areas of soil must be stabilised to prevent soil erosion, to the satisfaction of the responsible authority.

4. 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.

5. MATERIALS

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

6. NORTH CENTRAL CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

The finished floor level of the proposed extension must be constructed a minimum of 300 millimetres above the 1% AEP flood level of 137.8m AHD, i.e. no lower than 138.1m AHD.

7. HOURS OF OPERATION

The food and drinks premises use may operate between the hours of

- 9.00am to 5.00pm, every day, without the further consent of the Responsible Authority.

8. LIMIT ON NUMBER OF PATRONS

Not more than 10 patrons may be permitted within the garden area associated with the food and drinks premises every day without the further written consent of the responsible authority.

9. GENERAL AMENITY PROVISION

The use must be managed so that the amenity of the area is not detrimentally affected, through the:

- (a) transport of materials, goods or commodities to or from the land
- (b) appearance of any building, works or materials
- (c) emission of noise, artificial light, vibration, smell, fumes, smoke, vapour, steam, soot, ash, dust, waste water, waste products, grit or oil
- (d) presence of vermin
- (e) others as appropriate.

10. SIGNS NOT TO BE ALTERED

The location and details of the signs as shown on the endorsed plans, must not be altered without the written consent of the responsible authority.

11. NO SIGN ILLUMINATION

The sign(s) must not be illuminated by external or internal light except with the written consent of the responsible authority.

12. 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, or the permitted use is discontinued for a period of two years.

The responsible authority may extend these periods if a request is made in writing before the permit expires, or:

- Within six months afterwards if the development has not been started, or the development is complete but the use has not started, or the use has been discontinued for a period of two years.
- Within twelve months afterwards if the development started lawfully before the permit expired.

CARRIED

10.2 ADOPTION OF THE 2023/24 BUDGET AND FEES AND CHARGES SCHEDULE

File Number: FOL/22/5338
Author: Deanne Caserta, Manager Financial Services
Authoriser: Amanda Wilson, Director Corporate
Attachments: 1. 2023/24 Budget
2. 2023/24 Fees and Charges Schedule

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- (a) having advertised the Draft Budget, and having received and reviewed submissions, adopt the 2023/24 Loddon Shire Council Budget.
- (b) having advertised the Draft Fees and Charges Schedule, and having received and reviewed submissions, adopt the 2023/24 Fees and Charges Schedule.
- (c) Authorise the Director Corporate and Chief Executive Officer to change Council's 2023/24 Fees and Charges Schedule where statutory fees and charges are altered by the State Government.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

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

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Council was presented with the 2023/24 Draft Fees and Charges Schedule at a Council Briefing on 28 March 2023.

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

Council resolved to advertise the Draft Budget and Draft Fees and Charges Schedule at a Council Meeting on Wednesday 26 April 2023.

Council was presented with the community feedback at a Council Forum on Tuesday 6 June 2023.

BACKGROUND

The draft documents were placed on public display, seeking feedback from Monday 1 May 2023 until Friday 19 May 2023, using the Community Engagement Policy as guidance.

During this period, copies of the documents were made available on Council's website and a printed copy posted to ratepayers where requested.

Advertisements were placed in the Bendigo Advertiser and the Loddon Herald. Facebook, emailing to all Council Section 65 Committees, the Community Reference Group and other media options were also utilised.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

The Draft Budget maintains Council's approach of being financially responsible, while ensuring its commitment of providing a large range of services to the community.

The Draft Budget includes a rate increase of 3.5 per cent – in line with the Victorian Government's Fair Go Rates System. Council remains debt-free, with no loan repayments, and a continued strong cash position.

The draft budget allocates a capital expenditure program of \$10.73 million, which includes \$5.5 million towards roads, \$1.3 million for parks and streetscapes and \$232,000 for footpaths.

Additionally, the budget includes a \$200,000 allocation for works associated with the Building Asset Management Plan and full funding of Council's ongoing commitment to community planning of \$750,000.

There is also flood restoration works budgeted of \$20.0 million in the first year with a further \$20.0 million expected to be delivered in 2024/25.

With the Draft Fees and Charges schedule, 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 was guided by the principles located within the Revenue and Rating Plan. This indexation rate last year was 1.75%.

COST/BENEFITS

The benefits to Council and the community are that a consultative budget process complies with the Local Government Act 1989, and Local Government Act 2020, and allows the community to provide feedback to Council on the budget's content.

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 discussing and advertising the annual budget is that it will not comply with requirements under the Local Government Act 1989 and Local Government Act 2020.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

The Local Government Act 1989 requires that the Draft Budget be available for public feedback from a period of 28 days after Council advertisement. After the lapsing of 28 days all submissions received must be provided to Council when deliberating on adoption of the documents.

Although the new Local Government Act 2020 does not require this process to be undertaken, it was used as a guide in the process followed when seeking community feedback. For the 2023/24 draft documents, a period of 21 days were provided for public feedback for both the Draft Budget and Draft Fees and Charges Schedule.

Three submissions were received on the draft documents during the public display period. These related to rates increase, waste charges and user hire fees.

The public feedback submissions were discussed at the Council Forum on 6 June 2023 and as a result one change to the document was made to reduce a public liability user insurance fee to the cost recovery amount.

Loddon Shire Council's Community Reference Group received a presentation of the draft budget during May and provided valuable input and questions regarding income and expenditure.

RESOLUTION 2023/65

Moved: Cr Linda Jungwirth

Seconded: Cr Gavan Holt

That Council:

- (a) having advertised the Draft Budget, and having received and reviewed submissions, adopt the 2023/24 Loddon Shire Council Budget.
- (b) having advertised the Draft Fees and Charges Schedule, and having received and reviewed submissions, adopt the 2023/24 Fees and Charges Schedule.
- (c) Authorise the Director Corporate and Chief Executive Officer to change Council's 2023/24 Fees and Charges Schedule where statutory fees and charges are altered by the State Government.

CARRIED

10.3 DELEGATION REVIEW - COUNCIL TO MEMBERS OF COUNCIL STAFF**File Number:** DOC/23/32554**Author:** Lisa Clue, Manager Governance**Authoriser:** Amanda Wilson, Director Corporate**Attachments:** 1. Instrument of Delegation - Council to members of Council staff**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council resolves:

1. To delegate authority to the members of Council staff holding, acting in or performing the roles and duties referred to in the attached Instrument of Delegation to Members of Council Staff.
2. The instrument comes into force immediately upon this resolution being made, and signed by Council's Chief Executive Officer.
3. On the coming into force of the instrument, all previous delegations to members of Council staff (other than the Chief Executive Officer) are revoked.
4. The duties and functions set out in the instrument must be performed, and the powers set out in the instrument must be executed, in accordance with any guidelines or policies of Council that it may from time to time adopt.

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 most recently discussed delegations to members of Council staff at its June 2022 meeting.

BACKGROUND

As a legal entity and not a 'natural person', Council can act in only one of two ways: by resolution or through others acting on its behalf. The power for Council to act by resolution is set out in section 59 of the Local Government Act 2020.

Alternatively, a Council can act through others. A number of acts and regulations provide for Council to delegate certain powers, duties or functions to members of Council staff. Where this is to occur, appointments are formalised through a written 'instrument of delegation'.

In addition to the legislative requirement for all delegations to be reviewed within 12 months after a general election, delegations are reviewed regularly as, at times Council decisions are the subject to legal scrutiny, which calls for precision about what decision was made, who made it and when it was made.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

Following a review of the delegations, this report seeks to update the Instrument of Delegation to Members of Council Staff reflecting changes summarised below.

Cemeteries and Crematoria Act 2003:

- Section 52 – requires a cemetery trust to submit a report on the exercise of its powers and functions under the Cemeteries and Crematoria Act annually to the Secretary. The duty to submit this report has now been inserted into, and delegated to an officer within the Instrument of Delegation.
- Section 74 – has been amended to include new subsection (3), '*when granting a right of interment to a person for a period of 25 years, a cemetery trust must offer a perpetual right of interment to the person*'. The duty to offer a perpetual right of interment has now been inserted into, and delegated to an officer within the Instrument of Delegation.
- Section 84I(4) – is a new section providing for a cemetery trust to exercise the rights of a holder of a right of interment in specified circumstances. The power to exercise the rights of a holder of a right of interment has now been inserted into, and delegated to an officer within the Instrument of Delegation.

Food Act 1984:

- Section 40E – In certain circumstances, a Council may be directed to suspend or revoke the registration of a food premises by the relevant government department Secretary. The duty to comply with such a direction has now been inserted into, and delegated to an officer within the Instrument of Delegation.

Planning and Environment Act 1987:

- Section 4I – aligning to the specific wording of this section, the delegated duty has been amended within the Instrument of Delegation from being a duty to keep documents available to a duty to make a copy of the documents available
- Sections 18, 21(2) and 26(2) – these sections all relate to the amendment of planning schemes. The period documents must be made available in accordance with each section has been added to the conditions and limitations column for reference
- Section 22(1) – the delegated duty in the Instrument of Delegation has been expanded to align to the specific wording of this section, clarifying public submissions about a planning scheme amendment received before the date specified on the notice must be considered
- Section 22(2) – the delegated powers and duties which relate to consideration of public submissions about a planning scheme amendment, are now inserted in two parts - one being a delegated power to consider late submissions, the other being a delegated duty to consider late submissions if directed by the Minister.
- Section 185B – a new section requiring a municipal council, public authority or public entity to comply with any request from the Minister to provide the contact details of any person to whom the Minister is required to give notice under the Planning and Environment Act. The duty to comply with such a request has now been inserted into, and delegated to an officer within the Instrument of Delegation.

Planning and Environment Regulations 2015:

- Regulations 25(a) and (b) – relate to documents used to consider planning permit applications under section 60(1A)(g) of the planning and Environment Act. The delegated duties under these regulations have been slightly amended to reflect the requirement for copies of documents to be made available in accordance with the public availability requirements, ie in person, online and on request.

COST/BENEFITS

Amending the Instrument of Delegation to Members of Council Staff will not have any financial impacts for Council.

RISK ANALYSIS

Routine review of delegations ensures that council staff are able to act on behalf of Council in accordance with relevant and current legislation and regulations.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

Council subscribes to the Maddocks Authorisations and Delegations Service, which provides advice regarding legislative amendments and template instruments.

Relevant staff across the organisation are involved in delegation reviews, relevant to their role and new or amended legislation and regulations.

RESOLUTION 2023/66

Moved: Cr Wendy Murphy

Seconded: Cr Neil Beattie

That Council resolves:

1. To delegate authority to the members of Council staff holding, acting in or performing the roles and duties referred to in the attached Instrument of Delegation to Members of Council Staff.
2. The instrument comes into force immediately upon this resolution being made, and signed by Council's Chief Executive Officer.
3. On the coming into force of the instrument, all previous delegations to members of Council staff (other than the Chief Executive Officer) are revoked.
4. The duties and functions set out in the instrument must be performed, and the powers set out in the instrument must be executed, in accordance with any guidelines or policies of Council that it may from time to time adopt.

CARRIED

10.4 COMMUNITY PLANNING COMMITTEE FORMAL RECOGNITION - PYRAMID HILL**File Number:** FOL/21/3165**Author:** Martin Mark, Community Development Officer**Authoriser:** Paul Scullie, Acting Manager Community Support**Attachments:** Nil**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council formally recognise the Pyramid Hill Progress Association Inc as the Community Planning Committee for the Pyramid Hill community.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

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

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.

Since this time Council has formally recognised fourteen 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
Boort	Boort Tourism and Development Inc.	26/04/2023
Yarrawalla	Yarrawalla Community Planning Committee Inc.	26/04/2023

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

Access to Council's annual community planning funding program is 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 three community planning committees. This report presents Pyramid Hill community planning committee for recognition by Council and it is anticipated that the remaining two committees from Korong Vale and Laanecoorie will be eligible for formal recognition during the remainder of 2023.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

Pyramid Hill Progress Association Inc. has requested Council recognition as the community planning committee for the Pyramid Hill and district community and has 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
Pyramid Hill	Pyramid Hill Progress Association Inc.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

The Committee is developing their new Community Plan 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.

Community planning 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 the Pyramid Hill Progress Association Inc. on an annual basis.

Community Planning Committee	Proposed allocation – Administration	Proposed allocation - Insurance	Total
Pyramid Hill Progress Association Inc.	\$500	\$1,050	\$1,550

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 two 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 2023/67

Moved: Cr Wendy Murphy
Seconded: Cr Linda Jungwirth

That Council formally recognise the Pyramid Hill Progress Association Inc as the Community Planning Committee for the Pyramid Hill community.

CARRIED

11.2 ANNUAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM 2023-2024**File Number:** FOL/19/432630**Author:** David Southcombe, Manager Assets and Infrastructure**Authoriser:** Steven Phillips, Director Operations**Attachments:**

- 1. Annual Infrastructure Program and Budget Summary**
- 2. Detailed Program - Confidential**

This attachment is designated as confidential in accordance with Section 3(1)(g(ii)) of the *Local Government Act 2020*. It contains private commercial information, being information provided by a business, commercial or financial undertaking that if released, would unreasonably expose the business, commercial or financial undertaking to disadvantage.

- 3. Community Planning Projects Update - June 2023**
- 4. Flood Restoration Program 2023 - 2025**
- 5. Detailed Program - no estimates**

RECOMMENDATION

That Council

1. Adopt the proposed expenditure amounts as listed in Attachment 1 for the following works categories:
 - Local Road Gravel Resheet
 - Local Road Shoulder Resheet
 - Local Road Construction – Asset Preservation
 - Local Road Construction – Amenity
 - Local Road Construction – Safety
 - Township Street Improvements
 - Urban & Township Drainage
 - Local Bridges & Culverts
 - Road Reseals
 - Parks and Gardens
 - Buildings
 - Flood Betterment.
2. Note the projects included in the various works categories as detailed in Attachment 2 Detailed Program with estimates and Attachment 5 Detailed Program without estimates.
3. Note the estimated expenditure for the Flood Restoration and Carryover projects from past programs.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

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

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

The Annual Infrastructure Program 2023-2024 was discussed at the June 2023 Council Forum.

BACKGROUND

Every year Council allocates and spends significant funds on capital infrastructure projects. Council continually carries out scoping of new infrastructure projects and maintains a rolling program of these projects. The rolling program is a database that forms the basis of the elements of the Annual Infrastructure Program. Each project is assessed using a scoring matrix relevant to the type of infrastructure as part of the scoping process. This score assists in the development of the Annual Infrastructure Program by providing a level of prioritisation for each of the projects.

In preparing the program, several factors need to be given consideration, including the prioritisation score, availability of funds and capacity for delivery. Council has adopted several strategic documents that must also be taken into consideration when preparing the Annual Infrastructure Program. Primarily these are the:

- Council Plan
- Financial Plan
- Asset Management Plan
- Register of Public Roads.

The 2023-2024 Annual Infrastructure Program has been developed in accordance with the following expenditure requirements of:

- Council funds totalling \$2.05 million.
- Federal Government Roads to Recovery (R2R) funding of \$2.39 million
- Federal Government Local Roads and Community Infrastructure (LRCI) Program, Phase 4 Part A, funding estimated at \$2.38 million
- Federal Government Local Roads and Community Infrastructure (LRCI) Program, Phase 4 Part B, funding estimated at \$1.38 million

This year the information provided includes:

- Flood Restoration Program expenditure for 2023-2024
- estimated carryover projects from the 2022-2023 program, details are included in Attachment 2.
- Community Planning projects that have already been programmed for delivery by Council.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

Attachment 1 provides the proposed Program of works planned for delivery in 2023-2024. Program details can be found in Attachment 2. Attachment 3 has details of Community Planning projects that will most likely carryover from previous years and a list of the Flood Restoration Projects for 2023-2025 can be found in Attachment 4. Attachment 5 has a list of all projects without estimates.

LRCI Program Phase 4

Council has been allocated \$3,765,020 of funding under Phase 4 of the LRCI Program under two parts:

- Part A - \$2,387,726 – which can be allocated to road and community infrastructure projects
- Part B – \$1,377,294 - which can only be allocated to road projects

Part A funding can be used on community infrastructure or road projects while Part B is limited to road projects. Projects under Phase 4 of this program must be completed by June 30, 2025. Council's draft Budget for 2023-2024 included Part A as it has been confirmed. Part B is only a nominal allocation at this stage.

Flood Betterment

Council is currently progressing the rehabilitation of Council's roads after the October 2022 floods. These works are being funded by the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA). Due to the funding arrangements between the State and Federal governments, betterment of assets (upgrades to be resilient against future flooding) cannot be funded through this funding stream in Victoria as it is in other states of Australia. An allocation of \$1.34 million has been allowed for Betterment of assets to be spent in 2023-2024 and 2024-2025. If an alternative funding stream becomes available under the DRFA (or another source), reallocation of this funding may be sought.

Roads to Recovery

The Roads to Recovery program is entering the final year of the current 5 year funding period. Any unspent expenditure at the end of the 2023-2024 financial year is unable to be carried over to the 2024-2025 financial year.

In addition to the proposed \$2.39 million worth of projects in the program, it is anticipated that there will be approximately \$500,000 of underspend in existing funded projects at the end of the 2022-2023 financial year that will need to be reallocated at a later date.

An updated list of projects that will be added to the 2023-2024 program will be prepared for Council later in the calendar year. It is proposed that this will be allocated to the local road gravel re-sheet program as there is capacity within Council's Works Department to undertake these works.

Council Funds

The draft budget includes Council funding of \$2,045,438 and \$97,388 of Community Planning funds with a planned expenditure of \$1,435,771 allocated to infrastructure projects. It is proposed that the balance of \$707,055 be transferred to the Urban Drainage Reserve to support the funding of the \$4.2 million Skinners Flat embankment rehabilitation project in future years.

COST/BENEFITS

The Annual Infrastructure Program is a significant part of Council's annual expenditure. The current proposed Program totals \$37,704,775. The benefit of the proposed expenditure is that it will allow Council to maintain safe public infrastructure and decrease annual liability over all asset classes. Better roads, better public facilities and improved bridges are the key outcomes of the proposed Program, which aligns with the strategic objective of "A sustainable built and natural environment" as stipulated in the Council Plan 2021-2025.

While this expenditure is significant, Council should note the long term financial plan indicates a \$20 million asset renewal gap over the next 10 years. This proposed program will assist to reduce that gap.

RISK ANALYSIS

One of the risks identified with the proposed program is cost overrun. The estimated cost of each project has been evaluated based on current unit rates with an adjustment for anticipated price inflation, industry practice, and contingencies. The likelihood of the risk is possible and this consequence is minor as per Council's risk matrix. The risk is thus deemed to be medium. This risk is offset by the large amount of grant funding that Council has received through a number of funding streams and the ability to adjust project budgets if required.

Another risk identified is the delay in delivering projects. This has become a greater risk recently due to the large amount of stimulus funding directed at infrastructure projects and the delays associate with contractor availability and the lead-time of material deliveries. The likelihood of this risk is possible and the consequence is minor as per Council's risk matrix. The risk is thus deemed to be medium. This risk is mitigated by allocating additional projects to Council's Works Department for delivery where possible and selecting projects that are high value with a low risk of delay. Project that have a high risk of not being delivered by the expiry of Roads to Recovery funding at June 30, 2024 have been avoided.

Given the scale of the 2023-2024 Program there is a risk that Council will not be able to deliver all projects and many will carryover into the following year. Council has employed four additional staff to assist with the Flood Restoration Program and there is two new additional project management staff to be recruited. There has been a shortage of project management staff and recruitment may be difficult. There is also two other vacancies within the Asset & Infrastructure Department that will also impact on capacity to deliver. The program has been developed giving preference to projects that are more likely to be delivered within existing resources. Even so the risk remains high that not all the projects within this Program will be delivered in one year.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

The Program has been developed in consultation with Council staff, in particular the Assets & Infrastructure Department, the Works Department, and the Community Support Department. Other stakeholders and community members make contributions to the rolling program throughout the year via works requests and onsite meetings and visits conducted by staff.

RESOLUTION 2023/68

Moved: Cr Linda Jungwirth

Seconded: Cr Neil Beattie

That Council

1. Adopt the proposed expenditure amounts as listed in Attachment 1 for the following works categories:
 - Local Road Gravel Resheet
 - Local Road Shoulder Resheet
 - Local Road Construction – Asset Preservation
 - Local Road Construction – Amenity
 - Local Road Construction – Safety
 - Township Street Improvements
 - Urban & Township Drainage
 - Local Bridges & Culverts
 - Road Reseals
 - Parks and Gardens
 - Buildings
 - Flood Betterment.
2. Note the projects included in the various works categories as detailed in Attachment 2 Detailed Program with estimates and Attachment 5 Detailed Program without estimates.
3. Note the estimated expenditure for the Flood Restoration and Carryover projects from past programs.

CARRIED

11 INFORMATION REPORTS

11.1 STATUTORY PLANNING QUARTERLY REPORT

File Number:

Author: Louise Johnston, Acting Manager Development and Compliance

Authoriser: Steven Phillips, Director Operations

Attachments:

1. Applications being processed in the Quarter
2. Applications completed in the Quarter

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and note the Quarterly Statutory Planning Permit Activity Report for January to March 2023.

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

This is the third report for the 2022- 2023 financial year summarising planning application activities undertaken within the Development and Compliance Department.

BACKGROUND

This report covers the planning permit activity for the previous quarter and provides Council with a high level summary for the purpose of monitoring performance within this area.

Council maintains powers under the Planning & Environment Act 1987, which are delegated to Planning Officers. Applications made under these powers may include but are not limited to the following:

- consideration of a planning application for a new use/development
- consideration of an amendment to an existing planning permit
- secondary consent applications (minor changes)
- extensions of time to existing planning permits.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

Planning permit activities

A detailed summary of the status of planning permits can be found in Attachments 1 and 2.

Timeframes

The Planning & Environment Act 1987 requires a 60 day timeframe for the processing of planning applications by councils. The Act details how the 60 days is to be measured following the acceptance of a planning permit application.

Table 1 provides a summary of the average timeframe in which the Development and Compliance Department assessed and issued Planning Permits during the second quarter of the 2022-2023 financial year and compares these to the Victorian rural average.

Table 1: Average timeframes for decisions

Quarter 3 of the 2022/2023 financial year				
Month	Average gross days to determine	Median processing days to determine	Completed within 60 days	Rural average completed within 60 days
January	43	24	100%	59%
February	72	24	91.6%	64%
March	20	20	100%	68%
Total for the Quarter	45	24	97%	64%

During the third quarter of the 2022-2023 financial year 97% of all Planning Permit applications were assessed and issued within the statutory timeframes as set in the Planning & Environment Act 1987. This is 33% above the rural average. In addition, the average processing days for Council to make a determination on applications is 45 days, well below the rural average of 120 days, a great result for Council and its planning team.

COST/BENEFITS

The expenditure for the third quarter of 2022-2023 financial year of the statutory planning activities contained within this report is \$60,112. The fees collected for the quarter total \$21,772.

Benefits derived from investing in the planning process managed by the Development and Compliance Department include:

- well managed and appropriate development
- well informed community members who understand the value of planning within local government
- applications processed in a timely manner
- correct implementation of regulations and standards

RISK ANALYSIS

Failure of Council to adequately implement the planning scheme poses the following risks:

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

Insufficient investment in resources in the Development and Compliance Department may result in extended timeframes for the processing of applications

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

The Planning Staff consult with a number of stakeholders on a regular basis including:

- applicants
- surrounding land owners
- regulatory authorities
- other Loddon Shire Council departments
- other municipalities

RESOLUTION 2023/69

Moved: Cr Neil Beattie

Seconded: Cr Wendy Murphy

That Council receive and note the Quarterly Statutory Planning Permit Activity Report for January to March 2023.

CARRIED

12 COMPLIANCE REPORTS

Nil

13 URGENT BUSINESS

Nil

14 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

Nil

NEXT MEETING

The next Meeting of Council will be held on 25 July 2023 at Wedderburn commencing at 3.00pm.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 4.05 pm.

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

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CHAIRPERSON