



Date: Tuesday, 27 August 2024
Time: 3.00pm
Location: Loddon Shire Council Chambers, Wedderburn

MINUTES

Council Meeting

**MINUTES OF LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL
COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT THE LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, WEDDERBURN
ON TUESDAY, 27 AUGUST 2024 AT 3.00PM**

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Lincoln Fitzgerald (Chief Executive Officer), Wendy Gladman (Director Community Wellbeing), Steven Phillips (Director Operations), Michelle Stedman (Director Corporate) and Lisa Clue (Manager Governance)

1 OPENING AFFIRMATION

The Mayor read the Opening Affirmation.

2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Chief Executive Officer read the Acknowledgement of Country.

3 APOLOGIES

Nil

4 DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Nil

5 PREVIOUS MINUTES**5.1 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES****File Number:** FOL/19/45615**Author:** Lisa Clue, Manager Governance**Authoriser:** Lincoln Fitzgerald, Chief Executive Officer**Attachments:** Nil**RECOMMENDATION**

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

1. Council Briefing of 23 July 2024
2. Council Meeting of 23 July 2024
3. Council Forum of 13 August 2024.

REPORT

This report seeks Council confirmation of Minutes from the July 2024 Council Briefing and Council Meeting, and the August 2024 Council Forum as previously circulated to Councillors.

RESOLUTION 2024/87**Moved:** Cr Wendy Murphy**Seconded:** Cr Linda Jungwirth

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

1. Council Briefing of 23 July 2024
2. Council Meeting of 23 July 2024
3. Council Forum of 13 August 2024.

CARRIED

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

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

1. Council Briefing 23 July 2024
2. Council Forum 13 August 2024.

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 as detailed within this report:

1. Council Briefing 23 July 2024
2. Council Forum 13 August 2024.

Meeting details	Briefing
Date	23 July 2024
Councillor Attendees	Cr Holt (Mayor) Cr Beattie Cr Jungwirth Cr Murphy Cr Straub
Staff/ Stakeholder representatives	Lincoln Fitzgerald, Chief Executive Officer Wendy Gladman, Director Community Wellbeing Steven Phillips, Director Operations Michelle Stedman, Director Corporate Christine Coombes, Executive Services Officer
Item(s) discussed.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review of Final Draft 2024-25 CEO Performance Plan 2. Review of Council Meeting Agenda 3. Heritage Loan Policy 4. Advocacy for Newbridge Water and Sewerage 5. 2024 Council Election Update 6. Intention to Sell Properties Listed for July 2024 Council Meeting 7. General Business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing 2025 Victorian transmission plan • Water buy backs • Newbridge Connectivity • Crowd Strike • Letter of Condolence to Bendigo City Council on the passing of Cr Rod Fyffe
Conflict of Interest Disclosures – Councillor/ officer making disclosure	Lincoln Fitzgerald, Chief Executive Officer declared a material conflict of interest in relation to Agenda item 3.1 (item 1 above)
Councillor/officer left room	The Chief Executive Officer joined the meeting for the commencement of Agenda item 3.2 (item 2 above)

Meeting details	Forum
Date	13 August 2024
Councillor Attendees	Cr Holt (Mayor) Cr Straub Cr Beattie Cr Murphy Cr Jungwirth
Staff/ Stakeholder representatives	Lincoln Fitzgerald, Chief Executive Officer Wendy Gladman, Director Community Wellbeing Steven Phillips, Director Operations Michelle Stedman, Director Corporate Lisa Clue, Manager Governance David Stretch (Manager Tourism and Economic Development) – Items 1 – 4 below Phil Burne and Steve Crow (Virya Energy Pty Ltd) and Neil Lehmann (Landowner) – Item 1 below Nick Byrne (REMPPLAN) – Item 2 below Christine Coombes (Executive Services Officer) – Item 4 below Carolyn Stephenson (Senior Strategic Planner) and Glenn Harvey (Manager Development and Compliance) – Item 5 below Deanne Caserta (Manager Financial Services) – Item 6 below Brad Drust, Camille White and Sean Morgan (NCCMA) – Item 7 below Orrin Hogan (Manager Community Partnerships), Laura Naughton (Recreation Officer) and Bianca Hendry (Aquatic Support Officer) – Items 9 and 10 below
Item(s) discussed.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Virya Energy – Meering West Wind Farm Presentation 2. Economic Development Strategy Project – Draft EDS Presentation 3. Tourism and Economic Development – Quarterly Activity Report 4. Wedderburn Housing Estate – Update, funding application 5. Loddon Planning Scheme – Update Amendment 6. Section 181 Sales Update – Sale of properties for unpaid rates and charges 7. North Central Catchment Management Authority Presentation 8. Inquiry into the 2022 Flood Event in Victoria – Final Report 9. Loddon Swimming Pools – End of Season Report 2023-24 10. Draft Loddon Recreation, Open Space and Aquatic Strategy 11. Draft Social Infrastructure Strategy 12. Priorities 2024 13. Governance Rules Review 14. General Business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MAV State Council Motion • Draft Model Councillor Code of Conduct, Internal Resolution Procedure and Training Outline to Mandatory Induction Training
Conflict of Interest Disclosures – Councillor/ officer making disclosure	Nil
Councillor/officer left room	n/a

RESOLUTION 2024/88

Moved: Cr Dan Straub

Seconded: Cr Neil Beattie

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

1. Council Briefing 23 July 2024
2. Council Forum 13 August 2024.

CARRIED

7 REVIEW OF ACTIONS**7.1 REVIEW OF ACTIONS****File Number: 02/01/002****Author: Lisa Clue, Manager Governance****Authoriser: Lincoln Fitzgerald, Chief Executive Officer****Attachments: 1. Resolutions acted upon since the July 2024 Council Meeting****RECOMMENDATION**

That Council receive and note resolutions acted upon since the July 2024 Council meetings 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 July Council meeting resolutions is attached to this Agenda report.

There were no outstanding actions from Council meeting resolutions prior to July 2024.

All actions from the July Council meeting resolutions have been acted upon.

RESOLUTION 2024/89**Moved: Cr Wendy Murphy****Seconded: Cr Neil Beattie**

That Council receive and note resolutions acted upon since the July 2024 Council meetings as attached to this report.

CARRIED

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

That Council receive and note the Mayoral Report.

REPORT

Mayor Holt presented a verbal report at the meeting.

Rural Councils Victoria	
02/08/2024 – Forum - Trawool	
Section 65 Community Asset Committees:	
26/08/2024 - Donaldson Park AGM	
01/08/2024 - Wedderburn Engine Park and Market Square Reserve AGM	
Other Council activities	
Date	Activity
24/07/2024	Wedderburn Development Association meeting
25/07/2024	Economic Development Strategy meeting - Online
12/08/2024	Wedderburn Senior Citizens Club AGM
27/08/2024	Citizenship Ceremony, August Council Briefing and Council Meeting - Wedderburn

RESOLUTION 2024/90

Moved: Cr Gavan Holt (Mayor)

Seconded: Cr Dan Straub

That Council receive and note the Mayoral Report.

CARRIED

9 COUNCILLORS' REPORT**9.1 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS****File Number:** 02/01/001**Author:** Lisa Clue, Manager Governance**Authoriser:** Lincoln Fitzgerald, Chief Executive Officer**Attachments:** Nil**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council receive and note the Councillors' reports.

REPORT

Each Councillor presented a verbal report at the meeting.

Cr Jungwirth

Central Victorian Greenhouse Alliance	
15/08/2024 - Board Meeting – Online	
North Central Goldfields Regional Library	
26/07/2024 – Board Meeting (Chair) - Online	
Other Council activities	
Date	Activity
23/07/2024	July Council Briefing and Council Meeting - Wedderburn
30/07/2024	Meeting with Tarnagulla community re community wellbeing event
31/07/2024	Revitalising Our Towns – Bridgewater
01/08/2024 – 02/08/2024	Rural Council's Victoria Forum – Trawool
05/08/2024	Tarnagulla Community Centre Committee meeting
06/08/2024	Youth Take Over Project – Cool Careers in Council – Wedderburn
09/08/2024	Tarnagulla Planning Committee – meeting with secretary
13/08/2024	August Council Forum - Wedderburn
15/08/2024	Launch of Bush Colours – Friends of Kooyoora – Tarnagulla
17/08/2024	Newbridge Football/Netball Club Sponsors Day event
20/08/2024	Tarnagulla Primary - Opening of new works
	Planning meeting re community wellbeing event - Tarnagulla

Cr Straub

North Central Local Learning and Employment Network	
14/08/2024 – Finance and Risk Committee meeting 20/08/2024 – Board Meeting (Chair)	
Section 65 Community Asset Committees: 05/08/2024 - East Loddon Community Centre AGM (Chair)	
Other Council activities	
Date	Activity
02/08/2024	Rural Councils Victoria Forum – Trawool
05/08/2024	East Loddon Food Share AGM
06/08/2024	Youth Take Over Project - Wedderburn
13/08/2024	August Council Forum - Wedderburn
14/08/2024	Pyramid Hill Progress Association Meeting
15/08/2024	Pyramid Hill Senior Citizens Club AGM (Chair)
23/08/2024	Goulburn Murray Irrigation District - Water Leadership Innovation Summit - Bendigo
	Rural Press Club of Victoria – Bendigo
26/08/2024	2024 Bush Summit – Bendigo

Cr Beattie

Section 65 Community Asset Committees: 05/08/2024 - Boort Memorial Hall AGM 19/08/2024 - Boort Park AGM (Chair)	
Other Council activities	
Date	Activity
23/07/2024	July Council Briefing and Council Meeting
05/08/2024	Boort Tourism AGM
13/08/2024	August Council Forum
14/08/2024	Meeting with Council Officer
20/08/2024	Boort Senior Citizens Club AGM
27/08/2024	August Council Briefing and Council Meeting

Cr Murphy

Healthy Minds Network	
22/08/2024 – Meeting (Chair) - Online	
Section 65 Community Asset Committees:	
23/08/2024 – Inglewood Community Elderly Persons Units AGM	
Other Council activities	
Date	Activity
23/07/2024	July Council Briefing and Council Meeting - Wedderburn
25/07/2024	Attended Dr Anne Webster’s mobile office – Inglewood
	Inglewood Development & Tourism Committee Meeting
31/07/2024	Guest speaker – Revitalising Our Towns hosted by Make a Change Australia - Expand Your Impact Workshop - Bridgewater
02/08/2024	Rural Councils Victoria Forum - Trawool
09/08/2024	Meeting with Council Officer and member of the public regarding development opportunities - Inglewood
13/08/2024	August Council Forum - Wedderburn
15/08/2024	Launch of Bush Colours – Friends of Kooyoorra – Tarnagulla
	Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee Meeting (Proxy) - Online
19/08/2024	Inglewood Senior Citizen’s AGM
27/08/2024	Citizenship Ceremony, August Council Briefing and Council Meeting

RESOLUTION 2024/91

Moved: Cr Dan Straub

Seconded: Cr Linda Jungwirth

That Council receive and note the Councillors’ reports.

CARRIED

10 DECISION REPORTS

10.1 PA 5979 - RE-SUBDIVISION OF FOUR LOTS INTO TWO NEW LOTS AT 24-32 WILSON STREET, WEDDERBURN

File Number:

Author: Louise Johnston, Statutory Planning Coordinator

Authoriser: Glenn Harvey, Manager Development and Compliance

- Attachments:
1. Decision Report 5979
 2. Proposed Plan of Subdivision
 3. Objection - 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)

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 5979 for the re-subdivision of four lots into two new lots at 24-32 Wilson Street, Wedderburn subject to the following conditions:

FORMAL PLAN OF SUBDIVISION

1. The formal plan of subdivision lodged for certification must be in accordance with the approved plan and must not be modified except to comply with statutory requirements or with the further written consent of the Responsible Authority.

Reticulated Services

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

Easements

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

Certification

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

Drainage

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

VEHICLE CROSSING

6. The proposed vehicle crossovers are to be constructed to the satisfaction and requirements of Council. No impeding or redirection of existing surface flow is allowed to occur as a result of these works. Any redundant crossover must be reinstated to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority
7. Prior to the commencement of any works on the road reserve the owner/applicant must submit a Works in a Road Reserve application and be issued a permit to occupy the road for works.
8. All existing road reservation assets are to be protected and maintained throughout the works including all utilities and services. Any damage is to be restored prior to issuing of statement of compliance
9. All drainage and crossover works constructed or carried out as required by conditions 5 & 6 above must be completed to a standard satisfactory to Council prior to the issuing of Statement of Compliance.

TELECOMMUNICATION SERVICES

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

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

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

Powercor

11. This letter shall be supplied to the applicant in its entirety.
12. The plan of subdivision submitted for certification under the Subdivision Act 1988 shall be referred to the Distributor in accordance with Section 8 of that Act.
13. The applicant shall provide an electricity supply to all lots in the subdivision in accordance with the Distributor's requirements and standards. **Notes:** Extension, augmentation or rearrangement of the Distributor's electrical assets may be required to make such supplies available, with the cost of such works generally borne by the applicant.
14. The applicant shall ensure that existing and proposed buildings and electrical installations on the subject land are compliant with the Victorian Service and Installation Rules (VSIR).

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

Coliban Water

15. The owner is required to provide reticulated water and sewerage services to each of the lots within the subdivision and comply with any requirements arising from any effect of the proposed development on Coliban Water assets.

Services are to be provided and where necessary, amendments to the existing services, will be required in accordance with our specifications.

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

17. Applications through our Consent to Connect Process are required prior to water supply services and property service drains (sewerage) being amended and/or connected to Coliban Water assets and complying with our conditions.

Agreement is required to be reached with Coliban Water to verify that a property service drain side-line (sewerage connection point) has been constructed from the Coliban Water sewer main which traverses this development site into the boundaries of Lots 1 & 2. Each sideline must be constructed on the sewer main terminating in locations within each of the lots and clear of the required easements also providing full lot control to each of the proposed lots in accordance with our specifications.

All private works for water supply and sanitary drainage must be constructed in accordance with the National Plumbing and Drainage Code of Australia being AS 3500, the MRWA Water Metering & Servicing Guidelines 2022 and or any relevant requirements of Coliban Water.

18. Prior to Coliban Water issuing our compliance for this subdivision:

Evidence to the satisfaction of Coliban Water will be required to verify that each of the lots have their own property service drain connection point with an inspection shaft constructed to the finished surface, which is required to be protected with an approved cover for its location and these are contained within the boundaries of Lots 1 & 2.

Evidence to the satisfaction of Coliban Water will be required to verify that each of the exist water meters are located within the boundaries of Lots 1 & 2, ensuring that the water supply service pipes have been amended where necessary and do not cross the proposed new lot boundaries.

19. Please note Under section 165(5) of the Water Act (1989), Coliban Water is not required to ensure that the water pressure is adequate for firefighting. It is important to note that Coliban Water does not guarantee fire flows.

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

EXPIRY

21. This permit will expire if one of the following circumstances applies:
- the plan of subdivision is not certified within two (2) years of the issue date of this permit.
 - the subdivision is not completed within five (5) years of the certification of the plan of subdivision under the Subdivision Act 1988.

The Responsible Authority may extend the periods referred to if a request is made in writing before the permit expires, or within six months afterwards.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

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

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

There have been no previous Council discussion on this Planning Application.

BACKGROUND

The application was lodged on the 11 June, 2024 proposing to re-subdivide four lots into two new lots at 24-32 Wilson Street, Wedderburn.

The application was advertised to surrounding landowners; including a notice on the land and one objection has been received.

The application was referred internally to the Councils Asset Management Coordinator with external referrals to Coliban Water & Powercor (Sec 55 referral).

Issues raised in the objection include the future use of the land as an Ambulance Station and the impact from noise from this future use on the existing residential area.

The application is for the re-subdivision of the existing lots and does not include the use of the land.

The application is considered to accord with the state and local provisions of the Loddon Planning Scheme as demonstrated in the report.

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 one objection as the result of the public notification and as such, the matter is being brought to Council for determination. A decision report detailing this application has been prepared and can be found in attachment 1, the plans can be found at attachment 2. The objection is included in the decision report with the personal information removed. Attachment 3 is the same objection with the personal information intact.

The objection has been included twice, once without any personal information and a second time in confidential items including the personal information. This is to insure Council complies with its obligations for handling personal information under the *Privacy and Data Protections Act 2014*. A complete copy of the objection can be made available to the public via an appointment.

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 (attachment 1) for further detail on the application.

RESOLUTION 2024/92

Moved: Cr Neil Beattie

Seconded: Cr Wendy Murphy

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 5979 for the re-subdivision of four lots into two new lots at 24-32 Wilson Street, Wedderburn subject to the following conditions:

FORMAL PLAN OF SUBDIVISION

1. The formal plan of subdivision lodged for certification must be in accordance with the approved plan and must not be modified except to comply with statutory requirements or with the further written consent of the Responsible Authority.

Reticulated Services

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

Easements

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

Certification

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

Drainage

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

VEHICLE CROSSING

6. The proposed vehicle crossovers are to be constructed to the satisfaction and requirements of Council. No impending or redirection of existing surface flow is allowed to occur as a result of these works. Any redundant crossover must be reinstated to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority

7. Prior to the commencement of any works on the road reserve the owner/applicant must submit a Works in a Road Reserve application and be issued a permit to occupy the road for works.
8. All existing road reservation assets are to be protected and maintained throughout the works including all utilities and services. Any damage is to be restored prior to issuing of statement of compliance
9. All drainage and crossover works constructed or carried out as required by conditions 5 & 6 above must be completed to a standard satisfactory to Council prior to the issuing of Statement of Compliance.

TELECOMMUNICATION SERVICES

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

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

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

Powercor

11. This letter shall be supplied to the applicant in its entirety.
12. The plan of subdivision submitted for certification under the Subdivision Act 1988 shall be referred to the Distributor in accordance with Section 8 of that Act.
13. The applicant shall provide an electricity supply to all lots in the subdivision in accordance with the Distributor's requirements and standards. **Notes:** Extension, augmentation or rearrangement of the Distributor's electrical assets may be required to make such supplies available, with the cost of such works generally borne by the applicant.
14. The applicant shall ensure that existing and proposed buildings and electrical installations on the subject land are compliant with the Victorian Service and Installation Rules (VSIR). **Notes:** Where electrical works are required to achieve VSIR compliance, a registered electrical contractor must be engaged to undertake such works.

Coliban Water

15. The owner is required to provide reticulated water and sewerage services to each of the lots within the subdivision and comply with any requirements arising from any effect of the proposed development on Coliban Water assets.

Services are to be provided and where necessary, amendments to the existing services, will be required in accordance with our specifications.

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

17. Applications through our Consent to Connect Process are required prior to water supply services and property service drains (sewerage) being amended and/or connected to Coliban Water assets and complying with our conditions.

Agreement is required to be reached with Coliban Water to verify that a property service drain side-line (sewerage connection point) has been constructed from the Coliban Water sewer main which traverses this development site into the boundaries of Lots 1 & 2. Each sideline must be constructed on the sewer main terminating in locations within each of the lots and clear of the required easements also providing full lot control to each of the proposed lots in accordance with our specifications.

All private works for water supply and sanitary drainage must be constructed in accordance with the National Plumbing and Drainage Code of Australia being AS 3500, the MRWA Water Metering & Servicing Guidelines 2022 and or any relevant requirements of Coliban Water.

18. Prior to Coliban Water issuing our compliance for this subdivision:

Evidence to the satisfaction of Coliban Water will be required to verify that each of the lots have their own property service drain connection point with an inspection shaft constructed to the finished surface, which is required to be protected with an approved cover for its location and these are contained within the boundaries of Lots 1 & 2.

Evidence to the satisfaction of Coliban Water will be required to verify that each of the exist water meters are located within the boundaries of Lots 1 & 2, ensuring that the water supply service pipes have been amended where necessary and do not cross the proposed new lot boundaries.

19. Please note Under section 165(5) of the Water Act (1989), Coliban Water is not required to ensure that the water pressure is adequate for firefighting. It is important to note that Coliban Water does not guarantee fire flows.

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

EXPIRY

21. This permit will expire if one of the following circumstances applies:
- the plan of subdivision is not certified within two (2) years of the issue date of this permit.
 - the subdivision is not completed within five (5) years of the certification of the plan of subdivision under the Subdivision Act 1988.

The Responsible Authority may extend the periods referred to if a request is made in writing before the permit expires, or within six months afterwards.

CARRIED

10.2 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

File Number:**Author:** David Stretch, Manager Tourism and Economic Development**Authoriser:** Lincoln Fitzgerald, Chief Executive Officer**Attachments:** 1. Draft Loddon Shire Economic Development Strategy

RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopts the Draft Loddon Shire Economic Development Strategy (2025-2029)

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

REMPPLAN and the Manager of Tourism and Economic Development presented the Draft Loddon Shire Economic Development Strategy to Council at the August Forum Meeting, with time provided for discussion.

BACKGROUND

In March 2024 economic and demographic specialist REMPLAN was engaged to lead the generation of the Loddon Shire Economic Development Strategy (2025-2029).

The development of new strategic work during calendar year 2024 involves the delivery of the Loddon Shire Economic Development Strategy (project timeline April to end August 2024) and the Loddon Shire Visitor Economy Strategy (project timeline July to early 2025).

Economic development aims to increase the economic capacity of an area, which, in turn, seeks to improve the wellbeing of local communities. An economic development strategy provides a framework for the future growth and prosperity of a particular region.

Loddon Shire Council is committed to working toward realising the community's vision for a Loddon where everyone has the opportunity to live, work and thrive.

The Loddon Shire Economic Development Strategy 2025-2029 outlines a comprehensive plan to foster economic growth and resilience in the region.

This strategy is the product of a suite of work including the Loddon Shire Economic Development Strategy 2025-2029: Strategic Directions Paper and a range of stakeholder engagement activities.

The strategy, identification of economic objectives and priority actions has been developed with the support of the nominated Project Advisory Group, Chaired by the Loddon Shire Mayor and consisting of industry leaders, business stakeholders and Loddon Council project team.

The strategy includes an implementation plan detailing specific projects and initiatives to be undertaken, with a focus on achieving the outlined strategic objectives and contributing to a sustainable and prosperous future for Loddon Shire.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

The draft strategy is attached to this report. To deliver upon this strategy Councillors are being asked to adopt:

- Vision, strategic objectives and priorities
- Implementation Plan, priority actions and timelines
- Outcomes and measurement of success
- Role of Council in Loddon Shire's economic development

These items as outlined in the strategy are proposed to clarify what Loddon and our partners want to achieve, how we will do it, the order of priority and how we will measure if we are successful.

COST/BENEFITS

Project costs are borne within the operational budget of the Economic Development Unit.

The strategy prioritises several objectives, including optimising the agricultural sector, promoting housing development as a catalyst for growth, positioning the Council as a collaborative partner, enhancing community liability, and fostering innovative and diverse industries.

Cost implications for actions indicated in the draft strategy are yet to be finalised, but it is accepted that certain actions or directions in the strategy may require or be contingent on third-party funding support and/or resourcing.

RISK ANALYSIS

Development of this strategy is consistent with Council's strong desire for economic success. At its Scheduled Council meeting of January 2024 Council adopted its Risk Appetite Statement which includes:

Council has a high appetite for pursuing activities that promote economic and social sustainability of our communities.

Council understands the strength of our communities is through social connections and economic success of our businesses and conducts activities and implements services and programs to support the community.

Not developing an economic development strategy could limit Loddon Shire's ability to adapt to changing economic conditions, address demographic shifts, and manage environmental and infrastructure needs effectively, thereby challenging economic growth and community well-being.

Risks that could hinder growth include:

- Economic stagnation due to lack of investment, business attraction, falling employment.
- Population decline.
- Lack of community vitality, township viability.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

Engagement activities included surveys, workshops, round-table meetings and one-on-one interviews with Dja Dja Wurrung Aboriginal Clans Corporation, Regional Development Victoria, Loddon Shire Township Progress and Development Committees, Township representatives, industry leaders, elected members of Loddon Council, Council Executive, Management and Officers.

Project consultants REMPLAN, together with Council Officers, established a Project Advisory Group (Chaired by Mayor Holt) to facilitate consultation and engagement with key Loddon Shire businesses and major employers across key industry sectors, between April and July 2024.

Attendees at Project Advisory Group workshop and meetings:

- Loddon Shire Council Mayor, Cr. Gavan Holt (Chair)
- Drew Chislett (Corian Park Earthmoving / Advanced Energy Tech)
- Peter Wardell (Southern Stockfeeds)
- Donna Doyle (Boort District Health)
- Graham Nesbit (Victorian Farmers Federation)
- Martin Szakal (Dja Dja Wurring Aboriginal Clans Corporation)
- Patricia Scott (Bio Gro)
- Lincoln Fitzgerald (CEO, Loddon Shire Council)
- David Stretch (Manager Tourism and Economic Development, Loddon Shire Council)

Direct Interview engagement:

- Stephen Van Sheik (Bio Gro)
- Sydney Muller (George Weston Foods)
- Ruth Sutherland (Cobram Estate)
- Tony Girgis (Hazeldenes)
- Tracey Ling (Hazeledenes)
- Tom Smith (Kia-Ora Piggery / Hexcore Hemp)

RESOLUTION 2024/93

Moved: Cr Linda Jungwirth

Seconded: Cr Dan Straub

That Council adopts the Draft Loddon Shire Economic Development Strategy (2025-2029).

CARRIED

10.3 LODDON SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGY

File Number:**Author:** Wendy Gladman, Director Community Wellbeing**Authoriser:** Lincoln Fitzgerald, Chief Executive Officer**Attachments:** 1. Loddon Shire Social Infrastructure Strategy**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council adopt the Loddon Shire Social Infrastructure Strategy.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

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

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

The Social Infrastructure Strategy has been before Council during its development as follows:

April 2023 Council Forum

April 2023 Council Briefing

May 2023 Council Forum

August 2023 Council Forum

September 2023 Consultation session

September 2023 Council Briefing

October 2023 Consultation session

March 2024 Council Forum

March 2024 Council Briefing

August 2024 Council Forum

BACKGROUND

The Social Infrastructure Strategy provides a framework for how Council can foster reasonable community access to social infrastructure across Loddon Shire. Social infrastructure includes, for example, facilities such as public halls, community centres, sports facilities and recreational spaces.

Whilst Council acknowledges that these facilities support individuals, families, groups and communities to meet their social needs and enhance community wellbeing, it is also understood that there is an historic duplication of assets, many of whom are or will soon reach end of life, and influences a renewal gap that places increasing pressure on Council's long term financial position.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

The development of the Social Infrastructure Strategy has involved:

- an extensive analysis of Loddon Shire population and demographic data
- mapping of the distribution of Council facilities and services across the Shire, as well as the availability of relevant services and facilities provided by other entities
- a review of relevant Council and other documentation
- consultation with the community, Councillors and Council Officers.

During the research period, it was identified that some key information to support informed decision making was not available, and that the gathering of this information should form the initial strategic projects in the Social Infrastructure Strategy. Following the gathering of this data, the development of community facility management plans can then be undertaken. The development of these plans will provide the opportunity for additional community consultation as decisions are made about which social infrastructure will be retained and maintained, and which will be identified as nearing or at end of life, and where better alternatives may exist.

The Social Infrastructure Strategy identifies the following seven projects for completion:

1. Identify the implications for the need or usage of town facilities based on the Recreation Open Space and Aquatics Strategy, Economic Development Strategy and Visitor Economy Strategy recommendations.
2. Develop a practical data collection process for the Council, "Management Committees" and users to establish actual facility usage — both frequency and type. Collect usage data.
3. Complete asset assessments for all social infrastructure facilities that identify facilities that are at, or close to end of life" and for which there are alternate spaces.
4. Review the Community Planning Framework to include a focus on identifying existing facilities that provide the most appropriate and usable indoor meeting space and spaces that are infrequently used (or not used at all); this process will utilise data made available through the process developed in #2. Update Community Plans as necessary.
5. Develop a "Facilities Management Plan" for each town that establishes priorities for investment in or rationalisation of existing Council facilities within 15 minutes driving time of the "Township Zone" (see Section 10.33).
6. Update community profiles for towns (and the other Localities in the Shire) based on the 2026 ABS Census and identify the implications for future social infrastructure development.
7. Update the network of available facilities and services available to towns.

COST/BENEFITS

The Social Infrastructure Strategy will provide the platform to start conversations with our community about the infrastructure that supports their social and health/wellbeing needs, the position that Council faces in relation to the ability to adequately service the current social infrastructure offering and the future decisions that Council will need to make to support long term financial sustainability.

The projects to be completed in the first years of the strategy will provide Council with current and relevant data to support engagement with community and support informed decision making.

The implementation of projects three and five will require funding to progress. It is expected that project proposals will inform budget submissions in the lead up to the expected implementation period for each project item.

RISK ANALYSIS

There is a risk that Council does not strategically allocate service and asset resources which could result in financially unsustainable provision and ultimately all assets/services would decline beyond fit for purpose.

Council's Recreation, Leisure and Community Facilities Asset Management Plan notes *the "ageing infrastructure in Council's recreational, leisure and community facilities."* The Plan also notes the following:

Adequate Funding "Without adequate funding, the declining condition of Council's assets will result in reduced levels of service and increased risk of failure."

Lifecycle Management "Our current approach to managing and operating our recreational, leisure, and community facilities assets is predominantly reactive, with only limited planning.

We are striving to improve our approach to lifecycle management to ensure that we deliver on our service commitments in the most cost-effective and efficient manner.

The implementation of the projects identified in the Social Infrastructure Strategy will provide Council with data to support informed decision making on the future of social infrastructure assets and develop a proactive rather than reactive approach to asset management going forward.

Any report or strategy that includes discussion about the future of community assets comes with a risk of negative community reaction. The Social Infrastructure Strategy does not make any recommendations on the immediate future of community assets, and feedback from the 'closing the loop' consultation suggested that the community endorsed the gathering of further information to allow informed decisions in future.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

Community consultation occurred between 21 and 29 November 2023. The consultation included in person daytime sessions at Serpentine, Durham Ox, Mitiamo, Dingee, Tarnagulla, Korong Vale, Newbridge and Bridgwater and ward based online sessions with one session each evening over five evenings.

A second round of Consultation occurred during the final two weeks of June 2024 to present the draft Strategy's access principles and the recommended steps identified as projects two, three and five of the Social Infrastructure Strategy.

The consultation included display of the strategy and a survey on connect.Loddon with printed and social media promotion of the document and the pop up sessions. 14 pop up consultation sessions were conducted by Council officers, outside shops and other places with passing foot traffic.

A facilitated online meeting was conducted with Council's Community Reference Group members.

RESOLUTION 2024/94

Moved: Cr Dan Straub

Seconded: Cr Neil Beattie

That Council adopt the Loddon Shire Social Infrastructure Strategy.

CARRIED

10.4 TABLING OF PETITION - KERB AND CHANNEL IN GODFREY STREET, BOORT**File Number:****Author:** David Southcombe, Manager Assets and Infrastructure**Authoriser:** Steven Phillips, Director Operations**Attachments:** 1. **Attachment 1 - Petition - 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.

Contains personal information of petition signatories **(under separate cover)**

2. **Attachment 2 - Report of Kerb and Channel in Godfrey St, Boort**3. **Attachment 3 - Cost estimate for proposed works**4. **Attachment 4 - Boort Streetscape Masterplan****RECOMMENDATION**

That Council:

1. Receives the petition relating to kerb and channel in Godfrey Street, Boort.
2. Resolves to deal with this agenda item in accordance with section 66 of the Loddon Shire Council Governance Rules.
3. Responds to the persons forwarding the petition acknowledging their concerns, but not committing to undertaking their proposed works on the parking and kerb and channel on the north side of Godfrey Street, Boort between Lakeview Street and Station Street.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

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

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

There has been no previous Council discussion on this petition.

BACKGROUND

A petition has been received by Council, containing 98 signatories relating to reconstruction of kerb and channel in Godfrey Street, Boort.

The petition was submitted along with a "Report of Kerb and Channel in Godfrey Street, Boort" to Council's Manager Tourism and Economic Development at a Boort Tourism and Development Inc. meeting.

Petitions and joint letters are managed in accordance with Council's Governance Rules.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

A petition has been received by Council, containing 98 signatories relating to reconstruction of kerb and channel in Godfrey Street, Boort. The petition states:

"We the undersigned hereby petition Loddon Shire Council regarding the state of the deep gutter on the north side of Godfrey Street, between Lakeview and Station Streets. The existing bluestone kerb and channel is too low and needs to be reconstructed. This will provide for safer parking and easier access to and from vehicles. Reusing the bluestones is important to retain the aesthetics of the street and business area. The Committee would like to meet with Council to discuss this proposal, options and further progress."

The petition is attached as a confidential item due to it containing personal information of the signatories.

The document "Report of Kerb and Channel in Godfrey Street, Boort" is attached in Attachment 2.

Petitions and joint letters are considered by Council in accordance with section 66 of the Loddon Shire Council Governance Rules:

66. Petitions and joint letters

- (1) *A member of the public may give a petition or a joint letter to a Councillor, the Chief Executive Officer or the delegated officer.*
- (2) *A petition or joint letter must:*
 - (a) *state the name of the person forwarding the petition or joint letter and an address to which notice of Council's response may be forwarded;*
 - (b) *contain at least ten (10) signatures and include the name and address of each signatory to the petition or joint letter;*
 - (c) *clearly state the request or describe the action that the Council is asked to do on each page of the petition or in the joint letter (whichever is applicable);*
 - (d) *not include any statement that is offensive, defamatory or disrespectful to Council;*
 - (e) *be legible;*
 - (f) *not contain alterations; and*
 - (g) *not have any letters or other documents attached to it.*
- (3) *A petition or joint letter that complies with Sub-Rule (2) must be tabled at a scheduled Council meeting at the first reasonable opportunity.*
- (4) *A petition or joint letter may be tabled by any Councillor or by the Chief Executive Officer. It does not have to be tabled by the person to whom it was given.*
- (5) *A petition or joint letter tabled at a Council meeting must lay on the table until the next scheduled meeting of the Council and no motion, other than to receive the petition or joint letter may be accepted by the Chairperson unless the Council resolves to deal with it earlier.*

Loddon Shire Council is responsible for a large asset base that includes over 4,700km of road and 62km of kerb and channel. The age of Council's assets ranges from newly constructed to assets installed over 100 years ago. Council assets are constructed to the standards prevailing at the time. Historically, roads and associated kerb and channel were constructed with steeper cambers and higher kerbs. This was undertaken to allow the kerbs to convey more water as underground drainage systems were not as prevalent as today.

Godfrey Street in Boort is a road where the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) is the responsible road authority. However, the Road Management Act 2004's Code of Practice for Operational Responsibility for Public Roads delegates some sections of the parking and kerb of this road to Council. On urban DTP roads such as Godfrey Street, the DTP has responsibility for any part of the roadway located 'kerb to kerb' that could be made available for through traffic including areas of the roadway used for parking, but excludes isolated parking areas of lengths less than 200 metres located between kerb outstands or other physical obstruction (e.g. trees). The parking referenced by the petition is less than 200m between outstands so is the responsibility of Council.

The "Report of Kerb and Channel in Godfrey Street, Boort" provides greater detail on community concerns outlined by the petition, the opening paragraph is as follows:

"The bluestone kerb and channel on the north side of Godfrey Street, between Lakeview and Station Streets, has been a problem for decades. The kerb is too high and this makes it difficult to open car passenger side doors.

This was accentuated in 2012, when VicRoads re-surfaced Godfrey Street with two layers of asphalt raising the road by 75-100mm."

The resurfacing was carried out on the two traffic lanes and tapered to the gutter across the parking bays. This greatly increased the camber across the parking bays to such an extent, that it is now difficult to open the driver's side door without it falling back. The situation with the passenger side door is now worse."

The bluestone kerb exists in total on Godfrey Street between the railway crossing and Lakeview Street. The difficulty mentioned by the petition in opening car doors is partially mitigated in other sections of parking on Godfrey Street where angle parking is present. High kerbing beside parking is not isolated only to Boort, other Loddon Shire towns have high kerbs in some locations, most notably this includes Main Street (Calder Hwy), Bridgewater.

The Boort Community Plan 2022 – 2031 identifies the Boort Streetscape Project as their second highest priority. The highest priority is the Little Lake Boort Recreation Precinct project which Council is currently progressing. The Boort Streetscape Project Masterplan Item 6 (refer Attachment 4) directly addresses the content of the petition. The scope of Item 6 includes kerb and channel regrading on the north and south side of Godfrey Street between Station and Lakeview Streets.

COST/BENEFITS

There are no costs associated with Council's consideration of this petition.

Council's Project Design Engineer evaluated the works proposed by the petition, with a high level budget estimate to undertake the works being \$259,325. Please see Attachment 3 for details of the estimate. This project is not included in Council's Annual Infrastructure Program of works for 2024-2025 and no funding has been identified in Council's 2024-2025 Budget.

If the project is undertaken by Council as detailed in the petition, vehicle ingress/egress at the location would be improved. This project would need to be funded in priority over other projects within Council's rolling program, including renewal projects. If it was to be funded it would require additional allocation of funding to the 2024-2025 Annual Infrastructure Program or the removal of a project(s) to the equivalent financial and in-kind (project management) value. Council currently has an annual renewal gap of \$2,200,000 million as detailed in the Asset Plan 2022.

Alternative parking on Godfrey Street is available that can be used in preference to the parking mentioned in the petition. Between Station and Lakeview Streets on the south side there are an additional 32 carparks available outside of the 19 on the north side that are related to the petition. Furthermore there is ample parking available in surrounding streets.

RISK ANALYSIS

Consideration of this petition is being managed in accordance with Council's Governance Rules.

The Boort Streetscape Project Masterplan Item 6 is “kerb and footpath (re-grading) upgrade to Godfrey Street”. This item addresses the section of parking and adjacent kerb mentioned in the petition. Undertaking the works proposed by the petition in isolation of the full streetscape project presents some risk. There is the potential for full or partial rework of the works once a detailed design is completed on an eventual Boort Streetscape Project.

As outlined in the “Report of Kerb and Channel in Godfrey Street, Boort”, the high kerb on Godfrey Street “has been a problem for decades”. Similarly, high kerb is also present on Main Street (Calder Hwy), Bridgewater adjacent the parallel parking. This is not a new issue or one that is isolated to Godfrey Street, Boort.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

Council received a petition from the Boort Tourism Development Inc. The petition has been discussed by Council officers from the Operations, Community Wellbeing, and Executive directorates.

RESOLUTION 2024/95

Moved: Cr Neil Beattie

Seconded: Cr Wendy Murphy

That Council:

1. Receives the petition relating to kerb and channel in Godfrey Street, Boort.
2. Resolves to deal with this agenda item in accordance with section 66 of the Loddon Shire Council Governance Rules.
3. Responds to the persons forwarding the petition acknowledging their concerns, but not committing to undertaking their proposed works on the parking and kerb and channel on the north side of Godfrey Street, Boort between Lakeview Street and Station Street.

CARRIED

10.5 DRAFT LODDON RECREATION, OPEN SPACE AND AQUATIC STRATEGY FOR PUBLIC DISPLAY

File Number:

Author: Orrin Hogan, Manager Community Partnerships

Authoriser: Wendy Gladman, Director Community Wellbeing

- Attachments:**
1. Draft Loddon Recreation, Open Space and Aquatic Summary Report
 2. Draft Loddon Recreation, Open Space and Aquatic Background Report

RECOMMENDATION

That Council approve the draft Recreation Open Space & Aquatic Strategy be placed on public display to receive community feedback.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

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

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Council was provided with the Recreation, Open Space and Aquatic Strategy (ROSA) background report at the February 2024 Forum.

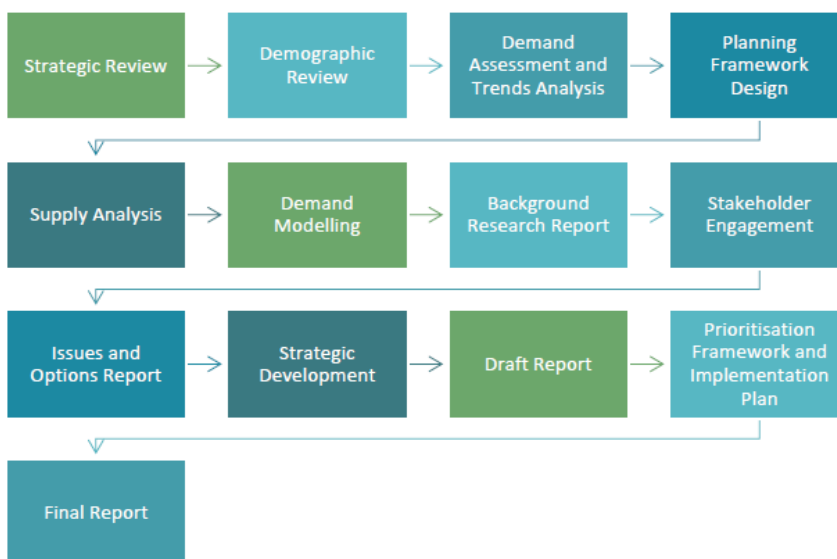
Council was provided with the ROSA Engagement Findings Report at the May 2024 Forum.

The draft ROSA reports were provided to the August Council Forum.

BACKGROUND

In September 2023 Otium Planning Group (Otium) was appointed to undertake the 10-year Loddon Recreation, Open Space & Aquatic Strategic Plan (ROSA).

Council’s Community Partnerships team worked closely with Otium to undertake the following steps in bringing the ROSA to fruition.



ISSUES/DISCUSSION

Loddon Shire Council recognises that participation in sport and active recreation improves community health and wellbeing and contributes to the region's liveability and economic prosperity.

The ROSA consists of a Summary Report and a comprehensive Background and Data Report that has guided the development of this 10-year strategic plan and establishes a clear direction for providing, developing, and managing its sport and recreation, open space and aquatic facilities.

The strategy provides a robust evidence base that has informed a planning framework, strategic directions, an implementation plan and a decision-making framework for identifying investment priorities. It informs how Council can create active and healthy communities through:

- provision of a diverse range of universally accessible, sustainable facilities and outdoor spaces
- exploring opportunities that promote participation through structured programs and unstructured, social and incidental activities
- effective management and support services including information, leadership, and inclusive governance/management structures.

The proposed vision for the ROSA is '*Loddon's diverse, accessible and sustainable recreation, open space and aquatic facilities will activate and connect communities*'. The strategy responds to the Loddon Shire Council Plan 2021-2025, 'A sustainable built and natural environment and a growing and vibrant community'.

The ROSA provides details of the existing strengths, issues and opportunities that Loddon Shire Council experiences when it comes to the recreation, open space and aquatic facilities within the region. It also identifies concerns around varying asset conditions and a widening asset renewal funding gap particularly in the aquatics space.

The ROSA has provided a clear direction on activating the recreation, open spaces and aquatic facilities we have.

The Summary Report, provided as Attachment 1, details

- the key information used to inform the strategic direction
- the proposed strategic direction
- the planning framework
- some site specific recommendations
- the roles and functions of Council's recreation team.

The Background Report, provided as Attachment 2, provides comprehensive information relating to:

- industry research
- integration with Council plans and strategies
- community profile data
- consultation outcomes
- proposed strategic direction.

COST/BENEFITS

Due to the prevailing fiscal environment, the expansive range of quality recreation and open space assets within the Loddon Shire Council, the strategy identifies a stronger emphasis on activation and maintenance of existing assets and infrastructure.

The strategy also provides functional benchmarking and service level information to inform future decision making around recreational, aquatic and open space infrastructure based on location, use and township categorization. Service level rationale is provided in the prescriptive table within the document and is designed to provide consistency and guidance in decision making across the municipality.

A 10 year asset plan for recreation and open space assets is yet to be developed, however this strategy has produced a 10 year pool maintenance plan with a cost of \$1.3m required over that period.

The ROSA recreation services section will be implemented using existing resources and has a focus on activation and diversification of existing asset use over the next 10 year period. The strategy encourages Council to engage with the community and explore new and progressive partnership models in the interests of sustainable asset management.

Where projects requiring funding are identified, a funding strategy will be adopted, exploring and identifying external funding options and strategic consideration given to internal co-contribution funding.

Over time, Loddon's ROSA strategy will positively contribute to the activation of recreational and open spaces within the Shire having a positive impact on community health and wellbeing.

RISK ANALYSIS

Comprehensive consultation and engagement processes are always challenging to run effectively, posing a risk that the information received may not represent the broader community. It is evident that one of Loddon Shire Council's challenges is how we effectively engage the community to receive meaningful feedback across a large and dispersed community. On this occasion, the community engagement process used a variety of methods to ensure a broad capture of information and resulted in strong feedback. This is detailed further in the consultation section of this report.

Condition audits for Council's five outdoor public swimming pools and a review into the operational performance of Loddon Shire's aquatic service found the asset condition and ongoing operation of the outdoor pools is a concern. The pools do not meet current industry standards and are now over 50 years old which is beyond their theoretical asset lives meaning they will become less reliable and prone to breakages. With the cost to Council for aquatic services increasing year on year, the ROSA identifies the need to explore how a sustainable aquatic service can be provided in Loddon Shire.

Council will need to consider the long-term financial capacity to renew assets. An examination of the future need for an asset at the time of renewal is required to ensure the current and future needs of community are met within a funding profile available to Council.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

Initial community consultation was completed and forms the basis of the draft ROSA. Engagement was facilitated through online surveys, organised focused working groups inclusive of clubs and associations, committees of management and schools and public drop in sessions. Council officers supported the engagement process, providing the community with multiple opportunities to contribute to the development of the draft ROSA to date.

The final draft ROSA strategy is now available for Council review, with the intention to return to community and key stakeholders for a final round of consultation from Thursday, August 29 until Sunday, September 15 2024.

The Summary document will be used to undertake the final round of community consultation, placing the document on public display and inviting comment; including public notices via print and social media, placement of the document in key community locations and on Council's online engagement platform connect@Loddon. Council officers will deliver an online presentation and Q&A session and attend key stakeholder face to face meetings as requested.

RESOLUTION 2024/96

Moved: Cr Linda Jungwirth

Seconded: Cr Wendy Murphy

That Council approve the draft Recreation Open Space & Aquatic Strategy be placed on public display to receive community feedback.

CARRIED

10.6 LODDON PLANNING SCHEME - UPDATE AMENDMENT AUTHORISATION REQUEST

File Number: 13/01/003

Author: Carolyn Stephenson, Senior Strategic Planner

Authoriser: Glenn Harvey, Manager Development and Compliance

Attachments:

1. Draft amended Loddon Planning Scheme clauses - with changes shown.
2. Draft amended Loddon Planning Scheme clauses.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council resolve to:

1. Seek authorisation from the Minister for Planning to commence preparation of an amendment to the Loddon Planning Scheme to implement the changes to the Municipal Planning Strategy, the Planning Policy Framework, ESO 1 (Laanecoorie Catchment) and associated referral provisions, and the strategic work program that were recommended in the Loddon Planning Scheme review report.
2. Commence the amendment process once authorisation is received.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

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

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

At the May Council meeting the Loddon Planning Scheme review report was considered and adopted. This proposed amendment implements the first recommendation of that report. A draft copy of the proposed amendments was discussed with Council at its August 2024 Forum.

BACKGROUND

The Loddon Planning Scheme review provided for an assessment of the relevance and effectiveness of the Loddon Planning Scheme. This review determined that the Loddon Planning Scheme is largely responsive to local issues and generally consistent with the aspirations of Council and the community. In particular, the review concluded that the scheme supports the key directions of the Council Plan, being population and economic growth.

The first recommendation of the review is to prepare an amendment to the Loddon Planning Scheme to update information; refine discussion and policy; and correct a few errors to improve the efficiency of the scheme.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

A draft of the proposed changes to the planning scheme, based on the recommendations of the review report, is attached. Attachment 1 shows the elements to be removed (in red) and elements to be added (in green). Attachment 2 shows the scheme as it is proposed to be revised without the mark up as shown in attachment 1. In attachment 2, some sections of State policy have been included to provide the context for the proposed local changes. Please note that the attachments only include the sections of the scheme to be amended, not the complete scheme. The complete Loddon Planning Scheme can be found at www.planning.vic.gov.au/planning-schemes.

A summary of the proposed changes is included in the table below.

Loddon Planning Scheme	
Description of change	
Purpose and Vision	
Municipal planning strategy	
Clause 02.01 Context	<p>Amends Clause 02.01:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to recognise the Traditional Owners of the land that is now included in the Loddon Shire; • to include the most recent population data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics, and update the discussion in relation to population change and settlement; • to update information about agriculture and include information about other significant employers; • to include additional information about environmental values; and • to remove outdated information about population and infrastructure.
Clause 02.02 Vision	Amends Clause 02.02 to update the vision to reflect that of the most recently adopted Council Plan.
Clause 02.03 Strategic directions	<p>Amends Clause 02.03-1 Settlement to reflect the findings and directions of the Loddon Shire Settlement Strategy (2019-2034).</p> <p>Amends Clause 02.03-2 Environment and landscape values to better articulate the values and directions that are specific to Loddon and able to be influenced by planning controls.</p> <p>Amends Clause 02.03-3 Environmental risks and amenity to include reference to recent flood events and amend strategic directions in relation to wildfire and flooding to better reflect State policy.</p> <p>Amends Clause 02.03-4 Natural resource management to update and more clearly articulate strategic directions in relation to agricultural land and water.</p> <p>Amends Clause 02.03-5 Built environment and heritage to incorporate recognition of First Nations heritage.</p> <p>Amends Clause 02.03-6 Housing to reflect the directions of the Loddon Shire Settlement Strategy (2019-2034).</p> <p>Amends Clause 02.03-7 – Economic development to update the discussion and directions to reflect current activity in relation to agriculture, manufacturing and tourism.</p> <p>Amends Clause 02.03-8 – Infrastructure to incorporate the Settlement Strategy objectives regarding directing development to existing infrastructure, acknowledge the need to balance the location of renewable energy infrastructure with protection of land for agriculture and identify the need to protect the viability of waste storage and processing facilities through buffer protection.</p>
Clause 02.04 Strategic framework plan	Amends Clause 02.04 Strategic Framework Plan to include a new framework plan with some additional information.

Planning Policy Framework	
Settlement	
Clause 11.01-1L Settlement	Amends Clause 11.01-1L Settlement to include town structure plans and directions from the Settlement Strategy.
Natural Resource Management	
Clause 14.01-1L Agricultural	Amends Clause 14.01-1L to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> change the title to better reflect the intention of the policy refine the language in the excision policy to more clearly articulate the policy change DELWP to DEECA.
Housing	
Clause 16.01-1L	Amends Clause 16.01-1L Housing for older people to specify the towns of Boort, Bridgewater, Inglewood, Pyramid Hill and Wedderburn.
16.01-3L	Insert a new Clause 16.01-3L McIntyre and Wehla rural living areas that defines the purpose of land subdivided in this area for rural living development.
Transport	
Clause 18.02-4L	Inserts a local policy at Clause 18.02-4L Sustainable local road network to direct new development to existing roads where possible to minimise infrastructure liabilities.
Infrastructure	
Clause 19.03-5L	Inserts a local policy at Clause 19.03-5L to which aims to protect significant waste facilities, including tips, transfer stations and reuse facilities.
Overlays	
Clause 42.01 (ESO)	Amends Schedule 2 (Laanecoorie Catchment) to Clause 42.01 to limit its focus and scope to development that includes effluent disposal.
General Provisions	
Clause 66.06 (Notice of permit applications under local provisions)	Amends the Schedule to Clause 66.06 to remove notice provisions to DELPW and NCCMA for Clause 4.0 of Schedule 2 to Clause 42.01 (ESO)
Operational Provisions	
Clause 74.02 (Further Strategic Work)	Amends the Schedule to Clause 74.02 to rationalise the future strategic work program based on work that has already been completed and work that has been identified as a priority by Council.

The process for a planning scheme amendment is as follows:

1. Prepare a draft of the proposed changes
2. Seek Ministerial authorisation
3. Exhibition
4. Council review of submissions
5. Panel hearing (if required)
6. Council determine to adopt, change or abandon the amendment
7. Ministerial approval

This report seeks consent from Council to request authorisation from the Minister for Planning to commence the amendment process.

The purpose of the authorisation stage is to determine whether a proposed amendment is:

1. consistent with the objectives of planning in Victoria, and state and regional planning policy or interests; and
2. has demonstrated strategic merit; and
3. makes proper use of the Victoria Planning Provisions (VPP).

It is proposed that the amendment will not commence the next stage until after Council elections.

COST/BENEFITS

The planning scheme amendment will be prepared and progressed in-house by the strategic planner. There is a fee of **\$530.70** payable to the Minister for Planning when approval for the amendment is sought.

This amendment will improve the relevance and efficiency of the planning scheme.

RISK ANALYSIS

This amendment implements a recommendation of the Planning Scheme Review. The Planning Scheme Review report was based on significant assessment, research and consultation with key stakeholders. There is no significant shift in policy to be implemented through this amendment. There is minimal risk associated with this amendment.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

The proposed amendment to the planning scheme would be subject to public exhibition, with submissions invited. This would not commence until after the Council elections.

RESOLUTION 2024/97

Moved: Cr Wendy Murphy

Seconded: Cr Neil Beattie

That Council resolve to:

1. Seek authorisation from the Minister for Planning to commence preparation of an amendment to the Loddon Planning Scheme to implement the changes to the Municipal Planning Strategy, the Planning Policy Framework, ESO 1 (Laanecoorie Catchment) and associated referral provisions, and the strategic work program that were recommended in the Loddon Planning Scheme review report as shown in the attached documents with the inclusion of reference to mallee bushland; significance of remnant roadside vegetation; and Malleefowl and habitat protection in Clause 02.03-2, and change wildfire to bushfire in Clause 02.03-3.
2. Commence the amendment process once authorisation is received

CARRIED

10.7 HOUSING SUPPORT PROGRAM - FUNDING APPLICATION ENDORSEMENT**File Number:****Author:** David Stretch, Manager Tourism and Economic Development**Authoriser:** Lincoln Fitzgerald, Chief Executive Officer**Attachments:** 1. **HSP-CEI Project Budget - Confidential**

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

Pursuant to section 66(5)(b) of the *Local Government Act 2020*, if released the information to be received, discussed or considered in relation to this agenda item, may prejudice the commercial position of Council, as various negotiations remain pending **(under separate cover)**

RECOMMENDATION

That Council approve submission of a funding application to the Commonwealth Housing Support Program – Community Enabling Infrastructure (Stream 2) program.

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

Previous Council Forum discussions have occurred (October 2022, April 2023, November 2023) to brief Council on the proposed Yelka Street Stage 2 development and site, and economic impact this project can have upon the township and the market drivers of housing within Loddon Shire.

In December 2023 Council resolved to allocate \$200,000 from the Land & Buildings Reserve to progress this project and develop detailed design and cost estimates for a residential subdivision, to inform future decision making.

BACKGROUND

Loddon Shire Council owns a parcel of land on the western fringe of Wedderburn Township. This land was purchased to support population growth through the provision of land for residential development. The purchase and residential development of this land was an initiative of the Wedderburn Development Association (WDA) with the support of Council.

Part of this site (fronting Ridge Street) was subdivided into five residential lots approximately 10 years ago. Five dwellings have been constructed on these lots since this time. (Stage 1)

The balance of the site (Yelka Street) remains undeveloped (Stage 2).

In 2020, Council adopted a Settlement Strategy that supported the use and development of this land for residential growth. The strategy further recommended additional investigation into the issues and costs associated with development of this site for residential purposes to enable Council to make an informed decision about whether it will take a proactive role in its development.

The site is zoned Township and is subject to the Bushfire Management Overlay. The sewer runs along Ridge St, and the water main is located in Yelka Street.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

Tomkinson was engaged by Council in March 2024 to provide detailed design documentation for tender and construction.

Tomkinson have provided a Preliminary Subdivision Cost Estimate for the proposed 9 Lot Subdivision, dated July 2024, which informs the Housing Support Program – Community Enabling Infrastructure (Stream 2) funding application.

The project title for Council's funding application on August 16 2024 to the Housing Support Program – Community Enabling Infrastructure (Stream 2) is: The Unlocking Housing in Wedderburn Project.

The proposed project will see the Council-owned Yelka Street site in the Wedderburn township zone developed to create a serviced, 9-lot subdivision.

Proposed works will deliver residential lots with reticulated sewerage, water, power, data and phone services, as well as footpath, kerb and channel, drainage and road works.

Project and development works will include tree removal, Council supervision, checking fees, permit applications and certification fees.

Scope of works for provision of utilities includes electrical design, supply charges and cabling, as well as NBN pit and pipe works, headworks and cabling for network connection.

Costs associated with potential requirements for geotechnical report, service location, flora and fauna report, contamination report, vegetation offset contribution and First Nations Land Use Activity Agreement have been included.

Project management and professional fees, administration costs and other project fees and contingency have been included in the project scope and cost estimates.

COST/BENEFITS

The Community Enabling Infrastructure Stream (HSP-CEI) will focus on infrastructure projects that support new housing. It is open to local government authorities and the states and territories, and aims to remove barriers to housing construction by delivering enabling infrastructure and community amenities.

The total estimated project cost for Yelka Street (Stage 2) Subdivision is \$1,543,520, with Council seeking a contribution of \$778,520 from the Housing Support Program.

Loddon Shire is experiencing a range of challenges associated with residential housing development, particularly related to the availability and provision of affordable and suitable housing, which reflects both the needs of current and future populations.

Recent research indicates that when significant infrastructure such as new roads, drainage works and provision of services are required, the cost of these works generally exceeds the market sales price of the land in Wedderburn and therefore the financial viability of projects, which in turn means development projects are unlikely to be supported by lenders.

Funding support for the Unlocking Housing in Wedderburn Project addresses market viability and releases 9 high-value residential sites, ready for immediate housing development.

Recent demand analysis research indicates existing strong consumer demand for affordable land in Wedderburn.

The comparative affordability of land here, compared to land prices in towns close to the major regional centre of Bendigo, combined with general cost-of-living pressures, support the research that suggests serviced lots at a competitive price will be extremely attractive to market.

The provision of ready-to-develop lots with necessary infrastructure will significantly accelerate timelines to construction.

Independent, expert research funded by State Government and Council confirms CEI funding will allow developers to invest and existing market demand to be satisfied.

Local and regional buyers will respond positively, resulting in a swift uptake of available lots.

This intervention and subsequent construction activity will stimulate the local economy and trigger momentum for further development opportunities in Wedderburn and other key rural townships across the Shire.

Any revenue generated will be allocated to Council's Land and Buildings Reserve.

RISK ANALYSIS

Risks associated with the development of the site by Council is that the lots will not sell or be developed, and Council will not recover any funds or generate any positive economic impact.

If Council was not to subdivide the land, it is unlikely this yield of new residential lots will be created at this location due to the cost of development exceeding any potential returns and therefore deterring private developers.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

There has been consultation with the Wedderburn Development Association in relation to the development of this land.

The project has been informed and supported by the Unlocking Loddon's Residential Growth Potential Report (Villawood Properties, August 2023), and the Loddon Shire Settlement Strategy (2020) whose findings and recommendations were influenced by extensive local and regional stakeholder consultation and engagement.

RESOLUTION 2024/98

Moved: Cr Dan Straub

Seconded: Cr Wendy Murphy

That Council approve submission of a funding application to the Commonwealth Housing Support Program – Community Enabling Infrastructure (Stream 2) program.

CARRIED

The Mayor called a temporary adjournment of the meeting at 4.22 pm

The Mayor resumed the meeting at 4.26 pm

10.8 GOVERNANCE RULES REVIEW**File Number:****Author:** Lisa Clue, Manager Governance**Authoriser:** Michelle Stedman, Director Corporate**Attachments:** Nil**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council receive the report to consider amending the Governance Rules following a period of community engagement as required by July 2024 Council Meeting Resolution No. 2024/98.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

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

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

The Loddon Shire Council Governance Rules v3 were adopted by Council on 22 August 2023.

At the July 2024 Council meeting, Council resolved the following:

That Council receive a report to the August Council meeting to consider amending the Governance Rules following a period of community engagement.

The proposed change is:

That Council amends Division 2 – Standards of conduct, item 30. Addressing the meeting, to include an additional line (4), the use of Mr or Mrs or Miss or Madam is permitted in addressing persons, with established prior consent.

- (1) Any person addressing the Mayor should refer to the Mayor as Mayor ... [surname].
- (2) All Councillors, other than the Mayor, should be addressed as Cr [surname].
- (3) All officers should be addressed as Officer ... [surname] or by their official title.
- (4) The use of Mr or Mrs or Miss or Madam is permitted in addressing persons, with established prior consent. Eg; Mr Mayor, Madam Mayor, Mr, Mrs, Miss ... [surname]

BACKGROUND

The Loddon Shire Council Governance Rules were first adopted by Council on 25 August 2020.

The Governance Rules were reviewed in July 2022 to make provision for holding meetings by electronic means.

The most recent review of the Governance Rules, including a period of community engagement occurred during 2023. Following that review, Governance Rules v3 were adopted by Council on 22 August 2023.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

In response to a July 2024 Council meeting resolution, this report addresses a proposed amendment to the Loddon Shire Council Governance Rules, following a recent period of community engagement.

The resolution proposed to amend Rule 30, within Division 2 – Standards of conduct to include permitting the use of Mr or Mrs or Miss or Madam in addressing persons, with established prior consent.

Community Engagement

Community feedback on the proposed amendment to the Governance Rules was invited via the following methods:

- Email to Council's Community Reference Group
- Information uploaded to the Public Notice section of Council's website
- Information posted to Council's Facebook page
- Information included in the Mayoral Column, distributed to media outlets and community groups
- Information included in Council's weekly advert in the Loddon Herald.

Feedback was invited until 9am on Tuesday, 13 August 2024.

No feedback was received.

Gender Impact Assessment (GIA)

Section 9 of the *Gender Equality Act 2020*, (the Act) requires that as a defined entity, Council must undertake a gender impact assessment when developing or reviewing any policy, or program or service it provides, that has a direct and significant impact on the public.

Alongside the period of community engagement, Council officers met to consider gender impacts of the proposed amendment to the Governance Rules using Council's GIA template.

Based on the scoring method within the template, the officers determined a GIA was not required on this occasion.

COST/BENEFITS

Costs associated with this matter are predominately officer time. Advertising was undertaken at a small cost with the majority of advertising through existing subscriptions.

RISK ANALYSIS

Governance Rules ensure effective meetings, provide clear direction for meeting protocol and mitigate reputational and unacceptable conduct risks.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

Community feedback on the proposed amendment to Council's Governance Rules was invited over a fourteen day period, communicated via local print and social media, on Council's website and direct contact with Council's Community Reference Group.

RESOLUTION 2024/99

Moved: Cr Dan Straub

Seconded: Cr Neil Beattie

That Council adopts the inclusion of sub clause 4 which has been stated, to use Mr or Mrs or Miss or Madam in relation to addressing Council meetings, and emphasis on the sentence with prior consent, into Division 2 – Standards of conduct, item 30.

CARRIED

11 INFORMATION REPORTS**11.1 ROAD MANAGEMENT PLAN DEFECT RECTIFICATION COMPLIANCE REPORT****File Number:** 14/01/022**Author:** Daniel Lloyd, Manager Works**Authoriser:** Lincoln Fitzgerald, Chief Executive Officer**Attachments:** Nil**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council receive and note the road management plan defect rectification compliance report.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

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

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

This is the fourth report for the 2023 - 2024 financial year, summarising road network defect rectification compliance against requirements specified within the Loddon Shire Road Management Plan (RMP).

BACKGROUND

This report is produced quarterly and provides statistical data with respect to the Organisation's performance in managing the road network. Performance is measured through a comparison of actual defect rectification timeframes against requirements specified in the RMP.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

Table 1 below provides a summary of the compliance against the schedule of road and street inspection regimes as set in the RMP.

Table 1: Inspection summary report

Quarter 4 (01/04/2024 – 30/06/2024)						
Work Group	Number of scheduled inspections	Number completed by due date	Number completed after due date	Number not completed	Compliance	Number of Defects Raised
Loddon Plains	18	18	0	0	100.0%	756
Loddon Goldfields	23	21	2	0	91.3%	513
Total	41	39	2	0	95.1%	1269

During the fourth quarter of 2023 - 2024 financial year, 95.1% of the programmed inspections were completed according to the schedule. This is 4.9% below the target of 100% set in the RMP.

Table 2 below provides a summary of compliance of actual response times for rectification works of defects as detailed in the defect intervention levels and response timetables of the RMP. The defects have been identified through programmed inspections, customer requests and works crews identifying and rectifying defects as they find them, known as ad hoc work actions. It is important to note that flood damage is excluded from this report. In the context of the Road Management Plan these sites are considered as made safe through the utilisation of traffic management devices.

Table 2: Defect rectification summary report

Quarter 4 (01/04/2024 – 30/06/2024)								
Work Group	Number of Defects				Compliant with RMP			
	Ad hoc	Requests	Defects from inspections	Total	Yes	No	Not complete	%
Loddon Goldfields	0	58	422	480	444	27	9	92.5%
Loddon Plains	0	14	541	555	548	7	0	98.7%
Shire Wide	0	4	302	306	274	26	6	89.5%
Townscape Services	0	4	66	70	70	0	0	100.0%
Total	0	80	1331	1411	1336	60	15	94.7%

During the fourth quarter of 2023 - 2024 financial year, 94.7% of all date imposed defects were completed before their due date. This is 5.3% below the target of 100% set in the RMP. There are 15 outstanding work actions to be completed. A plan is in place to complete the outstanding work actions in the next four weeks.

Table 3 provides a summary of performance against the unsealed road maintenance grading program, defects as identified through programed inspections, customer requests and works crews identifying and rectifying defects as they find them, known as ad hoc work actions. The maintenance grading program identifies each road segment by its road hierarchy and grading frequency as detailed in the RMP.

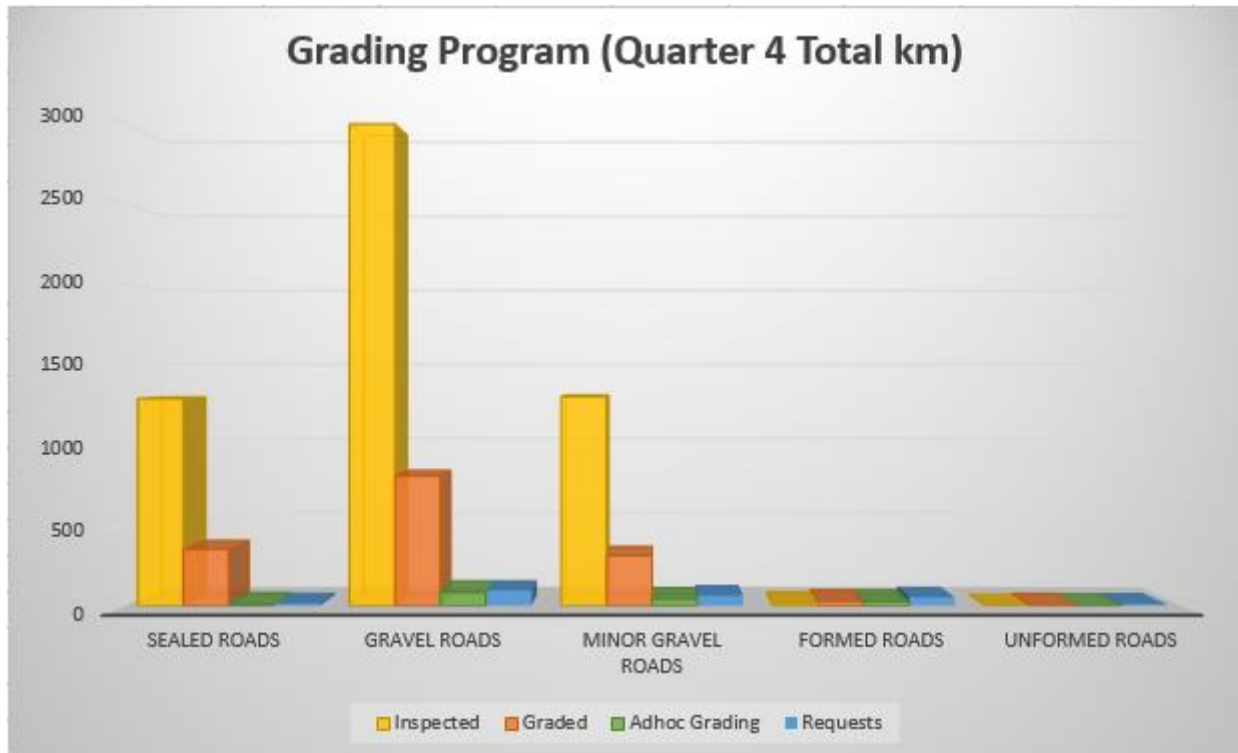
Table 3: Maintenance grading program

Quarter 4 (01/04/2024 – 30/06/2024)											
Work Group	Number of Grading Work Actions					Compliant within scheduled timeframes				KM Graded	KM Inspected
	Roads Graded	Defects	Requests	Ad hoc	Total	Yes	No	Not completed	%		
Loddon Goldfields	126	7	31	14	178	138	40	0	77.5%	308.4	1058
Loddon Plains	72	1	7	18	98	97	1	0	99.0%	221.0	637
Shire Wide	0	3	1	0	4	3	1	0	75.0%	0.1	0
Total	198	11	39	32	280	238	42	0	85.0%	529.4	1694

The data in Table 3 indicates that 280 grading work actions were completed for the fourth quarter of 2023 - 2024 financial year. There is no set level of compliance for the maintenance grading program in the RMP.

A graph has been provided in Chart 1 indicating a breakdown of the grading work actions, by road hierarchy and kilometres. The sealed roads section relates to shoulder grading work actions on the Sealed Road network. The gravel road section includes all grading work actions on Gravel Collector and Gravel Access roads. The Gravel Minor and the Formed Road sections relate directly to Council's road hierarchy and show all grading work action on roads within that hierarchy.

Chart 1: Maintenance Grading Program



COST/BENEFITS

The year to date actual expenditure to the end of the fourth of 2023 - 2024 financial year of the Local Road Maintenance Program is \$7,394,835. The expenditure for the fourth quarter was \$1,975,552.

The benefits to the community in complying with the RMP are that it ensures a safe road network.

RISK ANALYSIS

Repairing 100% of all date imposed defects before their due date limits Council’s liability for any claims for damage made against Council.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

No internal or external consultation is required in the formation of this report.

RESOLUTION 2024/100

Moved: Cr Wendy Murphy
 Seconded: Cr Dan Straub

That Council receive and note the road management plan defect rectification compliance report.

CARRIED

11.2 TOURISM AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - QUARTERLY ACTIVITY REPORT**File Number:****Author:** David Stretch, Manager Tourism and Economic Development**Authoriser:** Lincoln Fitzgerald, Chief Executive Officer**Attachments:** 1. Apr, May, June Quarterly report Presentation**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council receives and notes the Tourism and Economic Development, Quarterly Activity Report – April, May, June 2024.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

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

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

This report (and attachment) was tabled and discussed at the Council Forum August 13, 2024.

BACKGROUND

Quarterly Activity Reports are produced by the Manager of Tourism and Economic Development and consider current Council Plan objectives as well as preliminary focus areas, including:

- Financially and environmentally sustainable infrastructure (incl. residential development)
- Employment growth
- Population growth and diversity
- Industry development and investment attraction
- Local business development, retention, and expansion
- The unique visitor economy
- Townships and place-making
- Loddon's live-ability: amenity, affordability, community, environment.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

The Tourism and Economic Development Quarterly Activity Reports focus on operational activity under 4 key themes:

1. Support land and residential development
2. Grown business and employment
3. Grow Tourism and the Visitor Economy
4. Support Townships

COST/BENEFITS

Tourism and economic development programs and activity are funded by Council operational budget, unless stated otherwise.

The Tourism and Economic Development team is uniquely-placed with insight into local opportunities for partnerships, innovation and growth.

Council strategies provide practical and relevant goals to maximize tourism and economic development opportunities.

Place-based policies that identify local synergies and facilitate connection and partnership super-charge local economies and communities.

RISK ANALYSIS

Failure to invest in tourism and economic development programs could potentially lead to Loddon Shire Council businesses becoming more vulnerable to economic downturns and less capable of handling future challenges, thereby affecting the region's long-term sustainability and prosperity.

Negative impacts might include:

- Population decline
- Reduced visitation and losses to tourism businesses
- Limited business growth
- Reduction in local economic output
- Rise in unemployment
- Reduced liveability

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

Internal and external stakeholders, influencers, enablers and participants in tourism and economic development are regularly engaged across the unit's work and activity.

The department consults with the Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation.

The Tourism and Economic Development team regularly consults and engages with business and community stakeholders across the Shire, in Central Victoria and Melbourne, including but not limited to:

- Federal Government and agencies
- State Government departments and agencies
- Regional Development Victoria
- Regional Tourism Board
- Regional Local Governments
- Major business and employers
- Small business and retail
- Tourism, Progress and Community Groups
- Community House network
- Tourism and regional business NFPs and stakeholders

Tourism and Economic Development Quarterly Activity Reports have been presented at Council Forum Meetings since January 2023.

RESOLUTION 2024/101

Moved: Cr Linda Jungwirth

Seconded: Cr Dan Straub

That Council receives and notes the Tourism and Economic Development, Quarterly Activity Report – April, May, June 2024.

CARRIED

11.3 QUARTERLY ACTIVITY REPORT- STATUTORY PLANNING

File Number:**Author:** Louise Johnston, Statutory Planning Coordinator**Authoriser:** Glenn Harvey, Acting Director Operations**Attachments:** 1. Applications processed in the Quarter
2. Applications completed in the Quarter**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council receive and note the Quarterly Statutory Planning Permit Activity Report for April to June 2024

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

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

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

This is the fourth report for the 2023- 2024 financial year summarising planning application activities undertaken within the Development and Compliance Department.

BACKGROUND

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

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

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

ISSUES/DISCUSSIONPlanning permit activities

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

Timeframes

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

Table 1 provides a summary of the average timeframe in which the Development and Compliance Department assessed and issued Planning Permits during the fourth quarter of the 2023-2024 financial year and compares these against the small to medium regional council's average.

Table 1: Average timeframes for decisions

Quarter 4 of the 2023/2024 financial year				
Month	Average gross days to determine	Median processing days to determine	Completed within 60 days	Rural average completed within 60 days
April	36	22	100%	63%
May	136	86	86%	52%
June	43	34	100%	56%
Total for the Quarter	62	31	95%	57%

During the fourth quarter of the 2023-2024 financial year 95% of all Planning Permit applications were assessed and issued within the timeframes as set in the *Planning & Environment Act 1987*. This was 38% above the rural average. In addition, the median processing days for Council to make a determination on applications is 31 days, well below the rural median of 78 days, a great result for Council and its planning team.

COST/BENEFITS

The expenditure for the fourth quarter of 2023-2024 financial year of the statutory planning activities contained within this report is \$44,132

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

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

RISK ANALYSIS

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

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

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

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

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

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

RESOLUTION 2024/102

Moved: Cr Neil Beattie

Seconded: Cr Linda Jungwirth

That Council receive and note the Quarterly Statutory Planning Permit Activity Report for April to June 2024.

CARRIED

11.4 PUBLIC HEALTH QUARTERLY ACTIVITY REPORT

File Number: FOL/19/115173
Author: David Price, Manager Community Services
Authoriser: Wendy Gladman, Director Community Wellbeing
Attachments: Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and note the Public Health Quarterly Activity Report.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

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

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

This is the fourth and final report for the 2023-2024 financial year which reviews the period 1 April 2024 to 30 June 2024, summarising public health activities within the Community Services Department. It provides Council with a high level summary for the purpose of monitoring performance.

BACKGROUND

Loddon Shire Council is responsible for the administration and enforcement of several Acts including the:

- Food Act 1984
- Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008
- Residential Tenancies Act 1997
- Environment Protection Act 2017
- Tobacco Act 1987.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

Staff Resources

Council's Senior Public Health Officer resigned from the position during the reporting period. Council has interim arrangements in place for continued service delivery as the staff recruitment process continues. The reduced level of service shows in some of the statistical reports. Throughout this period, Council has continued to provide a service level that is in response to community demand. Regular contact with business operators, community groups, home owners and developers has been maintained within the available resources. Activities undertaken include inspecting registered premises, issuing septic tank permits and complaint investigations.

Registered Premises

Council undertakes annual inspections of premises that are registered under the Food Act, Public Health and Wellbeing Act and Residential Tenancies Act. Inspections are also undertaken of public swimming pools and of properties that must satisfy Tobacco Act requirements. Table 1 provides a summary of the inspections undertaken during the reporting period.

Table 1: Registered premises inspections

1 April 2024 to 30 June 2024		
Governing Legislation	Inspection Outcome	Number of inspections
Food Premises	Compliant*	29
	Major Non Compliance	2
Temporary Food Stall	Compliant*	1
Health Premises	Compliant*	3
	Major Non Compliance	0
Caravan Parks	Compliant*	2
	Major Non Compliance	0
Total number of inspections for reporting period		37

* Compliant includes sites that were fully compliant and some sites that required minor actions to become compliant

Council officers liaise further with non-compliant premises to address identified issues.

Tobacco Act

Council is funded to undertake Tobacco Act inspections throughout the year. Most inspections are carried out in conjunction with food premises inspections, however other properties also include non-smoking public outdoor venues such as kindergartens, schools, playgrounds and sporting reserves. Table 2 summaries the Tobacco Act activities undertaken during the reporting period.

Table 2: Tobacco Act inspections

1 April 2024 to 30 June 2024	
Inspection Type	Number
Tobacco Retailer (including vending machine)	2
Tobacco – Indoor Dining and drinking area	3
Tobacco – Outdoor Dining and drinking area	0
Outdoors & Other locations	0
Total number of inspections	5

Septic Systems

Table 3 summarises septic system permit applications processed during the reporting period.

Table 3: Septic system permits

1 April 2024 to 30 June 2024	
Permit Type	Number
Installation or alteration	6
Certificate to use	5
Total number of permits for reporting period	11

Public Health Complaints

Council is responsible to investigate nuisance complaints under the Public Health and Wellbeing Act. Complaints of nuisance can be complex and time consuming. Table 6 summarises the complaints during the reporting period.

Table 6: Public health complaints

1 April 2024 to 30 June 2024				
Nature of complaint	Number carried over from previous reporting period	Number received	Number resolved	Number currently pursuing resolution
Food Premises	0	0	0	0
Wastewater	3	0	1	2
Other	0	0	0	0
Total	3	0	1	2

COST/BENEFITS

The expenditure for the fourth quarter of the 2023-2024 financial year for the public health unit activities contained within this report is within the expected budget expenditure for this period.

Administration of the Acts that Council has responsibility for includes significant fieldwork, with staff regularly in the field engaging with business operators, developers, residents and ratepayers. This investment increases significantly when compliance issues are identified within registered premises and when complaints are received.

The benefits that stem from this investment include:

- improved public health and safety within registered premises
- improved local amenity
- full implementation by Council of our responsibilities under the various Acts and regulations.

RISK ANALYSIS

Failure of Council to adequately administer and enforce the provisions of the applicable legislation would pose the following possible risks:

- the spread of infectious diseases through the community including food poisoning
- a barrier to the new developments and economic growth within Council
- Council's reputation as a regulatory authority
- contamination of the local environment
- failure to meet obligations set within the relevant legislation.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

The Public Health Officer regularly engages with business operators, developers, residents and ratepayers during the administration of the various Acts which can range from annual assessments/inspections to the provision of advice when processing septic tank permits. Any business operator, developer, residents or ratepayer that is subject to enforcement action is regularly consulted with during the enforcement process.

RESOLUTION 2024/103

Moved: Cr Wendy Murphy

Seconded: Cr Dan Straub

That Council receive and note the Public Health Quarterly Activity Report.

CARRIED

11.5 ANNUAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM 2023-2024 QUARTERLY UPDATE AND FLOOD PROGRAM UPDATE

File Number: FOL/19/4522

Author: David Southcombe, Manager Assets and Infrastructure

Authoriser: Steven Phillips, Director Operations

Attachments:

1. Annual Infrastructure Program 2023-2024
2. October 2022 Flood Program 2022-2025

RECOMMENDATION

That Council note the progress of the Annual Infrastructure Program 2023-2024 and Flood Restoration Program as at June 2024.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

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

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

The Annual Infrastructure Program was presented at the June 2023 Council Meeting.

The last quarterly report on progress of the Annual Infrastructure Program 2023-2024 and Flood Restoration Program was provided at the May 2024 meeting.

BACKGROUND

This report is produced quarterly and is provided to Council for the purpose of reporting progress of the Annual Infrastructure Program and the Flood Restoration Program. The information in this report covers progress up until the end of June 2024.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

Annual Infrastructure Program

There are currently 105 individual projects, including carryovers from previous financial years that form part of the Annual Infrastructure Program 2023-2024. 86 projects have been completed and 18 projects are in progress.

50 individual projects were completed in quarter 4 of the 2023-2024 financial year. There are an additional 18 projects in progress and 1 project on hold that will be carried over to next financial year.

The Roads to Recovery and Local Roads and Community Infrastructure (LRCI) Program Phases 1, 2, and 3 required construction for projects funded under these programs to be completed by June 30, 2024. This was achieved, with some significant projects completed in quarter 4 such as the reconstruction of 2.5km of Pyramid Yarraberb Rd. In total 219 projects were funded under the previous 5 year funding period of the Roads to Recovery Program, and 46 projects under the LRCI Program Phase 1, 2 and 3. A new 5 year funding period for the Roads to Recovery Program begins in the 2024/25 financial year and Council will continue to deliver projects under the final LRCI Program Phase 4. This is the final funding round of the federal government's LRCI Program.

Table 1 provides a progress summary for the end of the 2023–2024 financial year of the Annual Infrastructure Program.

Table 1: Annual Infrastructure Program progress

Program Category	Total number of projects listed in Annual Infrastructure Program 2023 - 2024	Total number of projects carried over from previous year(s)	Total number of projects	Total number of projects completed to date	Total number of projects in progress	% Complete
Local Roads Gravel Resheet	7	3	10	10	0	100%
Local Roads Gravel Shoulder Resheet	3	0	3	3	0	100%
Local Road Construction - Asset Preservation	3	2	5	4	1	80%
Local Road Construction – Amenity	1	0	1	0	1	0%
Local Road Construction - Safety	0	1	1	0	1	0%
Township Street Improvement	3	7	10	6	4	60%
Local Bridges and Culverts	4	4	8	7	1	88%
Reseals	36	0	36	36	0	100%
Parks and Gardens	4	3	7	6	1	86%
Buildings	9	8	17	11	5	65%
Major Projects	0	7	7	3	4	43%
TOTAL	70	35	105	86	18	81%

As at the end of quarter four, 86 project or 81% of projects are completed with 18 out of the remaining 19 projects under progress. Attachment 1 contains a detailed list of projects that forms the Annual Infrastructure Program.

Flood Restoration Program – October 2022 event

All packages of work to rectify the damages required as a result of this flood required submission to the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) for assessment by 31 March 2024. These submissions have all been completed. The Flood Restoration program works must be completed by June 2025.

Inspections following the October 2022 flood event initially identified approximately 1,200 items of damage. This data is continually being assessed as it is processed into DRFA claimable packages of work. Any double ups, errors, ineligible work and non-Council assets are being removed. This process will be ongoing until all items are submitted and reviewed for eligibility through the DRFA process. The remaining list totals 675 items of damage which Council officers will continue to work with the DRFA to progress their rectification.

Table 2 provides a summary of progress for the Flood Restoration Program.

Table 2: Flood Restoration Program summary

Treatment category	Total number of damages recorded	Total number of damages rectified	Number of damage rectifications currently seeking approval	Number of damage rectifications in progress	% Complete
Unsealed pavements	453	81	373	0	18%
Sealed pavements	174	7	167	16	4%
Clearing and earthworks	3	0	3	0	0%
Road furniture and delineation	1	0	1	0	0%
Drainage structures	44	13	31	0	30%
Others	0	0	0	0	0%
Total	675	101	558	16	15%

Attachment 2 summarises the reimbursement claims for works so far (October 2022 to 30 June) in both, event response and restoration of essential public assets. To date Council has expended \$4,702,519 with \$4,589,987 reimbursed through the DRFA program and \$14,911 of the claim amount rejected. As works progress further claims for reimbursement will be added.

There are several non-essential public assets that were damaged during the October Flood event, these have been summarised in Table 3. The approximate value of the works listed in Table 3 is \$2.8 Million.

Table 3 Insurance items

Item	Asset Owner	Activity	Comments
Newbridge Recreation Reserve	DEECA	100%	Complete.
Bridgewater Caravan Park	Council	95%	Works complete, initial defects identified. Additional defects being addressed.
Durham Ox Hall	DEECA	100%	Complete.
Fentons Creek Hall	DEECA	100%	Complete.
Miscellaneous assets	Council	90%	Outstanding works at Donaldson Park fencing currently being addressed.

Council has also received State Government funding to assist with flood restoration through the Council Flood Support Fund. Several projects have been funded by this program, Table 4 summarises their progress.

Table 4 Council Flood Support Fund projects

Item	Activity
Emergency repairs to Skinners Flat Reservoir	Completed – 100%
Repairs to Loddon River, river side walking tracks	Not yet started
Lake Lyndger outflow doors	Completed – 100%
Hydrographical survey of the Loddon River at Bridgewater	Completed – 100%
Bridgewater boat ramp repairs	Completed – 100%
Bridgewater Swimming Hole pontoon	Completed – 100%
Skinners Flat Reservoir Flood damage remediation detailed engineering design	In Progress – 15%

Flood Restoration Program – December 2023 event

Inspections following the December 2023 flood event initially identified approximately 199 items of damage. This data is still being reviewed for accuracy and will be updated as Council officers review each damage as part of scoping process before submitting to the DRFA for funding. Table 5 provides a summary of progress for the December 2023 Flood Restoration Program.

Table 5: December 2023 Flood Restoration Program summary

Treatment category	Total number of damages recorded	Total number of damages rectified	Number of damage rectifications currently seeking approval	Number of damage rectifications in progress	% Complete
Unsealed pavements	64	0	0	0	0%
Sealed pavements	22	0	0	0	0%
Clearing and earthworks	0	0	0	0	0%
Concrete	1	0	0	0	0%
Road furniture and delineation	0	0	0	0	0%
Drainage structures	11	0	0	0	0%
Others	1	0	0	0	0%
Total	99	0	0	0	0%

COST/BENEFITS

The Annual Infrastructure Program expenditure in the Second quarter of the 2023–2024 financial year was \$4,575,562 for a total expenditure year to date of \$12,221,298. Attachment 1 lists all projects in the program which have an allocated budget of \$17,773,018 for the 2023-2024 financial year.

RISK ANALYSIS

There is still some uncertainty around the methodology adopted by the DRFA for the funding of gravel road resheets. Currently the DRFA is assessing each damage scope of works on a case by case basis to make an evaluation of the claimable amount of funding. Council will be required to fund the gap between the cost of undertaking a 100mm gravel resheet versus the amount funded by the DRFA. Given the significant financial risk of this funding gap, this risk is being managed and reported regularly to Council's independent Audit & Risk Committee.

Long term rectification of the Skinners Flat Reservoir wall and spillway is not eligible for funding under the DRFA. This work is also likely to be beyond the financial capacity of Council without significant financial assistance from State and/or Federal governments. Council has approval to utilise funding from the LGV Council Flood Support Fund for detailed design and costing. In the interim, a range of risk management and monitoring processes are in place to minimise risk.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

The report has been completed in consultation with officers from the Works Department, Community Support Department, Manager Governance, Finance Department and other external government agencies.

RESOLUTION 2024/104

Moved: Cr Dan Straub

Seconded: Cr Neil Beattie

That Council note the progress of the Annual Infrastructure Program 2023-2024 and Flood Restoration Program as at June 2024.

CARRIED

11.6 LOCAL LAWS AND PLANNING COMPLIANCE QUARTERLY ACTIVITY REPORT

File Number: FOL/19/115192
Author: David Price, Manager Community Services
Authoriser: Wendy Gladman, Director Community Wellbeing
Attachments: Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and note the Local Laws and Planning Compliance Quarterly Activity 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.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

This is the fourth and final report for the 2023-2024 financial year, summarising the animal control, local laws, planning compliance and enforcement actions taken within the Community Services Department for the period 1 April to 30 June 2024. It provides Council with a high-level summary for the purpose of monitoring performance.

BACKGROUND

Council is responsible for a range of advisory, compliance and enforcement services to the community and maintains powers under various legislation and Council's local law to enable effective animal management, planning enforcement and local law compliance for community and township amenity.

A number of organisational policies and procedures have been developed, outlining the methodology and circumstances under which Council officers will undertake compliance action. Key areas of focus in respect to compliance action include:

- management of local law provisions, particularly with respect to unsightly properties
- effective animal management
- control of roadside activities, occupation and utilisation
- investigating planning scheme breaches and enforce planning permit conditions

ISSUES/DISCUSSIONAdministrative

Table 1 provides a summary of administrative functions undertaken.

(*) Council provides a 24 hour emergency call out service in respect to domestic animal management, local law compliance and enforcement, and livestock wandering on council roads.

Table 1: Administrative

Quarter 4 (1 April 2024 – 30 June 2024)			
Activity	After hours call outs (*)	Littering or illegal rubbish dumping	Local law permits issued
No. actions	4	2	14

Unightly properties

A summary of activity statistics and locations that are the subject of unightly property compliance under Council's local law is provided in Table 2. Identified unightly properties are assessed and prioritised for compliance action.

Staffing vacancies have limited the ability for significant progress to be made during this quarter. It is expected that, following some recent recruitment, progress will increase in the next quarter.

Table 2: Summary of unightly properties activities

Quarter 4 (1 April 2024 – 30 June 2024)																
Town/Locality	Eddington	Rheola	Newbridge	Tarnagulla	Inglewood	Bridgewater	Wedderburn	Korong Vale	Borong	Boort	Pyramid Hill	Mitiamo	Dingee	Serpentine	Rural/Other	Total
No. identified from previous report period	2	0	2	3	9	1	15	3	3	4	1	2	1	2	0	48
No. resolved during quarter	0	0	0	0	5	1	5	0	2	2	1	2	0	1	0	19
New action commenced	0	0	0	0	3	0	1	1	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	9
No. currently pursuing	2	0	2	3	7	0	11	4	1	3	3	0	1	1	0	38
Progress Activities																
Site meeting / discussion held	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	5
Letter to comply issued	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Occupier has commenced clean-up work	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Notice to comply issued	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Contractor engaged for clean-up work	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Animal management

Table 3 provides a high level summary of animal management activities.

Table 3: Summary of animal management activities

Quarter 4 (1 April 2024 – 30 June 2024)						
Activity	Wandering livestock	Trespassing livestock	Dog attack	Domestic animal at large	Distribution of cat traps	General complaints / other
No. of actions	5	81	1	22	6	25

Table 4 summarises animal management activities that resulted in impoundments, encompassing both domestic animals and livestock.

Table 4: Impoundment activities

Quarter 4 (1 April 2024 – 30 June 2024)				
Animal type	Impoundments	Returned to owners	Animals rehoused	Animals disposed
Livestock	80	80	0	0
Dogs	15	3	9	3
Cats	11	0	11	0
Feral Animals	-	-	-	10
Total	106	83	20	13

Planning Compliance and Enforcement

Table 5 provides a summary of planning compliance and enforcement activities undertaken.

Table 5: Planning compliance and enforcement activities

Quarter 4 (1 April 2024 – 30 June 2024)						
Type	No. identified from previous report period	New action	PIN's	Warning Letter	No. resolved during quarter	No. currently pursuing
Land use in contravention of planning scheme without a permit	2	0	0	0	0	2
Native vegetation removal without a permit	2	1	0	0	1	2
Breach of planning permit	0	1	0	1	0	1
Dog breeding / animal keeping	1	0	0	0	0	1
Land used as a store without planning permit	2	0	0	0	0	2
Occupation of a site without a planning permit	0	2	0	1	0	2
Total	7	4	0	2	1	10

Throughout all of the above compliance activities tabled, the Community Services Department aims to work proactively with property and animal owners to achieve a positive outcome within the legislative framework set by the State Government and Council's Local Law.

COST/BENEFITS

The expenditure for the fourth quarter of 2023-2024 financial year for the local laws and compliance activities contained within this report is within the expected budget expenditure for this period.

As the identified properties are escalated through the compliance process, costs associated with legal proceedings may also be incurred by Council.

The resulting cost to Council can be significant in terms of officer(s) time; particularly undertaking various site inspections across Loddon Shire Council. Direct monetary costs can be significant should a matter progress to the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) or the Magistrates' Court. Therefore, it is of benefit to Council and the community that the Community Services Department work through these matters in a timely and respectful manner to reach an appropriate outcome wherever possible.

Benefits derived from investing in local law and planning compliance activities include:

- improving and maintaining township amenity
- ensuring that appropriate development occurs
- maintaining and improving public safety
- encouraging good domestic animal and livestock management
- reduced risks.

RISK ANALYSIS

Failure of Council to adequately manage the provisions associated with the Loddon Planning Scheme, *Planning and Environment Act 1987* or other applicable legislation including the *Domestic Animals Act 1994*, *Impounding of Livestock Act 1994* or Council's Community Local Law is considered to pose the following risks:

- barrier to development and associated economic growth within Loddon Shire
- inappropriate development
- Council's reputation as a regulatory authority
- public safety that endangers life and property
- adverse amenity of our townships
- increased hazards.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

Land and animal owners subject to compliance and enforcement actions under the abovementioned legislation and local law are consulted with at each stage of the process.

RESOLUTION 2024/105

Moved: Cr Neil Beattie

Seconded: Cr Wendy Murphy

That Council receive and note the Local Laws and Planning Compliance Quarterly Activity Report.

CARRIED

11.7 QUARTERLY BUILDING SERVICES ACTIVITY REPORT

File Number: 13/06/001, 13/08/001, 13/08/003
Author: Glenn Harvey, Manager Development and Compliance
Authoriser: Steven Phillips, Director Operations
Attachments: Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and note the Quarterly Building Services Activity Report.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

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

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Council is provided with information quarterly summarising building services activities relating to permits, certificates and statutory enforcement activity undertaken within the Development & Compliance Department. This report covers the fourth quarter of this financial.

BACKGROUND

Council provides a range of building services through the Municipal Building Surveyor including the following:

- issuing relevant permits and certificates
- issuing report and consent determinations on matters not complying with the Building regulations
- building advisory and information services including legal point of discharge requests
- consultancy and building control functions
- administrative functions prescribed by the Building Act and Regulations including keeping records relating to the activity of private building surveyors issuing permits within Loddon Shire
- regulatory enforcement of relevant Acts.

The number of building permits, occupancy permits and final inspections is a basic indicator of building development and investment within the Loddon Shire Council area.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

Throughout the fourth quarter of the 2023-2024 financial year, items of significance relating to the activity of Council's building services include:

- swimming pool registration requirements and registration of the Complying Barrier Certificates.
- issuing of demolition consents and variations to sitting under Part 5 of the Building Regulations.
- follow up on enforcement activities including following up Court and Building Appeals items
- ongoing implementation and improvement of software system changes.

Building permits

Table 1 provides the number and total value of building permits issued for the four quarters of 2023-2024. There is variation in the value of permits throughout any given financial year and this is attributable to the scale and cost of individual projects.

Table 1: Summary of new building permits issued

	Quarter 1 2023-24 (01/07/2023 – 30/09/2023)	Quarter 2 2023-24 (01/10/2023 – 31/12/2023)	Quarter 3 2023-24 (01/01/2024 – 31/03/2024)	Quarter 4 2023-24 (01/04/2024 – 30/06/2024)
No. of new Permits	25	42	30	31
Value of Works	\$2,319,670	\$14,523,408	\$14,035,638	\$5,859,102

Table 2 provides a summary of the number of final inspections and certificates of occupancy issued for building permits for each quarter.

Table 2: Summary of final inspections and occupancy permits

	Quarter 1 2023-24 (01/07/2023 – 30/09/2023)	Quarter 2 2023-24 (01/10/2023 – 31/12/2023)	Quarter 3 2023-24 (01/01/2024 – 31/03/2024)	Quarter 4 2023-24 (01/04/2024 – 30/06/2024)
Certificates of final inspection	41	33	23	37
Occupancy Permits	23	11	11	8

Council Building Services staff continue to work proactively with Council issued permit holders, sending follow up letters to notify building owners approximately two months before their building permits are due to lapse. This allows owners to arrange a final inspection/occupancy permit or apply for an extension of time for their building permit.

Statutory enforcement

Table 3 provides a high level summary of statutory enforcement activities undertaken by the Municipal Building Surveyor.

Table 3: Summary of statutory enforcement activities

Type	Actions incomplete from previous report period	New action started	Total actions	Building notice issued	Building order issued	Appeal to Building Appeals Board	Legal action / solicitors letter started this quarter	Legal action ongoing	No. resolved during this quarter
Building damaged by fire	2	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0

Type	Actions incomplete from previous report period	New action started	Total actions	Building notice issued	Building order issued	Appeal to Building Appeals Board	Legal action / solicitors letter started this quarter	Legal action ongoing	No. resolved during this quarter
Works required to make building safe (including pools)	21	1	22	2	3	1	0	1	1
Carrying out building works without a permit	12	5	17	11	2	0	0	0	1
Works not in accordance with building permit	2	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0
Illegal occupation of non-habitable building	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Building with non-complying essential safety measures	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0

Whilst new issues requiring enforcement are identified regularly, it is also noted there are some longstanding enforcement activities that are ongoing. The time spent on individual items can be significant particularly when it requires escalation to Court. Council officers work to try to resolve matters without legal intervention.

COST/BENEFITS

The expenditure for the fourth quarter of the 2023-2024 financial year for building services activities was \$55,335.

The cost to Council of enforcement activity can be quite significant, particularly in terms of Council officers' time. This in turn impacts on other activities such as the timeframe for building permits. Direct monetary costs significantly escalate if matters progress to a Magistrate's hearing or the Municipal Building Surveyor needs to arrange for the work associated with any order to be completed by Council. As such, the Municipal Building Surveyor, together with other Development & Compliance Department staff endeavour to work through enforcement matters in a manner that engages with property owners/occupiers to have required works completed.

RISK ANALYSIS

There are risks associated with all building and development works. As such, it is vital that Building legislation, standards and controls are administered effectively. Failure of Council to adequately enforce the provisions of applicable legislation poses the following possible risks:

- unsafe development and building works which may affect the safety of property owners, occupiers and the general public within Loddon Shire
- Council's reputation as a regulatory authority
- Council being held liable for failure to act in a matter which results in damage to other property, or injury or death to a person
- failure to meet statutory obligations set within relevant legislation.

As part of the risk management process when undertaking enforcement work, the Municipal Building Surveyor makes reference to the building enforcement intervention filter criteria, developed by the Victorian Municipal Building Surveyors Group and which forms part of the procedures covered in Loddon Shire Council's Building Control Policy.

A significant risk within Loddon Shire is unregulated developments, in particular small allotments which are sold to purchasers that have expectations of using it for a cheap home or "weekender". Often the landholder is unable or unwilling to meet the regulatory requirements to safely utilise the site as they desire. This has led to a number of undesirable and potentially unsafe outcomes of unregulated developments. This remains a matter of concern for Council's Municipal Building Surveyor and Local Laws & Planning Compliance Officer.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

The Municipal Building Surveyor regularly engages with business operators, developers, residents and ratepayers during the administration of the various Acts, which can range from essential safety measures assessments/inspections to the provision of advice relating to the need for building permits and other functions administered by the Municipal Building Surveyor under the Building Act and Building Regulations. Any business operator, developer, resident or ratepayer that is subject to enforcement action is regularly consulted with during the enforcement process to give them the opportunity to avoid the escalation of enforcement action.

RESOLUTION 2024/106

Moved: Cr Linda Jungwirth
Seconded: Cr Dan Straub

That Council receive and note the Quarterly Building Services Activity Report.

CARRIED

11.8 LIBRARY SERVICES QUARTERLY ACTIVITY REPORT**File Number:****Author:** Renae Colls, Executive Assistant**Authoriser:** Lincoln Fitzgerald, Chief Executive Officer**Attachments:** 1. Loddon Shire Quarterly Activity Report April - June 2024**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council receive and note the Loddon Shire Council Library Services Quarterly Activity Report for April to June 2024.

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.

BACKGROUND

The North Central Goldfields Regional Library Corporation (trading as Goldfields Library Corporation) consists of members from the City of Greater Bendigo, and the Shires of Loddon, Macedon Ranges and Mount Alexander. The Corporation provides library services to these municipalities, covering an area of 12,979km².

In Loddon Shire, 15% of the population are library members and there are six library agencies located in Boort, Dingee, Inglewood, Pyramid Hill, Tarnagulla and Wedderburn.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

This report seeks to inform Council of the activities undertaken by the Goldfields Library Corporation (GLC) for the quarter April to June 2024. The attached Loddon Shire Quarterly Activity Report highlights key activities, programs, customer visits, library borrowings and more.

COST/BENEFITS

Loddon Shire Council's financial contribution for quarter four was \$54,915.63.

The Loddon Shire Council contribution for the 2023/24 financial year was \$217,875.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

The Goldfields Library Board is responsible for the provision of the best library service outcomes for the communities of the four member Councils. The Board comprises two representatives from each of the four member Councils and meet at least once every three months. The Corporation is managed by a Chief Executive Officer appointed by the Board.

The GLC current board members are:

- Vacant - City of Greater Bendigo
- Stacy Williams – City of Greater Bendigo
- Cr Linda Jungwirth – Loddon Shire Council
- Lincoln Fitzgerald – Loddon Shire Council
- Cr Bill West – Macedon Ranges Shire Council
- Maria Weiss - Macedon Ranges Shire Council
- Cr Rosie Annear – Mount Alexander Shire Council
- Rosalie Rogers – Mount Alexander Shire Council
- Mark Hands – North Central Goldfields Regional Library CEO

Cr Jungwirth and CEO Fitzgerald are members of the library board, CEO Fitzgerald is also on the board's Finance Committee.

RESOLUTION 2024/107

Moved: Cr Dan Straub

Seconded: Cr Neil Beattie

That Council receive and note the Loddon Shire Council Library Services Quarterly Activity Report for April to June 2024.

CARRIED

11.9 LODDON SWIMMING POOLS – END OF SEASON REPORT 2023-2024**File Number:****Author:** Orrin Hogan, Manager Community Partnerships**Authoriser:** Wendy Gladman, Director Community Wellbeing**Attachments:** Nil**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council receive and note the Loddon swimming pools end of season report 2023-2024.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

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

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

The swimming pools end of season report 2023-2024 was provided to the August 2024 Council Forum.

BACKGROUND

Council operates five swimming pools in Boort, Wedderburn, Inglewood, Mitiamo and Pyramid Hill and oversees the provision of the Bridgewater Swimming Hole. Council has a current contract with Belgravia Leisure to undertake the operational management of the five pools including the supervision of staff/lifeguards, training, chemical operations and daily cleaning.

This report helps stakeholders understand the performance and financial health of the aquatic facilities and guides future decision-making. This end of season report information will assist to inform Council regarding service levels and costs associated with this area of activity

Relevant to this report, Council have engaged consultants Otium to deliver the *Recreation, Open Space and Aquatics Strategy (ROSA)*; a 10-year strategic plan that establishes a clear direction for providing, developing, and managing its sport and recreation, open space and aquatic facilities into the future. Part of this strategy outlines a maintenance/renewal cost of \$1.3 million over the next ten years to continue the current level of service; in addition to the annual operating costs.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

The following information relates to the operational outcomes of the 2023-2024 swimming season which was conducted from Saturday 18 November 2023 to Monday 11 March 2024. The pools operate between 2pm – 7.00pm during school holidays, and 3.30pm – 7.00pm during school terms.

During the season, pools were closed for a total of 25 days, due to forecast temperatures being below 24 degrees and severe weather events, resulting in storm activity and local flooding. Other closures were due to equipment failure, and a pool leak. No pools were closed due to staff shortages. Overall Loddon Shire pools remained open for 91.4% of the season.

Early morning swimming was well received by the community, and was offered at Boort, Wedderburn & Inglewood. In addition, 14 events were held across the venues, including movie nights, pool parties, and lawn games.

Total pool expenditure across the five aquatic venues for the season was \$711,067, with the total attendance figure across all five venues being 14,928. This figure includes casual swimmers, members & user groups (such as schools, exercise classes and swimming lessons).

The average daily attendance across the pool sites ranged between 20 – 53 patrons, with an overall average daily attendance of 29 patrons. The cost per patron per swim ranged from \$23.56 to \$73.03, with an overall average cost per patron per swim of \$47.63.

The total expense amounts only include costs associated with the running and maintenance of each pool; the figures do not include any capital investment amounts.

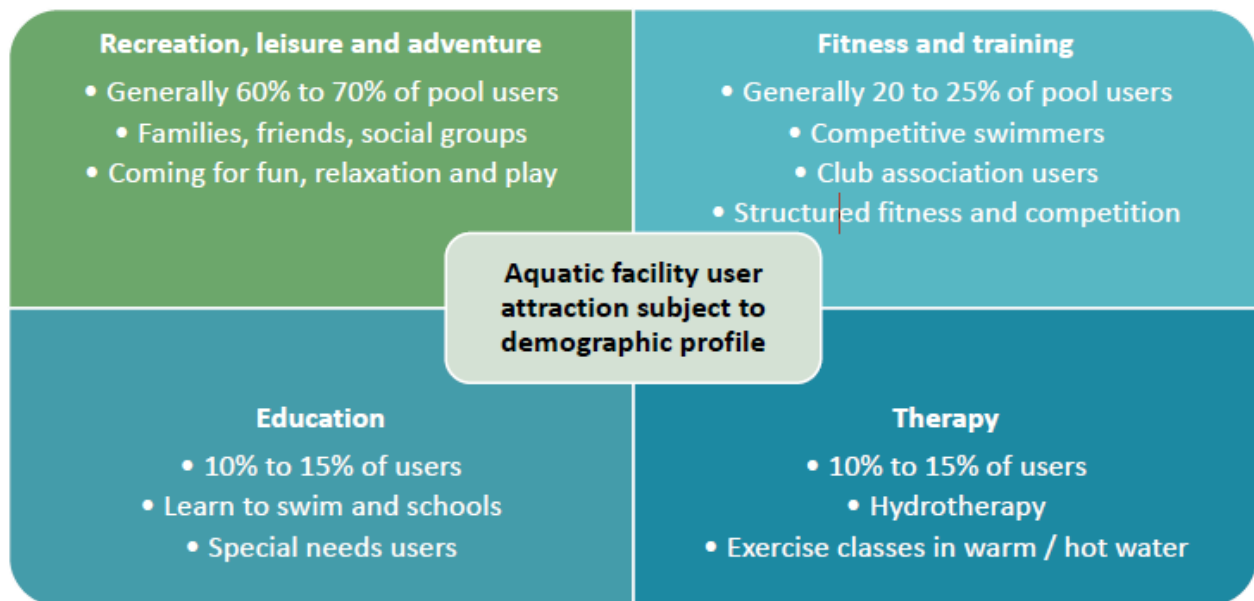
COST/BENEFITS

The total contract price across the initial three year term was \$1,486,489 (ex. GST). The contract cost for term three (2023/24 financial year) was \$442,070 and is subject to rise and fall, as discussed above. When including Council’s administration and maintenance costs the total pool expenditure for the season was \$711,067.

Belgravia Leisure completed their initial 3 year contact at the end of the 2023/24 pool season. Following a review, Council approved a contract extension for the aquatics management by Belgravia Leisure for an additional 3-year term at the May 2024 Council meeting.

The pools provide opportunity for physical activity for our community, promote healthier lifestyles, improve access and engage people of all backgrounds, ages and stages in active, social fun. Through the careful planning for and provision of community aquatic facilities and services, these become invaluable settings to help Loddon Shire become a healthier and more liveable place.

The swimming pools also provide a safe, supervised environment for people to engage with water for a range of purposes. These include the main markets as outlined in the diagram below.



Source: Loddon Recreation, Open Space and Aquatic Strategy Background Report, – Otium Planning Group Pty Ltd

Loddon Shire also has an enhanced need for swimming pools considering the high drowning risks that come with swimming in dams, channels and inland waterways. The availability of swimming pools enable people to enjoy the water whilst having trained staff onsite.

This report outlines the operational costs of this service only; noting that in addition to the operating costs, Council also has an annual capital investment which is expected to experience significant growth over the coming decades. The theoretical asset life of a water retaining structure is 50 years and many of our aquatic facilities are significantly older than this. Further work will be undertaken to quantify the likely capital investment required into the future, however it is clear that the status quo will be difficult to sustain.

RISK ANALYSIS

One of the major risks is the capital investment required to the aging infrastructure of the five pools across the shire. Each of the pools shells are over 50 years old, with many already failing to some degree. The high cost for the installation of a new pool shell, along with the supporting plant rooms, will likely require a significant future investment so that our community can continue to enjoy the aquatic environments. This aligns to Council's Plan and Community Vision of *1.1.1 – Plan for future facilities and infrastructure that meet community need* and *1.1.3 – Maintain sports and recreation and open public spaces to enable and promote access and participation*.

Council also has a responsibility to adhere to all safety and compliance regulations required to maintain the pools resulting in further costs.

The culmination of these two risks above can result in reputational risk due to pool closures either short or longer term. This was evident during the 2023/24 season when pools were unable to open due to equipment failure, which resulted in increased community concern as to the stability of continued operation of the pools.

Council Officers have engaged a specialist consultant (JWC Engineers) to prepare a swimming pools condition report to support a prioritised repair and maintenance program at the five aquatic locations across Loddon Shire Council, inform a future capital works plan and the impending Recreation Open Space Aquatic Strategy (ROSA).

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

There was no consultation or engagement required in the development of this report.

RESOLUTION 2024/108

Moved: Cr Wendy Murphy
Seconded: Cr Neil Beattie

That Council receive and note the Loddon swimming pools end of season report 2023-2024.

CARRIED

12 COMPLIANCE REPORTS

Nil

13 URGENT BUSINESS

Nil

14 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

Nil

NEXT MEETING

The next Meeting of Council will be held on 16 September 2024 at Wedderburn commencing at 3.00pm.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 4.59 pm .

Confirmed this.....day of..... 2024

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CHAIRPERSON