



Notice is given that a Meeting of Council will be held on:

Date: Tuesday, 24 October 2023
Time: 3.00pm
Location: Loddon Shire Council Chambers, Wedderburn

AGENDA

Council Meeting

Order Of Business

| | | |
|-----------|--|------------|
| 1 | OPENING AFFIRMATION | 3 |
| 2 | ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY | 3 |
| 3 | APOLOGIES | 3 |
| 4 | DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST | 3 |
| 5 | PREVIOUS MINUTES | 4 |
| | 5.1 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES | 4 |
| 6 | COUNCIL AUSPICED MEETINGS | 5 |
| | 6.1 RECORD OF COUNCIL AUSPICED MEETINGS | 5 |
| 7 | REVIEW OF ACTIONS | 8 |
| | 7.1 REVIEW OF ACTIONS | 8 |
| 8 | MAYORAL REPORT | 14 |
| | 8.1 MAYORAL REPORT | 14 |
| 9 | COUNCILLORS' REPORT | 15 |
| | 9.1 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS | 15 |
| 10 | DECISION REPORTS | 18 |
| | 10.1 COMMUNITY PLANNING COMMITTEE FORMAL RECOGNITION - KORONG VALE | 18 |
| | 10.2 BRIDGEWATER BOWLING CLUB INC. - FEE WAIVER APPLICATION | 21 |
| | 10.3 NEIGHBOURHOOD SAFER PLACES (PLACES OF LAST RESORT) | 22 |
| | 10.4 REQUEST FOR FUNDS TO BE ALLOCATED FROM THE LAND AND BUILDINGS RESERVE | 98 |
| | 10.5 FINANCE REPORT FOR THE QUARTER ENDING 30 SEPTEMBER 2023 | 100 |
| | 10.6 ANNUAL REPORT FOR YEAR ENDING 30 JUNE 2023 | 124 |
| | 10.7 DECISION REPORT 5917: RETROSPECTIVE PLANNING APPLICATION FOR EARTHWORKS (LASER GRADING AND CHANNEL CONSTRUCTION) | 320 |
| | 10.8 2023 OFFICE CLOSURE | 354 |
| 11 | INFORMATION REPORTS | 356 |
| | 11.1 DINGEE PRESCHOOL ASSESSMENT AND RATING OUTCOME | 356 |
| 12 | COMPLIANCE REPORTS | 360 |
| | Nil | |
| 13 | URGENT BUSINESS | 360 |
| 14 | CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS | 361 |

OPENING COMMENT

This meeting is being recorded and audio streamed via the Council website and Facebook.

1 OPENING AFFIRMATION

“We, the Councillors of the Loddon Shire, declare that we will carry out our duties in the best interests of the community, and through collective leadership will maintain the highest standards of good governance.”

2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

“The Loddon Shire Council acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we are gathered and pays its respects to their Elders both past and present.”

3 APOLOGIES**4 DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

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 26 September 2023
2. Council Meeting of 26 September 2023
3. Council Forum of 10 October 2023.

REPORT

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

6 COUNCIL AUSPICED MEETINGS**6.1 RECORD OF COUNCIL AUSPICED 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 26 September 2023
2. Council Forum 10 October 2023

Rule 35 of Council's Governance Rules requires a record of meetings conducted under the auspices of Council to be presented to the next available scheduled Council meeting for confirmation that must include:

- a) a record of which Councillors and officers 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 and officers and any Councillors or officers that left the meeting whilst a matter that their conflict of interest related to was being discussed.

Section 3 of the Governance Rules defines meetings conducted under the auspices of Council to mean a meeting of the kind described in section 131(1) of the Local Government Act 2020 and includes a meeting which:

- a) is schedule or planned for the purpose of discussing the business of Council or briefing Councillors;
- b) is attended by a majority of Councillors;
- c) is attended by at least one member of Council staff; and
- d) is not a Council meeting or delegated committee meeting.

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

1. Council Briefing 26 September 2023
2. Council Forum 10 October 2023

| | |
|--|--|
| Meeting details | Briefing |
| Date | 26 September 2023 |
| Councillor Attendees | Cr Beattie Cr Holt Cr Jungwirth Cr Murphy Cr Straub (Mayor) |
| Staff/ Stakeholder representatives | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lincoln Fitzgerald, Chief Executive Officer 2. Wendy Gladman, Director Community Wellbeing 3. Steven Phillips, Director Operations 4. Amanda Wilson, Director Corporate 5. Tracy Hunt, Governance Coordinator 6. Deanne Caserta, Manager Financial Services - Item 2 below 7. Louise Johnston, Statutory Planning Coordinator - Item 5 below |
| Item(s) discussed. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Strategy Workshop 2. Budget Timetable 3. Australia Day Awards 4. Pyramid Hill Community Enterprise 5. Planning Application 5912 - Use of Part of a Dwelling and Shed at Lot 1 Market Street, Newbridge 6. General Business: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wedderburn RV Friendly Status • Victorian Farmers Federation and Property Overlays • Feedback • Murray River Group of Councils • VNI West Update • Victorian Government Housing Statement • MAV State Council |
| Conflict of Interest Disclosures – Councillor/ officer making disclosure | n/a |
| Councillor/officer left room | n/a |

| | |
|---|---|
| Meeting details | Forum |
| Date | 10 October 2023 |
| Councillor Attendees | Cr Beattie Cr Holt Cr Jungwirth Cr Murphy Cr Straub (Mayor) |
| Staff/ Stakeholder representatives | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. Martin Mark, Community Development Officer – Item 1 below 7. Sophia Herrington and Wendy James, Boort Tourism and Development – Item 1 below 8. Deanne Caserta, Manager Financial Services – Items 2 and 3 below |
| Item(s) discussed. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Boort Community Plan 2022 - 2031 Presentation 2. Review of the Financial Services Policy 3. Section 181 Sales Update - Sale of Properties for Unpaid Rates and Charges 4. Fair Work Legislation Amendment Act 2022 5. Annual Report for the Year Ending 30 June 2023 - Update 6. First Right of Refusal - 2 St Arnaud Road, Wedderburn 7. Scheduling of Special Meeting for the Election of Mayor 8. General Business: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tarnagulla Supply Store • Calder Highway Improvement Committee • Rural Councils Victoria • Murray River Group of Councils • Small Towns Strategy • General Updates |
| Conflict of Interest Disclosures - Councillor/officer making disclosure | n/a |
| Councillor/officer left room | n/a |

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 September 2023 Council Meeting

RECOMMENDATION

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

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

Resolutions Acted Upon Since the September 2023 Council Meeting

| Meeting | Officer/Director | Section | Subject |
|--|--------------------------------------|------------------|--|
| Council 26/09/2023 | Johnston, Louise Phillips, Steven | Decision Reports | Planning Application 5912 - Use and development of a dwelling and shed at Lot 1 Market Street, Newbridge |
| RESOLUTION 2023/104 | | | |
| <p>Moved: Cr Linda Jungwirth Seconded: Cr Gavan Holt</p> <p>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 for planning application 5912 for use and development of the land for a dwelling and shed subject to the following conditions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Amended Plans Required Before the use and/or development start(s), amended plans 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: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Finished floor levels of the proposed dwelling as required by condition 4. b) A Landscape plan as required by condition 5. 2. Layout The use and development as shown on the endorsed plans must not be altered or modified unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Responsible Authority. 3. Materials All external materials must be non-reflective and finished in natural colours or shades to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority. 4. North Central Catchment Management Authority <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4.1 The finished floor level of the proposed dwelling must be constructed a minimum of 0.3 metres above the 1% AEP flood level of 151.9 metres AHD, i.e., no lower than 152.20 metres AHD. 4.2 The finished floor level of the proposed shed and the garage must be constructed a minimum of 0.15 metres above the 1% AEP flood level of 151.9 metres AHD, i.e., no lower than 152.05 metres AHD. 5. Landscaping/Screening plan Before the development starts, a landscape plan to the satisfaction of the responsible authority must be submitted to and approved by the responsible authority. When approved, the plan will be endorsed and will then form part of the permit. The plan must be drawn to scale with dimensions and a copy must be provided. The plan must show: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Landscaping, comprising a mixture of trees and shrubs along the northern and western boundaries of the land, outside of the recommended land application area of the waste water system. b) Planting schedule of proposed vegetation within the landscape areas as described above. | | | |

c) Management and maintenance regime.

All species selected must be to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.

6. 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.

7. 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.

8. 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 across any road or onto any adjoining land.

9. Works in a Road Reserve

- a) Prior to 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 minor works.
- b) Any proposed vehicle crossover is to be constructed to the satisfaction and requirements of Council.

10. Environmental Health Officer

- a. The applicant will be required to install an all-waste on-site waste water system. The system must be an Environment Protection Authority approved system installed, operated and maintained in accordance with the Environment Protection Authority's current edition of the Code of Practice – Onsite wastewater management and the Australia New Zealand Standard AS/NZS 1547:2012 – On-site wastewater management.
- b. Prior to any development the applicant will be required to apply for a Permit to Install a Septic Tank in accordance with Part IXB of the Environment Protection Act 1970

11. Department Energy Environment and Climate Action

Access and Encroachment

11.1 No access is permitted to the subject land via the Crown land.

11.2 Adjoining Crown land must not be used for truck turning areas, entry points, parking areas or temporary stack sites during the construction of buildings or works.

11.3 No polluted and/or sediment laden run-off is to be discharged directly or indirectly into (specify authority) drains or watercourses on Crown land. Overland flows must be maintained at the same rate post-development as on the undeveloped land

Wastewater Management

11.4 Effluent disposal is to comply with the Code of Practice: Onsite Wastewater Management Publication number 891.34 July 2016 (EPA). Soils, topography and the relationship to the adjoining crown land must be considered when siting the location of the effluent disposal field.

12. Goulburn Murray Water

- a) All construction and ongoing activities must be in accordance with sediment control principles outlined in 'Construction Techniques for Sediment Pollution Control' (EPA, 1991).

- b) All wastewater from the dwelling must be treated to a standard of at least 20mg/L BOD and 30mg/L suspended solids using a package treatment plant or equivalent. The system must have a certificate of conformity issued by the Conformity Assessment Body (or equivalent approval) and be installed, operated and maintained in accordance with the relevant Australian Standard and EPA Code of Practice.
- c) All wastewater must be applied to land via pressure-compensating sub-surface irrigation installed along the contour.
- d) The wastewater disposal area must be located at least: 60m from any waterways, 40m from any drainage lines, 60m from any dams, and 20m from any bores.
- e) The wastewater management system must be appropriately designed to manage the potential volume of wastewater generated under full occupancy, including an appropriately sized disposal area specific to the proposal and subject land in accordance with the requirements of the current EPA Code of Practice – Onsite Wastewater Management.
- f) The wastewater disposal area must be kept free of stock, buildings, driveways and service trenching and must be planted with appropriate vegetation to maximise its performance. Stormwater must be diverted away.
- g) The shed must not contain bedrooms (or rooms that could be used as bedrooms) or any facilities with the potential to produce wastewater, including toilets, kitchens or other food preparation facilities.
- h) Stormwater run-off from buildings and other impervious surfaces must be dissipated as normal concentrated overland flow or directed to a storage tank or dam.
- i) The shed must not encroach on the wastewater treatment system or disposal area, or breach the minimum setback distances specified in the relevant EPA Code of Practice – Onsite Wastewater Management. Stormwater run-off from the shed roof must not be directed towards the disposal area.

13. 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 not started within two years of the completion of the development, or 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**16 Oct 2023 12:35pm Johnston, Louise - Completion**

Completed by Johnston, Louise (action officer) on 16 October 2023 at 12:35:39 PM - completed actioned

| Meeting | Officer/Director | Section | Subject |
|--|-----------------------------------|------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Council 26/09/2023 | Caserta, Deanne Wilson, Amanda | Decision Reports | Disposal of Council Assets Policy v3 |
| <p>RESOLUTION 2023/105</p> <p>Moved: Cr Wendy Murphy Seconded: Cr Linda Jungwirth</p> <p>That Council adopts the Disposal of Council Assets Policy v3.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED</p> | | | |
| <p>02 Oct 2023 10:15am Caserta, Deanne - Completion Completed by Caserta, Deanne (action officer) on 02 October 2023 at 10:15:50 AM - Sent for finalisation and publishing to website 2/10/2023</p> | | | |

| Meeting | Officer/Director | Section | Subject |
|---|----------------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Council 26/09/2023 | Gladman, Wendy Gladman, Wendy | Decision Reports | PYRAMID HILL COMMUNITY ENTERPRISE |
| <p>RESOLUTION 2023/106</p> <p>Moved: Cr Gavan Holt Seconded: Cr Neil Beattie</p> <p>That Council</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide access to the building at 30 Kelly Street, Pyramid Hill to allow the Pyramid Hill Progress Association to undertake assessment and planning as noted in Step 1 in the Issues/Discussion section of this report. 2. Subject to receiving formal notification of intent to progress to the next stage of development from the Pyramid Hill Progress Association, enter into an Options Deed as noted in Step 2 in the Issues/Discussion section of this report. 3. Subject to meeting the requirements of Step 2, Council enter into a formal lease agreement as described in Step 3 in the Issues/Discussion section of this report. 4. Note that items 2 and 3 of this recommendation will be undertaken administratively, with officers returning to Council to discuss the future of the building should these stages not progress in the identified time periods. <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED</p> | | | |
| <p>04 Oct 2023 1:37pm Gladman, Wendy - Completion Completed by Gladman, Wendy (action officer) on 04 October 2023 at 1:37:57 PM - Initial contact has been made with the Pyramid Hill Progress Association to provide an update on the outcome of the Council decision and to discuss the next steps of the process to be undertaken. The operationalising of the council decision will be completed administrately.</p> | | | |

| Meeting | Officer/Director | Section | Subject |
|---|-----------------------------------|------------------|--|
| Council 26/09/2023 | Jackson, Janine Wilson, Amanda | Decision Reports | Chief Executive Officer Key Performance Indicators |
| RESOLUTION 2023/107 | | | |
| Moved: Cr Wendy Murphy | | | |
| Seconded: Cr Linda Jungwirth | | | |
| That Council endorse the 2023/24 Chief Executive Officer key performance indicators as detailed in the attachment to this report. | | | |
| CARRIED | | | |
| 03 Oct 2023 9:30am Jackson, Janine - Completion | | | |
| Completed by Jackson, Janine (action officer) on 03 October 2023 at 9:30:25 AM - KPI's have been entered into the performance review software for the CEO | | | |

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

Mayor Straub will present a verbal report at the meeting.

| | |
|--|-----------------|
| Loddon Campaspe Councils | |
| | |
| Murray River Group of Councils | |
| | |
| North Central Goldfields Regional Library | |
| | |
| North Central Local Learning and Employment Network | |
| | |
| Rural Councils Victoria | |
| | |
| Section 65 Community Asset Committees: | |
| East Loddon Community Centre | |
| Pyramid Hill Memorial Hall | |
| | |
| Other Council activities | |
| Date | Activity |
| | |

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

| | |
|---|-----------------|
| Rail Freight Alliance | |
| | |
| Section 65 Community Asset Committees: | |
| Boort Aerodrome | |
| Boort Memorial Hall | |
| Boort Park | |
| Korong Vale Mechanics Hall | |
| Korong Vale Sports Centre | |
| Little Lake Boort | |
| Yando Public Hall | |
| | |
| Other Council activities | |
| Date | Activity |
| | |
| | |

Cr Holt

| | |
|--|-----------------|
| Municipal Association of Victoria | |
| | |
| Audit and Risk Committee | |
| | |
| Section 65 Community Asset Committees: | |
| Donaldson Park | |
| Wedderburn Community Centre | |
| Wedderburn Engine Park and Market Square Reserve | |
| Wedderburn Mechanics and Literary Institute Hall | |
| Hard Hill Tourist Reserve | |
| | |
| Other Council activities | |
| Date | Activity |
| | |
| | |

Cr Jungwirth

| | |
|--|-----------------|
| Australia Day Committee | |
| | |
| Central Victorian Greenhouse Alliance | |
| Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee | |
| | |
| | |
| Other Council activities | |
| Date | Activity |
| | |
| | |

Cr Murphy

| | |
|---|-----------------|
| Calder Highway Improvement Committee | |
| | |
| Local Government Women’s Charter | |
| | |
| Healthy Minds Network | |
| | |
| Section 65 Community Asset Committees: | |
| Campbells Forest Hall | |
| Inglewood Community Sports Centre | |
| Inglewood Community Elderly Persons Units | |
| Inglewood Town Hall Hub | |
| | |
| Other Council activities | |
| Date | Activity |
| | |
| | |

10 DECISION REPORTS**10.1 COMMUNITY PLANNING COMMITTEE FORMAL RECOGNITION - KORONG VALE**

File Number: FOL/21/3165
Author: Martin Mark, Community Development Officer
Authoriser: Paul Scullie, Manager Community Partnerships
Attachments: Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That Council formally recognise the Korong Vale Community Planning Committee Inc. as the Community Planning Committee for the Korong Vale 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 sixteen 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 & Yarrarerb | 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 |

| | | |
|--------------|--|------------|
| Yarrowalla | Yarrowalla Community Planning Committee Inc. | 26/04/2023 |
| Pyramid Hill | Pyramid Hill Progress Association Inc. | 27/06/2023 |
| Rheola | Rheola Community Planning Inc. | 22/08/2023 |

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.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

Korong Vale Community Planning Committee Inc. has requested Council recognition as the community planning committee for the Korong Vale 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 |
|-------------|---|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------|--|-----------------|
| Korong Vale | Korong Vale Community Planning Committee 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 Korong Vale Community Planning Committee Inc. on an annual basis.

| Community Planning Committee | Proposed allocation – Administration | Proposed allocation - Insurance | Total |
|---|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------|
| Korong Vale 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.

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 Partnerships 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.

10.2 BRIDGEWATER BOWLING CLUB INC. - FEE WAIVER APPLICATION

File Number: -
Author: Steven Phillips, Director Operations
Authoriser: Lincoln Fitzgerald, Chief Executive Officer
Attachments: Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That Council resolve to waive the Planning Permit Application fee of \$1,185.00 for Bridgewater Bowling Club Inc.

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 its July 2021 Ordinary meeting, Council resolved to adopt the Fees and Charges – Waiver or Reduction Policy.

BACKGROUND

Council's Fees and Chargers – Waiver or Reduction Policy applies to any not for profit organisation, incorporated association or unincorporated community group which provides a community benefit to the Shire and wishes to apply to have a fee and or charge waived or reduced. Applications over \$1,000 are reviewed by the Chief Executive Officer and submitted to Council for approval via a formal resolution.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

The Bridgewater Bowling Club Inc. have applied for a Planning Permit as part of a project they are undertaking that that has been funded through the State Governments Green's Lighting Project. They have requested that Council waive the Planning Permit Application fee of \$1,185.00. This assist the bowling club financially, so they can provide community activities and competitions.

This project has been a Bridgewater Bowling Club Inc. initiative and is being delivered by them. The Club has submitted a Council Community Grant funding application for \$10,000 to support them with this project. The Community Grant is currently being assessed by Community Support officers. Council has not provided any other funding to the project.

The granting of a fee waiver in no way affects or influences Council's obligations to assess the Planning Permit Application on its merits against the Loddon Planning Scheme. In fact the planning application has been assessed and a Permit has been issued.

COST/BENEFITS

The cost to the community is \$1,185.00. The Bridgewater Bowling Club Inc. expects that the fee waiver will assist the Club financially to support events and competitions at their site.

RISK ANALYSIS

The risks associated with this fee waiver is considered low.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

Council officers have had discussions with the Bridgewater Bowling Club Inc. on this matter.

10.3 NEIGHBOURHOOD SAFER PLACES (PLACES OF LAST RESORT)

File Number: fol/19/432270
Author: Lisa Clue, Manager Governance
Authoriser: Amanda Wilson, Director Corporate
Attachments: 1. Loddon Shire Council Neighbourhood Safer Places Plan - September 2023

RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopt the Loddon Shire Council Neighbourhood Safer Places Plan - September 2023, which includes and confirms designated Neighbourhood Safer Places within the municipality in the townships of Boort, Bridgewater, Inglewood, Pyramid Hill, Serpentine and Wedderburn.

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 first adopted the Neighbourhood Safer Places (NSP) Plan in 2010.

In September 2011, Council endorsed the NSP assessment process and resolved to continue identification and assessment of potential sites for NSPs, and once identified report these back to Council for consideration.

Council most recently reviewed and adopted the NSP Plan, reconfirming designated NSPs at Boort, Bridgewater, Inglewood, Pyramid Hill, Serpentine and Wedderburn at its meeting in October 2023.

BACKGROUND

NSPs and the NSP Plan are direct consequences of the Black Saturday fires and recommendations from the Interim Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission report and legislated under the Country Fire Authority Act 1958 (CFA Act).

The process to establish and maintain a NSP includes:

- identification of potential locations by Council in collaboration with the CFA
- assessment of location by Council against Council's criteria
- assessment of location and certification by CFA against CFA criteria
- formal designation of NSP by Council
- establishment of NSP (including signage)
- annual review of NSPs by Council and CFA.

Section 50J of the CFA Act requires Council to conduct a review of each designated NSP in its municipal district, by 31 August each year. The review determines the current suitability of each location as a designated NSP and includes submitting a request to the CFA to assess each NSP in accordance with CFA Assessment Guidelines.

Following the review process, and in accordance with section 50K of the CFA Act, Council's Municipal Fire Prevention Officer provides the CFA with an up to date list of all designated NSPs within the municipality, by 30 September each year.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

Following requests made in accordance with Section 50J of the CFA Act, the CFA conducted assessments of Council's designated NSPs, and subsequently certified in writing that all met the criteria set out in the CFA Assessment Guidelines.

In August 2023, using the NSP Assessment Criteria Auditing and Assessment Tool, Council's Municipal Fire Prevention Officer assessed and confirmed that each Council designated NSP is compliant with Council criteria.

As stated in the NSP Plan, the process of NSP identification is ongoing by Council and the CFA, assessing at the end of each fire season the need for any additional NSPs within the municipality. There was no identified need for additional NSPs at the end of the 2022/23 fire season.

Following the review process, and in accordance with section 50K of the CFA Act, Council's Municipal Fire Prevention Officer provided the CFA with an up to date list of all designated NSPs within the municipality prior to 30 September 2023.

The NSP Plan presented and attached to this Agenda report has been reviewed to include the most recent Council NSP assessments (Section 5). A number of administrative updates and corrections have also been made to the Plan, some relating to signage, others reflect current emergency management arrangements.

COST/BENEFITS

Administration of the NSP process requires the allocation of Council and CFA resources to undertake the necessary assessments, and prepare the associated reports and supporting documentation. The cost of maintaining the NSPs contained within recreation reserves and at a local hall is borne by the associated committees of management for these facilities, the remaining location is maintained by Council through routine operations.

Provision and maintenance of designated NSPs where deemed suitable within the municipality contributes to the overall safety and wellbeing of the local community in the event of a bushfire.

RISK ANALYSIS

Failure to adequately and regularly assess the designated NSP locations for compliance against specified criteria has the potential to place members of the community utilising these places at risk should conditions change over time. Failure to meet the inspection and reporting timelines may result in Council failing to meet its legislated obligations under the CFA Act.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

Determination of the suitability to retain the designated NSP locations has been made in consultation with the CFA.

LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL

NEIGHBOURHOOD SAFER PLACES PLAN – SEPTEMBER 2023 PLACES OF LAST RESORT DURING A BUSHFIRE



DOCUMENT INFORMATION

| | |
|--|--|
| DOCUMENT TYPE: | Strategic document |
| DOCUMENT STATUS: | Approved |
| POLICY OWNER POSITION: | Municipal Fire Prevention Officer |
| INTERNAL COMMITTEE ENDORSEMENT: | Not applicable |
| APPROVED BY: | Council |
| DATE ADOPTED: | 25/10/2022 |
| VERSION NUMBER: | 9 |
| REVIEW DATE: | 30/09/2023 |
| DATE RESCINDED: | |
| RELATED STRATEGIC DOCUMENTS, POLICIES OR PROCEDURES: | Northern Victoria Integrated Emergency Management Plan – Loddon Shire |
| RELATED LEGISLATION: | Country Fire Authority Act 1958 (Vic) Emergency Management Act 2013 |

EVIDENCE OF APPROVAL:

Signed by Chief Executive Officer

FILE LOCATION: K:\EXECUTIVE\Strategies policies and
procedures\Strategies - adopted PDF and Word\STR
Neighbourhood Safer Places Plan September
2023.docx1

Strategic documents are amended from time to time, therefore you should not rely on a printed copy being the current version. Please consult the Loddon Shire website to ensure that the version you are using is up to date.

This document is available in alternative formats (e.g. larger font) if requested.

1 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND 4

1.1 Structure of this plan..... 5

2 SECTION 1..... 6

FLOW CHART SHOWING PROCESS FOR IDENTIFYING, DESIGNATING, ESTABLISHING AND MAINTAINING NSPs..... 6

3 SECTION 2..... 7

DETAILED SUMMARY OF STEPS FOR ESTABLISHING NSPs 7

3.1 Overview of the steps associated with NSPs 7

 3.1.1 Identification of potential NSP locations..... 7

 3.1.2 Identification timing 7

 3.1.3 Criteria used in identifying NSP locations 7

3.2 Council assessment of NSPs 7

 3.2.1 Consent and rights of access 8

 3.2.2 Council land 8

 3.2.3 Crown land..... 8

 3.2.4 Private land 8

 3.2.5 Deed of Consent..... 8

 3.2.6 Access and Egress 9

3.3 Opening of a NSP..... 9

 3.3.1 Council must consider 9

 3.3.2 Defendable space..... 9

 3.3.3 Dependability of buildings 10

 3.3.4 Signage..... 10

 3.3.5 Maintenance and maintainability..... 11

 3.3.6 Separation and demarcation of area..... 11

 3.3.7 Alternative uses of potential NSP 11

 3.3.8 Communication with the community 11

 3.3.9 Public liability insurance 12

3.4 CFA Assessment and certification of potential Neighbourhood Safer Places of Last Resort locations – December 2010 12

 3.4.1 CFA Assessment criteria 12

 3.4.2 Introduction 12

 3.4.3 Background..... 12

 3.4.4 Concept 13

 3.4.5 Limitations..... 13

 3.4.6 CFA Neighbourhood safer places assessment criteria..... 14

 3.4.7 Radiant heat and setback measurements 14

| | | |
|----------|---|-----------|
| 3.4.8 | Additional management for Neighbourhood Safer Places in Grassland Areas... | 14 |
| 3.4.9 | Notification to CFA of potential NSPs | 15 |
| 3.4.10 | Informing council of CFA assessment..... | 15 |
| 3.5 | Council designation of NSP | 15 |
| 3.5.1 | Establishment and maintenance of NSPs following designation | 15 |
| 3.5.2 | Establishing a NSP after its designation | 16 |
| 3.6 | Annual inspections and decommissioning of NSPs | 16 |
| 3.6.1 | Responsible for the annual review of NSPs..... | 16 |
| 3.6.2 | Considerations when undertaking inspections | 16 |
| 3.6.3 | Inspection timelines | 16 |
| 3.6.4 | Decommissioning of NSPs | 16 |
| 4 | SECTION 3..... | 17 |
| | SUMMARY OF FACTORS FOR COUNCIL TO CONSIDER IN ASSESSING POTENTIAL NSP LOCATIONS PRIOR TO DESIGNATION | 17 |
| 5 | SECTION 4..... | 23 |
| | NSP SIGNAGE TEMPLATE 23 | |
| 6 | SECTION 5..... | 25 |
| | REGISTER OF DESIGNATED NSP LOCATIONS INCLUDING COMPLETED COUNCIL SITE ASSESSMENTS | 25 |

LIST OF TABLES

| | | |
|-----|--|----|
| 6.1 | Boort Park Recreation Reserve (Oval Only) – Shire Assessment..... | 25 |
| 6.2 | Mitchell Park Recreation Reserve (Oval Only) Pyramid Hill – Shire Assessment | 34 |
| 6.3 | Serpentine Recreation Reserve (Oval Only) – Shire Assessment..... | 42 |
| 6.4 | Bridgewater Memorial Hall (Grounds Only) - Shire Assessment | 50 |
| 6.5 | Sloan Park Playground, Inglewood – Shire Assessment..... | 58 |
| 6.6 | Donaldson Park (Oval Area Only) - Wedderburn – Shire Assessment..... | 66 |

1 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

In its Interim Report, the 2009 Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission recommended that neighbourhood safer places, or 'NSPs', be identified and established to provide persons in bushfire affected areas with a place of last resort during a bushfire.¹

In response to this recommendation, the Victorian Government has introduced the Emergency Services Legislation Amendment Act 2018 (Vic) ('ESLA Act') which amends the Country Fire Authority Act 1958 (Vic) ('CFA Act') and the Emergency Management Act 2013 (Vic) ('EM Act'). The effect of these amendments will be to require the Country Fire Authority ('CFA') to certify NSPs against the CFA's Fire Rating Criteria, and Victoria's Councils to identify, designate, establish and maintain suitable places as NSPs in their municipal districts.

NSPs are not community fire refuges or emergency relief centres. NSPs are places of last resort during the passage of a bushfire, and are intended to be used by persons whose primary bushfire plans have failed. NSPs are places of relative safety only. They do not guarantee the survival of those who assemble there. Furthermore, there may be serious risks to safety encountered in traveling, and seeking access, to NSPs during bushfire events. Depending on the direction of a particular fire, it may not be a safer place to assemble than other places within the municipal district.

NSPs will be assessed by the CFA as providing some protection from immediate risk of direct fire attack, but not necessarily from other risks, such as flying embers. Where a potential NSP which is used for an operational purpose at many times meets the CFA's criteria, then the CFA considers that those operational activities will be able to continue (to the extent practicable in the circumstances) while the place is being used as an NSP.

This Plan is a neighbourhood safer places plan for the purposes of the legislation, and contains guidelines which have been developed by the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) to assist the Council in identifying, designating, establishing, maintaining and decommissioning places as NSPs within its municipal district.

This Plan also identifies other matters that should be taken into account in identifying, designating, establishing and maintaining NSPs within the municipality.

This Plan contains a step-by-step methodology for the Council to follow in identifying, designating, establishing, maintaining and decommissioning NSPs. The Council must consider each of the factors set out in this Plan. It should also consider other factors which are specific to the Council's circumstances, including the resources available to the Council. Once this Plan has been adopted, Council must make it, and any documents incorporated into it, available at the Council's municipal offices for public inspection during normal office hours free of charge under section 50F(4)(b) of the CFA Act. It must also be published on Council's website under section 50F(4)(a) of the CFA Act.

¹ Recommendation 8.5, 2009 Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission Interim Report

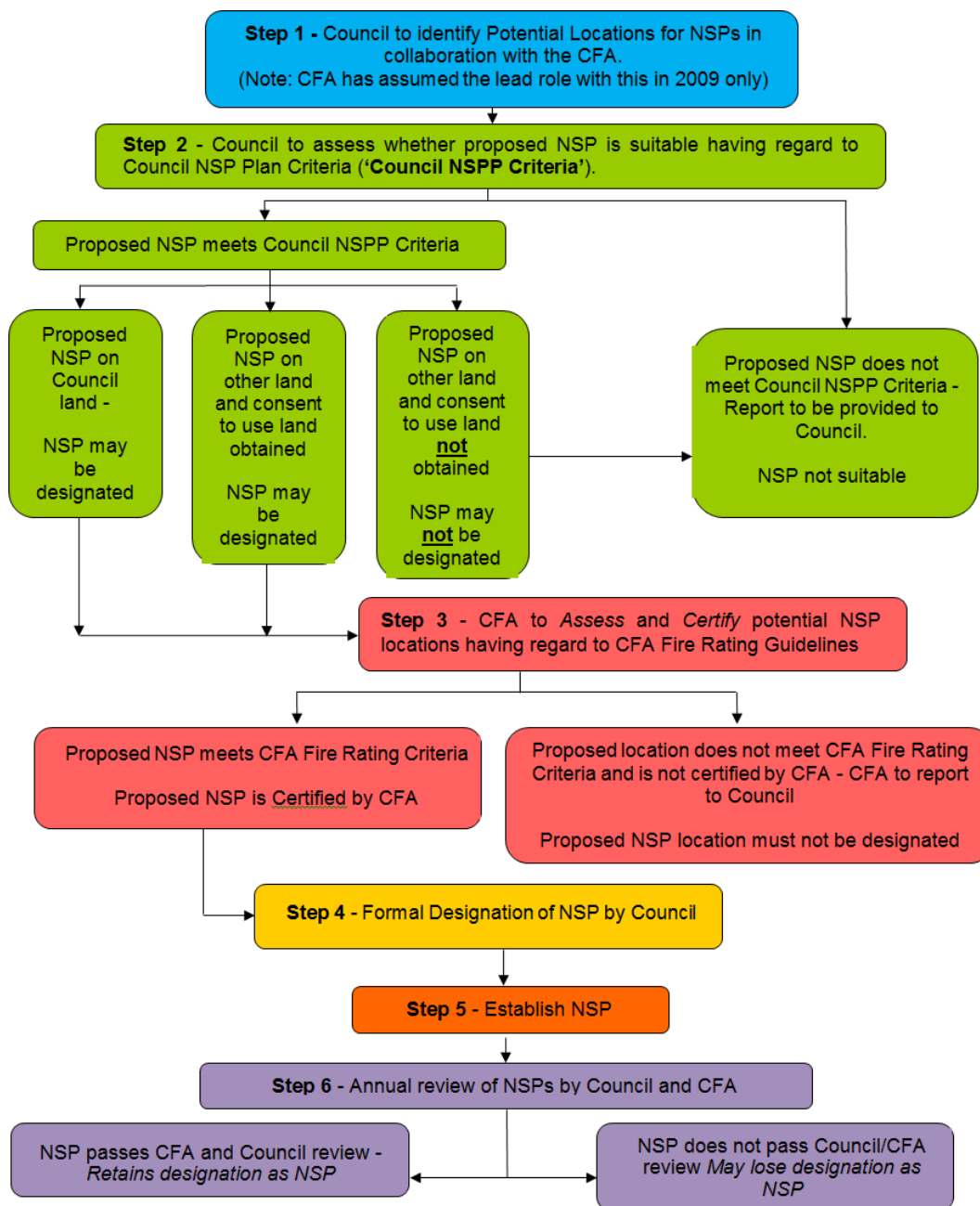
1.1 Structure of this plan

This Plan has been divided up into five distinct sections.

- Section 1:** contains a flow chart which summarises the process for councils to adopt in identifying, designating, establishing and maintaining NSPs within their municipal district.
- Section 2:** contains a more detailed summary of the steps summarised in the flow chart found in Section 1.
- Section 3:** contains a summary of the factors for Council to consider in assessing potential NSP locations, prior to designation.
- Section 4:** contains details of content of signage that Council is required to erect at designated NSP Locations.
- Section 5:** Register of Designated NSP locations including completed Council site assessments.

2 SECTION 1

FLOW CHART SHOWING PROCESS FOR IDENTIFYING, DESIGNATING, ESTABLISHING AND MAINTAINING NSPs



3 SECTION 2

DETAILED SUMMARY OF STEPS FOR ESTABLISHING NSPs

3.1 Overview of the steps associated with NSPs

3.1.1 Identification of potential NSP locations

- For the 2009-2010 fire season, the Country Fire Authority (**CFA**), assumed lead responsibility for identifying potential locations for NSPs. This was done in consultation with Councils. The initial focus was upon the identification of proposed NSPs within those municipalities with CFA Township Protection Plan (**TPP**) areas in place. However, identification efforts have now expanded beyond these localities.
- From 2010-onwards, Council was responsible for identifying potential places as NSPs within its municipal district.
- The Loddon Shire Council will undertake identification, management and the decommissioning of NSPs processes through the Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee (MEMPC).

3.1.2 Identification timing

Loddon Shire Council will identify and assess any potential additional places as NSPs by 31 May in each year. This will allow sufficient time for designation of the potential NSP location by the Council, (**Council Designation**) and assessment and certification of the potential NSP by the CFA, (**CFA Certification**).

Subject to the outcome of the assessment and designation process, establishing the NSPs, including the erection of signage and other steps will be undertaken by Council, (**Establishment**).

The process of NSP identification is ongoing with Council's Municipal Fire Prevention Officer (MFPO, in consultation with CFA and Council's MEMO and MEMPC,) assessing at the end of each fire season the need for any additional NSPs within the municipality.

3.1.3 Criteria used in identifying NSP locations

As part of the initial identification of NSPs, the following criteria was used in assessing suitability:

- the environment surrounding the potential NSP
- what other uses are made of the potential NSP and whether or not those uses could be inconsistent with its designation as a NSP
- whether the land on which the potential NSP is located is Council owned or non-Council owned land
- an assessment of the fire risk of the neighbourhood to assess the need for a NSP (Risk Matrix Assessment)

3.2 Council assessment of NSPs

Council must assess the place in accordance with the factors outlined below to determine whether it is suitable to be designated as a NSP. Unless a potential NSP satisfies each of the criteria outlined below, it should not be designated by Council as a NSP.

The MFPO and MEMO are responsible for the inspection process utilising existing expertise within the MEMPC to assist with the audit and assessment of potential NSPs.

The factors to determine the suitability of the place as a NSP are as follows (Council NSP Criteria)

3.2.1 Consent and rights of access

There must be appropriate land access and tenure arrangements so that Council has the right to:

- use the place as a NSP
- access the site and surrounding areas for maintenance; and
- erect appropriate signage at the NSP, which includes approved additional NSP information as described in section 4.

3.2.2 Council land

If the potential NSP is on land owned or controlled by Council, appropriate rights of land access and tenure are unlikely to be an issue. However, Council will need to ensure that where Council land is leased or licensed to a third party; it must be possible to put in place appropriate arrangements on reasonably satisfactory and acceptable terms with the tenant or licensee permitting Council to use the land as a potential NSP. In taking these matters into account, Council should consider what alternative uses may be made, whether temporarily or semi-permanently, of land under Council control or management.

3.2.3 Crown land

If the potential NSP is on Crown land not owned or controlled by Council, then the consent of the Crown land manager is likely to be required. If the land has been leased or licensed to a third party, such as a caravan park operator, then the consent of the tenant or licensee to use the place as a potential NSP will also be required. In obtaining the consent of the relevant Crown land manager, it will be necessary to consider whether or not the Crown Grant or reservation authorises the place to be used as a potential NSP.

3.2.4 Private land

Where it is proposed that a place on privately-owned land is to be used as a NSP, then the consent of the relevant landowner (and, where applicable, occupier) for the place to be designated and used as an NSP is required. If the landowner (or occupier) does not consent to the place being designated and used as a NSP on terms which are reasonably satisfactory and acceptable to the Council, it must not be so designated and used.

3.2.5 Deed of Consent

Where a potential NSP is located on non-Council land, with the result that consent and rights of access need to be negotiated with the owner and (where necessary) occupier, Council officers responsible for negotiating such consent and rights of access should provide a draft form of consent to the owner/occupier for their consideration. The form of consent will be required to be approved either by Council (through a formal resolution), or by the CEO acting under delegation.

Any amendments to the form of consent which may be requested by the landowner or occupier will need to be thoroughly considered before they are agreed to by Council. If it is not possible or appropriate for Council to agree on amendments that may be requested to the consent document, then the proposed NSP should not be designated by Council.

3.2.6 Access and Egress

Council must assess whether there is sufficient access to the potential NSP which will allow:

- anticipated potential numbers of people to move to and from the place
- the CFA and other emergency services to attend the place for asset and personnel protection activities and operations.

Council must assess potential access and egress routes, bearing in mind the fact that NSPs are **places of last resort**.

As people may be seeking access to a NSP in a rushed or panicked state, a number of people could be seeking access in a relatively short time and visibility could be affected by smoke, easily navigable routes to and from a NSP are crucial.

In considering whether access and egress routes are adequate, consideration should be given to issues such as:

- the condition of the road surface
- the proximity of the NSP to major roadways and population centres
- the type and amount of vegetation along any access routes, and whether that vegetation could be affected by fire and pose a risk of harm to those seeking access to the potential NSP, or otherwise block access to the NSP
- the capacity of access routes to accommodate potentially large numbers of vehicles, and to accommodate potential vehicle break-downs
- parking at the place
- any hazards that may exist for persons accessing the place by foot, including in the buffer zone
- any relevant matter contained in Council's Road Management Plan prepared pursuant to the Road Management Act 2004 (Vic); and
- the number of access points to any potential NSP.

If appropriate and satisfactory access and egress routes are not available, then the proposed NSP should not be designated by Council.

3.3 **Opening of a NSP**

3.3.1 Council must consider

- whether it will be possible or practicable to open the potential NSP or otherwise make it available for use on a 24 hour basis during the declared fire danger period
- the potential for damage to the place during times that it is open and available for use, but is not being used as a NSP
- the potential cost to Council associated with the above points
- the possibility that the potential NSP could be used for unintended purposes, such as a refuge and,
- If it is appropriate to open or make available NSPs only on Code Red days.

3.3.2 Defendable space

The CFA has advised that there is no guarantee that fire units will attend a NSP, and that individuals that use NSPs are doing so at their own risk. There should be **no expectations** that fire units or other emergency services personnel will attend a NSP during a bushfire.

Despite this, the potential NSP should be surrounded by sufficient open space to enable the CFA and other fire services to conduct asset protection and fire suppression activities around the place.

Any open space should be reasonably free of obstacles that could hinder fire suppression activities. These obstacles may include but are not limited to:

- fences
- buildings and sheds
- steep inclines in close proximity to the potential NSP
- vegetation, especially large trees
- other land forms such as rocks, boulders and knolls which could substantially hinder fire suppression activities.

If necessary, advice from CFA should be sought with regard to their defensible space and fire vehicle access requirements.

When assessing the defensible space factor, Council must consider whether or not approval to clear or disturb flora and/or fauna is required, under legislation such as the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cwlth)*, *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988 (Vic)* or the *Planning and Environment Act 1987 (Vic)*. If such approval is required, then it must be obtained before the potential NSP location is designated.

If the proposed NSP does not have adequate space around it or if approval to clear or disturb flora and/or fauna is required but cannot be obtained before the NSP is required to be established, or cannot be obtained on reasonably satisfactory conditions, it should not be designated as a NSP by Council.

3.3.3 Defendability of buildings

If the potential NSP is a building, Council must consider whether or not it is likely to be subject to risk from ember attack.

As the CFA is not required to assess the risk of ember attack to a building in undertaking the CFA fire rating assessment when certifying NSPs, the Council should consider this issue. In considering this issue, Council may need to seek expert advice from appropriately qualified CFA personnel.

If there is an appreciable risk of the proposed NSP being compromised by ember attack, which cannot be satisfactorily defended, then the building is unlikely to be suitable as an NSP and should not be designated by Council.

3.3.4 Signage

Council must assess whether it will be possible to have signage at the entry to, and in the vicinity of, the potential NSP. Such signage must be in accordance with the EMV Neighbourhood Safer Places – Bushfire Place of Last Resort Signage Manual, October 2015.

Council must refer to the Manual when considering whether or not appropriate signage can be erected. Council may also wish to provide further signage and information at the location to inform and support potential users of the NSP.

If signage must be placed on private land, then the consent of the landowner will be required.

3.3.5 Maintenance and maintainability

- Council must assess whether ongoing maintenance of the proposed NSP, and the surrounding area, is both possible and practical, having regard to the resources reasonably available to the Council. This factor should be considered by the Council not only in relation to the suitability of a proposed NSP, but also as to the total number of proposed NSPs that can be reasonably maintained within the municipal district. This is needed to ensure that the place remains suitable for use as an NSP during each fire season.
- Specifically, the place must be capable of being maintained so as to ensure continuing compliance with the CFA Fire Rating Criteria and the Council NSPP Criteria. If it is Council policy that if it is not possible to maintain a potential NSP, then it must not be designated as such.
- When assessing the maintainability of the potential NSP, both the NSP and the Buffer Zone may require various maintenance activities to be undertaken on a periodic basis.
- There may be cases where maintenance activities can only be undertaken by, or with the consent of, an adjoining landowner. This may, in turn, require assurances from such landowners that the place, and areas surrounding it, will be maintained to a satisfactory level.
- If the proposed NSP is not capable of being satisfactorily maintained, then it should not be designated by Council.

3.3.6 Separation and demarcation of area

If the NSP is to be located in an open area, it must be possible to identify the area that is the NSP. This may best be achieved by signage and or some sort of boundary or perimeter marking. In the example of an oval this may be the boundary fence.

Although not always possible, areas that enable separation or enable enough room to move away from other forms of potential hazard such as vehicles, buildings and animals are preferred.

3.3.7 Alternative uses of potential NSP

Council must consider what other uses may be made of the potential NSP which could impact upon its ability to properly function as a NSP.

If the place is used for other uses which could compromise its ability to be used as a NSP, and these activities cannot be managed so that they do not impact on the operation of the NSP then a NSP should not be designated by Council.

3.3.8 Communication with the community

Council must be able to communicate the location of the potential NSP to the community. There should be good community awareness of the location of the place, together with the risks that relate to the use of the potential NSP, and the risks associated with travelling to the potential NSP in the event of a bushfire.

3.3.9 Public liability insurance

As a matter of prudent risk management, Council should have regard to:

- any additional factors which are relevant to Council's maintenance of insurance coverage for legal claims relating to the identification, designation, establishment, maintenance and decommissioning of a place as a NSP, as well as travel to a NSP
- any indemnity provided by the State of Victoria, and
- any statutory defences to claims.

3.4 **CFA Assessment and certification of potential Neighbourhood Safer Places of Last Resort locations – December 2010**

3.4.1 CFA Assessment criteria

Under section 50G(5) of the CFA Act, the CFA is responsible for assessing potential NSP locations against the CFA Fire Rating Guidelines. This will be done by appropriate qualified and experienced CFA personnel.

Council is not responsible for the assessment and certification of potential NSPs by the CFA but must request CFA undertake their assessment prior to requesting that Council Designate/Not Designate and establish/not establish a NSP.

If a potential NSP is NOT COMPLIANT under the Council or CFA assessment criteria that NSP MUST NOT be put forward for designation as a NSP by Council.

3.4.2 Introduction

Neighbourhood Safer Place means a place that may, as a last resort, provide shelter for people from the immediate life threatening effects of a bushfire.

They are an area or premises that may provide some sanctuary from direct flame contact and radiant heat. It is envisioned it would be an existing space or structure, such as an oval or a building that may protect a person against fire.

This assessment guideline articulates the process by which qualified/experienced CFA Officers assess the suitability of Neighbourhood Safer Places and is not intended for use by the general public.

3.4.3 Background

Reducing the impact of bushfires is a shared responsibility between government, emergency service organisations and the community. The community has an integral role to take the necessary steps to prepare their property and to implement their bushfire survival plan.

This document sets out criteria for CFA's assessment of Neighbourhood Safer Places. The criteria provide a framework to assist Councils to identify Neighbourhood Safer Places to provide a place of last resort for people to gather during the passage of a bushfirefront. The primary purpose of a Neighbourhood Safer Place is the protection of human life from a bushfire.

The 2009 Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission (VBRC) Final Report stated that the people who left their homes sheltered in a variety of locations for example, other houses or buildings; bunkers, reserves and ovals; pubs; in-ground swimming pools, cars and dams. Some people reported that these were pre-planned alternatives and in some cases, helped people survive. However, the VBRC also heard examples of people dying in very similar locations, which serve to highlight that these locations do not guarantee safety (VBRC Final Report Vol 2: pg 19).

The VBRC also stated that “many people did not have a well-thought-out plan and were left to make their own decisions without the benefit of assistance from the authorities [and] for these people, the lack of alternatives, the provision of shelters, refuges or evacuation, became critical as a fall back option (VBRC Final Report Summary: pg 5). They also considered “that a revised bushfire safety policy should provide information about places in which to shelter and support for individuals in identifying such places” (VBRC Final Report Vol 2: pg 21). Neighbourhood Safer Places continue to be a part of the shelter options for community members.

3.4.4 Concept

A Neighbourhood Safer Place is a space that:

- is a place of last resort for individuals to access and shelter in during the passage of fire through their neighbourhood - without the need to take a high risk journey beyond their neighbourhood;
- provides a level of protection from the immediate life threatening effects of a bushfire (direct flame contact and radiant heat); and
- is intended to provide relative safety;
- does not guarantee the survival of those who assemble there; and
- should only be accessed when personal bushfire survival plans cannot be implemented or have failed.

Neighbourhood Safer Places should be recorded in Township Protection Plans. However, not all townships will have Neighbourhood Safer Places identified in these Plans as they may not meet specific criteria identified in this document and within a council’s Municipal Neighbourhood Safer Places Plan. Some towns may not have the fire risk profile to indicate a need for a Neighbourhood Safer Place.

Neighbourhood Safer Places are not to be confused with Community Fire Refuges², Relief Centres, Recovery Centres, Assembly Areas, or Informal Places of Shelter, each of which have a different and specific purpose.

3.4.5 Limitations

Neighbourhood Safer Places have a number of limitations, being:

- limited capacity
- no guarantee of safety
- they do not cater for animals
- emergency services will not necessarily be present
- they do not provide meals or amenities
- they may not cater for particular special needs (e.g. infants, elderly, ill or disabled)
- they may not provide shelter from the elements, particularly flying embers
- there are risks to people during access, shelter during passage of the fire front and egress from Neighbourhood Safer Places

² Fire refuges have been described in the Community Fire Refuges Policy (June 2015).

3.4.6 CFA Neighbourhood safer places assessment criteria

Neighbourhood Safer Places should provide protection to people from lethal levels of radiant heat through an appropriate separation distance between fire hazards, particularly vegetation, and the site of the Neighbourhood Safer Place. Isolated flammable elements may occur within the separation space so long as such elements do not add to a fire's rate of spread nor significantly contribute to the radiant heat impacting on the Neighbourhood Safer Place.

Fire industry collaboration established criteria to determine the suitability of any site as a Neighbourhood Safer Place. The critical criteria decided upon was radiant heat load with maximum allowable radiant heat loads agreed upon for sites that are open spaces and those that are buildings. It was further agreed that each Neighbourhood Safer Place needs to be assessed on its merits, with radiant heat load calculated using the NSW Rural Fire Service Site Bush Fire Attack Assessment Methodology (Douglas and Tan, 2005) as the assessment tool in these guidelines.

3.4.7 Radiant heat and setback measurements

To provide initial direction to CFA staff and others in assessing the suitability of potential Neighbourhood Safer Places, the following guidance is provided:

Neighbourhood Safer Places must meet the following criteria for radiant heat load:

1. If a Neighbourhood Safer Place is an open space the maximum potential radiant heat impacting on the site must be no more than 2kw/m².
2. If a Neighbourhood Safer Place is a building, the maximum potential radiant heat impacting on the building must be no more than 10kw/m².

By way of example, Neighbourhood Safer Places adjoining extreme fuel hazards, this equates to a separation distance from the fire hazard of:

- greater than **310** metres from the outer edge of the NSP for an open space; and
- greater than **140** metres from the outer edge of a building to the fire hazard.

It is acknowledged that for NSPs abutting less than extreme fuel hazards this separation distance may be reduced so long as the criteria for maximum radiant heat impact are met.

3.4.8 Additional management for Neighbourhood Safer Places in Grassland Areas

Grasslands have a distinct place in the Neighbourhood Safer Places framework, due to:

- the potential for rapid growth in conditions of adequate warmth and moisture; and
- the requirement under section 50J of the CFA Act for councils to review their NSPs by 31 August each year.

Councils may identify a suitable Neighbourhood Safer Place site in a grassland area that can only meet the assessment criteria with active management of the site over the fire danger period, with treatments including slashing, mowing or grazing.

In these circumstances CFA may certify the site as meeting the assessment criteria provided that appropriate, specified and prescribed treatments are in place throughout the fire danger period. This must include prescriptions for management of the grassland secured by agreed terms entered into by the landholder. The landholder may be the council, a public authority, an agency or a private person.

Council has the role of facilitation and, if required, enforcement of the treatment(s) during the fire danger period. Fire Prevention Notices would not ordinarily be an appropriate method for achievement of management prescriptions in NSPs. Their use would only be an option of last resort that councils may use where a private landholder has reneged on their agreed conditions **and** the grassland condition constitutes or may constitute a danger to life or property from the threat of fire.

3.4.9 Notification to CFA of potential NSPs

Following identification of a place which may be suitable as a NSP, the potential NSP is assessed by the CFA as soon as practicable. This is likely to occur shortly after identification.

3.4.10 Informing Council of CFA assessment

Once the assessment of a potential NSP is completed by the CFA, the CFA will certify the potential NSP if the place meets the CFA Fire Rating Criteria. The CFA will provide a copy of the CFA certification in relation to a potential NSP to Council upon completion of certification, and a summary of the criteria and assumptions upon which the assessment is based.

Council should ensure that the boundaries of both the potential NSP as certified by the CFA, and any Buffer Zone surrounding it, are clearly defined in the CFA assessment.

For reasons of community safety, it is a requirement of the CFA Act, and it is also Council policy, that only those places assessed and certified by the CFA may be considered for designation as NSPs by the Council. The Council must not designate a place as an NSP unless it has CFA certification.

3.5 Council designation of NSP

Council must formally determine whether or not to designate a place as a NSP. Council should not designate a place as an NSP unless it is satisfied that the place is suitable, having regard to the Council NSPP Criteria.

A NSP may only be designated by a resolution of the Council.

Following preparation of an assessment of a potential NSP by the MEMPC, Council should determine whether or not to designate a potential NSP location by no later than 31 July. This will enable any necessary establishment works to be undertaken.

Once the Council has designated a place as an NSP, the MFPO must provide an updated list of all designated NSPs within the municipality to the CFA under section 50K of the CFA Act. This updated list must be provided by no later than 30 September in each year.

3.5.1 Establishment and maintenance of NSPs following designation

Following designation, Council will establish all designated NSPs within the municipal district.

3.5.2 Establishing a NSP after its designation

To establish a NSP after its designation, Council must

- erect appropriate signage at and near the NSP
- undertake any necessary preparatory works, including the construction or establishment of any required infrastructure and the clearance of vegetation, so as to enable the area to be used as a NSP
- publish the location of the NSP on the Council website
- update Council's Municipal Emergency Management Plan to include the location of the NSP.

The MFPO must provide an up-to-date list of NSPs to the CFA no later than 30 September each year under section 50K of the CFA Act.

Council is responsible for maintaining all designated NSPs within its municipal district. This includes vegetation management, maintenance of access and egress points and signage required for the functioning of the site as a NSP.

3.6 Annual inspections and decommissioning of NSPs

3.6.1 Responsible for the annual review of NSPs

Council must undertake an annual review of all designated NSPs within the municipality. Council must also request the CFA to undertake an assessment against the CFA Fire Rating Criteria of each NSP within the municipality on an annual basis.

These reviews are intended to ensure that each NSP remains suitable for use as a NSP during the up-coming fire season.

3.6.2 Considerations when undertaking inspections

NSPs should be assessed annually against the Council NSPP Criteria. The CFA will assess NSPs against the CFA Fire Rating Criteria.

If a NSP no longer meets:

- the CFA Fire Rating Criteria
 - then it must be decommissioned; or
- Council's NSPP Criteria
 - Council must determine if it has the capacity to address the identified non compliances. If it does not, then the NSP must be decommissioned.

3.6.3 Inspection timelines

NSPs must be inspected prior to 31 August each year under section 50J of the CFA Act.

3.6.4 Decommissioning of NSPs

By Council Resolution only.

- Council must decommission a NSP if the CFA assessment determines the site is no longer suitable.
- Council may decommission a NSP even if it has CFA certification, if Council is satisfied on reasonable grounds that it is not appropriate for the site to continue to be designated a NSP.
- Council will decommission a NSP that is not on Council land if the occupier or the person in control of the land has withdrawn consent to the designation of the site as a NSP.

4 SECTION 3

SUMMARY OF FACTORS FOR COUNCIL TO CONSIDER IN
ASSESSING POTENTIAL NSP LOCATIONS PRIOR TO
DESIGNATION



NEIGHBOURHOOD SAFER PLACES PLAN

CRITERIA – AUDITING/ASSESSMENT TOOL

LOCATION:

DATE:

**NEIGHBOURHOOD SAFER PLACES ASSESSEMENT CRITERIA
AUDITING AND ASSESSMENT TOOL**

DETAILS

| | | | | | |
|----------------|--|-------|--|-------|--|
| Day: | | Date: | | Time: | |
| Assessor name: | | Sign: | | | |
| Agency: | | | | | |

LOCATION

| | | | |
|---|--|----------------|--|
| Place name and specific location: | | Map Reference: | |
| Distance from nearest town centre (km): | | | |
| Controlling (owner) authority: | | | |

Owner Details

| | | | |
|------------------------|--|--|--|
| Contact: Name/Position | | | |
| Organisation: | | | |
| Postal Address: | | | |
| Phone: | | | |
| Email: | | | |

Tenant Details

| | | | |
|------------------------|----|--|------------|
| Contact: Name/Position | | | |
| Organisation: | | | |
| Postal Address: | | | Post code: |
| Phone: | W: | | H: |
| Email: | | | |

| | | | |
|--|---|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| Tenant 2 Details | | | |
| Contact: Name/Position | | | |
| Organisation: | | | |
| Postal Address: | | Post code: | |
| Phone: | W: | H: | |
| Email: | | | |
| | | | |
| Location Description: | | (Open area or building) | |
| Population of Township/ Locality: | | | |
| Estimated NSP Site Capacity: | | | |
| Reference Material Sited: | | | |
| NSP INSPECTION DETAILS | | | |
| OFFICERS NAME: | SIGNATURE:- | | |
| DATE OF INSPECTION: | RECOMMENDATION: <i>insert cross into square indicating result</i> | DESIGNATE | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | | NOT DESIGNATE | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| OFFICERS NAME: | SIGNATURE:- | | |
| DATE OF INSPECTION: | RECOMMENDATION: <i>insert cross into square indicating result</i> | DESIGNATE | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | | NOT DESIGNATE | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Factors to Consider in Assessing Potential NSPs

| Council NSPP Criteria | Issues to consider | Council comments | Satisfied? Yes/No |
|---|--|------------------|-------------------|
| Consents and rights of access | If the potential NSP is located on Council-owned land, can Council use the land as an NSP if required? Consider whether or not Council allows the land to be used for potentially inconsistent purposes, such as for farmers' markets, fetes, circuses etc. | | |
| | If the potential NSP is on private land, or public land under the control of a Crown Land Manager (other than Council), can Council enter into arrangements which allow it to use the land as a potential NSP on reasonably satisfactory terms? Also consider whether Council has the right to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • access the site and surrounding areas for maintenance • erect appropriate signage at the NSP. | | |
| Access and egress | Do access routes to the potential NSP allow for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the anticipated potential number of people to move to and from the place • the CFA and other emergency services to attend the place for asset and personnel protection activities? | | |
| | Are access routes easily navigable, bearing in mind they could be affected by smoke? Consider the condition of the road surface, proximity to population centres and major roads, capacity of access routes to accommodate large numbers of vehicles, the availability of car parking at the place and any other relevant matters. | | |
| Maintenance of NSP in accordance with CFA assessment | Can Council maintain the potential NSP in accordance with the criteria taken into account by the CFA in arriving at its fire rating assessment? <i>If the CFA have not provided sufficient information in relation to the criteria it has taken into account in arriving at its fire rating assessment, it may be necessary for Council to seek further information from the CFA.</i> | | |

| Council NSPP Criteria | Issues to consider | Council comments | Satisfied? Yes/No |
|---|--|------------------|-------------------|
| Opening of the NSP | Will it be possible and practicable to make the potential NSP available for use on a 24 hour basis during the declared fire danger period? This is a particular issue where the potential NSP is a building. Consider the potential for damage to the NSP which could result during times that it is open and available for use, but is not being used as an NSP. | | |
| | What costs could be incurred by Council in making the potential NSP available on a 24 hour basis during the declared fire danger period? Are these costs reasonable, and capable of being borne by Council? | | |
| | Could the potential NSP be used for an unintended purpose which could impact upon its use as an NSP (such as an emergency relief centre)? | | |
| Defendable space and fire suppression activities | Is the potential NSP surrounded by sufficient open space to enable the CFA to conduct asset protection and fire suppression operations? Is that open space reasonably free of obstacles (such as fences, buildings, steep gradients, vegetation and other land formations)? <i>Council should seek CFA advice concerning the defendability of the potential NSP and the Buffer Zone, including in relation to fire vehicle access requirements.</i> | | |
| | Will approval be required under legislation such as the <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cwlth)</i> , <i>Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988 (Vic)</i> and the <i>Planning and Environment Act 1987 (Vic)</i> ? Can such approval be obtained before the NSP is established? | | |
| Defendability of Buildings | If the potential NSP is a building, has Council has sought expert advice from the CFA to determine whether the NSP is likely to be subject to risk from ember attack? If it is subject to such a risk, can that risk be safely managed? | | |

| Council NSPP Criteria | Issues to consider | Council comments | Satisfied? Yes/No |
|-----------------------------------|---|------------------|-------------------|
| Signage | Can appropriate signage be erected at the entry to the potential NSP, and in its vicinity? | | |
| | If signage needs to be placed on private land, can Council obtain the consent of the relevant landowner to the erection of the signage? | | |
| Maintenance and maintainability | <p>Is the potential NSP capable of being maintained to ensure continuing compliance with the CFA Fire Rating Criteria and the Council NSPP Criteria?</p> <p>Where relevant, consider whether adjoining land owners and occupiers will provide Council with an assurance that both the potential NSP and the Buffer Zone can be maintained to a satisfactory level.</p> | | |
| Disabled access | Are there any means of access for disabled and mobility-impaired persons to the potential NSP, including vehicle access to drop off people with disabilities? | | |
| Alternative uses of potential NSP | <p>Can Council manage alternative uses which may be made of the potential NSP so as to ensure that those uses will not compromise the function of the place as a potential NSP?</p> <p><i>The CFA has advised that where a potential NSP which is used for an operational purpose at many times meets the CFA Fire Rating Criteria, then the CFA considers that those operational activities will be able to continue (to the extent practicable in the circumstances) while the place is being used as an NSP.</i></p> | | |
| Community Communication | Will it be possible to ensure that there will be good community awareness of the location of the potential NSP, and the risks associated with using the potential NSP? | | |

5 SECTION 4

NSP SIGNAGE - Image



NSP SIGNAGE – Standard Text

WARNING

This designated Neighbourhood Safer Place is a Place of Last Resort during the passage of a bushfire. Whilst it may offer some protection from bushfire, the safety or survival of those who assemble here is not guaranteed.

Before deciding to head towards, or enter this NSP in the event of bushfire, be aware that:

- Many houses may offer better protection than this NSP
- Travelling to this NSP when there is bushfire can be extremely dangerous. There is no guarantee that you will be safe doing so
- This NSP may not prevent death or injury from fire, embers or radiant heat when you get here
- You should only use this NSP when your primary bushfire plan has failed or cannot be implemented
- This NSP only has limited capacity
- There is no guarantee that CFA or other emergency services will be present at this NSP during a bushfire
- No facilities are provided for people with special needs, including those requiring medical attention
- This NSP may be uncomfortable and no amenities such as food and drinks will be provided
- There is no provision for animals

VicEmergency Hotline – 1800 226 226

6 SECTION 5**REGISTER OF DESIGNATED NSP LOCATIONS INCLUDING
COMPLETED COUNCIL SITE ASSESSMENTS**

| NSP LOCATION REGISTER | | DATE DESIGNATED |
|-----------------------|--|-----------------|
| BOORT | BOORT PARK RECREATION RESERVE (OVAL ONLY) | 27/02/2012 |
| PYRAMID HILL | MITCHELL PARK RECREATION RESERVE (OVAL ONLY) | 27/02/2012 |
| SERPENTINE | RECREATION RESERVE (OVAL ONLY) | 27/02/2012 |
| BRIDGEWATER | MEMORIAL HALL (GROUNDS ONLY) | 27/08/2012 |
| INGLEWOOD | J. SLOAN PARK (PLAYGROUND AREA) | 27/12/2015 |
| WEDDERBURN | DONALDSON PARK (CENTRAL OVAL AREA ONLY) | 27/08/2012 |

6.1 Boort Park Recreation Reserve (Oval Only) – Council Assessment



NEIGHBOURHOOD SAFER PLACES PLAN

CRITERIA – AUDITING/ASSESSMENT TOOL

LOCATION: Boort Park Recreation Reserve (Oval Only)

DATE: 24/08/2023

**NEIGHBOURHOOD SAFER PLACES ASSESSEMENT CRITERIA
AUDITING AND ASSESSMENT TOOL**

DETAILS

| | | | | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|------------------|
| Day: | Thursday | Date: | 24 August 2023 | Time: | 1.20PM |
| Assessor name: | Lisa Clue (MFPO) | | | Sign: | Lisa Clue (MFPO) |
| Agency: | Loddon Shire Council | | | | |

LOCATION

| | | | |
|--|---|-----------------------|--|
| Place name and specific location: | Boort Park Recreation Reserve (Oval Only) Malone St, Boort | Map Reference: | |
| Distance from nearest town centre (km): | Within township | | |
| Controlling (owner) authority: | Loddon Shire Council | | |

Owner Details

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|--|
| Contact: Name/Position | | | |
| Organisation: | Loddon Shire Council | | |
| Postal Address: | P.O. Box 21, Wedderburn | Post code: 3518 | |
| Phone: | W: 5494 1200 | H: | |
| Email: | | | |

Tenant Details

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------|--|
| Contact: Name/Position | President | | |
| Organisation: | Boort Park Community Asset Committee | | |
| Postal Address: | | Post code: | |
| Phone: | W: | H: | |
| Email: | | | |

| Tenant 2 Details | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|-------------------------------------|--|---|------------------|-------------------------------------|--|----------------------|--------------------------|
| Contact: Name/Position | | | | | | | | | |
| Organisation: | | | | | | | | | |
| Postal Address: | | Post code: | | | | | | | |
| Phone: | W: | H: | | | | | | | |
| Email: | | | | | | | | | |
| NSP INSPECTION DETAILS | | | | | | | | | |
| OFFICERS NAME: Lisa Clue (MFPO) | SIGNATURE:- | | | | | | | | |
| DATE OF INSPECTION: 24/08/2023 | <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 60%;">RECOMMENDATION: <i>insert cross into square indicating result</i></td> <td style="width: 20%;">DESIGNATE</td> <td style="width: 20%; text-align: center;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>NOT DESIGNATE</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table> | | | RECOMMENDATION: <i>insert cross into square indicating result</i> | DESIGNATE | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | | NOT DESIGNATE | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| RECOMMENDATION: <i>insert cross into square indicating result</i> | DESIGNATE | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | | | | | | | |
| | NOT DESIGNATE | <input type="checkbox"/> | | | | | | | |
| OFFICERS NAME: | SIGNATURE:- | | | | | | | | |
| DATE OF INSPECTION: | <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 60%;">RECOMMENDATION: <i>insert cross into square indicating result</i></td> <td style="width: 20%;">DESIGNATE</td> <td style="width: 20%; text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>NOT DESIGNATE</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table> | | | RECOMMENDATION: <i>insert cross into square indicating result</i> | DESIGNATE | <input type="checkbox"/> | | NOT DESIGNATE | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| RECOMMENDATION: <i>insert cross into square indicating result</i> | DESIGNATE | <input type="checkbox"/> | | | | | | | |
| | NOT DESIGNATE | <input type="checkbox"/> | | | | | | | |

Factors to Consider in Assessing Potential NSPs

| Council NSPP Criteria | Issues to consider | Council comments | Satisfied? Yes/No |
|--------------------------------------|--|---|-------------------|
| Consents and rights of access | If the potential NSP is located on Council-owned land, can Council use the land as an NSP if required? Consider whether or not Council allows the land to be used for potentially inconsistent purposes, such as for farmers' markets, fetes, circuses etc. | Area is owned by Council and maintained by the Boort Park Community Asset Committee and available for use as a NSP if required. | YES |
| | If the potential NSP is on private land, or public land under the control of a Crown Land Manager (other than Council), can Council enter into arrangements which allow it to use the land as a potential NSP on reasonably satisfactory terms? Also consider whether Council has the right to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • access the site and surrounding areas for maintenance • erect appropriate signage at the NSP. | Boort Park Community Asset Committee has granted consent for the area to be used and agreed to maintain the NSP area as per CFA maintenance requirements. Council has agreed to install and maintain all NSP signage in an acceptable condition at all times. | YES |
| Access and egress | Do access routes to the potential NSP allow for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the anticipated potential number of people to move to and from the place • the CFA and other emergency services to attend the place for asset and personnel protection activities? | There are no restrictions to Access and Egress The area is accessible via wide access road. Pedestrian and vehicle safe access/egress. The CFA and other emergency services will be able to attend for asset and personal protection activities as required. | YES |

| Council NSPP Criteria | Issues to consider | Council comments | Satisfied? Yes/No |
|--|--|--|-------------------|
| | <p>Are access routes easily navigable, bearing in mind they could be affected by smoke? Consider the condition of the road surface, proximity to population centres and major roads, capacity of access routes to accommodate large numbers of vehicles, the availability of car parking at the place and any other relevant matters.</p> | <p>There are wide open roads for safe pedestrian and vehicle access/egress. Large open area available for parking of vehicles as required.</p> | <p>YES</p> |
| <p>Maintenance of NSP in accordance with CFA assessment</p> | <p>Can Council maintain the potential NSP in accordance with the criteria taken into account by the CFA in arriving at its fire rating assessment? <i>If the CFA have not provided sufficient information in relation to the criteria it has taken into account in arriving at its fire rating assessment, it may be necessary for Council to seek further information from the CFA.</i></p> | <p>Boort Park Community Asset Committee has agreed to maintain the NSP area as per the CFA maintenance requirements.</p> | <p>YES</p> |
| <p>Opening of the NSP</p> | <p>Will it be possible and practicable to make the potential NSP available for use on a 24 hour basis during the declared fire danger period? This is a particular issue where the potential NSP is a building. Consider the potential for damage to the NSP which could result during times that it is open and available for use, but is not being used as an NSP.</p> | <p>24/7 Access available.</p> | <p>YES</p> |
| | <p>What costs could be incurred by Council in making the potential NSP available on a 24 hour basis during the declared fire danger period? Are these costs reasonable, and capable of being borne by Council?</p> | <p>Nil</p> | <p>YES</p> |
| | <p>Could the potential NSP be used for an unintended purpose which could impact upon its use as an NSP (such as an emergency relief centre)?</p> | <p>In an emergency situation all other activities will cease and the area will be available as a NSP.</p> | <p>YES</p> |

| Council NSPP Criteria | Issues to consider | Council comments | Satisfied? Yes/No |
|---|---|--|-------------------|
| Defendable space and fire suppression activities | Is the potential NSP surrounded by sufficient open space to enable the CFA to conduct asset protection and fire suppression operations? Is that open space reasonably free of obstacles (such as fences, buildings, steep gradients, vegetation and other land formations)? <i>Council should seek CFA advice concerning the defend ability of the potential NSP and the Buffer Zone, including in relation to fire vehicle access requirements.</i> | The CFA and other emergency services will be able to attend for asset and personal protection activities as required. | YES |
| | Will approval be required under legislation such as the <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cwlth)</i> , <i>Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988 (Vic)</i> and the <i>Planning and Environment Act 1987 (Vic)</i> ? Can such approval be obtained before the NSP is established? | NA | YES |
| Defendability of buildings | If the potential NSP is a building, has Council has sought expert advice from the CFA to determine whether the NSP is likely to be subject to risk from ember attack? If it is subject to such a risk, can that risk be safely managed? | No buildings contained within the designated NSP area. | YES |
| Signage | Can appropriate signage be erected at the entry to the potential NSP, and in its vicinity? | Council has agreed to erect and maintain all required signage to an acceptable standard at all times. There are signs at all entrances. (All standard text signs will be replaced prior to FDP.) | YES |
| | If signage needs to be placed on private land, can Council obtained the consent of the relevant landowner to the erection of the signage? | The Boort Park Community Asset Committee has agreed that Council will erect and maintain all required signage to an acceptable standard at all times. | YES |

| Council NSPP Criteria | Issues to consider | Council comments | Satisfied? Yes/No |
|--|---|---|-------------------|
| Maintenance and maintainability | <p>Is the potential NSP capable of being maintained to ensure continuing compliance with the CFA Fire Rating Criteria and the Council NSPP Criteria?</p> <p>Where relevant, consider whether adjoining land owners and occupiers will provide Council with an assurance that both the potential NSP and the Buffer Zone can be maintained to a satisfactory level.</p> | <p>Boort Park Community Asset Committee has agreed to maintain the NSP area as per the CFA maintenance requirements.</p> | <p>YES</p> |
| Disabled access | <p>Are there are means of access for disabled and mobility-impaired persons to the potential NSP, including vehicle access to drop off people with disabilities?</p> | <p>No restrictions to disabled access/egress.</p> | <p>YES</p> |
| Alternative uses of potential NSP | <p>Can Council manage alternative uses which may be made of the potential NSP so as to ensure that those uses will not compromise the function of the place as a potential NSP?</p> <p><i>The CFA has advised that where a potential NSP which is used for an operational purpose at many times meets the CFA Fire Rating Criteria, then the CFA considers that those operational activities will be able to continue (to the extent practicable in the circumstances) while the place is being used as an NSP.</i></p> | <p>In an emergency situation all other activities (Football/cricket/Trotting etc.) will cease and the area will be available as a NSP.</p> | <p>YES</p> |
| Community Communication | <p>Will it be possible to ensure that there will be good community awareness of the location of the potential NSP, and the risks associated with using the potential NSP?</p> | <p>Council and the CFA will conduct a community awareness campaign and regularly make reference to the NSP on social media and in local papers.</p> | <p>YES</p> |



Boort Recreation Reserve (Oval Only) – Council Assessment



CRM #1000010890 - Boort Football Club and Harness Racing (Oval area only), Malone Street, Boort, as per CFA Reassessment August 2019



6.2 Mitchell Park Recreation Reserve (Oval Only) Pyramid Hill – Council Assessment



NEIGHBOURHOOD SAFER PLACES PLAN

CRITERIA – AUDITING/ASSESSMENT TOOL

LOCATION: Mitchell Park Recreation Reserve (Oval Only) Pyramid Hill

DATE: 19/08/2023

**NEIGHBOURHOOD SAFER PLACES ASSESSEMENT CRITERIA
AUDITING AND ASSESSMENT TOOL**

DETAILS

| | | | | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|--------------|------------|--------------|------------------|
| Day: | Saturday | Date: | 19/08/2023 | Time: | 1.00 PM |
| Assessor name: | Lisa Clue (MFPO) | | | Sign: | Lisa Clue (MFPO) |
| Agency: | Loddon Shire Council | | | | |

LOCATION

| | | | |
|--|--|-----------------------|--|
| Place name and specific location: | Mitchell Park Recreation Reserve (Oval Only) Pyramid-Gladfield Rd, Pyramid Hill | Map Reference: | |
| Distance from nearest town centre (km): | Within township of Pyramid Hill | | |
| Controlling (owner) authority: | Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) | | |

Owner Details

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|--|-------------------|------|
| Contact: Name/Position | Property Officer | | |
| Organisation: | Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) | | |
| Postal Address: | PO Box 3100, Bendigo Delivery Centre, Bendigo VIC | Post code: | 3554 |
| Phone: | W: 5430 4671 | H: | |
| Email: | | | |

Tenant Details

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|--|-------------------|--|
| Contact: Name/Position | President | | |
| Organisation: | Mitchell Park Recreation Reserve Committee of Management | | |
| Postal Address: | | Post code: | |
| Phone: | W: | H: | |
| Email: | | | |

| Tenant 2 Details | | | |
|--|---|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Contact: Name/Position | | | |
| Organisation: | | | |
| Postal Address: | | Post code: | |
| Phone: | W: | H: | |
| Email: | | | |
| | | | |
| Location Description: | Mitchell Park Recreation Reserve (Oval Only) | (Open Area or Building) | Open Area (Oval) |
| Population of Township/ Locality: | Approx. 600 | | |
| Estimated NSP Site Capacity: | Approx. 750 | | |
| Reference Material Sited: | NA | | |
| NSP INSPECTION DETAILS | | | |
| OFFICERS NAME: Lisa Clue (MFPO) | SIGNATURE: | | |
| DATE OF INSPECTION: 19/08/2023 | RECOMMENDATION: insert cross into square indicating result | DESIGNATE | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| | | NOT DESIGNATE | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| OFFICERS NAME: | SIGNATURE:- | | |
| DATE OF INSPECTION: | RECOMMENDATION: insert cross into square indicating result | DESIGNATE | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | | NOT DESIGNATE | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Factors to Consider in Assessing Potential NSPs

| Council NSPP Criteria | Issues to consider | Council comments | Satisfied? Yes/No |
|---|---|--|-------------------|
| <p>Consents and rights of access</p> | <p>If the potential NSP is located on Council-owned land, can Council use the land as an NSP if required? Consider whether or not Council allows the land to be used for potentially inconsistent purposes, such as for farmers' markets, fetes, circuses etc.</p> | <p>Area is owned by DEECA, maintained by the Mitchell Park Recreation Reserve Committee of Management and available for use as a NSP if required.</p> | <p>YES</p> |
| | <p>If the potential NSP is on private land, or public land under the control of a Crown Land Manager (other than Council), can Council enter into arrangements which allow it to use the land as a potential NSP on reasonably satisfactory terms? Also consider whether Council has the right to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • access the site and surrounding areas for maintenance • erect appropriate signage at the NSP. | <p>Mitchell Park Recreation Reserve Committee of Management has been granted consent for the area to be used and they have agreed to maintain the area as per CFA maintenance requirements. Council undertakes maintenance of all signage relating to the NSP.</p> | <p>YES</p> |
| <p>Access and egress</p> | <p>Do access routes to the potential NSP allow for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the anticipated potential number of people to move to and from the place • the CFA and other emergency services to attend the place for asset and personnel protection activities? | <p>No restrictions to access and egress. Area is accessible via wide access road with side point if required.</p> | <p>YES</p> |
| | <p>Are access routes easily navigable, bearing in mind they could be affected by smoke? Consider the condition of the road surface, proximity to population centres and major roads, capacity of access routes to accommodate large numbers of vehicles, the availability of car parking at the place and any other relevant matters.</p> | <p>As above</p> | <p>YES</p> |

| Council NSPP Criteria | Issues to consider | Council comments | Satisfied? Yes/No |
|---|--|--|-------------------|
| Maintenance of NSP in accordance with CFA assessment | <p>Can Council maintain the potential NSP in accordance with the criteria taken into account by the CFA in arriving at its fire rating assessment?</p> <p><i>If the CFA have not provided sufficient information in relation to the criteria it has taken into account in arriving at its fire rating assessment, it may be necessary for Council to seek further information from the CFA.</i></p> | <p>Mitchell Park Recreation Reserve Committee of Management has agreed to maintain the NSP area as per the CFA maintenance requirements.</p> | <p>YES</p> |
| Opening of the NSP | <p>Will it be possible and practicable to make the potential NSP available for use on a 24 hour basis during the declared fire danger period? This is a particular issue where the potential NSP is a building.</p> <p>Consider the potential for damage to the NSP which could result during times that it is open and available for use, but is not being used as an NSP.</p> | <p>24/7 access available.</p> | <p>YES</p> |
| | <p>What costs could be incurred by Council in making the potential NSP available on a 24 hour basis during the declared fire danger period? Are these costs reasonable, and capable of being borne by Council?</p> | <p>Nil.</p> | <p>YES</p> |
| | <p>Could the potential NSP be used for an unintended purpose which could impact upon its use as an NSP (such as an emergency relief centre)?</p> | <p>In an emergency all other activities will cease and the area will be available for a NSP.</p> | <p>YES</p> |
| Defendable space and fire suppression activities | <p>Is the potential NSP surrounded by sufficient open space to enable the CFA to conduct asset protection and fire suppression operations? Is that open space reasonably free of obstacles (such as fences, buildings, steep gradients, vegetation and other land formations)?</p> <p><i>Council should seek CFA advice concerning the defend ability of the potential NSP and the Buffer Zone, including in relation to fire vehicle access requirements.</i></p> | <p>CFA and other emergency services will be able to attend for asset and personal protection activities as required.</p> | <p>YES</p> |

| Council NSPP Criteria | Issues to consider | Council comments | Satisfied? Yes/No |
|--|---|---|-------------------|
| | Will approval be required under legislation such as the <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> (Cwlth), <i>Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988</i> (Vic) and the <i>Planning and Environment Act 1987</i> (Vic)? Can such approval be obtained before the NSP is established? | N/A. | YES |
| Defendability of buildings | If the potential NSP is a building, has Council sought expert advice from the CFA to determine whether the NSP is likely to be subject to risk from ember attack? If it is subject to such a risk, can that risk be safely managed? | No buildings are contained within the NSP area as it is the oval only. | YES |
| Signage | Can appropriate signage be erected at the entry to the potential NSP, and in its vicinity? | Signs located at two main entrances to the area for vehicle access and one designated pedestrian entrance. (All standard text signs will be replaced prior to FDP.) | YES |
| | If signage needs to be placed on private land, can Council obtain the consent of the relevant landowner to the erection of the signage? | The Mitchell Park Recreation Reserve Committee of Management has agreed. | YES |
| Maintenance and maintainability | Is the potential NSP capable of being maintained to ensure continuing compliance with the CFA Fire Rating Criteria and the Council NSPP Criteria? Where relevant, consider whether adjoining land owners and occupiers will provide Council with an assurance that both the potential NSP and the Buffer Zone can be maintained to a satisfactory level. | The Mitchell Park Recreation Reserve Committee of Management has agreed to maintain the NSP area in line with the CFA maintenance requirements. | YES |
| Disabled access | Are there means of access for disabled and mobility-impaired persons to the potential NSP, including vehicle access to drop off people with disabilities? | Nil restrictions. | YES |

| Council NSPP Criteria | Issues to consider | Council comments | Satisfied? Yes/No |
|--|---|---|-------------------|
| Alternative uses of potential NSP | <p>Can Council manage alternative uses which may be made of the potential NSP so as to ensure that those uses will not compromise the function of the place as a potential NSP?</p> <p><i>The CFA has advised that where a potential NSP which is used for an operational purpose at many times meets the CFA Fire Rating Criteria, then the CFA considers that those operational activities will be able to continue (to the extent practicable in the circumstances) while the place is being used as an NSP.</i></p> | <p>In emergency situations all other activities will cease (ie Football/Cricket).</p> | <p>YES</p> |
| Community Communication | <p>Will it be possible to ensure that there will be good community awareness of the location of the potential NSP, and the risks associated with using the potential NSP?</p> | <p>Council and the CFA will conduct a community awareness campaign and regularly make reference to the NSP on social media and in local papers.</p> | <p>YES</p> |



Mitchell Park Rec Reserve (Oval Only) Pyramid Hill – Council Assessment



CRM #1000010888 - Mitchell Park (Oval Only), Gladfield Road, Pyramid Hill – As per CFA Reassessment August 2019



6.3 Serpentine Recreation Reserve (Oval Only) – Council Assessment



NEIGHBOURHOOD SAFER PLACES PLAN

CRITERIA – AUDITING/ASSESSMENT TOOL

LOCATION: Janiember Park (formerly known as Serpentine Recreation Reserve)
(Oval Only)

DATE: 19/08/2023

**NEIGHBOURHOOD SAFER PLACES ASSESSEMENT CRITERIA
AUDITING AND ASSESSMENT TOOL**

DETAILS

| | | | | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|------------------|
| Day: | Saturday | Date: | 19 August 2023 | Time: | 2.00PM |
| Assessor name: | Lisa Clue (MFPO) | | | Sign: | Lisa Clue (MFPO) |
| Agency: | Loddon Shire Council | | | | |

LOCATION

| | | | |
|--|--|-----------------------|--|
| Place name and specific location: | Serpentine Recreation Reserve (oval only) Chapel St, Serpentine | Map Reference: | |
| Distance from nearest town centre (km): | Within Serpentine township | | |
| Controlling (owner) authority: | Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) | | |

Owner Details

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|---|-------------------|------|
| Contact: Name/Position | Property Officer | | |
| Organisation: | DEECA | | |
| Postal Address: | PO Box 3100, Bendigo Delivery Centre, Bendigo VIC | Post code: | 3554 |
| Phone: | W: 5430 4671 | H: | |
| Email: | | | |

Tenant Details

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|---|-------------------|--|
| Contact: Name/Position | President | | |
| Organisation: | Serpentine Recreation Reserve Committee of Management | | |
| Postal Address: | | Post code: | |
| Phone: | W: | H: | |
| Email: | | | |

| Tenant 2 Details | | | |
|--|---|------------|---|
| Contact: Name/Position | NA | | |
| Organisation: | | | |
| Postal Address: | | Post code: | |
| Phone: | W: | H: | |
| Email: | | | |
| NSP INSPECTION DETAILS | | | |
| OFFICERS NAME: Lisa Clue (MFPO) | SIGNATURE:- | | |
| DATE OF INSPECTION: 19/08/2023 | RECOMMENDATION: insert cross into square indicating result | | DESIGNATE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NOT DESIGNATE <input type="checkbox"/> |
| OFFICERS NAME: | SIGNATURE:- | | |
| DATE OF INSPECTION: | RECOMMENDATION: insert cross into square indicating result | | DESIGNATE <input type="checkbox"/> NOT DESIGNATE <input type="checkbox"/> |

Factors to Consider in Assessing Potential NSPs

| Council NSPP Criteria | Issues to consider | Council comments | Satisfied? Yes/No |
|-------------------------------|--|---|-------------------|
| Consents and rights of access | If the potential NSP is located on Council-owned land, can Council use the land as an NSP if required? Consider whether or not Council allows the land to be used for potentially inconsistent purposes, such as for farmers' markets, fetes, circuses etc. | Area is owned by DEECA, maintained by the Serpentine Recreation Reserve Committee of Management and available for use as a NSP if required. | YES |
| | If the potential NSP is on private land, or public land under the control of a Crown Land Manager (other than Council), can Council enter into arrangements which allow it to use the land as a potential NSP on reasonably satisfactory terms? Also consider whether Council has the right to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> access the site and surrounding areas for maintenance erect appropriate signage at the NSP. | The Serpentine Recreation Reserve Committee of Management has been granted consent for the area to be used and has agreed to maintain the area as per CFA maintenance requirements. Council maintains all signage relating to the NSP | YES |
| Access and egress | Do access routes to the potential NSP allow for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the anticipated potential number of people to move to and from the place the CFA and other emergency services to attend the place for asset and personnel protection activities? | No restrictions to access and egress. Area is accessible via wide access road with side point if required. | YES |
| | Are access routes easily navigable, bearing in mind they could be affected by smoke? Consider the condition of the road surface, proximity to population centres and major roads, capacity of access routes to accommodate large numbers of vehicles, the availability of car parking at the place and any other relevant matters. | As above. | YES |

| Council NSPP Criteria | Issues to consider | Council comments | Satisfied? Yes/No |
|---|---|--|-------------------|
| Maintenance of NSP in accordance with CFA assessment | <p>Can Council maintain the potential NSP in accordance with the criteria taken into account by the CFA in arriving at its fire rating assessment?</p> <p><i>If the CFA have not provided sufficient information in relation to the criteria it has taken into account in arriving at its fire rating assessment, it may be necessary for Council to seek further information from the CFA.</i></p> | Serpentine Recreation Reserve Committee of Management has agreed to maintain the NSP area as per the CFA maintenance requirements. | YES |
| Opening of the NSP | <p>Will it be possible and practicable to make the potential NSP available for use on a 24 hour basis during the declared fire danger period? This is a particular issue where the potential NSP is a building.</p> <p>Consider the potential for damage to the NSP which could result during times that it is open and available for use, but is not being used as an NSP.</p> | 24/7 Access available. | YES |
| | <p>What costs could be incurred by Council in making the potential NSP available on a 24 hour basis during the declared fire danger period? Are these costs reasonable, and capable of being borne by Council?</p> | Nil | YES |
| | <p>Could the potential NSP be used for an unintended purpose which could impact upon its use as an NSP (such as an emergency relief centre)?</p> | In an emergency all other activities will cease and the area will be available as a NSP. | YES |
| Defendable space and fire suppression activities | <p>Is the potential NSP surrounded by sufficient open space to enable the CFA to conduct asset protection and fire suppression operations? Is that open space reasonably free of obstacles (such as fences, buildings, steep gradients, vegetation and other land formations)?</p> <p><i>Council should seek CFA advice concerning the defendability of the potential NSP and the Buffer Zone, including in relation to fire vehicle access requirements.</i></p> | CFA and other emergency services will be able to attend for asset and personal protection activities as required. | YES |

| Council NSPP Criteria | Issues to consider | Council comments | Satisfied? Yes/No |
|--|---|--|-------------------|
| | Will approval be required under legislation such as the <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> (Cwlth), <i>Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988</i> (Vic) and the <i>Planning and Environment Act 1987</i> (Vic)? Can such approval be obtained before the NSP is established? | NA | YES |
| Defendability of Buildings | If the potential NSP is a building, has Council sought expert advice from the CFA to determine whether the NSP is likely to be subject to risk from ember attack? If it is subject to such a risk, can that risk be safely managed? | No buildings are contained within the NSP area. | YES |
| Signage | Can appropriate signage be erected at the entry to the potential NSP, and in its vicinity? | Two signs located at two main entrances to area, plus one additional sign. (All standard text signs will be replaced prior to FDP.) | YES |
| | If signage needs to be placed on private land, can Council obtain the consent of the relevant landowner to the erection of the signage? | Serpentine Recreation Reserve Committee of Management has agreed that Council will erect and maintain all required signage to an acceptable standard at all times. | YES |
| Maintenance and maintainability | Is the potential NSP capable of being maintained to ensure continuing compliance with the CFA Fire Rating Criteria and the Council NSPP Criteria? Where relevant, consider whether adjoining land owners and occupiers will provide Council with an assurance that both the potential NSP and the Buffer Zone can be maintained to a satisfactory level. | Serpentine Recreation Reserve Committee of Management has agreed to maintain the NSP area as per the CFA maintenance requirements. | YES |
| Disabled access | Are there any means of access for disabled and mobility-impaired persons to the potential NSP, including vehicle access to drop off people with disabilities? | No restrictions. | YES |

| Council NSPP Criteria | Issues to consider | Council comments | Satisfied? Yes/No |
|--|---|---|-------------------|
| Alternative uses of potential NSP | <p>Can Council manage alternative uses which may be made of the potential NSP so as to ensure that those uses will not compromise the function of the place as a potential NSP?</p> <p><i>The CFA has advised that where a potential NSP which is used for an operational purpose at many times meets the CFA Fire Rating Criteria, then the CFA considers that those operational activities will be able to continue (to the extent practicable in the circumstances) while the place is being used as an NSP.</i></p> | <p>In an emergency situation all other activities (Football/cricket etc.) will cease and the area will be available as a NSP.</p> | <p>YES</p> |
| Community Communication | <p>Will it be possible to ensure that there will be good community awareness of the location of the potential NSP, and the risks associated with using the potential NSP?</p> | <p>Council and the CFA will conduct a community awareness campaign and regularly make reference to the NSP on social media and in local papers.</p> | <p>YES</p> |



Serpentine Recreation Reserve (Oval Only) – Council Assessment



CRM #1000010889 – Serpentine Recreation Reserve (Janiember Park) - (portion oval area only), Corner Chapel Street and Park View Drive, Serpentine – as per CFA Reassessment August 2019



6.4 Bridgewater Memorial Hall (Grounds Only) - Council Assessment



NEIGHBOURHOOD SAFER PLACES PLAN

CRITERIA – AUDITING/ASSESSMENT TOOL

LOCATION: Bridgewater Memorial Hall (Grounds Only)

DATE: 21/08/2023

**NEIGHBOURHOOD SAFER PLACES ASSESSEMENT CRITERIA
AUDITING AND ASSESSMENT TOOL**

DETAILS

| | | | | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|------------------|
| Day: | Monday | Date: | 21 August 2023 | Time: | 5.34PM |
| Assessor name: | Lisa Clue (MFPO) | | | Sign: | Lisa Clue (MFPO) |
| Agency: | Loddon Shire Council | | | | |

LOCATION

| | | | |
|--|---|-----------------------|--|
| Place name and specific location: | Bridgewater Memorial Hall – Grounds only Erskine Street, Bridgewater | Map Reference: | |
| Distance from nearest town centre (km): | Within township of Bridgewater | | |
| Controlling (owner) authority: | Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) | | |

Owner Details

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|--|-------------------|------|
| Contact: Name/Position | Property Officer | | |
| Organisation: | Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) | | |
| Postal Address: | PO Box 3100, Bendigo Delivery Centre, Bendigo VIC | Post code: | 3554 |
| Phone: | W: 5430 4671 | H: | |
| Email: | | | |

Tenant Details

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------|--|
| Contact: Name/Position | President | | |
| Organisation: | Bridgewater on Loddon Development Inc | | |
| Postal Address: | | Post code: | |
| Phone: | W: | H: | |
| Email: | | | |

| Tenant 2 Details | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|-------------------------------------|--|---|------------------|-------------------------------------|--|----------------------|--------------------------|
| Contact: Name/Position | NA | | | | | | | | |
| Organisation: | | | | | | | | | |
| Postal Address: | | Post code: | | | | | | | |
| Phone: | W: | H: | | | | | | | |
| Email: | | | | | | | | | |
| NSP INSPECTION DETAILS | | | | | | | | | |
| OFFICERS NAME: Lisa Clue (MFPO) | SIGNATURE:- | | | | | | | | |
| DATE OF INSPECTION: 21/08/2023 | <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 60%;">RECOMMENDATION: <i>insert cross into square indicating result</i></td> <td style="width: 20%;">DESIGNATE</td> <td style="width: 20%; text-align: center;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>NOT DESIGNATE</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table> | | | RECOMMENDATION: <i>insert cross into square indicating result</i> | DESIGNATE | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | | NOT DESIGNATE | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| RECOMMENDATION: <i>insert cross into square indicating result</i> | DESIGNATE | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | | | | | | | |
| | NOT DESIGNATE | <input type="checkbox"/> | | | | | | | |
| OFFICERS NAME: | SIGNATURE:- | | | | | | | | |
| DATE OF INSPECTION: | <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 60%;">RECOMMENDATION: <i>insert cross into square indicating result</i></td> <td style="width: 20%;">DESIGNATE</td> <td style="width: 20%; text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>NOT DESIGNATE</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table> | | | RECOMMENDATION: <i>insert cross into square indicating result</i> | DESIGNATE | <input type="checkbox"/> | | NOT DESIGNATE | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| RECOMMENDATION: <i>insert cross into square indicating result</i> | DESIGNATE | <input type="checkbox"/> | | | | | | | |
| | NOT DESIGNATE | <input type="checkbox"/> | | | | | | | |

Factors to Consider in Assessing Potential NSPs

| Council NSPP Criteria | Issues to consider | Council comments | Satisfied? Yes/No |
|---|---|--|-------------------|
| <p>Consents and rights of access</p> | <p>If the potential NSP is located on Council-owned land, can Council use the land as an NSP if required? Consider whether or not Council allows the land to be used for potentially inconsistent purposes, such as for farmers' markets, fetes, circuses etc.</p> | <p>Area is owned by DEECA, maintained by Bridgewater on Loddon Development Inc and available for use as a NSP if required.</p> | <p>YES</p> |
| | <p>If the potential NSP is on private land, or public land under the control of a Crown Land Manager (other than Council), can Council enter into arrangements which allow it to use the land as a potential NSP on reasonably satisfactory terms? Also consider whether Council has the right to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • access the site and surrounding areas for maintenance • erect appropriate signage at the NSP. | <p>Bridgewater on Loddon Development Inc has granted consent for the area to be used and agreed to maintain the area as per CFA maintenance requirements. Council maintains all signage relating to the NSP.</p> | <p>YES</p> |
| <p>Access and egress</p> | <p>Do access routes to the potential NSP allow for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the anticipated potential number of people to move to and from the place • the CFA and other emergency services to attend the place for asset and personnel protection activities? | <p>No restrictions to access and egress. CFA and other emergency services will be able to attend for asset and personal protection activities as required.</p> | <p>YES</p> |
| | <p>Are access routes easily navigable, bearing in mind they could be affected by smoke? Consider the condition of the road surface, proximity to population centres and major roads, capacity of access routes to accommodate large numbers of vehicles, the availability of car parking at the place and any other relevant matters.</p> | <p>There are no fences on two road frontages of the property with footpaths on Erskine and Eldon St side so there is safe pedestrian access/egress. Ample vehicle parking around area.</p> | <p>YES</p> |

| Council NSPP Criteria | Issues to consider | Council comments | Satisfied? Yes/No |
|---|---|--|-------------------|
| Maintenance of NSP in accordance with CFA assessment | <p>Can Council maintain the potential NSP in accordance with the criteria taken into account by the CFA in arriving at its fire rating assessment?</p> <p><i>If the CFA have not provided sufficient information in relation to the criteria it has taken into account in arriving at its fire rating assessment, it may be necessary for Council to seek further information from the CFA.</i></p> | <p>Bridgewater on Loddon Development Inc has agreed to maintain the NSP area as per the CFA maintenance requirements.</p> | <p>YES</p> |
| Opening of the NSP | <p>Will it be possible and practicable to make the potential NSP available for use on a 24 hour basis during the declared fire danger period? This is a particular issue where the potential NSP is a building.</p> <p>Consider the potential for damage to the NSP which could result during times that it is open and available for use, but is not being used as an NSP.</p> | <p>24/7 Access available.</p> | <p>YES</p> |
| | <p>What costs could be incurred by Council in making the potential NSP available on a 24 hour basis during the declared fire danger period? Are these costs reasonable, and capable of being borne by Council?</p> | <p>Nil.</p> | <p>YES</p> |
| | <p>Could the potential NSP be used for an unintended purpose which could impact upon its use as an NSP (such as an emergency relief centre)?</p> | <p>In an emergency situation all other activities will cease and the area will be available as a NSP.</p> | <p>YES</p> |
| Defendable space and fire suppression activities | <p>Is the potential NSP surrounded by sufficient open space to enable the CFA to conduct asset protection and fire suppression operations? Is that open space reasonably free of obstacles (such as fences, buildings, steep gradients, vegetation and other land formations)?</p> <p><i>Council should seek CFA advice concerning the dependability of the potential NSP and the Buffer Zone, including in relation to fire vehicle access requirements.</i></p> | <p>The CFA and other emergency services will be able to attend for asset and personal protection activities as required.</p> | <p>YES</p> |

| Council NSPP Criteria | Issues to consider | Council comments | Satisfied? Yes/No |
|--|---|---|-------------------|
| | Will approval be required under legislation such as the <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> (Cwlth), <i>Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988</i> (Vic) and the <i>Planning and Environment Act 1987</i> (Vic)? Can such approval be obtained before the NSP is established? | N/A. | YES |
| Defendability of Buildings | If the potential NSP is a building, has Council sought expert advice from the CFA to determine whether the NSP is likely to be subject to risk from ember attack? If it is subject to such a risk, can that risk be safely managed? | No buildings are contained within the NSP area as it is the grounds only. Building is in the middle of the grounds. | YES |
| Signage | Can appropriate signage be erected at the entry to the potential NSP, and in its vicinity? | Signage is located on Eskine and Eldon Streets. (All standard text signs will be replaced prior to FDP.) | YES |
| | If signage needs to be placed on private land, can Council obtain the consent of the relevant landowner to the erection of the signage? | Bridgewater on Loddon Development Inc has agreed. | YES |
| Maintenance and maintainability | Is the potential NSP capable of being maintained to ensure continuing compliance with the CFA Fire Rating Criteria and the Council NSPP Criteria? Where relevant, consider whether adjoining land owners and occupiers will provide Council with an assurance that both the potential NSP and the Buffer Zone can be maintained to a satisfactory level. | Bridgewater on Loddon Development Inc has agreed to maintain the NSP area as per the CFA maintenance requirements. | YES |
| Disabled access | Are there any means of access for disabled and mobility-impaired persons to the potential NSP, including vehicle access to drop off people with disabilities? | No restrictions to disabled access/egress. | YES |

| Council NSPP Criteria | Issues to consider | Council comments | Satisfied? Yes/No |
|---|---|---|-------------------|
| <p>Alternative uses of potential NSP</p> | <p>Can Council manage alternative uses which may be made of the potential NSP so as to ensure that those uses will not compromise the function of the place as a potential NSP?</p> <p><i>The CFA has advised that where a potential NSP which is used for an operational purpose at many times meets the CFA Fire Rating Criteria, then the CFA considers that those operational activities will be able to continue (to the extent practicable in the circumstances) while the place is being used as an NSP.</i></p> | <p>In an emergency situation all other activities will cease and the area will be available as a NSP.</p> | <p>YES</p> |
| <p>Community Communication</p> | <p>Will it be possible to ensure that there will be good community awareness of the location of the potential NSP, and the risks associated with using the potential NSP?</p> | <p>Council and the CFA will conduct a community awareness campaign and regularly make reference to the NSP on social media and in local papers.</p> | <p>YES</p> |



Bridgewater Memorial Hall (Grounds Only) – Council Assessment



CRM #1000014876 - Bridgewater Memorial Hall (Grounds Only) Corner Erskine Street and Eldon Street Bridgewater, as per CFA Reassessment August 2019



6.5 Sloan Park Playground, Inglewood – Council Assessment



NEIGHBOURHOOD SAFER PLACES PLAN

CRITERIA – AUDITING/ASSESSMENT TOOL

LOCATION: J.Sloan Park Playground - Inglewood

DATE: 23/08/2023

**NEIGHBOURHOOD SAFER PLACES ASSESSEMENT CRITERIA
AUDITING AND ASSESSMENT TOOL**

DETAILS

| | | | | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|--------------|------------|--------------|------------------|
| Day: | Wednesday | Date: | 23/08/2023 | Time: | 8.10AM |
| Assessor name: | Lisa Clue (MFPO) | | | Sign: | Lisa Clue (MFPO) |
| Agency: | Loddon Shire Council | | | | |

LOCATION

| | | | |
|--|---|-----------------------|--|
| Place name and specific location: | J Sloan Park Playground – between swimming pool and tennis courts | Map Reference: | |
| Distance from nearest town centre (km): | Within township of Inglewood | | |
| Controlling (owner) authority: | Loddon Shire Council | | |

Owner Details

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|----|-----------------|
| Contact: Name/Position | | | |
| Organisation: | Loddon Shire Council | | |
| Postal Address: | PO Box 21 Wedderburn | | Post code: 3518 |
| Phone: | W: 5494 1200 | H: | |
| Email: | | | |

Tenant Details

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|----|----|------------|
| Contact: Name/Position | | | |
| Organisation: | | | |
| Postal Address: | | | Post code: |
| Phone: | W: | H: | |
| Email: | | | |

| Tenant 2 Details | | | |
|--|---|------------|---|
| Contact: Name/Position | NA | | |
| Organisation: | | | |
| Postal Address: | | Post code: | |
| Phone: | W: | H: | |
| Email: | | | |
| NSP Inspection Details | | | |
| OFFICERS NAME: Lisa Clue (MFPO) | SIGNATURE:- | | |
| DATE OF INSPECTION: 23/08/2023 | RECOMMENDATION: <i>insert cross into square indicating result</i> | | DESIGNATE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NOT DESIGNATE <input type="checkbox"/> |
| OFFICERS NAME: | SIGNATURE:- | | |
| DATE OF INSPECTION: | RECOMMENDATION: <i>insert cross into square indicating result</i> | | DESIGNATE <input type="checkbox"/> NOT DESIGNATE <input type="checkbox"/> |

Factors to Consider in Assessing Potential NSPs

| Council NSPP Criteria | Issues to consider | Council comments | Satisfied? Yes/No |
|-------------------------------|--|---|-------------------|
| Consents and rights of access | If the potential NSP is located on Council-owned land, can Council use the land as an NSP if required? Consider whether or not Council allows the land to be used for potentially inconsistent purposes, such as for farmers' markets, fetes, circuses etc. | Area is owned by Council and available for use as a NSP if required. | YES |
| | If the potential NSP is on private land, or public land under the control of a Crown Land Manager (other than Council), can Council enter into arrangements which allow it to use the land as a potential NSP on reasonably satisfactory terms? Also consider whether Council has the right to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • access the site and surrounding areas for maintenance • erect appropriate signage at the NSP. | Council officers have confirmed the area will be maintained as per CFA maintenance requirements. Council maintains all signage relating to the NSP. | YES |
| Access and egress | Do access routes to the potential NSP allow for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the anticipated potential number of people to move to and from the place • the CFA and other emergency services to attend the place for asset and personnel protection activities? | No restrictions to access and egress. CFA and other emergency services will be able to attend for asset and personal protection activities as required. | YES |
| | Are access routes easily navigable, bearing in mind they could be affected by smoke? Consider the condition of the road surface, proximity to population centres and major roads, capacity of access routes to accommodate large numbers of vehicles, the availability of car parking at the place and any other relevant matters. | There is a wide entrance on an open road providing access/egress route to NSP. Sufficient vehicle parking and pedestrian access. | YES |

| Council NSPP Criteria | Issues to consider | Council comments | Satisfied? Yes/No |
|---|---|---|-------------------|
| Maintenance of NSP in accordance with CFA assessment | <p>Can Council maintain the potential NSP in accordance with the criteria taken into account by the CFA in arriving at its fire rating assessment?</p> <p><i>If the CFA have not provided sufficient information in relation to the criteria it has taken into account in arriving at its fire rating assessment, it may be necessary for Council to seek further information from the CFA.</i></p> | Council officers have confirmed the area will be maintained as per CFA maintenance requirements. | YES |
| Opening of the NSP | <p>Will it be possible and practicable to make the potential NSP available for use on a 24 hour basis during the declared fire danger period? This is a particular issue where the potential NSP is a building.</p> <p>Consider the potential for damage to the NSP which could result during times that it is open and available for use, but is not being used as an NSP.</p> | 24/7 Access available. | YES |
| | <p>What costs could be incurred by Council in making the potential NSP available on a 24 hour basis during the declared fire danger period? Are these costs reasonable, and capable of being borne by Council?</p> | Nil. | YES |
| | <p>Could the potential NSP be used for an unintended purpose which could impact upon its use as an NSP (such as an emergency relief centre)?</p> | In an emergency situation all other activities will cease and the area will be available as a NSP. | YES |
| Defendable space and fire suppression activities | <p>Is the potential NSP surrounded by sufficient open space to enable the CFA to conduct asset protection and fire suppression operations? Is that open space reasonably free of obstacles (such as fences, buildings, steep gradients, vegetation and other land formations)?</p> <p><i>Council should seek CFA advice concerning the defendability of the potential NSP and the Buffer Zone, including in relation to fire vehicle access requirements.</i></p> | The CFA and other emergency services will be able to attend for asset and personal protection activities as required. | YES |

| Council NSPP Criteria | Issues to consider | Council comments | Satisfied? Yes/No |
|--|---|---|-------------------|
| | Will approval be required under legislation such as the <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> (Cwlth), <i>Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988</i> (Vic) and the <i>Planning and Environment Act 1987</i> (Vic)? Can such approval be obtained before the NSP is established? | N/A. | YES |
| Defendability of Buildings | If the potential NSP is a building, has Council sought expert advice from the CFA to determine whether the NSP is likely to be subject to risk from ember attack? If it is subject to such a risk, can that risk be safely managed? | No buildings are contained within the NSP area as it is the grounds only. Building is in the middle of grounds. | YES |
| Signage | Can appropriate signage be erected at the entry to the potential NSP, and in its vicinity? | Area signposted on fence along Calder Hwy, and in front of designated NSP area. Nil signage regarding NSP on main entrance to sports ground. (All standard text signs will be replaced prior to FDP.) | YES |
| | If signage needs to be placed on private land, can Council obtain the consent of the relevant landowner to the erection of the signage? | Council maintains all signage | YES |
| Maintenance and maintainability | Is the potential NSP capable of being maintained to ensure continuing compliance with the CFA Fire Rating Criteria and the Council NSPP Criteria? Where relevant, consider whether adjoining land owners and occupiers will provide Council with an assurance that both the potential NSP and the Buffer Zone can be maintained to a satisfactory level. | Council officers have confirmed the area will be maintained as per CFA maintenance requirements. | YES |
| Disabled access | Are there any means of access for disabled and mobility-impaired persons to the potential NSP, including vehicle access to drop off people with disabilities? | No restrictions to disabled access/egress. | YES |

| Council NSPP Criteria | Issues to consider | Council comments | Satisfied? Yes/No |
|--|---|---|-------------------|
| Alternative uses of potential NSP | <p>Can Council manage alternative uses which may be made of the potential NSP so as to ensure that those uses will not compromise the function of the place as a potential NSP?</p> <p><i>The CFA has advised that where a potential NSP which is used for an operational purpose at many times meets the CFA Fire Rating Criteria, then the CFA considers that those operational activities will be able to continue (to the extent practicable in the circumstances) while the place is being used as an NSP.</i></p> | <p>In an emergency situation all other activities will cease and the area will be available as a NSP.</p> | <p>YES</p> |
| Community Communication | <p>Will it be possible to ensure that there will be good community awareness of the location of the potential NSP, and the risks associated with using the potential NSP?</p> | <p>Council and the CFA will conduct a community awareness campaign and regularly make reference to the NSP on social media and in local papers.</p> | <p>YES</p> |



J Sloan Playground Inglewood between pool and tennis courts – Council Assessment



CRM #1000014867 - Inglewood J. Sloan Playground, Inglewood – As per CFA Reassessment August 2019



6.6 Donaldson Park (Oval Area Only) - Wedderburn – Council Assessment



NEIGHBOURHOOD SAFER PLACES PLAN

CRITERIA – AUDITING/ASSESSMENT TOOL

LOCATION: Donaldson Park (Oval Area Only) - Wedderburn

DATE: 23/08/2023

**NEIGHBOURHOOD SAFER PLACES ASSESSEMENT CRITERIA
AUDITING AND ASSESSMENT TOOL**

DETAILS

| | | | | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|------------------|
| Day: | Wednesday | Date: | 23 August 2023 | Time: | 4.50PM |
| Assessor name: | Lisa Clue (MFPO) | | | Sign: | Lisa Clue (MFPO) |
| Agency: | Loddon Shire Council | | | | |

LOCATION

| | | | |
|--|---|-----------------------|--|
| Place name and specific location: | Donaldson Park (Oval Area Only) Wedderburn | Map Reference: | |
| Distance from nearest town centre (km): | Within township | | |
| Controlling (owner) authority: | Loddon Shire Council | | |

Owner Details

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|------|
| Contact Name/Position: | | | |
| Organisation: | Loddon Shire Council | | |
| Postal Address: | P.O. Box 21, Wedderburn | Post code: | 3518 |
| Phone: | W: 5494 1200 | H: | |
| Email: | | | |

Tenant Details

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|--|-------------------|--|
| Contact Name/Position: | President | | |
| Organisation: | Donaldson Park Community Asset Committee | | |
| Postal Address: | | Post code: | |
| Phone: | W: | H: | |
| Email: | | | |

| Tenant 2 Details | | | |
|--|---|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Contact: Name/Position | NA | | |
| Organisation: | | | |
| Postal Address: | | Post code: | |
| Phone: | W: | H: | |
| Email: | | | |
| | | | |
| Location Description: | Donaldson Park (Oval Only) – Wedderburn | <i>(Open area or building)</i> | Open Area (Oval Only) |
| Population of Township/ Locality: | Approx. 940 People | | |
| Estimated NSP Site Capacity: | Approx. 1000 People | | |
| Reference Material Sited: | N/A | | |
| NSP INSPECTION DETAILS | | | |
| OFFICERS NAME: Lisa Clue (MFPO) | SIGNATURE:- | | |
| DATE OF INSPECTION: 23/08/2023 | RECOMMENDATION: <i>insert cross into square indicating result</i> | DESIGNATE | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| | | NOT DESIGNATE | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| OFFICERS NAME: | SIGNATURE:- | | |
| DATE OF INSPECTION: | RECOMMENDATION: <i>insert cross into square indicating result</i> | DESIGNATE | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | | NOT DESIGNATE | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Factors to Consider in Assessing Potential NSPs

| Council NSPP Criteria | Issues to consider | Council comments | Satisfied? Yes/No |
|--------------------------------------|--|--|-------------------|
| Consents and rights of access | If the potential NSP is located on Council-owned land, can Council use the land as an NSP if required? Consider whether or not Council allows the land to be used for potentially inconsistent purposes, such as for farmers' markets, fetes, circuses etc. | Area is owned by Council and is maintained by the Donaldson Park Reserve Community Asset Committee. | YES |
| | If the potential NSP is on private land, or public land under the control of a Crown Land Manager (other than Council), can Council enter into arrangements which allow it to use the land as a potential NSP on reasonably satisfactory terms? Also consider whether Council has the right to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • access the site and surrounding areas for maintenance • erect appropriate signage at the NSP. | Donaldson Park Reserve Community Asset Committee has granted consent for area to be used and to maintain the NSP area as per the CFA maintenance requirements. Council has agreed to erect and maintain relevant signage in relation to the NSP. | YES |
| Access and egress | Do access routes to the potential NSP allow for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the anticipated potential number of people to move to and from the place • the CFA and other emergency services to attend the place for asset and personnel protection activities? | No restrictions to access and egress. Area is accessible via wide access road with side point if required. Five vehicle access points all with NSP signage in place. | YES |
| | Are access routes easily navigable, bearing in mind they could be affected by smoke? Consider the condition of the road surface, proximity to population centres and major roads, capacity of access routes to accommodate large numbers of vehicles, the availability of car parking at the place and any other relevant matters. | Multiple open gates off the roads as access egress route for Hospital St, Chapel St, and Godfrey St. There is also access/egress for pedestrians. Large areas available for parking of vehicles. | YES |

| Council NSPP Criteria | Issues to consider | Council comments | Satisfied? Yes/No |
|---|---|---|-------------------|
| Maintenance of NSP in accordance with CFA assessment | <p>Can Council maintain the potential NSP in accordance with the criteria taken into account by the CFA in arriving at its fire rating assessment?</p> <p><i>If the CFA have not provided sufficient information in relation to the criteria it has taken into account in arriving at its fire rating assessment, it may be necessary for Council to seek further information from the CFA.</i></p> | <p>Donaldson Park Community Asset Committee has agreed to maintain area as per the CFA maintenance requirements.</p> | <p>YES</p> |
| Opening of the NSP | <p>Will it be possible and practicable to make the potential NSP available for use on a 24 hour basis during the declared fire danger period? This is a particular issue where the potential NSP is a building.</p> <p>Consider the potential for damage to the NSP which could result during times that it is open and available for use, but is not being used as an NSP.</p> | <p>24/7 Access available.</p> | <p>YES</p> |
| | <p>What costs could be incurred by Council in making the potential NSP available on a 24 hour basis during the declared fire danger period? Are these costs reasonable, and capable of being borne by Council?</p> | <p>Nil.</p> | <p>YES</p> |
| | <p>Could the potential NSP be used for an unintended purpose which could impact upon its use as an NSP (such as an emergency relief centre)?</p> | <p>In an emergency all other activities will cease and the area will be available as a NSP.</p> | <p>YES</p> |
| Defendable space and fire suppression activities | <p>Is the potential NSP surrounded by sufficient open space to enable the CFA to conduct asset protection and fire suppression operations? Is that open space reasonably free of obstacles (such as fences, buildings, steep gradients, vegetation and other land formations)?</p> <p><i>Council should seek CFA advice concerning the defendability of the potential NSP and the Buffer Zone, including in relation to fire vehicle access requirements.</i></p> | <p>The CFA and other emergency services also will be able to attend for asset and personal protection activities as required.</p> | <p>YES</p> |

| Council NSPP Criteria | Issues to consider | Council comments | Satisfied? Yes/No |
|--|---|--|-------------------|
| | Will approval be required under legislation such as the <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> (Cwlth), <i>Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988</i> (Vic) and the <i>Planning and Environment Act 1987</i> (Vic)? Can such approval be obtained before the NSP is established? | N/A. | YES |
| Defendability of Buildings | If the potential NSP is a building, has Council sought expert advice from the CFA to determine whether the NSP is likely to be subject to risk from ember attack? If it is subject to such a risk, can that risk be safely managed? | No buildings included within the NSP area. | YES |
| Signage | Can appropriate signage be erected at the entry to the potential NSP, and in its vicinity? | Five signs at each main vehicle entrance to the area. (All standard text signs will be replaced prior to FDP.) | YES |
| | If signage needs to be placed on private land, can Council obtain the consent of the relevant landowner to the erection of the signage? | Donaldson Park Community Asset Committee has agreed that the Loddon Shire Council will erect all required signage and maintain to an acceptable standard at all times. | YES |
| Maintenance and maintainability | Is the potential NSP capable of being maintained to ensure continuing compliance with the CFA Fire Rating Criteria and the Council NSPP Criteria? Where relevant, consider whether adjoining land owners and occupiers will provide Council with an assurance that both the potential NSP and the Buffer Zone can be maintained to a satisfactory level. | Donaldson Park Community Asset Committee has agreed to maintain the NSP area as per the CFA maintenance requirements. | YES |
| Disabled access | Are there are means of access for disabled and mobility-impaired persons to the potential NSP, including vehicle access to drop off people with disabilities? | No restrictions to disabled access/egress. | YES |

| Council NSPP Criteria | Issues to consider | Council comments | Satisfied? Yes/No |
|---|---|---|-------------------|
| <p>Alternative uses of potential NSP</p> | <p>Can Council manage alternative uses which may be made of the potential NSP so as to ensure that those uses will not compromise the function of the place as a potential NSP?</p> <p><i>The CFA has advised that where a potential NSP which is used for an operational purpose at many times meets the CFA Fire Rating Criteria, then the CFA considers that those operational activities will be able to continue (to the extent practicable in the circumstances) while the place is being used as an NSP.</i></p> | <p>In an emergency situation all other activities (football, trotting rMeetings, hockey etc.) will cease and the area will be available as a NSP.</p> | <p>YES</p> |
| <p>Community Communication</p> | <p>Will it be possible to ensure that there will be good community awareness of the location of the potential NSP, and the risks associated with using the potential NSP?</p> | <p>Council and the CFA will conduct a community awareness campaign and regularly make reference to the NSP on social media and in local papers.</p> | <p>YES</p> |



Donaldson Park Wedderburn – Council Assessment



CRM #1000009350 - Donaldson Park (Oval only), Chapel Street, Wedderburn – As per CFA Reassessment August 2019



Page left intentionally blank

10.4 REQUEST FOR FUNDS TO BE ALLOCATED FROM THE LAND AND BUILDINGS RESERVE

File Number: GF/19/83695
Author: Deanne Caserta, Manager Financial Services
Authoriser: Amanda Wilson, Director Corporate
Attachments: Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That Council approves a budget variation to transfer \$18,000 from the Land and Buildings Reserve to fund the purchase of land, council property number 54100410.

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

This property transfer was discussed with Councillors as part of the Section 181 update at the October 2023 Council Forum.

BACKGROUND

The Land and Buildings Reserve is outlined within the Financial Reserves Policy to be used to fund the purchase and development of land and buildings which includes residential, commercial and industrial. It is a reserve that can only have movements approved by Council. It is expected to have a balance of \$1.25M at the end of 2023/24.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

Council has been moving through the staged process to recoup unpaid amounts for properties where the rates and charges have remained outstanding for a period greater than three years. This process is outlined within Section 181 of the Local Government Act 1989 (S181).

One property has reached the final stage of the S181 process. The issue with the parcel is that it is currently 'land locked' making it unsuitable for sale or transfer on its own. In order to resolve this issue, Council has purchased this property, at the \$18,000 valuation provided in the formal report provided by LG Valuations. This property will then be able to be sold with an adjacent property which is also owned by Council.

This property (property number 54100410) is located at Logan-Wedderburn Road, Kurraca. It is formally identified as Lot 1 TP587250, Township of Kurraca, Parish of Kurraca.

To fund this purchase a request is made to use the funds set aside within the Land and Buildings Reserve. It is expected that once this property is sold these funds will be returned to the reserve.

COST/BENEFITS

The \$18,000 purchase price is proposed to be allocated from the Land and Buildings Reserve. When the property is sold these funds will be returned to the same reserve. This will also enable Council to recoup the outstanding rates and charges which currently sits at just over \$10,000.

Generally with all S181 property processes external costs associated with the recovery of overdue rates can be offset against the income received from the sale of the property under the Local Government Act 1989. Where there is a shortfall of funds, Council is required to write off the amount as a bad debt.

RISK ANALYSIS

Any financial or reputational risks are mitigated through the adherence to both the S181 process and the Financial Reserves Policy. The Land and Buildings Reserve adequately supports the amount required for transfer.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

Staff have consulted with Executive Services around the potential benefits in selling these parcels as one property, and once ready will consult with relevant stakeholders to complete the process.

10.5 FINANCE REPORT FOR THE QUARTER ENDING 30 SEPTEMBER 2023

File Number: FOL/22/4399
Author: Deanne Caserta, Manager Financial Services
Authoriser: Amanda Wilson, Director Corporate
Attachments: 1. Finance Report - quarter ending 30 September 2023

RECOMMENDATION

That Council

1. receives and notes 'Finance Report for the quarter ending 30 September 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 2023/24 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 2023/24.

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 March 2023 quarter at the April 2023 Council Meeting. The 2022/23 full financials were presented to Council at the August 2023 Council Meeting.

BACKGROUND

The Finance Report for the quarter ended 30 September 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 2023/24 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 July 2023 by \$2.77M to \$6.99M. The main variations include an increase to the expected interest to be received for the financial year along with additional income from infrastructure grants.

Income Statement (revenue) - Council's year to date (YTD) operating revenue is at 35% of total budget. Revenue brought to account for the quarter was \$18.2M. Fees and charges, non-recurrent operating grants and recurrent capital grants actuals are all behind YTD budget. Other income types including reimbursements, recurrent operating grants, non-recurrent capital grants and interest income are ahead of YTD budget.

Income Statement (expenditure) - Council's operating expenditure is at 18% of total budget. Payments for this quarter totalled \$11.7M. Contractors and utilities are tracking behind expected budget expenditure and creditors and labour tracking ahead. The most significant variances are contractors and creditors.

Capital Works - The revised budget for capital works is \$25.1M and is 10% complete in financial terms for the current financial year. Works for the quarter totalled \$2.54M.

The main variations within capital expenditure relate to:

- LRCI funded projects which have not yet been started or have commenced but expenditure is tracking behind budget
- plant replacement, 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 \$40.3M with \$4.26M in general accounts. Total debtors at the end of September 2023 are \$13.8M, this includes \$12.7M in rates. Sundry debtors total \$1.2M 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 2023/24.

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.

LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL

FINANCE REPORT FOR QUARTER ENDING 30 SEPTEMBER 2023



CONTENTS

| | |
|---|-----------|
| INTRODUCTION | 3 |
| 1 CASH SURPLUS POSITION..... | 3 |
| 1.1 Budget revisions | 3 |
| 2 INCOME STATEMENT..... | 3 |
| 2.1 Operating revenue | 3 |
| 2.1.1 Fees and charges | 3 |
| 2.1.2 Reimbursements | 3 |
| 2.1.3 Non-recurrent grants (operating) | 4 |
| 2.1.4 Recurrent grants (operating) | 4 |
| 2.1.5 Recurrent grants (capital) | 4 |
| 2.1.6 Non-recurrent grants (capital)..... | 4 |
| 2.1.7 Interest income..... | 4 |
| 2.2 Operating expenditure | 5 |
| 2.2.1 Labour..... | 5 |
| 2.2.2 Creditors | 5 |
| 2.2.3 Contractors | 5 |
| 2.2.4 Utilities | 5 |
| 2.2.5 Grants expenditure..... | 6 |
| 2.3 Operating surplus | 6 |
| 3 CAPITAL EXPENDITURE | 6 |
| 4 BALANCE SHEET | 6 |
| 4.1 Cash..... | 6 |
| 4.2 Receivables | 7 |
| 4.2.1 Debtors | 7 |
| 4.2.2 Rates debtors..... | 7 |
| 4.2.3 Sundry debtors..... | 8 |
| 4.3 Other assets | 9 |
| 4.3.1 Property valuations | 9 |
| 4.3.2 Water rights..... | 9 |
| 4.3.3 Vision Super Defined Benefits Plan update | 9 |
| 5 COMMUNITY PLANNING FINANCIALS..... | 10 |
| 5.1 Boort community plans | 10 |
| 5.2 Inglewood community plans..... | 10 |
| 5.3 Tarnagulla community plans | 11 |
| 5.4 Terrick community plans | 11 |
| 5.5 Wedderburn community plans | 12 |
| APPENDIX 1: INCOME STATEMENT..... | 13 |
| APPENDIX 2: CAPITAL WORKS STATEMENT | 14 |
| APPENDIX 3: NET RESULT BY SERVICE AREA..... | 15 |
| APPENDIX 4: BALANCE SHEET | 17 |
| APPENDIX 5: CASH FLOW STATEMENT | 18 |
| APPENDIX 6: FULL CAPITAL WORKS | 19 |

APPENDIX 7: CARAVAN PARK INCOME AND EXPENDITURE 21**INTRODUCTION**

During the quarter all relevant reserves have been cleared back into the operating statements along with initial budget timing discussions to allow the finance team to ensure enough cash is on hand to pay any major contractor invoices as they come due.

Work has also commenced on the Victorian Local Government Grants Commission return, which is due back to the department in early November 2023.

Work also continues on the RCCC system implementation project, which has required significant input from the whole finance team.

1 CASH SURPLUS POSITION**1.1 Budget revisions**

Since the 1 July 2023 the surplus has increased from \$4,221,038 to \$6,993,307. Notes around major variances are included below:

| | |
|---|---------------------|
| Opening Surplus (Position as at 1 July 2023) | \$ 4,221,038 |
| Income for major road projects missed in carry overs | \$ 1,597,972 |
| Interest on investments, additional income expected | \$ 800,000 |
| Grants Commission additional income received | \$ 464,786 |
| Other minor adjustments | -\$ 90,489 |
| Closing Surplus (Position as at 30 September 2023) | \$ 6,993,307 |

2 INCOME STATEMENT

Variance reporting has been included in this report where variations occur within the statements of 10% or \$30,000.

2.1 Operating revenue

Total revenue brought to account for this quarter was \$18.2M. The total income raised is 35% of the total revised budget income for 2023/24.

2.1.1 Fees and charges

Fees and charges are under budget by \$139K or 57%, the main variations to budget are:

- gravel pits of \$56K due to a delay in invoices being raised
- caravan parks \$60K, with adjustments required to reflect new lease arrangements and amounts
- waste management of \$10K with lower than expected demand with many ratepayers using initial waste vouchers.

2.1.2 Reimbursements

Reimbursements is over budget by \$55K, the main variation to budget is insurance claims relating to flood.

2.1.3 Non-recurrent grants (operating)

Non-recurrent grants is under budget by \$4.74M. The main variance in this income type is the funding for the flood recovery with another claim due within the month.

2.1.4 Recurrent grants (operating)

Operating recurrent grants over budget by \$75K, the main variation to budget is kindergartens, with higher funds received than budgeted due to an increase in enrolments.

2.1.5 Recurrent grants (capital)

Capital recurrent grants are behind budget by \$665K. The main variation to budget is Road to Recovery funding, where the income claimed for the quarter not yet submitted. This claim is expected to be submitted in October.

2.1.6 Non-recurrent grants (capital)

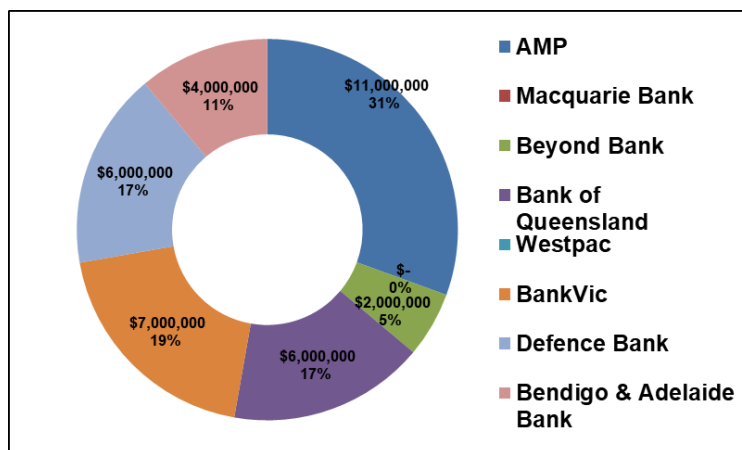
Non-recurrent grants over budget by \$1.47M or 66%. The main variations in this area relate to Donaldson Park due to receiving funds earlier than expected with the project progressing to schedule.

2.1.7 Interest income

Council's Investment Policy requires investment of funds with authorised deposit taking institutions rated AAA+ to BBB- with a maximum of 40% of funds at any one institution and a maximum of \$2M in any one transaction.

The total investment interest received and accrued to date is \$549K. Rates interest amounts to \$9K. Year to date represents 45% of the total Revised Budget amount of \$1.235M. Council have increased the Revised Budget in this area but are still expected to exceed this revised amount for the financial year.

All investments are term deposits and are currently with banks that meet Council's Investment Policy as per the following graph:



| Current investments: | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------|--|--|--|---------------------|-------------|
| AMP | A2/BBB+ | | | | \$11,000,000 | 30.6% |
| Macquarie Bank | A1/A | | | | \$ - | 0.0% |
| Beyond Bank | A2/BBB | | | | \$ 2,000,000 | 5.6% |
| Bank of Queensland | A2/BBB | | | | \$ 6,000,000 | 16.7% |
| Westpac | AA3/AA- | | | | \$ - | 0.0% |
| BankVic | A2/BBB+ | | | | \$ 7,000,000 | 19.4% |
| Defence Bank | A2/BBB | | | | \$ 6,000,000 | 16.7% |
| Bendigo & Adelaide Bank | A2/BBB+ | | | | \$ 4,000,000 | 11.1% |
| Council Funds on Term Deposit | | | | | \$36,000,000 | 100% |

The below table shows all investments for the financial year to date:

| LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL INVESTMENT SCHEDULE | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|--------------------|--------|---------------|------------|---------------|-------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| Bank | Establishment date | Status | Maturity date | Term (day) | Interest rate | Investment amount | Total interest receivable on TD | Interest accrual 2022/23 | YTD accrued interest | Total interest accrual | YTD interest received | Total YTD interest earned |
| AMP | 14/07/2022 | Closed | 14/07/2023 | 365 | 4.35% | \$ 1,000,000 | \$ 43,500 | \$ 41,832 | \$ 1,668 | \$ - | \$ 43,500 | \$ 1,668 |
| AMP | 25/07/2022 | Closed | 25/07/2023 | 365 | 4.45% | \$ 3,000,000 | \$ 133,500 | \$ 125,453 | \$ 8,047 | \$ - | \$ 133,500 | \$ 8,047 |
| Bank of Queensland | 14/09/2022 | Closed | 14/08/2023 | 334 | 4.10% | \$ 2,000,000 | \$ 75,036 | \$ 64,926 | \$ 10,110 | \$ - | \$ 75,036 | \$ 10,110 |
| Westpac | 22/02/2023 | Closed | 22/08/2023 | 181 | 4.66% | \$ 2,000,000 | \$ 46,217 | \$ 32,684 | \$ 13,533 | \$ - | \$ 46,217 | \$ 13,533 |
| AMP | 6/09/2022 | Closed | 6/09/2023 | 365 | 4.35% | \$ 2,000,000 | \$ 87,000 | \$ 70,792 | \$ 16,208 | \$ - | \$ 87,000 | \$ 16,208 |
| Bendigo & Adelaide Bank | 12/04/2023 | Open | 12/09/2023 | 153 | 4.35% | \$ 1,000,000 | \$ 18,234 | \$ 9,415 | \$ 8,819 | \$ - | \$ 18,234 | \$ 8,819 |
| Westpac | 22/02/2023 | Open | 22/09/2023 | 212 | 4.70% | \$ 1,000,000 | \$ 27,299 | \$ 16,482 | \$ 10,816 | \$ - | \$ 27,299 | \$ 10,816 |
| Bendigo & Adelaide Bank | 3/10/2022 | Open | 3/10/2023 | 365 | 4.30% | \$ 2,000,000 | \$ 86,000 | \$ 63,616 | \$ 21,677 | \$ 85,293 | \$ - | \$ 21,677 |
| Bendigo & Adelaide Bank | 13/10/2022 | Open | 13/10/2023 | 365 | 4.15% | \$ 2,000,000 | \$ 83,000 | \$ 59,123 | \$ 20,921 | \$ 80,044 | \$ - | \$ 20,921 |
| Bank of Queensland | 15/02/2023 | Open | 15/11/2023 | 273 | 4.60% | \$ 2,000,000 | \$ 68,811 | \$ 34,027 | \$ 23,189 | \$ 57,216 | \$ - | \$ 23,189 |
| Bank of Queensland | 1/06/2023 | Open | 30/11/2023 | 182 | 4.90% | \$ 2,000,000 | \$ 48,866 | \$ 7,786 | \$ 24,701 | \$ 32,488 | \$ - | \$ 24,701 |
| Bank of Queensland | 15/02/2023 | Open | 15/12/2023 | 303 | 4.65% | \$ 2,000,000 | \$ 77,203 | \$ 34,397 | \$ 23,441 | \$ 57,838 | \$ - | \$ 23,441 |
| AMP | 11/07/2023 | Open | 19/12/2023 | 161 | 5.55% | \$ 2,000,000 | \$ 48,962 | \$ - | \$ 24,633 | \$ 24,633 | \$ - | \$ 24,633 |
| Defence Bank | 1/06/2023 | Open | 3/01/2024 | 216 | 4.95% | \$ 2,000,000 | \$ 58,586 | \$ 7,866 | \$ 24,953 | \$ 32,819 | \$ - | \$ 24,953 |
| AMP | 10/01/2023 | Open | 10/01/2024 | 365 | 4.60% | \$ 2,000,000 | \$ 92,000 | \$ 43,101 | \$ 23,189 | \$ 66,290 | \$ - | \$ 23,189 |
| Defence Bank | 13/02/2023 | Open | 13/02/2024 | 365 | 4.95% | \$ 2,000,000 | \$ 99,000 | \$ 37,159 | \$ 24,953 | \$ 62,112 | \$ - | \$ 24,953 |
| AMP | 11/07/2023 | Open | 20/02/2024 | 224 | 5.65% | \$ 2,000,000 | \$ 69,348 | \$ - | \$ 25,077 | \$ 25,077 | \$ - | \$ 25,077 |
| BankVic | 1/03/2023 | Open | 1/03/2024 | 366 | 5.15% | \$ 1,000,000 | \$ 51,641 | \$ 17,073 | \$ 12,981 | \$ 30,053 | \$ - | \$ 12,981 |
| AMP | 18/04/2023 | Open | 13/03/2024 | 330 | 4.95% | \$ 2,000,000 | \$ 89,507 | \$ 19,800 | \$ 24,953 | \$ 44,753 | \$ - | \$ 24,953 |
| BankVic | 18/04/2023 | Open | 17/04/2024 | 365 | 4.80% | \$ 2,000,000 | \$ 96,000 | \$ 19,200 | \$ 24,197 | \$ 43,397 | \$ - | \$ 24,197 |
| BankVic | 4/07/2023 | Open | 2/05/2024 | 303 | 5.60% | \$ 2,000,000 | \$ 92,975 | \$ - | \$ 27,003 | \$ 27,003 | \$ - | \$ 27,003 |
| Beyond Bank | 6/09/2023 | Open | 5/06/2024 | 273 | 5.15% | \$ 2,000,000 | \$ 77,038 | \$ - | \$ 6,773 | \$ 6,773 | \$ - | \$ 6,773 |
| Defence Bank | 4/07/2023 | Open | 3/07/2024 | 365 | 5.75% | \$ 2,000,000 | \$ 115,000 | \$ - | \$ 27,726 | \$ 27,726 | \$ - | \$ 27,726 |
| AMP | 25/07/2023 | Open | 24/07/2024 | 365 | 5.65% | \$ 3,000,000 | \$ 169,500 | \$ - | \$ 31,114 | \$ 31,114 | \$ - | \$ 31,114 |
| BankVic | 4/07/2023 | Open | 3/09/2024 | 427 | 5.70% | \$ 2,000,000 | \$ 133,364 | \$ - | \$ 27,485 | \$ 27,485 | \$ - | \$ 27,485 |
| Total Interest on Investments | | | | | | | | | \$ 704,733 | \$ 488,167 | \$ 762,115 | \$ 430,785 |
| Interest on General Accounts | | | | | | | | | | | | \$ 60,487 |
| Total Interest | | | | | | | | | | | | \$ 548,654 |
| Interest transferred to/from externally funded projects | | | | | | | | | | | | \$ - |
| Net interest on investments | | | | | | | | | | | | \$ 548,654 |

Due to the short-term nature of the term deposits, those deposits which have not reached maturity are included as cash in the Balance Sheet. They are adjusted during the year-end financial report process if required.

The highlighted row shows the employee provision investment separately.

2.2 Operating expenditure

Total operating expenditure for the quarter was \$11.7M. The total expenditure for the quarter takes the total spend to 18% of the total revised budget expenditure for 2023/24.

2.2.1 Labour

Labour is currently over budget by \$770K or 30%. There is still some timing required with the capital works program along with quarterly reconciliations still needed to be undertaken. Once the timing is corrected and reconciliations completed this will bring labour back into line with the budget.

2.2.2 Creditors

Creditors are currently 29% or \$1.1M ahead of YTD budget. The main variation to budget is flood recovery expenses with general projects underway ahead of budget timing, most of these projects will be budgeted as contractors.

2.2.3 Contractors

Contractor expenditure to date is \$658K which is \$5.3M behind YTD budget. The main variation within this expenditure relates to the delivery of flood restoration works. This has a contractor budget of almost \$22M for the financial year. Works on this program have commenced with many contracts awarded and further projects out for quote.

2.2.4 Utilities

Utilities are 59% or \$93K behind YTD budget. The main variation within the utilities is power and water usage for Council facilities and parks where there was lower usage less than expected.

2.2.5 Grants expenditure

Grants expenditure is \$80K or 54% behind YTD budget. The variation is due to the timing of the community groups when they return the required paperwork. This is to be submitted prior to the grant being paid. Some have a quick turnaround time, while others are yet to provide the required further information.

2.3 **Operating surplus**

As a result of the variances as explained in the previous pages, the operating surplus to date is \$6.5M compared to a revised budget deficit amount of \$12.04M.

3 CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

Total capital works expenditure for the quarter was \$2.54M with the program now 10% complete. The total revised budget amount for 2023/24 is \$25.1M.

The main variations within capital expenditure relate to:

- LRCI projects which have not yet been started, some contractors have been engaged and are expected to commence soon
- plant and fleet replacement, major items have been ordered, or been on back order since 2022/23, but there is an extensive delivery delay with some items of plant.

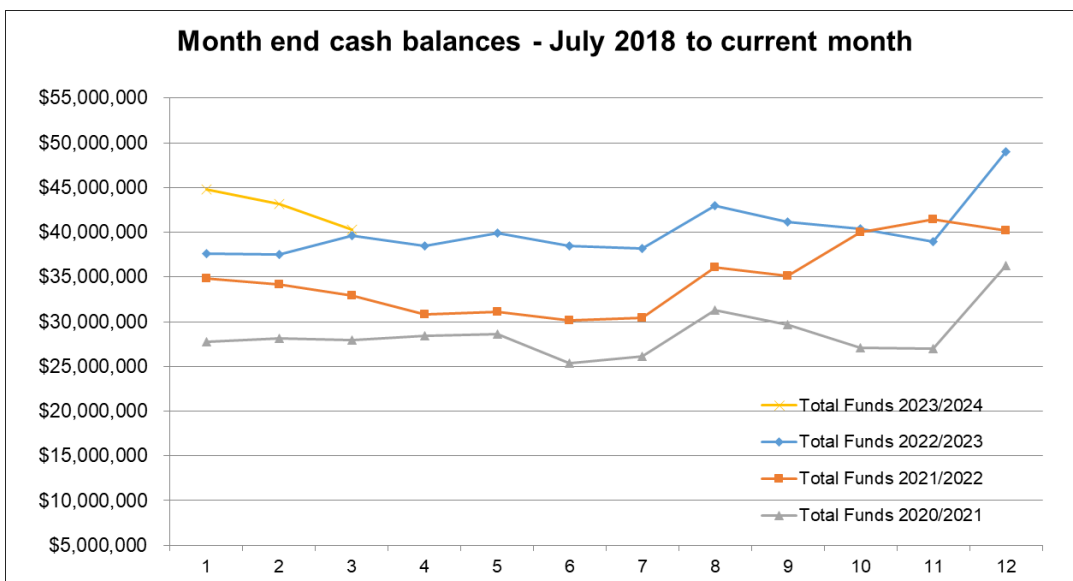
A full capital works report in detail is included in Appendix 6.

4 BALANCE SHEET

4.1 **Cash**

At the end of the month, Council’s overall cash total was \$40.3M, which includes a balance of \$4.26M in general accounts.

Month end balances for Council’s cash, from July 2021 until the current month, are reflected in the following graph:



4.2 Receivables

4.2.1 Debtors

Monthly balances of the various categories of debtors for the financial year are:

| Debtor category | September 2022 | June 2023 | July 2023 | August 2023 | September 2023 |
|--|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Rates | 10,487,014 | 282,458 | 12,531,964 | 11,865,642 | 11,184,810 |
| Fire Services Property Levy | 1,289,700 | 81,825 | 1,740,627 | 1,639,582 | 1,545,844 |
| Total rates and Fire Services Property Levy | 11,776,713 | 364,283 | 14,272,591 | 13,505,223 | 12,730,653 |
| Sundry debtors | 719,343 | 1,770,643 | 721,880 | 551,051 | 1,195,277 |
| Community loans/advances | - | - | - | - | - |
| Long term loans/advances | - | - | - | - | - |
| Employee superannuation | 2,023 | - | 4,281 | 1,891 | 436 |
| Magistrates court fines | 96,570 | 96,108 | 96,108 | 96,108 | 96,108 |
| LESS provision for doubtful debts | (151,188) | (205,470) | (205,470) | (205,470) | (205,470) |
| Total | 12,443,462 | 2,025,564 | 14,889,389 | 13,948,804 | 13,817,005 |

4.2.2 Rates debtors

Outstanding rates and Fire Services Property Levy at the end of selected months were:

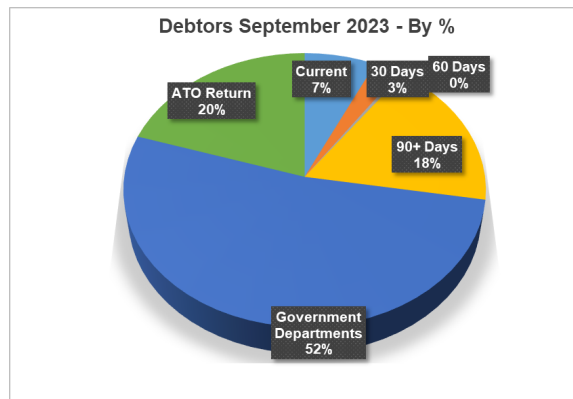
| Rating year | September 2022 (1/9/2022) | June 2023 (1/6/2023) | July 2023 (1/7/2023) | August 2023 (6/9/2023) | September 2023 (3/10/2023) |
|--|------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 2006/07 to 2016/17 | 23,333 | 18,273 | 12,763 | 18,662 | 18,598 |
| 2006/07 to 2016/17 FSPL | 10,547 | 2,509 | 8,282 | 2,516 | 2,510 |
| 2017/18 | 38,532 | 12,357 | 12,685 | 12,969 | 12,942 |
| 2017/18 Fire Services Property Levy | 15,794 | 3,003 | 3,013 | 3,058 | 3,056 |
| 2018/19 | 60,682 | 17,002 | 18,932 | 18,719 | 18,647 |
| 2018/19 Fire Services Property Levy | 23,409 | 4,484 | 4,482 | 4,377 | 4,369 |
| 2019/20 | 96,696 | 35,106 | 37,571 | 37,195 | 34,220 |
| 2019/20 Fire Services Property Levy | 36,727 | 6,879 | 6,881 | 6,799 | 6,552 |
| 2020/21 | 161,843 | 51,469 | 8,435 | 7,986 | 7,596 |
| 2020/21 Fire Services Property Levy | 62,132 | 9,179 | 51,399 | 50,205 | 46,559 |
| 2021/22 | 296,702 | 69,411 | 74,333 | 72,481 | 67,347 |
| 2021/22 Fire Services Property Levy | 103,144 | 13,522 | 12,382 | 11,895 | 11,381 |
| 2022/23 | 10,515,124 | 78,839 | 261,881 | 231,971 | 210,827 |
| 2022/23 Fire Services Property Levy | 1,345,828 | 42,248 | 35,940 | 32,377 | 29,879 |
| Sub-total: arrears | 929,542 | 243,195 | 251,159 | 246,864 | 233,776 |
| Current year (outstanding but not due) | 9,809,225 | 78,839 | 12,069,639 | 11,436,263 | 10,788,509 |
| Fire Services Property Levy | 1,037,946 | 42,248 | 1,653,972 | 1,557,749 | 1,467,663 |
| Total outstanding | 10,847,171 | 121,088 | 13,723,611 | 12,994,012 | 12,256,171 |
| SUMMARY | | | | | |
| Total rates | 10,487,014 | 282,458 | 12,496,239 | 11,836,246 | 11,158,686 |
| Total FSPL | 1,289,700 | 81,825 | 1,776,353 | 1,668,977 | 1,571,967 |
| Total arrears | 11,776,713 | 364,283 | 14,272,591 | 13,505,223 | 12,730,653 |

4.2.3 Sundry debtors

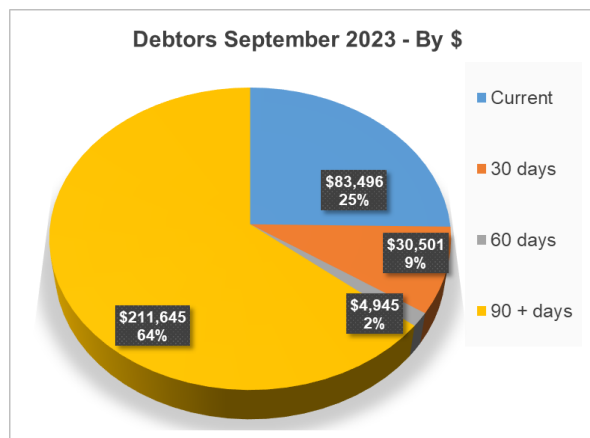
Outstanding sundry debtors at the end of the month consist of:

| | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|------|
| Current | \$83,496 | 25% |
| 30 days | \$30,501 | 9% |
| 60 days | \$4,945 | 1% |
| 90 + days | \$211,645 | 64% |
| Sub total routine debtors | \$330,585 | 100% |
| Government departments | \$624,937 | |
| ATO return | \$239,755 | |
| Total | \$1,195,277 | |
| 90 + days consists of: | | |
| Community Wellbeing debtors | \$10,623 | |
| Local community groups | \$100,000 | |
| Others | \$101,022 | |
| Total | \$211,644 | |

The mainstream sundry debtors (\$331K) have been broken into the amount of time they have been outstanding. At the time of this report, \$212K or 64% of that total has been outstanding for more than 90 days. All debtors are contacted as a matter of routine.



Total outstanding sundry debtors as at 30 September 2023 are \$1.2M. The majority of total debtors is Government departments with \$625K which have a higher percentage of collection.



4.3 Other assets

4.3.1 Property valuations

All rateable and non-rateable supplementary valuations are included in this report.

There were 116 supplementary valuations during the first quarter of 2023/24.

| Change type | Number | Site Value | Capital Improved Value | NAV |
|------------------------|------------|---------------------|------------------------|-------------------|
| Change AVPCC | 2 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - |
| Consolidation | 7 | \$ 1,635,000 | \$ 2,116,000 | \$ 105,800 |
| Correction of area | 3 | \$ 67,000 | \$ 77,000 | \$ 3,850 |
| Demolition | 4 | \$ - | -\$ 40,000 | -\$ 2,000 |
| Flood damage | 1 | \$ - | -\$ 290,000 | -\$ 14,500 |
| Improvement | 63 | -\$ 15,000 | \$ 7,075,000 | \$ 358,420 |
| New property | 12 | \$ 1,986,000 | \$ 2,727,000 | \$ 140,850 |
| Split | 13 | -\$ 1,927,000 | -\$ 2,522,000 | -\$ 126,100 |
| Unused road licence | 9 | \$ - | -\$ 2,000 | -\$ 100 |
| Water frontage licence | 2 | \$ 1,000 | \$ - | \$ - |
| Grand Total | 116 | \$ 1,747,000 | \$ 9,141,000 | \$ 466,220 |

The total rateable CIV at the end of September 2023 is now just under \$4.88B.

| Valuation type | Opening Balances 1 July 2023 | Supplementary Changes | Closing Balance |
|------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| Site Value | \$ 3,690,503,400 | \$ 1,747,000 | \$ 3,692,250,400 |
| Capital Improved Value | \$ 4,870,532,300 | \$ 9,141,000 | \$ 4,879,673,300 |
| NAV | \$ 245,078,465 | \$ 466,220 | \$ 245,544,685 |

4.3.2 Water rights

Council-owned water rights are valued at \$2.81M at 30 June 2023.

The rights are revalued to market at the end of each financial year.

There has been no purchases or sales of water rights for the year to date.

4.3.3 Vision Super Defined Benefits Plan update

On 27 September 2023, Council received official notification of the 23 August 2023 estimated Vested Benefit Index (VBI) for the sub-plan being 103.9%. This is a decrease from the previous estimate but it remains above the required 100%.

Currently, under the superannuation prudential standards, VBI's must generally be kept above a fund's nominated shortfall, currently 97%. When an actuarial review/investigation is in progress the fund's VBI must be at least 100% as it was at 30 June 2023.

Below is the sub-plan's recent VBI history:

| As at | 30 June 2021 (actual) | 30 June 2022 (actual) | 30 June 2023 (actual) | 23 July 2023 (est) | 23 August 2023 (est) |
|---------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| LASF DB | 109.8% | 102.2% | 104.1% | 104.6% | 103.9% |

5 COMMUNITY PLANNING FINANCIALS

5.1 Boort community plans

Boort ward carried forward \$235K into 2023/24. With the additional \$50K allocation there is currently \$285K available for the community planning group to allocate toward projects.

Current community planning projects planned for 2023/24 are outlined below:

| Boort Community Plans | | | | | ACTUALS | | | BUDGET | | |
|-----------------------|--------------|--------|----------|--|------------------------|-------------|------------------|------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| YEAR | LEDGER | LEDGER | JOB CODE | PROJECT | 2023/24 FINANCIAL YEAR | | | 2023/24 FINANCIAL YEAR | | |
| | | | | | INCOME | EXPENDITURE | NET COST | INCOME | EXPENDITURE | NET COST |
| | | | | Income | | | | | | |
| | | | | Unspent allocation from previous years | \$234,684 | \$0 | \$234,684 | \$234,684 | \$0 | \$234,684 |
| | | | | This years allocation | \$50,000 | \$0 | \$50,000 | \$50,000 | \$0 | \$50,000 |
| | | | | Equity adjustment | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| | | | | Strategic Fund | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| | | | | Total amount available | \$284,684 | \$0 | \$284,684 | \$284,684 | \$0 | \$284,684 |
| CURRENT | 16975 | | | Boort Community Plans Unallocated | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$284,684 | \$284,684 |
| | | | | Total expenditure for the year | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$284,684 | \$284,684 |
| | | | | Total amount not spent at the end of the year, and available for next year | | | \$284,684 | | | \$0 |

5.2 Inglewood community plans

Inglewood ward carried forward \$222K into 2023/24. With the additional \$50K allocation there is currently \$262K available for the community planning group to allocate toward projects.

Current community planning projects planned for 2023/24 are outlined below:

| Inglewood Community Plans | | | | | ACTUALS | | | BUDGET | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------|--------------|--------------------|--|------------------------|-------------|------------------|------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| YEAR | LEDGER | LEDGER | JOB CODE | PROJECT | 2023/24 FINANCIAL YEAR | | | 2023/24 FINANCIAL YEAR | | |
| | | | | | INCOME | EXPENDITURE | NET COST | INCOME | EXPENDITURE | NET COST |
| | | | | Income | | | | | | |
| | | | | Unspent allocation from previous years | \$221,649 | \$0 | \$221,649 | \$221,649 | \$0 | \$221,649 |
| | | | | This years allocation | \$50,000 | \$0 | \$50,000 | \$50,000 | \$0 | \$50,000 |
| | | | | Strategic Fund | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| | | | | Equity adjustment | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| | | | | Total amount available | \$271,649 | \$0 | \$271,649 | \$271,649 | \$0 | \$271,649 |
| | | | | LESS expenditure for the year | | | | | | |
| 2011/12 | 24804 | 2242954315XX | CP2110012242954315 | Bridgewater Streetscape | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| 2019/20 | 26856 | 2242954315XX | CP2200012242954315 | Inglewood Eucy Museum Annex Alloc 2 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$79,429 | \$79,429 |
| 2020/21 | | 2242954315XX | CP2210022242954315 | Inglewood Eucy Tractor Annex | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$33,185 | \$33,185 |
| 2021/22 | | 2242214305XX | CP2220022242214305 | Campbells Forest Hydrology Report | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$10,000 | \$10,000 |
| 2021/22 | | 2242954315XX | CP2220032242954315 | Inglewood Town Hall Roof Replace | \$0 | \$10,000 | \$10,000 | \$0 | \$10,000 | \$10,000 |
| CURRENT | 2242214305XX | | | Inglewood Community Plans Unallocated | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$139,035 | \$139,035 |
| | | | | Total expenditure for the year | \$0 | \$10,000 | \$10,000 | \$0 | \$271,649 | \$271,649 |
| | | | | Total amount not spent at the end of the year, and available for next year | | | \$261,649 | | | \$0 |

5.3 Tarnagulla community plans

Tarnagulla ward carried forward \$244K into 2023/24. With the additional \$50K allocation there is currently \$294K available for the community planning group to allocate toward projects.

Current community planning projects planned for 2023/24 are outlined below:

| Tarnagulla Community Plans | | | | | ACTUALS | | | BUDGET | | |
|----------------------------|--------|---------------------|---------------------|--|------------------------|-------------|------------------|------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| YEAR | LEDGEF | LEDGER | JOB CODE | PROJECT | 2023/24 FINANCIAL YEAR | | | 2023/24 FINANCIAL YEAR | | |
| | | | | | INCOME | EXPENDITURE | NET COST | INCOME | EXPENDITURE | NET COST |
| | | | | Income | | | | | | |
| | | | | Unspent allocation from previous years | \$243,980 | \$0 | \$243,980 | \$243,980 | \$0 | \$243,980 |
| | | | | This years allocation | \$50,000 | \$0 | \$50,000 | \$50,000 | \$0 | \$50,000 |
| | | | | Strategic Fund | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| | | | | Equity adjustment | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| | | | | Total amount available | \$293,980 | \$0 | \$293,980 | \$293,980 | \$0 | \$293,980 |
| | | | | LESS expenditure for the year | | | | | | |
| 2019/20 | 18704 | 2243218605XX | CP3190012243218605 | TaCPSF Laanecoorie Hall Paint | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$1,818 | \$1,818 |
| 2019/20 | 18706 | 2243218605XX | CP3190022243218605 | TaCPSF Tarnagulla Community Centre Asphalt | \$0 | \$50,000 | \$50,000 | \$0 | \$50,000 | \$50,000 |
| 2019/20 | 26859 | 2243958620XX | CP3200082243958620 | Newbridge Progress Park BBQ and Shelter | \$0 | \$10,509 | \$10,509 | \$0 | \$10,509 | \$10,509 |
| 2020/21 | | 2243958620XX | CP3200092243958620 | TaCPSF Soldiers Memorial Park Toilets | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$30,000 | \$30,000 |
| 2020/21 | | 2243218605XX | CP32000112243218605 | TaCPSF Laanecoorie Hall Paint Alloc 2 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$16,591 | \$16,591 |
| 2020/21 | | 2243958620XX | CP3210032243958620 | Progress Park Fitness Station | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$15,000 | \$15,000 |
| 2021/22 | | 2243958620XX | CP32200112243958620 | Grahams Lane Intersection | \$0 | \$13,000 | \$13,000 | \$0 | \$13,000 | \$13,000 |
| 2021/22 | | 2243958620XX | CP3220022243958620 | Disabled Carpark Newbridge Hall | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$8,500 | \$8,500 |
| 2021/22 | | 2243958620XX | CP3220032243958620 | Pavement Wimmera Hwy Newbridge | \$0 | \$30,000 | \$30,000 | \$0 | \$30,000 | \$30,000 |
| 2021/22 | | 2243958620XX | CP3220042243958620 | Newbridge Hall Restoration | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| CURRENT | | 2243218605XX | | Tarnagulla Community Plans Unallocated | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$118,562 | \$118,562 |
| | | | | Total expenditure for the year | \$0 | \$103,509 | \$103,509 | \$0 | \$293,980 | \$293,980 |
| | | | | Total amount not spent at the end of the year, and available for next year | | | \$190,471 | | | \$0 |

5.4 Terrick community plans

Terrick ward carried forward \$183K into 2023/24. With the additional \$50K allocation there is currently \$233K available for the community planning group to allocate toward projects.

Current community planning projects planned for 2023/24 are outlined below:

| Terrick Community Plans | | | | | ACTUALS | | | BUDGET | | |
|-------------------------|--------|--------------|--------------------|--|------------------------|-------------|------------------|------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| YEAR | LEDGER | LEDGER | JOB CODE | PROJECT | 2023/24 FINANCIAL YEAR | | | 2023/24 FINANCIAL YEAR | | |
| | | | | | INCOME | EXPENDITURE | NET COST | INCOME | EXPENDITURE | NET COST |
| | | | | Income | | | | | | |
| | | | | Unspent allocation from previous years | \$182,569 | \$0 | \$182,569 | \$182,569 | \$0 | \$182,569 |
| | | | | This years allocation | \$50,000 | \$0 | \$50,000 | \$50,000 | \$0 | \$50,000 |
| | | | | Equity adjustment | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| | | | | Strategic Fund | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| | | | | Total amount available | \$232,569 | \$0 | \$232,569 | \$232,569 | \$0 | \$232,569 |
| | | | | LESS expenditure for the year | | | | | | |
| 2010/11 | 16279 | 2244218665XX | CP4100012244218665 | Pyramid Hill Rural Water Community Areas | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| 2018/19 | 27907 | 2244958680XX | CP4160012244958680 | P/H Lions Park Redevelopment | \$0 | \$21,075 | \$21,075 | \$0 | \$32,075 | \$32,075 |
| 2019/20 | 18712 | 2244218665XX | CP4200012244218665 | Mitiamo Sporting Rooms Flood Upgrade | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$10,000 | \$10,000 |
| 2019/20 | 18713 | 2244218665XX | CP4200022244218665 | Dingee Memorial Hall Toilet | \$0 | \$20,000 | \$20,000 | \$0 | \$20,000 | \$20,000 |
| 2020/21 | | 2244218665XX | CP4210012244218665 | Calivil Rec BBQ & Shelter | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| 2020/21 | | 2244218665XX | CP4210022244218665 | Dingee Hall Disabled Toilet | \$0 | \$14,388 | \$14,388 | \$0 | \$14,388 | \$14,388 |
| CURRENT | | | | Terrick Community Plans unallocated | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$156,106 | \$156,106 |
| | | | | Total expenditure for the year | \$0 | \$55,463 | \$55,463 | \$0 | \$232,569 | \$232,569 |
| | | | | Total amount not spent at the end of the year, and available for next year | | | \$177,106 | | | \$0 |

5.5 Wedderburn community plans

Wedderburn ward carried forward \$240K into 2023/24. With the additional \$50K allocation there is currently \$290K available for the community planning group to allocate toward projects.

Current community planning projects planned for 2023/24 are outlined below:

| Wedderburn Community Plans | | | | | ACTUALS | | | BUDGET | | |
|----------------------------|-------|--------|----------|---|------------------------|-------------|------------------|------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| YEAR | LEDGE | LEDGER | JOB CODE | PROJECT | 2023/24 FINANCIAL YEAR | | | 2023/24 FINANCIAL YEAR | | |
| | | | | | INCOME | EXPENDITURE | NET COST | INCOME | EXPENDITURE | NET COST |
| | | | | Income | | | | | | |
| | | | | Unspent allocation from previous years | \$240,233 | \$0 | \$240,233 | \$240,233 | \$0 | \$240,233 |
| | | | | This years allocation | \$50,000 | \$0 | \$50,000 | \$50,000 | \$0 | \$50,000 |
| | | | | Equity adjustment | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| | | | | Strategic fund | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| | | | | Total amount available | \$290,233 | \$0 | \$290,233 | \$290,233 | \$0 | \$290,233 |
| | | | | Expenditure | | | | | | |
| CURRENT | | | | Wedderburn Community Plans Unallocated | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$290,233 | \$290,233 |
| | | | | Total expenditure for the year | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$290,233 | \$290,233 |
| | | | | Total amount not spent at the end of the year, and available for next year | | | \$290,233 | | | \$0 |

APPENDIX 1: INCOME STATEMENT

| Element | 2023/24 Original Budget | 2023/24 Revised Budget | 2023/24 YTD Revised Budget | 2023/24 YTD Actuals | 2023/24 YTD Percentage Variance |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------|--|
| Income | | | | | |
| 69 - Statutory Fees | 294,310 | 294,310 | 97,812 | 99,187 | 101% |
| 70 - Fees & Charges | 1,005,450 | 1,005,450 | 243,485 | 104,914 | 43% |
| 71 - Contribution | 0 | 40,000 | 40,000 | 40,000 | 100% |
| 73 - Interest | 435,000 | 1,235,000 | 308,750 | 557,587 | 181% |
| 77 - Reimbursements | 317,451 | 317,451 | 159,893 | 215,356 | 135% |
| 80 - Rates | 12,713,535 | 12,713,535 | 12,486,773 | 12,538,981 | 100% |
| 81 - Non Recurrent Grants (Operating) | 20,023,000 | 20,218,185 | 5,054,999 | 311,002 | 6% |
| 82 - Recurrent Grants (Operating) | 3,564,960 | 1,487,763 | 470,534 | 545,769 | 116% |
| 83 - Recurrent Grants (Capital) | 2,387,726 | 2,660,208 | 665,053 | 0 | 0% |
| 84 - Non Recurrent Grants (Capital) | 2,387,726 | 11,589,997 | 2,221,546 | 3,695,214 | 166% |
| 90 - VicRoads | 261,774 | 261,774 | 130,677 | 109,666 | 84% |
| Total Income | 43,390,932 | 51,823,674 | 21,879,524 | 18,217,676 | 83% |
| Expenses | | | | | |
| 01 - Labour | 12,987,138 | 13,105,675 | 2,527,013 | 3,297,338 | 130% |
| 04 - Creditors | 9,168,228 | 13,624,761 | 3,738,658 | 4,830,906 | 129% |
| 05 - Stores | 46,666 | 46,666 | 8,132 | 0 | 0% |
| 06 - Fuel | 1,360,925 | 1,360,925 | 219,800 | 206,005 | 94% |
| 07 - Contractors | 22,491,688 | 24,376,801 | 5,958,462 | 657,466 | 11% |
| 08 - Depreciation | 10,308,760 | 10,308,760 | 2,577,190 | 2,577,190 | 100% |
| 09 - Utilities | 652,810 | 651,405 | 156,759 | 63,938 | 41% |
| 25 - Grants Expenditure | 392,040 | 392,040 | 148,163 | 68,663 | 46% |
| 45 - Bad Debts Expense | 0 | 0 | 0 | 509 | 0% |
| 63 - Reversal of Impairment Losses | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0% |
| Total Expenses | 57,408,256 | 63,867,034 | 15,334,176 | 11,702,015 | 76% |
| Net Result Surplus / (Deficit) | (14,017,324) | (12,043,360) | 6,545,348 | 6,515,661 | 100% |

*Income and expense items required by Australian Accounting Standards (AAS)

APPENDIX 2: CAPITAL WORKS STATEMENT

| Element | 2023/24 Original Budget | 2023/24 Revised Budget | 2023/24 YTD Revised Budget | 2023/24 YTD Actuals | 2023/24 YTD Percentage Variance |
|---|-------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------|--|
| Funding Decisions | | | | | |
| 88 - Reserves Transfer From | 10,443,502 | 25,804,121 | 21,544,455 | 21,544,455 | 0% |
| 89 - Reserves Transfer To | (2,293,631) | (2,367,345) | (1,318,429) | (1,302,000) | 0% |
| 74 - Asset Sales (Capital) | 471,333 | 532,730 | 142,626 | 88,215 | 62% |
| Total Funding Decisions | 8,621,204 | 23,969,506 | 20,368,652 | 20,330,670 | 100% |
| Capital Expenditure | | | | | |
| 12 - Economic Development | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | #DIV/0! |
| 21 - Caravan Parks | 0 | 221,912 | 55,479 | 330,654 | 596% |
| 41 - Community Planning - Boort | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | #DIV/0! |
| 42 - Community Planning - Inglewood | 0 | 112,614 | 0 | 0 | #DIV/0! |
| 43 - Community Planning - Tarnagulla | 0 | 55,042 | 17,124 | 0 | 0% |
| 44 - Community Planning - Terricks | 0 | 11,000 | 11,000 | 0 | 0% |
| 45 - Community Planning - Wedderburn | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | #DIV/0! |
| 47 - Grants & Community Planning | 500,000 | 3,409,728 | 198,453 | 926,768 | 467% |
| 49 - Swimming Pools | 250,000 | 280,000 | 0 | 0 | #DIV/0! |
| 65 - Information Technology | 190,700 | 190,700 | 0 | 0 | #DIV/0! |
| 70 - LRCI Projects | 2,387,726 | 7,457,879 | 1,997,723 | 322,020 | 16% |
| 71 - Council Engineering and Technical Services | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0% |
| 72 - Project & Contract Management | 2,515,762 | 6,142,651 | 1,305,993 | 425,542 | 33% |
| 73 - Roads to Recovery | 2,387,726 | 2,626,163 | 554,439 | 223,733 | 40% |
| 75 - Local Laws and Animal Management | 0 | 102,121 | 25,530 | 0 | 0% |
| 82 - Building & Property Maintenance | 5,000 | 494,329 | 489,329 | 43,227 | 9% |
| 84 - Plant and Fleet | 2,490,440 | 3,990,299 | 1,455,000 | 261,812 | 18% |
| 90 - Parks & Townships | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1,796 | #DIV/0! |
| 96 - Waste Management | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | #DIV/0! |
| 98 - Waterways Management | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | #DIV/0! |
| Total Capital Expenditure | 10,727,354 | 25,094,438 | 6,110,070 | 2,535,553 | 41% |
| Non Cash Adjustments | | | | | |
| 08 - Depreciation | 10,308,760 | 10,308,760 | 2,577,190 | 2,577,190 | 100% |
| 45 - Bad Debts Expense | 0 | 0 | 0 | 509 | 0% |
| 63 - Reversal of Impairment Losses | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0% |
| Total Non Cash Adjustments | 10,308,760 | 10,308,760 | 2,577,190 | 2,577,699 | 100% |
| Accumulated surplus brought forward | 0 | 9,852,839 | 9,852,839 | 9,852,839 | 100% |
| Net Cash Surplus / (Deficit) | (5,814,714) | 6,993,307 | 33,233,960 | 36,741,318 | 111% |

APPENDIX 3: NET RESULT BY SERVICE AREA

| Service Area | 2023/24 Full Year Budget | 2023/24 Total Revised Budget | 2023/24 YTD Revised Budget September | 2023/24 YTD Actuals September |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| 00 - Flood Management | 0 | 3,043,950 | 760,960 | 1,825,243 |
| 11 - Administration and Management | 3,882,623 | 4,016,713 | 880,153 | 592,897 |
| 12 - Economic Development | 111,133 | 120,209 | 49,454 | 5,673 |
| 13 - Council Administration | 462,330 | 461,645 | 29,067 | 86,552 |
| 14 - Library Services | 229,918 | 229,918 | 57,479 | 54,469 |
| 15 - Media | 117,731 | 117,731 | 29,075 | 17,912 |
| 21 - Caravan Parks | (76,310) | (189,763) | (93,488) | 296,480 |
| 22 - Loddon Discovery Tours | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 23 - Tourism | 423,563 | 458,563 | 63,236 | 85,446 |
| 31 - Aged Care Services | 462,005 | 462,005 | 76,317 | 723,968 |
| 32 - Elderly Persons Units | 9,969 | 9,969 | (1,051) | (7,576) |
| 33 - Rural Access | 40,000 | 85,031 | 0 | 0 |
| 34 - Seniors | 74,870 | 74,870 | 13,446 | 2,855 |
| 35 - Community Wellbeing Projects | 0 | 32,515 | 8,130 | (90,407) |
| 40 - Community Support | 990,381 | 1,191,881 | 293,337 | 201,333 |
| 41 - Community Planning - Boort | 50,000 | 284,684 | 0 | 0 |
| 42 - Community Planning - Inglewood | 50,000 | 271,649 | 10,000 | 10,000 |
| 43 - Community Planning - Tarnagulla | 50,000 | 293,980 | 120,633 | 103,509 |
| 44 - Community Planning - Terricks | 50,000 | 232,569 | 66,463 | 55,463 |
| 45 - Community Planning - Wedderburn | 50,000 | 290,233 | 0 | 0 |
| 46 - Emergency Management | 10,626 | 39,549 | 9,886 | 16,860 |
| 47 - Grants & Community Planning | 760,000 | 152,854 | (163,962) | (2,665,799) |
| 48 - Municipal Health & Wellbeing | 9,200 | 51,753 | 12,937 | 889 |
| 49 - Swimming Pools | 945,528 | 995,528 | 4,500 | 24,468 |
| 50 - Maternal and Child Health | 106,616 | 339,508 | 56,143 | 6,779 |
| 51 - Early Years | 189,835 | 582,543 | 49,067 | 46,078 |
| 52 - Boort Pre School | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1,060 |
| 53 - Dingee Pre School | 0 | 0 | 0 | 831 |
| 54 - Inglewood Pre School | 0 | 0 | 0 | 612 |
| 55 - Pyramid Hill Pre School | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 56 - Wedderburn Pre School | 0 | 0 | 0 | (312) |

APPENDIX 3: NET RESULT BY SERVICE AREA (Continued)

| Service Area | 2023/24 Full Year Budget | 2023/24 Total Revised Budget | 2023/24 YTD Revised Budget September | 2023/24 YTD Actuals September |
|---|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| 57 - Immunisation | 40,008 | 40,007 | 8,575 | 10,849 |
| 58 - Kinders Global Admin | 32,678 | 74,678 | (54,014) | (141,986) |
| 59 - Youth | 6,000 | 20,557 | 1,500 | 0 |
| 60 - Corporate Governance | 296,174 | 324,573 | 80,002 | 83,036 |
| 61 - Financial Services | 1,009,527 | (23,659,231) | (27,702,999) | (27,997,929) |
| 62 - Rates & Property | (10,496,430) | (10,496,430) | (10,408,475) | (10,393,636) |
| 63 - Customer Service | 241,933 | 241,933 | 44,495 | 46,562 |
| 64 - Information Management | 235,347 | 235,347 | 38,951 | 64,055 |
| 65 - Information Technology | 1,871,191 | 1,871,191 | 510,680 | 542,997 |
| 66 - Human Resources & Development | 1,264,183 | 1,420,268 | 493,308 | 536,386 |
| 67 - Risk Management | 834,200 | 915,095 | 739,457 | 627,967 |
| 70 - LRCI Projects | 0 | 1,474,324 | 292,011 | 497,832 |
| 71 - Council Engineering & Technical Services | 148,559 | 148,559 | 17,803 | 17,542 |
| 72 - Project & Contract Management | 2,762,506 | 4,502,651 | 251,359 | 288,581 |
| 73 - Roads to Recovery | 0 | 239,923 | (116,717) | 223,733 |
| 74 - Building Regulation | 101,521 | 96,769 | 9,505 | (5,561) |
| 75 - Local Law s and Animal Management | 432,425 | 577,753 | 144,437 | 39,395 |
| 76 - Public Health | 107,610 | 174,641 | (8,519) | (68,703) |
| 77 - Strategic & Statutory Planning | 259,143 | 319,143 | 37,299 | 81,212 |
| 80 - Air Strips | 8,808 | 8,808 | 2,063 | 581 |
| 82 - Building & Property Maintenance | 966,824 | 1,456,153 | 473,890 | 215,463 |
| 84 - Plant and Fleet | (44,184) | 1,455,674 | (79,734) | (915,388) |
| 86 - Gravel Pts | (170,009) | 62,491 | 182,724 | 177,106 |
| 88 - Management & Administration | 544,961 | 544,961 | 95,419 | 109,823 |
| 90 - Parks & Townships | 989,299 | 989,299 | 156,375 | 201,764 |
| 92 - Roads | 5,748,476 | 6,676,602 | 1,123,629 | 1,905,765 |
| 94 - DoT Routine Maintenance Contract | (44,765) | (44,765) | (22,347) | 34,013 |
| 96 - Waste Management | (74,597) | (68,676) | (1,599,950) | (1,731,741) |
| 98 - Waterways Management | 52,069 | 63,069 | 44,437 | (8,617) |

APPENDIX 4: BALANCE SHEET

| | September 2023 As per trial balance | June 2024 As per adopted budget | June 2023 As per financial statements | September 2022 As per trial balance |
|--|---|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| ASSETS | | | | |
| CURRENT ASSETS | | | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | \$40,456,480 | \$12,560,553 | \$15,992,321 | \$39,797,618 |
| Other financial assets | \$0 | \$0 | \$33,188,401 | \$0 |
| Trade and other receivables | \$13,817,005 | \$412,696 | \$2,025,564 | \$12,443,462 |
| Financial assets | \$762,535 | \$0 | \$717,000 | \$235,466 |
| Inventories | \$0 | \$21,768 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Non-current assets classified as held for sale | \$311,958 | \$222,784 | \$311,958 | \$311,958 |
| TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS | \$55,347,978 | \$13,217,801 | \$52,235,244 | \$52,788,504 |
| NON-CURRENT ASSETS | | | | |
| Trade and other receivables | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Financial assets | \$292,782 | \$284,783 | \$292,782 | \$295,154 |
| Intangible assets | \$2,807,790 | \$2,674,570 | \$2,807,790 | \$2,713,090 |
| Property, infrastructure, plant and equipment | \$379,892,583 | \$387,872,483 | \$382,469,773 | \$341,223,204 |
| TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS | \$382,993,155 | \$390,831,836 | \$385,570,345 | \$344,231,448 |
| TOTAL ASSETS | \$438,341,133 | \$404,049,637 | \$437,805,589 | \$397,019,952 |
| LIABILITIES | | | | |
| CURRENT LIABILITIES | | | | |
| Trade and other payables | \$290,805 | \$427,527 | \$2,375,392 | \$44,808 |
| Trust funds and deposits | \$2,093,056 | \$329,567 | \$367,767 | \$1,815,279 |
| Unearned income | \$0 | \$0 | \$3,176,276 | \$0 |
| Provisions | \$3,372,045 | \$2,730,218 | \$2,836,372 | \$2,871,882 |
| Interest bearing loans and borrowings | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES | \$5,755,905 | \$3,487,312 | \$8,755,807 | \$4,731,969 |
| NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES | | | | |
| Provisions | \$1,246,284 | \$2,156,202 | \$1,773,183 | \$1,246,284 |
| Interest bearing loans & borrowings | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES | \$1,246,284 | \$2,156,202 | \$1,773,183 | \$1,246,284 |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES | \$7,002,189 | \$5,643,514 | \$10,528,990 | \$5,978,255 |
| NET ASSETS | \$431,338,945 | \$398,406,123 | \$427,276,599 | \$391,041,698 |
| EQUITY | | | | |
| Accumulated Surplus | \$116,020,664 | \$94,893,756 | \$91,709,883 | \$118,140,067 |
| Asset Revaluation Reserve | \$301,850,014 | \$294,682,747 | \$301,850,014 | \$262,232,789 |
| Other Reserves | \$13,468,267 | \$8,829,620 | \$33,716,702 | \$10,668,843 |
| TOTAL EQUITY | \$431,338,945 | \$398,406,123 | \$427,276,599 | \$391,041,698 |

APPENDIX 5: CASH FLOW STATEMENT

| Cash flows from operating activities | Adopted Budget 2023/24 | YTD Actual September 2023 |
|--|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| Rates and charges | 12,881,431 | 172,611 |
| Statutory fees and fines | 329,432 | 26,107 |
| User fees | 1,739,527 | 538,989 |
| Grants - operating | 4,257,558 | 976,192 |
| Grants - capital | 2,435,481 | 518,938 |
| Contributions - monetary | - | 40,000 |
| Contributions - non monetary | - | - |
| Reimbursements and subsidies | 794,016 | 325,021 |
| Interest received | 235,000 | (199,261) |
| Net GST refund (payable) | (274,022) | 1,268,707 |
| Trust funds and deposits taken | (17,345) | 1,725,289 |
| Payments to employees | (12,438,030) | (3,764,630) |
| Payments to suppliers | (14,645,521) | (7,992,895) |
| Net gain/(loss) on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment | - | - |
| Share of net profits of associates and joint ventures | - | - |
| Other income | - | - |
| Reversal of impairment of assets | - | - |
| Depreciation and amortisation | - | - |
| Finance costs | - | - |
| Bad debts expense | - | 94,007 |
| Other expenses | - | - |
| Councillors' emoluments | - | - |
| Internal audit remuneration | - | - |
| External audit remuneration | - | - |
| Impairment of interest free loans | - | - |
| Net cash provided (used in) investing activities | (4,702,473) | (6,270,925) |
| Cash flows from investing activities | | |
| Payments for property, infrastructure, plant and equipment | (7,007,845) | (2,453,317) |
| Proceeds from sale of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment | - | - |
| Term deposits | - | 33,188,401 |
| Payment for intangible assets | - | - |
| Loans and advances to community organisations | - | - |
| Repayment of loans and advances from community organisations | - | - |
| Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities | (7,007,845) | 30,735,084 |
| Cash flows from financing activities | | |
| Repayment of interest bearing loans and borrowings | - | - |
| Borrowing costs | - | - |
| Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities | - | - |
| Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents | (11,710,318) | 24,464,159 |
| Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the financial year | 24,270,871 | 15,992,321 |
| Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the financial year | 12,560,553 | 40,456,480 |
| Check of closing balance | 12,560,553 | 40,456,480 |

APPENDIX 6: FULL CAPITAL WORKS

| Account Number | 2023/24 Full Year Budget | 2023/24 Total Revised Budget | 2023/24 YTD Revised Budget September | 2023/24 YTD Actuals September | 2023/24 YTD Revised Variance September |
|---|--------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| 11 - Commercial Services | 0 | 221,912 | 55,479 | 330,654 | (275,175) |
| 21 - Caravan Parks | 0 | 221,912 | 55,479 | 330,654 | (275,175) |
| 1910 - Caravan Park Improvement Prog | 0 | 221,912 | 55,479 | 330,654 | (275,175) |
| 22 - Community Support | 750,000 | 3,866,842 | 226,577 | 926,768 | (700,191) |
| 42 - Community Planning - Inglewood | 0 | 112,614 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 4315 - Inglewood Community Plans - Ca | 0 | 112,614 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 43 - Community Planning - Tarnagulla | 0 | 53,500 | 17,124 | 0 | 17,124 |
| 8620 - Tarnagulla Community Plans - C | 0 | 53,500 | 17,124 | 0 | 17,124 |
| 44 - Community Planning - Terricks | 0 | 11,000 | 11,000 | 0 | 11,000 |
| 8680 - Terrick Community Plans - Capi | 0 | 11,000 | 11,000 | 0 | 11,000 |
| 47 - Grants & Community Planning | 500,000 | 3,409,728 | 198,453 | 926,768 | (728,315) |
| 2340 - Community Plans Strategic Fund | 500,000 | 500,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 3000 - Donaldson Park Grants | 0 | 68,634 | 68,634 | 868,448 | (799,814) |
| 4520 - Inglewood Sports Centre Grants | 0 | 42,118 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 4748 - Lake Boort Park Prec S2 | 0 | 221,280 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 5720 - Mitiamo Lighting Project | 0 | 129,819 | 129,819 | 52,460 | 77,359 |
| 7252 - Pyramid Hill Com Centre Grants | 0 | 2,447,877 | 0 | 5,860 | (5,860) |
| 49 - Swimming Pools | 250,000 | 280,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 6500 - Pool Capital Works | 250,000 | 280,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 33 - Information Management | 190,700 | 190,700 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 65 - Information Technology | 190,700 | 190,700 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 4245 - Information Security Baseline | 90,700 | 90,700 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 6180 - PC Replacement | 100,000 | 100,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 41 - Assets & Infrastructure | 7,291,214 | 16,226,693 | 3,022,186 | 971,296 | 2,050,890 |
| 70 - LRCI Projects | 2,387,726 | 7,457,879 | 1,795,400 | 322,020 | 1,473,380 |
| 1590 - Bridges and Culverts Capital W | 0 | 1,314,000 | 328,500 | 0 | 328,500 |
| 1725 - Building Asset Project-Capital | 0 | 450,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 1910 - Caravan Park Improvement Prog | 0 | 545,820 | 136,455 | 3,900 | 132,555 |
| 3000 - Donaldson Park Grants | 0 | 1,993,916 | 498,477 | 1,680 | 496,797 |
| 3655 - Footpaths Capital Works | 0 | 950,469 | 237,615 | 7,313 | 230,302 |
| 5720 - Mitiamo Lighting Project | 0 | 177,680 | 177,680 | 161,550 | 16,130 |
| 7250 - Pyramid Hill Streetscape | 0 | 324,481 | 81,120 | 0 | 81,120 |
| 7600 - Road Construction Capital Work | 2,387,726 | 1,342,220 | 335,553 | 89,683 | 245,870 |
| 7630 - Road Resheets Capital Works | 0 | 359,293 | 0 | 57,894 | (57,894) |

APPENDIX 6: FULL CAPITAL WORKS (Continued)

| Account Number | 2023/24 Full Year Budget | 2023/24 Total Revised Budget | 2023/24 YTD Revised Budget September | 2023/24 YTD Actuals September | 2023/24 YTD Revised Variance September |
|---|--------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| 72 - Project & Contract Management | 2,515,762 | 6,142,651 | 746,943 | 425,542 | 321,401 |
| 1590 - Bridges and Culverts Capital W | 0 | 200,000 | 0 | 18,297 | (18,297) |
| 1725 - Building Asset Project-Capital | 200,000 | 393,388 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 3025 - Drainage Capital Works | 0 | 250,000 | 62,499 | 3,182 | 59,317 |
| 3585 - Flood Mitigation PH | 0 | 479,651 | 119,913 | 0 | 119,913 |
| 3586 - Flood Mitigation Brt | 0 | 339,949 | 84,987 | 0 | 84,987 |
| 3655 - Footpaths Capital Works | 232,061 | 208,385 | 52,098 | 104,031 | (51,933) |
| 6270 - Plan & Strategy Implementation | 0 | 146,700 | 71,700 | 25,621 | 46,079 |
| 7250 - Pyramid Hill Streetscape | 1,327,380 | 1,327,380 | 331,845 | 159,159 | 172,686 |
| 7585 - Road Amenity Capital Works | 0 | 50,000 | 12,501 | 0 | 12,501 |
| 7600 - Road Construction Capital Work | 0 | 2,188,215 | 0 | 37,375 | (37,375) |
| 7630 - Road Resheets Capital Works | 458,325 | 13,000 | 0 | 36,054 | (36,054) |
| 7660 - Road Safety Capital Works | 0 | 45,600 | 11,400 | 0 | 11,400 |
| 7675 - Road Shoulder Sheet Capital Wo | 297,996 | 500,383 | 0 | 41,823 | (41,823) |
| 73 - Roads to Recovery | 2,387,726 | 2,626,163 | 479,843 | 223,733 | 256,110 |
| 1590 - Bridges and Culverts Capital W | 152,328 | 224,783 | 51,027 | 13,464 | 37,563 |
| 3655 - Footpaths Capital Works | 0 | 0 | 0 | 206,097 | (206,097) |
| 7620 - Road Reseals | 1,115,852 | 1,622,706 | 405,675 | 0 | 405,675 |
| 7630 - Road Resheets Capital Works | 969,546 | 778,674 | 23,141 | 4,172 | 18,969 |
| 7660 - Road Safety Capital Works | 150,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 42 - Development & Compliance | 0 | 102,121 | 25,530 | 0 | 25,530 |
| 75 - Local Law s and Animal Management | 0 | 102,121 | 25,530 | 0 | 25,530 |
| 6735 - Pound Livestock | 0 | 102,121 | 25,530 | 0 | 25,530 |
| 44 - Works | 2,495,440 | 4,484,628 | 479,329 | 306,835 | 172,494 |
| 82 - Building & Property Maintenance | 5,000 | 494,329 | 294,329 | 43,227 | 251,102 |
| 1725 - Building Asset Project-Capital | 0 | 489,329 | 294,329 | 43,227 | 251,102 |
| 2520 - Council Property Fencing | 5,000 | 5,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 84 - Plant and Fleet | 2,490,440 | 3,990,299 | 185,000 | 261,812 | (76,812) |
| 3550 - Fleet Replacement | 489,600 | 489,600 | 0 | 80,877 | (80,877) |
| 5685 - Minor Plant & Equipment | 20,000 | 20,000 | 5,000 | 0 | 5,000 |
| 6435 - Plant Replacement | 1,980,840 | 3,480,699 | 180,000 | 180,936 | (936) |
| 90 - Parks & Tow nships | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1,796 | (1,796) |
| 6270 - Plan & Strategy Implementation | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1,796 | (1,796) |
| Grand Total | 10,727,354 | 25,092,896 | 3,809,101 | 2,535,553 | 1,273,549 |

APPENDIX 7: CARAVAN PARK INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

This report was previously reported to Council as a separate agenda item. Due to the nature of the report this will now be reported to Council for the quarterly reporting cycle within this report.

Income and expenditure from the 2021/22 financial year to the current 2023/24 financial year for each park is listed in the table below. Comments are also provided where there has been unusual items.

| Park | Year | Income | Expenditure | Net | Comments |
|---------------------|-------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---|
| Boort | 2021/22 | \$ 62,733.00 | \$ 8,402.00 | \$ 54,331.00 | |
| | 2022/23 | \$ 51,327.00 | \$ 9,372.00 | \$ 41,955.00 | |
| | 2023/24 YTD | \$ 22,812.00 | \$ 22,132.00 | \$ 680.00 | |
| | | | | | |
| Bridgewater | 2021/22 | \$ 398,136.00 | \$ 316,552.00 | \$ 81,584.00 | |
| | 2022/23 | \$ 194,283.00 | \$ 261,845.00 | -\$ 67,562.00 | More expenditure due to floods |
| | 2023/24 YTD | \$ 15,000.00 | \$ 37,423.00 | -\$ 22,423.00 | |
| | | | | | |
| Pyramid Hill | 2021/22 | \$ - | \$ 3,700.00 | -\$ 3,700.00 | Credit for expenditure in 2020/21 expended to the upgrade budget. |
| | 2022/23 | \$ 461.00 | \$ 12,666.00 | -\$ 12,205.00 | |
| | 2023/24 YTD | \$ - | \$ 109.00 | -\$ 109.00 | |
| | | | | | |
| Wedderburn | 2021/22 | \$ 138,931.00 | \$ 100,197.00 | \$ 38,734.00 | |
| | 2022/23 | \$ 128,383.00 | \$ 69,634.00 | \$ 58,749.00 | |
| | 2023/24 YTD | \$ 5,000.00 | \$ 7,871.00 | -\$ 2,871.00 | |
| | | | | | |

10.6 ANNUAL REPORT FOR YEAR ENDING 30 JUNE 2023**File Number:****Author:** Amanda Wilson, Director Corporate**Authoriser:** Lincoln Fitzgerald, Chief Executive Officer**Attachments:** 1. Annual Report for Year Ending 30 June 2023**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council adopts the Loddon Shire Council Annual Report for the Year Ending 30 June 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

Council discussed the Annual Report at the Councillor Forums on 12 September and 10 October 2023.

BACKGROUND

In accordance sections 98, 99 and 100 of the Local Government Act 2020 (the Act) Council must prepare an Annual Report in respect of each financial year.

The Act no longer requires Council to submit the budget or annual report to the Minister for Local Government. The Annual Report must however be presented to Council, at a meeting open to the public, within four months of the end of the financial year.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

The Annual Report for the 2022/23 period has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Act.

The attached Annual Report includes:

- a report of operations of the Council
- an audited performance statement
- audited financial statements
- a copy of the auditor's report on the performance statement and
- a copy of the auditor's report on the financial statements

The report of operations contains a statement of progress on implementation of the Council Plan, which includes the results of the strategic indicators; a statement of progress in relation to the major initiatives identified in the budget and the measures and performance of the prescribed indicators of service performance.

The financial statements included in the attachment have been prepared in accordance with the regulations and have been audited by the Victorian Auditor General's Office.

COST/BENEFITS

As well as being a legislative requirement, preparation of the Annual Report provides Council with an opportunity to formally record the achievements of the financial year at an organisation level and by individual staff.

RISK ANALYSIS

Timely preparation and approval of the Annual Report ensures that Council complies with legislative requirements outlined in the Act.

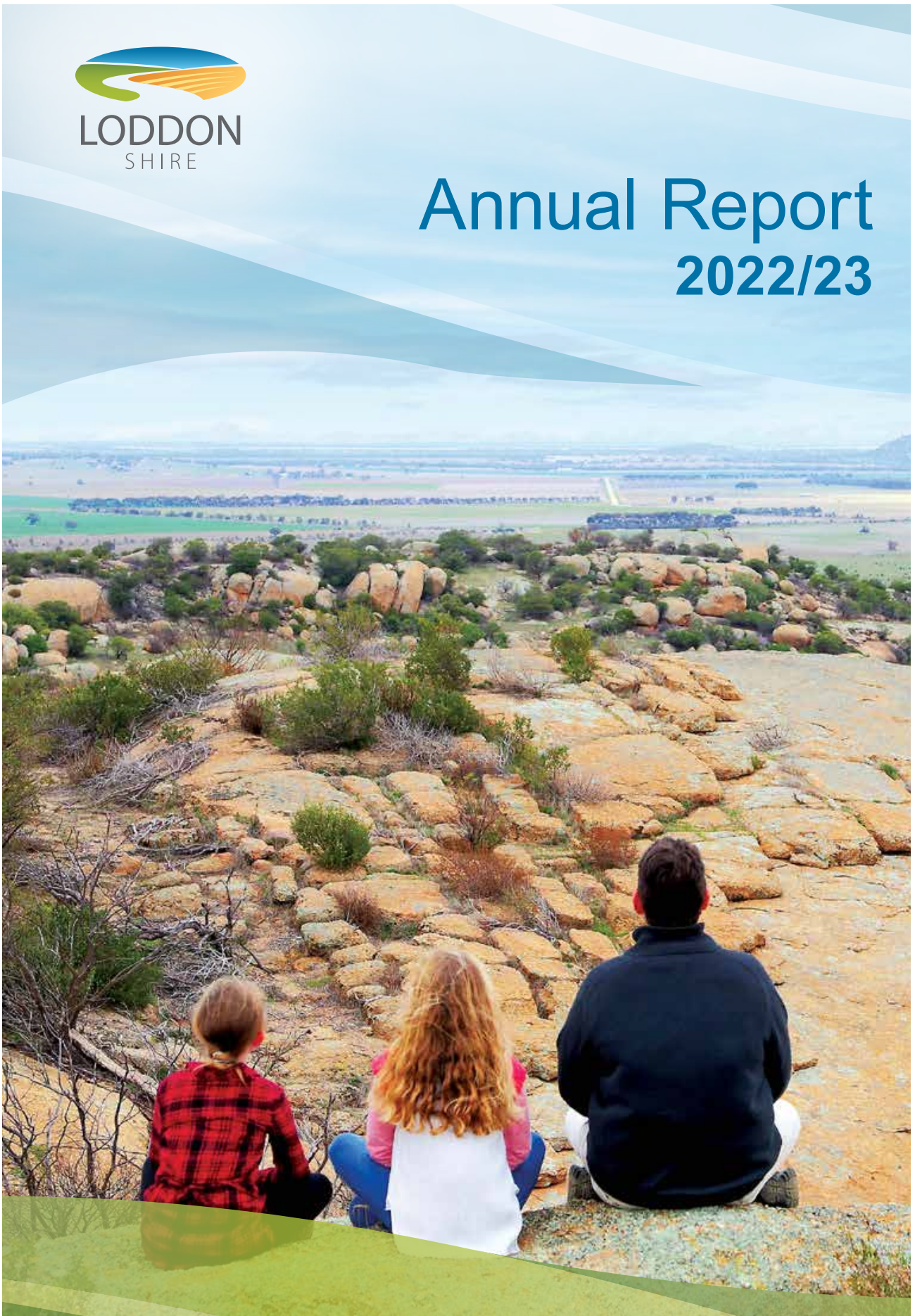
CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

There is no longer a requirement to submit the Annual Report to the Minister of Local Government however Council must comply with its public transparency policy and the public transparency principles in section 58 of the Act.

A public notice was placed in the Bendigo Advertiser and Loddon Herald to advise the public the Annual Report has been prepared and is available for inspection at Council's office in Wedderburn, and on Council's website, and will be presented at the 24 October 2023 Council meeting.

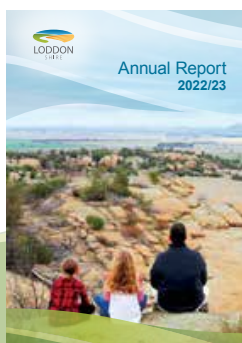


Annual Report 2022/23



Contents

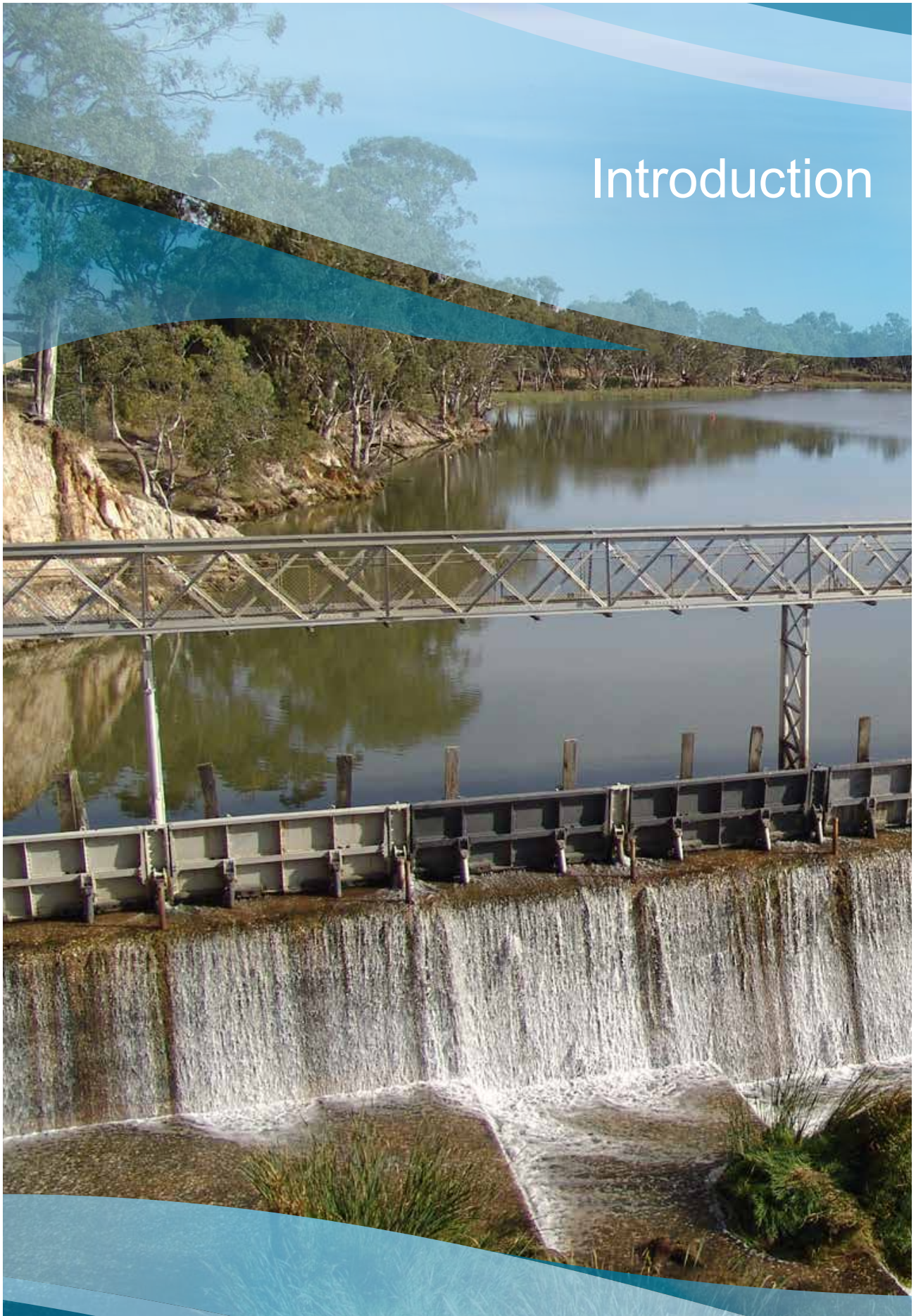
| | | | |
|--|----|---|-----|
| Introduction | 3 | Our performance | 59 |
| Welcome to report of operations | 4 | Integrated strategic planning and reporting framework | 60 |
| Grants | 6 | Performance against major initiatives in the 2022/23 budget | 94 |
| Challenges and future outlook | 8 | Community Satisfaction Survey | 104 |
| The year in review | 9 | | |
| Message from the Mayor and CEO | 10 | Governance management | 105 |
| Financial summary | 12 | Governance | 106 |
| Description of operations | 13 | Audit and Risk Management | 110 |
| Recovery continues following flood event | 24 | Governance and management checklist | 112 |
| | | Statutory information | 114 |
| Our Council | 27 | | |
| Shire profile | 28 | Performance Statement | 119 |
| Council contacts | 30 | Financial Statements | 131 |
| Councillors | 33 | | |
| | | | |
| Our people | 37 | | |
| Organisation | 38 | | |
| Organisational structure | 39 | | |
| Loddon Leaders | 40 | | |
| Council staff | 43 | | |
| Staff recruitment and retention | 51 | | |
| Other staff matters | 55 | | |



Acknowledgement of Country

Loddon Shire Council acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land comprising the Loddon Shire Council area. Council would like to pay respect to their Elders both past and present.

*Front cover: Mount Hope Nature Conservation Area.
Back cover: Pyramid Hill station.*



Introduction

Introduction

Welcome to report of operations

Welcome to Loddon Shire Council’s report of operations for the year 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023.

This is the final report in the planning and accountability framework for local government, and along with the Financial Statements and Performance Statement, forms Council’s Annual Report for the year.

Council is committed to transparent reporting and accountability to the community. The report of operations is the primary means of advising the Loddon community about Council’s operations and performance during the year.

The report also serves as an important document that will provide ‘point in time’ information about Council and the community for readers of the future.

This document also provides the opportunity to celebrate the achievements of Council, Council staff and the community over the course of the year.

Snapshot of Council

Purpose

Council Plan 2021-2025

Council engaged a facilitator to work with Councillors, senior officers and members of the community to assist in preparing the Council Plan 2021-2025 (the Plan).

The ideas and philosophies contributed by those involved led to a restatement of Council’s vision, mission and strategic objectives, all of which were included in the Plan.

In accordance with the Local Government Act 2020, Council reviews the Council Plan annually to ensure it still reflects the Council’s strategic intent.

The Council Plan 2021-2025 was adopted by Council at its meeting on 26 October 2021.

Community Vision and Council Plan

There is a strong link between the Community Vision and the Council Plan. This reflects Council’s commitment to the community in focusing on the areas that are important to the Community vision.



Facts and figures



31,611
Incoming calls to the office



46
Local law permits issued



8,255
Meals on Wheels delivered



8,628
Rates notices issued



1,913
Dog registrations



54
Births



434
Land information certificates



452
Cat registrations



98
Children enrolled in kindergarten



2,164
Tonnes of garbage, recycling and organics from kerbside bins



14,882
Visits to swimming pools



58
Community groups supported with Council grants



109
Planning applications received



25,774
Physical library collection item loans



17
New citizens welcomed at citizenship ceremonies



Introduction



Bridgewater Run for Resilience

Grants

Community Grants Program

The Loddon Shire Community Grants Program is a competitive funding program aimed at helping clubs and organisations to enhance the provision of facilities, services or activities that improve the quality of life for people in their community.

This funding is open to not-for-profit organisations wanting to deliver projects/programs that directly benefit Loddon Shire residents.

Grant recipients

Active Farmers Bridgewater

Arnold Cricket Club

Boort Lakeside Croquet Club

Boort Tourism and Development Committee

Boort Yando Cricket Club

Bridgewater Cricket Club

Bridgewater-on-Loddon Development

Bridgewater Recreation Reserve

Calivil United Football and Netball Club

Inglewood and Districts Health Service

Inglewood Bowling Club

Inglewood Community Sports Centre
Community Asset Committee

Inglewood Town Hall Hub Community Asset
Committee

Lifeline Central Victoria and Mallee

Newbridge Public Hall Committee

Northern Victorian Quarter Horse
Association

Pyramid Hill Golf Club

Serpentine Bowling Club

Wedderburn Band Cricket Club

Wedderburn Bowls Club

Wedderburn Historical Records Museum

Wedderburn Lions Club

Event Promotion Scheme

The Loddon Shire Council provides sponsorship for events that are held within the municipality and that provide important community development opportunities and/or attract a significant number of visiting competitors/participants, officials and families.

Sponsorships

1st Lake Boort Sea Scouts

Active Farmers Bridgewater

Boort and District Agricultural and Pastoral Society

Boort Amity Club

Boort Bowls Club

Boort District P-12 School Parents Club

Boort Football Club

Boort Golf Club

Boort Lakeside Croquet Club

Boort Memorial Hall Community Asset Committee

Boort Preschool Committee

Boort Trotting Club

Bridgewater-on-Loddon Development

Bridgewater Water Ski Club

Calivil Bowling Club

Dingee Bowling Club

Inglewood and Districts Health Service

Inglewood Bowling Club

Loddon Darts Association

Loddon Plains Landcare Network

Mitiamo Golf Club

Newbridge Arnold Llanelly Community Planning Committee

Newbridge Recreation Reserve Committee of Management

Northern District Community Health

Pyramid Hill Bowling Club

Pyramid Hill Golf Club

Rheola Charity Carnival

Scots Day Out

Serpentine Bowling Club

St John's Bears Lagoon - Christmas Tree Committee

Wedderburn Community House Community Asset Committee

Wedderburn Country Women's Association

Wedderburn Historical Engine and Machinery Society

Wedderburn Patchwork Group

Wedderburn Tourism



Boort Bowls opening new synthetic turf - cutting of the ribbon.

Introduction

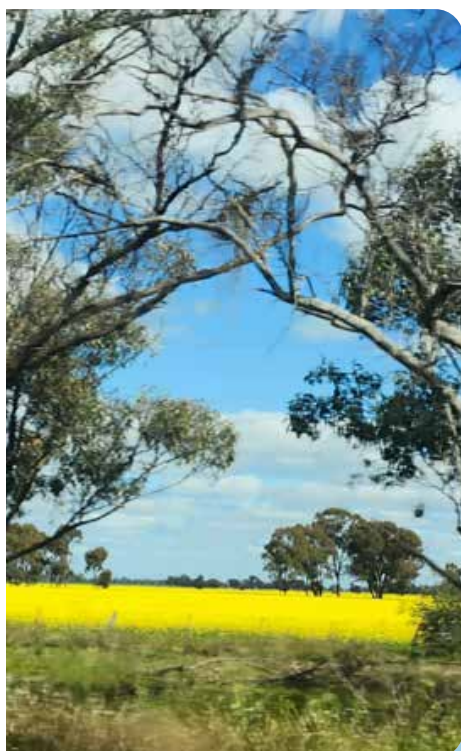
Challenges and future outlook

Our challenges

- Internet and mobile phone connectivity and access.
- Ongoing recovery from October 2022 flood event, including Council infrastructure and community recovery.
- An ageing population.
- Retaining our youth.
- Technology and innovation.
- Budgetary constraints.
- Maintaining or upgrading Council's assets, including its extensive road network and building infrastructure.
- Changing weather patterns and unreliable rainfall.
- Water security.
- Attracting and retaining staff.
- Sparsely populated Shire.



Flood works at Skinners October 2022.

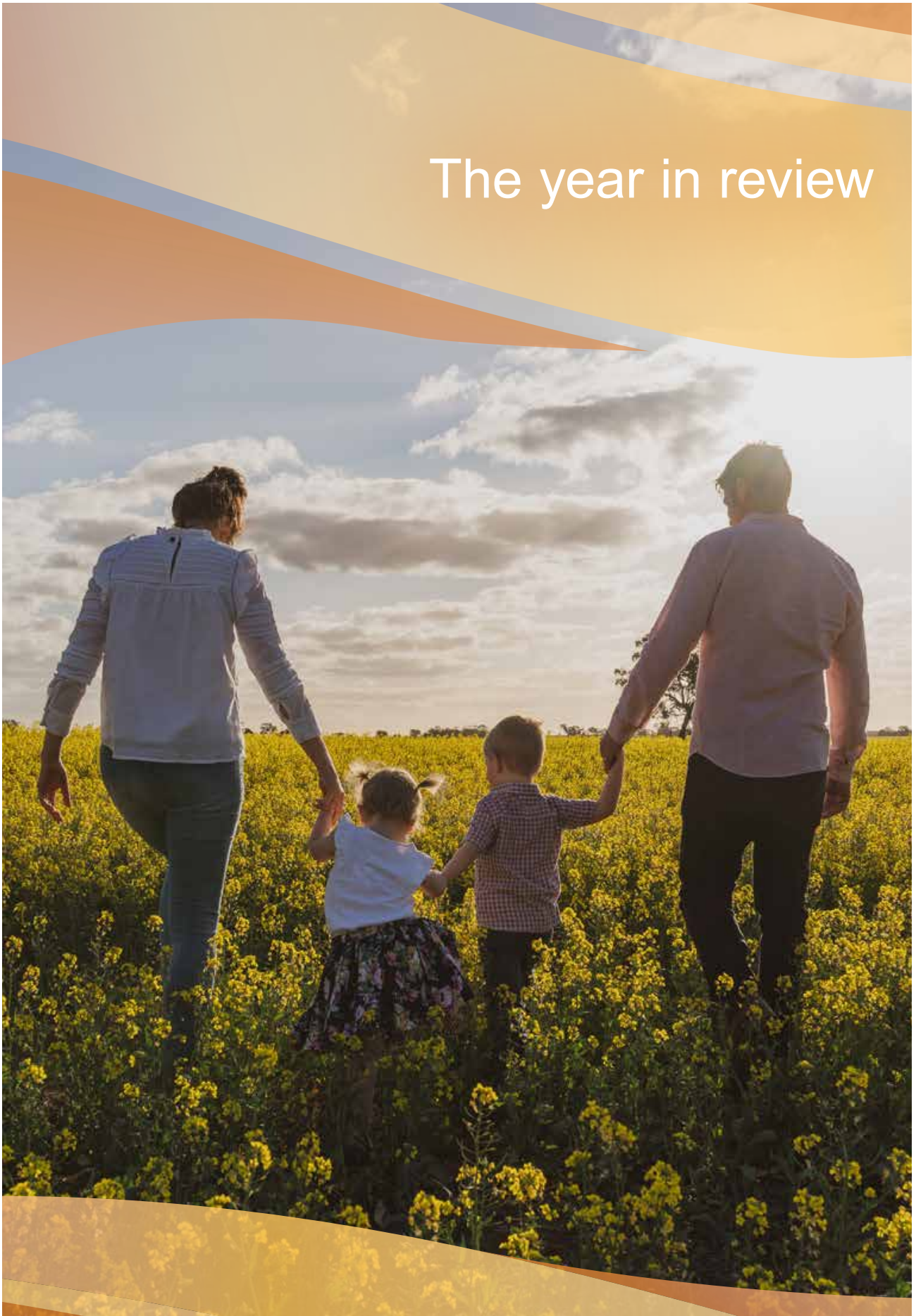


Bridgewater canola crop.

Future outlook

- Continuing to advocate to State and Federal politicians and their representatives on behalf of our community, including around priorities as outlined in Council's Priorities 2022 document.
- The expanding renewable energy sector.
- The growing agribusiness sector.
- Continuing to encourage tourism within the Loddon Valley.
- Delivering the Council Plan 2021-2025, Community Vision 2031, Financial Plan, Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021-2025, and asset management plans.
- Development of the Recreation Open Space and Aquatic Strategy (ROSA).
- Donaldson Park Community Hub redevelopment.
- Pyramid Hill Community Centre Development.
- Pyramid Hill Streetscape Revitalisation Project.
- Responding to service delivery expectations in a financially-sustainable way.
- Continued recovery from October 2022 flood event, including Council infrastructure and community recovery.

The year in review



The year in review

Message from the Mayor and CEO

Welcome to the Loddon Shire Council Annual Report 2022/23.

This year saw the amazing community spirit at the forefront in our Shire, in what was a challenging end to 2022 following major flooding in October.

We saw how our Loddon Shire community stand with and support each other in times of need. We should all feel proud to be part of such a wonderful community – a community who is there for each other, that knew what needed to be done and made sure it happened.

We also acknowledge the strength of those in flood-affected areas across the region. As always, our emergency service personnel and volunteers – many dealing with impacts to their own property and livelihoods – worked tirelessly to support communities throughout the Loddon Shire.

Additionally, Council staff and contractors responded to the emergency in an effort to see Council services re-established as soon as possible, while working in dynamic, ever-changing environments.

We are still seeing recovery efforts taking place across our Shire, including on Council's 4,800-kilometre road network.

Following a tender process, Council appointed a panel of 16 contractors to carry out flood restoration works under the Federal and State funded Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements. By December 2023, Council will have completed around \$6 million of restoration works. In total, \$20 million of restoration works are planned for the 2023/24 financial year, followed by another possible \$15 million in 2024/25.

Council welcomed two fulltime dedicated resources to help the community recover from the devastating floods – a Manager of Community Recovery and a Community Recovery Officer. Both positions work collaboratively with Council staff and partner agencies to advocate for the resources needed to support our community's recovery.



Mayor Dan Straub and CEO Lincoln Fitzgerald.

Despite disruption from the flood event, we saw major projects in our Shire forge ahead – including the Donaldson Park Community Hub and Pyramid Hill Streetscape Revitalisation Project, with both projects well underway.

Additionally, there was the installation of new fit-for-purpose light towers at the Serpentine Recreation Reserve, synthetic turf installation at the Boort Bowling Club, and continuation of Bridgewater Foreshore Beautification works.

There were also new canoe launchers installed at Laanecoorie and Durham Ox and the opening of a new outdoor fitness station in Inglewood through the Healthy Loddon Campaspe initiative. Consultation with stakeholders for the detailed design of the Pyramid Hill Community Centre Development also took place.

We thank respective State and Federal governments for their continued support of Council, including for the above-mentioned projects. We also acknowledge the many community groups and organisations, including local sporting clubs, that have helped support projects across our Shire.



Left to right: Celebrating Boort Bowls Club new synthetic turf - Mayor Straub, Cr Beattie and Peter Walsh MP. Mayor Straub with staff members Renae and Claire working on a mayoral column. New citizenship award.

Additionally, it was great to see a number of events throughout the Shire, which were well attended by community members and visitors alike.

These included the Boort show and harness racing, 150th Rheola Charity Carnival, Pyramid Hill's inaugural art competition, Wedderburn Minelab Detector Jamboree, Tarnagulla's Strictly Vintage Fair, Laanecoorie Gold Bash, Eddington Vintage Sports Car Club Sprints, Loddon Valley Arts Trail, Friends of Kooyoora Spring Festival Show – and many more.

We also saw citizenship ceremonies, Australia Day events celebrated across the Loddon Shire, and the return of the Loddon Victorian Seniors Festival.

The 2022/23 budget saw Council continue its approach of being financially responsible – including a strong cash position – while maintaining its commitment to providing a large range of services to the community.

It included a capital expenditure program of \$7.34 million – with \$3.4 million towards roads, \$350,000 for urban and road drainage, \$426,000 for footpaths, and more. Council also continued its commitment to community planning via full funding of \$750,000.

The year saw Council adopt its Annual Infrastructure Program for 2022/23, putting funding towards a number of projects, including Donaldson Park and Pyramid Hill Streetscape, as well as the sealed and gravel road networks, a section of Newbridge Road and the Echuca-Serpentine Road.

Council continued to advocate on behalf of its communities and the broader region, including through its membership of the Murray River Group of Councils (MRGC).

This included a Canberra advocacy trip in May, where we represented Loddon Shire, alongside the MRGC. Our goal was to discuss a number of regional issues that affect our Shire with Members of Parliament – receiving a positive response from the Federal Members and advisors.

This included the Minister for Energy the Hon Chris Bowen regarding the AEMO VNI West project, and Minister for Environment and Water the Hon Tanya Plibersek MP around the Murray Darling Basin Plan, and impacts of further water buy backs.

Finally, we would like to acknowledge and thank Councillors, Council staff and the community, in what was a challenging – yet progressive – year.

The community spirit, including among Councillors and staff, emergency services and the people of Loddon Shire, shone through during the difficult times, further highlighting the care and commitment within our Shire community.

**Cr Dan Straub
Mayor**

**Lincoln Fitzgerald
Chief Executive Officer**

The year in review

Financial summary

Council's financial position continues to remain sound. A summary of our performance is outlined below. Detailed information relating to Council's financial performance is included within the financial statements and performance statement section of this report.

Operating position

Council finished the year with a surplus of \$6.95M. This surplus contrasts with the prior year surplus of \$2.0M. The Comprehensive Income Statement in the Financial Statements indicates that the variance is due mainly to the impairment of flood damaged assets as a result of the 2022 flood event. The adjusted underlying surplus of Council, after removing non-recurrent capital grants, cash capital contributions and nonmonetary capital contributions, is a deficit of \$15.12M or -37.44% when compared to adjusted underlying revenue.

Liquidity

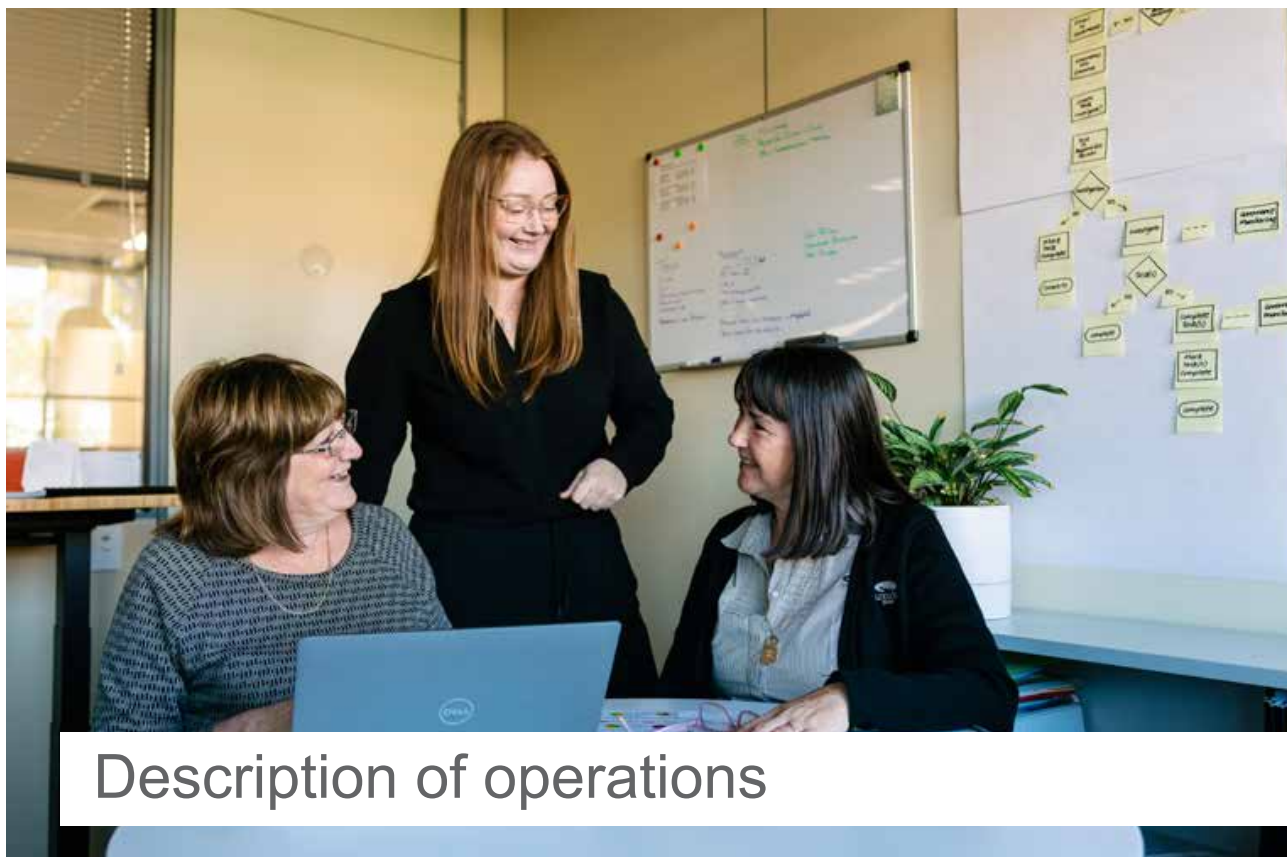
Cash has remained steady with another early payment of the Financial Assistance Grant allocation which is equivalent to 100% of the expected 2023/24 funding. This will enable Council to complete some of the scheduled works for 2023/24 far earlier than expected. The working capital ratio which assesses Council's ability to meet current commitments is calculated by measuring Council's current assets as a percentage of current liabilities. Council's result of 597% is an indicator of a satisfactory cash position. Council operates a number of reserves to fund future expenditure. The balance of these reserves at the end of 2022/23 was \$33.72M. This amount was held by Council in cash and term deposits at the end of the financial year.

Obligations

Council aims to maintain its infrastructure assets in accordance with its Asset Management Plans, while at the same time continuing to deliver the services needed by the community. To bridge the infrastructure gap, Council invested \$5.1M in renewal and upgrade works during the year. This was funded from grants, rate income and cash reserves with no borrowings. At the end of the year, Council's debt ratio, which is measured by comparing interest bearing loans and borrowings to rate revenue, was zero per cent. Council's asset renewal ratio, which is measured by comparing asset renewal and upgrade expenditure to depreciation, was just under 48%.

Stability and efficiency

Council has a range of revenue sources including rates, user fees, fines, grants and contributions. Council's rates concentration, which compares rate revenue to adjusted underlying revenue, was 30.41% for the financial year. Council was restricted to increasing its revenue base for the year by a 1.75% rate cap. This resulted in an average rate per assessment of \$1,276.55 which compares favourably to similar councils in rural Victoria.



Description of operations

Council is responsible for a variety of services, from family and children's services, parks and gardens, youth programs, waste management and community building, to matters concerning business development, planning for appropriate development and ensuring accountability for Council's budget.

This broad range of services and infrastructure for residents helps Loddon Shire to be a resilient, sustainable and prosperous community of communities. Council's vision, strategic objectives and strategies to further improve services and facilities are described in our Council Plan 2021-2025 and budget.

The delivery of services, facilities, support and advocacy to achieve the strategic objectives is measured by a set of strategic indicators, service performance indicators and measures. Council also has a wide range of responsibilities under Victorian and Commonwealth legislation.

Major capital works

During 2022/23 major capital works included:

Buildings

- Refurbishment works completed at the Korong Vale Mechanics Institute Hall.
- Septic projects completed at Tarnagulla and Eddington.
- New barbecue and shelter installed in Progress Park, Newbridge.

Roads, bridges and culverts

Council completed:

- 12.5km of local road shoulder resheets
- 30.0km of local road resheets
- New pedestrian safety barrier installation on Lakeside Drive, Boort
- Kerb and channel, underground drainage, and sealing in Grant Street, Inglewood

The year in review

- New footpaths in Newbridge and Wedderburn
- Godfrey Street culvert replacement in Wedderburn. The new culvert includes pedestrian access across the Nardoo Creek and much increased capacity for water flow under the culvert.

Flood Rectification Works

- 115 specific emergency works were undertaken to repair and restore road condition to an acceptable level of service to support the immediate flood recovery efforts.
- 3 packages of immediate restoration works undertaken to a value of \$1.2M dollars to restore the condition of a number of Council roads.
- Skinners Flat spillway emergency repairs undertaken to improve the safety of the reservoir.

Road inspections and maintenance

Inspection summary:

- 1,019 inspections were completed (3,266 defects raised).

Defect rectification:

- 7,420 defects were rectified, with 94.7% of all defects (7,027 in total) completed before their due date.

Regional Roads Victoria controlled roads

Council undertakes routine maintenance of pavement, shoulders, roadside areas, drainage systems, road furniture and structures on various arterial roads within Loddon Shire. Regional Roads Victoria-related requests or issues can be directed to Regional Roads Victoria by calling 133 778.

In 2022/23 1,956 defects were rectified, with 84.2% of all defects (1,646 in total) completed before their due date.

Maintenance program

860 maintenance grading work actions were completed resulting in 1,781km of grading and 3,736km of inspections.

Major changes

- Free kindergarten is among \$9 billion of reforms committed from the Victorian Government over the next decade for the early childhood sector. Free kindergarten in 2023 has increased the number of enrolments across Council's five services.
- Loddon has transitioned out of in-home care service provision with Boort District Health, Inglewood and Districts Health Service and Intereach awarded the 2023/24 Commonwealth and State contracts. The Regional Assessment Service is now contracted to Bendigo Health.
- Appointment of a flood relief and community recovery team.



Free kinder has increased enrolments across Loddon Shire.



Demolition works begin at Donaldson Park.

Major achievements

Assets and Infrastructure

- Skinners Flat emergency flood works saw all hands on deck.
- Donaldson Park redevelopment with the pavilion started after several years of planning.
- \$1.4M dollar grant secured from the Heavy Vehicle Safety and Productivity Program for the reconstruction and widening of 5.28km of Echuca Serpentine Road.
- Works Department management of road closures and emergency call outs during the October 2022 floods, which saw staff go above and beyond.

Community events

- Loddon Shire Council provided monetary support to 35 organisations holding 44 events throughout the Shire during the 2022/23 financial year. In total \$23,064 was allocated under Council's event promotion scheme.
- 10 community groups were successful in obtaining sponsorship for a major event. These included the Boort Pacing and Trotters Cup, Water Ski Victoria – Victorian State Titles, Laanecoorie Gold Bash, Rheola

Charity Carnival and the 2023 Minelab Wedderburn Detector Jamboree.

Community groups successful in obtaining minor event sponsorship included Boort Preschool Twilight Colour Run, Dingee Bowls Club Australia Day Tournament, Women by Water – Living and Learning through Connection to Nature, Mitiamo Golf Club Tournament and Rock Along the Loddon at Newbridge.

Community Project management

- The Community Support Policy was updated and adopted by Council at the April Council meeting. This policy details community support programs provided by Loddon Shire Council to its community groups for economic and tourism development, recreational and community activities, facilities and services, education and developing sustainable communities.
- A review of Council's Community Grant Program was completed by Council officers. At the September Council meeting, Council adopted the proposed amendments to the program including the change to being open all year round, with assessments and approvals taking place every three months.

The year in review

- Council’s 2022/23 Community Grants Program saw almost \$148K in funding allocated to 23 community groups.
- The Calivil Football and Netball Club completed internal works at the Calivil Hall to ensure its long-term viability and continued use by the community, with Council providing financial support via the community grants program.
- Searle Bros was awarded the contract for the Donaldson Park Community Hub redevelopment project. The project commenced in November 2022 and is on track to be completed in the first half of 2024.
- The installation of synthetic turf at the Boort Bowling Club was completed as part of Stage 1 of the Little Lake Boort Foreshore Recreation Precinct.

Compliance and development

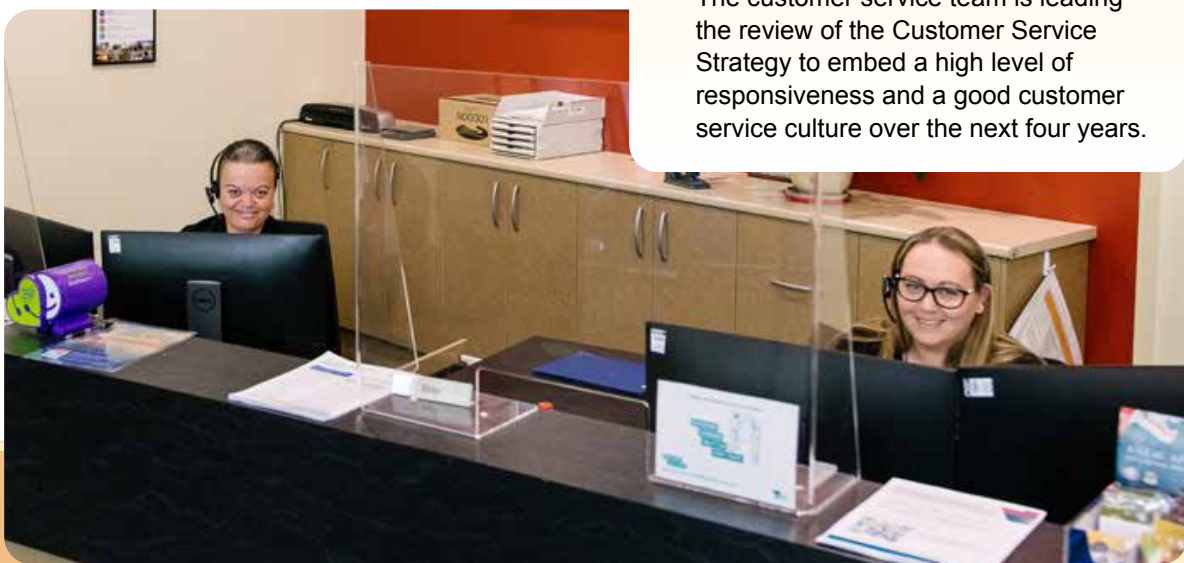
- Council has commenced the review of the previous Domestic Wastewater Management Plan (DWMP) and development of a new DWMP. This will not only review the previous plan, but will look at developing a risk matrix of onsite wastewater.
- Council adopted the new Community Local Law in November 2022. The document covers a range of laws, including laws relating to Council land, streets and roads, private property, animals and pets, waste and recycling, permits, and enforcement.

Early childhood and early years

- Free kindergarten was introduced in 2023 by the Victorian Government under its Best Start Best Life reforms. Subsequently, enrolment numbers have increased from last year with 108 enrolments in the combined 3 and 4 year old program across Council’s five services.
- Beginning to build towards the 2026 target of 30 hours of pre-prep (four year program) for Loddon. To support the increase in hours and therefore staffing requirements, the State Government has provided workforce and infrastructure planning funding.
- There were 54 birth notices in Loddon over the past 12 months with a Maternal Child Health service participation ratio of nearly 90% for children aged between 0 to 3.5 years. The number of births is lower compared to the previous year recording 71.

Customer service

- In July 2022, Council redirected all incoming Community Care department calls to form a single front line customer service team at the Wedderburn Office.
- The customer service team provided a high level of customer service to our community and to the internal flood relief team during the October 2022 flood event.
- The customer service team is leading the review of the Customer Service Strategy to embed a high level of responsiveness and a good customer service culture over the next four years.



Economic development

- Council became a member of Economic Development Australia to receive regular newsletters, access to training, seminars and workshops designed to build capability in supporting and enabling economic development across the Loddon Shire.
- The Tourism and Economic Development team collaborated with Regional Development Victoria to identify opportunities for sustainable economic growth through innovation.
- Nine eligible local businesses received funding through the State Government’s Outdoor Activation Fund. This included the design and construction of the Inglewood Town Hall Outdoor Event space. Council assisted these businesses with the fund, including management and acquittal of the funding.
- The promotion of the Invest Loddon Mallee website aimed to encourage investment in Loddon Shire. Additionally, Council started preparations for a content update on this website, as well as the business pages of the Loddon Shire Council website.
- Council continued to work with economic and demographic specialists, REMPLAN to analyse the performance of the local and regional economy. The recently acquired economic insights dashboard provides live data and reporting on key economic indicators including population, employment, housing and business counts.
- Through collaboration with Loddon Shire planners, the team supported the Unlocking Loddon’s Growth Potential project led by consultant Villawood Properties, to identify opportunities and priority sites for land/residential development.

- The collaboration with Loddon Shire planners also saw the Tourism and Economic Development team support the development of an Industrial Land Strategy, which is currently engaging with key businesses across the Loddon Shire involved in farming, food production, engineering, manufacturing and service industries.
- The Tourism and Economic Development team collaborated with Telstra on the development of the Loddon Shire Connectivity Plan, to identify key threats and opportunities in digital connectivity as an economic and community enabler.
- Council sponsored the Birchip Cropping Group to support the Young Farmer Network in the Loddon Shire.

Emergency management

- The Northern Victorian Emergency Management Cluster provided a comprehensive response to the October 2022 flood event inquiry.
- Emergency Management staff underwent training to support the provision of assistance to communities after disasters:
 - Introduction to personal support, eight people attended
 - Crisisworks training, 12 people attended
- Reviewed and updated the Municipal Pandemic Plan July 2022 and Municipal Emergency Animal Welfare Plan August 2022.



The year in review

Finance

- Review and improvements implemented to debt collection process.
- Ensured Council remained compliant with any changes or new legislation that was implemented.
- Implementation underway for the Rural Councils Corporate Collaboration project where finance are a key stakeholder.

Flood recovery

- Appointment of Community Recovery Manager and Community Recovery Officer.
- Establishment of Municipal Flood Recovery Committee, chaired by the Mayor.
- Health and Wellbeing subcommittee convened, providing constant contact with health and wellbeing support agencies and impacted community members.
- Community events in support of flood recovery, including the Loddon Valley Football Netball League Flood Recovery Round, collaborating with Newbridge Football Netball Club to host the special round.
- Publication of flood recovery newsletters to inform community of flood recovery efforts, activities and events.

Hard waste

The annual kerbside hard waste collection for 2023 commenced on Monday 6 March to coincide with Clean Up Australia Day. The annual hard waste collection of metal, e-waste, furniture and white goods for residents (excluding businesses) within township boundaries was completed over a two-week period with approximately 701 collections, including:

- 411 items of e-waste
- 120 white good items
- 195m³ of furniture
- 240m³ of metal
- 108m³ of waste.

308,334 kerbside garbage and recycling collection bin lifts were scheduled during the year with 62 (2.01%) kerbside garbage and recycling collection bins missed during normal operating conditions.



Waste management Pyramid Hill.

Governance

- Dedicated governance roles created.
- Tender process for Internal Audit Service Provision commenced.
- 2021/22 Annual report adopted.
- Councillors and officers commenced a comprehensive review of Council's Governance Rules.

Health and safety

Health and safety within our workforce is our number one priority, as it contributes to making Loddon a workplace of choice – a workplace where our people have a strong connection and involvement; and a place where our staff enjoy coming to work each day.

We strive to foster a safety culture that supports an incident and injury-free workplace for all employees, volunteers, contractors and visitors.

- Council's Occupational Health and Safety Committee meets quarterly and continues to work to make the organisation a safe and healthy place for all staff. Our committee, including staff health and safety representatives, receive regular refresher training and safety updates.

- Health and safety matters and data are routinely discussed at Management Executive Group and Loddon Leaders meetings, including reports from OHS Committee meetings from the committee's management representatives.
- Council continued its proactive approach to encourage Council staff to protect themselves and others from influenza. Council provides free vaccination against influenza to its workforce on an annual basis, with 37% of staff taking the opportunity to be immunised against influenza in 2022/23.
- Commenced work on development of a region-wide food system framework to help guide the six councils in the Loddon Campaspe region to create a healthy, equitable and sustainable regional food system. A number of projects were delivered in 2022/23 based on the outcomes from in-depth workshops and stakeholder feedback. These included:
 - Local food system work - Inglewood and Districts Health Service and Boort District Health received funding to establish onsite community gardens. The aim is to increase the number of children and adults living in Inglewood and Boort engaged in growing and consuming fruits and vegetables. Work is underway at both sites.
 - Commenced partnership with Grow It Local to encourage and educate residents about healthy eating, cooking and growing local food. This included an opportunity for Loddon Shire residents to receive free heirloom seeds to grow ingredients for Costa Georgiadis's famous Spanakopita, and to access free online workshops on topics such as regenerative growing and growing your own food from kitchen scraps.

Healthy Loddon Campaspe (HLC)

Projects supported by HLC

- HLC led the Healthy Sports Club project in Loddon Shire from January to June 2023. The project aimed to create healthy and sustainable food and drink environments, working directly with sporting clubs. Clubs that participated in the project included Pyramid Hill Football Netball Club, Calivil United Football Netball Club, Inglewood Football Netball Club and Bridgewater Football Netball Club. Tailored, one-on-one support was provided to each club, including menu development, canteen display modifications, signage to highlight healthy choices, promotional material and small-scale equipment purchases.



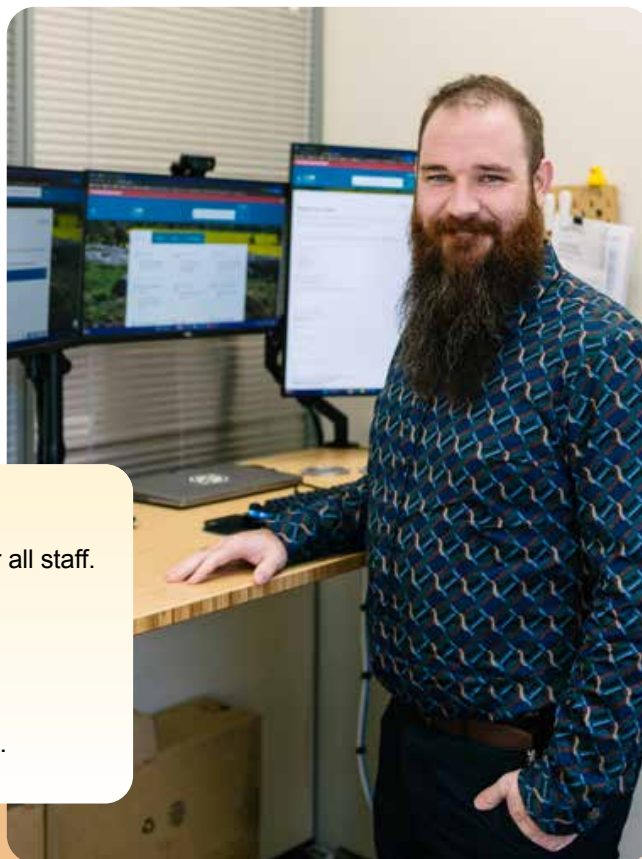
Cr Wendy Murphy (centre) tries out Inglewood's new outdoor fitness equipment, joined by (L-R) Loddon Shire Council Chief Executive Officer Lincoln Fitzgerald, Council's Director Community Wellbeing Wendy Gladman, and Inglewood and Districts Health Service's Shanaye Alexander.

The year in review

- Launch of the “Support Our Own. Choose Locally Grown.” campaign promoting Loddon Campaspe-grown fruit and vegetables. This ongoing campaign aims to enhance awareness and consumption of Loddon Campaspe-grown fruit and vegetables available at local food retailers, growers and farmers markets.
- A second HLC Adventure Bingo trail at Little Lake Boort was launched in April 2023 with the help of Grade 1 and 2 students from Boort District P-12 School. Adventure Bingo encourages residents to be physically active by walking trails across the Loddon Campaspe region. Participants spot points of interest listed on a grid and once they’ve spotted three items in a vertical, horizontal or diagonal line, they’ve got Bingo!
- Outdoor fitness equipment was installed in Inglewood and officially launched with the help of approximately 40 attendees in December 2022. The equipment encourages the local community to be active at no cost, and in their own time. Installation of the equipment was supported by the creation of free downloadable fitness programs, as well as free fitness sessions hosted by Inglewood and Districts Health Service throughout April 2023.
- As part of HLC’s work in Boort to enable more people to be more active, financial support was provided to the Nolen’s Park Parkrun launch on 1 October 2022. This was off the back of HLC funding path connections in previous years to develop an appropriate route that met Parkrun’s criteria.

Municipal public health and wellbeing

- Council participated in the most recent roll out of the State Government’s free Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) distribution program, including liaising with local distribution points and promoting availability.
- Director Community Wellbeing is a member of the Loddon Public Health Unit Loddon Primary Care and Population Health Advisory Sub-Committee.
- Council continued to pursue advocacy for a sustainable rural childcare model, including involvement in a project, ‘Sustainable Childcare for Rural Kids’ covering the regions of Wimmera, Southern Mallee, Mallee and Loddon/Campaspe (Loddon-Shire specific). This will further the initial work undertaken with Loddon’s feasibility business case by identifying childcare delivery options for integrated childcare services in rural and remote communities, including an economic analysis of each model and guidance on sustainable implementation.



Information technology

- Replacement of desktops with laptops for all staff.
- NBN connections for kinders.
- Updated staff phones and Telstra plans.
- Rolled out Microsoft 365.
- Transition of some services to Cloud tool.



Pyramid Hill Football Netball Club participated in the Healthy Sports Club initiative.

- Director Community Wellbeing returned as chair of the Buloke Loddon Gannawarra Health and Wellbeing Executives Network (BLG). Shared projects delivered or in progress in 2022/23 through the BLG include smoking prevention research, place-based antenatal service model, development of advocacy brief Increasing access to mental health supports in Buloke, Loddon and Gannawarra.
- Council is participating in the Loddon Local Safety Committee, facilitated by Victoria Police.
- Facilitated meetings of Loddon Healthy Minds Network every two months.

Organisation Development

- Capability Framework adopted in June 2023.

Parks and townships

- 3,364 programmed maintenance and defects that consisted of maintenance actions on footpaths, street and park trees, garden beds, grass mowing and playgrounds were rectified with 86.8% of all defects (2,921 in total) completed before their due date.
- Reached final stages of works to the Wedderburn Pioneer Caravan Park, in preparation for the replacement of three cabins in the 2023/24 financial year. The works are being funded by Council with matched funding from the Commonwealth Government Regional Growth Fund “Our Region Our Rivers” project.

Procurement

- Fleet management updates, such as disposal of excess vehicles, returning car pool to common fleet, implementation of a booking system and current review of fleet policy and procedure.
- Worked in conjunction with flood recovery teams regarding tender and selection of panel contractors for flood restoration works.
- Review procurement processes.
- Improved contract management systems and processes.

- Commenced work to replace the office at the Wedderburn Pioneer Caravan Park with construction offsite and ready for installation in the 2023/24 financial year.
- Completed an electrical audit at the Boort Lakes Holiday Park with rectification works to be undertaken in the 2023/24 financial year.

Records

- Council commenced a digitisation project in November 2022 including the digitisation of Property Files, Building Permits, Planning Permits and Public Health Permits to ensure records are easily accessible online going forward. This project is tracking on time and will be completed in November 2023. Based on the scoping of the project, three phases of digitisation were identified. Physical records scanned as part of phase 1 of the project were securely destroyed in May 2023. The physical records for phase 2 and 3 of the project will be securely destroyed by end of December 2023.
- A review of the Records Strategy and Records Policy is being undertaken, and will outline Council’s approach to records management over the next four years. A Data Management Team (DMT) has been formed and is guiding the review of this strategy and policy.

The year in review



Records management.

Strategic planning

- Ridge Street Residential Development – a feasibility assessment has been completed and presented to Council briefing.
- Industrial Land Strategy – a discussion paper was completed and presented to Council Briefing. Further investigations into business needs and opportunities has commenced.
- Detailed feasibility assessment of key residential development sites identified in the Settlement Strategy – Villawood Properties were engaged by Council following a successful funding submission to the Victorian Planning Authority. The project has identified opportunities to unlock vacant residential land in Loddon Shire.
- Loddon Planning Scheme – a review of the planning scheme has been completed. This review identified opportunities to update the scheme and further strategic work that is required to address new issues and improve the scheme's performance.
- Updated flood controls planning scheme amendment (Land Subject to Inundation Overlay and Floodway Overlay) – Council is working with the North Central Catchment Management Authority to incorporate revised flood mapping into the Loddon Planning Scheme to ensure that flood risk is accurately identified when new development is proposed.

- Tourism accommodation brochure – a brochure has been prepared to assist residents interested in using their land for tourist accommodation.
- Rural road procedure – a procedure has been prepared to assist staff to coordinate approvals for land use and development on rural roads to ensure upgrade and maintenance obligations are managed.

Statutory planning

- 109 applications were received, 94 were standard applications and 15 Vic Smart applications.
- 96.91% of standard applications were decided within the 60-day statutory timeframe.
- 100% of Vic Smart applications were decided within the 10-day statutory timeframe.
- The median number of days to determine a standard application was 28.
- The median number of days to determine a Vic Smart application was seven.

Tourism

- Engaged visitor economy experts Urban Enterprise to conduct a Loddon Shire Visitor Servicing Review, to inform plans to provide an informative, efficient and contemporary visitor experience.
- Engaged Stanford Marketing to review Loddon tourism and township brands and destination messaging, to support local tourism committees across the Loddon Shire.
- Supported Visitor Information Centre volunteers with a familiarisation tour and morning tea events.
- Attended the Australian Gold Prospectors Expo in Bendigo in April, which led to the development of a new guided gold prospecting tour, delivered by an Inglewood business.
- Contributed to the planning and development of regional tourism projects including the City and Region of Gastronomy and Goldfields World Heritage Bid, to advocate for local business.
- Implemented local tourism business engagement plan, including in-person manager attendance at all tourism and development committees and/or meetings with local community representatives.



Looking out from Mount Korong.

Waste management

- Residents are provided with four waste vouchers with their rates notices. Each voucher can be used to dispose of up to four cubic metres of general domestic waste free of charge at Council's landfill and transfer stations. This includes green waste, mixed recyclables, general household waste and e-waste (white goods, TVs, computers, electronic items, etc.).

Tyres, bricks and concrete, and mattresses are not included as these items have additional third party costs associated with their disposal, and are charged as per normal disposal charges.

In 2022/23 a total of 2,714 vouchers were used.

Youth

- Loddon Shire Council has partnered with Buloke and Gannawarra shire councils, Northern District Community Health (NDCH) and North Central Local Learning and Employment Network (NCLLEN) to deliver youth events and programs across the three municipalities. Combined with FReeZA funding, NDCH and NCLLEN have delivered music festivals, coffee making training and other youth initiatives and awareness campaigns.

Volunteers

- Council hosted a lunch and presented certificates of appreciation to Community Asset Committee members, Visitor Information Centre and Meals on Wheels volunteers at the Serpentine Recreation Reserve during National Volunteers Week in May 2023.
- Council ran a community-focused 'Recognise a Volunteer' campaign during National Volunteer Week in May 2023.
- Council continues to identify opportunities in the volunteer area to promote and recruit, support and develop, recognise, celebrate and value, and partner and collaborate. These are the key strategic directions in the Volunteer Strategy.

The year in review



Recovery continues following flood event

Loddon River at Bridgewater-on-Loddon, October floods 2022

In October 2022 Loddon Shire was hit by flooding, affecting many communities, with impacts similar to the January 2011 event.

A significant weather system in the lead up to 13 October resulted in flash flooding and riverine flooding in urban and rural areas throughout the Loddon Mallee region. Adjoining regions also experienced significant flood impacts.

Wedderburn had its wettest October on record with 228.2mm of rain (the previous record for October was 179.8mm in 1975), well above the October average monthly rainfall in Wedderburn of 44.2mm.

At the flood's peak, water volumes recorded at the Laanecoorie Reservoir spillway reached 145 gigalitres/day. This is more than 18 times the volume of Laanecoorie Reservoir.

The lead up to the flood event saw a Municipal Control Centre (MCC) established in Council's Wedderburn office. Sand bagging and other mitigating efforts, including construction of

levees and pumping were undertaken, with support from emergency service agencies, Council and community volunteers.

Emergency Relief Centres (ERC) were opened at Wedderburn, Bridgewater-on-Loddon, Calivil and Boort, and a centre placed on standby in Pyramid Hill. These centres were initially staffed by Loddon Shire Council with support from local community members and other local agencies. They were subsequently supported with staff from other councils via the MAV's Resource Sharing Protocol.

As a consequence of road closures, food, water, bedding, and other urgent supplies (supplied by the Salvation Army) and staff for some ERCs were brought in by helicopter. Some residents accessed ERCs in neighbouring municipalities, while others were able to relocate to family or friends.

Over the duration of the flooding at least 65 roads were closed for various lengths of time, with many other roads impacted. Repairs identified included:

- 117 culvert repairs or replacements
- 56 floodway repairs
- one bridge replacement
- 273km of gravel road re-sheets
- 50km of unsealed road shoulders to replace
- 14.25km of sealed road to be rebuilt
- Repairs required to:
 - Bridgewater-on-Loddon Caravan Park and swimming hole
 - Newbridge Recreation Reserve
 - Durham Ox Hall
 - Fentons Creek Hall
 - Donaldson Park fencing
 - replacement of two canoe launchers

The flood travelled north along the Loddon River, quickly impacting communities in the south of the Shire through to Bridgewater-on-Loddon. The water breached into the surrounding land north of Bridgewater-on-Loddon and fed or joined other significant water sources including the Bullock Creek, Bendigo Creek, Serpentine Creek, Kinypanial Creek and Calivil Creek. It directly impacted many farms and towns.

While Loddon Shire makes up just 11% of the broader Loddon Mallee region, our farmers' share was an estimated 70% of the region's stock losses. Harvest activity indicated significant crop damage and further impacts to flood-damaged roads.

As a result of the flood event, Council temporarily suspended its Road Management Plan and redeployed staff elsewhere to meet the needs of the community.



Top: Bridgewater floods. Above: Railway track crossing the Loddon River at Bridgewater-on-Loddon.

The year in review



Above: Newbridge Recreational Reserve. Top right: Relief centre supplies. Right: Bridgewater farmer Corie, rescued his sheep from floodwaters by boat.

The estimate of claimable expenditure under the Federal Government’s Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangement (DRFA) is \$36M. In addition, Council is undertaking a further \$8M of repairs, not funded by other levels of government, such as to caravan parks and sports/recreation infrastructure.

Following a publicly-advertised tender process and evaluation by an assessment panel, Council awarded seven packages of flood restoration works, including road resheeting and culvert repairs. These packages are in addition to the extensive work undertaken by works crews. Following the formal transition from flood response to flood recovery on 7 December 2022, Council employed a Community Recovery Manager and a Community Recovery Officer. The positions work collaboratively with Council staff and partner agencies to advocate for the resources needed to support our community’s recovery.

As per the Municipal Emergency Management Plan, a Municipal Flood Recovery Committee was established. Chaired by the Mayor, the committee provides guidance and support for recovery planning.

A Health and Wellbeing Sub-committee of the Municipal Flood Recovery Committee was convened to provide regular contact with the health and wellbeing support agencies along with impacted community members.

Council welcomed State Government announcements relating to support for impacted individuals and business, and continues to work with the Federal and State Governments on opportunities for funding for flood recovery efforts, including on roads and other infrastructure.

While as individuals we each faced our own challenges, we also saw amazingly resilient communities across the Shire work together, as soon as it was safe, to clean up after the flood and get back to business as usual.

Our Council



Shire profile

Geography

Loddon Shire is located in central Victoria, about 175 kilometres north-west of Melbourne. It is bounded by Gannawarra Shire in the north, the Shire of Campaspe and the City of Greater Bendigo in the east, Mount Alexander and Central Goldfields shires in the south and Northern Grampians and Buloke shires in the west.

Loddon Shire is a predominantly rural area, with many small towns and communities. The larger towns are Boort, Bridgewater-on-Loddon, Inglewood, Pyramid Hill and Wedderburn.

The Shire encompasses a total land area of approximately 6,700 square kilometres. Land is used mainly for agriculture and horticulture, particularly grain, sheep, wool, beef cattle, dairy, pigs and poultry.

In recent years, there has been an increase in viticulture, olives and fodder crops.

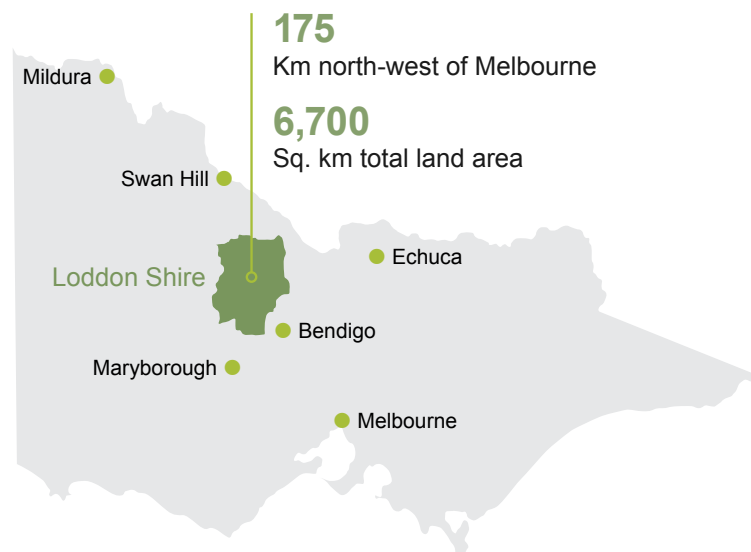
Major features of the Shire include the Loddon River, Terrick Terrick National Park, Leaghur State Park, Kooyoora State Park, Lake Boort, Major Mitchell Trail, Mount Korong, Melville Caves and Laanecoorie Reservoir.

Major highways passing through the Shire are the Calder Highway, the Loddon Valley Highway and the Wimmera Highway.

Population

The estimated resident population in Loddon Shire for 2022 was 7,729 with an overall median age of 52 years (Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS)).

During the year, Council recorded 54 births in the Shire.

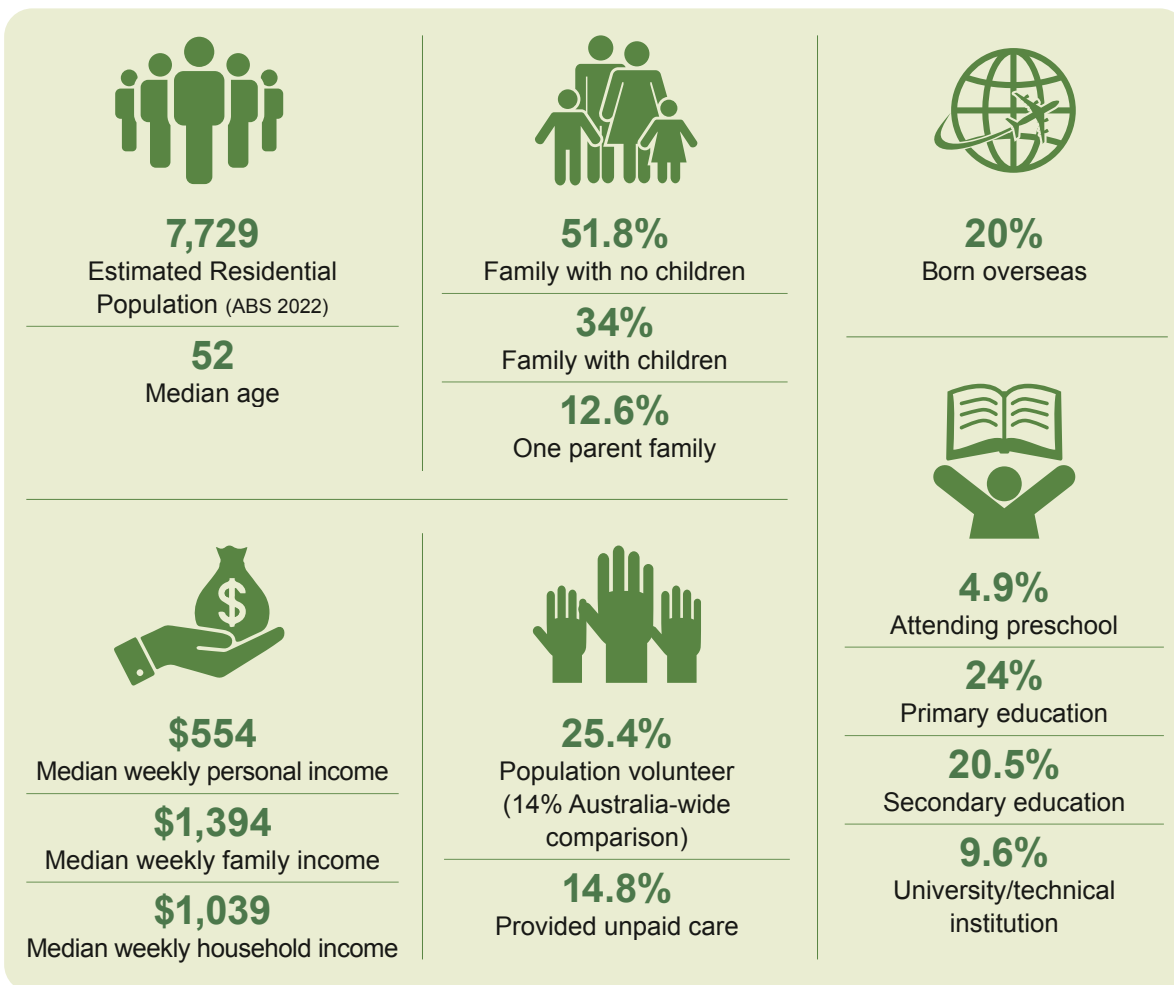


Family composition

Of the families in Loddon Shire, the ABS 2021 Census shows that 51.8% were a couple family without children and around 34% were a couple family with children, while 12.6% were one-parent families.

Origin

The 2021 Census shows a little over 20% of our residents were born overseas. The percentage of people born overseas has progressively increased from 7% in 2001. Other than Australia, the top five countries of birth were England, Philippines, New Zealand, Netherlands and Germany. The Philippines joined the top five most common countries of birth for the first time in 2016.



Median weekly incomes

According to the 2021 Census, the median weekly personal income in Loddon Shire was \$554.

The median weekly family income was \$1,394, while the median weekly household income was \$1,039.

Volunteers

Loddon Shire has a strong sense of self-reliance and community spirit, and this is reflected in the rate of volunteerism.

The 2021 Census showed 25.4% of the population volunteer and many of those volunteers held roles in a number of community organisations in the previous 12 months.

This figure is compared with a total of 14% in Australia. In addition, 14.8% of our people provided unpaid care for others.

Education

Overall, 4.9% of our youth population were attending preschool, 24% were in primary education and 20.5% were attending secondary education. Furthermore, 9.6% were attending further education, including university or a technical institution.

Our Council

Council contacts

Municipal office

41 High Street,
Wedderburn, 3518

Local call: 1300 365 200

Phone: (03) 5494 1200

Fax: (03) 5494 3003

Office hours: 8.15am - 4.45pm
Monday to Friday
(except public
holidays)

If you are deaf, or have a hearing or speech impairment, contact us through the National Relay Service.

- TTY/voice users phone 133 677 then ask for (03) 5494 1200
- Speak and Listen users phone 1300 555 727, then ask for (03) 5494 1200

For more information, visit:
www.relayservice.gov.au

Website:

www.loddon.vic.gov.au

Email:

loddon@loddon.vic.gov.au

Library services

Council's library services are provided by:

Goldfields Library Corporation

259 Hargreaves Street, Bendigo, 3550

PO Box 887, Bendigo, 3552

Telephone: (03) 5449 2790

Email: helpdesk@ncgrl.vic.gov.au

Website: www.ncgrl.vic.gov.au/libraryagencies

For enquiries about Loddon's library agencies, telephone (03) 5449 2790.

Library agency locations and opening hours

Boort

Boort Resource and Information Centre,
119 - 121 Godfrey Street, Boort

Hours: Monday to Friday 10.00am - 3.30pm

Closed from 12.30pm - 1.00pm

Dingee

Dingee Railway Station Progress Park,
Mack Street, Dingee

Hours: Tuesday 9.00am - 11.00am

Inglewood

Inglewood Community Neighbourhood House,
Inglewood Town Hall Hub, 20 Verdon Street, Inglewood

Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday
9.00am - 4.30pm

Pyramid Hill

Pyramid Hill Neighbourhood House,
Units 5-8 / 43-45 Kelly Street, Pyramid Hill

Hours: Tuesday to Friday 10.00am - 4.00pm

Tarnagulla

Tarnagulla Community Centre,
8 Sandy Creek Lane, Tarnagulla

Hours: First Monday of the month 2.00pm - 3.00pm

Wedderburn

Wedderburn Community Centre,
24 Wilson Street, Wedderburn

Hours: Monday to Friday 9.00am - 5.00pm

Maternal and child health centres

Council operates six maternal and child health centres.

Phone: (03) 5494 1201

Email: bookings@loddon.vic.gov.au

Online: www.loddon.vic.gov.au/Live/Services-for-our-younger-residents/Maternal-and-Child-Health-Service

Location / contact and opening hours

Boort

King Street M: 0409 166 891 **Hours:** Thursday 9.00am - 3.30pm

Dingee

Bush Nursing Centre, King Street M: 0409 166 891 **Hours:** Monday (weeks 1 and 3)
9.00am - 4.00pm

Inglewood

Grant Street M: 0409 166 891 **Hours:** Wednesday 8.30am - 4.00pm

Pyramid Hill

Senior Citizens Centre, McKay Street M: 0409 166 891 **Hours:** Monday (weeks 2 and 4)
9.00am - 3.00pm

Serpentine

Loddon Shire Council Office,
37 Peppercorn Way M: 0409 166 891 **Hours:** Tuesday (week 1)
9.00am - 12.00pm

Wedderburn

Community Centre, Wilson Street M: 0409 166 891 **Hours:** Tuesday (week 2 and 4)
9.00am - 3.30pm



Storytime at Loddon Shire kindergarten.

Our Council

Kindergartens

Council operates five kindergartens.

Location/contact and hours

Boort Pre-school

123 - 127 Godfrey Street, Boort, 3537

P: (03) 5455 2292 M: 0498 707 799

Hours: 4 year olds Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 8.45am - 1.45pm

3 year olds Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 8.45am - 1.45pm

Dingee Pre-school

785 Dingee-Serpentine Road, Dingee, 3571

P: (03) 5436 8401 M: 0498 606 345

Hours: 4 year olds Monday, Wednesday and Thursday 8.45am - 1.45pm

3 year olds Monday, Wednesday and Thursday 8.45am - 1.45pm

Inglewood Kindergarten

75A Grant Street, Inglewood, 3517

P: (03) 5438 3533 M: 0498 505 277

Hours: 4 year olds Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 8.45am - 1.45pm

3 year olds Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 8.45am - 1.45pm

Pyramid Hill Pre-school

67 Kelly Street, Pyramid Hill, 3575

P: (03) 5455 7230 M: 0498 606 023

Hours: 4 year olds Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 8.45am - 1.45pm

3 year olds Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 8.45am - 1.45pm

Wedderburn Kindergarten

77 Ridge Street, Wedderburn, 3518

M: 0498 707 005

Hours: 4 year olds Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 8.45am - 1.45pm

3 year olds Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 8.45am - 1.45pm

Landfill and transfer stations

Council operates three unlicensed landfills and three transfer stations.

Landfills are the most widely utilised solid waste management option. The waste is typically compacted in order to increase its density and stability, and covered to prevent the attraction of pests.

A transfer station is a building or processing site for the temporary disposal of waste.

All transfer stations and landfill facilities are closed on public holidays and Code Red days.

Location and hours

Boort landfill

Off Boort-Quambatook Road

Hours: Tuesday 8.00am - 12.00pm
Sunday 1.00pm - 5.00pm

Dingee transfer station

Lawry's Road

Hours: 1 April – 30 September

Third Sunday of month
10.00am - 2.00pm

1 October – 31 March

First Wednesday of month
8.00am - 12.00pm

Third Sunday of month
10.00am - 2.00pm

Inglewood transfer station

Inglewood-Salisbury Road

Hours: Wednesday 8.00am - 12.00pm
Saturday 8.00am - 12.00pm

Newbridge landfill

Ryan Street

Hours: Wednesday 1.00pm - 5.00pm
Sunday 1.00pm - 5.00pm

Pyramid Hill landfill

Ballast Road

Hours: Tuesday 1.00pm - 5.00pm
Sunday 8.00am - 12.00pm

Wedderburn transfer station

Godfrey Street

Hours: Thursday 8.00am - 12.00pm
Sunday 8.00am - 12.00pm

Councillors

Council elections were last held in October 2020.

The Council area is divided into five wards. There is one Councillor for each ward. Councillors have responsibility for setting the strategic direction for the municipality, policy development, identifying service standards and monitoring performance across the organisation.

Representing the community

Councillor representation on committees

Councillors provided representation on many local committees. This representation helps to ensure the community has access to Council and their voices are heard.



L to R: Cr Wendy Murphy, Cr Gavan Holt, Mayor Dan Straub, Cr Neil Beattie, Cr Linda Jungwirth

Our Council



Cr Dan Straub

Terrick Ward



First elected: 2020

As a local, choosing Tandarra as the place to start his family and buy a property was an obvious choice for Dan Straub. He believes the rural lifestyle and farming culture is one of the great strengths of Loddon Shire and something that he is passionate about.

Cr Straub has worked within the agricultural and construction industries, and as a husband and father of two young girls, understands the pressures on young families and the importance of local services.

His passions include working and advocating with rural communities on future farming practices, land access issues, recreational use of public land, water and environmental issues and the traditional Australian way of life.

Representation on committees

- Local Government Women's Charter (substitute)
- Loddon Campaspe Councils
- Murray River Group of Councils
- North Central Goldfields Regional Library Corporation
- North Central Local Learning Employment Network
- Rural Councils Victoria

Section 65 Community Asset Committees

- East Loddon Community Centre
- Pyramid Hill Memorial Hall



Cr Neil Beattie

Boort Ward



First elected: 2005

Neil Beattie, now retired from farming, lives on the edge of Lake Boort, enjoying the scenery.

Cr Beattie continues to operate a trucking company, and now owns Boort's newsagency. He credits these businesses, along with all of his community activities, with helping to keep his mind active.

He says that "travel and fishing make life pretty complete".

Cr Beattie is chair of Grain Co-op, in addition to representing Council on several other committees.

Representation on committees

- Audit and Risk Committee (substitute)
- Municipal Association of Victoria (substitute)
- Rail Freight Alliance

Section 65 Community Asset Committees

- Boort Aerodrome
- Boort Memorial Hall
- Boort Park
- Korong Vale Mechanics Institute Hall
- Korong Vale Sports Centre
- Little Lake Boort
- Yando Public Hall



**Cr Linda
Jungwirth**

Tarnagulla Ward



First elected: 2020

Linda Jungwirth lives in Tarnagulla and understands the unique benefits of country life. As a parent, grandparent and carer, Cr Jungwirth has plenty of experience with life's challenges as well as good times.

With a strong belief in the ability of communities to influence their own outcomes, in addition to representing Council on several committees, Cr Jungwirth is a current member of the Tarnagulla Community Centre and the Tarnagulla Parks Committees, and involved with many other committees and community activities.

Cr Jungwirth loves living in southern Loddon surrounded by history and the natural environment and really enjoys connecting with people in the community. Her favourite pastimes are camping, fishing and spending time with family and friends.

Representation on committees

- Australia Day Committee 2023
- Integrated Central Victorian Greenhouse Alliance
- Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee



Cr Gavan Holt

Wedderburn Ward



First elected: 2003

Gavan Holt is a fifth-generation resident in the Wedderburn district with an extensive family history of local government involvement.

After completing a commerce degree from the University of Melbourne, he taught for 10 years at various secondary schools across Victoria and he is now a businessman with interests in farming, investment and hotels.

Cr Holt has been appointed a Mayor Emeritus by the Municipal Association of Victoria. He is also an alumnus of the Australian Centre of Excellence for Local Government.

He lists his personal interests as politics, international affairs, travel and sport.

Representation on committees

- Audit and Risk Committee
- Calder Highway Improvement Committee (substitute)
- Municipal Association of Victoria

Section 65 Community Asset Committees

- Donaldson Park
- Hard Hill Tourist Reserve
- Wedderburn Community Centre
- Wedderburn Engine Park and Market Square Reserve
- Wedderburn Mechanics and Literary Institute Hall

Our Council



**Cr Wendy
Murphy**
Inglewood Ward



First elected: 2020

A proud sixth generation Inglewood local, Wendy Murphy grew up on her family’s poultry farm and has worked in local vineyards in Kingower, Bridgewater and Serpentine, and as a Laboratory Technician at an Echuca winery. Cr Murphy lives in Kurting with her husband and three children.

Completing a Bachelor of Applied Science (Natural Resources Management), Cr Murphy has worked at the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action for 19 years. Cr Murphy is active in the community, volunteering her time with numerous community groups and organisations. Cricket and local history are her main interests.

Cr Murphy took part in the Loddon Murray Community Leadership Program in 2017.

Representation on committees

- Australia Day Committee 2022
- Calder Highway Improvement Committee
- Local Government Women’s Charter
- Loddon Healthy Minds Network

Section 65 Community Asset Committees

- Campbells Forest Hall
- Inglewood Community Elderly Persons Units
- Inglewood Community Sports Centre
- Inglewood Town Hall Hub



Wehla Sunset. Photo: La Toya Schroeder.

Our people



Our people

Organisation



Council is the governing body that appoints a Chief Executive Officer (CEO). The CEO has responsibility for the day-to-day management of operations in accordance with applicable legislation and the strategic directions of the Council Plan.

The CEO and three directors form the Management Executive Group (MEG) and lead the organisation.

*Management Executive Group:
Wendy Gladman, Lincoln Fitzgerald,
Steven Phillips and Amanda Wilson.*

Chief Executive Officer

Lincoln Fitzgerald

Lincoln has a wealth of experience in local government, coming to Council from the City of Greater Bendigo and having previously worked for Mount Alexander Shire Council.

Lincoln has held diverse roles including project management of major projects, asset management, health promotion, strategy development, contract and facility management. Lincoln's career has focused on building, leading and managing diverse teams and large businesses in the region and overseas.

The Chief Executive Officer role of Council includes prescribed duties in accordance with the Local Government Act 2020, providing leadership to the Council, strategic planning, promoting external relationships, and managing the operations of the Council.

Director Corporate

Amanda Wilson

Amanda Wilson joined Council in March 2022, having previously worked in local government for nine years in both Victoria and New South Wales. Prior to local government, Amanda worked in private enterprise and the not-for-profit sector.

Amanda has held diverse roles including financial management, human resources, change management, marketing, governance and occupational health and safety. Amanda has qualifications in accounting, business, human resources, and work health and safety.

The Director Corporate role is responsible for the management of finance, rates, procurement, governance, risk, occupational health and safety, human resources, payroll, records management, customer support and information technology.

Director Operations

Steven Phillips

Steven Phillips was appointed as Director Operations in November 2017 after holding the position of Manager Works at Loddon Shire Council since 2011.

Steven commenced with Council in 2009 as the Assistant Manager Works. Steven has a Diploma in Forestry from Melbourne University’s School of Forestry, and has worked in the forestry and fire management sector, providing supervision and management of commercial timber harvesting operations, forest road infrastructure and fire management for several years before making the move to local government.

The Director Operations role is responsible for the management and ongoing delivery of a wide range of Council services including infrastructure policy and program development, works and maintenance, strategic and statutory planning, statutory building control, environmental and public health, local laws policy and compliance, contract management and engineering services.

Director Community Wellbeing

Wendy Gladman

Wendy Gladman was appointed as Director Community Wellbeing in July 2013 after holding the position of Manager Community Services since 2010.

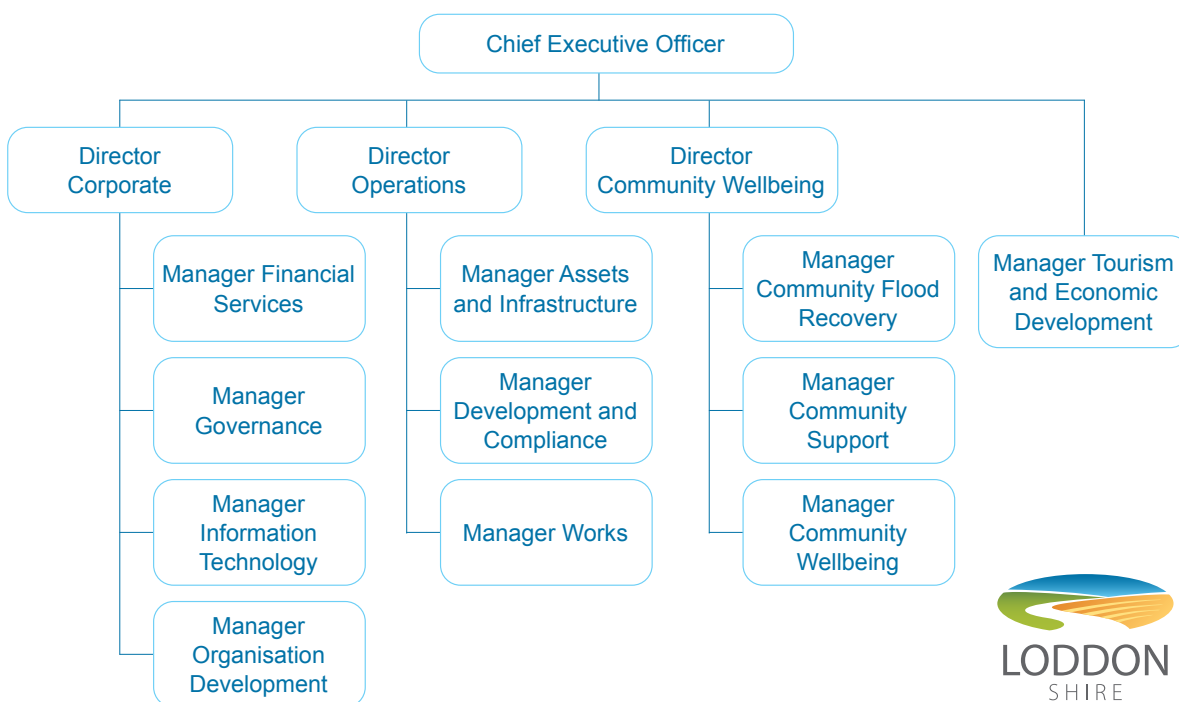
Wendy previously held a number of positions in aged and disability services since commencing with Council in 1995.

Wendy has extensive experience in local government, with a particular emphasis on delivery of community services and health and wellbeing.

Wendy has a Diploma of Business Management, a Diploma of Community Services Management, a Diploma of Business (Governance) and is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors (AICD).

The Director Community Wellbeing role is responsible for the management and delivery of a wide range of community services including early years, youth, aged and disability, sport and recreation, community planning, emergency management, community recovery, rural access and municipal public health and wellbeing.

Organisational structure



Our people

Loddon Leaders

The MEG is supported by Loddon Leaders, members are:

Corporate Services Directorate



Manager Financial Services, Deanne Caserta

Deanne Caserta commenced work with Council in 2004 in an administration capacity. In 2007 Deanne commenced as a Cadet Accountant and was awarded an accounting cadetship through Council's Scholarship Program. In 2012 she graduated with a Bachelor of Commerce and achieved CPA status in 2016.

Deanne's role involves overseeing the preparation of key finance documents including financial plan, annual budget and financial statements along with development and review of key financial strategies and policies. She is responsible for reporting to various government departments and the functions of accounts payable, accounts receivable, property/rating and procurement.



Manager Governance, Lisa Clue

Lisa Clue commenced with Council in August 2022, having previously worked in a number of roles within the local government sector.

Lisa has qualifications and experience in risk management, OHS and emergency management, as well as experience in a diverse range of other Council functions.

The Manager Governance role leads and manages the governance, risk, occupational health and safety and communications functions, which includes insurance, compliance and decision making through both Council and officer delegations.



Manager Organisation Development, Janine Jackson

Janine Jackson has extensive experience in local government having commenced with Council in 2004 in an administration capacity and from 2005 to 2020 successfully gaining appointment to roles in finance, payroll and human resources. In November 2020 Janine was appointed to the role of Manager Organisation Development.

The role of Manager Organisation Development encompasses human resource management including volunteers, organisation learning and development, payroll services, customer service and records management— while providing programs that support the development of a positive, engaging collaborative culture.



Manager Information Technology, Daniel Hirth

Daniel Hirth joined Council in 2022 after working in the private sector, including for a multi-national company with primary offices in the United States and United Kingdom.

Daniel has a Diploma of Information Technology: Networking, and has worked on a number of projects dedicated to digital transformation and improvement. These projects include delivery of IT infrastructure and security, disaster recovery and business continuity planning, multi-vendor system implementations (supporting a single, unified solution), and testing and implementation delivery of new customer and consumer websites.

The Manager Information Technology role is responsible for implementing key strategies relating to information technology and information management.

Executive Directorate



Manager Tourism and Economic Development, David Stretch

David Stretch commenced at Loddon Shire in October 2022 as the Manager Tourism and Economic Development.

David brings extensive business experience to the Council, having performed in both private sector and local government roles in marketing, business development and management.

The Manager Tourism and Economic Development is responsible for the implementation of Loddon Shire's economic development strategy and the support of tourism growth in the Shire and region.

Operations Directorate



Manager Assets and Infrastructure, David Southcombe

David Southcombe commenced with Council in 2018 in the Assets and Buildings Coordinator position and was appointed Manager Assets and Infrastructure in 2019.

David's previous experience includes holding positions in asset management, energy efficiency and operations.

His role is responsible for contract and project management, capital works program development and implementation, civil engineering design, and asset management.



Manager Works, Daniel Lloyd

Daniel Lloyd commenced with Council in July 2002 in an administration and GIS (Geographic Information System) capacity for the Technical Services Department. In September 2011, Daniel was appointed as the Assistant Manager Works before being appointed as the Manager Works in December 2017.

The Manager Works role includes the management of Council's day labour workforce and all subcontractors involved in the delivery of maintenance and construction activities on Council's road and township street network as well as Council's parks and gardens network, building maintenance and waste services.

This position is also responsible for Council's maintenance contract, plant fleet management activities and Municipal Emergency Response.



Manager Development and Compliance, Glenn Harvey

Glenn Harvey commenced with Council in August 2015 as the Municipal Building Surveyor (MBS), after working in the building industry for 35 years, both in the private sector as a builder and building surveyor, and in building control in local government.

In 2016 Glenn was appointed as the Manager Development and Compliance which resulted in the expansion of his responsibilities to encompass the management and oversight of Council's town planning, public health, local laws, animal management and building control. With this appointment, Glenn manages the broader portfolio of development and regulatory services which Council provides or administers for the local community.

Our people

Community Wellbeing Directorate



Manager Community Support, Paul Scullie (acting)

Paul Scullie commenced at Loddon Shire in 2020 as the Active Loddon Recreation Officer and was appointed Acting Manager Community Support in 2022.

He is currently studying full time, completing a Bachelor of Business, majoring in Sports Management. Paul previously worked for the AFL in Queensland, as well as in retail management.

The Manager Community Support is responsible for the management of Council's grant schemes and swimming pools, strategic planning for community facilities, community planning, project management of capital works projects and emergency management.



Manager Community Wellbeing, Sarah Perry (acting)

Sarah Perry returned to Council in 2019 as Project Liaison Officer in the Community Support Department, and was appointed Manager Community Support in 2021 after 12 months acting in the role.

In 2022, Sarah was seconded into the Manager Community Wellbeing role to provide continuity and support to the department. Sarah's previous local government experience has been working for Loddon Shire and Campaspe Shire councils as a Statutory Planner.

The Manager Community Wellbeing is responsible for contributing to improved health and wellbeing outcomes for the Loddon community through the development and implementation of the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan, delivery of aged and disability services, children and youth services and other community service/wellbeing programs and by developing and culturing partnerships and collaborative working relationships.



Manager Community Recovery, Malcolm Brown

Malcolm Brown commenced at Loddon Shire Council in December 2022 as the Manager Community Recovery following the October 2022 flood event.

The Manager Community Recovery is responsible for managing the planning, programming and delivery of community recovery initiatives in partnership with a diverse range of internal and external stakeholders.

The position facilitates the Municipal Flood Recovery Committee, and oversees the community recovery plan.

Council staff

Welcome to new staff

| | | | |
|----------------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Alexandra Baldwin | Jon Lowther | Malcolm Brown | Ronald Bramley |
| Ashley Opie | Josie McKinnon | Malcolm Joyce | Sonia Galloway |
| Bradd Worrell | Julian Neale | Matthew Tansley | Stephen Gardner |
| Claire Harrison | Kalyan Khanal | Melissa Dowton | Tammy Peter |
| Coby Cunningham | Karen Apostol | Melissa Phillips | Toni Walton |
| Crystal-Lee Hardiman | Kylie Turnbull | Oswald Costello | Tracy Hunt |
| David Stretch | Lisa Clue | Peter Hamilton | |
| Erin McAlinden | Luke Last | Renae Colls | |
| Jessica Higgins | Luke McClelland | Robyn Vella | |



Council staff – Above left: Executive directorate.
 Above right: Community Wellbeing directorate.
 Right: Corporate directorate.
 Below: Operations directorate.



Our people

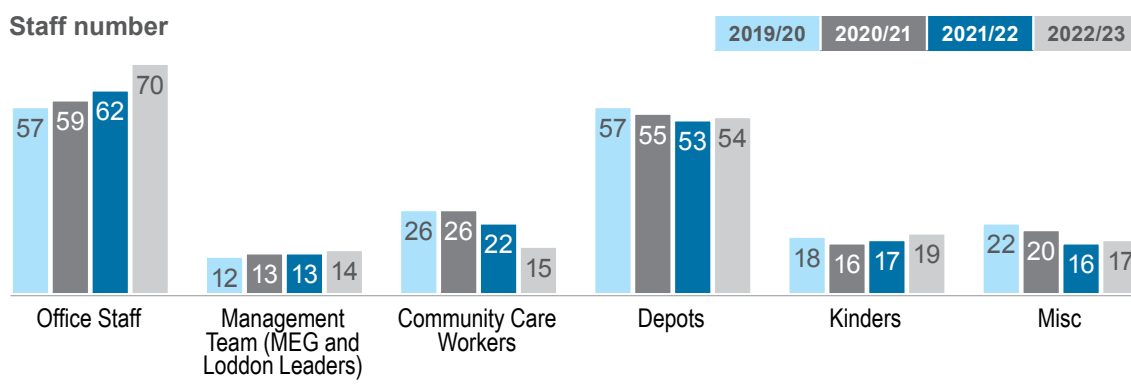
Staff analysis

Number

As at 30 June 2023, Council employed 189 staff in total, with an effective full-time equivalent staff of 141.70, an increase of six staff over the past 12 months. The increase is attributed to staff employed to assist with the recovery from the October 2022 flood event.

Most Council staff work from depots, in offices or as Community Care Workers.

Other Council worksites are pre-schools, recycling stations, school crossings and maternal and child health centres.



Status

Council employs 105 full-time, 58 part-time and 26 casual staff.

Gender

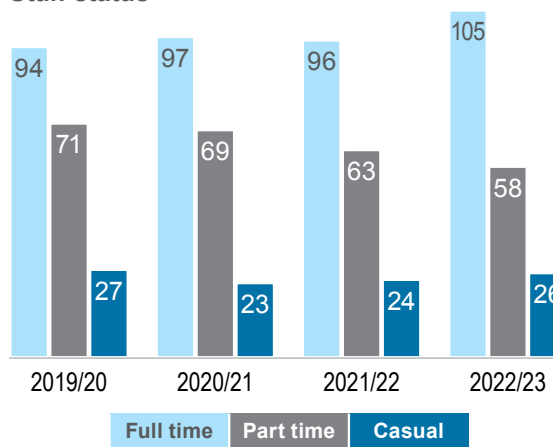
Of the 189 staff employed by Council, 51.85% are female and 48.15% are male, with zero per cent self-described.

There is a larger percentage of female staff working in areas such as community care, pre-school and administration areas.

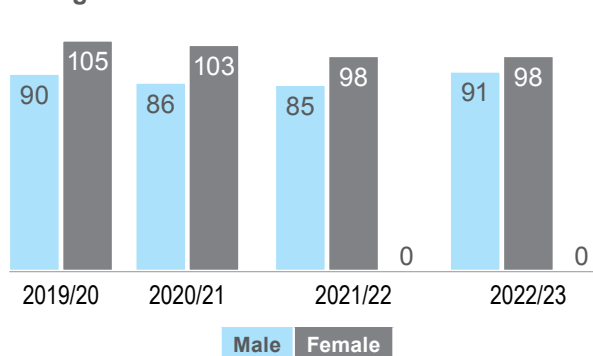
A larger percentage of male staff work within Council's five operational depots.

The management team has a slightly higher number of males than females (eight males compared with six females).

Staff status



Staff gender



Age

Council’s age demographic continues to show a large proportion of staff over the age of 46.

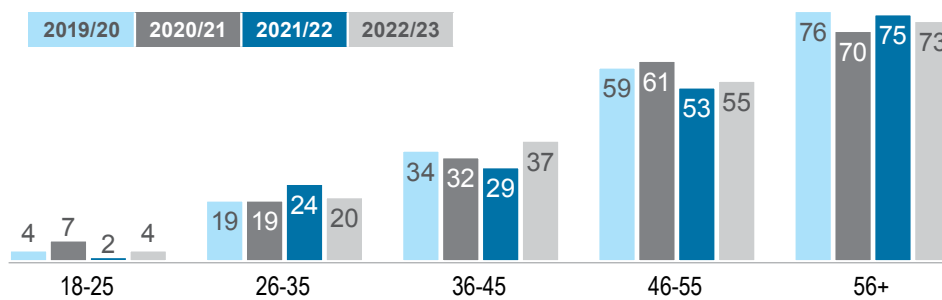
There has been considerable growth in the 34 to 45 age group, increasing by eight from the last financial year.

Council has seen growth in the 18 to 25 age group, increasing by two, however the 26 to 35 age group has decreased by four.

This data represents the challenges in workforce planning due to the high proportion of staff over the age of 46 and the slow increase of staff under the age of 35. There are some positive signs with the increase of staff in the 18 to 25 year age group.

Length of service

Staff age



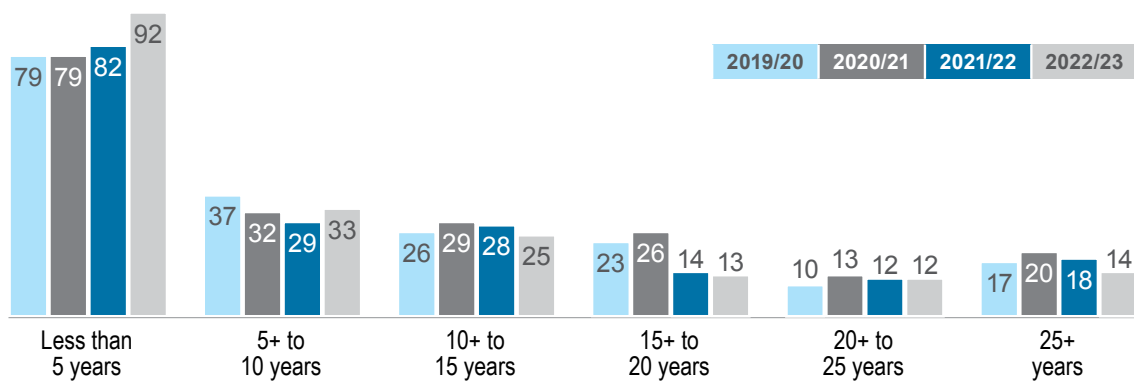
Our people



Staff member farewell at the Wedderburn Depot.

48.68% of staff have been employed by Council for less than five years, while 30.69% of staff have been employed for five to 15 years and 20.63% of staff have been employed for over 15 years.

Length of service



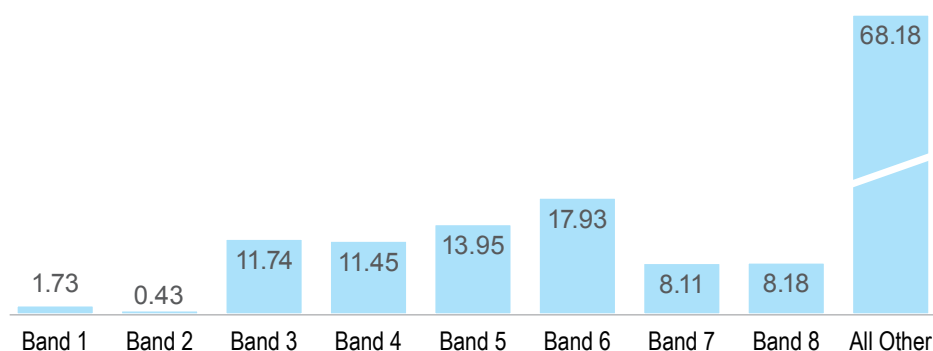
Council staff classification

Structure classification – employee type

A summary of the number of full-time equivalent (FTE) staff categorised by employment classification and gender is set out below. Employment classifications are Band 1 to 8 as per the Victorian Local Government Award 2001. The column 'all other' includes the CEO, Directors, pre-school staff, nurses and staff who come under the 'outdoor staff' classification structure.

| Structure Classification | Band 1 | Band 2 | Band 3 | Band 4 | Band 5 | Band 6 | Band 7 | Band 8 | All Other | Total |
|--------------------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|---------------|
| Permanent FT-F | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 20 |
| Non-Permanent FT – F | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 8 |
| Permanent FT – M | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 4 | 51 | 67 |
| Non-Permanent FT-M | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 10 |
| Permanent FT – X | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Permanent PT – F | 1.20 | | 7.98 | 2.82 | 3.95 | 1.89 | 0.48 | 0 | 6.97 | 25.29 |
| Non-Permanent PT – F | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.63 | 0 | 0.63 | 0 | 0 | 1.41 | 2.67 |
| Permanent PT – M | 0.42 | 0.41 | 1.61 | 0 | 0 | 0.73 | 0 | 0 | 0.90 | 4.07 |
| Non-Permanent PT - M | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.68 | 0.63 | 0 | 0 | 1.31 |
| Permanent PT - X | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Casual - F | 0.05 | 0 | 2.15 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.18 | 0.90 | 3.28 |
| Casual – M | 0.06 | 0.02 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.08 |
| Casual - X | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 1.73 | 0.43 | 11.74 | 11.45 | 13.95 | 17.93 | 8.11 | 8.18 | 68.18 | 141.70 |

Structure classification – employee type



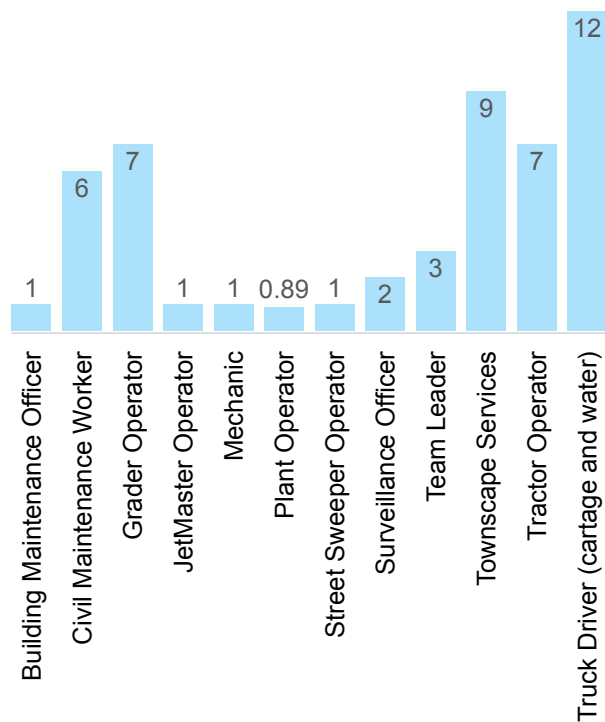
Our people

Outdoor staff – classification structure

A summary of the number of full-time equivalent (FTE) staff categorised by the Loddon Shire outdoor staff employment classification structure and gender is set out below.

| Position | Males | Females |
|----------------------------------|--------------|----------|
| Building Maintenance Officer | 1 | 0 |
| Civil Maintenance Worker | 6 | 0 |
| Grader Operator | 7 | 0 |
| JetMaster Operator | 1 | 0 |
| Mechanic | 1 | 0 |
| Plant Operator | 0.89 | 0 |
| Street Sweeper Operator | 1 | 0 |
| Surveillance Officer | 2 | 0 |
| Team Leader | 3 | 0 |
| Townscape Services | 9 | 0 |
| Tractor Operator | 7 | 0 |
| Truck Driver (Cartage and Water) | 12 | 0 |
| Total | 50.89 | 0 |

Outdoor staff – classification structure

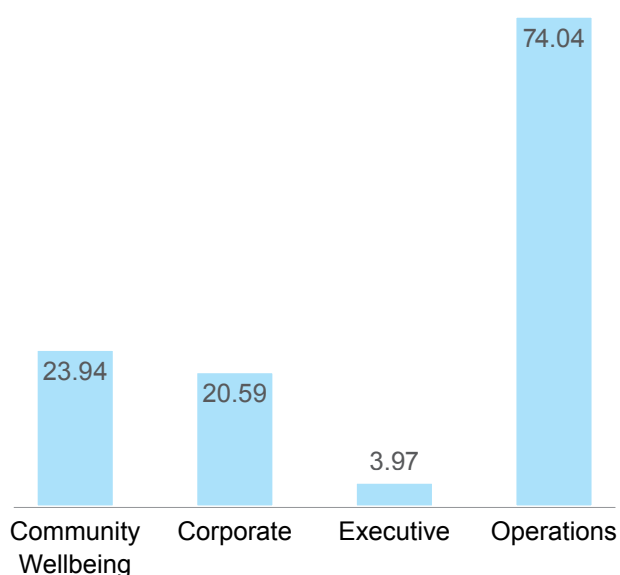


Our people

Directorate – employee type/gender

A summary of the number of Council staff by organisational structure, employment type and gender is set out below.

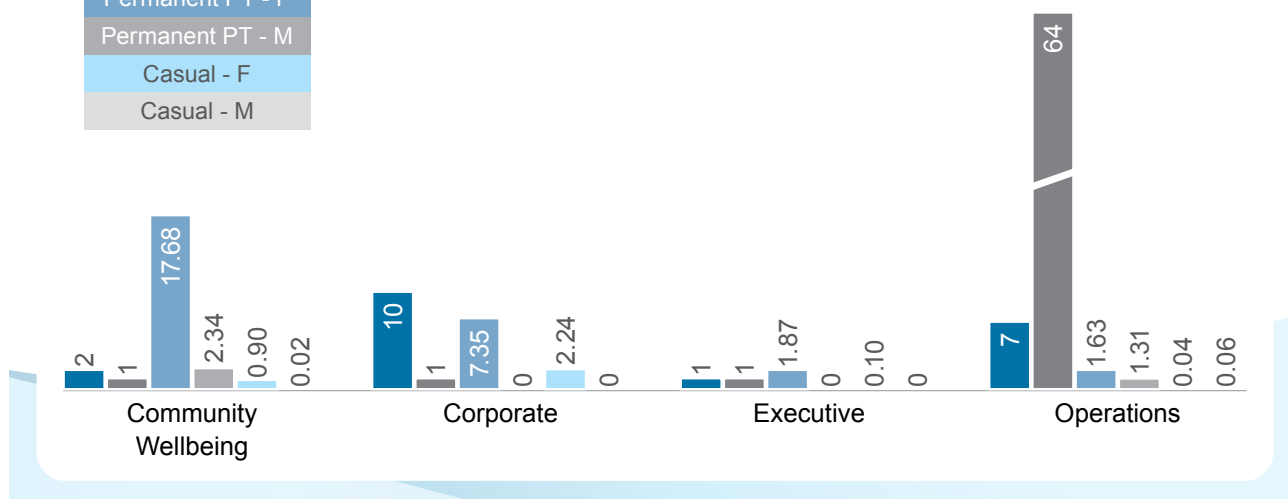
| Directorate | FTE |
|----------------------------------|-------|
| Community Wellbeing | 23.94 |
| Corporate | 20.59 |
| Tourism and Economic Development | 3.97 |
| Operations | 74.04 |



| Employee Type and Gender | Community Wellbeing | Corporate | Tourism and Economic Development | Operations |
|--------------------------|---------------------|-----------|----------------------------------|------------|
| Permanent FT- F | 2 | 10 | 1 | 7 |
| Permanent FT - M | 1 | 1 | 1 | 64 |
| Permanent PT - F | 17.68 | 7.35 | 1.87 | 1.63 |
| Permanent PT - M | 2.34 | 0 | 0 | 1.31 |
| Casual - F | 0.90 | 2.24 | 0.10 | 0.04 |
| Casual - M | 0.02 | 0 | 0 | 0.06 |

Employee type and gender

| |
|------------------|
| Permanent FT - F |
| Permanent FT - M |
| Permanent PT - F |
| Permanent PT - M |
| Casual - F |
| Casual - M |



Our people _____

Staff farewells

Over 50 years

Allan Jackson

Allan Jackson commenced with the Shire of Korong on 14 July 1973 as a Backhoe Operator. Following amalgamation in 1995, the Shire of Loddon was formed and Allan was appointed Team Leader of the road maintenance team on 27 May 1996.

A farewell celebration was held for Allan where he was acknowledged for 50 years of dedicated service to the Shire of Korong and then Loddon.



Allan Jackson provided 51 years of dedicated service to the Shire of Korong and Loddon Shire.

Over 40 years

- _____ Evelyn Morrison
- _____ Graeme Smith
- _____ Owen Bailey

Over 30 years

- _____ Denise Kosmatos
- _____ Michele Schmidt

Over 20 years

- _____ Julie Dean
- _____ Kerry Younghusband
- _____ Lorraine Fawcett
- _____ Peter Norman
- _____ Roslyn Stone

Over 10 years

- _____ Anja James
- _____ Irene Spencer
- _____ Kristy Simpson
- _____ Ross Conway
- _____ Tina Bone

Over 5 years

- _____ Catherine Lee
- _____ Daniel McNish
- _____ Dede-Jo Williams
- _____ Grant Jackson
- _____ Judith Knight
- _____ LaToya Schroeder
- _____ Leeanne Rollinson
- _____ Michael Thornton
- _____ Rodney Wilson
- _____ Sarah Todd



Owen Bailey, Evelyn Morrison and Graeme Smith retired after 40 years of service.



Staff recruitment and retention

Onboarding and induction

Council reaffirmed its commitment to ensuring a smooth induction process for new staff by introducing the Pulse induction system. This all-inclusive system allows all commencement and payroll documentation to be submitted electronically, as well as information about Council to be delivered in a modern and engaging way. Feedback has been positive with enhancements continuing to create greater efficiencies.

Further, Council's Organisation Development team run a biannual Corporate Induction day where new staff gather to learn more about how local government is structured, our Councillors, and to meet subject matter experts from all departments to better understand the wide range of services staff deliver for our community.

Staff Health and Wellbeing Program

Council is committed to looking after the health and wellbeing of all staff.

Council's Health and Wellbeing Committee provides the foundation at Council for developing activities and implementing initiatives that support the health and wellbeing of all employees.

These activities and initiatives include:

- workplace-specific programs to address lifestyle, health, fitness and safety issues
- proactively managing risk of illness
- encouraging and allowing staff to maintain a positive work life balance
- actively promoting exercise, healthy eating and a smoke-free environment to improve or maintain staff members' personal wellbeing
- providing targeted physical and mental health and wellbeing programs

Our people

- ensuring all staff have access to the Employee Assistance Program and regularly promoting its services
- providing relevant resources to staff pertaining to health and wellbeing via Council's dedicated intranet page.

Programs offered to all staff in 2022/23 included:

- Active April activities
- Flu vaccinations
- Healthy eating initiatives
- Mental Health First Aid Training
- MindFit at Work sessions
- Skin checks

Achievement Program

The Achievement Program is a Victorian Government initiative that aims to encourage healthier lifestyles and prevent lifestyle-related diseases. The program provides a framework for promoting health in the workplace. Council's Health and Wellbeing Committee organises regular activities for staff aligned with the goals of the program.

Employee Assistance Program

Council offers a free, confidential Employee Assistance Program for staff who are experiencing difficulties in their personal or professional lives.

Car pooling

Council has a car pooling program for staff travelling to the Wedderburn office.

Senior staff are rostered to drive their cars on specific days or in some instances staff are able to access a pool car to ride share. Staff meet at a central point and return to that point at the end of the day.

Enterprise Agreements

Council staff are employed under two Enterprise Agreements being:

- Loddon Shire Enterprise Agreement
- Early Education Employees Enterprise Agreement.





Loddon Shire Enterprise Agreement

An Enterprise Bargaining Committee was formed in August 2021 to negotiate a new Enterprise Agreement for Council employees. The new agreement was approved by the Fair Work Commission, and began operation from 5 September 2022. The nominal expiry date of this agreement is 30 June 2025.

Early Education Employees Enterprise Agreement

Council's early years staff are employed under the Early Education Employees Enterprise Agreement. This agreement is a multi-employer enterprise agreement.

The agreement is negotiated with the Australian Education Union by the Municipal Association of Victoria on behalf of the 22 councils involved.

In April 2021, the Early Education Employees Enterprise Agreement 2020 was approved by the Fair Work Commission and commenced operation from 28 April 2021. It has a nominal expiry date of 30 September 2024.

Communicating with staff

Staff newsletter

The staff newsletter is circulated periodically, featuring content inspired by both the organisation and its employees. It showcases stories, events, and milestones that encapsulate our experiences within the office and the broader community.

Five staff newsletters were circulated over the past 12 months.

Intranet

Council has an intranet site that is used to communicate information. All staff have access to Council's intranet.

All-staff meetings

All-staff meetings are held bi-annually and provide the opportunity to inform staff about current events, have presentations from external groups, provide training, recognise staff achievements (both personal and professional) and allow for staff to ask questions of the Management Executive Group.

Due to the October flood event, the October 2022 all staff meeting was cancelled. An all-staff meeting was held in March 2023 at the Serpentine Hall.

Our people

Staff years of service recognition

The Staff Recognition of Service Policy provides for staff to receive a Certificate of Service for each five years of service, with a Certificate of Service and badge at each 10-year increment.

Staff who had reached service periods of 10 and 20 years were presented with Certificates of Recognition and a Service Badge, and staff who had reached service periods of five, 15 and 25 years were presented with Certificates of Recognition.

These awards were presented to each staff member in November 2022 and March 2023.

The staff who received recognition for their service were:

| 50 year certificate and badge | 20 year certificate and badge | 15 year certificate | 10 year certificate and badge | 5 year certificate |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| Alan Jackson | Brian Gladman | Alison Dean | Carol Stephenson | Adam Cooper |
| | Denise Bridges | Bob Montebello | Fiona Turnbull | Ben Rose |
| | Lyn Don | Christine Coombes | Irene Spencer | Claire Leunig |
| | | Heather Gale | Kristy Simpson | David Price |
| | | Ron Kuno | Stacey Williamson | Melissa Downton |
| | | | Vicki Andrew | Olga Gontscharow |
| 35 year certificate | | | | |
| Darren Hunt | | | | |
| 30 year certificate and badge | | | | |
| Travis Jackson | | | | |



Staff service awards Darren Hunt 35 years and Travis Jackson 30 years presented by Director Operations, Steven Phillips.

Other staff matters

Equal employment opportunity program

Council supports access and equity for all employees and recognises diversity as a valuable strength that will create benefits for employees and the community.

Council supports access and equity for all employees and recognises diversity as a valuable strength that will create benefits for employees and the community.

Council's Equal Opportunity and Anti-Discrimination Policy demonstrates that Council has zero tolerance to any unlawful discrimination both indirect and direct on the basis of attributes and areas listed under both State and Federal anti-discrimination legislation and the Fair Work Act 2009. Council regularly reviews its policies, procedures and practices to ensure equity and transparency for all staff.

Council regularly reviews its policies, procedures and practices to ensure equity and transparency for all staff.

Gender Equality Act 2020

The Gender Equality Act 2020 commenced on 31 March 2021 and requires defined entities such as Victorian councils to take positive action towards achieving workplace gender equality.

Requirements of the Act include:

- Develop and implement a Gender Equality Action Plan, which includes:
 - results of a workplace gender audit
 - strategies for achieving workplace gender equality
- Publicly report on progress in relation to gender equality via a Gender Equality Audit
- Promote gender equality in policies, programs and services that impact the public by completing gender impact assessments.

Council is required to submit a progress report to the Commission for Gender Equality in the Public Sector in February 2024.



Last day community care staff.

The progress report will include:

- the policies, programs and services that were subject to a gender impact assessment
- the actions taken as a result of each gender impact assessment
- progress in relation to the measures and strategies set out in our Gender Equality Action Plan
- progress in relation to the workplace gender equality indicators

Professional development

Staff training and development program

Council enables continuous learning and career growth in line with individual aspirations and Council's goals, and is committed to providing staff with access to development opportunities and training that is required for legislative purposes to keep qualifications current.

Every year, staff members identify job-related training and development they would like to undertake in the following year as part of their annual performance development review.

Council also offers study support to permanent staff with more than 12 months service.

Our people

During the year, Council staff undertook training courses in the following areas:

Managing risk

Dealing with Complex Behaviour

Fraud and Corruption

Health and Wellbeing

Cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and First Aid

Emergency First Aid Response in Education and Care Setting

Mental Health First Aid

MindFit

Loddon leadership and personal effectiveness

Birkman

Job-related training

Asset Edge Conference

Emergency Management training

FinPro Conferences

Fringe Benefits Tax Roadshow

Loddon Induction

Taxation and Payroll

Victorian Tourism Industry Council Summit

Visitor Information Services Summit (VTIC)

Australasian Management Challenge

A team of seven staff members named The Loddoneers travelled to Maroondah City Council to compete against 26 other teams and had 13 teams in direct competition including Stonnington, Melton, Boroondarra, Northern Grampians, Swan Hill, Darebin, Hepburn, Port Phillip, Merri-bek, Yarra Ranges, East Gippsland and South Gippsland.

The team was required to complete quite a number of challenges with competing deadlines including media releases, radio advert for waste management, community consultation plan, a performance review, consultation with a Minister’s advisor, compilation of a number of reports and cost benefit and risk analysis, as well as a group presentation to conclude the day.

Scores from a pre-challenge task along with the weightings of each task are collated and the winners of the Victorian competition to go on to compete nationally.

Return to work information

Council actively supports injured workers to return to work by providing support such as:

- a dedicated Return to Work Coordinator
- regular contact and support
- collaboration in creating a return to work plan
- identifying alternative duties

Study support

Council has a staff study support program aimed at encouraging further study and reducing the financial burden of undertaking further study.

During the year, two employees had their application approved to undertake further study:

- Darcy Jackson – Bachelor Urban, Rural and Environmental Planning
- Paul Scullie – Bachelor of Business (majoring in Sports Management)



Staff member Darcy Jackson who has undertaken further studies.



Staff CPR training.

eLearning

Council partnered with Horsham Rural City Council, Gannawarra Shire Council and Central Goldfields Shire Council to purchase eLearning Compliance Modules. All staff are required to complete the following compliance modules:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Course
- Child Safe Standards
- Culture
- Disability Awareness
- Equal Employment Opportunity
- Fraud and Corruption Awareness
- Gender Course
- Human Rights and Responsibilities
- Information Privacy
- Occupational Health and Safety
- Workplace Bullying and Harassment

Traineeships

Council supports staff who are prepared to undertake traineeships in their field.

The traineeship program was accessed during the year by Crystal Hardiman who commenced a Certificate II in business. Crystal has completed four modules and will complete the remaining modules during 2023.

During 2022/23 Council has been partnering with CVGT Employment with a vision to engage three trainees across various areas of Council in 2023/24.

Qualifications

The following staff graduated with qualifications during the year:

- Catherine Lee – Certificate IV in Individual Care
- Cheryl Fowler – Certificate IV in Individual Care
- Genevieve Plozza – Diploma of Business
- Joanne Rossiter – Diploma of Early Childhood Education and Care

Council's support is provided in the form of time to attend required classes and in financial assistance for some of the cost of the course.

Work experience program

Council supports work experience programs and hosts students in Years 10, 11 and 12, and students undertaking tertiary studies.

During the year, Council hosted the following students:

- Crystal Hardiman
- Jubayer Arman
- Lauren Gawne
- Tyson Woodman

Tertiary student

Although Council did not host a tertiary student over the last 12 months, Council will continue to partner with universities for opportunities as they arise.

Our people

School-based apprenticeships and work placements

Over the years, Council has hosted many students under school-based apprenticeships. This program provides a learning environment in the workplace while students remain at school. During 2022/23 Council hosted Conrad Sugden who assisted our mechanics with vehicle and plant repairs.

Staff values workshop

In May 2023, workshops were held to allow staff to have their say on Council's current values and generate ideas to create a new set of values for staff. The workshops were delivered by the Human Resources Coordinator and utilised a 'bottom up' approach to allow for an inclusive and collaborative process. Feedback was then collated from each workshop, and sent out for consultation in the new financial year. Once consultation closes, one final workshop will be conducted to ensure the proposed values are clear and concise, before a final report is presented to the Management Executive Group for endorsement.

Volunteers

Council recognises that volunteers are the backbone behind its communities and in 2022 adopted the second Volunteer Strategy that captures Council's vision and approach to supporting and growing community volunteering across the Shire.

The Strategy includes four strategic directions:

- Promote and Recruit
- Quality and Culture
- Recognise, Celebrate and Value
- Support and Develop

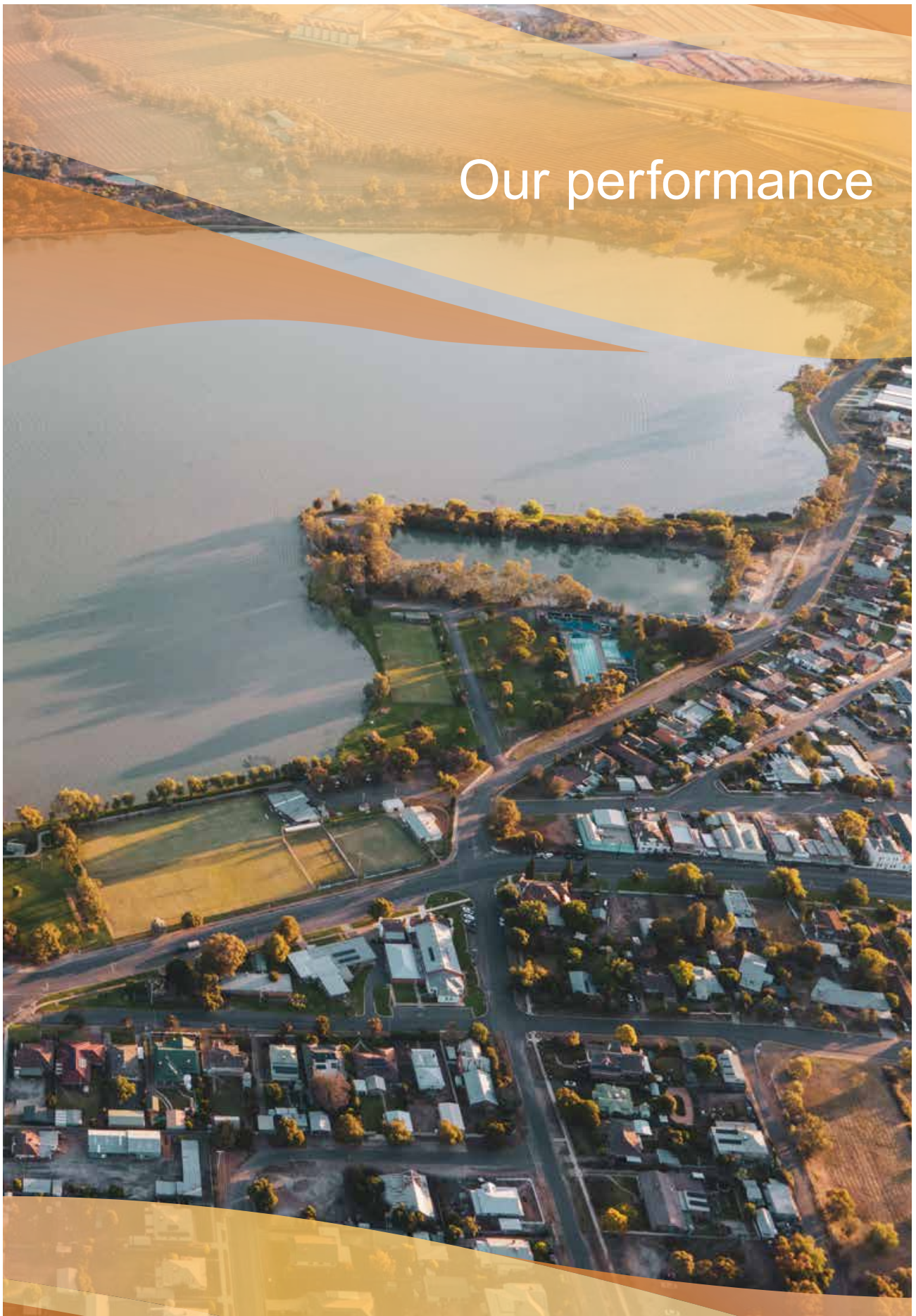
The high-level strategic direction of this strategy allows for implementation to be achievable within existing resources.

In 2022/23 Council undertook the following initiatives in accordance with those strategic directions:

- collaborated with Bendigo Volunteer Resource Centre for training opportunities
- continued to develop resources on a dedicated Council Volunteer web page
- ran a community focused 'Nominate a Volunteer Campaign'
- recognised and celebrated Council Volunteers during National Volunteer Week



Recognising the wonderful work of Loddon Shire volunteers during National Volunteer Week.



Our performance

Integrated strategic planning and reporting framework

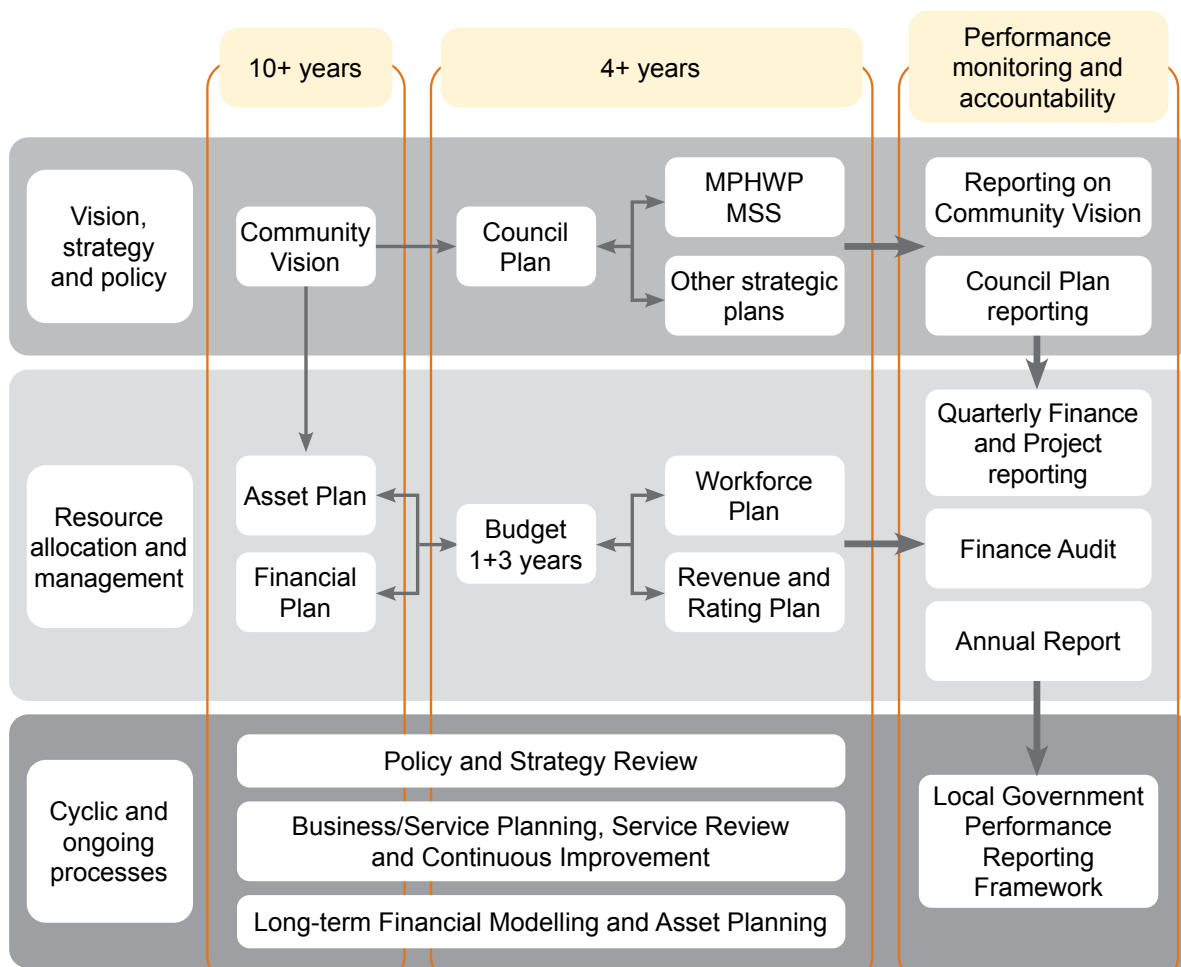
Part 4 of the Local Government Act 2020 requires councils to prepare the following:

- a Community Vision (for at least the next 10 financial years)
- a Council Plan (for at least the next four financial years)
- a Financial Plan (for at least the next 10 financial years)
- an Asset Plan (for at least the next 10 financial years)
- a Revenue and Rating Plan (for at least the next four financial years)
- an Annual Budget (for the next four financial years)

- a Quarterly Budget Report
- an Annual Report (for each financial year)
- financial Policies.

The Act also requires councils to prepare a Workforce Plan (including projected staffing requirements for at least four years).

The following diagram shows the relationships between the key planning and reporting documents that make up the integrated strategic planning and reporting framework for local government.



MPHWP Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan MSS Municipal Strategic Statement

Council Plan

The Council Plan 2021-2025 includes strategic objectives, strategies for achieving these objectives for the four-year period, strategic indicators for monitoring achievement of the strategic objectives and a Strategic Resource Plan.

The following are Council's five strategic themes, with their strategic objectives as listed in the Council Plan:

Council Plan 2021-2025

The image displays four strategic themes, each with a circular icon above a colored rectangular box containing the theme's name:

- A sustainable built and natural environment**: Represented by a green icon of a building with a leaf.
- A growing and vibrant community**: Represented by a yellow icon of three stylized figures.
- A diverse and expanding economy**: Represented by a blue icon of a bar chart with an upward arrow.
- A supported and accessible community**: Represented by an orange icon of a heart with three figures inside.

Performance against the Council Plan 2021-2025

Council's performance for the 2022/23 has been reported against each strategic objective to demonstrate how Council is performing in achieving the Council Plan 2021-2025. Performance has been measured as follows:

- progress against key actions
- results achieved in relation to the strategic indicators in the Council Plan
- progress in relation to the major initiatives identified in the budget
- services funded in the budget and the persons or sections of the community who are provided those services
- results against the prescribed service performance indicators and measures.

The following statement reviews the performance of Council against the Council Plan including results achieved in relation to the strategic indicators in the Council Plan.



Pyramid Hill. Photo: Blake Slatter






Our performance _____



Performance against the Council Plan 2021-2025

A sustainable built and natural environment

Finalise asset management plans and long term strategies for Council assets

| Comments | Status |
|---|--|
| Review and implement the Building Asset Management Plan | |
| The Asset Management Plan has been completed and was adopted at the March 2022 Council meeting |  Completed |
| Review and Implement the Road Asset Management Plan | |
| The Asset Management Plan for roads has been completed and adopted at the March 2022 Council meeting. Council is operating in accordance with the new plan, the improvement projects in the plan will be delivered as resources permit. |  Ongoing |
| Review and Implement the Bridges Asset Management Plan | |
| The Asset Management Plan for bridges was completed and adopted at the February 2022 Council meeting. Council is operating in accordance with the new plan, the improvement projects in the plan will be delivered as resources permit. |  Ongoing |
| Review and Implement the Footpaths Asset Management Plan | |
| The Asset Management Plan for footpaths was completed and adopted at the November 2021 Council meeting. Council is operating in accordance with the new plan, the improvement projects in the plan will be delivered as per the schedule. |  Ongoing |
| Develop and Implement the Tracks and Trails Asset Management Plan | |
| Development of the Asset Management Plan for tracks and trails has been delayed due to re-prioritising resources to the flood recovery. |  Not started |



Finalise asset management plans and long term strategies for Council assets (cont.)

| Comments | Status |
|--|-------------------------|
| <p>Develop and Implement an Urban Drainage Asset Management Plan</p> <p>The Asset Management Plan for urban drainage was completed and adopted at the February 2022 Council meeting. Council is operating in accordance with the new plan, the improvement projects in the plan will be delivered as resources permit.</p> | <p>Ongoing</p> |
| <p>Develop and Implement a Recreational Leisure and Community Facilities Asset Management Plan</p> <p>The Asset Management Plan for recreational leisure and community facilities was completed and adopted at the January 2022 Council meeting. Council is operating in accordance with the new plan, the improvement projects in the plan will be delivered as resources permit.</p> | <p>Ongoing</p> |
| <p>Review and Implement the Parks, Open Space and Streetscapes Asset Management Plan</p> <p>The Asset Management Plan for parks, streetscape and open spaces was completed and adopted at the January 2022 Council meeting. Council is operating in accordance with the new plan, the improvement projects in the plan will be delivered as resources permit.</p> | <p>Ongoing</p> |
| <p>Develop and Implement an Asset Plan that has been informed by the completed asset management plans</p> <p>The Asset Plan was completed and adopted at the June 2022 Council meeting. Council is operating in accordance with the new plan, the improvement projects in the plan will be delivered as resources permit.</p> | <p>Ongoing</p> |
| <p>Develop and Implement a Recreation, Open Space and Aquatic Strategy</p> <p>The Recreation, Open Space and Aquatic strategy project brief has been developed and endorsed by Sport and Recreation Victoria, with procurement to commence in July 2023. The expected completion date will be early-mid 2024.</p> | <p>Progressing</p> |
| <p>Embed long term planning into project management framework</p> | |
| <p>Develop and Implement a register which documents all projects from concept through to delivery and post project evaluation to provide information about timing of projects that can be incorporated into grant applications and the Financial Plan</p> <p>This project has commenced with a template developed to capture all income sources for a project, expected timing of progress reports along with expected delivery timeframes.</p> <p>This will be reviewed by key stakeholders to ensure it provides value and aligns with the Project Management Framework before being implemented.</p> | <p>Not due to start</p> |
| <p>Review and Implement Project Management Framework to embed project register model including assessment matrices used to identify priority projects.</p> <p>This is progressing with the Project Management Framework and assessment matrices to be finalised in 2023/24.</p> | <p>Progressing</p> |
| <p>Incorporate assessment of alternative energy and innovative design in planning for, or repurposing, Council facilities and infrastructure</p> <p>Planned for 2024/25.</p> | <p>Not started</p> |

Our performance



Embed long term planning into project management framework (cont.)

| Comments | Status |
|--|-------------|
| Provide resources for the development and delivery of projects through the Project Management Framework | |
| This is progressing with adequate resources provided to allow the Project Management Framework to be finalised in 2023/24. Council has recruited an additional project manager to develop and deliver projects through the Project Management Framework. | Progressing |
| Work with communities to understand their strategic projects for consideration in long term planning | |
| Through the development of the 17 Community Planning plans, projects have been identified by the relevant committees and labelled with a degree of priority for each. Ongoing consultation with the community planning committees and relevant community organisations, identifies area for improvement in their respective communities. | Ongoing |

Complete funded major infrastructure projects in the planning phase






| | |
|--|-------------|
| Construct Pyramid Hill Community Centre Stage 1 | |
| Concept and final tender issue plans for the Pyramid Hill Community Centre are complete. Project to continue in 2023/24. | Progressing |
| Construct Donaldson Park Community Hub | |
| Construction in progress. It is anticipated the pavilion works will be complete in October 2023. Landscaping works will commence after this. | Progressing |
| Deliver Pyramid Hill Streetscape Revitalisation Project | |
| Project is currently in the project delivery/construction phase and is progressing. | Progressing |
| Deliver the Lake Boort Sporting Precinct Project | |
| Project is in the planning stage. | Ongoing |

Ensure Council assets are accessible

| | |
|--|-------------|
| Review and Implement actions in Access and Inclusion Plan | |
| Council officers have completed most of the actions in the Access and Inclusion Plan through the delivery of a workshop for staff on how to write in plain and easy English, staff induction and ongoing training module to be completed by staff every two years on disability awareness, partnered with CVGT to employ a trainee through the Champions of Change program, undertaken gender equality action plans and the utilisation of the Design for Everyone Guide for the planning, design and development of inclusive sport, recreation and community facilities. | Progressing |
| Ensure new infrastructure projects consider opportunities to improve accessibility and convenience for all ages, abilities and stages of life | |
| All new infrastructure projects are developed with the assistance of the 'Design for Everyone Guide' which assists in the planning, design and development of inclusive sport and recreation facilities. | Ongoing |



Ensure community facility use is maximised

| Comments | Status |
|---|--|
| Work with community facility managers to identify new ways of expanding use of their facilities such as co-location opportunities | |
| Facility user groups will be involved in the consultation to inform the development of the Recreation, Open Space and Aquatic Strategy (ROSA) in 2023/24. This strategy will inform Council as to potential opportunities for co-locations and maximising the usage of relevant facilities. |  Progressing |
| Undertake an audit of current master plans for all community facilities to identify any gaps | |
| Council officers have reviewed the master plan requirements, identifying that Mitchell Park (Pyramid Hill), Mitiamo Recreation Reserve and Calivil Recreation Reserve require master plans as priorities. |  Completed |
| Prepare business cases to develop master plans for community facilities without a plan | |
| A budget bid was submitted as part of the 2023/24 Council budget process to develop a current masterplan at Mitchell Park (Pyramid Hill), Mitiamo Recreation Reserve and Calivil Recreation Reserve. Council officers will continue to seek funding opportunities to support the development of these plans. |  Completed |
| Implement master plans developed for various community facilities | |
| The Inglewood Sports Centre masterplan brief has been completed, and will be ready to commence procurement to engage a consultant in July 2023. The development of masterplans for the remaining eligible major recreation reserves and identified open spaces will be an ongoing process from 2024/25 onwards, following on from the development of the Recreation, Open Space and Aquatic Strategy. |  Ongoing |
| Partner with Central Victorian Greenhouse Alliance to support the community to take advantage of opportunities around renewable energy | |
| Council continues to collaborate with the CVGA to support the community to take advantage of opportunities around renewable energy. |  Ongoing |



Loddon Plains Landcare Network event - Women by the Water Living and learning through connection to nature. The event was one of many sponsored by Loddon Shire Council in 2022/23.

Our performance



Participate with regional groups to implement environmental priorities

| Comments | Status |
|--|-------------|
| Implement the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan items related to mitigating the impacts of climate change on health and wellbeing | |
| Council administers the Vulnerable Persons Register. Shade options reviewed through delivery of Pyramid Hill Streetscape. Solar power options provided for Donaldson Park Hub redevelopment. Provision of a range of community capacity building initiatives delivered to support communities to manage and support each other during and after emergency events, for example Community dinner with psychologist Rob Gordon, providing tips on how best to look after yourself and support others after an emergency event. Secured funding to deliver the Community Recovery Officer and Community Recover Hub programs following the October 2022 flood event. Implementation of the Municipal Flood Recovery Committee and the Flood Recovery Health and Wellbeing Committee. | Ongoing |

Participate with regional groups to maximise opportunities to support biodiversity and habitat

| | |
|--|-------------|
| Partner with North Central Catchment Management Authority to implement the priorities in the North Central Catchment Partnership Agreement to protect and improve land, water and biodiversity | |
| Attend and participate in partnership meetings. Currently working with North Central Catchment Management Authority on a flood study in Korong Vale. | Ongoing |
| Participate in the Integrated Water Management Forum for the region | |
| Attend forum meetings as required. | Ongoing |
| Advocate for funding for weed management programs to support the natural environment | |
| Council staff continue to work with Department of Government Services (DGS) to deliver the Roadside Weeds and Pests Program (RWPP) and will continue to seek support for funding. | Ongoing |

Deliver effective waste management




| | |
|---|-------------|
| Deliver actions in Council’s Waste Management Strategy 2020-2030 | |
| Council staff continue to deliver actions from Council’s Waste Management Strategy 2020-2030 including the continuation of waste vouchers, hard waste collection, and the development of landfill masterplans | Ongoing |
| Actively participate in the regional waste and recycling management group | |
| Council staff continue to participate in regional group workshops and meetings. | Ongoing |
| Investigate and implement where practical, the use of recycled or reclaimed products for Council’s operations | |
| When practical Council continues to purchase and install recycled and reclaimed products throughout the Shire | Ongoing |
| Promote the three R’s – “Reuse, Reduce, Recycle” to the community | |
| Council staff continue to work with Recycling Victoria who provides leadership and oversight of waste and resource recovery services to support the circular economy. | Ongoing |






National Historical Machinery Tractor Trek. Photo: Wedderburn Historical Engine and Machinery Society.



Prepare for adverse weather events

| Comments | Status |
|---|--|
| Advocate for funding for the continuation of the Municipal Emergency Resourcing Program (MERP) | |
| Advocacy for the continuation of the Municipal Emergency Resourcing Program (MERP) funding is included in Council's 2022 Priorities document and advocacy occurs as opportunities arise. |  Ongoing |
| Participate in the Northern Victorian Integrated Emergency Management Planning Committee | |
| Director Community Wellbeing and Emergency Management Coordinator attend the Northern Victorian Integrated Emergency Management Planning Committee (NVIEMPC) meetings and undertake associated strategic and operational tasks, including review of the Municipal Emergency Management Plan and submission for assurance process and review of the Municipal Pandemic Plan. |  Ongoing |
| Develop a process for capturing infrastructure information to facilitate applications for grant funding from National Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements | |
| Council secured funding through the Rural Roads Support Package funding stream to undertake a trial of photographing the road network. This trial is expected to be completed by December 2023. The outcome of this trial will be used to develop the process. |  Progressing |

Implement infrastructure to protect towns

| | |
|---|--|
| Complete delivery of flood mitigation works in Boort | |
| Design complete, construction yet to commence. |  Progressing |
| Complete delivery of flood mitigation works in Pyramid Hill | |
| Design complete, construction yet to commence. |  Progressing |
| Source funding to deliver flood mitigation works in Serpentine | |
| The sourcing of funding for flood mitigation works in Serpentine has not commenced. |  Not started |

Our performance



A sustainable built and natural environment

Services:

These Council services have directly contributed to being able to meet the following Council Plan objectives:

- We will implement financially and environmentally sustainable infrastructure that supports our social and economic needs
- 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.

| Service | Description |
|----------------------------|--|
| Building surveyor services | Provision of the following to the municipal community as a whole: building permit and occupancy approvals and administering the Building Act. |
| Community planning | Provision of the following to the municipal community as a whole: support in building Loddon communities through facilitation, logistical and financial means to improve the aesthetic of communities and develop key community assets, supporting communities to identify their strengths and opportunities, and facilitating novel approaches and solutions to local issues. |
| Infrastructure management | Provision of the following to the municipal community as a whole: long-term asset management planning for roads, buildings, recreational facilities, pools, parks, waste facilities and bridges, development and delivery of annual infrastructure projects and programs, contract administration, survey and design and digital mapping. |
| Town planning services | Provision of the following to the municipal community as a whole: planning permit and subdivision approvals, planning scheme compliance and enforcement, changes to the planning scheme and protection of significant heritage, cultural and environmental assets within the Shire. |






Flood cleanup at Loddon River in Bridgewater.



Performance against the Council Plan 2021-2025

A growing and vibrant community

Pursue development opportunities

| Comments | Status |
|---|---|
| Implement remaining actions in Settlement Strategy | |
| Unlocking Loddon’s Growth Potential project, led by Loddon Shire’s Strategic Planning department, will report on residential development viability across key towns, identify the most viable opportunities, prioritise projects to enhance viability and determine other initiatives to encourage availability of this land. |  Progressing |
| Work with the community to lobby government to provide reticulated sewerage and water for Newbridge | |
| Advocating for water and sewerage is ongoing as opportunities arise, including discussions with local Members of Parliament and inclusion in the Loddon 2022 Priorities document. |  Ongoing |
| Undertake detailed assessment and costing of Wedderburn Housing Estate Stage 2 | |
| A detailed assessment and costing of Wedderburn Ridge Street Stage 2 has been completed. |  Completed |



Promote our Shire as a great place to live

| | |
|---|---|
| In conjunction with regional partners, investigate opportunities to increase residential housing stock | |
| Draft Land and Building Development Policy was presented to Council at the February 2023 Council Forum. Streamlining for Growth project, developed by consultant Villawood Properties in 2023, will inform future actions to provide suitable land for housing and residential development. |  Ongoing |




Our performance




Promote our Shire as a great place to live (cont.)

| Comments | Status |
|---|--|
| As opportunities arise, work with local partners, including employers and real estate, to develop a coordinated approach to marketing the municipality for new residents | |
| Officers have met with local and Bendigo-based real estate agents to discuss local and regional trends in commercial and residential property markets. Officers have met with Regional Development Victoria (RDV) to discuss the promotion and content of the Invest Loddon Mallee Website. |  Ongoing |
| Deliver marketing campaigns and media content that attract new residents and clearly positions Loddon Shire as a great place to live and work | |
| Officers have updated content on Loddon Shire Council Website and introduced marketing campaigns that highlight amenity and liveability of Loddon Shire. Regular content to digital and physical channels is provided. |  Ongoing |

Support Community Asset Committees


| | |
|---|--|
| Allocate a Council resource as the key contact for Community Asset Committees | |
| Manager Governance and Administration Officer Governance are available to assist and support community asset committee volunteers. |  Completed |
| Implement a governance framework for Community Asset Committees that is manageable for our volunteers | |
| A framework has been drafted and will be further progressed alongside reviews of CEO sub-delegations to members of Community Asset Committees during 2023/24 to ensure documents are fit for purpose and consistent. |  Progressing |
| Provide support documentation to the Community Asset Committees to help them understand their responsibilities to Council | |
| The Governance Framework for Community Asset Committees will include any responsibilities not already documented in CEO sub-delegations to members of Community Asset Committees, and link to existing support documents including templates. |  Progressing |

Support volunteers

| | |
|---|--|
| Deliver the Re-Engaging Volunteers in Rural Towns Projects | |
| The Re-engaging Volunteers in Rural Towns Project commenced in December 2021 and aimed to support the community to maintain high levels of volunteerism which are critical to achieving Councils vision and strategic objectives. |  Completed |
| An external consultant was engaged to deliver the project activities which included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • development of a community based Volunteer Strategy • re-engaging volunteers post COVID • development activities with a particular focus on governance roles • a focus on youth and how to attract and retain this cohort of volunteers | |
| A Volunteer Strategy 2022-2026 was completed and approved by Council in June 2022. It has four key strategic directions drawn from the community consultation, evidence, best practice and the national standards for volunteering. | |
| The Re-engaging Volunteers in Rural Towns Project was completed and acquitted in July 2022 with the final completion report submitted to RDV on 12 July 2022. | |



Support volunteers (cont.)

| Comments | Status |
|--|--|
| Facilitate an event to celebrate our volunteers annually during National Volunteer Week | |
| <p>Council hosted a lunch and presented certificates of appreciation to Community Asset Committee, Visitor Information Centre and Meals on Wheels volunteers at the Serpentine Recreation Reserve during National Volunteers Week in May 2023.</p> <p>Council ran a community focused 'Recognise a Volunteer' campaign during National Volunteer Week in May 2023.</p> <p>Council continues to identify opportunities in the volunteer area to promote and recruit, support and develop, recognise, celebrate and value, and partner and collaborate which are the key strategic directions in the Volunteer Strategy.</p> |  Completed |

Support community groups

| | |
|---|--|
| Provide in kind and financial support to community planning groups | |
| <p>On top of the financial support, Council provides in-kind support to community groups, as part of the Community Support Policy, by providing the following:</p> <p>Sport and recreation project management, road closures for events, support for waterway events, tourism and event promotions, Australia Day events, ANZAC commemorations, waste management support, reduction of food premises registration fees, Loddon Shire business and community directories, support for Section 65 Community Asset Committees and support for our staff who volunteer.</p> |  Ongoing |



Cr Linda Jungwirth celebrating Australia Day with Sue Horsely, recipient of the Tarnagulla Service Award.




Our performance



Citizenship ceremony July 2022.



Support community groups (cont.)

| Comments | Status |
|---|--|
| Provide financial support to community groups through our policies and programs | |
| <p>Throughout 2022/23, Council has provided the following financial support to community groups, through the Community Support Policy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Community Grants Program - \$147,860 - Public halls and recreation reserves allocation - \$118,828 - Event Promotion Scheme - \$24,400 - Major active recreation reserves water subsidy - \$8,980 - Community newsletter allocation - \$17,500 - Major recreation reserve oval mower replacement program - \$31,299 - Development, progress, tourism, and community plan committee administration allocation - \$17,750 <p>Council also provides support through the following as of right allocations - recreation waterway maintenance allocation, scholarships, LEAD Loddon Murray leadership program, sponsorship and donations and Australia Day events. Council also provides interest-free loans and sport and recreation co-contribution grants.</p> |  Ongoing |
| Promote community safety | |
| Work with Victoria Police to identify ways to promote community safety | |
| <p>Council is a member of the Loddon Local Safety Committee facilitated by Victoria Police. The Loddon Local Safety Committee is made up of of key community groups and agencies from across the shire that meet regularly with Victoria Police to provide information that will assist them in understanding and acting on community safety issues within the Loddon community.</p> |  Ongoing |
| Review the Child Safe Standards Framework | |
| <p>The framework and policy were reviewed to align with the 2022 standards. Council adopted the renewed framework and the policy at the June 2022 Council meeting. A working group has been established to implement the framework.</p> |  Completed |



Promote a welcoming and inclusive environment for all

| Comments | Status |
|--|---------------|
| Promote reconciliation through respect, relationship building and promotion of opportunities with and for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples through the review and implementation of the Community Aboriginal Partnership Plan | |
| The review of the Community Aboriginal Partnership Plan has been delayed. Council continues to deliver components of the plan, such as the flying of the aboriginal flag during Reconciliation Week and NAIDOC Week and providing funding for community groups to host a Welcome to Country at a Loddon event. | Ongoing |
| Participate with the Loddon Campaspe Local Government Regional Settlement Network which provides a strategic platform to ensure migrants are supported within, attracted to and retained in the region | |
| Attendance at meetings and participation in the group continues. | Ongoing |
| Promote local events on social media and other media to ensure all members of the community are informed and have the opportunity to connect | |
| Council is proactive in promoting local events on the Loddon Shire website, social media, in media releases and via the Visit Loddon Valley Facebook pages. | Ongoing |
| Deliver official Citizenship Ceremonies to welcome and celebrate new Australian citizens in our community | |
| Five citizenship ceremonies were conducted during the year, granting citizenship to a total of 17 people | Completed |





Improve local learning and employment pathway opportunities through strategic partnerships

| | |
|---|-------------|
| Partner with schools to promote the work experience program | |
| In 2022/23 six work experience students were engaged at Council, in a variety of parks gardens, mechanic, preschools and administration roles. One student is considering an environmental health career after their work experience. The students were from East Loddon and Wedderburn College. | Ongoing |
| Council will connect with other schools to provide the same opportunities. Consideration is being given to a cluster being formed across local schools and Bendigo to identify work experience opportunities. | |
| Council continues to offer placement opportunities for work experience students | |
| Partner with and support organisations to provide employment opportunities for young people in the Shire | |
| An allocation has been included in the 2023/24 Council budget for three traineeships across each directorate of Council. Council is partnering with Central Victoria Group Training (CVGT) to recruit to these positions which are due to commence in the first quarter of 2023/24. In May the Manager Organisation Development attended the CVGT information session for businesses held at the Wedderburn College to find out what incentives are available to employers taking on a new Apprentice or Trainee. Collaboration with North Central LLEN is continuing to explore the possibility of supporting young people who are not in school, or who are in school and might like to participate in an activity outside of school hours (or possibly after they finish school in November). This initiative is part of the 'Youth Take Over' project. Current trainee in workplace skills continues to progress. | Ongoing |

Our performance



Improve local learning and employment pathway opportunities through strategic partnerships (cont.)

| Comments | Status |
|---|--|
| <p>Support young people to join our workforce by providing programs in our Workforce Strategy</p> <p>An allocation has been included in the 2023/24 Council budget for three traineeships across each directorate of Council. Council is partnering with Central Victoria Group Training (CVGT) to recruit to these positions which are due to commence in the first quarter of 2023/24. Collaboration with North Central LLEN is continuing to explore the possibility of supporting young people who are not in school, or who are in school and might like to participate in an activity outside of school hours (or possibly after they finish school in November). This initiative is part of the 'Youth Take Over' project Current trainee in workplace skills continues to progress.</p> |  Ongoing |
| <p>Maintain Councillor representation on the North Central Local Learning & Employment Network board to support pathways for employment opportunities and skill investment of our young people</p> <p>Collaboration with North Central LLEN is continuing to explore the possibility of supporting young people who are not in school, or who are in school and might like to participate in an activity outside of school hours (or possibly after they finish school in November). This initiative is part of the 'Youth Take Over' project.</p> <p>Mayor Dan Straub is the Council Representative and Chairman of the North Central LLEN board, his involvement includes Finance and Risk Committee member and L2P Program mentor.</p> |  Progressing |
| <p>Develop connections for our young people</p> | |
| <p>Finalise the Strong Youth Strong Communities Program model</p> <p>The Strong Youth Strong Communities Program model has been completed. The municipalities involved are working with North Central LLEN and other partners to progress implementation of the model.</p> |  Completed |
| <p>Work with other youth funded agencies to provide youth services and programs in the Shire</p> <p>Council works closely with local youth funded agencies including Northern District Community Health and the North Central LLEN through partnerships such as Strong Youth Strong Communities, the Buloke Loddon Gannawarra Health and Wellbeing Executive Network. Council provides inkind support through use of office space/ meeting rooms and promotes events being undertaken by youth agencies.</p> |  Ongoing |



Boort District P-12 students launch Boort Adventure Bingo.



A growing and vibrant community

Services:

These Council services have directly contributed to being able to meet the following Council Plan objectives:

- We will promote population growth to support a growing and diverse community
- We will support a connected and inclusive community that provides opportunities for current and new community members at all ages, abilities, and stages of their life
- We will support our youth to access pathways for education and employment and the ability to connect to their community.

| Service | Description |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Community grants scheme | Provision of the following to the municipal community as a whole: administration of various community grants. |
| Environmental health services | Provision of the following to the municipal community as a whole: septic tank and waste water management approvals, food safety inspections and certification, monitoring of tobacco and alcohol sales, compliance with the Public Health and Wellbeing Act and Environment Protection Act and their enforcement. |
| Library service | Provision of the following to the municipal community as a whole: in collaboration with Goldfields Library Corporation, providing a wide range of relevant, contemporary library collections and services in library agencies and online, providing community spaces for individual and group study, reflection, activity and discovery, providing family, children and adult library programs and activities. |
| Local Laws services | Provision of the following to the municipal community as a whole: stock and domestic animal management permits, management of unsightly premises, roadside bushfire management works and local laws enforcement and compliance. |
| Loddon Healthy Minds Network | Provision of the following to the municipal community as a whole: involvement in meetings and activities designed to boost mental health awareness and personal support for residents of Loddon Shire. |
| Recreation services | Provision of the following to the municipal community as a whole: financial and administrative support to sporting clubs, management of Council's swimming pools, applications for government grants and assistance with long-term strategies for recreation facilities. |
| Youth support services | Provision of the following to the municipal community as a whole: financial support for youth-related initiatives and long-term planning for youth development and retention. |

Our performance

Yung Balung Museum curator, Paul Haw, showing visitors some of the collection on display.



Performance against the Council Plan 2021-2025

A diverse and expanding economy

Leverage tourism opportunities

| Comments | Status |
|---|--|
| <p>Undertake a review of visitor information services and implement any recommendation from the review</p> <p>Partnered with tourism consultant Urban Enterprise to undertake a Visitor Servicing Review. The review examines the current visitor services provided by Council and explores the opportunities for Council to provide improved visitor services. Report will be tabled at August 2023 Council Forum and findings and recommendations considered for action.</p> |  Progressing |
| <p>Support local businesses, events and activities that contribute to the tourism economy</p> <p>Management and delivery of seasonal promotional campaigns. Management of Visit Loddon Valley website and social media channels. Planning for re-establishment of Business Networking Events. Attendance at tourism, progress and community committees across the Shire. Monitor Customer Relationship Management System (CRMS), newsletter templates developed and business database cleaned and re-segmented. Council have provided support for new (and redeveloped) events.</p> |  Ongoing |
| <p>Support Loddon communities in their efforts to facilitate tourism activities in their areas</p> <p>Continue to support local community tourism committees, events and activity. Have engaged with towns and communities across the Shire to develop coordination and consistency in messaging, promotion and Presentation of tourism product and activity.</p> |  Ongoing |



Leverage tourism opportunities (cont.)

| Comments | Status |
|---|---------|
| Promote and support tourism products and experiences for Loddon, including cultural, food and nature tourism | |
| Council's Tourism Team supports industry, business, community and visitors as it develops product and campaigns in Loddon Shire. | Ongoing |
| Participate in the Central Victorian Goldfields World Heritage Bid | |
| Council's involvement with the World Heritage bid project team is ongoing, including participation in workshops and seminars, provision of relevant local information as input to the project, and connecting local historians with the project team. | Ongoing |

Enhance Loddon's visitor accommodation through well-managed, well-appointed and competitive caravan parks

| | |
|---|-------------|
| Implement upgrades to Boort, Pyramid Hill and Wedderburn Caravan Parks | |
| Works at Pyramid Hill and Boort are complete. Installation of cabins and office at Wedderburn will be complete September 2023. | Progressing |
| Complete purchase of Bridgewater and Wedderburn caravan parks from the Crown | |
| Completed August 2021. | Completed |
| Implement leasing arrangements for Bridgewater and Wedderburn caravan parks | |
| Preparation of leases and procurement for Bridgewater and Wedderburn caravan parks was completed in June 2023. Agreements have been signed and a new lessee commences under contract from July 1, 2023. | Completed |




Visitor Information Centre volunteers tour of Inglewood Eucalyptus Museum.



Our performance





Enhance Loddon’s visitor accommodation through well-managed, well-appointed and competitive caravan parks (cont.)

| Comments | Status |
|--|--|
| Deliver ongoing supervision, support and maintenance or operations at Council’s caravan parks | |
| Council officers continue to support and assist caravan operators. Officers provided additional support in October, November and December 2022, to repair and make safe caravan park facilities for re-opening, after major flood-related damage had occurred. |  Ongoing |

Implement strategic plans related to tourism activities

| | |
|---|--|
| Develop Boort Scarred Trees Master Plan and pursue opportunities for responsible parties to implement recommendations | |
| Monitoring for funding opportunities and seeking guidance/input from Parks Victoria and Dja Dja Wurrung. |  Progressing |
| Pursue opportunities to implement recommendations from Skinners Flat Reservoir Master Plan | |
| Plans for implementation of master plan recommendations are on hold while plans for infrastructure works at Skinners Flat Reservoir are explored. |  Progressing |

Leverage partnership opportunities to promote and support the local economy

| | |
|---|--|
| Collaborate with regional economic development and tourism development organisations to capitalise on broader opportunities | |
| Have contributed to partnership initiatives with Regional Development Victoria, Bendigo Regional Tourism and the Central Victorian Visitor Economy Partnership Working Group. |  Ongoing |
| In recognition of economic reliance on agriculture, advocate for water security (Murray Darling Basin Authority environmental water, potable water for townships) and right to farm | |
| Mayor and CEO contribution and advocacy at Murray River Group of Councils meetings. |  Ongoing |

Maximise opportunities for economic growth


| | |
|---|--|
| Implement the Economic Development and Tourism Strategy 2019 – 2024 and develop a new strategy for beyond 2024. | |
| Preparations for the development of a new Economic Development and Tourism Strategy have commenced. Officers are formulating engagement approaches and framework options. |  Progressing |
| Develop and implement an Industrial Land Strategy | |
| Industrial Land Strategy discussion paper was tabled at Council Forum (June 2023). The intention is that following discussion with Council, community consultation can occur through July and August 2023 based on the discussion paper with a view of providing a draft strategy to Council in October 2023. |  Progressing |
| Manage sale, purchase and leasing of Council’s vacant land, residential and industrial property | |
| Ongoing, as opportunities arise. |  Ongoing |




Maximise opportunities for economic growth (cont.)

| Comments | Status |
|---|---|
| Support initiatives to improve employment opportunities for Loddon residents and employers | |
| Businesses looking to expand or start up are supported by officers via a concierge process to assist with implementing initiatives. Marketing prospectus details through Invest Loddon Mallee is a platform developed with Regional Development Victoria to promote opportunities for investment. |  Ongoing |
| Facilitate emerging niche food and beverages businesses into an integrated artisan food network | |
| Continue to leverage the Bendigo City and Region of Gastronomy delegation. We have connected with and supported food and beverage producers and purveyors, as well as developing and promoting experiences and itineraries. |  Ongoing |
| Continue to support the management of The Loddon Shed and promotion of this initiative | |
| Have conducted meetings with the contractor to ensure service and fulfilment obligations. Have continued to support and promote the Loddon Shed and its offering of local products. |  Ongoing |

Promote better mobile and digital connectivity

| | |
|---|--|
| Work with regional partners to advocate for faster and more stable mobile and digital connectivity across the region | |
| Collaborating with Telstra on the development of a Community Connectivity Plan, to identify key threats and opportunities in digital connectivity as an economic and community enabler. (Draft plan ready August 2023). |  Ongoing |

Provide support to current and future local businesses

| | |
|---|---|
| Deliver information, programs, workshops and training that support our local business capacity and capability | |
| Have “cleaned” and updated Monitor CRMS database to allow efficient and regular newsletter communications with business and community stakeholders. Planned for the reignition of regular business networking events - the first planned for July 2023. Partnered with Startup Central Victoria to support accelerator and mentor programs for local entrepreneurs. |  Ongoing |
| Provide supportive services for new, existing and expanding businesses, including staff “facilitators” for investors, partnering with businesses as opportunities arise, and investigating business support packages for businesses | |
| Continue to partner with StartUp Central Victoria, Be.Bendigo, Birchip Cropping Group, Regional Development Victoria and Community Progress and Development Committees to support business in every sector. |  Ongoing |



Our performance



A diverse and expanding economy

Services:

These Council services have directly contributed to being able to meet the following Council Plan objectives:

- We will promote our unique tourism opportunities and support our local tourism industry to increase visitation to our area
- We will support established businesses and seek to attract new businesses to grow our local economy.


| Service | Description |
|------------------------|---|
| Economic development | Provision of the following to the municipal community as a whole: support to new and existing businesses through direct facilitation, development of networking opportunities, provision of information, leadership development, promotion and marketing of opportunities within the Shire, referral to internal and external agencies to encourage access to Shire, State and Federal development programs. |
| Industrial development | Provision of the following to the municipal community as a whole: support to industry with access to infrastructure in developed and zoned industrial land which is appropriately located and priced to encourage the sustainable growth of industry. |
| Loddon Discovery Tours | Provision of the following to the municipal community as a whole: assistance to the Loddon tourism industry, public speaking, marketing, promotion and booking of group tours, program delivery to improve customer service and business development, and financial support for promotion. |
| Tourism development | Provision of the following to the municipal community as a whole: services, including facilitation of strategic projects, assistance to small business, development of marketing and promotional material, assistance with advertising, direct financial support of key projects, provision and maintenance of tourism promotional signage, advice to new and existing tourism businesses, developing tourism linkages between regional communities and key tourism bodies such as Tourism Victoria, Tourism Alliance, Goldfields Committee and Bendigo Tourism, and administrative support to the Loddon Visitor Information Centre. |



Performance against the Council Plan 2021-2025

A supported and accessible community






Support and advocate for services that provide every child with the opportunities to have the best start in life

| Comments | Status |
|---|--|
| <p>Advocate for the options identified in the Childcare Feasibility Study</p> <p>Council has identified childcare as its highest priority in its priorities document. A project to refine the planning and design for specific sites across Buloke, Gannawarra and Loddon Shires is being undertaken. Council has provided a copy of the Childcare Feasibility Business case to inform this work.</p> <p>Council continues to advocate Loddon's position as a child care desert at all suitable opportunities.</p> <p>The State Government has announced 50 State built and operated Early Learning Centres to be built in areas of need across the state. Loddon has been announced as receiving one centre in the second tranche of the roll out. These centres are slated for delivery between 2026 and 2028.</p> <p>Council has provided the Victorian School Building Authority (VSBA) and Department of Education officials with local information, and a copy of the feasibility study/business case. The final decision on location of the facility in Loddon will be made by the State Government.</p> | <p> Ongoing</p> |

Our performance







Support and advocate for services that provide every child with the opportunities to have the best start in life (cont.)

| Comments | Status |
|--|--|
| <p>Participate in, and advocate for funding to continue, the Strong Families Strong Children Program</p> <p>Council staff continue to participate in the Strong Families Strong Children Project Loddon, and have identified two priority areas of focus, childcare and local antenatal care. Council continues to participate in the Comprehensive Monitoring Project. Funding for the Strong Families Strong Children program has been identified in Council's priorities document.</p> <p>The Buloke Loddon Gannawarra Health and Wellbeing Executives Network has supported the development of an innovative rural antenatal program, currently being delivered to communities.</p> |  Ongoing |
| <p>Develop and implement Municipal Early Years and Youth Plan</p> | |
| <p>Council has engaged a consultant to develop a State of Loddon's children and youth report which will then inform the development of an early years and youth plan.</p> |  Ongoing |
| <p>Support the community to access maternal and child health and kindergarten services</p> | |
| <p>Kindergarten and Maternal and Child Health (MCH) services are operating across the municipality. Council is participating in the free kinder program, providing all enrolments with a fully funded kindergarten program. Implemented increased collaboration opportunities between Kindergartens and MCH to support access to kindergarten. Services promoted in media, online and project commenced to integrate more communication and engagement through dedicated parent portals. To avoid service closure, Council employed a roving kindergarten role to support backfill needs when permanent staff are unable to attend. Council has relocated the MCH service in Boort to Boort District Health in response to feedback from families using the service.</p> |  Ongoing |
| <p>Support and advocate for activities that provide older residents with access to the services they need to age in place in Loddon</p> | |
| <p>Guide Council and the community through the transition to the new Commonwealth Support in the Home aged care program</p> | |
| <p>Council determined at the November 2022 Council meeting to not transition to the new aged care service provision model with the conclusion of the current service contract, subsequently Council ceased provision of the community aged care services on 30 June 2023. Council worked closely with the Commonwealth and State aged care teams and the three new providers in the Loddon area to successfully transition the service. Council has established an aged care navigation role to support residents if they require assistance to access services and supports.</p> |  Progressing |
| <p>Support and promote activities that encourage positive ageing</p> | |
| <p>Council has embedded full time employment (FTE) into a role at Council to specifically focus on positive ageing. Council provided activities during the 2022 Victorian Seniors Festival and held the combined seniors christmas lunch. Council provides support (including financial) and facilities for six Senior Citizens Centres within the municipality. Council has established an aged care navigation role to support residents if they require assistance to access services and supports.</p> |  Ongoing |



Support and advocate for activities that provide older residents with access to the services they need to age in place in Loddon (cont.)


| Comments | Status |
|---|--|
| <p>Participate in and deliver activities during the annual Victorian Seniors Festival</p> <p>Council participated in the 2022 Victorian Seniors Festival and provided a range of events, including Tania Kernigan in concert, meal vouchers and events provided by local community groups.</p> |  <p>Progressing</p> |
| <p>Advocate for high priority, significant services and projects to attract state and federal government funding</p> | |
| <p>Develop a community priority document to ensure Council can advocate for projects and maximise opportunities for funding</p> <p>The Loddon Shire 2022 Priorities document was published and circulated in 2022. The document is a reflection of the Loddon Shire community and its priorities, connecting with our Community Vision 2031 and Council Plan 2021-2025 – both of which were developed in consultation with our community.</p> |  <p>Completed</p> |
| <p>In conjunction with regional partners, advocate for increased roads funding</p> | |
| <p>This is happening through the Loddon Campaspe Transport Working Group.</p> |  <p>Ongoing</p> |
| <p>In conjunction with regional partners, advocate for the Murray Basin Rail Project</p> | |
| <p>This has been done at Councillor level with assistance from economic development.</p> |  <p>Ongoing</p> |
| <p>In conjunction with regional partners, advocate for water and sewerage for our towns where a positive business case has been developed</p> | |
| <p>Advocacy for water/sewerage services at Newbridge has been prioritised.</p> |  <p>Ongoing</p> |









Our performance



Advocate for high priority, significant services and projects to attract state and federal government funding (cont.)



| Comments | Status |
|---|--|
| In conjunction with regional partners, advocate for broader and more reliable mobile phone and internet services across the Shire | |
| Have commenced a project with Telstra to develop a Community Connectivity Plan for Loddon Shire. The plan will identify priority actions to support local business and community, and assist in Telstra’s future planning for services in Loddon Shire. |  Ongoing |

Review Council processes

| | |
|--|--|
| Improve long term financial forecasting through the development of the Financial Plan model that is reviewed annually | |
| Budget and Financial Plan has been reviewed and Budget developed and presented to Council in April 2023. Council resolved to advertise for public comment and adopted in June 2023. Parts of the Financial Plan are included in the Budget and no separate document will be published. |  Completed |
| Develop and implement a risk management framework to effectively manage the opportunities and risks across Council’s operations and projects | |
| Council adopted the Risk Management Framework in May 2022. Implementation of the framework is occurring through the Risk Implementation Plan adopted in June 2022. |  Ongoing |
| Review and implement the Information Technology Strategy | |
| The Information Technology Strategy was approved by Management Executive Group in June 2023 and implementation of the actions within the strategy are now underway. |  Completed |
| Review and implement the Records Management Strategy | |
| The Data Management Team meetings have informed a review of the Records Management Strategy. The draft Strategy is scheduled for presentation at the Management Executive Group meeting in August. An action plan forms part of the Strategy and will guide the alignment of the Business Classification Scheme with Council’s Records Management System. The data management team will continue to meet quarterly to discuss the progress of the action plan and if necessary make any changes or decisions within the scope of the strategy that will benefit the management of Council’s records. |  Progressing |
| Develop and implement a Digitisation Plan to progress operating in an electronic records environment | |
| The digitisation of the building, planning and rates records is tracking on time and will be complete in November 2023. In line with Council’s Digitisation Plan, documents in the the first phase of the project were securely destroyed in May 2023, with documents in phase two and three of the project scheduled for destruction by December 2023. |  Progressing |
| Review Council’s Governance Rules to ensure they are operating effectively for Council Meetings | |
| Council’s Governance Rules have been reviewed by Councillors and Officers in a number of workshops in the latter part of the year in preparation for Council endorsement of the Governance Rules for a period of community engagement in July. |  Progressing |



Review Council's services

| Comments | Status |
|--|--|
| <p>Upgrade Council's information technology services to increase security and efficiency</p> <p>Council has been investing in information technology security and efficiency with the migration to the Microsoft 365 Cloud platform and ongoing works to migrate to Civica Altitude as part of new software implementation which includes embedded information security tools.</p> |  Completed |
| <p>Develop a Workforce Plan to understand the current and future needs of workforce</p> <p>The 2021-2025 Workforce Plan was adopted in December 2023.</p> <p>The Workforce Plan aims to ensure Council has the people best able to contribute to its strategic direction, develop innovative approaches to complex issues, develop and maintain partnerships, deliver appropriate services effectively and efficiently, and engage productively with the community.</p> <p>The Plan includes an analysis against the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council Plan and departmental plans and strategies • workforce profile • gender equality, diversity and inclusiveness • projected staffing requirements • external and internal influences <p>The findings from the analysis of each area inform the actions required over the life of the Plan.</p> <p>The development of the Workforce Plan is complete and progress on the actions will continue over the life of the Plan.</p> |  Completed |



Our performance



Cr Wendy Murphy with Inglewood Senior Citizen volunteers.



Review Council's services (cont.)



| Comments | Status |
|---|-------------|
| Undertake service reviews for internal services to understand the service levels required to support service delivery to the community | |
| Three comprehensive service reviews have been undertaken in the past year which have informed Council's decision making around the provision of those services. A four year Service Plan 2023-2027 has been developed to continue undertaking service reviews. | Completed |
| Undertake service reviews for key services delivered to the community to understand the service level and the cost of service delivery to inform the Financial Plan | |
| Initial report of expected future timing of service delivery areas has been developed by the Director Corporate and is being reviewed by the CEO. At the point where input is required from Finance department to either assist in other key service delivery projects or the one for the finance function itself, full support and assistance will be given. | Progressing |

Implement initiatives and advocate for services to support overall health and wellbeing of the community

| | |
|--|---------|
| Facilitate the local mental health partnership, the Loddon Healthy Minds Network, to advocate for mental health supports and implement the actions in the Loddon Healthy Minds Network annual action plan to improve wellbeing outcomes for our community | |
| Council continues to facilitate the Loddon Healthy Minds Network (LHMN), coordinating bi-monthly meetings, distribution of information to member agencies and social media sharing of information. The LHMN facilitated the annual LHMN art competition with 136 entries received from eight schools in the Loddon region ranging from Grade Prep to Year 12, the largest number of entries since the art competition began. The delivery of the Suicide Prevention Forum 2022 was finalised but unfortunately the event was cancelled due to lack of registrations. The LHMN continues to provide information on available mental health and wellbeing supports, promotes a positive mental health message and continues to work openly to reduce the stigma associated with mental health. | Ongoing |



Implement initiatives and advocate for services to support overall health and wellbeing of the community (cont.)




| Comments | Status |
|---|--|
| <p>Deliver and implement the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021-2025</p> <p>Four pillars support the implementation of the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan (MPHWP): Family Violence Network, Strong Families Strong Children, Loddon Healthy Minds Network and Healthy Eating Active Living/Smoking Prevention.</p> <p>Activities include: Rural Smoking Research Project, operating within Child Safe Standards, Council participates in the Early Childhood Monitoring Program, free kinder funding, facilitation of Loddon Healthy Minds Network, promotion of mental health self care initiatives, planned delivery of 2022 Suicide Prevention Forum (cancelled due to lack of registrations), Healthy Loddon Campaspe program, BLG implementation of rural ante-natal support into Loddon. Information provided after major emergency event related to increased risk of family violence and the Orange Door service in Loddon. Stewardship participation in the Womens Health Loddon Mallee CARE partnership. Participation in the Loddon Mallee Primary Health Unit Primary Care and Population Health Advisory Sub-Committee.</p> |  Progressing |
| <p>Promote health promotion initiatives, such as Walk to School, Ride2Work, Smiles for Miles etc</p> <p>Council continues to promote health promotion initiatives including Smiles for Miles, Respect Victoria, health during emergencies, Royal Flying Doctor Services, mental health supports, Loddon Healthy Minds Network art competition, Older Not Alone campaign, Care Finder Program, Headspace programs, button battery awareness, library activities, Healthy Loddon Campaspe activities, Young Carers Connect, fitness stations, swimming programs, Japanese Encephalitis Virus (JEV) information, Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) provision, farm safety, Victorian virtual emergency department, carers week and 13Yarn.</p> <p>Council participates in the Loddon Mallee Public Health Unit Primary Health and Population Advisory Sub committee.</p> |  Ongoing |



Our performance



Implement initiatives and advocate for services to support overall health and wellbeing of the community (cont.)




| Comments | Status |
|---|--|
| Promote activities delivered through our library hubs within the Shire | |
| Council continues to promote activities delivered through our library hubs via social and other media, including Council’s website, with one example being monthly reminders of Story Time sessions. |  Ongoing |
| Promote local events through social media to provide community members with the opportunity to connect | |
| Social media has been actively used to promote local events and initiatives, key messages from the Mayor and to keep the community informed. |  Ongoing |
| Advocate for mental health services that are available to residents when and where they need them | |
| <p>Council is a member agency of the Buloke Loddon Gannawarra Health and Wellbeing Executive Network (BLG). A primary focus of the collaborative work of the BLG is to advocate for the delivery of appropriate mental health services in the BLG municipalities. The BLG has developed a research paper/advocacy document, ‘Increasing access to mental health supports in Buloke, Loddon and Gannawarra’, to inform the Loddon Mallee Regional Mental Health and Wellbeing Regional Interim Body and other key stakeholders on feasible actions and opportunities to increase mental health supports through mental health system and workforce reforms.</p> <p>Council continues to facilitate the Loddon Healthy Minds Network and has continued to advocate for mental health service support, particularly following significant major events.</p> <p>Council participated in advocacy to the Education Department to support the delivery of the mental health practitioners in schools program in Loddon.</p> |  Ongoing |






First Aid training session.




Partner with agencies in the Shire to promote good health and wellbeing

| Comments | Status |
|---|--|
| Participate in the Loddon Healthy Eating Active Living & Smoking Prevention (HEAL-SP) group and support implementation of actions in the HEAL-SP annual action plan | |
| Council continues to participate in the Healthy Eating Active Living/Smoking Prevention group and has actively supported delivery of healthy eating active living activities through the Healthy Loddon Campaspe program and the Community Support policy outcomes. Council is involved in the Smoking research project facilitated through the Buloke Loddon Gannawarra Health and Wellbeing Executives Network (BLG). |  Ongoing |
| Participate in the Buloke Loddon Gannawarra Health and Wellbeing network | |
| Council is an active member of the Buloke Loddon Gannawarra Health and Wellbeing Executives Network. The Director Community Wellbeing is the current chair of the Network. |  Ongoing |
| Participate in and advocate for ongoing funding of the Healthy Heart of Victoria project | |
| Healthy Heart of Victoria has been extended and funded for a further four years. Loddon continues to participate. Planning for the next four years is underway. |  Completed |

Provide informative media

| | |
|---|--|
| Have an active and informative social media presence | |
| Social media continues to be actively used to promote local events and initiatives, communicate key messages from the Mayor, advertise career opportunities and connect lost pets with their owners as a few of the many examples. |  Ongoing |
| Utilise local media to provide important messages to the community | |
| Council continues a positive relationship with local media and regularly provides media releases, updates and comments to inform the community. |  Ongoing |
| Ensure Council's website has up to date and relevant information to inform the community about Council's activities | |
| Council webpages are managed by the relevant departments to ensure that information can be updated in a timely manner. The website also hosts past information such as Annual Reports and Bulletins should the community be interested in progress and past activities as well as current activities. |  Ongoing |

Review engagement activities to ensure continuous improvement

| | |
|--|--|
| Work with the Community Reference Group to understand the needs of the community around engagement | |
| Following an expression of interest process the Community Reference Group has been re-established. The members of the group have actively engaged and provided valuable feedback to inform a number of Council strategies. |  Ongoing |






Our performance



National Historical Machinery Tractor Trek. Photo: Wedderburn Historical Engines and Machinery Society







Review engagement activities to ensure continuous improvement (cont.)

| Comments | Status |
|---|--|
| Review and implement the Community Engagement Policy, including the deliberative engagement process | |
| The current Community Engagement Policy, which includes deliberative engagement process, is under review as part of the standard policy review cycle. |  Progressing |
| Explore options for community engagement that other councils in the region are using to identify opportunities to expand our community engagement methods | |
| Council engages collaboratively with networks such as Loddon Healthy Minds Network, Healthy Eating Active Living/smoking prevention, Buloke Loddon Gannawarra Health and Wellbeing Executives Network, Loddon Family Violence Network, Loddon Mallee Primary Health Unit, Strong Families Strong Children and Strong Youth Strong Communities to deliver a range of health and wellbeing projects such as Smoking Research, Mental Health in Rural Communities, Healthy Minds Art Competition, 16 Days of Activism, childcare advocacy and many more. |  Ongoing |
| Undertake evaluation process following key community engagement activities | |
| The feedback provided, both verbally and via formal submissions from community engagement activities is considered by officers and this assists in decision making process, and for shaping what further and future community engagement activities are undertaken. |  Ongoing |



Review engagement activities to ensure continuous improvement (cont.)

| Comments | Status |
|---|--|
| Review the Community Satisfaction Survey to understand the community's wants and needs around communication | |
| Councillors and key staff received a presentation from JWS Research on the results of the Community Satisfaction Survey. This included considering the comparison data of previous years, against similar sized Councils and against State averages. The results of the survey were made publicly available. |  Completed |
| Investigate an online community engagement portal | |
| Options for a suitable online platform to suit the needs of the Loddon Shire community has commenced. The platform needs to be one that is able to be managed and updated internally and easy to navigate for all users. |  Progressing |
| Review and implement the Customer Service Strategy | |
| The review of the Customer Service Strategy has commenced. The Community Reference Group was presented with an overview of the current Strategy and members have provided feedback on the the direction of the review. A customer service satisfaction survey is being developed for circulation to community members in the next quarter. An internal workshop will be held for frontline customer service staff to brainstorm initiatives that could improve the customer service experience. |  Progressing |
| Investigate the ability to increase online forms to facilitate easier processes | |
| Investigation into online forms has been completed and implementation of automated forms will gradually be rolled out over the course of the next 12 months as Council works to upgrade key systems. |  Completed |

Engage with community groups

| | |
|--|--|
| Engage with key stakeholder groups on projects they have an interest in | |
| Engagement has occurred with key stakeholder groups in relation to Donaldson Park Hub redevelopment, Pyramid Hill Streetscape, Pyramid Hill Community Centre and the Boort Foreshore Recreation project. Our Community Care team engaged with key stakeholders in the Aged Care transition. The Community Wellbeing team regularly engage with stakeholder groups relating to recreation and community planning projects and kindergarten parent committees in relation to projects being undertaken at kindergartens. |  Ongoing |
| Represent Council at community group meetings to communicate current topics and to hear from community groups about their interests | |
| Councillors and staff have delegated roles for a number of community groups and attend many meetings throughout the year. |  Ongoing |
| Represent Council on Community Asset Committees | |
| At the Special Meeting of Council in November 2022, Councillors were appointed to Community Asset Committees. This is ongoing with Councillors reappointed annually. |  Completed |

Our performance



Kinder children at play.



A supported and accessible community

Services:

These Council services have directly contributed to being able to meet the following Council Plan objectives:

- We will deliver our core services and advocate for access to other services for our community
- We will listen to our community about how they wish to communicate with us and implement effective communication methods to achieve this. We will provide our community with opportunities to engage with us.

| Service | Description |
|-----------------|--|
| Access programs | Provision of the following to the municipal community as a whole: disability access to improve accessibility in and around the Shire. |
| Aged services | Provision of the following to the municipal community as a whole: home, personal and respite care, property maintenance, senior citizens' centres, elderly persons' units and planned activity groups. |



A supported and accessible community

| Service | Description |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Communication | Provision of the following to support Council’s direct service delivery areas: enhancing and protecting the Council’s reputation, developing communication plans for key initiatives linked to the Council Plan, delivering advocacy campaigns in collaboration with the responsible officer/Councillor. |
| Council administration | Provision of the following to support Council’s direct service delivery areas: customer service and administrative support, records management, municipal building and equipment provision. |
| Council committees | Provision of the following to support Council’s direct service delivery areas: administrative support for Section 65 Community Asset Committees in managing compliance with the Local Government Act 1989. |
| Early years services | Provision of the following to the municipal community as a whole: maternal and child health, immunisations and cluster management of kindergartens. |
| Environmental management services | Provision of the following to the municipal community as a whole: weed management on Council property and development and implementation of Loddon’s response to climate change. |
| Financial management | Provision of the following to support Council’s direct service delivery areas: preparation and management of the Council budget, preparation of financial statements and government statistical returns, collection of various revenue sources and payment of employees and suppliers. |
| Governance | Provision of the following to support Council’s direct service delivery areas: Council, Councillors, the Chief Executive Officer and the Management Executive Group and administrative support, administering the conduct of Council meetings and elections, managing Freedom of Information, information privacy, protected disclosures and internal ombudsman functions, maintaining statutory registers, authorisations and delegations, coordinating civic events and citizenship ceremonies, administering the risk management framework. |

Our performance




Performance against major initiatives in the 2022/23 budget

Service Performance Indicators

The following statement provides the results of the prescribed service performance indicators and measures including explanation of results in the comments.



Service Measure

| | | Expected Range | 2019/20 Actual | 2020/21 Actual | 2021/22 Actual | 2022/23 Actual | Variance |
|---|--|---|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------|
|  Aquatic Facilities | | | | | | | |
| AF2 | Health inspections of aquatic facilities | 1 to 4 inspections | 1.40 | 1.00 | 1.80 | 1.00 | -44.44% |
| | | Comment All five pools were inspected and found to be satisfactory upon first inspection in January 2023. The decreased percentage reflects the previous year requiring multiple inspections. | | | | | |
| AF6 | Utilisation of aquatic facilities | 1 to 10 visits | 2.60 | 2.08 | 1.76 | 1.93 | 9.32% |
| | | Comment There was a 13% increase on attendance levels throughout the 2022/23 pool season in comparison to the 2021/22 season. All five pools had an increase in attendance levels. The main contributing factor was that there were less days of closures due to resourcing challenges that impacted the 2021/22 season. | | | | | |




| | | Expected Range | 2019/20 Actual | 2020/21 Actual | 2021/22 Actual | 2022/23 Actual | Variance |
|-----|---|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------|
| AF7 | Cost of aquatic facilities | \$0 to \$30 | \$28.98 | \$22.34 | \$59.06 | \$44.36 | -24.90% |
| | <p>Comment The 2021/22 season was higher than normal due to a new operations contractor facilitating the management of the pools. The decrease is reflective of no initial transition in costs and equipment that were experienced during 2021/22. There were also 795 hours of closures due to the temperature being below 24 degrees. The rise and fall clause in the contract meant that Council had savings at the end of the pool season. The rise and fall clause allows the price of a contract to increase or decrease in accordance with fluctuations in operating hours.</p> | | | | | | |



Animal Management


| | | | | | | | |
|-----|---|--------------|--------|---------|--------|--------|---------|
| AM1 | Time taken to action animal management requests | 1 to 10 days | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 0.00% |
| | <p>Council has remained highly responsive to animal management requests, responding within one day.</p> | | | | | | |
| AM2 | Animals reclaimed | 30% to 90% | 52.50% | 41.38% | 25.35% | 8.47% | -66.57% |
| | <p>Comment Council takes a proactive approach in reuniting animals with their owners. Following all options being exhausted animals are, at a last resort, impounded. If the animal still remains unclaimed it is then rehomed through external pet rescue groups. The 66.57% decrease also reflects voluntary surrenders where people are no longer willing/able to care for their animal. Of the animals that were impounded:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 animals were returned to their owner • 7 dogs were rehoused through animal rescue groups • 44 cats were rehoused through animal rescue groups. | | | | | | |
| AM5 | Animals rehomed | 20% to 80% | 45.00% | 58.62% | 67.61% | 86.44% | 27.86% |
| | <p>Comment There has been a 27.86% increase in animals rehomed during the past 12 months. This number primarily reflects the rehoming of cats and dogs without identified owners through rescue groups. This is an action within the Domestic Animal Management Plan. Of the 44 cats rehoused, 24 were collected during the period 1 April to 30 June. Throughout the year and in particular during that quarter, Council has been working together with the community about unowned cat populations. These unowned cats have been rehomed through animal rescue groups, including desexing and microchipping for a new start in life and reflect a statistical increase in our unclaimed animal numbers through our pound system.</p> | | | | | | |
| AM6 | Cost of animal management service per population | \$3 to \$40 | \$8.99 | \$10.67 | \$8.02 | \$7.78 | -3.00% |
| | <p>Comment The cost of animal management service per population has decreased slightly from the previous year and remains within the expected range.</p> | | | | | | |
| AM7 | Animal management prosecutions | 0% to 200% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| | <p>Comment There has been no animal management prosecutions within the reporting period. Council continues to actively work with the community.</p> | | | | | | |


Our performance

| | | Expected Range | 2019/20 Actual | 2020/21 Actual | 2021/22 Actual | 2022/23 Actual | Variance |
|--|---|--|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------|
|  Food Safety | | | | | | | |
| FS1 | Time taken to action food complaints | 1 to 10 days | 1.67 | 1.25 | 1.67 | 1.33 | -20.00% |
| | | Comment Council actions food complaints as soon as possible following receipt. During the past 12 months Council received 2 complaints which were actioned in under 24 hours and one 1 complaint which was actioned within 48 hours. This complaint was received on a weekend and actioned on the first business day. | | | | | |
| FS2 | Food safety assessments | 50% to 120% | 111.46% | 24.74% | 46.88% | 72.64% | 54.97% |
| | | Comment The food safety assessment program has been impacted by resourcing being redeployed for immediate response to flood emergency and mosquito emergency response activities. | | | | | |
| FS3 | Cost of food safety service | \$300 to \$1,200 | \$538.07 | \$69.44 | \$104.36 | \$117.13 | 12.23% |
| | | Comment The increase in cost reflects the increase in the number of assessments that were undertaken last year. | | | | | |
| FS4 | Critical and major non-compliance outcome notifications | 60% to 100% | 100.00% | 100.00% | 66.67% | 100.00% | 50.00% |
| | | Comment 100% of critical and major-non compliance outcome notifications have been followed up this year. The change in statistics is due to one notification in the prior year being followed up outside the timeframe due to staff absence. | | | | | |



Camping grounds at Tarnagulla Recreation Reserve.


| | | Expected Range | 2019/20 Actual | 2020/21 Actual | 2021/22 Actual | 2022/23 Actual | Variance |
|---|---|---|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------|
|  Governance | | | | | | | |
| G1 | Council decisions made at meetings closed to the public | 0% to 30% | 10.36% | 10.62% | 10.12% | 9.82% | -3.02% |
| | | Comment Council maintained a focus on listing as many reports as possible at meetings open to the public. Only 16 out of 163 resolutions were made in closed meetings. | | | | | |
| G2 | Satisfaction with community consultation and engagement | 40 to 70 | 57.00 | 58.00 | 56.00 | 52.00 | -7.14% |
| | | Comment Council maintain a focus on further developing engagement practices to assist with the management of community consultation and engagement across Council. | | | | | |
| G3 | Councillor attendance at council meetings | 80% to 100% | 100.00% | 100.00% | 99.49% | 96.57% | -2.93% |
| | | Comment Councillors attended 35 meetings during the year including monthly forums, monthly briefings and monthly Council meetings most months as well as special meetings. One Councillor was an apology for the May 2023 Council Meeting. | | | | | |
| G4 | Cost of elected representation | \$30,000 to \$80,000 | \$45,372.20 | \$58,413.00 | \$44,495.60 | \$44,495.60 | 0.00% |
| | | Comment The cost of elected representation remained consistent with previous years and is within the expected range. | | | | | |
| G5 | Satisfaction with council decisions | 40 to 70 | 57.00 | 61.00 | 58.00 | 54.00 | -6.90% |
| | | Comment Over the past year community satisfaction remained within the expected range, however decreasing slightly from 58 to 54. | | | | | |

| | | | | | | | |
|--|--|--|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
|  Libraries | | | | | | | |
| LB1 | Physical library collection usage | 1 to 9 items | 2.57 | 2.54 | 2.60 | 2.32 | -10.74% |
| | | Comment The physical library collection usage as remained consistent this year and within the expected range. | | | | | |
| LB2 | Recently purchased library collection | 40% to 90% | 72.00% | 72.00% | 72.00% | 72.00% | 0.00% |
| | | Comment No variance and value remains within expected range. | | | | | |
| LB4 | Active library borrowers in municipality | 10% to 40% | 7.30% | 6.35% | 5.50% | 13.54% | 146.44% |
| | | Comment Library usage in the Loddon Shire is positive, with active library users within the expected range. | | | | | |
| LB5 | Cost of library service per population | \$10 to \$90 | \$28.23 | \$28.85 | \$27.43 | \$26.61 | -3.00% |
| | | Comment The cost of the library service has remained steady while the population has continued to increase. | | | | | |


Our performance



Kinder children attending a performance.


| | | Expected Range | 2019/20 Actual | 2020/21 Actual | 2021/22 Actual | 2022/23 Actual | Variance |
|--|--|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------|
|  Maternal and Child Health (MCH) | | | | | | | |
| MC2 | Infant enrolments in the MCH service | 90% to 110% | 101.64% | 103.70% | 100.00% | 101.85% | 1.85% |
| | Comment MCH enrolment numbers continue to increase which are a reflection of the increased birth rates within the past 12 months. The MCH team actively engage with hospitals and new parents within the community. | | | | | | |
| MC3 | Cost of the MCH service | \$50 to \$200 | \$76.80 | \$78.74 | \$105.81 | \$94.70 | -10.50% |
| | Comment The majority of cost relates to ongoing employment, variations may occur when Council is required to engage casual staff. | | | | | | |
| MC4 | Participation in the MCH service | 70% to 100% | 83.37% | 85.11% | 87.30% | 90.05% | 3.15% |
| | Comment MCH participation rates have increased. This is a reflection of the birth rates within the past 12 months and the MCH team actively engaging with hospitals and new parents within the community. | | | | | | |
| MC5 | Participation in the MCH service by Aboriginal children | 60% to 100% | 85.71% | 89.47% | 77.78% | 93.75% | 20.54% |
| | Comment Participation in the MCH service by Aboriginal children continues to increase. The 20% increase is due to birth rates, relocation to the area and new engagement with the services. | | | | | | |
| MC6 | Participation in 4-week Key Age and Stage visit | 90% to 110% | 91.80% | 90.74% | 95.77% | 98.15% | 2.48% |
| | Comment MCH service continues to have high participation rates. The 2.48% increase is a reflection on the birth rates within the past 12 months. | | | | | | |


Our performance

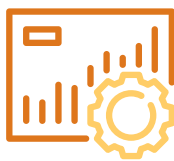
| | | Expected Range | 2019/20 Actual | 2020/21 Actual | 2021/22 Actual | 2022/23 Actual | Variance |
|---|--|--------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------|
|  Roads | | | | | | | |
| R1 | Sealed local road requests | 10 to 120 requests | 11.95 | 7.90 | 9.41 | 15.67 | 66.60% |
| | <p>Comment There has been a 66.60% increase in sealed local requests since last year. The flood event of 2022 had a significant impact on the Shire’s road network resulting in increased requests.</p> | | | | | | |
| R2 | Sealed local roads maintained to condition standards | 80% to 100% | 99.90% | 100.00% | 99.99% | 98.51% | -1.48% |
| | <p>Comment Council continues to maintain roads in line with the Road Asset Management Plan.</p> | | | | | | |
| R3 | Cost of sealed local road reconstruction | \$20 to \$200 | \$42.05 | \$38.62 | \$43.19 | \$0.00 | -100.00% |
| | <p>Comment No sealed local road reconstruction occurred in 2022/23 due to delays associated with the October 2022 flood event and because of long lead times to procure materials such as culverts.</p> | | | | | | |
| R4 | Cost of sealed local road resealing | \$4 to \$30 | \$4.93 | \$4.14 | \$3.74 | \$5.53 | 48.14% |
| | <p>Comment A high proportion of the resealing comprised of resealing roads using a larger aggregate which is a higher relative unit rate. This is in addition to a general trend of escalation costs for road projects observed in 2022/23.</p> | | | | | | |
| R5 | Satisfaction with sealed local roads | 50 to 100 | 47.00 | 50.00 | 50.00 | 43.00 | -14.00% |
| | <p>Comment Satisfaction with location roads decreased slightly since last year. The road network has been significantly impacted by the flood event of 2022.</p> | | | | | | |



Our performance

| | | Expected Range | 2019/20 Actual | 2020/21 Actual | 2021/22 Actual | 2022/23 Actual | Variance |
|---|---|---|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------|
|  Statutory Planning | | | | | | | |
| SP1 | Time taken to decide planning applications | 30 to 110 days | 48.50 | 39.00 | 42.00 | 28.00 | -33.33% |
| | | Comment Median number of days for processing of all applications was 28 days, less than the target of 30 days. | | | | | |
| SP2 | Planning applications decided within required time frames | 40% to 100% | 78.76% | 83.46% | 85.04% | 97.32% | 14.44% |
| | | Comment The increased statistic reflects the 97% of applications assessed within the required timeframes. | | | | | |
| SP3 | Cost of statutory planning service | \$500 to \$4,000 | \$1,224.29 | \$833.20 | \$1,362.68 | \$2,165.24 | 58.90% |
| | | Comment Council is committed to providing an efficient effective statutory planning service, the increase is reflective of increased resourcing in Statutory Planning. | | | | | |
| SP4 | Council planning decisions upheld at VCAT | 0% to 100% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| | | Comment Council has one appeal decision pending. | | | | | |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|--|---|----------|----------|----------|----------|---------|
|  Waste Collection | | | | | | | |
| WC1 | Kerbside bin collection requests | 10 to 300 requests | 69.63 | 61.62 | 59.74 | 69.89 | 16.99% |
| | | Comment Since the introduction of a new customer service request tracking and reporting system and ongoing contract surveillance has resulted in better services for residents. | | | | | |
| WC2 | Kerbside collection bins missed | 1 to 20 bins | 2.19 | 1.05 | 2.68 | 2.01 | -24.94% |
| | | Comment Staff continue to work with the contractor to improve mapping and driver consistency has also contributed to the reduction in missed bins. | | | | | |
| WC3 | Cost of kerbside garbage bin collection service | \$40 to \$150 | \$138.75 | \$143.89 | \$151.04 | \$145.96 | -3.36% |
| | | Comment Increased costs associated with legislative requirements. | | | | | |
| WC4 | Cost of kerbside recyclables collection service | \$10 to \$80 | \$78.86 | \$83.82 | \$93.60 | \$101.88 | 8.84% |
| | | Comment The increased costs per household for kerbside recycling collection is due to annual contract price increases and increased recycling sorting costs. | | | | | |
| WC5 | Kerbside collection waste diverted from landfill | 20% to 60% | 28.12% | 29.59% | 27.52% | 28.46% | 3.45% |
| | | Comment The percentage of kerbside collection waste diverted from landfill in 2022/23 28.46% has remained relatively consistent with previous reporting periods. This result represents the total weight of all material recycled from kerbside bin collections as a per kerbside of total kerbside waste collected (i.e. waste diverted from landfill). | | | | | |



Financial Performance Measures

| | | Expected Range | 2019/20 Actual | 2020/21 Actual | 2021/22 Actual | 2022/23 Actual | Variance |
|---|--|--------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------|
| Efficiency | | | | | | | |
| E2 | Expenses per property assessment | \$2,000 to \$5,000 | \$3,948.74 | \$4,190.23 | \$3,938.48 | \$4,687.72 | 19.02% |
| Comment Expenses are higher during 2023 with the flood restoration program underway in response to the 2022 major flood event. | | | | | | | |
| E4 | Average rate per property assessment | \$700 to \$2,000 | \$1,226.81 | \$1,244.14 | \$1,256.83 | \$1,276.55 | 1.57% |
| Comment This indicator slightly increases through the years and rate revenue increases in line with the Ministers cap. | | | | | | | |
| Liquidity | | | | | | | |
| L1 | Current assets compared to current liabilities | 100% to 400% | 744.86% | 506.54% | 604.47% | 596.58% | -1.30% |
| Comment Council has a large amount of cash on hand due to the upfront payment of Grants Commission funding along with major capital projects that are yet to be completed. In future years it is expected that this cash balance will fall considerably as projects are completed. | | | | | | | |



Inglewood Town Hall Hub.

Our performance



| | | Expected Range | 2019/20 Actual | 2020/21 Actual | 2021/22 Actual | 2022/23 Actual | Variance |
|----|--|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------|
| L2 | Unrestricted cash compared to current liabilities | 10% to 300% | 3.10% | 125.63% | 53.31% | -42.16% | -179.08% |
| | <p>Comment Council has a significant amount of cash on hand but has a large unspent grants reserve and LSL provision that restricts cash. This cash has been placed into term deposits to gain a better financial outcome for Council. As the years progress it is expected that there will be significant decreases to cash each year which will result in reassessing the program of works for each of these years.</p> | | | | | | |




Obligations


| | | | | | | | |
|----|--|-------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------|
| O2 | Loans and borrowings compared to rates | 0% to 70% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| | <p>Comment Council does not have any current borrowings.</p> | | | | | | |
| O3 | Loans and borrowings repayments compared to rates | 0% to 20% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| | <p>Comment Council does not have any current borrowings.</p> | | | | | | |
| O4 | Non-current liabilities compared to own source revenue | 2% to 70% | 11.85% | 10.17% | 8.32% | 10.79% | 29.72% |
| | <p>Comment This indicator has been slightly increasing over the years as revenue increases at a higher rate than the non current liabilities are.</p> | | | | | | |
| O5 | Asset renewal and upgrade compared to depreciation | 40% to 130% | 57.71% | 79.27% | 60.11% | 47.58% | -20.86% |
| | <p>Comment This is slightly lower than previous years with some significant spending on expansion of assets during 2023 on projects such as Donaldson Park and various caravan parks.</p> | | | | | | |



Council offices at Wedderburn.

Our performance

| | | Expected Range | 2019/20 Actual | 2020/21 Actual | 2021/22 Actual | 2022/23 Actual | Variance |
|--|--|--|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------|
|  Operating position | | | | | | | |
| OP1 | Adjusted underlying surplus (or deficit) | -20% to 20% | -8.06% | -5.44% | 3.94% | 7.03% | 78.43% |
| | | Comment This indicator includes more than \$17M of impairment that occurred as a result of the 2022 floods. | | | | | |

| | | Expected Range | 2019/20 Actual | 2020/21 Actual | 2021/22 Actual | 2022/23 Actual | Variance |
|---|---|---|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------|
|  Stability | | | | | | | |
| S1 | Rates compared to adjusted underlying revenue | 30% to 80% | 38.60% | 36.59% | 36.34% | 30.41% | -16.32% |
| | | Comment Rate revenue remains constant, adjusted underlying revenue includes the 100% upfront Grants Commission funding. | | | | | |
| S2 | Rates compared to property values | 0.15% to 0.75% | 0.49% | 0.43% | 0.44% | 0.35% | -20.75% |
| | | Comment This indicator has been slightly decreasing with the increase to rate revenue increasing at a lower rate than CIV within the municipality. | | | | | |

Sustainable Capacity Indicators

| | | Expected Range | 2019/20 Actual | 2020/21 Actual | 2021/22 Actual | 2022/23 Actual | Variance |
|----|---|---|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------|
| C1 | Expenses per head of municipal population | \$800 to \$4,000 | \$4,121.86 | \$4,442.56 | \$4,192.75 | \$4,858.76 | 15.88% |
| | | Comment Increase to expenses for 2023 due to the commencement of flood restoration works. This is expected to continue for a further two years. | | | | | |
| C2 | Infrastructure per head of municipal population | \$3,000 to \$40,000 | \$47,011.57 | \$46,350.15 | \$43,982.82 | \$47,672.29 | 8.39% |
| | | Comment The increase in infrastructure per head of population has increased in step with the increase in infrastructure valuations for the 2022/23 financial year. | | | | | |
| C3 | Population density per length of road | 1 to 300 people | 1.59 | 1.58 | 1.59 | 1.64 | 3.25% |
| | | Comment Loddon Shire's population increased by 3% while the road length remained similar to previous years which has resulted in the increased in population density per length of road. | | | | | |
| C4 | Own-source revenue per head of municipal population | \$700 to \$2,000 | \$1,930.36 | \$1,990.76 | \$1,998.78 | \$2,126.54 | 6.39% |
| | | Comment This indicator has been steadily increasing due to an increase of income and a fairly static population. | | | | | |

Our performance

| | | Expected Range | 2019/20 Actual | 2020/21 Actual | 2021/22 Actual | 2022/23 Actual | Variance |
|----|---|------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------|
| C5 | Recurrent grants per head of municipal population | \$100 to \$2,000 | \$1,771.22 | \$1,850.13 | \$2,244.69 | \$2,318.14 | 3.27% |
| | Comment Grants commission funding had 100% funding paid in advance during 2023, during 2022 this was 75%. | | | | | | |
| C6 | Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage | 1 to 10 decile | 2.00 | 2.00 | 2.00 | 2.00 | 0.00% |
| | Comment No material variations. | | | | | | |
| C7 | Staff turnover rate | 5% to 20% | 13.59% | 12.82% | 21.33% | 17.81% | -16.52% |
| | Comment Council have exited Aged Care Services as at 30 June 2023. Although the majority of Home Care Staff stayed on to 30 June 2023 five staff left earlier to gain other work. This contributes to more turnover. There were also four retirements across the organisation. | | | | | | |

Community Satisfaction Survey



The Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey is conducted each year to gather data on how satisfied residents are with Council's resources, facilities and services. The results provide data for the Local Government Performance Reporting Framework and an opportunity to consider improvements that would be valued by residents and ratepayers.

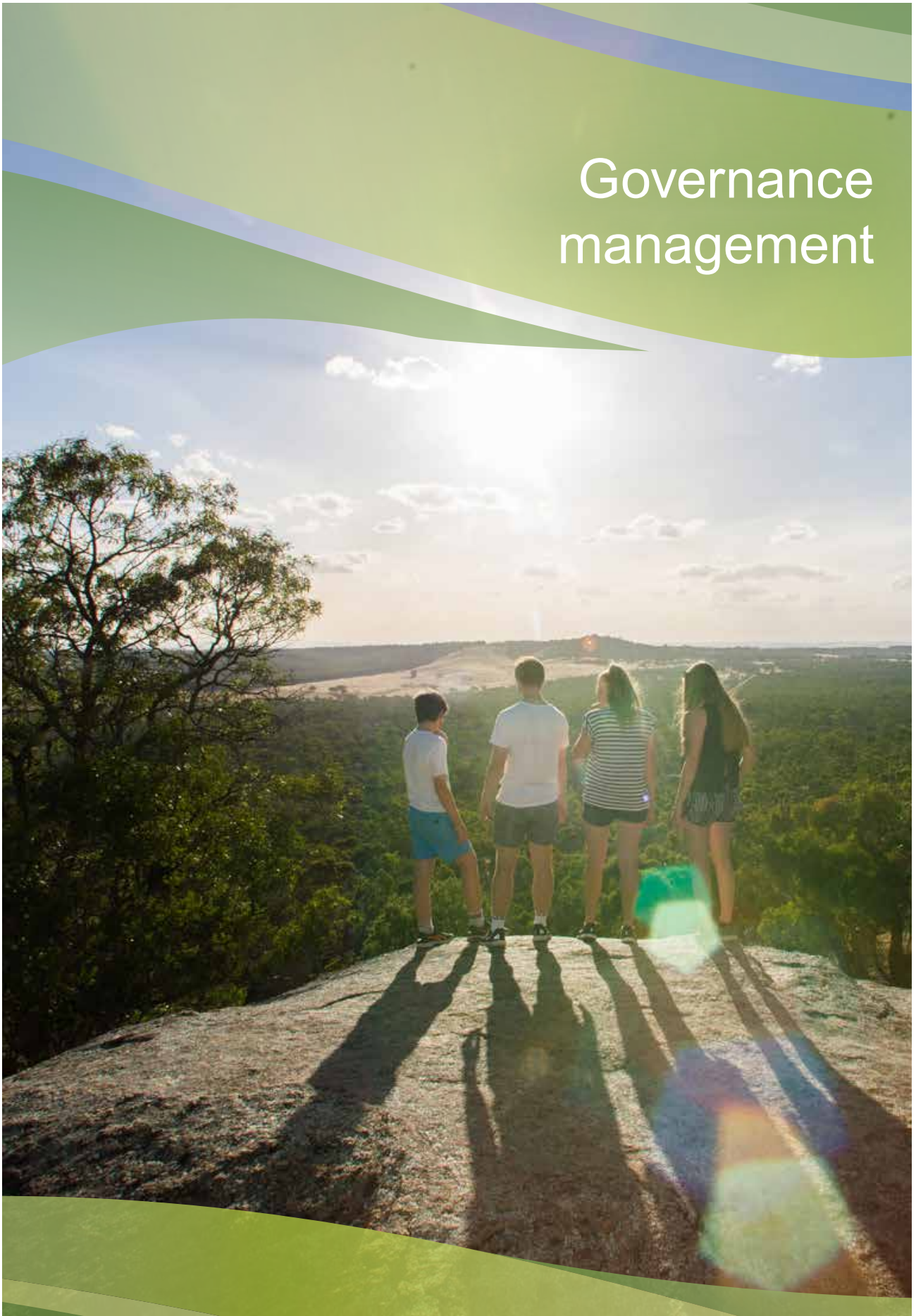
Survey fieldwork was conducted across four quarters from 16 June 2022 to 19 March 2023 and represents the opinions of 400 residents.

Council performs as well, or significantly higher, than the Small Rural group and State-wide averages on most service areas evaluated. Council's top three performing areas in these results are:

- Appearance of public areas
- Recreational facilities
- Waste management

Further details and this year's results are available at www.loddon.vic.gov.au/Our-Council/Community-Satisfaction-Surveys

Governance management



Governance management

Governance

Introduction

Loddon Shire Council is constituted under the Local Government Act 2020 to provide leadership for the good governance of the municipal district and the local community. Section 8(1) of the Act states that the role of Council is “to provide good governance in its municipal district for the benefit and wellbeing of the municipal community”.

This is achieved by adhering to the following governance principles:

- Council decisions are to be made and actions taken in accordance with the relevant law
- Priority is to be given to achieving the best outcomes for the municipal community, including future generations
- The economic, social and environmental sustainability of the municipal district, including mitigation and planning for climate change risks, is to be promoted
- The municipal community is to be engaged in strategic planning and strategic decision making
- Innovation and a continuous improvement is to be pursued

- Collaboration with other councils and Governments and statutory bodies is to be sought
- The ongoing financial viability of the Council is to be ensured
- Regional, State and National plans and policies are to be taken into account in strategic planning and decision making
- The transparency of Council decisions, actions and information is to be ensured

Council is committed to effective and sustainable forms of democratic and corporate governance as the key to ensuring that Council and its administration meet the community's priorities. The community has many opportunities to provide input into Council's decision-making processes including community consultation, public forums and ability to make submissions to Council.

Council's formal decision-making processes are conducted through Council meetings. Council delegates the majority of its decision-making to Council staff. These delegations are exercised in accordance with the Act and a range of other acts and regulations.



Meetings of Council

Council conducts open public meetings generally on the fourth Tuesday of each month. Members of the community are welcome to attend these meetings and observe from the gallery or watch proceedings online. Council meetings provide the opportunity for community members to submit a question to the Council as detailed in the Governance Rules.

For the 2022/23 financial year, Council held 13 Council meetings, including one Special Council Meeting for the purpose of electing a Mayor for the 2022/23 year.

Attendances at Council functions

During the year, the Mayor and Councillors attended various functions on behalf of Loddon Shire Council.

Some functions were related to Councillors' representation on external and Community Asset Committees while others arose from invitations from community groups, local government bodies, politicians and other stakeholders.

In total, the Mayor attended 83 functions while the other Councillors combined attended 233.

Code of conduct

The Councillor Code of Conduct, most recently reviewed in 2021, sets out minimum standards of conduct for councillors in their role and documents Loddon Shire Councillors' commitment to working together in the best interests of the people within the municipality and to discharging their responsibilities to the best of their skill and judgement.

Community Asset Committees

Section 65 of the Local Government Act 2020, provides for the establishment of Community Asset Committees for the purpose of managing community assets throughout the municipality.

Council's Community Asset Committees consist of dedicated community members who give their time and energy to managing their respective Community Asset Committees.

By instrument of delegation, the Chief Executive Officer delegates a range of powers, duties and functions of the Council to members of Council's Community Asset Committees to support management of the community assets.

Council respects and appreciates the contribution made by our volunteer Community Asset Committee members to enrich our community, and provide a much broader range of services and activities than Council could provide without this support.

Loddon Shire Council has established Community Asset Committees to manage the following community assets;

- Boort Aerodrome
- Boort Memorial Hall
- Boort Park
- Campbells Forest Hall
- Donaldson Park
- East Loddon Community Centre
- Hard Hill Tourist Reserve
- Inglewood Community Elderly Persons Units
- Inglewood Community Sports Centre
- Inglewood Town Hall Hub
- Korong Vale Mechanics Institute Hall
- Korong Vale Sports Centre
- Little Lake Boort
- Pyramid Hill Memorial Hall
- Wedderburn Community Centre
- Wedderburn Engine Park and Market Square Reserve
- Wedderburn Mechanics and Literary Institute Hall
- Yando Public Hall



Melville Caves. Photo: La Toya Schroeder.

Conflict of interest

Councillors are elected by the residents and ratepayers to act in the best interests of the community. This is a position of trust that requires Councillors to act in the public interest. When Council delegates its powers to a Council officer or a committee, the committee or officer must also act in the public interest.

A conflict of interest occurs when a personal or private interest might compromise the ability to act in the public interest. A conflict of interest exists even if no improper act results from it.

Council’s Governance Rules contain processes for the disclosure of a conflict of interest.

Disclosure of a conflict of interest is a standing agenda item for Council and committee meetings.

While the conflict of interest disclosure procedures vary depending on the particular role and circumstances, in general they involve disclosing the relevant interests in a specific way and then stepping aside from the decision-making process, or from the exercise of the public duty.

During 2022/23, four Councillor conflicts of interest were disclosed at a Council meeting.

Councillor allowances

In accordance with section 39 of the Local Government Act 2020, Councillors are entitled to receive an allowance for performing their duties as a Councillor. The Mayor is entitled to receive a higher allowance.

The State Government sets the upper and lower limits for all allowances paid to Councillors and Mayors. Councils are divided into three categories based on the income and population of each council. In this instance, Loddon Shire Council is recognised as a Category One Council.

In March 2022, the Victorian Independent Remuneration Tribunal completed a formal review of ‘Allowance payable to Mayors, Deputy Mayors and Councillors’. This review did not apply a set percentage increase to existing amounts, but did reset the base for allowances going forward. This allowance also no longer refers to the Superannuation Guarantee, this is now all in one allowance component, making the determination simpler going into the future.

The following table contains a summary of the allowances relating to each Councillor during the year.

| Name of Councillor | Councillor allowance paid 2022/23 |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Cr Dan Straub (Mayor) | \$76,588.45 |
| Cr Neil Beattie | \$24,702.45 |
| Cr Gavan Holt | \$24,702.45 |
| Cr Linda Jungwirth | \$24,702.45 |
| Cr Wendy Murphy | \$24,702.45 |
| Total | \$175,398.25 |

Councillor expenses

In accordance with section 40 of the Local Government Act 2020, Council is required to reimburse a Councillor for expenses incurred while performing their duties as a Councillor. Council is also required to adopt and maintain a policy in relation to the reimbursement of expenses for Councillors. The Councillors Support and Reimbursement of Expenses Policy provides guidance for the reimbursement of expenses and the provision of resources,

facilities and other support to the Mayor and Councillors to enable them to discharge their duties. Council publishes in its Annual Report the details of the expenses, including reimbursement of expenses for each Councillor and members of a Council committee.

The details of the expenses including reimbursement of expenses for each Councillor for the 2022/23 year are set out in the following table:

| Name of Councillor | Travel | Car mileage | Carer and dependent related expenses | Information and communication expenses | Conferences and training expenses | Total expenses |
|---------------------|------------|--------------------|--------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|--------------------|
| Cr D Straub (Mayor) | \$0 | \$18,000.00 | \$0 | \$139.73 | \$2,830.61 | \$20,970.34 |
| Cr N Beattie | \$0 | \$4,036.00 | \$0 | \$776.10 | \$3,205.11 | \$8,017.21 |
| Cr G Holt | \$0 | \$1,417.60 | \$0 | \$139.73 | \$3,607.23 | \$5,164.56 |
| Cr L Jungwirth | \$0 | \$4,824.56 | \$1,102.62 | \$139.73 | \$5,427.45 | \$11,494.36 |
| Cr W Murphy | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$139.73 | \$5,281.29 | \$5,421.02 |
| Total | \$0 | \$28,278.16 | \$1,102.62 | \$1,335.02 | \$20,351.69 | \$51,067.49 |

* The current Mayor has been elected since November 2021.



Boort Lake sculpture.

Governance management



Audit and Risk Management

October floods- Pyramid Hill.

Audit and Risk Committee

Council has an established Audit and Risk Committee, and prepared and approved an Audit and Risk Committee Charter in accordance with sections 53 and 54 of the Local Government Act 2020.

The Audit and Risk Committee's role is to oversee and monitor the effectiveness of Council in carrying out its responsibilities for accountable financial management, good corporate governance, maintaining an effective system of internal control and risk management, and fostering an ethical environment.

Council's five member Audit and Risk Committee consists of four independent members and one Councillor representative. Current membership is:

- Cr Gavan Holt (Cr Neil Beattie as alternate)
- Mr Rodney Baker (Chair)
- Ms Rachelle Tippet
- Mr Rod Poxon
- Mr Jarrah O'Shea (to February 2023)

Cr Holt was reappointed to the Audit and Risk Committee at the Special Meeting of Council held 8 November 2022.

On the recommendation of the Audit and Risk Committee, at its meeting on 28 February 2023, Council appointed Rod Baker Chair of the Committee to 28 February 2024.

Council's Chief Executive Officer and Director Corporate attend the meetings in an advisory capacity.

The Audit and Risk Committee Charter was reviewed by the Audit and Risk Committee and subsequently adopted by Council on 23 May 2023.

Audit and Risk Committee meetings are generally held on the first Monday in August, November, February and May, with minutes or a summary of each meeting reported by the Chief Executive Officer to Council.

Internal audit

Council's internal audit function provides independent and objective assurance that the appropriate processes and controls are in place across Council.

The function is resourced under contract by HLB Mann Judd.

A four-year Strategic Internal Audit Plan (SIAP) is developed and reviewed annually to ensure the audit resources remain focused on appropriate areas. The review process considers Council’s Risk Management Framework; the Council Plan; the impact of any change to operations, systems or the business environment; prior audit coverage and outcomes; and management input.

The Audit and Risk Committee receives reports at each meeting on the status of the SIAP, implementation of audit recommendations and findings of completed reviews.

The following audits were conducted during the year, concluding the SIAP 2019 – 2023:

- Procurement and Contract Management (April 2022)
- Governance Framework (July 2022)
- Fraud and Corruption Control Framework (October 2022)
- Data Governance (January 2023)

External audit

Council is externally audited by the Victorian Auditor-General’s Office (VAGO). VAGO utilises contractors for audit fieldwork, which for the Loddon Shire Council in 2022/23 was RSD Audit.

The external auditor’s primary role is to provide assurance that the financial statements fairly present the performance and financial position at the end of the year.

The external auditors presented the draft External Audit Strategy to the February meeting of the Audit and Risk Committee, while the External Audit Interim Management Letter was presented to the May meeting.

Actions arising from the external audit are included on the Audit and Risk Committee’s outstanding action list to be completed within the timeframe included in the report.

Risk management

Risks have the potential to impact Council’s ability to meet its objectives. While many risks cannot be eliminated, they can be identified, managed and monitored.

Council’s suite of risk management documents, including the Risk Management Policy and the Framework and Risk Appetite Statement, adopted in May 2022 articulate how Council will identify, manage and report on its risks.

Council officers continue to encourage and provide support for proactive and embedded risk management throughout the organisation.

During 2022/23, the Audit and Risk Committee received regular risk-related reports on business continuity, insurance, the Risk Management Framework and Appetite Statement and Risk Management Implementation Plan.



Audit and Risk Committee members.

Governance management

Governance and management checklist

We certify that this information presents fairly the status of Council's governance and management arrangements.

| Item ID | Governance and Management Item | YES or NO | Date if YES (single item/date) | Date if YES (multiple items/dates) |
|---------|-------------------------------------|-----------|--------------------------------|---|
| GC1 | Community engagement policy | YES | 23/02/2021 | Community Engagement Policy (approved by Council) |
| GC2 | Community engagement guidelines | YES | 3/04/2019 | Community Engagement Procedure (approved Management Executive Group) |
| GC3 | Financial Plan | YES | 28/06/2022 | Financial Plan only required to be adopted during the first 12 months of the election period. Last version updated and adopted by Council was 28/6/2022 |
| GC4 | Asset Plan | YES | 28/07/2022 | The Asset Plan was adopted on 28/07/2022 |
| GC5 | Revenue and Rating Plan | YES | 24/06/2021 | Revenue and Rating Plan needs to be adopted directly after the election period. Current document adopted by Council 24/6/2021 |
| GC6 | Annual budget | YES | 27/06/2023 | 2023/24 Loddon Shire Council Budget for Year Ended 30 June 2024 (adopted by Council) |
| GC7 | Risk policy | YES | | Risk Management Policy V6 (adopted by Council 24/04/2022) Risk Management Framework V3 (adopted by Council 24/04/2022) Risk Management Implementation Plan V1 (adopted by Council 28/06/2022) |
| GC8 | Fraud policy | YES | 25/06/2019 | Anti-Fraud and Corruption Policy (adopted by Council) |
| GC9 | Municipal emergency management plan | YES | 23/06/2020 | Northern Victorian Integrated Municipal Emergency Management Plan - Loddon Shire v7.0 endorsed by Council; the most recent version of the MEMP is currently undergoing the assurance process |
| GC10 | Procurement policy | YES | 26/04/2023 | Version 12 adopted by Council on 26 April 2023. |
| GC11 | Business continuity plan | YES | 7/11/2022 | Business Continuity Plan (adopted by Council) |

| Item ID | Governance and Management Item | YES or NO | Date if YES (single item/date) | Date if YES (multiple items/dates) |
|---------|---------------------------------|-----------|--------------------------------|---|
| GC12 | Disaster recovery plan | YES | 11/09/2019 | Information Technology Disaster Recovery Plan (IT DRP) 2019 (adopted by the Management Executive Group - internal document) |
| GC13 | Risk management framework | YES | 24/05/2022 | Risk Management Framework V3 (adopted by Council) |
| GC14 | Audit and Risk Committee | YES | 23/05/2023 | Audit and Risk Committee Charter V11 (adopted by Council) |
| GC15 | Internal audit | YES | | Internal Auditor engaged 2023-2026 |
| GC16 | Performance reporting framework | YES | 26/05/2020 | Performance Reporting Framework (endorsed by Internal Audit Committee, and Council) |
| GC17 | Council Plan report | YES | 22/02/2022 | Update on Annual Plan 2021-2025 provided to Council |
| GC18 | Quarterly budget reports | YES | | Quarterly reports submitted and noted by Council |
| GC19 | Risk reporting | YES | | The Audit and Risk Committee noted the progress of the actions within the Risk Management Implementation Plan in November 2022 and May 2023 |
| GC20 | Performance reporting | YES | | Financial and Performance Statements reported to Audit and Risk Committee, and Council in August 2022 |
| GC21 | Annual report | YES | 25/10/2022 | Consideration of the Annual Report for the period ending 30 June 2022 adopted by Council |
| GC22 | Councillor Code of Conduct | YES | 27/04/2021 | Councillor Code of Conduct V6 (adopted by Council) |
| GC23 | Delegations | YES | 27/06/2023 | Various powers, duties and functions delegated to Council staff by Council at its June 2023 meeting |
| GC24 | Meeting procedures | YES | 26/07/2022 | Governance Rules (adopted by Council) |



Lincoln Fitzgerald
Chief Executive Officer

Dated: 30/6/2023



Cr Dan Straub
Mayor

Statutory information

The following information is provided in accordance with legislative and other requirements applying to Council.

Documents available for public inspection

In accordance with legislation and Council's Public Transparency Policy, the following documents were available for public inspection, including on the website or at the Council office in Wedderburn:

- Agendas for, and minutes of, Council Meetings other than those agendas and minutes relating to part of a meeting which was closed to members of the public under the Act and are confidential information within the meaning of section 3(1) of the Act.
- Council's Governance Rules
- Council's Budget, Annual Report, Council Plan, Community Vision and Public Transparency Policy
- Reporting from Advisory Committees to Council (via Council Minutes)
- Register of travel undertaken by Councillors or Council staff
- Register of Conflicts of Interest disclosed by Councillors or Council staff
- Register of gifts, benefits and hospitality offered to Councillors or Council staff
- Public submissions made by Council
- Register of donations and grants made by Council
- Register of leases entered into by Council, as lessor and lessee
- Register of Delegations
- Register of Authorised Officers
- Summary of Personal Interests Returns
- Summary of Election Campaign Donation Returns
- Submissions received under section 223 of the Local Government Act 1989 (until its repeal) or feedback received through a community engagement process undertaken by Council.



Borella Park Korong Vale war statue.



2022 RUOK staff morning tea with Cindy Gould, Community Consumer and Volunteer Engagement Officer, from IDHS.

Child Safe Standards

Council is committed to protecting the interests and safety of children. Council has zero tolerance for child abuse. As part of its commitment, an organisational-wide approach has been developed to embed a child safe environment. In June 2022 Council revised the Child Safe Standards Statement of Commitment and adopted an updated Child Safe Standards Policy and Child Safe Standards Framework that incorporate the amendments made to the Child Safe Standards as at 1 January 2023.

Health Records Act 2001

Council collects health data, particularly in the community service area, to be used solely for the primary purpose for which it is collected or directly related purposes.

Council may disclose this information to other health professionals for continuity of care. If a referral to another health professional is required, consent is obtained unless exempted by other legislation.

Carers Recognition Act 2012

The Carers Recognition Act 2012 defines every council in Victoria as a ‘public service care agency’ and therefore a ‘care support organisation’. As a consequence, councils are required to comply with the Act and to report on this in their annual reports from 2012/13 and thereafter.

This reporting requirement impacts across a wide range of Council activities, including human resources, home and community care, aged and disability services, leisure and recreation, community services, and family and children’s services.

Council has taken all practicable measures to comply with its responsibilities outlined in the Act. Council has promoted the principles of the Act to people in care relationships and to the wider community by distributing printed material through relevant Council services, displaying posters at Council community venues and providing information to organisations represented in Council and community networks.

Council has also taken all practicable measures to ensure that staff, Council agents and volunteers working for us are informed about the principles and obligations of the Act by including information on the care relationship in Council induction and training programs for staff working in home and community care and disability services.

Governance management

Contracts

Council did not enter into any other contracts valued at \$250K or more for goods or services without engaging in a competitive process.

Disability Action Plan

In accordance with the Victorian Disability Act 2006, Council adopted its fourth Disability Action Plan in February 2018. The Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2018-2021, now known as the Access and Inclusion Plan (AIP), was extended to March 2023. The Access and Inclusion Plan will form one of the key pillars in the upcoming Inclusive Communities Plan which also encompasses positive ageing.

Achievements to date include:

- Embedding the Community Engagement Policy and Procedure to support staff to engage respectfully and inclusively with, and consider the needs of, community members during engagement processes.
- Continued consideration of universal design principles in all applicable infrastructure projects. Examples include the Bridgewater Foreshore and Inglewood Swimming Pool projects; Activating Open Spaces Strategy; Healthy Loddon Campaspe projects such as the Boort, Pyramid Hill, Wedderburn and Inglewood outdoor exercise equipment; and the Donaldson Park play space project plans.

- Updating Council website software to ensure compatibility with the latest Web Content Accessibility Guidelines.
- Continued delivery of disability awareness training during staff induction.
- Delivery of training to relevant staff on how to write in easy English.
- Partnering with City of Greater Bendigo to implement the Champions for Change project to increase supports for persons living with a disability to secure employment.

Domestic Animal Management Plan

Council is required to evaluate its implementation of domestic animal management initiatives in the annual report. Staff continue to implement initiatives from the 2018-21 plan, with some aspects being impacted or otherwise delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. A new Domestic Animal Management Plan will be prepared in accordance with State Government timeframes.

The occurrence of stray and feral cat populations continue to be a source of complaints from residents. Programs in Inglewood, Boort, Wedderburn, Pyramid Hill and Tarnagulla, in partnership with local residents, enabled feral cats being trapped and other stray/unclaimed cats finding new forever homes. Cat traps were also distributed generally throughout the municipality upon request.



Corporate staff meeting July 2022.



Council's continued initiative in promoting the benefits of 'register your dog/cat, get it back for free' were particularly advantageous throughout this time, with several successful pet returns to owners reducing costs to pet owners and ultimately reducing instances of impounded animals. Staff place an emphasis on avoiding impoundments wherever possible.

Animal control staff have also noted an increase in pet surrenders and general requests for assistance with rehoming pets or seeking financial help to meet the costs of desexing pets.

Other actions have included:

- inspecting domestic animal businesses
- conducting joint inspections with RSPCA officers regarding various dog breeding activities
- investigating and resolving potential dangerous or menacing dog complaints, including dog attacks
- participating in online animal welfare forums and workshops
- assisting in the Victorian Government Pet Exchange Register
- undertaking appropriate staff training and development programs

Freedom of Information Act 1982

In accordance with section 7(4AA)(a) and 7(4AA)(b) of the Freedom of Information Act 1982 (FOI Act), Council is required to publish certain statements in its annual report or separately such as on its website, concerning its functions and information available. Council has chosen to publish the statements separately, however provides the following summary of the application and operation of the Freedom of Information Act 1982.

Access to documents may be obtained through written request to the Freedom of Information Officer, as detailed in section 17 of the FOI Act and in summary requests should:

- be in writing
- identify as clearly as possible which document is being requested
- be accompanied by the appropriate application fee (the fee may be reduced or waived in certain circumstances).

Requests for access to information under the FOI Act should be addressed to the Freedom of Information Officer and lodged in person, via post or by email.

Further information regarding Freedom of Information requests, including applicable fees and charges is available from Council's website.

During the year, Council received five valid requests under the FOI Act.

Governance management

Food Act Ministerial Directions

In accordance with section 7E of the Food Act 1984, Council is required to publish a summary of any Ministerial Directions received during the financial year in its annual report.

No such Ministerial Directions were received by Council during the 2022/23 year.

Road Management Act Ministerial Directions

In accordance with section 22 of the Road Management Act 2004, Council must publish a copy or summary of any Ministerial Direction in its annual report.

No Ministerial Directions were received by Council during the 2022/23 year.

Protected Disclosures

In accordance with section 69 of the Protected Disclosure Act 2012, a council must include in its annual report information about how to access the procedures established by the council under Part 9 of that Act. It is also required to provide certain information about the number and types of protected disclosure complaints investigated during the financial year.

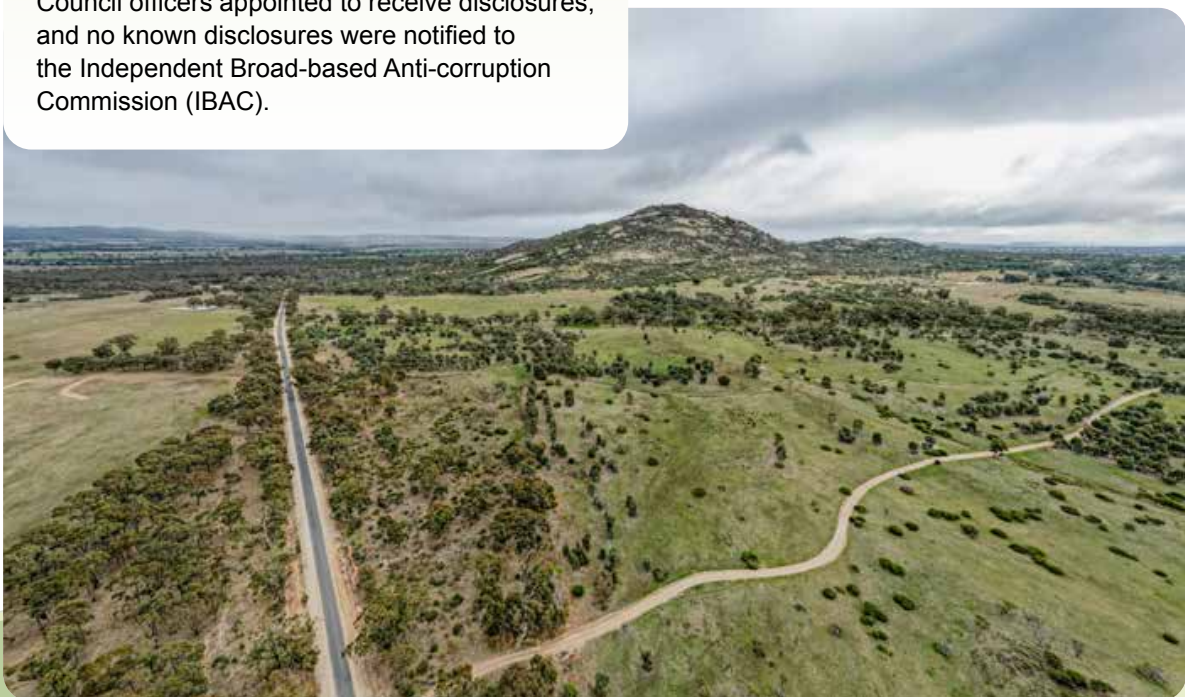
The Protected Disclosure Act 2012 aims to ensure openness and accountability in government by encouraging people to disclose improper conduct within the public sector and provide protection for people who make disclosures. Procedures on how to make a disclosure are outlined in Council's Public Interest (Protected Disclosure) Policy which is available to the public on Council's website.

During 2022/23 no disclosures were notified to Council officers appointed to receive disclosures, and no known disclosures were notified to the Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission (IBAC).

Infrastructure and development contributions

In accordance with section 46GM and 46QD of the Planning and Environment Act 1987, a council that is a collecting or development agency must prepare and give a report to the Minister for Planning on infrastructure and development contributions including levies and works in kind. The report must be published in Council's annual report.

For the 2022/23 year there were no infrastructure and development contributions.



Mount Korong

Performance Statement

Year ending 30 June 2023



PERFORMANCE STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

DESCRIPTION OF MUNICIPALITY

Loddon Shire Council is located in central Victoria, about 175 kilometres north-west of Melbourne. It is bounded by the Gannawarra Shire in the north, Shire of Campaspe and City of Greater Bendigo in the east, Mount Alexander Shire and Central Goldfields Shire in the south, and Northern Grampians Shire and Buloke Shire in the west.

Loddon Shire Council is a predominantly rural area, with many small towns and communities. The largest towns are Boort, Bridgewater on Loddon, Inglewood, Pyramid Hill, and Wedderburn.

The Shire encompasses a total land area of about 6,700 square kilometres. Land is used mainly for agriculture and horticulture, particularly grain, sheep, wool, beef cattle, dairy, pigs and poultry. In recent years, there has also been an increase in viticulture, olives, and fodder crops.

The primary source of employment in the Shire is agriculture, forestry and fishing with 37 per cent of employed residents working in those fields, while 10 per cent work in health care and social assistance, seven per cent in retail trade, and five per cent in public administration and safety.



SUSTAINABILITY CAPACITY INDICATORS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

| Indicator / measure | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 |
|--|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Indicator: Population <i>Measure:</i> Expenses per head of municipal population <i>Computation:</i> Total expenses / Municipal population | \$4,122 | \$4,443 | \$4,193 | \$4,859 |
| Comments: Population remains steady with the main variation being expenses. With the commencement of the flood program restoration works expenses are significantly higher. | | | | |
| Indicator: Population <i>Measure:</i> Infrastructure per head of municipal population <i>Computation:</i> Value of infrastructure / Municipal population | \$47,012 | \$46,350 | \$43,983 | \$47,672 |
| Comments: There has been an increase to infrastructure valuations this year due increasing replacement cost of materials. | | | | |
| Indicator: Population <i>Measure:</i> Population density per length of road <i>Computation:</i> Municipal population / Kilometres of local roads | 1.59 | 1.58 | 1.59 | 1.64 |
| Comments: No material variations. | | | | |
| Indicator: Own-source revenue <i>Measure:</i> Own source revenue per head of municipal population <i>Computation:</i> Own-source revenue / Municipal population | \$1,930 | \$1,991 | \$1,999 | \$2,127 |
| Comments: Gradual increase to own source revenue over time with population remaining steady. | | | | |
| Indicator: Recurrent grants <i>Measure:</i> Recurrent grants per head of municipal population <i>Computation:</i> Recurrent grants / Municipal population | \$1,771 | \$1,850 | \$2,245 | \$2,318 |
| Comments: Recurrent grants have increased due to the 100% upfront payment from the Grants Commission. | | | | |
| Indicator: Disadvantage <i>Measure:</i> Relative socio-economic disadvantage <i>Computation:</i> Index of relative socio-economic disadvantage by decile | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Comments: No material variations. | | | | |
| Efficiency Indicator: Workforce turnover <i>Measure:</i> Percentage of staff turnover <i>Computation:</i> [Number of permanent staff resignations and terminations / Average number of permanent staff for the financial year] x100 | 13.59% | 12.82% | 21.33% | 17.81% |
| Comments: With the cessation of the home and community care service there has been high resignations and the average permanent staff is expecting to drop going forward. | | | | |

Definitions:

"adjusted underlying revenue" means total income other than:

- (a) non-recurrent grants used to fund capital expenditure; and
- (b) non-monetary asset contributions; and
- (c) contributions to fund capital expenditure from sources other than those referred in paragraphs (a) and (b)

"infrastructure" means non-current property, plant and equipment excluding land

"local road" means a sealed or unsealed road for which the council is the responsible road authority under the *Road Management Act 2004*

"population" means the resident population estimated by council

"own-source revenue" means adjusted underlying revenue other than revenue that is not under the control of council (including government grants)

"relative socio-economic disadvantage", in relation to a municipality, means the relative socio-economic disadvantage, expressed as a decile for the relevant financial year, of the area in which the municipality is located according to the Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage (Catalogue Number 2033.0.55.001) of SEIFA

"SEIFA" means the Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas published from time to time by the Australian Bureau of Statistics on its Internet website.

"unrestricted cash" means all cash and cash equivalents other than restricted cash.

Performance Statement – Year ending 30 June 2023

SERVICE PERFORMANCE INDICATORS FOR YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

| Service / indicator / measure | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 |
|--|------|------|------|------|
| Aquatic facilities Indicator: Utilisation <i>Measure:</i> Utilisation of aquatic facilities <i>Computation:</i> Number of visits to aquatic facilities / Municipal population | 3 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Comments: Visitations to the pools had been decreasing since 2020, however 2023 is the first year which has seen an increase in visitation with better trading hours and staff stability. | | | | |
| Animal management Indicator: Health and safety <i>Measure:</i> Animal management prosecutions <i>Computation:</i> Number of successful animal management prosecutions / Number of animal prosecutions x 100 | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% |
| Comments: No cases that have required prosecution during the reporting period. | | | | |
| Food Safety Indicator: Health and safety <i>Measure:</i> Critical and major non-compliance notifications <i>Computation:</i> Number of critical non-compliance notifications and major non-compliance notifications about a food premises followed up / Number of critical non-compliance notifications and major non-compliance notifications about food premises x100 | 100% | 100% | 67% | 100% |
| Comments: All notifications were followed up during the year. | | | | |
| Governance Indicator: Satisfaction <i>Measure:</i> Satisfaction with Council decisions <i>Computation:</i> Community satisfaction rating out of 100 with how council has performed in making decisions in the interest of the community | 57 | 61 | 58 | 54 |
| Comments: This indicator has seen a slight decrease since the impact and recovery of both COVID-19 and the 2022 flood event. | | | | |
| Libraries Indicator: Participation <i>Measure:</i> Active library members <i>Computation:</i> [Number of active library members in the last three years / Municipal population in the last three years] x100 | 7% | 6% | 5% | 5% |
| Comments: Number of active library members continue to decrease. | | | | |
| Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Indicator: Participation <i>Measure:</i> Participation in MCH service <i>Computation:</i> [Number of children who attend the MCH service at least once (in the year) / Number of children enrolled in the MCH service] x100 | 83% | 85% | 87% | 90% |
| Comments: 199 attended out of the 221 enrolled. | | | | |
| Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Indicator: Participation <i>Measure:</i> Participation in the MCH service by Aboriginal children <i>Computation:</i> [Number of Aboriginal children who attend the MCH service at least once (in the year) / Number of Aboriginal children enrolled in the MCH service] x100 | 86% | 89% | 78% | 94% |
| Comments: Seven children attended out of the eight enrolled, this is compared to last year where seven out of nine children attended. | | | | |

SERVICE PERFORMANCE INDICATORS FOR YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023 (Continued)

| Service / indicator / measure | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 |
|---|------|------|------|------|
| Roads Indicator: Satisfaction <i>Measure:</i> Satisfaction with sealed local roads <i>Computation:</i> Community satisfaction rating out of 100 with how council has performed on the condition of sealed local roads | 47 | 50 | 50 | 43 |
| Comments: This indicator has seen a significant decrease for the reporting period as a result of the 2022 flood event and the time taken to restore assets. | | | | |
| Indicator: Decision making <i>Measure:</i> Council planning decisions upheld at VCAT <i>Computation:</i> [Number of VCAT decisions that did not set aside council's decision in relation to a planning application / Number of VCAT decisions in relation to planning applications] x100 | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% |
| Comments: Nil for the financial year. | | | | |
| Indicator: Waste diversion <i>Measure:</i> Kerbside collection waste diverted from landfill <i>Computation:</i> [Weight of recyclables and green organics collected from kerbside bins / Weight of garbage, recyclables and green organics collected from kerbside bins] x100 | 28% | 30% | 28% | 28% |
| Comments: No material variations. | | | | |

Definitions:

"Aboriginal child" means a child who is an Aboriginal person

"Aboriginal person" has the same meaning as in the Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006

"active library member" means a member of a library who has borrowed a book from the library

"annual report" means an annual report prepared by a council under section 98 of the Act

"class 1 food premises" means food premises, within the meaning of the *Food Act 1984*, that have been declared as class 1 food premises under section 19C of that Act

"class 2 food premises" means food premises, within the meaning of the *Food Act 1984*, that have been declared as class 2 food premises under section 19C of that Act

"critical non-compliance outcome notification" means a notification received by council under section 19N(3) or (4) of the *Food Act 1984*, or advice given to council by an authorised officer under that Act, of a deficiency that poses an immediate serious threat to public health

"food premises" has the same meaning as in the *Food Act 1984*

"local road" means a sealed or unsealed road for which Council is the responsible road authority under the *Road Management Act 2004*

"major non-compliance outcome notification" means a notification received by a council under section 19N(3) or (4) of the *Food Act 1984*, or advice given to council by an authorized officer under that Act, of a deficiency that does not pose an immediate serious threat to public health but may do so if no remedial action is taken

"MCH" means the Maternal and Child Health Service provided by a council to support the health and development of children within the municipality from birth until school age

"population" means the resident population estimated by council

Performance Statement – Year ending 30 June 2023

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE INDICATORS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

| Dimension / indicator / measure | Actuals | | | | Forecasts | | | |
|--|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | 2026 | 2027 |
| Efficiency Indicator: Expenditure level <i>Measure:</i> Expenses per property assessment <i>Computation:</i> Total expenses / Number of property assessments | \$3,948.74 | \$4,190.23 | \$3,938.48 | \$4,687.72 | \$7,168.86 | \$7,208.43 | \$4,812.10 | \$4,973.02 |
| Comments: Property numbers have had a slight increase with expenditure levels being the main variance. During 2023, 2024 and 2025 there will be significant flood restoration works undertaken. | | | | | | | | |
| Efficiency Indicator: Revenue level <i>Measure:</i> Average rate per property assessment <i>Computation:</i> General rates and municipal charges / Number of property assessments | \$1,226.81 | \$1,244.14 | \$1,256.83 | \$1,276.55 | \$1,328.37 | \$1,374.86 | \$1,422.98 | \$1,472.78 |
| Comments: Property numbers remain constant with rate income increasing over the years. | | | | | | | | |
| Liquidity Indicator: Working capital <i>Measure:</i> Current assets compared to current liabilities <i>Computation:</i> [Current assets / Current liabilities] x100 | 744.86% | 506.54% | 604.47% | 596.58% | 447.89% | 342.28% | 277.80% | 121.98% |
| Comments: Main variations occur in this indicator based on the cash available on hand. This decreases each year within the forecast amounts with capital works expected to be completed in those relevant years. | | | | | | | | |
| Liquidity Indicator: Unrestricted cash <i>Measure:</i> Unrestricted cash compared to current liabilities <i>Computation:</i> [Unrestricted cash / Current liabilities] x100 | 3.10% | 125.63% | -111.49% | -42.16% | 235.44% | 123.92% | 22.30% | -142.64% |
| Comments: Council has a large amount of cash on hand in some years, however forecasted years this decreases. For 2023, a significant amount of cash on hand is tied to unexpended grants. Forecasted years expect there to be no carried forward grants, therefore less cash restriction. | | | | | | | | |
| Obligations Indicator: Loans and borrowings <i>Measure:</i> Loans and borrowings compared to rates <i>Computation:</i> [Interest bearing loans and borrowings / Rate revenue] x100 | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Comments: Council has no borrowings. | | | | | | | | |
| Obligations Indicator: Loans and borrowings <i>Measure:</i> Loans and borrowings repayments compared to rates <i>Computation:</i> [Interest and principal repayments on interest bearing loans and borrowings / Rate revenue] x100 | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Comments: Council has no borrowings. | | | | | | | | |

**FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE INDICATORS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023
(Continued)**

| Dimension / indicator / measure | Actuals | | | | Forecasts | | | |
|---|---------|--------|--------|---------|-----------|---------|---------|---------|
| | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | 2026 | 2027 |
| Obligations Indicator: Indebtedness <i>Measure:</i> Non-current liabilities compared to own source revenue <i>Computation:</i> [Non-current liabilities / Own source revenue] x100 | 11.85% | 10.17% | 8.32% | 10.79% | 12.53% | 14.46% | 15.99% | 17.44% |
| Comments: Council's non current liabilities increase slightly each year and own source revenue increases steadily also. | | | | | | | | |
| Obligations Indicator: Asset renewal and upgrade <i>Measure:</i> Asset renewal and upgrade compared to depreciation <i>Computation:</i> [Asset renewal and upgrade expenses / Asset depreciation] x100 | 57.71% | 79.27% | 60.11% | 47.58% | 57.90% | 53.26% | 48.59% | 50.35% |
| Comments: Variations can occur within this indicator depending on the capital works program delivered for the year. | | | | | | | | |
| Operating position Indicator: Adjusted underlying result <i>Measure:</i> Adjusted underlying surplus (or deficit) <i>Computation:</i> [Adjusted underlying surplus (deficit) / Adjusted underlying revenue] x100 | -8.06% | -5.44% | 3.94% | -37.44% | -17.35% | -16.50% | -26.43% | -26.55% |
| Comments: Future year projections include the costs expected to address the renewal gap, however based upon current forecasting, Council will not have enough available funds to address the gap. | | | | | | | | |
| Stability Indicator: Rates concentration <i>Measure:</i> Rates compared to adjusted underlying revenue <i>Computation:</i> [Rate revenue / Adjusted underlying revenue] x100 | 38.60% | 36.59% | 36.34% | 30.41% | 25.99% | 26.54% | 44.68% | 44.90% |
| Comments: Council has continued to apply the legislated cap to rates and charges for all forecast years. | | | | | | | | |
| Stability Indicator: Rates effort <i>Measure:</i> Rates compared to property values <i>Computation:</i> [Rate revenue / Capital improved value of rateable properties in the municipality] x100 | 0.49% | 0.43% | 0.44% | 0.35% | 0.27% | 0.27% | 0.28% | 0.28% |
| Comments: Forecasting years are expecting a valuation growth of 2% with a rate increase slightly higher. | | | | | | | | |

Performance Statement – Year ending 30 June 2023

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE INDICATORS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023 (Continued)

Definitions:

"adjusted underlying revenue" means total income other than:

- (a) non-recurrent grants used to fund capital expenditure; and
- (b) non-monetary asset contributions; and
- (c) contributions to fund capital expenditure from sources other than those referred to in paragraphs (a) and (b)

"adjusted underlying surplus (or deficit)" means adjusted underlying revenue less total expenditure

"asset renewal expenditure" means expenditure on an existing asset or on replacing an existing asset that returns the service capability of the asset to its original capability

"current assets" has the same meaning as in the AAS

"current liabilities" has the same meaning as in the AAS

"non-current assets" means all assets other than current assets

"non-current liabilities" means all liabilities other than current liabilities

"non-recurrent grant" means a grant obtained on the condition that it be expended in a specified manner and is not expected to be received again during the period covered by a council's Strategic Resource Plan

"own-source revenue" means adjusted underlying revenue other than revenue that is not under the control of council (including government grants)

"population" means the resident population estimated by council

"rate revenue" means revenue from general rates, municipal charges, service rates and service charges

"recurrent grant" means a grant other than a non-recurrent grant

"residential rates" means revenue from general rates, municipal charges, service rates and service charges levied on residential properties

"restricted cash" means cash and cash equivalents, within the meaning of the AAS, that are not available for use other than for a purpose for which it is restricted, and includes cash to be used to fund capital works expenditure from the previous financial year

"unrestricted cash" means all cash and cash equivalents other than restricted cash.

OTHER INFORMATION FOR YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

Basis of preparation

Council is required to prepare and include a Performance Statement within its Annual Report. The Performance Statement includes the results of the prescribed sustainability capacity, service performance and financial performance indicators and measures together with a description of the municipal district and an explanation of material variations in the results. This statement has been prepared to meet the requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020* and *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020*.

Where applicable, the results in the Performance Statement have been prepared on accounting bases consistent with those reported in the Financial Statements. The other results are based on information drawn from Council information systems or from third parties (e.g. Australian Bureau of Statistics).

The Performance Statement presents the actual results for the current year and for the prescribed financial performance indicators and measures, the results forecast by Council's Strategic Resource Plan. The *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020* requires explanation of any material variations in the results contained in the Performance Statement. Council has adopted materiality thresholds relevant to each indicator and measure and explanations have not been provided for variations below the materiality thresholds unless the variance is considered to be material because of its nature.

The forecast figures included in the Performance Statement are those adopted by Council in its Financial Plan on 27 June 2023 which forms part of the Council Plan. The Financial Plan includes estimates based on key assumptions about the future that were relevant at the time of adoption and aimed at achieving sustainability over the long term. Detailed information on the actual financial results is contained in the General Purpose Financial Statements. The Financial Plan can be obtained by contacting Council.



Performance Statement – Year ending 30 June 2023

CERTIFICATION OF PERFORMANCE STATEMENT

In my opinion the accompanying Performance Statement has been prepared in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020* and the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020*.



Signed: Dated: 06 /September / 2023
AMANDA KAYE WILSON, BBus (Acc), DipHR, CertWHS, PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTING OFFICER
Wedderburn, Victoria 3518

In our opinion, the accompanying Performance Statement of the Loddon Shire Council for the year ended 30 June 2023 presents fairly the results of Council's performance in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020* and the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020*.

The Performance Statement contains the relevant performance indicators, measures and results in relation to service performance, financial performance and sustainability capacity.

As at the date of signing, we are not aware of any circumstances that would render any particulars in the Performance Statement to be misleading or inaccurate.

We have been authorised by the Council and the Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020 to certify this Performance Statement in its final form.



Signed: Dated: 06 /September / 2023
DANIEL ALLAN STRAUB, MAYOR
Wedderburn, Victoria, 3518



Signed: Dated: 06 /September / 2023
NEIL EDWARD BEATTIE, COUNCILLOR
Wedderburn, Victoria, 3518



Signed: Dated: 06 /September / 2023
LINCOLN WILLIAM FITZGERALD, BA (Nature Tourism), GAICD, CertTAA, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
Wedderburn, Victoria 3518





Independent Auditor's Report

To the Councillors of Loddon Shire Council

| | |
|--|---|
| Opinion | <p>I have audited the accompanying performance statement of Loddon Shire Council (the council) which comprises the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • description of municipality for the year ended 30 June 2023 • sustainability capacity indicators for the year ended 30 June 2023 • service performance indicators for the year ended 30 June 2023 • financial performance indicators for the year ended 30 June 2023 • other information and • certification of performance statement. <p>In my opinion, the performance statement of Loddon Shire Council in respect of the year ended 30 June 2023 presents fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with the performance reporting requirements of Part 4 of the <i>Local Government Act 2020 and Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020</i>.</p> |
| Basis for Opinion | <p>I have conducted my audit in accordance with the <i>Audit Act 1994</i> which incorporates the Australian Standards on Assurance Engagements. I further describe my responsibilities under that Act and those standards in the <i>Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the performance statement</i> section of my report.</p> <p>My independence is established by the <i>Constitution Act 1975</i>. My staff and I are independent of the council in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's <i>APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants</i> (the Code) that are relevant to my audit of the performance statement in Victoria. My staff and I have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.</p> <p>I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.</p> |
| Councillors' responsibilities for the performance statement | <p>The Councillors are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the performance statement in accordance with the performance reporting requirements of the <i>Local Government Act 2020</i> and the <i>Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020</i> and for such internal control as the Councillors determines is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of a performance statement that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.</p> |

Performance Statement – Year ending 30 June 2023

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the performance statement


As required by the *Audit Act 1994*, my responsibility is to express an opinion on the performance statement based on the audit. My objectives for the audit are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the performance statement as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Standards on Assurance Engagements will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the decisions of users taken on the basis of this performance statement.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Standards on Assurance Engagements, I exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. I also:

- identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the performance statement, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the council's internal control
- evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the performance statement, including the disclosures, and whether performance statement represents the underlying events and results in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

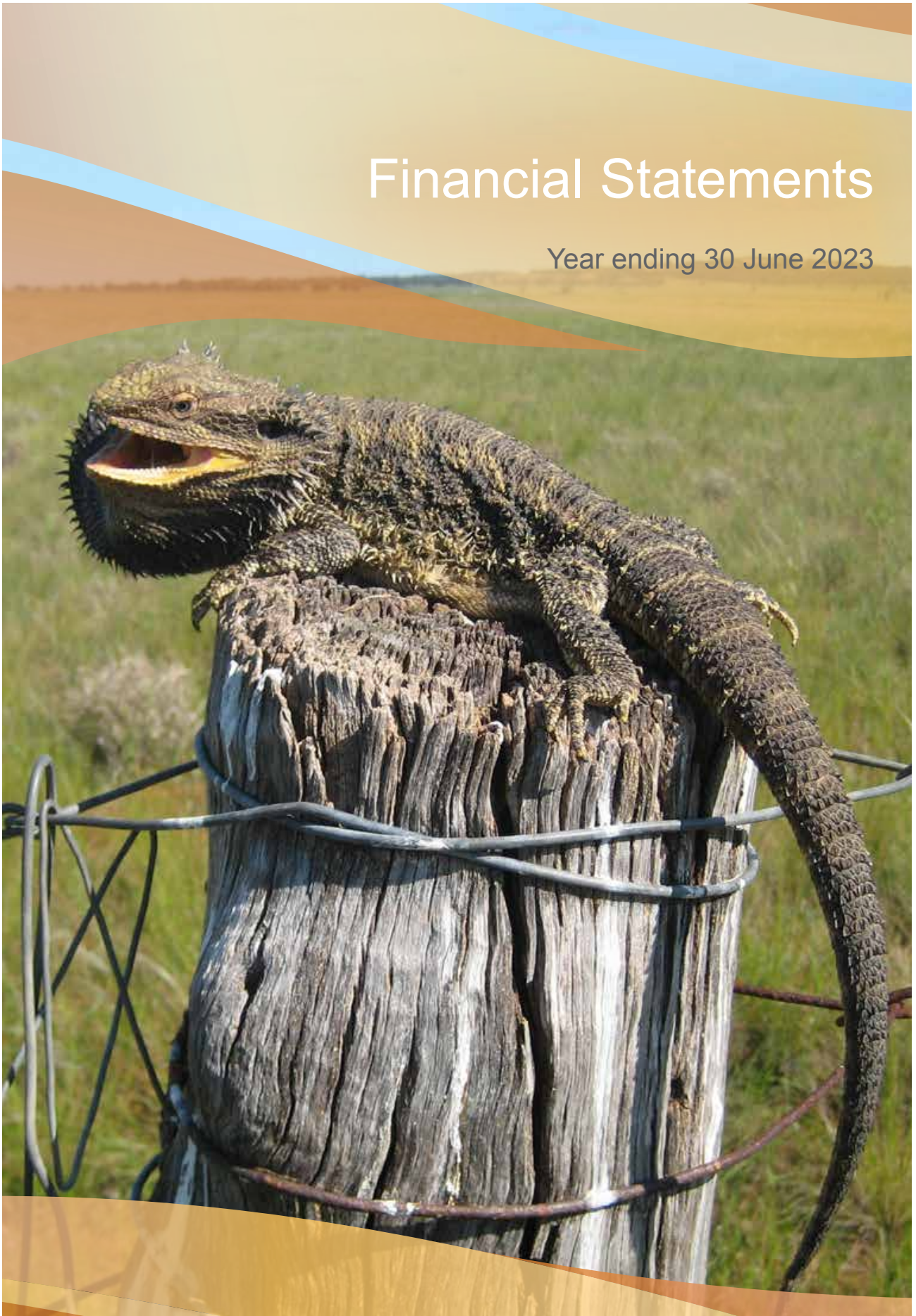
I communicate with the Councillors regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.

MELBOURNE
13 September 2023


Travis Derricott
as delegate for the Auditor-General of Victoria

Financial Statements

Year ending 30 June 2023



Financial Statements – Year ending 30 June 2023

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Certification of financial statements | 3 |
| Financial Statements | |
| Comprehensive Income Statement | 6 |
| Balance Sheet | 7 |
| Statement of Changes in Equity | 8 |
| Statement of Cash Flows | 9 |
| Statement of Capital Works | 10 |
| Notes to the financial statements | |
| Note 1 | 11 |
| Overview | |
| Note 2 | 13 |
| Analysis of our results | |
| 2.1 Performance against budget | 13 |
| 2.1.1 Income and expenditure | 13 |
| 2.2.2 Capital works | 14 |
| 2.2 Analysis of Council results by program | 15 |
| Note 3 | 16 |
| Funding for the delivery of our services | |
| 3.1 Rates and charges | 16 |
| 3.2 Statutory fees and fines | 16 |
| 3.3 User fees | 17 |
| 3.4 Funding from other levels of government | 17 |
| 3.5 Contributions | 20 |
| 3.6 Reimbursements and subsidies | 20 |
| 3.7 Net gain / (loss) on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment | 20 |
| 3.8 Interest received | 20 |
| Note 4 | 21 |
| The cost of delivering services | |
| 4.1 Employee costs | 21 |
| 4.2 Materials and services | 21 |
| 4.3 Depreciation | 23 |
| 4.4 Bad debts expense | 23 |
| 4.5 Other expenses | 23 |
| Note 5 | 24 |
| Our financial position | |
| 5.1 Financial assets | 24 |
| 5.2 Non-financial assets | 26 |
| 5.3 Payables, trust funds and deposits and unearned income/revenue | 28 |
| 5.4 Provisions | 30 |
| 5.5 Financing arrangements | 32 |
| 5.6 Commitments | 33 |
| 5.7 Leases | 34 |
| Note 6 | 35 |
| Assets we manage | |
| 6.1 Non current assets classified as held for sale | 35 |
| 6.2 Property, infrastructure, plant and equipment | 36 |
| 6.3 Investments in associates, joint arrangements and subsidiaries | 43 |
| Note 7 | 45 |
| People and relationships | |
| 7.1 Council and key management remuneration | 45 |
| 7.2 Related party disclosure | 47 |
| Note 8 | 48 |
| Managing uncertainties | |
| 8.1 Contingent assets and liabilities | 48 |
| 8.2 Change in accounting standards | 48 |
| 8.3 Financial instruments | 49 |
| 8.4 Fair value measurement | 51 |
| 8.5 Events occurring after balance date | 52 |
| Note 9 | 53 |
| Other matters | |
| 9.1 Reserves | 53 |
| 9.2 Reconciliation of cash flows from operating activities to surplus / (deficit) | 59 |
| 9.3 Superannuation | 59 |
| Note 10 | 62 |
| Change in accounting policy | |

CERTIFICATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

In my opinion the accompanying financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020*, the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020*, Australian Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements.



Signed: Dated: 06 /September / 2023
AMANDA KAYE WILSON, BBus (Acc), DipHR, CertWHS, PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTING OFFICER
Wedderburn, Victoria 3518

In our opinion the accompanying financial statements present fairly the financial transactions of the Loddon Shire Council for the year ended 30 June 2023 and the financial position of the Council as at that date.

At the date of signing, we are not aware of any circumstances that would render any particulars in the financial statements to be misleading or inaccurate.

We have been authorised by the Council and by the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020* to certify the financial statements in their final form.



Signed: Dated: 06 /September / 2023
DANIEL ALLAN STRAUB, MAYOR
Wedderburn, Victoria, 3518



Signed: Dated: 06 /September / 2023
NEIL EDWARD BEATTIE, COUNCILLOR
Wedderburn, Victoria, 3518



Signed: Dated: 06 /September / 2023
LINCOLN WILLIAM FITZGERALD, BA (Nature Tourism), GAICD, CertTAA, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
Wedderburn, Victoria 3518





Independent Auditor's Report

To the Councillors of Loddon Shire Council

| | |
|---|---|
| Opinion | <p>I have audited the financial report of Loddon Shire Council (the council) which comprises the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • balance sheet as at 30 June 2023 • comprehensive income statement for the year then ended • statement of changes in equity for the year then ended • statement of cash flows for the year then ended • statement of capital works for the year then ended • notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies • certification of financial statements. <p>In my opinion the financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the council as at 30 June 2023 and their financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the financial reporting requirements of Part 4 of the <i>Local Government Act 2020</i>, the <i>Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020</i> and applicable Australian Accounting Standards.</p> |
| Basis for Opinion | <p>I have conducted my audit in accordance with the <i>Audit Act 1994</i> which incorporates the Australian Auditing Standards. I further describe my responsibilities under that Act and those standards in the <i>Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report</i> section of my report.</p> <p>My independence is established by the <i>Constitution Act 1975</i>. My staff and I are independent of the council in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 <i>Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants</i> (the Code) that are relevant to my audit of the financial report in Victoria. My staff and I have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.</p> <p>I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.</p> |
| Councillors' responsibilities for the financial report | <p>The Councillors of the council are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, the <i>Local Government Act 2020</i> and the <i>Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020</i>, and for such internal control as the Councillors determine is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.</p> <p>In preparing the financial report, the Councillors are responsible for assessing the council's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless it is inappropriate to do so.</p> |

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial report


As required by the *Audit Act 1994*, my responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on the audit. My objectives for the audit are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, I exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. I also:

- identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the council's internal control
- evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Councillors
- conclude on the appropriateness of the Councillors' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the council's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion. My conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of my auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the council to cease to continue as a going concern.
- evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

I communicate with the Councillors regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.

MELBOURNE
13 September 2023


Travis Derricott
as delegate for the Auditor-General of Victoria

Financial Statements – Year ending 30 June 2023

COMPREHENSIVE INCOME STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

| | Note | 2023 \$ | 2022 \$ |
|---|--------|-------------------|---------------------|
| Income / Revenue | | | |
| Rates and charges | 3.1 | 12,283,025 | 11,890,953 |
| Statutory fees and fines | 3.2 | 329,402 | 383,610 |
| User fees | 3.3 | 1,313,104 | 1,538,812 |
| Grants - operating | 3.4 | 21,623,177 | 15,211,241 |
| Grants - capital | 3.4 | 6,081,169 | 2,965,192 |
| Contributions - monetary | 3.5 | 361,400 | 273,925 |
| Reimbursements and subsidies | 3.6 | 1,181,739 | 859,314 |
| Donated assets | | 45,322 | - |
| Net gain (or loss) on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment | 3.7 | 17,390 | 34,433 |
| Interest received | 3.8 | 1,264,776 | 263,296 |
| Share of net profits of associates and joint ventures | 6.3 | 1,301 | 14,446 |
| Total income / revenue | | 44,501,805 | 33,435,222 |
| Expenses | | | |
| Employee costs | 4.1 | 13,464,021 | 12,857,975 |
| Materials and services | 4.2 | 12,977,497 | 8,971,351 |
| Depreciation | 4.3 | 10,742,687 | 9,270,237 |
| Bad and doubtful debts - allowance for impairment losses | 4.4 | 57,799 | 40,478 |
| Other expenses | 4.5 | 311,346 | 292,978 |
| Total expenses | | 37,553,350 | 31,433,019 |
| Surplus (or deficit) for year | | 6,948,455 | 2,002,203 |
| Other comprehensive income | | | |
| <i>Items that will not be reclassified to surplus or deficit in future periods</i> | | | |
| Net asset revaluation increment/(decrement) | 9.1(a) | 39,617,225 | (10,365,945) |
| Share of other comprehensive income of associates and joint ventures accounted for by the equity method | 6.3 | (3,673) | (4,075) |
| Total other comprehensive income | | 39,613,552 | (10,370,020) |
| Total comprehensive result | | 46,562,007 | (8,367,817) |

The above Comprehensive Income Statement should be read with the accompanying notes.

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30 JUNE 2023

| | Note | 2023 \$ | 2022 \$ |
|--|--------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Assets | | | |
| Current assets | | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | 5.1 | 15,992,321 | 3,727,157 |
| Other financial assets | 5.1 | 33,188,401 | 36,684,402 |
| Trade and other receivables | 5.1 | 2,025,564 | 1,063,989 |
| Other assets | 5.2 | 711,733 | 130,642 |
| Prepayments | 5.2 | 5,267 | 262,843 |
| Non-current assets classified as held for sale | 6.1 | 311,958 | 311,958 |
| Total current assets | | 52,235,244 | 42,180,991 |
| Non-current assets | | | |
| Other assets | 5.2 | 100 | 100 |
| Investments in associates, joint ventures and subsidiaries | 6.3 | 292,682 | 295,054 |
| Intangible assets | 5.2 | 2,807,790 | 2,713,090 |
| Property, infrastructure, plant and equipment | 6.2 | 382,469,773 | 343,749,861 |
| Total non-current assets | | 385,570,345 | 346,758,105 |
| Total assets | | 437,805,589 | 388,939,096 |
| Liabilities | | | |
| Current liabilities | | | |
| Trade and other payables | 5.3(a) | 2,375,392 | 692,750 |
| Trust funds and deposits | 5.3(b) | 367,767 | 367,782 |
| Unearned income | 5.3(c) | 3,176,276 | 3,076,276 |
| Provisions | 5.4 | 2,836,372 | 2,841,411 |
| Total current liabilities | | 8,755,807 | 6,978,219 |
| Non-current liabilities | | | |
| Provisions | 5.4 | 1,773,183 | 1,246,284 |
| Total non-current liabilities | | 1,773,183 | 1,246,284 |
| Total liabilities | | 10,528,990 | 8,224,503 |
| Net assets | | 427,276,599 | 380,714,592 |
| Equity | | | |
| Accumulated surplus | | 91,709,883 | 91,667,547 |
| Reserves | 9 | 335,566,716 | 289,047,045 |
| Total equity | | 427,276,599 | 380,714,592 |

The above Balance Sheet should be read with the accompanying notes.

Financial Statements – Year ending 30 June 2023

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

2023

| | Note | Total 2023 \$ | Accumulated surplus 2023 \$ | Revaluation reserve 2023 \$ | Other reserves 2023 \$ |
|---|--------|---------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Balance at beginning of the financial year | | 380,714,592 | 91,667,547 | 262,232,789 | 26,814,256 |
| Surplus/(deficit) for the year | | 6,948,455 | 6,948,455 | - | - |
| Net asset revaluation increment/(decrement) | 9.1(a) | 39,617,225 | - | 39,617,225 | - |
| Transfer to reserves | 9.1(b) | - | (24,971,210) | - | 24,971,210 |
| Transfer from reserves | 9.1(b) | - | 18,068,764 | - | (18,068,764) |
| Share of other comprehensive income | | (3,673) | (3,673) | - | - |
| Balance at end of financial year | | 427,276,599 | 91,709,883 | 301,850,014 | 33,716,702 |

2022

| | Note | Total 2022 \$ | Accumulated surplus 2022 \$ | Revaluation reserve 2022 \$ | Other reserves 2022 \$ |
|---|--------|---------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Balance at beginning of the financial year | | 389,082,409 | 90,938,554 | 272,598,734 | 25,545,121 |
| Surplus/(deficit) for the year | | 2,002,203 | 2,002,203 | - | - |
| Net asset revaluation increment/(decrement) | 9.1(a) | (10,365,945) | - | (10,365,945) | - |
| Transfer to reserves | 9.1(b) | - | (19,065,147) | - | 19,065,147 |
| Transfer from reserves | 9.1(b) | - | 17,796,012 | - | (17,796,012) |
| Share of other comprehensive income | | (4,075) | (4,075) | - | - |
| Balance at end of financial year | | 380,714,592 | 91,667,547 | 262,232,789 | 26,814,256 |

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

| | Note | 2023 Inflows/ (outflows) \$ | 2022 Inflows/ (outflows) \$ |
|---|------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Cash flows from operating activities | | | |
| Rates and charges | | 12,127,262 | 11,936,398 |
| Statutory fees and fines | | 336,507 | 356,251 |
| User fees | | 649,596 | 1,632,691 |
| Grants - operating | | 21,444,456 | 15,326,794 |
| Grants - capital | | 6,181,169 | 3,065,192 |
| Contributions - monetary | | 361,400 | 273,925 |
| Donated assets | | 45,322 | - |
| Reimbursements and subsidies | | 1,181,739 | 859,314 |
| Interest received | | 1,390,151 | 196,033 |
| Net GST refund | | 1,268,707 | 1,268,707 |
| Trust funds and deposits taken | | (15) | 2,611 |
| Employee costs | | (13,361,866) | (12,960,079) |
| Material and services | | (12,932,581) | (11,623,720) |
| Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities | 9.2 | 18,691,847 | 10,334,117 |
| Cash flows from investing activities | | | |
| Payments for property, infrastructure, plant and equipment | 6.2 | (10,224,734) | (7,579,652) |
| Proceeds from sale of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment | 3.7 | 302,050 | 211,938 |
| Payments for intangible assets | | - | (650) |
| Payments from / (for) investments | | 3,496,001 | (19,500,985) |
| Repayment of loans and advances from community organisations | | - | - |
| Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities | | (6,426,683) | (26,869,349) |
| Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents | | 12,265,164 | (16,535,232) |
| Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the financial year | | 3,727,157 | 20,262,389 |
| Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the financial year | 5.1 | 15,992,321 | 3,727,157 |

The above Statement of Cash Flows should be read with the accompanying notes.

Financial Statements – Year ending 30 June 2023

STATEMENT OF CAPITAL WORKS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

| | Note | 2023 \$ | 2022 \$ |
|--|------|-------------------|------------------|
| Land and buildings | | | |
| Land | | - | 840,934 |
| Buildings - specialised | | 1,394,372 | 288,337 |
| Work in progress | | 3,722,102 | 444,855 |
| Total buildings | | 5,116,474 | 1,574,126 |
| Plant and fittings | | | |
| Plant, machinery and equipment | | 974,628 | 749,230 |
| Office furniture and equipment | | 40,182 | 90,326 |
| Total plant and equipment | | 1,014,810 | 839,556 |
| Infrastructure | | | |
| Roads | | 2,953,021 | 3,514,155 |
| Bridges | | 445,562 | 920,762 |
| Footpaths and cycleways | | 522,263 | 353,945 |
| Kerb and channel | | - | 169,544 |
| Drainage | | 172,604 | 207,563 |
| Street furniture | | - | - |
| Work in progress | | - | - |
| Total infrastructure | | 4,093,450 | 5,165,970 |
| Total capital works expenditure | 6.2 | 10,224,734 | 7,579,652 |
| Represented by: | | | |
| New asset expenditure | | 1,014,810 | 1,674,732 |
| Asset renewal expenditure | | 4,762,106 | 5,451,463 |
| Asset expansion expenditure | | 4,099,041 | 332,338 |
| Asset upgrade expenditure | | 348,777 | 121,119 |
| Total capital works expenditure | | 10,224,734 | 7,579,652 |

The above statement of capital works should be read with the accompanying notes.

NOTE 1 OVERVIEW

Introduction

The Loddon Shire Council was established by an Order of the Governor in Council on 19 January 1995 and is a body corporate. The Council's main office is located at 41 High Street, Wedderburn.

Statement of compliance

These financial statements are a general purpose financial report that consist of a Comprehensive Income Statement, Balance Sheet, Statement of Changes in Equity, Statement of Cash Flows, Statement of Capital Works and Notes accompanying these financial statements. The general purpose financial report complies with Australian Accounting Standards, other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards (AAS), the *Local Government Act 2020*, and the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020*.

Council is a not-for-profit entity and therefore applies the additional AUS paragraphs applicable to a not-for-profit entity under the Australian Accounting Standards.

Significant accounting policies

(a) Basis of accounting

Accounting policies are selected and applied in a manner which ensures that the resulting financial information satisfies the concepts of relevance and reliability, thereby ensuring that the substance of the underlying transactions or other events is reported. Accounting policies applied are disclosed in sections where the related balance or financial statement matter is disclosed.

The accrual basis of accounting has been used in the preparation of these financial statements, except for the cash flow information, whereby assets liabilities, equity, income and expenses are recognised in the reporting period to which they relate, regardless of when cash is received or paid.

The financial statements are based on the historical cost convention unless a different measurement basis is specifically disclosed in the notes to the financial statements.

Judgements, estimates and assumptions are required to be made about the carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated judgements are based on professional judgement derived from historical experience and various other factors that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis. The financial statements are in Australian dollars. The amounts presented in the financial statements have been rounded to the nearest dollar unless otherwise specified. Minor discrepancies in tables between totals and the sum of components due to rounding.

Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised and also in future periods that are affected by the revision. Judgements and assumptions made by management in the application of AAS's that have significant effects on the financial statements and estimates relate to:

- the fair value of land, buildings, infrastructure, plant and equipment (refer to Note 6.2)
- the determination of depreciation for buildings, infrastructure, plant and equipment (refer to Note 6.2)
- the determination of employee provisions (refer to Note 5.4)
- the determination of landfill provisions (refer to Note 5.4)
- the determination of whether performance obligations are sufficiently specific as to determine whether an arrangement is within the scope of *AASB 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers* or *AASB 1058 Income for Not-for-Profit Entities* (refer to Note 3)
- whether or not *AASB 1059 Service Concession Agreements: Grantors* is applicable
- other areas requiring judgements.

Financial Statements – Year ending 30 June 2023

NOTE 1 OVERVIEW (CONTINUED)

Significant accounting policies (continued)

(a) Basis of accounting (continued)

Unless otherwise stated, all accounting policies are consistent with those applied in the prior year. Where appropriate, comparative figures have been amended to accord with current presentation and disclosure has been made of any material changes to comparatives.

Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Income and expenses are recognised net of the amount associated with GST. Receivables and payables are stated inclusive of the amount of GST receivable or payable. The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the taxation authority is included with other receivables or payables in the balance sheet.

(b) Impact of COVID-19

During 2022/23 the COVID-19 pandemic continued to impact on Council's operations. Council has noted only minor interruptions and no impacts of a material nature on its financial operations.

NOTE 2 ANALYSIS OF OUR RESULTS

2.1 Performance against budget

The performance against budget notes compare Council's financial plan, expressed through its annual budget, with actual performance. The *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020* requires explanation of any material variances. Management has adopted a materiality threshold of 20 percent and \$50,000 where further explanation is warranted. Explanations have not been provided for variations below the materiality threshold.

The budget figures detailed below are those adopted by Council on 28 June 2022.

These notes are prepared to meet the requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020* and the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020*.

2.1.1 Income / revenue and expenditure

| | Budget 2023 \$ | Actual 2023 \$ | Variance \$ | Variance % | Ref |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|-------------------|----------------|-----|
| Income / revenue | | | | | |
| Rates and charges | 12,257,016 | 12,283,025 | 26,009 | 0.2% | |
| Statutory fees and fines | 284,357 | 329,402 | 45,045 | 15.8% | |
| User fees | 1,531,648 | 1,313,104 | (218,544) | -14.3% | |
| Grants - operating | 4,174,076 | 21,623,177 | 17,449,101 | 418.0% | 1 |
| Grants - capital | 2,387,726 | 6,081,169 | 3,693,443 | 154.7% | 2 |
| Contributions - monetary | - | 361,400 | 361,400 | 100.0% | 3 |
| Reimbursements and subsidies | 778,447 | 1,181,739 | 403,292 | 51.8% | 4 |
| Donated assets | - | 45,322 | 45,322 | 100.0% | 5 |
| Interest earnings | 235,000 | 1,264,776 | 1,029,776 | 438.2% | 6 |
| Net gain/(loss) on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment | - | 17,390 | 17,390 | 100.0% | |
| Share of net profits/(losses) of associates and joint ventures | - | 1,301 | 1,301 | 0.0% | |
| Total income / revenue | 21,648,270 | 44,501,805 | 22,853,535 | 105.6% | |
| Expenses | | | | | |
| Employee costs | 14,362,102 | 13,464,021 | 898,081 | 6.3% | |
| Materials and services | 12,173,012 | 12,977,497 | (804,485) | 6.6% | |
| Depreciation | 10,106,628 | 10,742,687 | (636,059) | 6.3% | |
| Bad and doubtful debts - allowance for impairment losses | - | 57,799 | (57,799) | 100.0% | 7 |
| Other expenses | 351,182 | 311,346 | 39,836 | -11.3% | |
| Total expenses | 36,992,924 | 37,553,350 | (560,426) | 1.5% | |
| Surplus/(deficit) for the year | (15,344,655) | 6,948,455 | 22,293,109 | -145.3% | |

(I) Explanation of material variations

- 1 This includes the 100% upfront payment of the 2023/24 Grants Commission funding. This was not budgeted.
- 2 This includes further grant funding for major projects that were initially budgeted to occur within 2021/22.
- 3 This includes project funding for items that were expected to commence in 2021/22 and further new projects.
- 4 This mainly relates to reimbursement of expenses for the ongoing system implementation project along with insurance claims reimbursements.
- 5 Council was donated the assets funded from the mosquito monitor and eradication program. This was not expected when the budget was adopted.
- 6 Significant increases in interest rates and available cash has resulting in an increase to the interest earned.
- 7 This is an unknown, therefore Council does not budget for doubtful debts.

Financial Statements – Year ending 30 June 2023

NOTE 2 ANALYSIS OF OUR RESULTS (CONTINUED)**2.1 Performance against budget (continued)****2.1.2 Capital works**

| | Budget 2023 \$ | Actual 2023 \$ | Variance \$ | Variance % | Ref |
|--|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|------------|
| Land and buildings | | | | | |
| Land | - | - | 0 | 100.0% | |
| Buildings | 405,000 | 928,563 | (523,563) | 129.3% | |
| Total land and buildings | 405,000 | 928,563 | (523,563) | 129.3% | 8 |
| Plant and equipment | | | | | |
| Plant, machinery and equipment | 2,097,340 | 974,628 | 1,122,712 | -53.5% | |
| Office furniture and equipment | 100,000 | 40,182 | 59,818 | -59.8% | |
| Total plant and equipment | 2,197,340 | 1,014,810 | 1,182,530 | -53.8% | 9 |
| Infrastructure | | | | | |
| Roads | 3,207,823 | 3,118,541 | 89,282 | -2.8% | |
| Bridges | 149,488 | 445,562 | (296,074) | 198.1% | |
| Footpaths and cycleways | 426,183 | 522,263 | (96,080) | 22.5% | |
| Drainage | 350,000 | 179,449 | 170,551 | -48.7% | |
| Recreation, leisure and community facilities | 500,000 | 3,798,050 | (3,298,050) | 659.6% | |
| Parks, open space and streetscapes | 100,000 | 217,496 | (117,496) | 117.5% | |
| Total infrastructure | 4,733,494 | 8,281,361 | (3,547,867) | 75.0% | 10 |
| Total capital works expenditure | 7,335,834 | 10,224,734 | (2,888,900) | 39.4% | |
| Represented by: | | | | | |
| New asset expenditure | 2,197,340 | 1,014,810 | 1,182,530 | -53.8% | |
| Asset renewal expenditure | 4,638,494 | 4,762,106 | (123,612) | 2.7% | |
| Asset expansion expenditure | - | 4,099,041 | (4,099,041) | 100.0% | |
| Asset upgrade expenditure | 500,000 | 348,777 | 151,223 | -30.2% | |
| Total capital works expenditure | 7,335,834 | 10,224,734 | (2,888,900) | 39.4% | |

(i) Explanation of material variations

- 8 This mainly relates to the caravan park improvement works that were carried forward from 2021/22.
- 9 The variation relates to the delay in delivery for some major plant items. These have been ordered and are recognised as commitments in the schedule but are not available for delivery as yet.
- 10 The variations relate to projects that were carried forward from 2021/22. This includes Donaldson Park, Pyramid Hill Streetscape and Community Centre along with various road infrastructure projects.

NOTE 2 ANALYSIS OF OUR RESULTS (CONTINUED)

2.2 Analysis of Council results by program

Council delivers its functions and activities through the following programs:

2.2.1 Programs

A sustainable built and natural environment

Infrastructure: We will implement financially and environmentally sustainable infrastructure that supports our social and economic needs.

Environment: 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.

A growing and vibrant community

Population: We will promote population growth to support a growing and diverse community.

Community: We will support a connected and inclusive community that provides opportunities for current and new community members at all ages, abilities, and stages of their life.

Youth: We will support our youth to access pathways for education and employment and the ability to connect and actively engage with their community.

A diverse and expanding economy

Tourism: We will promote our unique tourism opportunities and support our local tourism industry to increase visitation to our area.

Economy: We will support established businesses and seek to attract new businesses to grow our local economy.

A supported and accessible community

Services: We will deliver our core services and advocate for access to other services for our community that support the health, wellbeing and liveability of our community.

Communication: We will listen to our community about how they wish to communicate with us and implement effective communication methods to achieve this. We will provide our community with opportunities to engage with us.

2.2.2 Summary of income / revenue, expenses, assets and capital expenses by program

2023 - Council Plan

| | Income / revenue \$ | Expenses \$ | Surplus / (Deficit) \$ | Grants included in income / revenue \$ | Total assets \$ |
|---|------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|---|--------------------|
| Sustainable built and natural environment | 11,163,154 | 7,028,256 | 4,134,898 | 8,723,022 | 378,073,554 |
| Growing and vibrant community | 3,455,074 | 2,401,182 | 1,053,892 | 2,950,996 | - |
| Diverse and expanding economy | 825,819 | 1,095,862 | (270,043) | 269,287 | 311,958 |
| Supported and accessible community | 29,057,758 | 27,028,050 | 2,029,708 | 15,761,041 | 59,420,077 |
| Total | 44,501,805 | 37,553,350 | 6,948,455 | 27,704,346 | 437,805,589 |

2022 - Council Plan

| | Income / revenue \$ | Expenses \$ | Surplus / (Deficit) \$ | Grants included in income / revenue \$ | Total assets \$ |
|---|------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|---|--------------------|
| Sustainable built and natural environment | 5,534,698 | 3,945,574 | 1,589,124 | 3,338,206 | 338,949,869 |
| Growing and vibrant community | 592,635 | 1,382,673 | (790,038) | 134,160 | - |
| Diverse and expanding economy | 1,015,660 | 971,524 | 44,136 | 337,844 | 311,958 |
| Supported and accessible community | 26,292,229 | 25,133,248 | 1,158,981 | 14,366,223 | 49,677,269 |
| Total | 33,435,222 | 31,433,019 | 2,002,203 | 18,176,433 | 388,939,096 |

NOTE 3 FUNDING FOR THE DELIVERY OF OUR SERVICES

3.1 Rates and charges

Council uses Capital Improved Value (C.I.V.) as the basis of valuation of all properties within the municipal district. The C.I.V. of a property includes the value of the land and all improvements on the land.

The valuation base used to calculate general rates for 2022/23 was \$3,497,520,100. The valuation base used in 2021/22 was \$2,672,413,100.

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|
| | \$ | \$ |
| General rates | 2,688,092 | 2,506,374 |
| Rural production rates | 6,181,689 | 6,205,467 |
| Municipal charges | 1,356,691 | 1,318,915 |
| Kerbside recycling charges | 527,248 | 476,727 |
| Garbage charges | 1,477,925 | 1,336,289 |
| Interest on rates and charges | 51,380 | 47,181 |
| Total rates and garbage charges | 12,283,025 | 11,890,953 |

The date of the latest general revaluation of land for rating purposes within the municipal district was 1 January 2022, and the valuation was first applied in the rating year commencing 1 July 2022.

Annual rates and charges are recognised as revenues when Council issues annual rates notices. Supplementary rates are recognised when a valuation and reassessment is completed and a supplementary rates notice issued.

3.2 Statutory fees and fines

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| | \$ | \$ |
| Statutory fees and fines | | |
| Rates and property | 14,284 | 12,164 |
| Risk management | 3,232 | 6,099 |
| Building regulation | 44,998 | 76,676 |
| Local laws and animal management | 85,016 | 82,769 |
| Public health | 54,702 | 58,973 |
| Strategic and statutory planning | 127,170 | 146,929 |
| Total statutory fees and fines | 329,402 | 383,610 |

Statutory fees and fines (including building permits and local laws fines) are recognised as revenue when the service has been provided, the payment is received, or when the penalty has been applied, whichever occurs first.



NOTE 3 FUNDING FOR THE DELIVERY OF OUR SERVICES (Continued)**3.3 User fees**

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|---|------------------|------------------|
| | \$ | \$ |
| User fees | | |
| Caravan parks | 494,146 | 635,256 |
| Loddon Discovery Tours | - | 675 |
| Tourism | 17,407 | 2,350 |
| Aged care services | 418,362 | 478,471 |
| Seniors | 4,516 | 1,897 |
| Emergency management | 4,911 | 3,675 |
| Preschools | 4,896 | 56,866 |
| Corporate governance | 565 | 6,328 |
| Financial services | 2,641 | 949 |
| Human resources and development | 49,058 | 51,371 |
| Council engineering and technical services | 63,831 | 50,072 |
| Building regulation | 2,217 | 1,162 |
| Local laws and animal management | - | 472 |
| Building and property management | 61,563 | 37,475 |
| Gravel pits | 16,203 | 34,155 |
| Parks and townships | - | 102 |
| Roads | 16,687 | 13,278 |
| Waste management | 38,013 | 61,314 |
| Other | 2,908 | 6,654 |
| Rent received | | |
| Elderly persons units | 70,202 | 56,755 |
| Economic development | 44,978 | 39,535 |
| Total user fees | 1,313,104 | 1,538,812 |
| User fees by timing of revenue recognition | | |
| User fees recognised over time | - | - |
| User fees recognised at a point in time | 1,313,104 | 1,538,812 |
| Total user fees | 1,313,104 | 1,538,812 |

User fees are recognised as revenue at a point in time, or over time, when (or as) the performance obligation is satisfied. Recognition is based on the underlying contractual terms.

3.4 Funding from other levels of government

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|
| | \$ | \$ |
| Grants were received in respect of the following: | | |
| Summary of grants | | |
| Commonwealth funded grants | 15,513,407 | 14,595,172 |
| State funded grants | 12,190,939 | 3,581,261 |
| Total grants received | 27,704,346 | 18,176,433 |

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|
| | \$ | \$ |
| (a) Operating grants | | |
| Recurrent - Commonwealth Government: | | |
| Financial Assistance Grant - general purpose grant | 7,927,689 | 7,020,658 |
| Financial Assistance Grant - local roads | 5,610,806 | 5,186,788 |
| Total operating Commonwealth Government grants | 13,538,495 | 12,207,446 |

Financial Statements – Year ending 30 June 2023

NOTE 3 FUNDING FOR THE DELIVERY OF OUR SERVICES (Continued)**3.4 Funding from other levels of government (continued)**

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|
| | \$ | \$ |
| Recurrent - State Government: | | |
| Aged care services | 869,649 | 916,875 |
| Seniors | 3,700 | 6,700 |
| Maternal and child health | 274,172 | 277,885 |
| Early years | 186,834 | 161,029 |
| Preschools | 628,052 | 549,334 |
| Youth | - | 12,250 |
| Rates and property | 46,397 | 45,599 |
| Roads | 75,000 | 75,000 |
| Waste management | 6,635 | 27,252 |
| Other | 43,795 | 33,514 |
| Total recurrent operating grants | 2,134,234 | 2,105,438 |
| Non recurrent - State Government: | | |
| Administration and management | - | (85,550) |
| Economic development | - | 210,000 |
| Flood management | 5,378,067 | - |
| Community wellbeing projects | 20,500 | 94,044 |
| Community support | - | 36,106 |
| Emergency management | - | 30,000 |
| Grants and community planning | 182,000 | 100,000 |
| Early years | 109,239 | 119,936 |
| Preschools | - | 69,968 |
| Human resources and development | - | 2,601 |
| Project and contract management | 58,400 | 296,000 |
| Public health | 152,242 | 7,052 |
| Strategic and Statutory Plannin | 50,000 | - |
| Other | - | 18,200 |
| Total non recurrent operating grants | 5,950,448 | 898,357 |
| Total operating grants | 21,623,177 | 15,211,241 |
| (b) Capital grants | | |
| Recurrent - Commonwealth Government: | | |
| Roads to Recovery | 1,974,912 | 2,387,726 |
| Recurrent - State Government: | | |
| Caravan parks | 269,287 | 127,844 |
| Non recurrent - State Government: | | |
| Grants and community planning | 1,000,000 | 90,000 |
| Project and contract management | 111,258 | 359,622 |
| Infrastructure program | 2,725,712 | - |
| Total non recurrent capital grants | 3,836,970 | 449,622 |
| Total capital grants | 6,081,169 | 2,965,192 |

NOTE 3 FUNDING FOR THE DELIVERY OF OUR SERVICES (Continued)**3.4 Funding from other levels of government (continued)****(c) Recognition of grant income**

Before recognising funding from government grants as revenue Council assesses whether there is a contract that is enforceable and has sufficiently specific performance obligations in accordance with AASB 15 *Revenue from Contracts with Customers*. When both these conditions are satisfied, Council:

- identifies each performance obligation relating to revenue under the contract/agreement
- determines the transaction price
- recognises a contract liability for its obligations under the agreement
- recognises revenue as it satisfies its performance obligations, at the time or over time when services are rendered.

Where the contract is not enforceable and/or does not have sufficiently specific performance obligations, the Council applies AASB 1058 *Income for Not-for-Profit Entities*.

Grant revenue with sufficiently specific performance obligations is recognised over time as the performance obligations specified in the underlying agreement are met. Where performance obligations are not sufficiently specific, grants are recognised on the earlier of receipt or when an unconditional right to receipt has been established. Grants relating to capital projects are generally recognised progressively as the capital project is completed. The following table provides a summary of the accounting framework under which grants are recognised.

(d) Unspent grants received on condition that they be spent in a specific manner

| | 2023 \$ | 2022 \$ |
|---|-------------------|------------------|
| Operating | | |
| Balance at start of year | 7,137,817 | 7,350,767 |
| Received during the financial year and remained unspent at balance date | 5,642,536 | 5,539,277 |
| Received in prior years and spent during the financial year | (2,263,674) | (5,752,227) |
| Balance at year end | 10,516,679 | 7,137,817 |
| Capital | | |
| Balance at start of year | 4,198,618 | 3,509,637 |
| Received during the financial year and remained unspent at balance date | 3,607,969 | 3,933,445 |
| Received in prior years and spent during the financial year | (1,034,330) | (3,244,464) |
| Balance at year end | 6,772,257 | 4,198,618 |

Unspent grants are determined and disclosed on a cash basis.

| | 2023 \$ | 2022 \$ |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|
| Income recognised under AASB 1058 <i>Income of Not-for-Profit Entities</i> | | |
| General purpose | 13,546,014 | 12,288,338 |
| Specific purpose grants to acquire non-financial assets | 13,244,867 | 4,248,253 |
| Other specific purpose grants | 11,750 | 11,500 |
| Revenue recognised under AASB 15 <i>Revenue from Contracts with Customers</i> | | |
| Specific purpose grants | 901,715 | 1,628,342 |
| Total grants recognised in income statement | 27,704,345 | 18,176,433 |

Financial Statements – Year ending 30 June 2023

NOTE 3 FUNDING FOR THE DELIVERY OF OUR SERVICES (Continued)

3.5 Contributions

| | 2023 \$ | 2022 \$ |
|--------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Contributions - operating - monetary | 88,150 | 9,948 |
| Contributions - capital - monetary | 273,250 | 263,977 |
| Total contributions | 361,400 | 273,925 |

Monetary contributions are recognised as revenue at their fair value when Council obtains control over the contributed asset.

3.6 Reimbursements and subsidies

| | 2023 \$ | 2022 \$ |
|--|------------------|----------------|
| Council administration | 119,282 | 55,000 |
| Aged care services | - | 12,860 |
| Grants and community planning | 11,770 | 17,753 |
| Risk management | 111,121 | 85,395 |
| Governance | 183,339 | - |
| Plant and fleet | 109,817 | 121,338 |
| Department of Transport routine maintenance contract | 640,338 | 566,968 |
| Other | 6,072 | - |
| Total reimbursements and subsidies | 1,181,739 | 859,314 |

Reimbursements and subsidies are recognised as revenue when the service has been provided or Council has otherwise earned the income.

3.7 Net gain (or loss) on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment

| | 2023 \$ | 2022 \$ |
|--|---------------|---------------|
| Proceeds from sale | 302,050 | 211,938 |
| Written down value of assets disposed | (284,660) | (177,505) |
| Total net gain (or loss) on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment | 17,390 | 34,433 |

The profit or loss on sale of an asset is determined when control of the asset has passed to the buyer.

3.8 Interest received

| | 2023 \$ | 2022 \$ |
|--------------------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Interest on investments | 1,213,396 | 216,115 |
| Rates interest | 51,380 | 47,181 |
| Total interest received | 1,264,776 | 263,296 |

Interest is recognised as it is earned.

NOTE 4 THE COST OF DELIVERING SERVICES

4.1 (a) Employee costs

| | 2023 \$ | 2022 \$ |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Salaries and wages | 10,747,112 | 10,184,666 |
| Annual leave and long service leave | 1,203,601 | 1,298,849 |
| Superannuation | 1,192,587 | 1,127,908 |
| Fringe benefits | 109,776 | 84,049 |
| Workcover | 210,945 | 162,503 |
| Total employee costs | 13,464,021 | 12,857,975 |

(b) Superannuation

Council made contributions to the following funds:

| | 2023 \$ | 2022 \$ |
|--|---------------|---------------|
| Defined benefit fund | | |
| Employer contributions to Local Authorities Superannuation Fund (Vision Super) | 44,948 | 94,428 |
| Total defined benefit fund | 44,948 | 94,428 |

Employer contributions payable at reporting date is NIL.

| | 2023 \$ | 2022 \$ |
|--|------------------|------------------|
| Accumulation funds | | |
| Employer contributions to Local Authorities Superannuation Fund (Vision Super) | 562,593 | 492,304 |
| Employer contributions - Australian Super | 115,556 | 94,595 |
| Employer contributions - VicSuper | 66,789 | 58,185 |
| Employer contributions - Hesta | 39,794 | 47,946 |
| Employer contributions - Cbus | 55,644 | 47,057 |
| Employer contributions - other funds | 307,263 | 293,393 |
| Total accumulated funds | 1,147,639 | 1,033,480 |

Employer contributions payable at reporting date is NIL.

Contributions made exclude amounts accrued at balance date. Refer to Note 9.3 for further information relating to Council's superannuation obligations.

4.2 Materials and services

| | 2023 \$ | 2022 \$ |
|-------------------------------------|------------|------------|
| Major contracts | | |
| Caravan parks | 221,459 | 222,292 |
| Swimming pools | 416,885 | 529,900 |
| Building and property maintenance | 242,080 | 229,310 |
| Waste management operations | 1,160,677 | 1,209,526 |
| Other contracts | 276,940 | 73,051 |
| Valuations | - | 65,335 |
| Other materials and services | | |
| Cleaning | - | 1,674 |
| Insurance | 552,532 | 516,998 |
| Administration and management | 385,461 | 343,910 |
| Economic development | 285,626 | 163,589 |
| Council administration | 162,635 | 162,865 |

Financial Statements – Year ending 30 June 2023

NOTE 4 THE COST OF DELIVERING SERVICES (Continued)**4.2 Materials and services (continued)**

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|--|-------------------|------------------|
| | \$ | \$ |
| Library services | 205,410 | 205,661 |
| Flood management | 1,920,573 | - |
| Media | 82,582 | 83,730 |
| Caravan parks | 148,674 | 151,208 |
| Tourism | 99,941 | 82,147 |
| Aged care services | 208,433 | 272,089 |
| Elderly persons units | 35,022 | 51,389 |
| Seniors | 30,699 | 25,072 |
| Community wellbeing | 86,588 | 27,536 |
| Community support | 214,029 | 265,158 |
| Grants and community planning | 277,805 | 564,597 |
| Emergency management | 25,187 | 30,511 |
| Municipal health and wellbeing | 23,857 | 45,156 |
| Swimming pools | 106,185 | 109,856 |
| Early years | 75,565 | 77,865 |
| Preschools | 41,867 | 92,867 |
| Corporate governance | 88,096 | - |
| Financial services | 70,145 | 43,886 |
| Customer service | 46,001 | 32,697 |
| Information technology | 239,348 | 137,599 |
| Human resources and management | 236,957 | 280,333 |
| Risk management | 115,909 | 159,874 |
| Council engineering and technical services | 72,810 | 63,504 |
| Project and contract management | 100,985 | 7,193 |
| Building regulation | 73,394 | 34,491 |
| Local laws and animal management | 33,704 | 31,987 |
| Public health | 106,072 | 42,637 |
| Building and property maintenance | 359,204 | 354,867 |
| Plant and fleet | 406,653 | 212,964 |
| Gravel pits | 244,628 | (15,402) |
| Parks and townships | 258,909 | 189,064 |
| Roads | 517,135 | 193,591 |
| Department of Transport routine maintenance contract | 260,402 | 158,349 |
| Waste management | 900,270 | 11,651 |
| Waterways management | 25,148 | 21,998 |
| Software | 841,854 | 668,941 |
| Utilities | 513,196 | 548,608 |
| Other | 179,965 | 189,227 |
| Total materials and services | 12,977,497 | 8,971,351 |

Expenses are recognised as they are incurred and reported in the financial year to which they relate.

NOTE 4 THE COST OF DELIVERING SERVICES (Continued)**4.3 Depreciation**

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|---------------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| | \$ | \$ |
| Roads | 6,575,366 | 5,735,048 |
| Buildings | 1,583,137 | 1,504,207 |
| Plant and equipment | 818,814 | 886,211 |
| Bridges | 532,118 | 486,245 |
| Urban drains | 537,282 | 224,057 |
| Furniture and equipment | 206,589 | 125,220 |
| Footpaths | 220,964 | 158,066 |
| Kerb and channel | 199,965 | 108,243 |
| Landfills | 12,706 | 10,163 |
| Street furniture | 54,631 | 31,629 |
| Quarries | 1,115 | 1,148 |
| Total depreciation | 10,742,687 | 9,270,237 |

Refer to Note 6.2 for a more detailed breakdown of depreciation charges and accounting policy.

4.4 Bad and doubtful debts - allowance for impairment losses

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|---|---------------|---------------|
| | \$ | \$ |
| Rates debtors | 56,973 | 34,668 |
| Sundry debtors | 826 | 5,810 |
| Total bad and doubtful debts - allowance for impairment losses | 57,799 | 40,478 |

Movement in allowance for impairment losses in respect of debtors

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|---|----------------|----------------|
| | \$ | \$ |
| Balance at beginning of the year | 151,188 | 122,528 |
| New provisions recognised during the year | 57,799 | 40,748 |
| Amounts already provided for and written off as uncollectible | (2,540) | (11,823) |
| Amounts provided for but recovered during the year | (977) | (265) |
| Balance at end of year | 205,470 | 151,188 |

An allowance for impairment losses in respect of debtors is recognised based on an expected credit loss model. This model considers both historic and forward looking information in determining the level of impairment.

4.5 Other expenses

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|--|----------------|----------------|
| | \$ | \$ |
| Councillors' allowances | 226,466 | 210,005 |
| Auditors' remuneration - Internal Audit | 40,280 | 37,264 |
| Auditors' remuneration - VAGO - Audit of the financial statements, performance | 44,600 | 45,709 |
| Total other expenses | 311,346 | 292,978 |

Financial Statements – Year ending 30 June 2023

NOTE 5 OUR FINANCIAL POSITION**5.1 Financial assets****(a) Cash and cash equivalents**

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| | \$ | \$ |
| Cash on hand | 1,800 | 2,450 |
| Cash at bank (CEO's advance account) | 4,000 | 4,000 |
| Cash at bank (general account) | 15,986,521 | 3,720,707 |
| Cash and cash equivalents | 15,992,321 | 3,727,157 |

(b) Other financial assets

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|
| | \$ | \$ |
| Current | | |
| Term deposits (current) | 33,000,000 | 36,500,000 |
| Cash at bank (trust account) | 188,401 | 184,402 |
| Total current other financial assets | 33,188,401 | 36,684,402 |
| Total other financial assets | 33,188,401 | 36,684,402 |

Council's other financial assets are subject to a number of internal and external restrictions that limit amounts available for discretionary or future use. These include:

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | \$ | \$ |
| Restricted funds | | |
| Trust funds (Note 5.3) | 367,767 | 367,782 |
| Total restricted funds | 367,767 | 367,782 |
| Total unrestricted funds | 32,820,634 | 36,316,620 |

Intended allocations

Although not externally restricted the intended allocations above have been allocated for specific future purposes by Council.

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|
| | \$ | \$ |
| Unspent grants (refer to Note 9.1) | 17,288,936 | 11,336,434 |
| Long service leave (refer to Note 5.4) | 2,027,056 | 1,999,063 |
| Total restricted and intended allocation funds | 19,315,992 | 13,335,497 |

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, deposits at call, and other highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, net of outstanding bank overdrafts.

Other financial assets are valued at fair value, at balance date. Term deposits are measured at original cost. Any unrealised gains and losses on holdings at balance date are recognised as either revenue or expense.

Other financial assets include term deposits and those with original maturity dates of three to 12 months are classified as current, whilst term deposits with maturity dates greater than 12 months are classified as non-current.

NOTE 5 OUR FINANCIAL POSITION (Continued)**5.1 Financial assets (continued)****(c) Trade and other receivables**

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|--|------------------|------------------|
| | \$ | \$ |
| Current | | |
| <i>Statutory receivables</i> | | |
| Net receivable GST | 359,175 | 180,454 |
| Rates debtors | 364,283 | 208,520 |
| LESS provision for doubtful debts | (110,954) | (81,642) |
| | 612,504 | 307,332 |
| <i>Non statutory receivables</i> | | |
| Sundry debtors | 1,403,023 | 718,994 |
| Other debtors | 104,553 | 107,209 |
| LESS provision for doubtful debts | (94,516) | (69,546) |
| Loans and advances to community organisations | - | - |
| | 1,413,060 | 756,657 |
| Total current trade and other receivables | 2,025,564 | 1,063,989 |

Short term receivables are carried at invoice amount. A provision for doubtful debts is recognised when there is objective evidence that an impairment has occurred. Long term receivables are carried at amortised cost using effective interest rate method.

(d) Ageing of receivables

The ageing of the Council's trade and other receivables (excluding statutory receivables) that are not impaired was:

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|--|------------------|----------------|
| | \$ | \$ |
| Current (not yet due) | 311,549 | 484,070 |
| Past due by up to 30 days | 774,796 | 19,342 |
| Past due between 31 and 180 days | 276,135 | 31,530 |
| Past due between 181 and 365 days | 13,287 | 977 |
| Past due over 365 days | 131,809 | 290,284 |
| Total trade and other receivables | 1,507,576 | 826,203 |

Financial Statements – Year ending 30 June 2023

NOTE 5 OUR FINANCIAL POSITION (Continued)

5.1 Financial assets (continued)

(e) Ageing of individually impaired receivables

At balance date, other debtors representing financial assets with a nominal value of \$94,516 (2022: \$69,546) were impaired. The amount of the provision raised against these debtors was \$94,516 (2022: \$69,546). They individually have been impaired as a result of their doubtful collection. Many of the long outstanding past due amounts have been lodged with Council's debt collectors or are on payment arrangements.

The ageing of receivables that have been individually determined as impaired at reporting date was:

| | 2023 \$ | 2022 \$ |
|--|---------------|---------------|
| Current (not yet due) | | |
| Past due by up to 30 days | - | - |
| Past due between 31 and 180 days | - | - |
| Past due between 181 and 365 days | - | 69,546 |
| Past due by more than 1 year | 94,516 | - |
| Total trade and other receivables | 94,516 | 69,546 |

5.2 Non-financial assets

(a) Other assets

| | 2023 \$ | 2022 \$ |
|--------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Current | | |
| Accrued income | 711,733 | 130,642 |
| Prepayments | 5,267 | 262,843 |
| Total current | 717,000 | 393,485 |
| Non-current | | |
| Procurement Australia Pty Ltd Shares | 100 | 100 |
| Total non-current | 100 | 100 |
| Total other assets | 717,100 | 393,585 |

NOTE 5 OUR FINANCIAL POSITION (Continued)**5.2 Non-financial assets (continued)****(b) Intangible assets**

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|--------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | \$ | \$ |
| Non-current | | |
| Water rights | 2,807,790 | 2,713,090 |
| Total intangible assets | 2,807,790 | 2,713,090 |

Reconciliation of movements in intangible assets for the reporting period

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|--|------------------|------------------|
| | \$ | \$ |
| Water rights | | |
| Gross carrying amount at beginning of period | 2,713,090 | 2,674,570 |
| Additional water rights obtained during the period | - | 23,200 |
| Water rights disposed of during the period | - | (22,500) |
| Revaluation increment / (decrement) | 94,700 | 37,820 |
| Depreciation and amortisation | - | - |
| Gross carrying amount at end of period | 2,807,790 | 2,713,090 |

Water rights are revalued annually and are deemed to have an infinite life.

Water rights are revalued at 30 June 2023 to the published water trade market rate applying at that date.

NOTE 5 OUR FINANCIAL POSITION (Continued)

5.3 Payables, trust funds and deposits and unearned income/revenue

(a) Trade and other payables

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|----------------|
| | \$ | \$ |
| Current | | |
| <i>Non-statutory payables</i> | | |
| Trade payables | 1,853,234 | 305,999 |
| Accrued wages and salaries | 476,066 | 340,881 |
| Accrued expenses | 46,092 | 45,870 |
| Total trade and other payables | 2,375,392 | 692,750 |

(b) Trust funds and deposits

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| | \$ | \$ |
| Current | | |
| Contract retentions | 66,698 | 78,788 |
| Fire services property levy | 83,586 | 75,282 |
| Building deposits | 27,340 | 27,340 |
| Unclaimed monies | 1,742 | 1,672 |
| Other refundable deposits: | | |
| St Andrews church repair fund | - | 298 |
| Wedderburn Pre-school investment | 188,401 | 184,402 |
| Total trust funds and deposits | 367,767 | 367,782 |

(c) Unearned income

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|--|------------------|------------------|
| | \$ | \$ |
| Current | | |
| Grants received in advance - operating | - | - |
| Grants received in advance - capital | 3,176,276 | 3,076,276 |
| Total unearned income | 3,176,276 | 3,076,276 |

Unearned income/revenue, where applicable, represents contract liabilities and reflect consideration received in advance from customers. Unearned income/revenue are derecognised and recorded as revenue when promised goods and services are transferred to the customer.

Amounts received as deposits and retention amounts controlled by Council are recognised as trust funds until they are returned, transferred in accordance with the purpose of the receipt, or forfeited. Trust funds that are forfeited, resulting in council gaining control of the funds, are to be recognised as revenue at the time of forfeit.

Purpose and nature of items

Contract retentions

Council has a contractual right to retain certain amounts until a contractor has met certain requirements or a related warrant or defect period has elapsed. Subject to the satisfactory completion of contractual obligations, or the elapsing of time, these amounts will be paid to the relevant contractor in line with council's contractual obligations.

NOTE 5 OUR FINANCIAL POSITION (Continued)**5.3 Payables, trust funds and deposits and unearned income/revenue (continued)****Purpose and nature of items (continued)*****Fire Services Property Levy***

Council is the collection agent for fire services levy on behalf of the State Government. Council remits amounts received on a quarterly basis. Amounts disclosed here will be remitted to the State Government in line with that process.

Building deposits

Under the provisions of the *Building Act 1993*, Council may issue a Building Permit subject to a condition that the applicant must deposit with the Council a bond, for an amount determined in accordance with the regulations, to secure the complete and satisfactory carrying out of the work authorised by the Building Permit.

St Andrews church repair fund

These funds were held by a Section 86 committee which was disbanded in 2012. The funds were returned to Council to use for repairs to the building.

Wedderburn Pre-school investment

Council is holding funds on behalf of the Wedderburn Pre-school. These funds are invested by Council according to the instructions of the pre-school.



Financial Statements – Year ending 30 June 2023

NOTE 5 OUR FINANCIAL POSITION (Continued)

5.4 Provisions

| 2023 | Employee | | | Landfill rehabilitation | Gravel pit rehabilitation | Total |
|---|----------------|--------------------|---------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|------------------|
| | Annual leave | Long service leave | RDOs | | | |
| Balance at beginning of the financial year | 1,042,900 | 1,999,063 | 94,218 | 886,416 | 65,098 | 4,087,695 |
| Additional provisions | 870,217 | 295,861 | 551,432 | 545,808 | 9,082 | 2,272,400 |
| Amounts used | (935,733) | (267,868) | (546,939) | - | - | (1,750,540) |
| Balance at the end of the financial year | 977,384 | 2,027,056 | 98,711 | 1,432,224 | 74,180 | 4,609,555 |

| | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|---------|-----------|--------|-----------|--------|------------------|
| <i>Provisions - current</i> | 977,384 | 1,688,666 | 98,711 | 71,611 | - | 2,836,372 |
| <i>Provisions - non-current</i> | - | 338,390 | - | 1,360,613 | 74,180 | 1,773,183 |

| 2022 | Employee | | | Landfill rehabilitation | Gravel pit rehabilitation | Total |
|---|------------------|--------------------|---------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|------------------|
| | Annual leave | Long service leave | RDOs | | | |
| Balance at beginning of the financial year | 1,119,702 | 2,032,984 | 125,504 | 1,089,327 | 86,028 | 4,453,545 |
| Additional provisions | 862,822 | 325,304 | 532,809 | (202,911) | (20,930) | 1,497,094 |
| Amounts used | (939,624) | (359,225) | (564,095) | - | - | (1,862,944) |
| Balance at the end of the financial year | 1,042,900 | 1,999,063 | 94,218 | 886,416 | 65,098 | 4,087,695 |

| | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------|-----------|--------|---------|--------|------------------|
| <i>Provisions - current</i> | 1,042,900 | 1,659,972 | 94,218 | 44,321 | - | 2,841,411 |
| <i>Provisions - non-current</i> | - | 339,091 | - | 842,095 | 65,098 | 1,246,284 |

(a) Employee provisions

| | 2023 \$ | 2022 \$ |
|--|------------------|------------------|
| Current provisions expected to be wholly settled within 12 months | | |
| Annual leave | 781,907 | 834,320 |
| Long service leave | 219,527 | 215,797 |
| RDOs | 98,711 | 94,218 |
| Total | 1,100,145 | 1,144,335 |
| Current provisions expected to be wholly settled after 12 months | | |
| Annual leave | 195,477 | 208,580 |
| Long service leave | 1,469,139 | 1,444,175 |
| Total | 1,664,616 | 1,652,755 |
| Total current employee provisions | 2,764,761 | 2,797,090 |
| Non-current | | |
| Long service leave | 338,390 | 339,091 |
| Total non-current employee provisions | 338,390 | 339,091 |

NOTE 5 OUR FINANCIAL POSITION (Continued)**5.4 Provisions (continued)****(a) Employee provisions (continued)**

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|---|------------------|------------------|
| | \$ | \$ |
| Aggregate carrying amount of employee provisions | | |
| Current | 2,764,761 | 2,797,090 |
| Non-current | 338,390 | 339,091 |
| Total aggregate amount of employee provisions | 3,103,151 | 3,136,181 |

The calculation of employee costs and benefits includes all relevant on-costs and are calculated as follows at reporting date.

Annual leave

A liability for annual leave is recognised in the provision for employee benefits as a current liability because Council does not have an unconditional right to defer settlement of the liability. Liabilities for annual leave are measured at:

- nominal value if the Council expected to wholly settle the liability within 12 months
- present value if the Council does not expect to wholly settle within 12 months.

Liabilities that are not expected to be wholly settled within 12 months of the reporting date are recognised in the provision for employee benefits as current liabilities, measured at present value of the amounts expected to be paid when the liabilities are settled using the remuneration rate expected to apply at the time of settlement.

Long service leave

Liability for long service leave (LSL) is recognised in the provision for employee benefits. Unconditional LSL is disclosed as a current liability as Council does not have an unconditional right to defer settlement. Unconditional LSL is measured at nominal value if expected to be settled within 12 months or at present value if not expected to be settled within 12 months. Conditional LSL that has been accrued, where an employee is yet to reach a qualifying term of employment, is disclosed as a non-current liability and measured at present value.

| | | |
|------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Key assumptions: | 2023 | 2022 |
| Discount rate | 5.76% | 4.30% |
| Index rate | 3.94% | 2.48% |

(b) Landfill restoration

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|----------------|
| | \$ | \$ |
| Current | 71,611 | 44,321 |
| Non-current | 1,360,613 | 842,095 |
| Total landfill restoration | 1,432,224 | 886,416 |

Council is obligated to restore landfill sites to a particular standard. The forecast life of the sites are based on current estimates of remaining capacity and the forecast rate of infill. The provision for landfill restoration has been calculated based on the present value of the expected costs of works to be undertaken. The expected cost of works have been estimated based on the current understanding of work required to reinstate the site to a suitable standard and budgeted costs for that work. Accordingly, the estimation of a provision required is dependent on the accuracy of the forecast timing of the work, work required and related costs. Council reviews the landfill restoration provision on an annual basis, including the key assumptions listed below.

| | | |
|------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Key assumptions: | 2023 | 2022 |
| Discount rate | 3.65% | 3.65% |
| Index rate | 3.17% | 2.52% |

Financial Statements – Year ending 30 June 2023

NOTE 5 OUR FINANCIAL POSITION (Continued)**5.4 Provisions (continued)****(c) Gravel pit rehabilitation**

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|--|---------------|---------------|
| | \$ | \$ |
| Current | - | - |
| Non-current | 74,180 | 65,098 |
| Total gravel pit rehabilitation | 74,180 | 65,098 |

Council is obligated to restore gravel pit sites to a particular standard. The forecast life of the site is based on current estimates of remaining capacity and the forecast rate of infill. The provision for gravel pit restoration has been calculated based on the present value of the expected cost of works to be undertaken. The expected cost of works has been estimated based on current understanding of work required to reinstate the site to a suitable standard and budgeted costs for that work. Accordingly, the estimation of the provision required is dependent on the accuracy of the forecast timing of the work, work required and related costs.

| | | |
|------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Key assumptions: | 2023 | 2022 |
| Discount rate | 3.64% | 3.57% |
| Index rate | 3.17% | 2.52% |

Summary of provisions

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|-------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | \$ | \$ |
| Current | 2,836,372 | 2,841,411 |
| Non-current | 1,773,183 | 1,246,284 |
| Total provisions | 4,609,555 | 4,087,695 |

5.5 Financing arrangements

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|--------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| | \$ | \$ |
| Bank overdraft - Westpac | 500,000 | 500,000 |
| Credit card facilities | 100,000 | 100,000 |
| Total facilities | 600,000 | 600,000 |
| Used facilities | - | - |
| Unused facilities | 600,000 | 600,000 |

NOTE 5 OUR FINANCIAL POSITION (Continued)**5.6 Commitments**

The Council has entered into the following commitments. Commitments are not recognised in the Balance Sheet. Commitments are disclosed at their nominal value and presented inclusive of the GST payable.

(a) Commitments for expenditure**2023**

| | Not later than 1 year \$ | Later than 1 year and not later than 2 years \$ | Later than 2 years and not later than 5 years \$ | Later than 5 years \$ | Total \$ |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|---|--------------------------|-------------------|
| Operating | | | | | |
| Environmental services | 972,385 | 972,385 | 2,917,155 | - | 4,861,925 |
| Insurance services | 693,287 | - | - | - | 693,287 |
| Library corporation | 252,910 | - | - | - | 252,910 |
| Workcover | 260,337 | - | - | - | 260,337 |
| Flood restoration works | 2,033,462 | - | - | - | 2,033,462 |
| Strategy development | 60,500 | - | - | - | 60,500 |
| Total | 4,272,881 | 972,385 | 2,917,155 | - | 8,162,421 |
| Capital | | | | | |
| Donaldson Park | 1,788,021 | - | - | - | 1,788,021 |
| Footpath contracted works | 375,878 | - | - | - | 375,878 |
| Bridge and culvert contracted works | 140,734 | - | - | - | 140,734 |
| Major plant and fleet items | 3,162,427 | - | - | - | 3,162,427 |
| Lighting projects | 540,628 | - | - | - | 540,628 |
| Various computer equipment | - | - | - | - | - |
| Total | 6,007,688 | - | - | - | 6,007,688 |
| | 10,280,569 | 972,385 | 2,917,155 | - | 14,170,109 |

2022

| | Not later than 1 year \$ | Later than 1 year and not later than 2 years \$ | Later than 2 years and not later than 5 years \$ | Later than 5 years \$ | Total \$ |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|---|--------------------------|------------------|
| Operating | | | | | |
| Environmental services | 972,385 | 972,385 | 2,917,155 | 972,385 | 5,834,310 |
| Insurance services | 550,855 | - | - | - | 550,855 |
| Library corporation | 221,288 | - | - | - | 221,288 |
| Workcover | 210,719 | - | - | - | 210,719 |
| Internal audit | 26,000 | - | - | - | 26,000 |
| Other minor orders committed | 34,100 | - | - | - | 34,100 |
| Total | 2,015,347 | 972,385 | 2,917,155 | 972,385 | 6,877,272 |
| Capital | | | | | |
| Donaldson Park | 147,830 | - | - | - | 147,830 |
| Footpath contracted works | 191,382 | - | - | - | 191,382 |
| Bridge and culvert contracted works | 220,000 | - | - | - | 220,000 |
| Major plant items | 530,331 | - | - | - | 530,331 |
| Fleet items | 63,865 | - | - | - | 63,865 |
| Various computer equipment | 96,505 | - | - | - | 96,505 |
| Total | 1,249,913 | - | - | - | 1,249,913 |
| | 3,265,260 | 972,385 | 2,917,155 | 972,385 | 8,127,185 |

NOTE 5 OUR FINANCIAL POSITION (Continued)

5.6 Commitments (continued)

(b) Operating lease receivables

Council had commercial property leases on its caravan parks. These properties held under operating leases have remaining non-cancellation lease terms between 1 and 10 years. All leases include a CPI based revision of the rental charge annually.

| | 2023 \$ | 2022 \$ |
|---|----------------|------------|
| Lease receivable | | |
| No later than one year | 60,000 | - |
| Later than one year and not later than five years | 191,018 | - |
| Later than five years | - | - |
| | 251,018 | - |

5.7 Leases

At inception of a contract, all entities would assess whether a contract is, or contains, a lease. A contract is, or contains, a lease if the contract conveys the right to control the use of an identified asset for a period of time in exchange for consideration. To identify whether a contract conveys the right to control the use of an identified asset, it is necessary to assess whether:

- the contract involves the use of an identified asset;
- Council has the right to obtain substantially all of the economic benefits from use of the asset throughout the period of use; and
- Council has the right to direct the use of the asset.

This policy is applied to contracts entered into, or changed, on or after 1 July 2019.

Council has elected to apply the temporary option available under *AASB 16 Leases* which allows not-for-profit entities to not measure right-of-use assets at initial recognition at fair value in respect of leases that have significantly below-market terms.

Council has concessionary leases covering crown land parcels as outlined below:

- caravan parks at Boort and Pyramid Hill
- office space at Serpentine
- various other community recreation and hall / centre facilities.

There is no cost for the lease of these properties, however Council is responsible for all maintenance, utility and relevant insurance costs associated with the land. No lease term has been determined for the properties outlined.

Short-term and low value leases

Council has elected not to recognise right-of-use assets and lease liabilities for short-term leases of machinery that have a lease term of 12 months or less and leases of low-value assets (individual assets worth less than existing capitalisation thresholds for a like asset up to a maximum of \$10,000), including IT equipment. Council recognises the lease payments associated with these leases as an expense on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

| | 2023 \$ | 2022 \$ |
|------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Expenses relating to: | | |
| Short-term leases | - | - |
| Leases of low value assets | 17,048 | 24,390 |
| Total | 17,048 | 24,390 |



NOTE 5 OUR FINANCIAL POSITION (Continued)

5.7 Leases (continued)

Non-cancellable lease commitments - Short-term and low-value leases

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|--|---------------|---------------|
| | \$ | \$ |
| Commitments for minimum lease payments for short-term and low-value leases are payable as follows: | | |
| Within one year | 3,359 | 3,518 |
| Later than 1 year but no later than 5 years | 13,689 | 20,872 |
| Total lease commitments | 17,048 | 24,390 |

NOTE 6 ASSETS WE MANAGE

6.1 Non current assets classified as held for sale

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|---|----------------|----------------|
| | \$ | \$ |
| Non current | | |
| Land at valuation | 323,273 | 323,273 |
| LESS selling costs | (11,315) | (11,315) |
| Total non current assets held for sale | 311,958 | 311,958 |

Capitalisation rate used in the allocation of borrowing costs N/A % N/A %

Non-current assets classified as held for sale (including disposal groups) are measured at the lower of its carrying amount and fair value less costs to disposal, and are not subject to depreciation. Non-current assets, disposal groups and related liabilities and assets are treated as current and classified as held for sale if their carrying amount will be recovered through a sale transaction rather than through continuing use. This condition is regarded as met only when the sale is highly probable and the asset's sale (or disposal group sale) is expected to be completed within 12 months from the date of classification.



Financial Statements – Year ending 30 June 2023

NOTE 6 ASSETS WE MANAGE (Continued)**6.2 Property, infrastructure, plant and equipment****Summary of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment**

| | Carrying amount 30 June 2022 \$ | Additions / Transfers \$ | Revaluations / Impairment \$ | Depreciation \$ | Disposals \$ | Carrying amount 30 June 2023 \$ |
|---------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------|------------------|------------------------------------|
| Land | 14,010,670 | - | - | - | - | 14,010,670 |
| Buildings | 52,921,284 | 1,394,372 | (118,190) | (1,583,137) | - | 52,614,329 |
| Plant and equipment | 7,164,646 | 1,014,810 | - | (1,025,403) | (284,660) | 6,869,393 |
| Infrastructure | 266,801,707 | 4,093,450 | 39,640,713 | (8,134,147) | - | 302,401,724 |
| Work in progress | 2,851,555 | 3,722,101 | - | - | - | 6,573,656 |
| Total | 343,749,861 | 10,224,734 | 39,522,523 | (10,742,687) | (284,660) | 382,469,773 |
| | | Revaluation | 57,484,045 | | | |
| | | Impairment | (17,961,522) | | | |
| | | | 39,522,523 | | | |

Summary of work in progress

| | Opening WIP \$ | Additions \$ | Transfers \$ | Write-off \$ | Closing WIP \$ |
|----------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Property | 1,971,597 | 4,299,450 | (577,349) | - | 5,693,698 |
| Infrastructure | 879,958 | - | - | - | 879,958 |
| Total | 2,851,555 | 4,299,450 | (577,349) | - | 6,573,656 |

(a) Property

| | Land | Buildings | Work in progress | Total land and buildings |
|--|-------------------|--------------------|------------------|--------------------------|
| Land and Buildings | | | | |
| At fair value 1 July 2022 | 14,010,670 | 93,668,288 | 1,971,597 | 109,372,358 |
| Accumulated depreciation at 1 July 2022 | - | (40,747,004) | - | (40,468,808) |
| | 14,010,670 | 52,921,284 | 1,971,597 | 68,903,550 |
| Movements in fair value | | | | |
| Additions | - | 1,394,372 | 4,299,450 | 5,693,822 |
| Impairment losses recognised | - | (118,190) | - | (118,190) |
| | - | 1,276,182 | 4,299,450 | 5,575,632 |
| Movements in accumulated depreciation | | | | |
| Depreciation and amortisation | - | (1,583,137) | - | (1,583,137) |
| Transfers | - | - | (577,349) | (577,349) |
| | - | (1,583,137) | (577,349) | (2,160,486) |
| At fair value 30 June 2023 | 14,010,670 | 94,944,470 | 5,693,698 | 114,947,990 |
| Accumulated depreciation at 30 June 2023 | - | (42,330,141) | - | (42,629,294) |
| Carrying amount | 14,010,670 | 52,614,329 | 5,693,698 | 72,318,696 |

NOTE 6 ASSETS WE MANAGE (Continued)**6.2 Property, infrastructure, plant and equipment (continued)****(b) Plant and equipment**

| Plant and equipment | Plant machinery and equipment | Fixtures fittings and furniture | Total plant and equipment |
|--|--------------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|
| At fair value 1 July 2022 | 14,046,082 | 1,848,576 | 15,894,658 |
| Accumulated depreciation at 1 July 2022 | (7,390,359) | (1,339,653) | (8,730,012) |
| | 6,655,723 | 508,923 | 7,164,646 |
| Movements in fair value | | | |
| Additions | 974,628 | 40,182 | 1,014,810 |
| Disposal | (855,780) | - | (855,780) |
| | 118,848 | 40,182 | 159,030 |
| Movements in accumulated depreciation | | | |
| Depreciation and amortisation | (818,814) | (206,589) | (1,025,403) |
| Accumulated depreciation of disposals | 571,120 | - | 571,120 |
| | (247,694) | (206,589) | (454,283) |
| At fair value 30 June 2023 | 14,164,930 | 1,888,758 | 16,053,688 |
| Accumulated depreciation at 30 June 2023 | (7,638,053) | (1,546,242) | (9,184,295) |
| Carrying amount | 6,526,877 | 342,516 | 6,869,393 |

Financial Statements – Year ending 30 June 2023

NOTE 6 ASSETS WE MANAGE (Continued)**6.2 Property, infrastructure, plant and equipment (continued)****(c) Infrastructure**

| Infrastructure | Roads | Bridges | Footpaths and cycleways | Kerb and channel | Drainage |
|--|---------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| At fair value 1 July 2022 | 321,876,035 | 47,971,455 | 7,403,880 | 6,487,501 | 16,875,237 |
| Accumulated depreciation at 1 July 2022 | (97,903,934) | (23,582,921) | (1,848,773) | (2,518,675) | (8,828,561) |
| | 223,972,101 | 24,388,534 | 5,555,107 | 3,968,826 | 8,046,676 |
| Movements in fair value | | | | | |
| Additions | 2,953,021 | 445,562 | 522,263 | | 172,604 |
| Revaluation | 38,441,492 | 4,082,818 | 2,499,828 | 5,497,439 | 23,818,883 |
| | 41,394,513 | 4,528,380 | 3,022,091 | 5,497,439 | 23,991,487 |
| Movements in accumulated depreciation | | | | | |
| Depreciation and amortisation | (6,575,366) | (532,118) | (220,964) | (199,965) | (537,282) |
| Revaluation (increments)/decrements | (5,200,442) | 2,810,774 | (859,543) | (1,909,573) | (12,136,503) |
| Impairment losses recognised | (17,093,332) | (750,000) | - | - | - |
| | (28,869,140) | 1,528,656 | (1,080,507) | (2,109,538) | (12,673,785) |
| At fair value 30 June 2023 | 363,270,548 | 52,499,835 | 10,425,971 | 11,984,940 | 40,866,724 |
| Accumulated depreciation at 30 June 2023 | (126,773,074) | (22,054,265) | (2,929,280) | (4,628,213) | (21,502,346) |
| Carrying amount | 236,497,474 | 30,445,570 | 7,496,691 | 7,356,727 | 19,364,378 |

| Infrastructure (continued) | Quarries | Street Furniture | Landfills | Work In Progress | Total Infrastructure |
|--|-----------------|-------------------------|------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| At fair value 1 July 2022 | 58,507 | 735,668 | 1,994,306 | 879,958 | 404,282,548 |
| Accumulated depreciation at 1 July 2022 | (29,482) | (213,642) | (1,674,894) | - | (136,600,882) |
| | 29,025 | 522,026 | 319,412 | 879,958 | 267,681,666 |
| Movements in fair value | | | | | |
| Additions | - | - | - | - | 4,093,450 |
| Revaluation | - | 533,830 | - | - | 74,874,290 |
| | - | 533,830 | - | - | 78,967,740 |
| Movements in accumulated depreciation | | | | | |
| Depreciation and amortisation | (1,115) | (54,631) | (12,706) | - | (8,134,147) |
| Revaluation (increments)/decrements | - | (94,958) | - | - | (17,390,245) |
| Impairment losses recognised | - | - | - | - | (17,843,332) |
| | (1,115) | (149,589) | (12,706) | - | (43,367,724) |
| At fair value 30 June 2023 | 58,507 | 1,269,498 | 1,994,306 | 879,958 | 483,250,287 |
| Accumulated depreciation at 30 June 2023 | (30,597) | (363,231) | (1,687,600) | - | (179,968,606) |
| Carrying amount | 27,910 | 906,267 | 306,706 | 879,958 | 303,281,681 |

NOTE 6 ASSETS WE MANAGE (Continued)**6.2 Property, infrastructure, plant and equipment (continued)****Acquisition**

The purchase method of accounting is used for all acquisitions of assets, being the fair value of assets provided as consideration at the date of acquisition plus any incidental costs attributable to the acquisition. Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset (or paid to transfer a liability) in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date.

Where assets are constructed by Council, cost includes all materials used in construction, direct labour, borrowing costs incurred during construction, and an appropriate share of directly attributable variable and fixed overheads.

In accordance with Council's policy, the threshold limits have applied when recognising assets within an applicable asset class and unless otherwise stated are consistent with the prior year.

Asset recognition thresholds and depreciation periods

| | Depreciation period Years | Threshold limit \$ |
|--|--|-----------------------------------|
| Property land | - | 3,000 |
| Buildings buildings | 33 to 100 | 3,000 |
| Plant and equipment plant, machinery, minor plant and equipment | 2.5 to 20 | 3,000 |
| motor vehicles | 5 to 10 | 3,000 |
| fixtures fittings and furniture | 5 to 50 | 3,000 |
| computers and telecommunications | 3 | 3,000 |
| Infrastructure road seals | 5 to 50 | 3,000 |
| road pavements - sealed | 80 | 3,000 |
| road pavements - unsealed | 20 to 100 | 3,000 |
| road kerb, channel and minor culverts | 60 to 80 | 3,000 |
| bridges deck and substructure | 80 to 100 | 3,000 |
| footpaths and cycle ways | 15 to 50 | 3,000 |
| drainage | 50 to 80 | 3,000 |
| waste management assets | 17 to 28 | 3,000 |
| quarries | 5 to 29 | 3,000 |
| street furniture | 10 to 80 | 3,000 |

Land under roads

Council recognises land under roads it controls at fair value.

Financial Statements – Year ending 30 June 2023

NOTE 6 ASSETS WE MANAGE (Continued)

6.2 Property, infrastructure, plant and equipment (continued)

Depreciation and amortisation

Buildings, land improvements, plant and equipment, infrastructure, and other assets having limited useful lives are systematically depreciated over their useful lives in a manner which reflects consumption of the service potential embodied in those assets. Estimates of remaining useful lives and methods are reviewed annually. Depreciation rates and methods are reviewed annually.

Where assets have separate identifiable components that are subject to regular replacement, these components are assigned distinct useful lives and residual values and a separate depreciation rate is determined for each component.

Road earthworks are not depreciated on the basis that they are assessed as not having a limited useful life.

Straight line depreciation is charged based on the residual useful life as determined each year.

Depreciation periods used are listed below and are consistent with the prior year unless otherwise stated.

Repairs and maintenance

Where the repair relates to the replacement of a component of an asset and the cost exceeds the capitalisation threshold, the cost is capitalised and depreciated. The carrying value of the replaced asset is expensed.

Valuation of land and buildings

The valuation of land and buildings was undertaken by LG Valuation Services a qualified independent valuation firm. The valuation of land and buildings is at fair value, being market value based on highest and best use permitted by relevant land planning provisions. Where land use is restricted through existing planning provisions the valuation is reduced to reflect this limitation. This adjustment is an unobservable input in the valuation. The adjustment has no impact on the Comprehensive Income Statement.

Specialised land is valued at fair value using site values adjusted for englobe (undeveloped and / or unserviced) characteristics, access rights and private interests of other parties and entitlements of infrastructure assets and services. This adjustment is an unobservable input in the valuation. The adjustment has no impact on the Comprehensive Income Statement.

Any significant movements in the unobservable inputs for land and land under roads will have a significant impact on the fair value of these assets.

The date and type of the current valuation is detailed in the following table. A full revaluation of these was conducted in 2021/22, this valuation was based on land values and market sales.

NOTE 6 ASSETS WE MANAGE (Continued)**6.2 Property, infrastructure, plant and equipment (continued)****Valuation of land and buildings (continued)**

Council values all land and building assets every two years. The next full revaluation is due on 30 June 2024. Details of the Council's land and buildings and information about the fair value hierarchy as at 30 June 2022 are as follows:

| | Level 1 | Level 2 | Level 3 | Date of valuation | Type of valuation |
|-----------------------|---------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Land | - | 2,004,567 | 12,006,103 | 30/6/2022 | Full |
| Specialised buildings | - | - | 52,614,329 | 30/6/2022 | Full |
| TOTAL | - | 2,004,567 | 64,620,432 | | |

Valuation of infrastructure

A valuation of Council's, infrastructure assets was performed by David Southcombe, Manager Assets and Infrastructure of the Loddon Shire Council, as at 30 June 2023.

The date and type of the current valuation is detailed in the following table. An indexed based revaluation was conducted in the current year. This valuation was based on current unit rates and sample analysis of condition ratings. Full revaluation of all assets are coordinated on a cyclic timeframe.

The valuation is at fair value based on current replacement cost less accumulated depreciation as at date of valuation.

Details of the Council's infrastructure and information about the fair value hierarchy as at 30 June 2023 are as follows:

| | Level 1 | Level 2 | Level 3 | Date of valuation | Type of valuation |
|--------------------------|---------|---------|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Unsealed roads formation | - | - | 18,882,603 | 30/6/2023 | Section |
| Unsealed roads pavement | - | - | 45,322,371 | 30/6/2023 | Section |
| Road seal | - | - | 13,041,124 | 30/6/2023 | Index |
| Sealed roads pavement | - | - | 122,204,073 | 30/6/2023 | Full |
| Sealed road formation | - | - | 12,382,354 | 30/6/2023 | Full |
| Footpaths | - | - | 7,496,691 | 30/6/2023 | Full |
| Culverts | - | - | 24,664,951 | 30/6/2023 | Section |
| Bridges | - | - | 30,445,570 | 30/6/2023 | Index |
| Kerb and channel | - | - | 7,356,727 | 30/6/2023 | Full |
| Urban drains | - | - | 19,364,378 | 30/6/2023 | Full |
| Street furniture | - | - | 906,267 | 30/6/2023 | Section |
| Landfills | - | - | 306,706 | 30/6/2023 | Index |
| Quarries | - | - | 27,910 | 30/6/2023 | Index |
| TOTAL | - | - | 302,401,725 | | |

NOTE 6 ASSETS WE MANAGE (Continued)

6.2 Property, infrastructure, plant and equipment (continued)

Description of significant unobservable inputs into level 3 valuations

Specialised land and land under roads is valued using a market based direct comparison technique. Significant unobservable inputs include the extent and impact of restriction of use and the market cost of land per square metre. The extent and impact of restrictions on use varies and results in a reduction to surrounding land values between 5% and 95%. The market value of land varies significantly depending on the location of the land and the current market conditions. Currently land values range between \$0 and \$71.50 per square metre.

Specialised buildings are valued using a depreciated replacement cost technique. Significant unobservable inputs include the current replacement cost and remaining useful lives of buildings. Current replacement cost is calculated on a square metre basis and ranges from \$45 to \$3,780 per square metre. The remaining useful lives of buildings are determined on the basis of the current condition of buildings and vary from 1 year to 100 years. Replacement cost is sensitive to changes in market conditions, with any increase or decrease in cost flowing through to the valuation. Useful lives of buildings are sensitive to changes in expectations or requirements that could either shorten or extend the useful lives of buildings.

Infrastructure assets are valued based on the depreciated replacement cost. Significant unobservable inputs include the current replacement cost and remaining useful lives of infrastructure. The remaining useful lives of infrastructure assets are determined on the basis of the current condition of the asset and vary from 2 years to 100 years. Replacement cost is sensitive to changes in market conditions, with any increase or decrease in cost flowing through to the valuation. Useful lives of infrastructure are sensitive to changes in use, expectations or requirements that could either shorten or extend the useful lives of infrastructure assets.

NOTE 6 ASSETS WE MANAGE (Continued)**6.3 Investments in associates, joint arrangements and subsidiaries****(a) Investments in associates****North Central Goldfields Regional Library Corporation**

The Council is a member of the North Central Goldfields Regional Library Corporation. At 30 June 2023 Council's equity was \$292,682. At 30 June 2022 Council's equity in the corporation was \$295,054.

Loddon has a 4.76 per cent share of the net assets, and this is calculated on the same ratio as Council contributes to the operating costs of the service. At 30 June 2022 Council's share of the net assets was 4.82 per cent. Any adjustments required due to the reduction in the share of net assets from 2022 to 2023 is reflected as Variation Account - Change in Equity in the following schedules.

| Fair value of Council's share in its ownership | 292,682 | 295,054 |
|--|----------------|----------------|
| | 2023 | 2022 |
| | \$ | \$ |
| Council's share of accumulated surplus/(deficit) | | |
| Council's share of accumulated surplus/(deficit) at start of year | 121,866 | 109,764 |
| Reported surplus/(deficit) for year | 1,301 | 14,446 |
| Variation account - change in equity | (1,517) | (2,344) |
| Council's share of accumulated surplus/(deficit) at end of year | 121,650 | 121,866 |
| Council's share of reserves | | |
| Council's share of reserves at start of year | 173,189 | 174,920 |
| Variation account - change in equity | (2,156) | (1,731) |
| Council's share of reserves at end of year | 171,033 | 173,189 |
| Movement in carrying value of share in library | | |
| Carrying value of investment at start of year | 295,054 | 284,683 |
| Share of surplus/(deficit) for the year | 1,301 | 14,446 |
| Variation account - change in equity | (3,673) | (4,075) |
| Carrying value of investment at end of year | 292,682 | 295,054 |
| Council's share of expenditure commitments | | |
| Operating commitments | 11,588 | 3,925 |
| Capital commitments | - | - |
| Council's share of expenditure commitments | 11,588 | 3,925 |

Adjustment to the carrying value of North Central Goldfields Regional Library

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|--|----------------|---------------|
| | \$ | \$ |
| Adjustment to the carrying value of North Central Goldfields Regional Library Corporation | (2,372) | 10,371 |
| Total adjustment to the carrying value of North Central Goldfields Regional Library Corporation | (2,372) | 10,371 |

Associates are all entities over which Council has significant influence but not control or joint control. Investments in associates are accounted for using the equity method of accounting, after initially being recognised at cost.

Financial Statements – Year ending 30 June 2023

NOTE 6 ASSETS WE MANAGE (Continued)

6.3 Investments in associates, joint arrangements and subsidiaries (continued)

Investments in joint arrangements are classified as either joint operations or joint ventures depending on the contractual rights and obligations each investor has, rather than the legal structure of the joint arrangement.

For joint operations, Council recognises the right to its share of jointly held assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses of joint operations. Council has no joint arrangements at reporting date.

Interests in joint ventures are accounted for using the equity method. Under this method, the interests are initially recognised in the consolidated balance sheet at cost and adjusted thereafter to recognise Council's share of the post-acquisition profits or losses and movements in other comprehensive income in profit or loss and other comprehensive income respectively.

Community Asset Committee

All entities controlled by Council that have material revenues, expenses, assets or liabilities, such as community asset committees, have been included in this financial report. Any transactions between these entities and Council have been eliminated in full.

NOTE 7 PEOPLE AND RELATIONSHIPS

7.1 Council and key management remuneration

(a) Related parties

Loddon Shire Council is the parent entity. There are no further interests in subsidiaries and associates.

(b) Key Management Personnel

Key management personnel (KMP) are those people with the authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of Council. The Councillors, Chief Executive Officer and other members of the Management Executive Group are deemed KMP.

Details of persons holding the position of Councillor or other members of Key Management Personnel at any time during the year were:

| Councillors: | 2023 No. | 2022 No. |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|
| Cr Neil Beattie (Councillor from November 2021 to June 2023 (Mayor from July 2021 to October 2021)) | 1 | 1 |
| Cr Gavan Holt (Councillor from July 2021 to June 2023) | 1 | 1 |
| Cr Dan Straub (Councillor from July 2021 to October 2021) (Mayor from November 2021 to June 2023)) | 1 | 1 |
| Cr Wendy Murphy (Councillor from July 2021 to June 2023) | 1 | 1 |
| Cr Linda Jungwirth (Councillor from July 2021 to June 2023)) | 1 | 1 |
| Key Management Personnel: | | |
| Mr Phil Pinyon (Chief Executive Officer July 2021 to July 2022) | - | 1 |
| Mrs Wendy Gladman (Director Community and Wellbeing July 2021 to June 2023) | 1 | 1 |
| Mrs Sharon Morrison (Director Corporate Services July 2020 to February 2022) | - | 1 |
| Mr Steven Phillips (Director Operations July 2021 to June 2023) | 1 | 1 |
| Ms Lynne Habner (Manager Executive and Commercial Services July 2021 to June 2022) | - | 1 |
| Mr Lincoln Fitzgerald (Chief Executive Officer November 2021 to June 2023) | 1 | 1 |
| Mrs Amanda Wilson (Director Corporate March 2022 to June 2023) | 1 | 1 |
| Mrs Jude Holt (Acting Chief Executive Officer, Acting Director Corporate Services, Acting Director Community Wellbeing (July 2021 to June 2022) | - | 1 |
| Total number of Councillors | 5 | 5 |
| Total of Chief Executive Officer and other Key Management Personnel | 4 | 8 |
| Total number of Key Management Personnel | 9 | 13 |

(c) Remuneration of Key Management Personnel

Remuneration comprises employee benefits including all forms of consideration paid, payable or provided by Council, or on behalf of the Council, in exchange for services rendered. Remuneration of Key Management Personnel and other senior staff is disclosed in the following categories.

Short - term employee benefits include amounts such as wages, salaries, annual leave or sick leave that are usually paid or payable on a regular basis, as well as non-monetary benefits such as allowances and free or subsidised goods or services.

Other long- term employee benefits include long service leave, other long service benefits or deferred compensation.

Post - employment benefits include pensions, and other retirement benefits paid or payable on a discrete basis when employment has ceased.

Termination benefits include termination of employment payments, such as severance packages.

Financial Statements – Year ending 30 June 2023

NOTE 7 PEOPLE AND RELATIONSHIPS (Continued)

7.1 Council and key management remuneration (continued)

(c) Remuneration of Key Management Personnel (continued)

Total remuneration of Key Management Personnel was as follows:

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | \$ | \$ |
| Short-term employee benefits | 1,012,832 | 1,248,049 |
| Long-term employee benefits | 26,244 | 16,114 |
| Post employment employee benefits | 79,866 | 114,557 |
| TOTAL | 1,118,942 | 1,378,720 |

The numbers of Key Management Personnel whose total remuneration from Council and any related entities, fall within the following bands:

| Income range | 2023 | 2022 |
|-----------------------|----------|-----------|
| | number | number |
| \$10,000 - \$19,999 | - | 1 |
| \$20,000 - \$29,999 | 1 | 2 |
| \$30,000 - \$39,999 | 3 | 1 |
| \$40,000 - \$49,999 | - | 1 |
| \$50,000 - \$59,999 | - | 1 |
| \$70,000 - \$79,999 | 1 | 1 |
| \$120,000 - \$129,999 | - | 2 |
| \$150,000 - \$159,999 | - | 1 |
| \$160,000 - \$169,999 | - | 1 |
| \$170,000 - \$179,999 | 1 | - |
| \$190,000 - \$199,999 | 1 | - |
| \$200,000 - \$209,999 | 1 | - |
| \$210,000 - \$219,999 | - | 1 |
| \$300,000 - \$309,999 | - | 1 |
| \$310,000 - \$319,999 | 1 | - |
| | 9 | 13 |

(d) Remuneration of other senior staff

Other senior staff are officers of Council, other than Key Management Personnel, who exceeds \$160,000 and who report directly to a member of the KMP. *

Total remuneration of other senior staff was as follows:

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|----------------|
| | \$ | \$ |
| Short-term employee benefits | 1,130,424 | 593,218 |
| Long-term employee benefits | 16,842 | 15,759 |
| Post employment employee benefits | 101,922 | 53,365 |
| TOTAL | 1,249,188 | 662,342 |

NOTE 7 PEOPLE AND RELATIONSHIPS (Continued)**7.1 Council and key management remuneration (continued)****(d) Remuneration of other senior staff (continued)**

The number of Senior Officers are shown below in their relevant income bands:

| Income range | 2023 number | 2022 number |
|-----------------------|----------------|----------------|
| \$150,000 - \$159,999 | - | 1 |
| \$160,000 - \$169,999 | 2 | 1 |
| \$170,000 - \$179,999 | 2 | 2 |
| \$180,000 - \$189,999 | 1 | - |
| \$190,000 - \$199,999 | 2 | - |
| | <u>7</u> | <u>4</u> |

Total Remuneration for the reporting year for Senior Officers included above, amounted to:

| | | | |
|-----------|------------------|-----------|----------------|
| <u>\$</u> | <u>1,249,188</u> | <u>\$</u> | <u>662,342</u> |
|-----------|------------------|-----------|----------------|

* Due to a definition change the comparative figures in this note may not align with previous year's annual report, which included disclosure of senior officers as defined in the *Local Government Act 1989*.

7.2 Related party disclosure**(a) Transactions with related parties**

No transactions other than remuneration payments or the reimbursement of approved expenses were entered into by Council with responsible persons or related parties of such responsible persons during the reporting year (Nil in 2021/22).

(b) Outstanding balances with related parties

There are no outstanding balances outstanding at the end of the reporting period in relation to transactions with related parties (Nil in 2021/22).

(c) Loans to/from related parties

No loans have been made, guaranteed or secured by the Council to a responsible person of the Council during the reporting year (Nil in 2021/22).

(d) Commitments to/from related parties

No commitments have been made, guaranteed or secured by Council to a responsible person of the Council during the reporting year (Nil in 2021/22).



Financial Statements – Year ending 30 June 2023

NOTE 8 MANAGING UNCERTAINTIES

8.1 Contingent assets and liabilities

Contingent assets and contingent liabilities are not recognised in the Balance Sheet, but are disclosed and if quantifiable, are measured at nominal value. Contingent assets and liabilities are presented inclusive of GST receivable or payable, respectively.

(a) Contingent assets

Contingent assets are possible assets that arise from past events, whose existence will be confirmed only by the occurrence or non-occurrence of one or more uncertain future events not wholly within the control of Council.

Council has no contingent assets.

(b) Contingent liabilities

Contingent liabilities are:

- possible obligations that arise from past events, whose existence will be confirmed only by the occurrence or non-occurrence of one or more uncertain future events not wholly within the control of Council; or
- present obligations that arise from past events but are not recognised because:
 - it is not probable that an outflow of resources embodying economic benefits will be required to settle the obligation; or
 - the amount of the obligation cannot be measured with sufficient reliability.

Superannuation

Council has obligations under a defined benefit superannuation scheme that may result in the need to make additional contributions to the scheme. Matters relating to this potential obligation are outlined below. As a result of the volatility in financial markets, the likelihood of making such contributions in future periods exists.

Landfill

Council operates landfills. Council will have to carry out site rehabilitation works in the future. At balance date Council assesses the financial implications of such works using the estimates provided by relevant Council staff.

Liability Mutual Insurance

Council is a participant of the MAV Liability Mutual Insurance (LMI) Scheme. The LMI scheme provides public liability and professional indemnity insurance cover. The LMI scheme states that each year the participant will remain liable to make further contributions to the scheme in respect of any insurance year in which it was a participant to the extent of the participant's share of any shortfall in the provision set aside in respect of that insurance year, and such liability will continue whether or not the participant remains a participant in future insurance years.

8.2 Change in accounting standards

Certain new Australian Accounting Standards and interpretations have been published that are not mandatory for the 30 June 2023 reporting period. Council assesses the impact of these new standards. As at 30 June 2023 there were no new accounting standards or interpretations issued by the AASB which are applicable for the year ending 30 June 2024 that are expected to impact Council.

NOTE 8 MANAGING UNCERTAINTIES (Continued)

8.3 Financial instruments

(a) Objectives and policies

The Council's principal financial instruments comprise cash assets, term deposits, receivables (excluding statutory receivables), payables (excluding statutory payables). Details of the significant accounting policies and methods adopted, including the criteria for recognition, the basis of measurement and the basis on which income and expenses are recognised, in respect of each class of financial asset, financial liability and equity instrument is disclosed in the notes to the financial statements. Risk management is carried out by senior management under policies approved by the Council. These policies include identification and analysis of the risk exposure to Council and appropriate procedures, controls and risk minimisation.

(b) Market risk

Market risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of our financial instruments will fluctuate because of changes in market prices. The Council's exposures to market risk is primarily through interest rate risk with only insignificant exposure to other price risks and no exposure to foreign currency risk.

Interest rate risk

Interest rate risk refers to the risk that the value of a financial instrument or cash flows associated with the instrument will fluctuate due to changes in market interest rates. Council does not hold any interest bearing financial instruments that are measured at fair value, and therefore has no exposure to fair value interest rate risk. Cash flow interest rate risk is the risk that the future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market interest rates. Council has minimal exposure to cash flow interest rate risk through its levels of cash and deposits that are at a floating rate.

Investment of surplus funds is made with approved financial institutions under the *Local Government Act 2020*.

Council manages interest rate risk by adopting an investment policy that ensures:

- diversification of investment product;
- monitoring of return on investment; and
- benchmarking of returns and comparison with budget.

There has been no significant change in Council's exposure, or its objectives, policies and processes for managing interest rate risk or the methods used to measure this risk from the previous reporting period.

Interest rate movements have not been sufficiently significant during the year to have an impact on the Council's year end result.

(c) Credit risk

Credit risk is the risk that a contracting entity will not complete its obligations under a financial instrument and cause Council to make a financial loss. Council has exposure to credit risk on some financial assets included in our balance sheet. Particularly significant areas of credit risk exist in relation to outstanding fees and fines as well as loans and receivables from sporting clubs and associations.

To help manage this risk:

- Council has a policy for establishing credit limits for the entities council deals with;
- Council may require bank guarantees or security deposits for contracts where appropriate; and
- Council will only invest surplus funds with financial institutions which have a recognised credit rating specified in Council's investment policy.

Receivables consist of a large number of customers, spread across the ratepayer, business and government sectors. Credit risk associated with the Council's financial assets is minimal because the main debtor is secured by a charge over the rateable property.

There are no material financial assets which are individually determined to be impaired.

Financial Statements – Year ending 30 June 2023

NOTE 8 MANAGING UNCERTAINTIES (Continued)

8.3 Financial instruments (continued)

(c) Credit risk (continued)

Council may also be subject to credit risk for transactions which are not included in the balance sheet, such as when we provide a guarantee for another party. Council has no such guarantees in place at 30 June 2023.

The maximum exposure to credit risk at the reporting date to recognised financial assets is the carrying amount, net of any provisions for impairment of those assets, as disclosed in the balance sheet and notes to the financial statements. Council does not hold any collateral.

(d) Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk includes the risk that, as a result of our operational liquidity requirements it will not have sufficient funds to settle a transaction when required or will be forced to sell a financial asset at below value or may be unable to settle or recover a financial asset.

To help reduce these risks Council:

- has historically minimised borrowings in the short to medium term
- reduced its reliance on borrowings with repayment of all borrowings occurring in 2015/16
- has readily accessible standby facilities and other funding arrangements in place
- ensures that surplus funds are invested within various bands of liquid investments
- monitors budget to actual performance on a regular basis; and
- sets limits on borrowings relating to the percentage of loans to rate revenue and percentage of loan principal repayments to rate revenue.

There has been no significant change in Council's exposure, or its objectives, policies and processes for managing liquidity risk or the methods used to measure this risk from the previous reporting period.

With the exception of borrowings, all financial liabilities are expected to be settled within normal or agreed terms.

Unless otherwise stated, the carrying amount of financial instruments reflect their fair value.

(e) Sensitivity disclosure analysis

Taking into account past performance, future expectations, economic forecasts, and management's knowledge and experience of the financial markets, Council believes the following movements are 'reasonably possible' over the next 12 months:

- A parallel shift of +0.2% and -1.95% in market interest rates (AUD) from year-end rates of 4.95%.

These movements will not have a material impact on the valuation of Council's financial assets and liabilities, nor will they have a material impact on the results of Council's operations.

NOTE 8 MANAGING UNCERTAINTIES (Continued)

8.4 Fair value measurement

Fair value hierarchy

Council's financial assets and liabilities are not valued in accordance with the fair value hierarchy. Council's financial assets and liabilities are measured at amortised cost.

Council measures certain assets and liabilities at fair value where required or permitted by Australian Accounting Standards. AASB 13 Fair Value Measurement, aims to improve consistency and reduce complexity by providing a definition of fair value and a single source of fair value measurement and disclosure requirements for use across Australian Accounting Standards.

All assets and liabilities for which fair value is measured or disclosed in the financial statements are categorised within a fair value hierarchy, described as follows, based on the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement as a whole:

Level 1 — Quoted (unadjusted) market prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities

Level 2 — Valuation techniques for which the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement is directly or indirectly observable; and

Level 3 — Valuation techniques for which the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement is unobservable.

For the purpose of fair value disclosures, Council has determined classes of assets and liabilities on the basis of the nature, characteristics and risks of the asset or liability and the level of the fair value hierarchy as explained above.

In addition, Council determines whether transfers have occurred between levels in the hierarchy by re-assessing categorisation (based on the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement as a whole) at the end of each reporting period.

Revaluation

Subsequent to the initial recognition of assets, non-current physical assets, other than plant and equipment and furniture and equipment, are measured at their fair value, being the price that would be received to sell an asset (or paid to transfer a liability) in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. For plant and equipment carrying amount is considered to be approximate fair value given short useful lives). At balance date, the Council reviewed the carrying value of the individual classes of assets measured at fair value to ensure that each asset materially approximated its fair value. Where the carrying value materially differed from the fair value at balance date, the class of asset was revalued.

Fair value valuations are determined in accordance with a valuation hierarchy. Changes to the valuation hierarchy will only occur if an external change in the restrictions or limitations of use on an asset result in changes to the permissible or practical highest and best use of the asset. In addition, Council undertakes a formal revaluation of land, buildings, and infrastructure assets on a regular basis ranging from 1 to 5 years. The valuation is performed either by experienced council officers or independent experts. The following table sets out the frequency of revaluations by asset class.

Financial Statements – Year ending 30 June 2023

NOTE 8 MANAGING UNCERTAINTIES (Continued)

8.4 Fair value measurement (continued)

Revaluation (continued)

| Asset class | Revaluation frequency |
|--|-----------------------|
| Land | 2 years |
| Buildings | 2 years |
| Roads | 1 to 4 years |
| Bridges | 4 years |
| Footpaths and cycleways | 1 to 4 years |
| Drainage | 1 to 4 years |
| Recreational, leisure and community facilities | 2 years |
| Waste management | 2 years |
| Parks, open space and streetscapes | 2 years |
| Aerodromes | 2 years |
| Other infrastructure | 1 to 10 years |

Where the assets are revalued, the revaluation increments are credited directly to the asset revaluation reserve except to the extent that an increment reverses a prior year decrement for that class of asset that had been recognised as an expense in which case the increment is recognised as revenue up to the amount of the expense. Revaluation decrements are recognised as an expense except where prior increments are included in the asset revaluation reserve for that class of asset in which case the decrement is taken to the reserve to the extent of the remaining increments. Within the same class of assets, revaluation increments and decrements within the year are offset.

Impairment of assets

At each reporting date, the Council reviews the carrying value of its assets to determine whether there is any indication that these assets have been impaired. If such an indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset, being the higher of the fair value less costs to sell and value in use, is compared to the asset's carrying value. Any excess of the asset's carrying value over its recoverable amount is expensed to the comprehensive income statement, unless the asset is carried at the revalued amount in which case, the impairment loss is recognised directly against the revaluation surplus in respect of the same class of asset to the extent that the impairment loss does not exceed the amount in the revaluation surplus for that same class of asset.

8.5 Events occurring after balance date

No matters have occurred after balance date that require disclosure in the financial report.

NOTE 9 OTHER MATTERS

9.1 Reserves

(a) Asset revaluation reserve

2023

| | Balance at beginning of reporting period \$ | Increment / (decrement) \$ | Impairment increment / (decrement) \$ | Net movement for the reporting period \$ | Balance at end of the reporting period \$ |
|------------------------------|--|-------------------------------|--|---|--|
| Property | | | | | |
| Land and land improvements | 13,376,323 | - | - | - | 13,376,323 |
| Buildings | 39,159,663 | - | (118,190) | (118,190) | 39,041,473 |
| | 52,535,986 | - | (118,190) | (118,190) | 52,417,796 |
| Infrastructure assets | | | | | |
| Sealed roads | 117,068,685 | 26,757,655 | (7,328,475) | 19,429,180 | 136,497,865 |
| Unsealed roads | 73,417,620 | 6,483,397 | (9,764,857) | (3,281,460) | 70,136,160 |
| Footpaths | 809,198 | 1,640,285 | - | 1,640,285 | 2,449,483 |
| Street furniture | 171,446 | 438,872 | - | 438,872 | 610,318 |
| Kerbs | 1,335,648 | 3,587,866 | - | 3,587,866 | 4,923,514 |
| Bridges | 14,135,684 | 6,893,592 | (750,000) | 6,143,592 | 20,279,276 |
| Drains | 983,129 | 11,682,380 | - | 11,682,380 | 12,665,509 |
| Other infrastructure | 207,921,410 | 57,484,047 | (17,843,332) | 39,640,715 | 247,562,125 |
| Total tangible assets | 260,457,396 | 57,484,047 | (17,961,522) | 39,522,525 | 299,979,921 |
| Intangible assets | | | | | |
| Water rights | 1,775,394 | 94,700 | - | 94,700 | 1,870,094 |
| Total | 262,232,789 | 57,578,747 | (17,961,522) | 39,617,225 | 301,850,014 |

2022

| | Balance at beginning of reporting period \$ | Increment / (decrement) \$ | Impairment increment / (decrement) \$ | Net movement for the reporting period \$ | Balance at end of the reporting period \$ |
|------------------------------|--|-------------------------------|--|---|--|
| Property | | | | | |
| Land and land improvements | 9,107,674 | 4,268,649 | - | 4,268,649 | 13,376,323 |
| Buildings | 33,682,511 | 5,477,152 | - | 5,477,152 | 39,159,663 |
| | 42,790,185 | 9,745,801 | - | 9,745,801 | 52,535,986 |
| Infrastructure assets | | | | | |
| Sealed roads | 150,523,917 | (33,455,232) | - | (33,455,232) | 117,068,685 |
| Unsealed roads | 65,141,194 | 8,276,426 | - | 8,276,426 | 73,417,620 |
| Footpaths | 923,263 | (114,065) | - | (114,065) | 809,198 |
| Street furniture | 86,156 | 85,290 | - | 85,290 | 171,446 |
| Kerbs | 1,052,018 | 283,630 | - | 283,630 | 1,335,648 |
| Bridges | 9,805,444 | 4,330,240 | - | 4,330,240 | 14,135,684 |
| Drains | 539,034 | 444,095 | - | 444,095 | 983,129 |
| Other infrastructure | 228,071,026 | (20,149,616) | - | (20,149,616) | 207,921,410 |
| Total tangible assets | 270,861,211 | (10,403,815) | - | (10,403,815) | 260,457,396 |
| Intangible assets | | | | | |
| Water rights | 1,737,524 | 37,870 | - | 37,870 | 1,775,394 |
| Total | 272,598,734 | (10,365,945) | - | (10,365,945) | 262,232,789 |

The asset revaluation reserve is used to records the increased (net) value of Council's assets over time.

Financial Statements – Year ending 30 June 2023

NOTE 9 OTHER MATTERS (Continued)**9.1 Reserves (continued)****(b) General reserves****2023**

| | Balance at beginning of reporting period \$ | Transfer from accumulated surplus \$ | Transfer to accumulated surplus \$ | Balance at end of reporting period \$ |
|--|--|---|---|--|
| Land and buildings reserve | 734,010 | 513,582 | - | 1,247,592 |
| Boundary and township signage reserve | 100,000 | - | (100,000) | - |
| Capital expenditure reserve | 3,746,399 | 3,776,304 | (3,746,399) | 3,776,304 |
| Caravan park development reserve | 330,220 | 34,530 | (6,000) | 358,750 |
| Community planning reserve | 3,031,608 | 1,623,115 | (1,062,578) | 3,592,145 |
| Economic development reserve | 513,582 | - | (513,582) | - |
| Fleet replacement reserve | 810,006 | 150,000 | (62,253) | 897,753 |
| Gravel and sand pit restoration reserve | 400,000 | 16,203 | (244,628) | 171,575 |
| Heritage loan scheme reserve | 100,000 | - | - | 100,000 |
| Information technology reserve | 688,838 | 150,000 | (197,081) | 641,757 |
| Little Lake Boort water reserve | 17,604 | - | - | 17,604 |
| Waste management reserve | 300,000 | 34,540 | (23,410) | 311,130 |
| Major projects reserve | 318,485 | 80,000 | - | 398,485 |
| Plant replacement reserve | 1,979,398 | 950,000 | (565,003) | 2,364,395 |
| Professional development reserve | 16,256 | 4,000 | (8,042) | 12,214 |
| Recreation facilities improvement reserve | 100,000 | - | - | 100,000 |
| Swimming pool major projects reserve | 200,000 | - | - | 200,000 |
| Unfunded superannuation liability reserve | 1,000,000 | - | - | 1,000,000 |
| Units reserve | 30,750 | - | (30,750) | - |
| Unightly premises enforcement provision reserve | 100,000 | - | - | 100,000 |
| Unspent grants reserve | 11,336,434 | 17,288,936 | (11,336,434) | 17,288,936 |
| Urban drainage reserve | 960,666 | 350,000 | (172,604) | 1,138,062 |
| Total | 26,814,256 | 24,971,210 | (18,068,764) | 33,716,702 |

NOTE 9 OTHER MATTERS (Continued)**9.1 Reserves (continued)****(b) General reserves (continued)****2022**

| | Balance at beginning of reporting period \$ | Transfer from accumulated surplus \$ | Transfer to accumulated surplus \$ | Balance at end of reporting period \$ |
|--|--|---|---|--|
| Land and buildings reserve | 455,274 | 283,736 | (5,000) | 734,010 |
| Boundary and township signage reserve | 100,000 | - | - | 100,000 |
| Capital expenditure reserve | 4,282,325 | 3,746,399 | (4,282,325) | 3,746,399 |
| Caravan park development reserve | 188,073 | 148,247 | (6,100) | 330,220 |
| Community planning reserve | 2,628,720 | 1,760,608 | (1,357,720) | 3,031,608 |
| Economic development reserve | 431,182 | 100,000 | (17,600) | 513,582 |
| Fleet replacement reserve | 713,468 | 200,000 | (103,462) | 810,006 |
| Gravel and sand pit restoration reserve | 400,000 | - | - | 400,000 |
| Heritage loan scheme reserve | 100,000 | - | - | 100,000 |
| Information technology reserve | 810,803 | 150,000 | (271,965) | 688,838 |
| Little Lake Boort water reserve | 17,604 | - | - | 17,604 |
| Waste management reserve | 300,000 | - | - | 300,000 |
| Major projects reserve | 233,996 | 84,489 | - | 318,485 |
| Plant replacement reserve | 1,574,210 | 900,000 | (494,812) | 1,979,398 |
| Professional development reserve | 15,619 | 5,233 | (4,596) | 16,256 |
| Recreation facilities improvement reserve | 100,000 | - | - | 100,000 |
| Swimming pool major projects reserve | 200,000 | - | - | 200,000 |
| Unfunded superannuation liability reserve | 1,200,000 | - | (200,000) | 1,000,000 |
| Units reserve | 60,000 | - | (29,250) | 30,750 |
| Unightly premises enforcement provision reserve | 100,000 | - | - | 100,000 |
| Unspent grants reserve | 10,860,404 | 11,336,435 | (10,860,405) | 11,336,434 |
| Urban drainage reserve | 773,443 | 350,000 | (162,777) | 960,666 |
| Total | 25,545,121 | 19,065,147 | (17,796,012) | 26,814,256 |

Financial Statements – Year ending 30 June 2023

NOTE 9 OTHER MATTERS (Continued)

9.1 Reserves (continued)

(b) General reserves (continued)

Purpose of general reserves

Land and buildings reserve

The land and buildings reserve is used to fund the purchase and improvement of land and buildings which includes residential, commercial and industrial. Proceeds received from the sale of Council owned land and buildings are transferred to the reserve, and the cost of purchase and development of Council land and buildings is transferred from the reserve.

Boundary and township signage reserve

The boundary and township signage reserve is used to fund replacement of Council's boundary and township signage. Council transfers to the reserve annually an amount determined during the budget process as sufficient to fund the boundary and township signage replacement program, to a maximum reserve level of \$100K. The net cost of boundary and township signage purchases and installation for the year is transferred from the reserve. CLOSED IN 2021/22.

Capital expenditure reserve

The capital expenditure reserve is used to set aside funds that have been budgeted for capital works projects in one financial year but will not be expended by the end of that year. Council transfers to the reserve annually the unexpended budget amounts for capital works and other projects that will be undertaken in the following financial year.

Caravan park development reserve

The caravan park development reserve is used to set aside surpluses made from the operations of council's caravan parks to assist with financing major works carried out at those caravan parks. The annual surplus made on the operations of Council's caravan parks is transferred to the reserve annually, and the funds required to finance major works undertaken at Council's caravan parks are transferred from the reserve.

Community planning reserve

The community planning reserve is used to set aside unspent funds for community planning projects. Council transfers to the reserve annually cumulative unspent funds for each ward's community planning projects. Council transfers from the reserve the amount placed into the reserve at the end of the previous financial year.

Economic development reserve

The economic development reserve is used to assist with economic development initiatives that council wishes to financially support. Council transfers to the reserve annually an amount determined during the budget process as sufficient to fund economic development initiatives, and proceeds from the sale of industrial land along with the cost of economic development initiatives during the financial year are transferred from the reserve. CLOSED IN 2021/22.

Fleet replacement reserve

The fleet replacement reserve is used to fund the replacement of passenger vehicles. Council transfers to the reserve \$150K annually to fund the fleet replacement program, and transfers from the reserve the net cost of fleet purchases for the year.

Gravel and sand pit (GSP) restoration reserve

The gravel and sand pit (GSP) restoration reserve is used to fund land purchase, development and restoration of gravel and sand pits used by council for the extraction of road building materials. Council transfers from the reserve the cost of purchasing new sites and development and restoration of gravel and sand pits, and transfers to the reserve annual surplus on operations of gravel and sand pits to a maximum of \$400K.

NOTE 9 OTHER MATTERS (Continued)

9.1 Reserves (continued)

(b) General reserves (continued)

Purpose of general reserves (continued)

Heritage loan scheme reserve

The heritage loan scheme reserve is used to provide loans to owners of properties located in significant heritage precincts, heritage registered buildings or structures of local heritage significance, to enable repair and maintenance of those buildings with the aims of quality appearance and public safety.

Information technology reserve

The information technology reserve is used to assist with the purchase of information technology assets. Council transfers to the reserve \$150K annually to a maximum level of \$800K, and transfers from the reserve the net cost of information technology assets.

Little Lake Boort water

The Little Lake Boort water reserve is used to secure the proceeds from sale of temporary water rights relating to Little Lake Boort. Council transfers to the reserve the proceeds from the sale of temporary water rights and unexpended amounts from annual expenditure budget, and transfers from the reserve the amounts required to purchase water rights or for any other expenditure relating to Little Lake Boort.

Waste management reserve

The waste management reserve is used to assist with the cost of strategic projects, compliance and long term planning for Council's landfills and transfer stations. Council transfers to the reserve annually \$10 per kerbside collection levy (or a pro-rated amount for a pro-rated collection). Council transfers from the reserve the cost of strategic projects, compliance and long term planning within Council landfills and transfer stations.

Major projects reserve

The major projects reserve is used to assist with the funding of major projects identified by Council. An annual allocation determined during the budget process as sufficient to fund major projects is transferred to the reserve. When a major project is identified and approved, an amount will be transferred from the reserve to assist with funding the project.

Plant replacement reserve

The plant replacement reserve is used to fund plant purchases. Council transfers to the reserve \$950K annually. Council transfers from the reserve the net cost of plant purchases for the year.

Professional development reserve

The professional development reserve is used to fund the professional development undertaken by executive officers of Council. An annual allocation is provided to each executive officer in accordance with their contract of employment, while the cost of the professional development undertaken during the year is transferred from the reserve.

Community loans scheme reserve

The community loans scheme reserve is an allocation of funds used to provide interest free loans to community groups for improvements at council reserves.

Swimming pool major projects reserve

The swimming pool major projects reserve is used to fund unplanned major repairs and capital works on the various swimming pool sites across the Shire. Council transfers to the reserve annually an amount determined during the budget process, to a maximum reserve level of \$200K. Council transfers from the reserve the net cost of unplanned major repairs and capital works.

Financial Statements – Year ending 30 June 2023

NOTE 9 OTHER MATTERS (Continued)

9.1 Reserves (continued)

(b) General reserves (continued)

Purpose of general reserves (continued)

Unfunded superannuation liability reserve

The unfunded superannuation liability reserve is used to assist with funding any call that may be made on council as a result of shortfall in the Local Authorities' Superannuation Defined Benefits Plan. Council transfers to the reserve annually an amount determined during the budget process as sufficient to fund potential future calls by the superannuation authority in relation to an unfunded superannuation liability. Council transfers from the reserve any funds required to finance a call made upon Council by the superannuation authority.

Units reserve

The units reserve is used to fund the purchase or improvement of council owned elderly persons' units. The net surplus generated from rental income is transferred to the reserve annually. Funds are transferred out of the reserve to cover the cost of capital works undertaken at elderly persons' units. CLOSED IN 2021/22.

Unightly premises enforcement provision reserve

The unightly premises enforcement provision reserve is used to provide funds to assist with the enforcement and rectification works on identified unightly premises with costs recouped via legal or other action.

Unspent grants reserve

The unspent grants reserve is used to set aside grants received in one financial year that will not be expended until a later financial year. Council transfers to the reserve grants received during the financial year that have not been expended, and transfers from the reserve the amount placed into the reserve at the end of the previous financial year.

Urban drainage reserve

The urban drainage reserve is used to fund urban drainage works in the towns within the Shire. Council transfers to the reserve annually an amount determined during the budget process sufficient to fund the urban drainage program, and transfers from the reserve the annual cost of urban drainage work.

NOTE 9 OTHER MATTERS (Continued)**9.2 Reconciliation of cash flows from operating activities to surplus/(deficit)**

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|
| | \$ | \$ |
| Surplus / (deficit) for the period | 6,948,455 | 2,002,203 |
| Depreciation | 10,742,687 | 9,270,237 |
| (Profit) / loss on disposal of assets | (17,390) | (34,433) |
| Bad debts expense | 17,321 | 18,759 |
| Share of other comprehensive income of associates | (3,673) | (4,075) |
| Change in assets and liabilities | | |
| (Increase) / decrease in receivables (net of advances) | (961,575) | 286,756 |
| (Increase) / decrease in accrued income | (581,091) | (67,263) |
| (Increase) / decrease in prepayments | 257,576 | (90,576) |
| Increase / (decrease) in unearned income | 100,000 | 100,000 |
| Increase / (decrease) in trust funds and deposits | (15) | 2,611 |
| (Increase) / decrease in inventories | - | 24,120 |
| Increase / (decrease) in payables | 1,665,321 | (798,001) |
| Increase / (decrease) in employee benefits | (33,030) | (142,009) |
| Increase / (decrease) in other provisions | 554,890 | (223,841) |
| (Increase) / decrease in library equity | 2,372 | (10,371) |
| Net cash provided by / used by operating activities | 18,691,847 | 10,334,117 |

9.3 Superannuation

Council makes the majority of its employer superannuation contributions in respect of its employees to the Local Authorities Superannuation Fund (the Fund). This Fund has two categories of membership, accumulation and defined benefit, each of which is funded differently. Obligations for contributions to the Fund are recognised as an expense in the Comprehensive Income Statement when they are made or due.

Accumulation

The Fund's accumulation categories, Vision MySuper / Vision Super Saver, receives both employer and employee contributions on a progressive basis. Employer contributions are normally based on a fixed percentage of employee earnings (for the year ended 30 June 2023, this was 10.5% required under Superannuation Guarantee (SG) Legislation, for 2022 this was 10.0%).

Defined benefit

Council does not use defined benefit accounting for its defined benefit obligations under the Fund's Defined Benefit category. This is because the Fund's Defined Benefit category is a pooled multi-employer sponsored plan.

There is no proportional split of the defined benefit liabilities, assets or costs between the participating employers as the defined benefit obligation is a floating obligation between the participating employers and the only time that the aggregate obligation is allocated to specific employers is when a call is made. As a result, the level of participation of Council in the Fund cannot be measured as a percentage compared with other participating employers. Therefore, the Fund Actuary is unable to allocate benefit liabilities, assets and costs between employers for the purposes of AASB119.

Financial Statements – Year ending 30 June 2023

NOTE 9 OTHER MATTERS (Continued)

9.3 Superannuation (continued)

Defined benefit (continued)

Funding arrangements

Council makes employer contributions to the Defined Benefit category of the Fund at rates determined by the Trustee on advice of the Fund Actuary. A triennial actuarial investigation is currently underway for the Defined Benefit category which is expected to be completed by 31 December 2023. Council was notified of the 30 June 2023 VBI during August 2023 (2022: August 2022). The financial assumptions used to calculate the 30 June 2023 VBI were:

| | |
|------------------------|---------|
| Net investment returns | 5.7% pa |
| Salary information | 3.5% pa |
| Price inflation (CPI) | 2.8% pa |

As at 30 June 2022, an interim actuarial investigation was held as the Fund provides lifetime pensions in the Defined Benefit category. The vested benefit index (VBI) of the Defined Benefit category of which Council is a contributing employer was 102.2%. The financial assumptions used to calculate the VBI were:

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| Net investment returns | 5.5% pa |
| Salary information | 2.5% pa to 30 June 2023, and 3.5% pa thereafter |
| Price inflation (CPI) | 3.0% pa |

Council was notified of the 30 June 2022 VBI during August 2022 (2021: August 2021). Vision Super has advised that the estimated VBI at June 2023 was 104.1%.

The VBI is used as the primary funding indicator. Because the VBI was above 100%, the June 2022 actuarial investigation determined the Defined Benefit category was in a satisfactory financial position and that no change was necessary to the Defined Benefit category's funding arrangements from prior years.

Employer contributions (regular contributions)

On the basis of the results of the 2022 interim actuarial investigation conducted by the Fund Actuary, Council makes employer contributions to the Fund's Defined Benefit category at rates determined by the Fund's Trustee. For the year ended 30 June 2023, this rate was 10.5% of members' salaries (10.0% in 2021/22). This rate is expected to increase in line with any increases in the SG contribution rate and was reviewed as part of the 30 June 2022 interim valuation.

In addition, Council reimburses the Fund to cover the excess of the benefits paid as a consequence of retrenchment above the funded resignation or retirement benefit.

Funding calls

If the Defined Benefit category is in an unsatisfactory financial position at an actuarial investigation or the Defined Benefit category's VBI is below its shortfall limit at any time other than the date of the actuarial investigation, the Defined Benefit category has a shortfall for the purposes of SPS 160 and the Fund is required to put a plan in place so that the shortfall is fully funded within three years of the shortfall occurring. The Fund monitors its VBI on a quarterly basis and the Fund has set its shortfall limit at 97%.

In the event that the Fund Actuary determines that there is a shortfall based on the above requirement, the Fund's participating employers (including Council) are required to make an employer contribution to cover the shortfall.

Using the agreed methodology, the shortfall amount is apportioned between the participating employers based on the pre-1 July 1993 and post-30 June 1993 service liabilities of the Fund's Defined Benefit category, together with the employer's payroll at 30 June 1993 and at the date the shortfall has been calculated.

Due to the nature of the contractual obligations between the participating employers and the Fund, and that the Fund includes lifetime pensioners and their reversionary beneficiaries, it is unlikely that the Fund will be wound up.

NOTE 9 OTHER MATTERS (Continued)**9.3 Superannuation (continued)****Funding calls (continued)**

If there is a surplus in the Fund, the surplus cannot be returned to the participating employers. In the event that a participating employer is wound-up, the defined benefit obligations of that employer will be transferred to that employer's successor.

The 2022 interim actuarial investigation surplus amounts

An actuarial investigation is conducted annually for the Defined Benefit category of which Council is a contributing employer. Generally, a full actuarial investigation is conducted every three years and interim actuarial investigations are conducted for each intervening year. An interim investigation was conducted as at 30 June 2022 and the last full investigation was conducted as at 30 June 2020.

The Fund's actuarial investigations identified the following in the Defined Benefit category of which Council is a contributing employer:

| | 2022 (Interim) | 2021 (Interim) |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| | \$M | \$M |
| - A VBI surplus | 44.60 | 214.70 |
| - A total service liability surplus | 105.80 | 270.30 |
| - A discounted accrued benefits surplus | 111.90 | 285.20 |

The VBI surplus means that the market value of the fund's assets supporting the defined benefit obligations exceed the vested benefits that the defined benefit members would have been entitled to if they had all exited on 30 June 2022. The total service liability surplus means that the current value of the assets in the Fund's Defined Benefit category plus expected future contributions exceeds the value of expected future benefits and expenses as at 30 June 2022.

The discounted accrued benefit surplus means that the current value of the assets in the Fund's Defined Benefit category exceeds the value of benefits payable in the future but accrued in respect of service to 30 June 2022.

The 2023 triennial actuarial investigation

A triennial actuarial investigation is being conducted for the Fund's position as at 30 June 2023. It is anticipated that this actuarial investigation will be completed by 31 December 2023. The financial assumptions for the purposes of this investigation are:

| | 2023 | 2020 |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------|---|
| | Triennial investigation | Triennial investigation |
| - Net investment return | 5.7% pa | 5.6% pa |
| - Salary inflation | 3.5% pa | 2.5% pa for first two years then 2.75% pa thereafter |
| - Price inflation | 2.8% pa | 2.0% pa |

Superannuation contributions

Contributions by Council (excluding any unfunded liability payments) to the above superannuation plans for the financial year ended 30 June 2023 are detailed below:

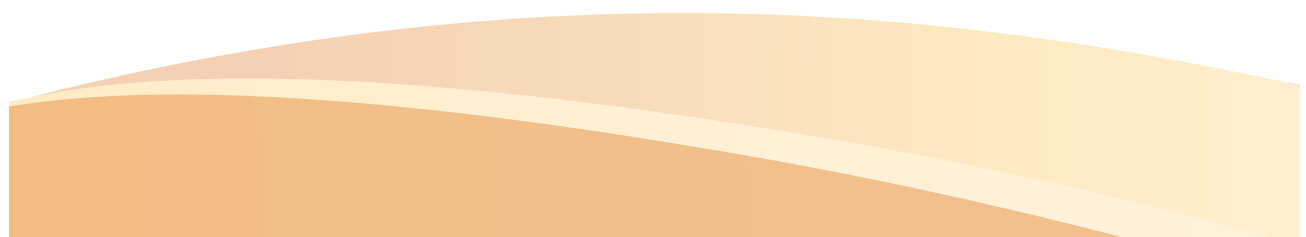
| Scheme - Type of Scheme - Rate | 2023 | 2022 |
|--|-------------|-------------|
| | \$ | \$ |
| Vision super - Defined Benefit - 10.5% (2022: 10.0%) | 44,948 | 94,428 |
| Vision super - Accumulation fund - 10.5% (2022: 10.0%) | 562,593 | 492,304 |
| Other super funds | 585,046 | 541,176 |

There were no contributions outstanding and no loans issued from or to the above schemes as at 30 June 2023. The expected contributions to be paid to the Defined Benefit category of Vision Super for the year ending 30 June 2023 is \$Nil.

Financial Statements – Year ending 30 June 2023

NOTE 10 CHANGE IN ACCOUNTING POLICY

There have been no changes to accounting policies for the 2022/23 year.







Loddon Shire Council

41 High St, Wedderburn 3518

Local call: 1300 365 200 T: (03) 5494 1200

Office hours: Monday to Friday 8.15am to 4.45pm (except public holidays)

Email: loddon@loddon.vic.gov.au www.loddon.vic.gov.au  /LoddonShire

10.7 DECISION REPORT 5917: RETROSPECTIVE PLANNING APPLICATION FOR EARTHWORKS (LASER GRADING AND CHANNEL CONSTRUCTION).

File Number:

Author: Darcy Jackson, Statutory Planning Officer

Authoriser: Louise Johnston, Statutory Planning Coordinator

Attachments: 1. **Decision Report - PA5917**

2. **Irrigation Works Design Plan**

3. **Objections (grouped) - Confidential**

This attachment is designated as confidential in accordance with Section 3(1)(f) of the *Local Government Act 2020*. It contains personal information, being information which if released would result in the unreasonable disclosure of information about any person or their personal affairs.

(under separate cover)

4. **Photo report from site inspection 7 September 2023 (labelled)**

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 5917 for retrospective earthworks (irrigation channels and laser grading) that change the rate of flow or discharge point of water across a property boundary in the Farming Zone and carry out works (earthworks) in the Land Subject to Inundation Overlay subject to the following conditions:

1. Amended Plans Required

Prior to any further earthworks commencing as part of this approval, 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 generally in accordance with Irrigation Design Plan by NJC Irrigation Solutions but modified to show:

- Whole farm management plan, which incorporates the existing irrigation on Crown Allotments 106A, 106B, 107A, and 107B to the south and the new irrigation on Crown Allotments 108 and 109. The plan will need to show all of the requested changes in condition 8 and how floodwater is conveyed through both sites.

2. Layout not altered

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

3. Channel and Banks

3.1. The irrigation channel banks must be constructed no higher than 300mm above the Design Water Level within the channel.

3.2. All channels and banks must be curtailed 20 metres from the end of the last irrigation bay. This area must be free from spoil and levelled at natural ground level.

4. Siphons

All existing and proposed siphons must be constructed at natural ground level and must be maintained in accordance with the best practice guidelines – *Floodplain Management Guidelines for Whole Farm Plans within the Shepparton Irrigation Region, 2003*

5. Check Banks

5.1. All check banks must be constructed no higher than 300mm above natural ground level

5.2. Check banks must be curtailed at least 20 metres from the end of each irrigation bay to allow floodwater to be dispersed.

6. Access Tracks

All access tracks must be constructed or modified to be at natural ground level.

7. Spoil

7.1. All surplus spoil must be removed from the floodplain and located in an area that is not flood affected.

7.2. Where drain spoil runs across the direction of the flood flow, suitable openings must be constructed of at least 20 metres for every 40 metres of the spoil length.

8. Whole Farm Management Plan

Prior to any further earthworks commencing, a Whole Farm Management Plan (WFMP) must be prepared, approved and implemented to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority. The WFMP must include:

- Changes to PP4132 to include:
- A new 30 metre wide siphon must be constructed where the section of the irrigation adjoins the wetland to the south, east of the existing siphon where the designated waterway is shown on an aerial map of the site.
- The existing siphon must be modified to ensure it is at natural ground level and no check banks are to be constructed across the siphon.
- The existing channel crossing on the access track must be reduced to natural ground level and the siphon extended for a width of 30 metres.
- Spoil associated with the new drains where it intersects the floodplain, suitable cuts and siphons must be installed to ensure the floodwater can flow through the site generally in the northern direction.

Changes to new irrigation to include:

- Levelling of all farm channel banks to a height of 300mm above Design Water Level
- Levelling all check and drain banks at 300mm above natural ground level
- Levelling all access tracks to natural ground level
- Removing all surplus spoil from the floodplain
- Curtailing check and channel banks 20 metres from the edge of the drains to allow water to disperse across the floodplain.
- Openings in drain spoil that runs across the floodplain as per condition 7.2.

9. Setback from waterway

All works must be setback a minimum of 30 metres from the existing waterway that traverses the subject site.

10. Expiry

This permit will expire if one of the following circumstances apply:

- (a) the development is not started within four months of the date of this permit;
- (b) the development is not completed within six months of the date of this permit.

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 discussion on this matter.

BACKGROUND

The application was lodged on the 4 August 2023 for earthworks (laser grading and channel construction). The works have already been completed therefore this is a retrospective application with modifications to be made to comply.

The application was referred externally to North Central Catchment Management Authority who have provided consent and Goulburn Murray Water who provided advice with no conditions.

The objections raised issues with the earthworks redirecting and obstructing floodwaters, increasing the risk to the life and property of landholders on the floodplain. Irrigation works approved in 2006 to the south of the property were also raised as obstruction to floodwaters in the area, this property was under the ownership of the applicant.

Officer recommendation is to issue a notice of decision to grant a planning permit.

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. Council has received 17 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, proposed plans in attachment 2, objections in attachment 3 and a photo report from site inspection conducted on 7 September 2023 is in attachment 4.

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.

LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL

**DECISION REPORT 5917:
Retrospective planning application
for earthworks (laser grading and
irrigation channels).**



CONTENTS

| | | |
|-----------|--|-----------|
| 1 | RECOMMENDATION | 4 |
| 2. | DISCUSSION | 6 |
| | 2.1 The Site & Locality | 6 |
| | 2.2 Site History | 8 |
| | 2.3 Proposal | 8 |
| | 2.4 Loddon Planning Scheme | 10 |
| | 2.4.1 Zone..... | 10 |
| | 2.4.2 Overlay..... | 10 |
| | 2.4.3 Relevant Particular Provisions..... | 11 |
| | 2.4.4 Permit trigger..... | 11 |
| | 2.4.5 Restrictive Covenant | 11 |
| | 2.4.6 Planning Policy Framework | 11 |
| | 2.4.7 Local Planning Policy Framework..... | 12 |
| | 2.5 Referrals | 12 |
| | 2.6 Public Notification | 13 |
| 3 | ASSESSMENT | 14 |
| | 3.1 Planner assessment | 14 |
| 4 | CONCLUSION | 21 |

SUMMARY

| | |
|----------------------------|--|
| Application Number: | 5917 |
| Applicant: | Karl Hooke |
| Subject Land: | Lot 108 & 109 Nixon's Road Bears Lagoon VIC 3517 |
| Owner: | RJ & CJ Hooke |
| Zone: | Farming Zone |
| Overlay(s): | Land Subject to Inundation Overlay |
| Existing use: | Dryland Cropping |
| Proposal: | Earthworks (irrigation channels and laser grading) that change the rate of flow or discharge point of water across a property boundary in the Farming Zone and carry out works in the Land Subject to Inundation Overlay |

The following dot points provide a summary of the application:

- The application was lodged on the 4th August 2023 proposing to complete earthworks (irrigation channels and laser grading) in the Farming Zone and Land Subject to Inundation Overlay.
- The application was advertised to surrounding landowners; with 17 objections received.
- In response to objections, the applicant has had some objectors out on site and is proposing changes to the old and new irrigation to increase flood flows.
- The application was also referred externally to North Central Catchment Management Authority (section 55) and Goulburn Murray Water (section 52).
- North Central Catchment Management Authority provided consent with no further conditions to be imposed, and advice was provided from Goulburn Murray Water.
- Officer recommendation is to issue a notice of decision to grant a planning permit.

1 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 5917 for retrospective earthworks (irrigation channels and laser grading) that change the rate of flow or discharge point of water across a property boundary in the Farming Zone and carry out works (earthworks) in the Land Subject to Inundation Overlay subject to the following conditions:

1. Amended Plans Required

Prior to any further earthworks commencing as part of this approval, 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 generally in accordance with Irrigation Design Plan by NJC Irrigation Solutions but modified to show:

- Whole farm management plan, which incorporates the existing irrigation on Crown Allotments 106A, 106B, 107A, and 107B to the south and the new irrigation on Crown Allotments 108 and 109. The plan will need to show all of the requested changes in condition 8 and how floodwater is conveyed through both sites.

2. Layout not altered

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

3. Channel and Banks

3.1. The irrigation channel banks must be constructed no higher than 300mm above the Design Water Level within the channel.

3.2. All channels and banks must be curtailed 30 metres from the end of the last irrigation bay. This area must be free from spoil and levelled at natural ground level.

4. Siphons

All existing and proposed siphons must be constructed and maintained at natural ground level in accordance with the best practice guidelines – *Floodplain Management Guidelines for Whole Farm Plans within the Shepparton Irrigation Region, 2003*.

5. Check Banks

5.1. All check banks must be constructed no higher than 300mm above natural ground level

5.2. Check banks must be curtailed at least 30 metres from the end of each irrigation bay to allow floodwater to be dispersed.

6. Access Tracks

All access tracks must be constructed or modified to be at natural ground level.

7. Spoil

7.1. All surplus spoil must be removed from the floodplain and located in an area that is not flood affected.

7.2. Where drain spoil runs across the direction of the flood flow, suitable openings must be constructed of at least 20 metres for every 40 metres of the spoil length.

8. Whole Farm Management Plan

Prior to any further earthworks commencing, a Whole Farm Management Plan (WFMP) must be prepared, approved and implemented to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority. The WFMP must include:

- Changes to PP4132 to include:
- A new 30 metre wide siphon must be constructed where the section of the irrigation adjoins the wetland to the south, east of the existing siphon where the designated waterway is shown on an aerial map of the site.
- The existing siphon must be modified to ensure it is at natural ground level and no check banks are to be constructed across the siphon.
- The existing channel crossing on the access track must be reduced to natural ground level and the siphon extended for a width of 30 metres.
- Spoil associated with the new drains where it intersects the floodplain, suitable cuts and siphons must be installed to ensure the floodwater can flow through the site generally in the northern direction.

Changes to new irrigation to include:

- Levelling of all farm channel banks to a height of 300mm above Design Water Level
- Levelling all check and drain banks at 300mm above natural ground level
- Levelling all access tracks to natural ground level
- Removing all surplus spoil from the floodplain
- Curtailing check and channel banks 20 metres from the edge of the drains to allow water to disperse across the floodplain.
- Openings in drain spoil that runs across the floodplain as per condition 7.2.

9. Setback from waterway

All works must be setback a minimum of 30 metres from the existing waterway that traverses the subject site.

10. Expiry

This permit will expire if one of the following circumstances apply:

- (a) the development is not started within four months of the date of this permit;
- (b) the development is not completed within six months of the date of this permit.

The Responsible Authority may extend the periods referred to if a request is made in writing before the permit expires or within three months after the permit expires.

Permit Notes

The applicant has stated they will be making changes to the existing irrigation works to the south of the subject site, these works were approved under planning permit 4132 in May 2006. The applicant has requested the amendment of the permit 4132 and the following conditions to be imposed to modify the existing works to increase flood flows through the property:

- A new 30 metre wide siphon must be constructed where the section of the irrigation adjoins the wetland to the south, next to the existing siphon.
- The existing siphon must be modified to ensure it is at natural ground level and no check banks are to be constructed across the siphon.
- The existing channel crossing on the access track must be reduced to natural ground level and the siphon extended for a width of 30 metres.

This will address issues raised by the objectors in relation to the existing irrigation. The above areas to be modified are shown in figure 4 and 5 of this report.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 The Site & Locality

The subject site comprises five parcels of land that total 261 hectares. The property is currently used for dryland cropping and pasture. It is situated 2 kilometres east of the Loddon Valley Highway between Serpentine and Bears Lagoon, south of Nixon's Road. The irrigation development will be contained mainly within Lot 108 (south east allotment shown in figure 1) and partly into Lot 109 the (North east allotment shown in figure 1). The blue rectangle on figure 1 below shows the approximate area that will be modified for irrigation.

The property sits within the Loddon River floodplain with several waterways, wetlands and low lying areas evident in the landscape. As the area is a floodplain it is generally flat with minimal natural undulations. A small waterway traverses Lot 108 and 109 carrying overflow water from the temporary freshwater swamp located further to the south. It runs through an existing on farm dam and then across Nixon's Road before being siphoned under the Goulburn Murray Water channel. The waterway runs through an area of swamp box in the southwest corner of allotment 108. This area is protected and fenced off as a biodiversity area and is protected from any vegetation removal or works, this is registered on title as conservation covenant.



Figure 1 - Aerial image of subject site, blue square indicates the area of works

The site is accessed via an existing gateway off Nixon's Road, and an internal access road that splits the five allotments east and west. This access way is constructed at natural ground level and runs parallel with the floodplain.

The surrounding land consists of a mix of irrigated cropping and dryland farming. There is some intensive animal production within the vicinity including, Bears Lagoon piggery located 3 kilometres west of the subject site and an existing poultry farm is 1.7 kilometres to the north east. There is some scattered dwellings to the west and north of the proposed works that are within the flood path. Being a major floodplain there are several areas designated as wetlands including to the south, west and north of the site. All wetlands will not be impacted, current wetlands in the area are shown in figure 2.

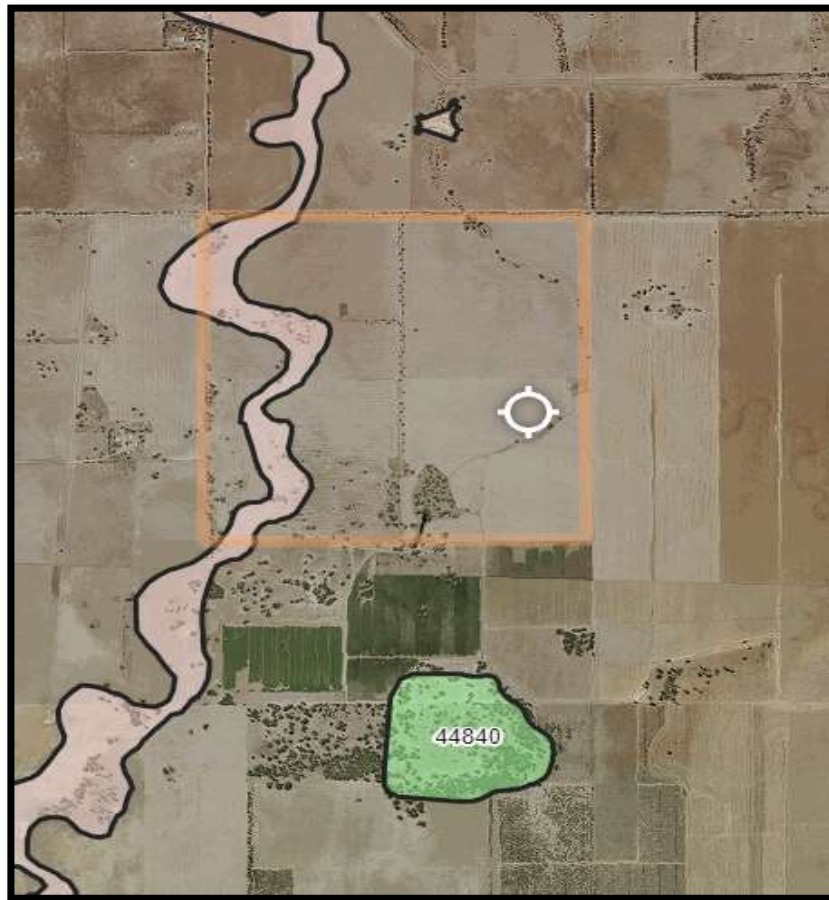


Figure 2 – Image showing current wetlands and the existing irrigation to the south

2.2 Site History

The site itself has not had any planning permit approvals and has operated as a dryland cropping and pasture paddocks. However the earthworks currently being assessed in this report have been completed and this is a retrospective application. A site inspection was conducted on the 7 September 2023 with the applicant and two council planners in attendance. All works have been completed so the issuing of this permit is managing the flow of floodwater through the site and ensuring the works do not cause negative impacts on landowners on the floodplain.

The applicant also owns the land adjoining the site to the south. This property was issued a planning permit for earthworks for irrigation similar to the new application in 2006. Issues have been raised regarding the existing irrigation works holding up and redirecting floodwater. The applicant has stated he will work to rectify this issue to ensure the water flows through both properties.

2.3 Proposal

The proposal is for earthworks which include laser grading and the excavation of the channels and drains, and banks, as shown in by the plan in figure 3.

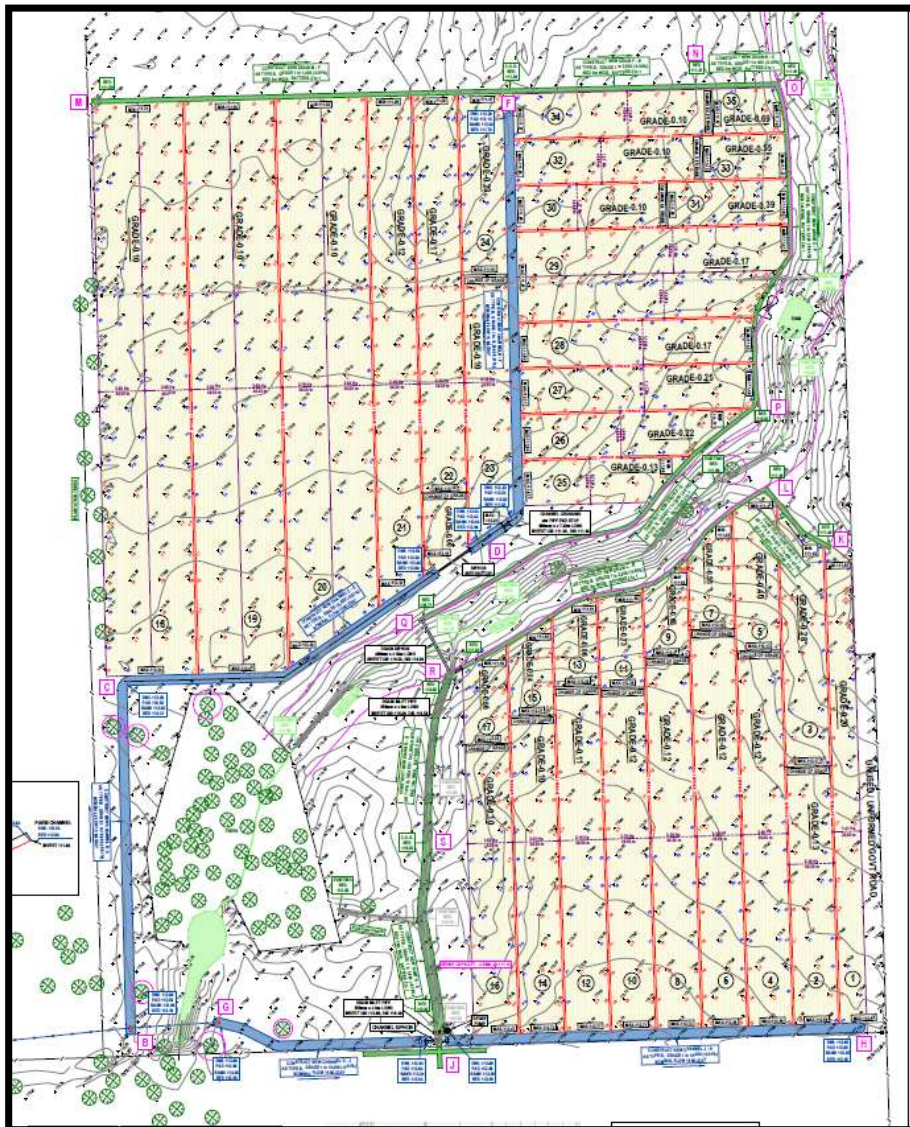


Figure 3 – Irrigation Design Plan drawn by NJC Irrigation Solutions

The site will be split into three irrigated paddocks totalling 64.70 hectares, separated by channels and drains. A total of 34 irrigation bays will be laser graded with the two larger paddocks being graded south to north, and small paddock the north east corner being graded east to west.

Irrigation Bays and Check Banks

The irrigation bays have been graded depending on the layout of the land. There are 34 bays proposed with 33 of the bays to be 48 metres wide with one small bay having a width of 28.29 metres. All check banks will be no higher than 300mm from natural ground level.

Channels

The proposed channels shown in blue in the site plan at figure 3 will be constructed to supply water for the irrigated bays. The channel will have a nominal flow of 15 ML/day, with bank

heights on the channel to be constructed at 300mm above the Design Water Level (DWL) within the channels. As consulted with North Central CMA siphons have been constructed where the channels intersect the floodplain. A 45 metre wide siphon was constructed on the channel to the north and a 17 wide siphon on the channel to the south to allow flood flows through the irrigation. Water will piped underground from the existing pump on the irrigated land to the south into the new channels.

Drains and Reuse Sump

There are two new drains that run along the end of the irrigation bays to catch overflow water during irrigating. The drains have a width of 3 metres with their purpose to run excess irrigation water back to the to the reuse sump. A drain siphon has been constructed under the existing natural drain to allow water from the northern section to drain into the reuse sump. The drain siphon will be 400mm x 54 metres long. The proposed reuse sump will have a bed width of 10 metres and a reuse capacity of 3.53ML. There is some banks along the drains that will need to be cut to allow for flood flow through the property. There is some spoil stored on the property from the excavated channels and drains which will need to be removed or levelled to ensure it does not impact flood flows.

2.4 Loddon Planning Scheme

2.4.1 Zone

The subject site is within the Farming Zone. Clause 35.07 of the scheme states that the purpose of the Farming Zone is:

- *To implement the Municipal Planning Strategy and the Planning Policy Framework.*
- *To provide for the use of land for agriculture.*
- *To encourage the retention of productive agricultural land.*
- *To ensure that non-agricultural uses, including dwellings, do not adversely affect the use of land for agriculture.*
- *To encourage the retention of employment and population to support rural communities.*
- *To encourage use and development of land based on comprehensive and sustainable land management practices and infrastructure provision.*
- *To provide for the use and development of land for the specific purposes identified in a schedule to this zone.*

Under Clause 35.07-4 a planning permit is required for earthworks as specified in the schedule to the zone. The schedule to the Farming Zone states that a permit is required for earthworks which change the rate of flow or discharge point of water across a property boundary, therefore triggering a permit.

2.4.2 Overlay

The site is covered by a Land Subject to Inundation Overlay. Clause 44.04 of the scheme states that the purpose of the Land Subject to Inundation Overlay is:

- *To implement the Municipal Planning Strategy and the Planning Policy Framework.*
- *To identify flood prone land in a riverine or coastal area affected by the 1 in 100 (1 per cent Annual Exceedance Probability) year flood or any other area determined by the floodplain management authority.*
- *To ensure that development maintains the free passage and temporary storage of floodwaters, minimises flood damage, responds to the flood hazard and local drainage conditions and will not cause any significant rise in flood level or flow velocity.*
- *To minimise the potential flood risk to life, health and safety associated with development.*

- *To reflect a declaration under Division 4 of Part 10 of the Water Act, 1989.*
- *To protect water quality and waterways as natural resources by managing urban stormwater, protecting water supply catchment areas, and managing saline discharges to minimise the risks to the environmental quality of water and groundwater.*
- *To ensure that development maintains or improves river, marine, coastal and wetland health, waterway protection and floodplain health.*

Under clause 44.04 a planning permit is required to carry out works including earthworks on land affected by an LSIO.

2.4.3 Relevant Particular Provisions

There are no relevant particular provisions for this application.

2.4.4 Permit trigger

Under Clause 35.07-4 and the Schedule to the Farming Zone, a permit is required for earthworks that change the rate of flow or discharge point of water across a property boundary. Under clause 44.04 a permit is required to carry out works including earthworks in the LSIO.

2.4.5 Restrictive Covenant

Agreement registered on title pursuant to section 69 of the Conservation, Forests and Land Act 1987. An area of 3.77 hectares has been fenced off and protected as a bush broker site. No works were undertaken within this area.

2.4.6 Planning Policy Framework

The following section considers the relevant sections of the Planning Policy Framework for this application.

Clause 12.03-1S- River riparian corridors, waterways, lakes, wetlands and billabongs

The objective of this clause is:

To protect and enhance waterway systems including river and riparian corridors, waterways, lakes, wetlands and billabongs.

Clause 13.03-1S- Floodplain management

The objective of this clause is:

To assist the protection of:

- *Life, property and community infrastructure from flood hazard, including coastal inundation, riverine and overland flows.*
- *The natural flood carrying capacity of rivers, streams and floodways.*
- *The flood storage function of floodplains and waterways.*
- *Floodplain areas of environmental significance or of importance to river, wetland or coastal health.*

A key strategy to consider under this state policy is:

- *Avoid intensifying the impact of flooding through inappropriately located use and development.*

19.03-3R- Integrated water management – Loddon Mallee South

The strategy for this regional policy looks to support ongoing investment in water infrastructure and management of water resources to enhance the security and efficiency of water supply to irrigators, farms, and urban areas.

2.4.7 Local Planning Policy Framework

The following section gives consideration to be the relevant sections of the Local Planning Policy Framework for this application.

02.03-3- Environmental risks and amenity

There are extensive floodplains along the Loddon River, as well as north-west from the Loddon River through the lakes and wetland system around Boort and beyond. The area around Lake Marmal is also subject to seasonal flooding.

A key strategic direction to consider in councils Municipal Planning Strategy is:

- *Prevent development within the floodplain that would compromise its flood carrying capacity, threaten water quality and be compromised by flood activity.*

Clause 02-.03-4 – Agriculture

Much of the north of the Shire is provided with irrigation water from the Goulburn River, supplemented from the Loddon River, via the Waranga Channel. In the interests of the long-term viability of agriculture, Council supports improved efficiency in the use of irrigation water and the transfer of water from low value uses such as grazing to high value horticulture.

A key strategic direction to consider in Councils Municipal Planning Strategy is:

- *Support the effective restructure and redevelopment of farm holdings to maximise opportunities for diversification and intensification of agricultural land use.*

13.03-1L- Flooding

This local policy includes one strategy that is directly related to the proposal:

- *Discourage levee banks that constrict or redirect flood flows or remove land from the floodplain*

2.5 Referrals

Table 6: External referrals

| | |
|---|---|
| North Central Catchment Management Authority (Sec 55) | Provided consent with no further conditions |
| Goulburn Murray Water (Sec 52) | Provided advice, no objection |

2.6 Public Notification

The application is not exempt from the notice requirement. Pursuant to Section 52 of the Planning and Environment Act 1987, the following forms of advertising were undertaken:

- Notices were sent to owners and occupiers of adjoining land (including opposite and surrounding).

17 objections were received in response to the application. These can be found in Attachment 1. The matters raised in the objection are summarised below and with Officers response in italics:

- Previous earthworks: earthworks associated with irrigation were first undertaken on the floodplain on the applicant’s property to the south. As a result the flood flow path was significantly altered and areas not previously subject to flooding being inundated.

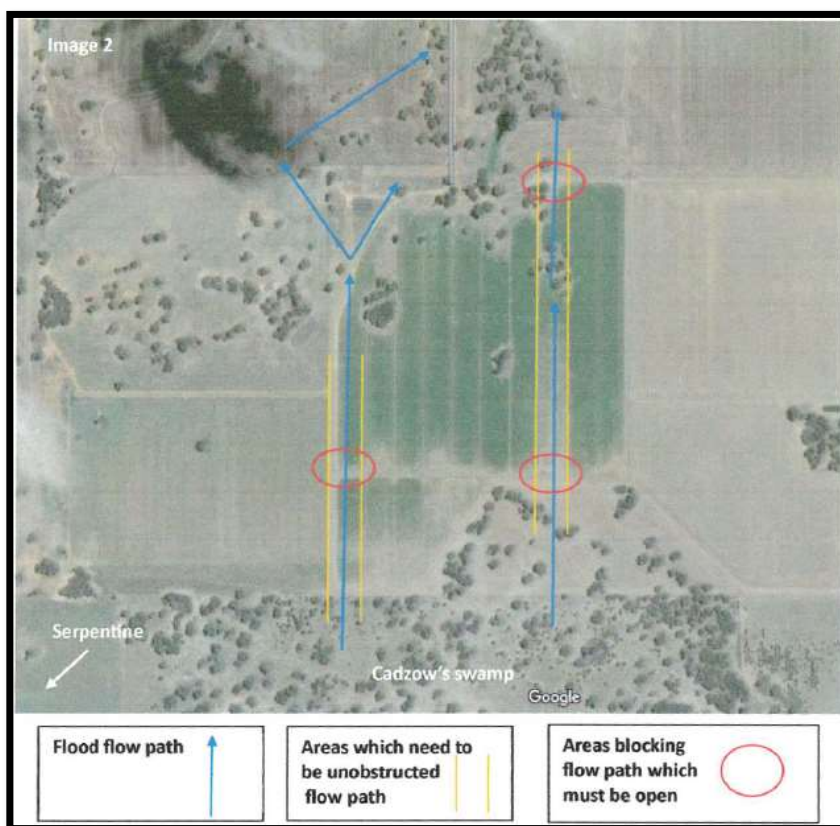


Figure 4 – Image submitted as part of an objection

A site inspection was undertaken on the 7th September 2023 to investigate the issues raised in several objections with the previous irrigation works south of the subject site. A photo report of issues identified at that meeting can be found in Attachment 2. There are significant obstructions on the floodplain in the two red circles in the southern part of the existing irrigation. The red circle on the left contains an existing irrigation bank. The bank will be lowered to natural ground level and a siphon installed allowing flood water to flow directly north. The red circle to right contains a small existing siphon with a small check bank of around 40cm high blocking the water flow. This area is the natural waterway out of Cadzows Swamp. In response the applicant will remove the bank and replace the old siphon with two new ones in this section, the siphons

will be constructed at natural ground level. The red circle to the north contains the existing drain into the adjoining property. A 17m wide siphon constructed at natural ground level is in place to allow free flow of floodwater from the irrigation to the south through to new irrigation development, maintaining the natural flood flow direction. The applicant has requested these requirements be included on the new permit if it is issued.

- The new earthworks will divert water to the North West towards Bears Lagoon, and Durham Ox, redirecting it from the natural flow path through the site to the north east.

The majority of the new earthworks run with the flow of floodwater, however there are sections of channels and banks that intersect the floodplain which may redirect floodwater. In response to this a 45 metre wide siphon has been constructed for the 450 metre section of the channel that runs across the flood flow path. This was constructed in consultation with North Central CMA and is at natural ground level to allow flood water to flow unobstructed. The bottom section of the irrigation also has a channel running across the floodplain. There is a 17 metre wide siphon on the existing drain that comes out of Cadzow's Swamp which aligns with the proposed new siphons on the existing irrigation to the south. The existing waterway that traverses the site will not be obstructed by the channel as this section will be piped underneath the waterway. Where spoil associated with the new drains intersects the floodplain suitable cuts and siphons will be installed to ensure the floodwater can flow through the site generally in the northern direction.

The Goulburn Murray Water irrigation channel located further to the north also intersects the floodplain and has significant banks with only a three small subways for a five kilometre stretch of floodplain in this section. It is likely water is obstructed and redirected by this channel to the North West.

- Have check banks and levy bank heights been sufficiently considered to allow for flood water breaches and openings for flood water disbursement.

All check banks and channel banks will be restricted to a height of 300mm. The proposed channel banks are shown on the plans at a height of 300mm from the Design Water Level in the channel, which is standard height and as approved by North Central CMA. Check banks have been curtailed 20 metres from edge of the drain to allow floodwater to disperse and mainly run parallel with the flow path apart from the northeast irrigation bays which intersect the floodplain, however they direct water into the existing waterway to the northeast. Any drainage banks will also been required to have suitable openings where crossing the floodplain.

3 ASSESSMENT

3.1 Planner assessment

Will the earthworks negatively impact on the floodplain taking into consideration planning policies for the management of the floodplain and its natural function in the Planning Scheme?

Do the proposed earthworks meet the purpose and applicable decision guidelines of the FZ and LSIO in the Loddon Planning Scheme?

Policies for the management of the floodplain in the Loddon Planning Scheme are grouped at Clause 13.03 and clause 12.03 Taken together, the policies have the objectives of:

- Protecting life, property and community infrastructure from flood hazard
- Protect natural carry capacity of rivers, streams and floodway's

- Protecting the flood storage function of the floodplains and waterways

The earthworks have already been completed, with approval from North Central CMA and Ag Vic, the applicant has only just realised that approval from the Councils Planning Department is required. An irrigation design plan has been developed by NJC Irrigation Consultants in close consultation with North Central CMA as the floodplain management authority. They provided conditional consent to the proposed design plan, a copy of this letter was submitted with the application.

Any development within the floodplain needs to be managed to ensure flooding impact is not intensified. Earthworks can result in significant redirection and obstruction of floodwater if not constructed appropriately. The channels and drains do intersect the floodplain in some areas of the site and therefore increasing the risk of redirecting floodwater. To manage this the plan has proposed siphons at specific points on the channels to allow water to flow through these sections and not be held up by the earthworks.

State Policy 12.03-1S contains policy guidelines including locating earthworks, including dams, a minimum of 30 metres from waterway systems. The plan has been designed to ensure all works are setback 30 metres from the existing waterway that runs through the site and is considered to align with this policy guideline.

The State and Local Policy at clause 13.03 place a strong emphasis on protecting life, property and community infrastructure from flooding, and ensuring the natural flood carrying storage function of the floodplain is maintained. The land is affected by flooding and is inundated during flood events of the Loddon River and its tributaries. Strategies under this policy include:

- *Avoid intensifying the impact of flooding through inappropriately located use and development.*
- *Plan for the cumulative impacts of use and development on flood behaviour.*

Areas such as the subject site well suited to irrigation due to flat landscape however creating obstructions in this area can also impact the flooding. Suitable alterations to the earthworks including construction of siphons and lowering of banks will avoid intensifying the impact of flooding on the surrounding land. Water will be directed to the north which natural conveyance of floodwater on this section of the floodplain.

Clause 35.07- Farming Zone

The purposes of the Farming Zone includes the following:

- *To implement the Municipal Planning Strategy and the Planning Policy Framework.*
- *To provide for the use of land for agriculture.*
- *To encourage the retention of productive agricultural land.*
- *To ensure that non-agricultural uses, including dwellings, do not adversely affect the use of land for agriculture.*
- *To encourage use and development of land based on comprehensive and sustainable land management practices and infrastructure provision.*

The purpose of the Farming Zone is to implement the Planning Policy and provide for the use of land for agriculture. Earthworks within the Farming Zone are triggered when they change the rate of flow or discharge point of water across a property boundary.

A key point from the purpose of the Farming Zone is:

- *To encourage use and development of land based on comprehensive and sustainable land management practices and infrastructure provision.*

Clause 35.07-6- Decision Guidelines Response

The decision guidelines for use and development in the Farming Zone at 35.07-6 provide the direction for assessing whether this proposal is acceptable and consistent with the purpose of the zone.

The decision guidelines focus on the impact of use and development in the Farming Zone on agriculture. The intensification of farming through irrigation is a common practice throughout the northern areas of the Shire with several properties within the area already modified for this purpose. However consideration needs to be given to how the earthworks will impact on the agriculture on the surrounding land with the potential for the earthworks to change the rate of flow or discharge point of water across the property boundary. These issues have been managed through appropriate irrigation design that does not impact on the existing waterways by ensuring all works are setback at least 30 metres from the waterway. The discharge point of water from the site may be slightly modified however the main point will be via the existing waterway the runs to the north across Nixon's Road before it is held up by the Goulburn Murray Water irrigation channel.

The proposed works will not impact on the surrounding agricultural land whereby the discharge point of water will not be altered in a way that it would negatively impact on existing agricultural operations. The existing waterway will remain the main point of discharge from the property and will not be impacted by the irrigation due to the 30 metre setback to be imposed.

Clause 44.04 – Land Subject to Inundation Overlay

The purpose of the Land Subject to Inundation Overlay includes the following:

- *To implement the Municipal Planning Strategy and the Planning Policy Framework.*
- *To identify flood prone land in a riverine or coastal area affected by the 1 in 100 (1 per cent Annual Exceedance Probability) year flood or any other area determined by the floodplain management authority.*
- *To ensure that development maintains the free passage and temporary storage of floodwaters, minimises flood damage, responds to the flood hazard and local drainage conditions and will not cause any significant rise in flood level or flow velocity.*
- *To minimise the potential flood risk to life, health and safety associated with development.*
- *To reflect a declaration under Division 4 of Part 10 of the Water Act, 1989.*
- *To protect water quality and waterways as natural resources by managing urban stormwater, protecting water supply catchment areas, and managing saline discharges to minimise the risks to the environmental quality of water and groundwater.*
- *To ensure that development maintains or improves river, marine, coastal and wetland health, waterway protection and floodplain health.*

The purpose of the LSIO is to ensure the floodplain is protected from inappropriate development that will negatively impact on its natural function in storing and carrying floodwater. A planning permit is triggered to carry out works within the area covered by an LSIO.

Clause 44.04-8- Decision guidelines response

The decision guidelines set out at clause 44.04-8, must be considered and include the following:

- *The Municipal Planning Strategy and the Planning Policy Framework.*
- *Any local floodplain development plan.*
- *Any comments from the relevant floodplain management authority.*
- *The existing use and development of the land.*
- *Whether the proposed use or development could be located on flood-free land or land with a lesser flood hazard outside this overlay.*
- *Alternative design or flood proofing responses.*
- *The susceptibility of the development to flooding and flood damage.*
- *The potential flood risk to life, health and safety associated with the development. Flood risk factors to consider include:*
 - *The frequency, duration, extent, depth and velocity of flooding of the site and accessway.*
 - *The flood warning time available.*
 - *Tidal patterns.*
 - *Coastal inundation and erosion.*
 - *The danger to the occupants of the development, other floodplain residents and emergency personnel if the site or accessway is flooded.*
- *The effect of the development on redirecting or obstructing floodwater, stormwater or drainage water and the effect of the development on reducing flood storage and increasing flood levels and flow velocities.*
- *The effect of the development on river, marine and coastal health values including wetlands, natural habitat, stream stability, erosion, environmental flows, water quality, estuaries and sites of scientific significance.*
- *Any other matters specified in a schedule to this overlay.*

The earthworks and irrigation were designed in consultation with the North Central CMA and a pre application advice letter provide as part of the applicants submission. The letter include one condition relating to the setback of works from the existing waterway of 30 metres. Development of the earthworks has already been completed with modifications to the existing works to be requested in order to ensure floodwater is not redirected or obstructed.

Previous Irrigation Works (approved 2006)

Objectors have raised issues with the existing irrigation to the south of the new works. Although not part of this application the applicant will also be making changes to the existing works to increase flood flows through both properties. An amendment of the old planning permit 4132 will be required for the new works to the existing irrigation to the south. These works were issued planning approval in 2006 and have only one small siphon and have several banks running across the flood flow direction. No other siphons or cuts have been created on these irrigation works and it is possible that these works obstructed and diverted floodwater to the north west beyond the site. A site inspection was undertaken on the 7th September to investigate the previous works and any modifications required to the new irrigation layout. The applicant indicated the two areas on the old irrigation where modifications will be required to increase flood flows, these were the areas also identified by the objectors. A large bank where a channel intersects the floodplain would hold up significant amounts of water, with the bank approximately 1 metre higher than the natural ground level (Figure 5). The applicant will be levelling a section of the channel bank to natural ground level and extending the channel siphon to approximately 30 metres shown below as the red section on the left (Figure 5). In blue is the existing access track which is at natural ground level already and would be assist in the movement of floodwater as it is never cropped (Figure 5). The small siphon shown in red on the right side will be modified so it is at natural ground level, and a second 30 metre wide siphon added along this section (Figure 5). This will result in improved floodwater flows coming out of Cadzow's Swamp and reduce the possibility of floodwater being redirected to the west. The

modifications discussed above will assist in the movement floodwater from Cadzow's Swamp and has taken into consideration, the concerns of the objectors.



Figure 5 – Aerial image of the existing irrigation and areas to be modified to increase flood flow

All old irrigation works must still comply with the plans endorsed on the 16th May 2006 include the heights shown, and structures. It is important to take into consideration the existing irrigation and the endorsed plan when assessing the current application to ensure works and modifications complement each other and don't result in the isolation of areas of the floodplain. The changes on the old irrigation will align with the openings on the new irrigation development and help maintain the natural conveyance of floodwater through both sites. The endorsed plans show irrigation Bay C8 as having a deeper cut compared to other bays as it is meant to accommodate the floodway with the siphon constructed at the southern end. At the northern end the access track was to be constructed at natural surface level for a length of 57 metres, this will all need to be retained.

New Earthworks and Irrigation

The main issue to consider for the new earthworks is:

- *The effect of the development on redirecting or obstructing floodwater, stormwater or drainage water and the effect of the development on reducing flood storage and increasing flood levels and flow velocities.*

The areas where banks, channels or drains intersect the floodplain are of important focus when considering this application. To key principles for the development of irrigation plans in floodway's are:

- Design the layout to minimise obstructions, including avoiding embankments that run across the direction of flow where possible.
- Ensure flow conveyance and flood storage requirements are met by having adequate culverts or openings in embankments.

These principles have been taken into consideration during the development and assessment of the irrigation plan.

The Floodplain Management Guidelines for Whole Farm Plans within the Shepparton Irrigation Region were created in 2003 and are used as guidance for North Central CMA and Planners when assessing these applications. The guidelines include recommendations for siphon widths,

drain designs, and banks heights on floodplains, to ensure the resulting works do not aggravate flooding or cause damage to property. There are two sections of channels with embankments that run across the direction of flow. On these sections siphons have been constructed to allow floodwater to flow through and not be obstructed. The size of the siphons has been determined by these guidelines, which state that 10% of the total length of the channel running across the floodplain must be open. For this irrigation plan, that length of embankments crossing the direction of flow is 450 metres and therefore a 45 metre wide siphon (see below) has been installed to preserve the passage of floodwater through the property.

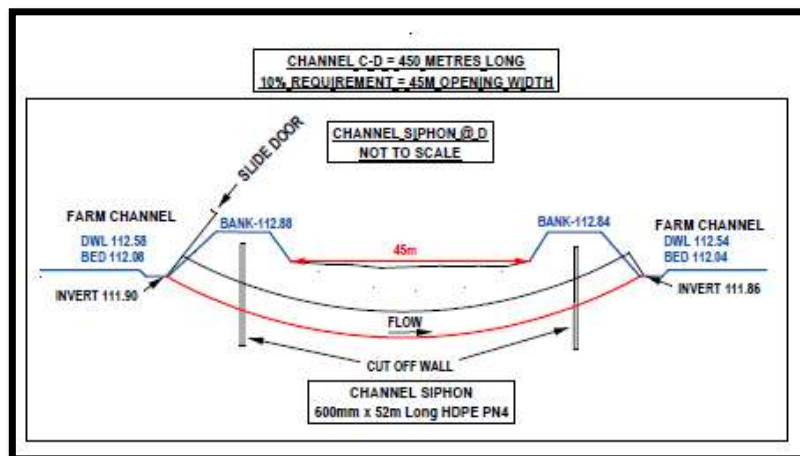


Figure 6- Cross section design of 45 metre wide siphon

This siphon was constructed in line with an existing drain and the other siphon located to the south. The siphon on the other section is 17 metres wide and is the point where the existing drain from the irrigation to south enters the subject site. This siphon isn't as wide as there is already a large section of the channel on the existing waterway in this area that has been piped underground.

It is considered the design will allow floodwater to still flow through the areas where the channel embankments intersect the flood flow direction, keeping floodwater moving generally in a northerly direction. However during the inspection of the site channel banks appeared to be much higher than the 300mm from Design Water Level as shown on the proposed plans and likely to impact on flood flow. The applicant stated that the banks are left like this and naturally compact down over time or alternatively the banks could be compacted or levelled off by machinery. As the plans show the height of 300mm and is likely to take some time for these banks to reduce naturally in height a condition would be placed on the permit that the banks must be modified and reduced to the height of 300mm from Design Water Level.

The drains that have been constructed to catch reuse water also have some areas of spoil where they intersect the floodplain. This spoil will be required to be levelled at 300mm from natural ground level, with appropriate cuts and siphons created to ensure floodwater is not obstructed. A particular area of concern was the northern section of the irrigation where there has been significant earthworks including a raised access track, drainage banks and large mounds of spoil. These areas if not modified will cause water to be diverted, the image on page 17 shows what modifications will be required as part of a permit.

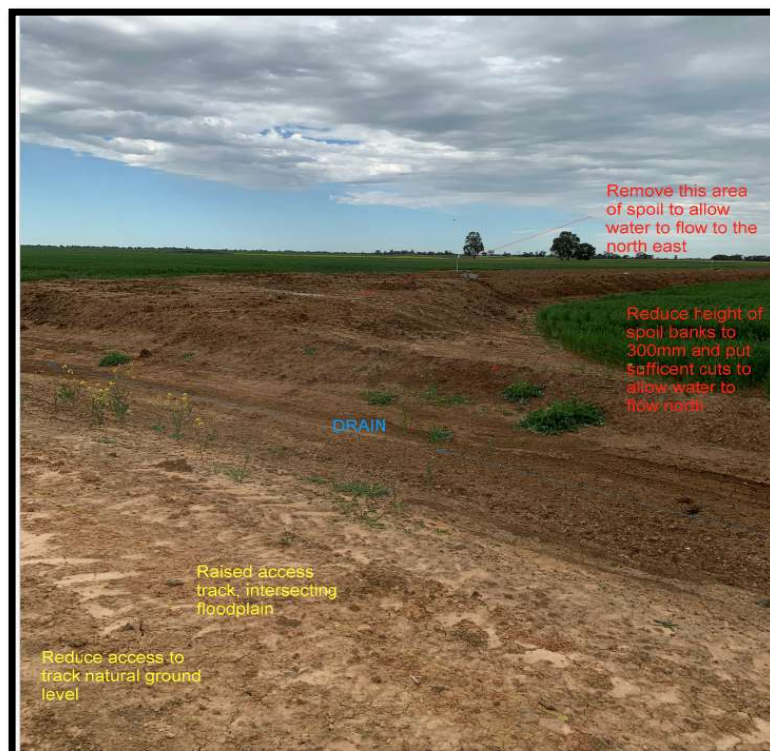


Figure 7 – Photo of the new irrigation works where modifications will need to be made as shown on image.

Where possible channels and drains should be aligned parallel to the flood flow. Sections such as the image on page 17 have the potential to isolate areas of the floodplains, and therefore should have openings for the benefit of flood storage and flood flow. The plans show the channel terminating half way across the last irrigation bay, whereas as shown in the Figure 7 above spoil has been placed between the end of the channel and drain therefore not enabling for flood flows to the north east. This spoil will need to be removed and will be enforced as part of the permit.

The below image shows an example of siphon that has been constructed appropriately to allow floodwater to flow past the channel banks, this will be similar to the siphons to be constructed and modified on the subject site.



Figure 8 – Example of constructed siphon (Source: WFP Guidelines 2003)

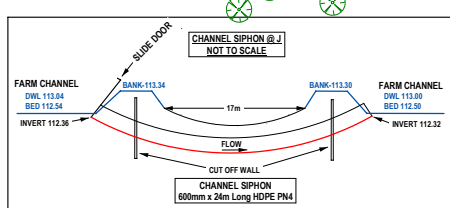
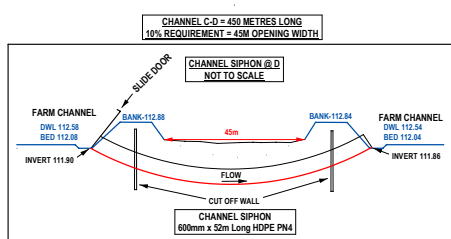
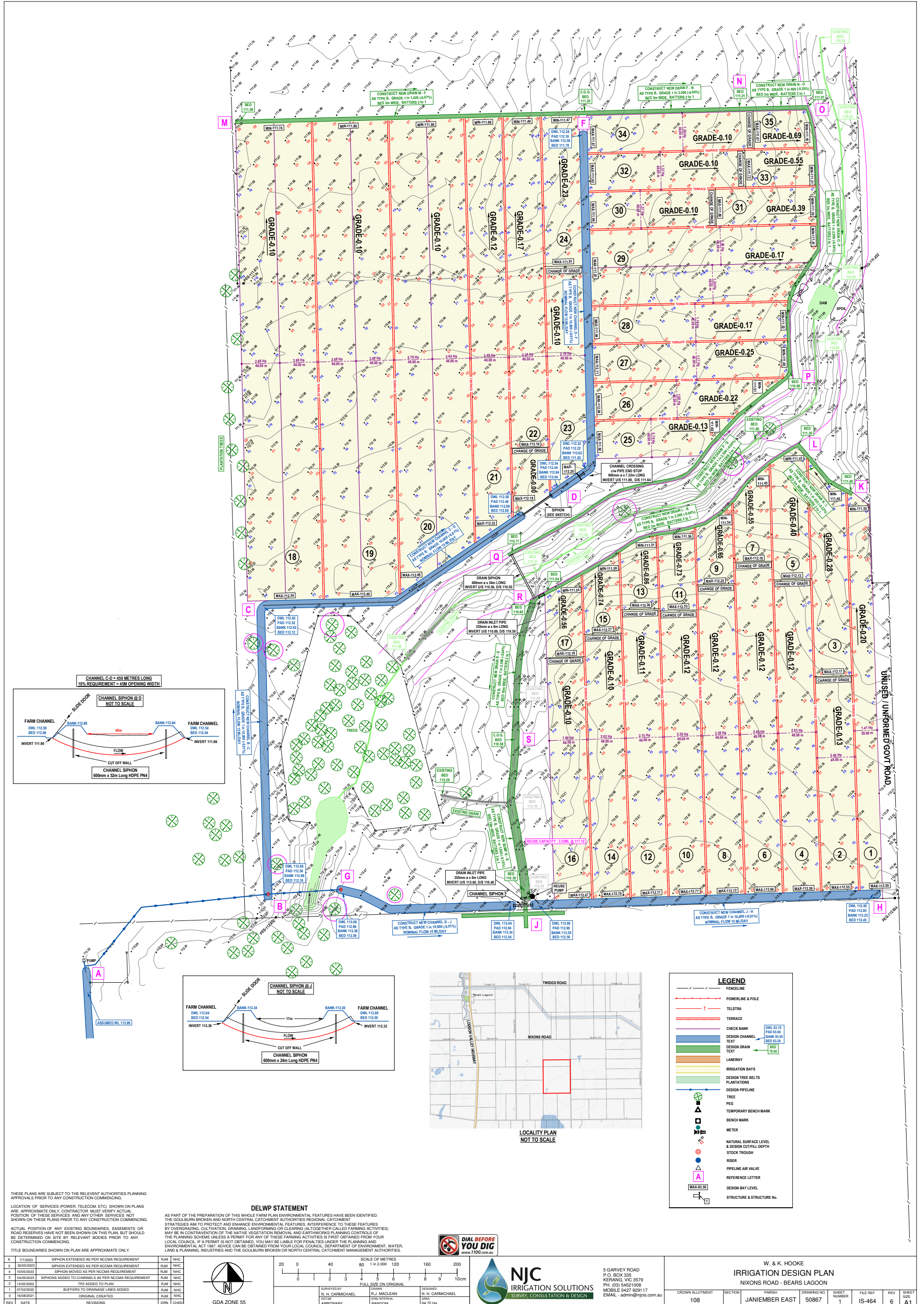
The earthworks and irrigation has been designed appropriately to ensure floodwater is not redirected or obstructed, and is generally conveyed in a northerly direction which is the natural flow of the floodplain. However further modifications on both the old and new works need to be completed to comply with the design plan and allow floodwater to flow through both properties. The proposed modifications are summarised below:

- Levelling of all farm channel banks to a height of 300mm above Design Water Level
- Levelling all check and drain banks at 300mm above natural ground level
- Levelling all access tracks to natural ground level
- Replacing the existing siphon on the old irrigation, removing bank on siphon and levelling to natural ground level
- Constructing a new siphon on the old irrigation where the natural drainage line is out of the wetland
- Removing bank crossing on old irrigation and installing a siphon at natural ground level
- Removing all surplus spoil from the floodplain

4 CONCLUSION

The proposal is consistent with the purpose of the Farming Zone, Land Subject to Inundation Overlay and relevant State and Local Planning Policy Framework. The Loddon Planning Scheme allows consideration of earthworks in the Farming Zone and Land Subject to Inundation Overlay, provided they do not result in increased flood risk to surrounding properties through the redirection or obstruction of the natural floodwater flow.

For the reasons discussed above the planning officer recommends that planning application 5917 be approved, subject to the conditions listed in section 1 of this report.



LEGEND

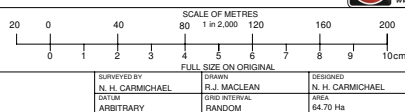
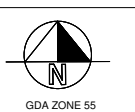
- FENCELINE
- POWERLINE & POLE
- TELSTRA
- TERRACE
- CHECK BANK
- DESIGN CHANNEL
- TEXT
- DESIGN DRAIN
- TEXT
- LANEWAY
- IRRIGATION BAYS
- IRRIGATION BELTS
- PLANTATIONS
- DESIGN PIPELINE
- TREE
- PIG
- TEMPORARY BENCH MARK
- BENCH MARK
- METER
- NATURAL SURFACE LEVEL & DESIGN OUTFILL DEPTH
- STOCK TROUGH
- RISER
- PIPELINE AIR VALVE
- REFERENCE LETTER
- DESIGN BAY LEVEL
- STRUCTURE & STRUCTURE NO.

THESE PLANS ARE SUBJECT TO THE RELEVANT AUTHORITIES PLANNING APPROVALS PRIOR TO ANY CONSTRUCTION COMMENCING.
 LOCATION OF SERVICES (POWER, TELECOM, ETC) SHOWN ON PLANS ARE APPROXIMATE ONLY. CONTRACTOR MUST VERIFY ACTUAL POSITION OF THESE SERVICES AND ANY OTHER SERVICES NOT SHOWN ON THESE PLANS PRIOR TO ANY CONSTRUCTION COMMENCING.
 ACTUAL POSITION OF ANY EXISTING BOUNDARIES, EASEMENTS OR ROAD RESERVES HAVE NOT BEEN SHOWN ON THIS PLAN, BUT SHOULD BE DETERMINED ON SITE BY RELEVANT BODIES PRIOR TO ANY CONSTRUCTION COMMENCING.
 TITLE BOUNDARIES SHOWN ON PLAN ARE APPROXIMATE ONLY.

DELWP STATEMENT
 AS PART OF THE PREPARATION OF THIS WHOLE FARM PLAN ENVIRONMENTAL FEATURES HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED. THE GOULBURN BROKEN AND NORTH CENTRAL CATCHMENT AUTHORITIES REGIONAL CATCHMENT STRATEGIES AIM TO PROTECT AND ENHANCE ENVIRONMENTAL FEATURES. INTERFERENCE TO THESE FEATURES BY OVERGRAZING, CULTIVATION, DRAINING, LANDFORMING OR CLEARING (ALTOGETHER CALLED FARMING ACTIVITIES) MAY BE IN CONTRAVENTION OF THE NATIVE VEGETATION REMOVAL AND EARTHWORKS PLANNING CONTROLS OF THE PLANNING SCHEME UNLESS A PERMIT FOR ANY OF THESE FARMING ACTIVITIES IS FIRST OBTAINED FROM YOUR LOCAL COUNCIL. IF A PERMIT IS NOT OBTAINED, YOU MAY BE LIABLE FOR PENALTIES UNDER THE PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL ACT 1987. ADVICE CAN BE OBTAINED FROM YOUR LOCAL COUNCIL, DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, WATER, LAND & PLANNING, INDUSTRIES AND THE GOULBURN BROKEN OR NORTH CENTRAL CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITIES.



| REV | DATE | REVISIONS | DRN | CHKD |
|-----|------------|--|-----|------|
| 6 | 7/7/2023 | SIPHON EXTENDED AS PER NCCMA REQUIREMENT | RJM | NHC |
| 5 | 20/09/2022 | SIPHON EXTENDED AS PER NCCMA REQUIREMENT | RJM | NHC |
| 4 | 15/05/2023 | SIPHON MOVED AS PER NCCMA REQUIREMENT | RJM | NHC |
| 3 | 04/05/2023 | SIPHONS ADDED TO CHANNELS AS PER NCCMA REQUIREMENT | RJM | NHC |
| 2 | 15/02/2022 | TPZ ADDED TO PLAN | RJM | NHC |
| 1 | 9/10/2022 | BUFFERS TO DRAINAGE LINES ADDED | RJM | NHC |
| 0 | 15/08/2021 | ORIGINAL CREATED | RJM | NHC |



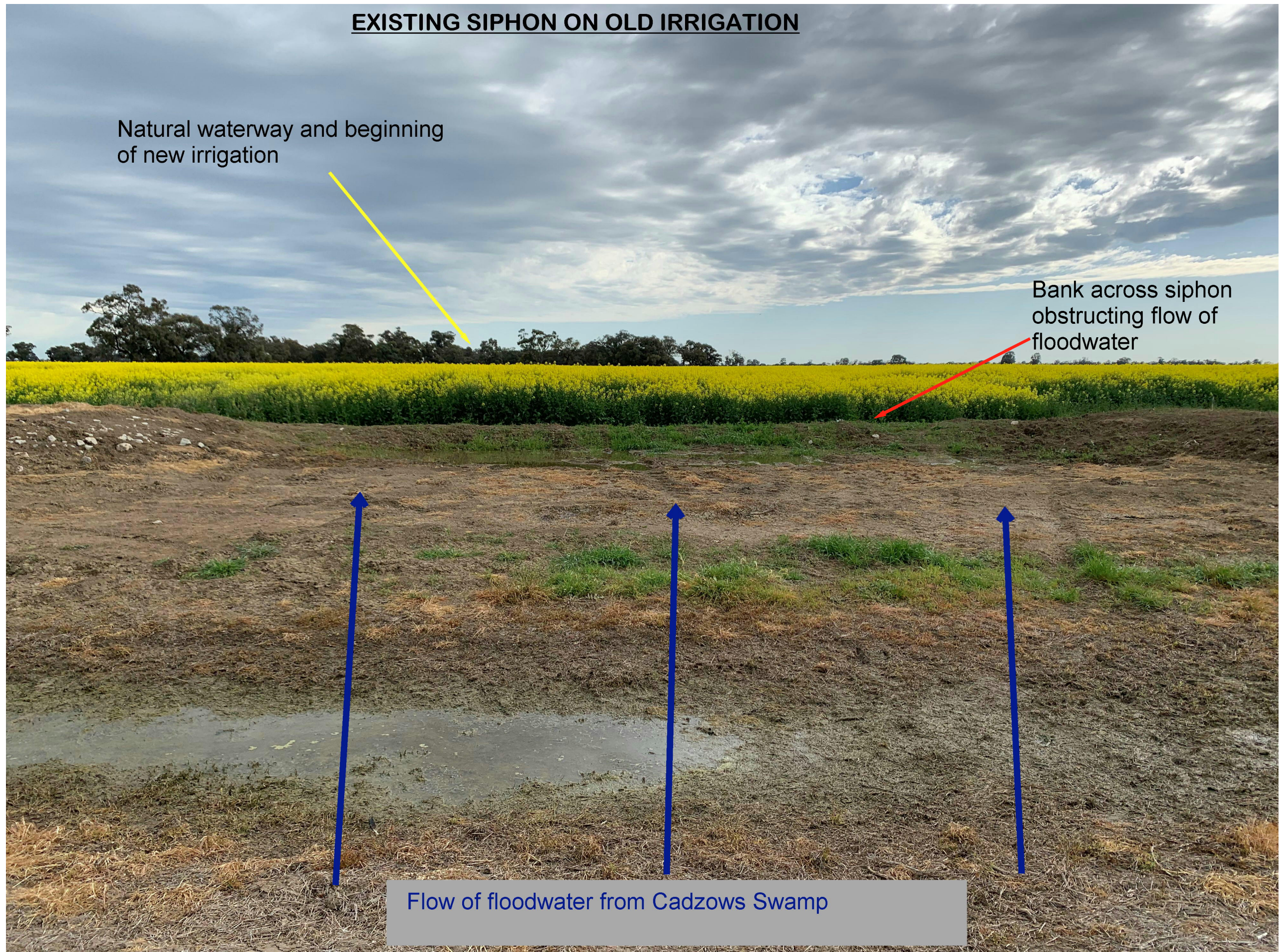
NJC IRRIGATION SOLUTIONS
 SURVEY, CONSULTATION & DESIGN

5 GARVEY ROAD
 P.O. BOX 335
 KERRANG, VIC 3679
 PH. (03) 54521008
 MOBILE 0427 929117
 EMAIL - admin@njc.com.au

| | | | | | |
|-----------------|---------|------------------------|-------------|----------------------------|-------------|
| W & K HOOKE | | IRRIGATION DESIGN PLAN | | NIXONS ROAD - BEARS LAGOON | |
| CROWN ALLOTMENT | SECTION | PARISH | DRAWING NO. | FILE REF | REV SHEET |
| 108 | | JANIMBER EAST | 50867 | 1 | IS-464 6 A1 |



Surplus spoil stored on the floodplain- needs to be removed or levelled off

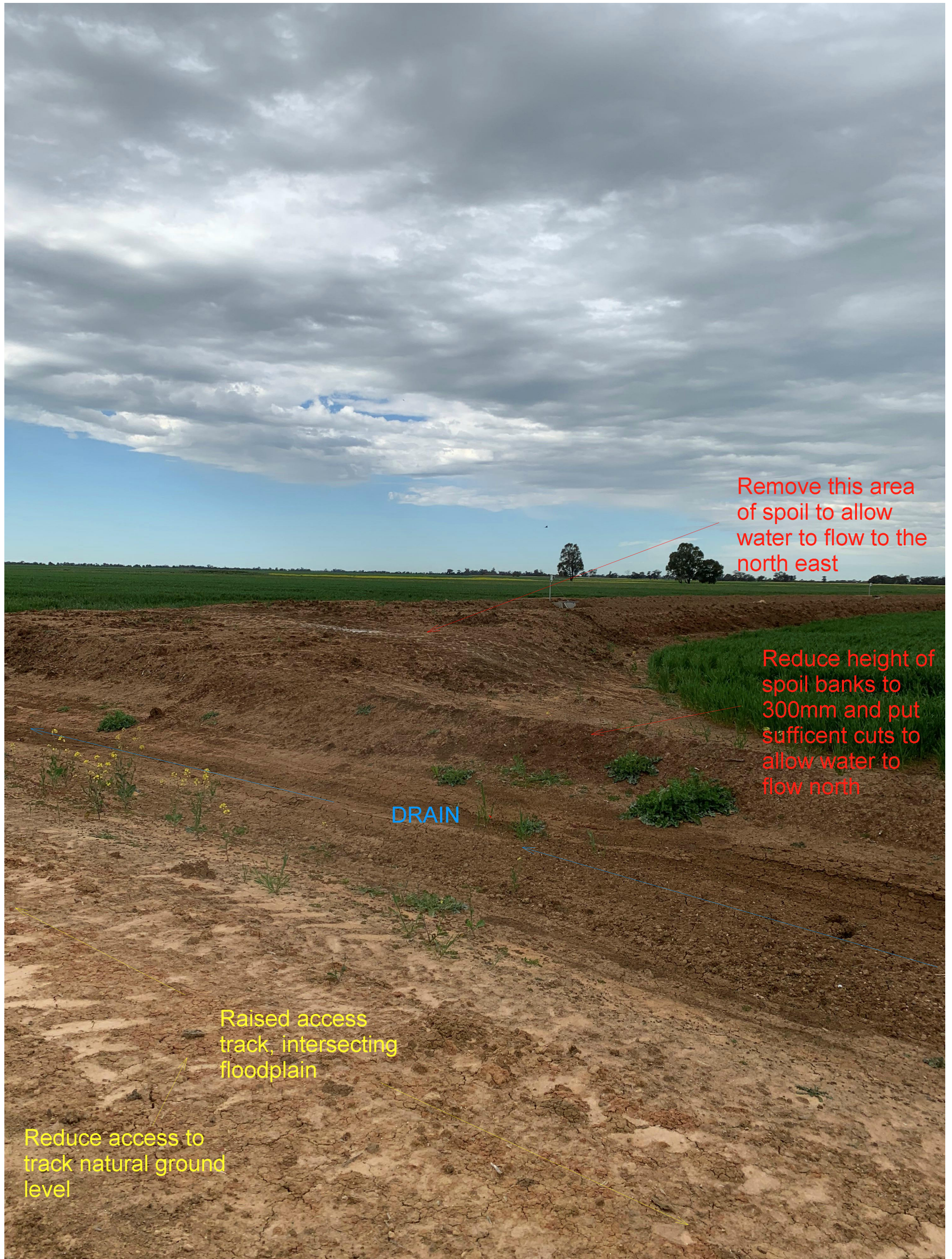


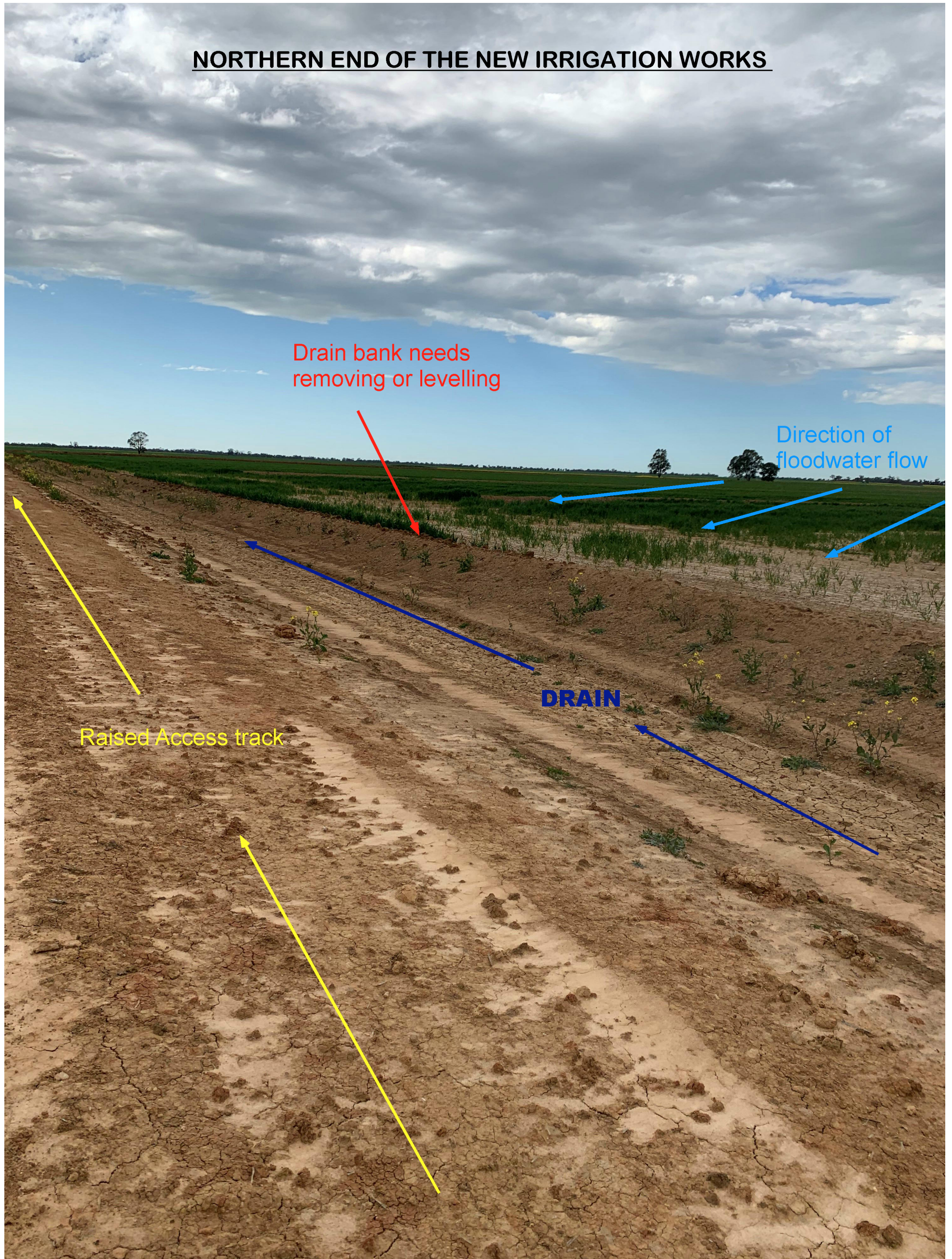
OLD IRRIGATION WORKS

channel bank and crossing
that needs to be taken to
natural ground level and
widened











10.8 2023 OFFICE CLOSURE

File Number: fol/20/7226
Author: Janine Jackson, Manager Organisation Development
Authoriser: Amanda Wilson, Director Corporate
Attachments: Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. approve the closure of the Wedderburn administrative centre from midday Friday 22 December 2023 with a proposed reopening at 8.15 am on Tuesday 2 January 2024.
2. give notice of the amended office hours by publishing the details in the public notices section of the Bendigo Advertiser, in the Loddon Herald, on Council's website and on social media.

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

Nil

BACKGROUND

The Loddon Shire Council has historically closed the Wedderburn administrative centre to the public over the Christmas/New Year holiday period.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

In 2023, Christmas Day falls on a Monday and it is proposed that Council closes the Wedderburn administrative centre from midday Friday 22 December 2023 and reopens at 8.15 am on Tuesday 2 January 2024.

This is traditionally a quiet period for Loddon Shire Council services and is disjointed due to the public holidays. Office closure allows staff to draw down annual leave with minimal service disruption.

Minimum staffing levels will be maintained across the Christmas/New Year period to attend to any emergency callouts.

COST/BENEFITS

The shutdown provides the opportunity to enable staff to have a refreshing break with minimum interruption to business activities at the end of the calendar year.

The office closure has no direct cost to Council, as staff are required to access leave accruals for the period of leave.

RISK ANALYSIS

This Christmas New Year period is generally a time of low customer enquiry and minimal operational deadlines in the organisation.

Staff will be on call as required, to attend to any incidents that may occur during the closure.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

The proposed office closure over the holiday period is endorsed by the Consultative Committee.

11 INFORMATION REPORTS**11.1 DINGEE PRESCHOOL ASSESSMENT AND RATING OUTCOME**

File Number: FOL/23/2804
Author: Wendy Gladman, Director Community Wellbeing
Authoriser: Lincoln Fitzgerald, Chief Executive Officer
Attachments: 1. Dingee Preschool Notice of Rating

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and note the report detailing the outcomes of the National Quality Framework assessment conducted at the Loddon cluster kindergarten at Dingee.

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 has been no previous discussion in relation to this report.

BACKGROUND

The National Quality Framework aims to raise quality and drive continuous improvement in education and care services. All services approved under the Education and Care Services National Law are assessed and rated by their state or territory regulatory authority.

The National Quality Standard (NQS) is a key aspect of the National Quality Framework and sets a national benchmark for early childhood education. The NQS includes seven quality areas that provide important outcomes for children. Services are assessed and rated by the regulatory authority against the NQS, and given a rating for each of the seven quality areas and an overall rating based on those results.

The available ratings are:

- Exceeding National Quality Standard
- Meeting National Quality Standard
- Working towards National Quality Standard
- Significant Improvement Required

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

Correspondence received from the Department of Education Quality Assessment and Regulation Division has advised that following a recent assessment and rating visit, the Dingee Preschool received the following rating outcome:

| | | |
|----------------|--|--------------------|
| Quality Area 1 | <p>Educational program and practice</p> <p><i>Educational program and practice of educators are child-centred, stimulating and maximise opportunities for enhancing and extending each child's learning and development.</i></p> | Meeting NQS |
|----------------|--|--------------------|

| | | |
|--|---|--------------------|
| Quality Area 2 | Children's health and safety <i>Children have the right to experience quality education and care in an environment that safeguards and promotes their health, safety and wellbeing.</i> | Meeting NQS |
| Quality Area 3 | Physical environment <i>Physical environment is safe, suitable and provides a rich and diverse range of experiences that promote children's learning and development.</i> | Meeting NQS |
| Quality Area 4 | Staffing arrangements <i>Qualified and experienced educators, who develop warm, respectful relationships with children, create predictable environments and encourage children's active engagement in the learning program.</i> | Meeting NQS |
| Quality Area 5 | Relationships with children <i>Relationships with children are responsive, respectful and promote children's sense of security and belonging.</i> | Meeting NQS |
| Quality Area 6 | Collaborative partnerships with families and communities <i>Collaborative relationships with families are fundamental to achieving quality outcomes for children, and community partnerships based on active communication, consultation and collaboration are essential.</i> | Meeting NQS |
| Quality Area 7 | Governance and leadership <i>Effective leadership and governance of the service contributes to quality environments for children's learning and development. Effective leaders establish shared values for the service and set clear direction for the service's continuous improvement.</i> | Meeting NQS |
| This service is rated overall at: | | Meeting NQS |

The NQS aims to raise quality and drive continuous improvement and consistency in services. The assessment provides service improvement suggestions that will assist Council's Early Years team to reflect on the assessment and rating experience and to continue to improve the quality of the service provided.

COST/BENEFITS

This assessment indicates that children attending the Loddon Cluster Kindergarten at Dingee receive a quality program which enhances their learning in the two years prior to primary school.

Research shows quality education and care early in life leads to better health, education and employment outcomes later in life. The early years are critical for establishing self-esteem, resilience, healthy growth and capacity to learn. Quality education and care shapes every child's future and lays the foundation for development and learning.

The work undertaken to satisfy the needs of the assessment and rating visit were undertaken within the existing budget.

RISK ANALYSIS

There are no risks associated with this report.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

The Notice of Rating is displayed in each centre and is published on the Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority (ACECQA) national registers and ACECQA's family focused website, Starting Blocks.



Department of Education

Dingee Preschool (SE-00004116)

| | |
|----------------|---|
| Quality Area 1 | Educational program and practice Meeting NQS |
| Quality Area 2 | Children’s health and safety Meeting NQS |
| Quality Area 3 | Physical environment Meeting NQS |
| Quality Area 4 | Staffing arrangements Meeting NQS |
| Quality Area 5 | Relationships with children Meeting NQS |
| Quality Area 6 | Collaborative partnerships Meeting NQS |
| Quality Area 7 | Governance and leadership Meeting NQS |

Overall

Department of Education and Training



Date of issue: **28 September 2023**

Assessment and Rating ID number: **ASR-00039076**

12 COMPLIANCE REPORTS

Nil

13 URGENT BUSINESS

IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL'S GOVERNANCE RULES, CLAUSE 56 PROVIDES THAT AT A SCHEDULED OR SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL, BUSINESS THAT IS NOT INCLUDED IN THE AGENDA NOTICE MUST ONLY BE CONSIDERED IF NO MORE THAN ONE COUNCILLOR IS ABSENT AND THE COUNCIL RESOLVES THAT THE MATTER IS URGENT BECAUSE:

- (A) IT RELATES TO, OR ARISES OUT OF A MATTER WHICH HAS ARISEN SINCE COMPILATION OF THE AGENDA; AND
- (B) A TIMELINE REQUIRES IT TO BE DETERMINED PRIOR TO THE NEXT COUNCIL MEETING.

A COUNCILLOR MAY PROPOSE A MATTER BE ADMITTED AS URGENT BUSINESS PROVIDED THEY HAVE ADVISED THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER IN WRITING NO LATER THAN THREE HOURS PRIOR TO THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE SCHEDULED OR SPECIAL MEETING.

ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS MUST BE CIRCULATED TO ALL COUNCILLORS PRIOR TO THE MEETING.

AT AN URGENT MEETING OF COUNCIL, BUSINESS THAT IS NOT INCLUDED IN THE AGENDA NOTICE MUST ONLY BE CONSIDERED IF ALL COUNCILLORS ARE PRESENT AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVE THAT THE MATTER IS URGENT.

DESPITE THESE REQUIREMENTS, A MATTER THAT IS NOT INCLUDED IN THE AGENDA NOTICE MUST NOT BE CONSIDERED AT A COUNCIL MEETING IF IT WILL:

- (A) DIRECTLY AND SIGNIFICANTLY AFFECT THE EXERCISE OF A PERSON'S RIGHTS;
- (B) ALTER THE COUNCIL PLAN OR THE BUDGET; OR
- (C) COMMIT THE COUNCIL TO EXPENDITURE EXCEEDING \$20,000.

14 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

RECOMMENDATION

That Council considers the confidential report(s) listed below in a meeting closed to the public in accordance with Section 66(1) and 66(2)(a) of the Local Government Act 2020:

14.1 Scheduling of Special Meeting for the Election of Mayor

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 3(1)(f) of the Local Government Act, and the Council is satisfied that discussion of this matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest as it deals with personal information, being information which if released would result in the unreasonable disclosure of information about any person or their personal affairs.

This report will consider a number of matters that may require discussion of personal information such as personal interests and availability.

Closing of Meeting to the Public

RECOMMENDATION

That the meeting be closed to the public.

NEXT MEETING

The next Meeting of Council will be held on 28 November 2023 at Wedderburn commencing at at 3.00pm.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at [enter time](#).

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