



**Date:** Monday, 16 September 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 MONDAY, 16 SEPTEMBER 2024 AT 3.00PM**

**PRESENT:** Cr Gavan Holt (Mayor), Cr Dan Straub, Cr Neil Beattie (virtual), 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

**SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS**

**RESOLUTION 2024/109**

Moved: Cr Wendy Murphy  
Seconded: Cr Dan Straub

That Council suspend standing orders in accordance with Governance Rule 65(5) while questions submitted by members of the public are put to Council.

**CARRIED**

**RESUMPTION OF STANDING ORDERS**

**RESOLUTION 2024/110**

Moved: Cr Linda Jungwirth  
Seconded: Cr Dan Straub

That Council resume standing orders.

**CARRIED**

**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 27 August 2024
2. Council Meeting of 27 August 2024
3. Council Forum of 10 September 2024.

**REPORT**

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

**RESOLUTION 2024/111**

Moved: Cr Linda Jungwirth  
Seconded: Cr Wendy Murphy

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

1. Council Briefing of 27 August 2024
2. Council Meeting of 27 August 2024
3. Council Forum of 10 September 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 27 August 2024
2. Council Forum 10 September 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 27 August 2024
2. Council Forum 10 September 2024.

Meeting details	Briefing
Date	27 August 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 Lisa Clue, Manager Governance Glenn Harvey, Manager Development and Compliance and Louise Johnston, Statutory Planning Coordinator – items 3 and 4 below Carolyn Stephenson, Senior Strategic Planner – item 4 below David Southcombe, Manager Assets and Infrastructure – item 5 below
Item(s) discussed.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Review of Council Meeting Agenda</li> <li>2. VicGrid – Draft Victorian Transmission Plan Guidelines</li> <li>3. PA 5979 – Re-Subdivision of four lots into two new lots at 24-32 Wilson Street, Wedderburn</li> <li>4. Loddon Planning Scheme – Update Amendment</li> <li>5. Tabling of petition – Kerb and channel in Godfrey Street, Boort</li> <li>6. General Business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recovery display trailer</li> <li>• Wheel Cactus</li> </ul> </li> </ol>
Conflict of Interest Disclosures – Councillor/ officer making disclosure	Nil
Councillor/officer left room	n/a

Meeting details	Forum
Date	10 September 2024
Councillor Attendees	Cr Holt (Mayor) Cr Straub 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 Jackie Hicks and Giovanna Lever, Sparrowly Group (Virtual); David Stretch, Manager Tourism and Economic Development; and Bradd Worrell, Tourism and Marketing Coordinator – Item 1 below Deanne Caserta, Manager Financial Services – Item 2 below Orrin Hogan, Manager Community Partnerships – Item 3 below Christine Coombes, Executive Services Officer – Item 4 below Rosanna Lacorcica and Tony Hedley, Transport Company Victoria – Item 5 below
Item(s) discussed.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Visitor Economy Strategy – Project Update</li> <li>2. Discussion of the 2023/24 Financial and Performance Statements</li> <li>3. Presentation of Community Planning Project Assessments</li> <li>4. Bridgewater and Wedderburn Caravan Parks – Leasing Update</li> <li>5. VNI West Project Update</li> <li>6. General Business – brief updates on <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tarnagulla Community Event</li> <li>• Industry update – Financial Sustainability</li> <li>• CEO annual leave day</li> <li>• Council property sale</li> </ul> </li> </ol>
Conflict of Interest Disclosures – Councillor/officer making disclosure	Nil
Councillor/officer left room	n/a

**RESOLUTION 2024/112**

Moved: Cr Dan Straub

Seconded: Cr Wendy Murphy

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

1. Council Briefing 27 August 2024
2. Council Forum 10 September 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 August 2024 Council meeting**RECOMMENDATION**

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

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

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

**REPORT**

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

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

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

**RESOLUTION 2024/113****Moved:** Cr Dan Straub**Seconded:** Cr Wendy Murphy

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

**CARRIED**

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

That Council receive and note the Mayoral Report.

**REPORT**

Mayor Holt presented a verbal report at the meeting.

<b>Murray River Group of Councils</b>	
05/09/2024 – Meeting (Boort)	
11/09/2024 – Meeting with Minister Symes – Melbourne	
<b>Other Council activities</b>	
<b>Date</b>	<b>Activity</b>
28/08/2024	Farmer's Day Out
	Wedderburn Development Association meeting
04/09/2024	VEC Councillor Candidate Information Session – Wedderburn
09/09/2024	Annual Wedderburn Shearing School
14/09/2024	Wedderburn Historical Engine and Machinery Rally

**RESOLUTION 2024/114**

Moved: Cr Dan Straub

Seconded: Cr Linda Jungwirth

That Council receive and note the Mayoral Report.

**CARRIED**



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

File Number: 02/01/001

Author: Lisa Clue, Manager Governance

Authoriser: Lincoln Fitzgerald, Chief Executive Officer

Attachments: Nil

**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council receive and note the Councillors' reports.

**REPORT**

Each Councillor presented a verbal report at the meeting.

**Cr Murphy**

<b>Section 65 Community Asset Committees:</b>	
11/09/2024 - Campbells Forest Hall – AGM and General Meeting	
02/09/2024 - Inglewood Community Sports Centre – AGM and part General Meeting	
09/09/2024 - Inglewood Town Hall Hub – AGM and General Meeting	
<b>Other Council activities</b>	
Date	Activity
29/08/2024	Inglewood Development and Tourism Committee Meeting
10/09/2024	September Council Forum - Wedderburn
16/09/2024	September Council Briefing and Council Meeting - Wedderburn
14/09/2024	LVFNL Grand Final – Mitiamo (LHMN Blue Tree Project trailer in attendance)

**Cr Beattie**

<b>Council activities</b>	
Date	Activity
30/08/2024	Beaching Program - Lake Boort

**Cr Straub**

<b>Council activities</b>	
<b>Date</b>	<b>Activity</b>
10/09/2024	September Council Forum
14/09/2024	Mitiamo Football Netball Club – preparation for and attendance at LVFNL Grand Final

**Cr Jungwirth (fourth)**

<b>Central Victorian Greenhouse Alliance</b>	
29/08/2024 – Advocacy Committee Meeting	
30/08/2024 – Conference - Melbourne	
12/09/2024 – Board Meeting	
<b>Other Council activities</b>	
<b>Date</b>	<b>Activity</b>
27/08/2024	September Council Briefing and Council Meeting - Wedderburn
	Arnold Hall Committee - AGM
03/09/2024	One Foot Forward - Planning Meeting
07/09/2024	One Foot Forward
08/09/2024	Tarnagulla Strictly Vintage Fair
10/09/2024	September Council Forum - Wedderburn
11/09/2024	Kooyoora Women's Network
12/09/2024	VEC Councillor Candidate Information Session - Wedderburn

**RESOLUTION 2024/115**

Moved: Cr Dan Straub

Seconded: Cr Linda Jungwirth

That Council receive and note the Councillors' reports.

**CARRIED**

## 10 DECISION REPORTS

### 10.1 2023/24 FINANCIAL AND PERFORMANCE STATEMENTS IN PRINCIPLE REPORT

**File Number:** FOL/23/1595

**Author:** Deanne Caserta, Manager Financial Services

**Authoriser:** Michelle Stedman, Director Corporate

**Attachments:** 1. Performance Statements - DRAFT  
2. Financial Statements - DRAFT

### RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Adopts the Financial Statements and Performance Statements for the year ended 30 June 2024 as presented "in principle".
2. Authorises the Principal Accounting Officer to make any amendments to the Financial Statements and Performance Statements for the year ended 30 June 2024 that may be requested by RSD Audit or the Victorian Auditor-General.
3. Authorises the Mayor and one other Councillor, the Chief Executive Officer and the Principal Accounting Officer to certify the audited Financial Statements and Performance Statements for the year ended 30 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

Council was provided an overview of the Financial Statements and Performance Statements for the year ended 30 June 2024 at Council Forum on 10 September 2024.

### BACKGROUND

Council's external auditors, RSD Audit, acting on behalf of the Victorian Auditor-General, have worked remotely to finalise the audit of Council's Financial Statements and Performance Statement for the year ended 30 June 2024.

As stated in Section 99 (2) of the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act), after passing a resolution giving its approval in principle to the performance statement and financial statements, Council must submit the statements to the Victorian Auditor-General for provision of its report on the audit.

Under Section 99 (3) of the Act Council must also ensure that the final form performance statement and financial statements, after any changes recommended or agreed by the auditor have been made, are certified in accordance with the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020* (the Regulations) by two Councillors authorised by the Council.

### ISSUES/DISCUSSION

The annual Financial Statements are presented in accordance with all relevant Australian Accounting Standards and as per the model statements provided by Local Government Victoria (LGV). They consist of five statement elements (described in Table 1) which are expanded upon within accompanying Notes to the Financial Statements.

The Performance Statement is also in line with the Regulations and LGV's model reporting. It includes Sustainable Capacity Indicators (financial and non-financial), Service Performance Indicators (non-financial), and Financial Performance Indicators (financial).

Table 1 – Description of Financial Statement Elements

Statement Element	Description
Comprehensive Income Statement	The <b>Income Statement</b> provides a summary of the total income and total expenditure relating to Council's annual operations for the financial year. Capital grant income is included in this statement, but any related expenditure is not reflected here, as this is reported as increased assets on the Balance Sheet.
Balance Sheet	The <b>Balance Sheet</b> summarises the value of Assets (what Council owns) and our Liabilities (what Council owes). The difference between assets and liabilities (Net Assets or Equity) reflects Council's net worth at the end of the Financial Year.
Statement of Changes in Equity	The <b>Statement of Changes in Equity</b> reflect how the net worth of Council has changed over the financial year, showing movements in areas such as accumulated surplus, reserves and revaluations.
Statement of Cash Flows	The <b>Statement of Cash Flows</b> reflects actual results for the financial year in line with statutory financial reporting.
Statement of Capital Works	The <b>Capital Works Statement</b> provides information on Council's investment in capital projects during the year and breaks this expenditure down into asset categories. It provides insight into Council's focus on maintaining and improving physical assets,

### Key Results

As per the Income Statement, Loddon's **operating result** for the 2023/24 financial year was a **\$6.4M deficit**. This compares to a \$6.9M surplus in 2022/23. A principle cause of this variance is due to the timing of and required accounting treatment of Federal Financial Assistance Grants; 2023/24 being the first year where none of this income was received within the financial year. For context, the income for these grants in 2024/25 is expected to be more than \$11.0M.

Council's Balance Sheet demonstrates a **current asset base of \$457M** (with strong liquidity in unrestricted financial assets) against **low liabilities of \$7.88M**. This remains a good foundation for Loddon to continue building careful financial management and strategic planning practices to ensure long-term sustainability. Cash and term deposits on hand totalled just under \$34M, and total rates and debtors outstanding was \$1.68M.

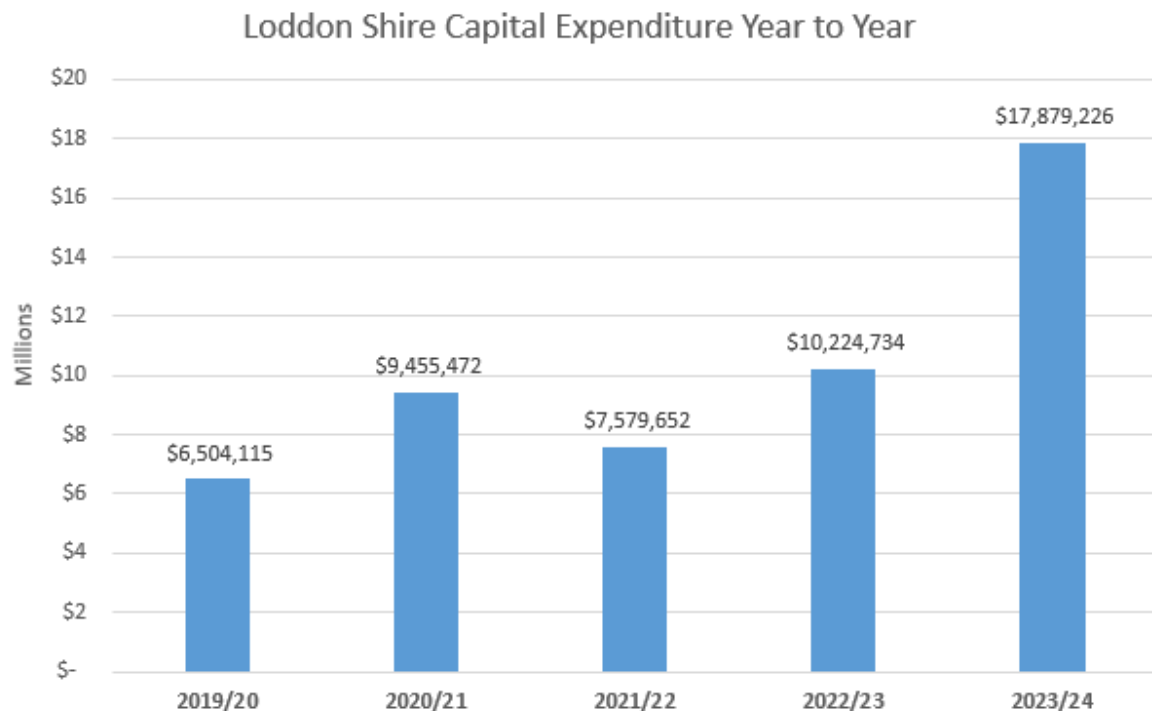
Within our Statement of Cash Flows, cash flows from **operating activities show a positive result (\$1.65M)** but do underscore Loddon's dependency on external funding (operating and capital grants totalling \$14.24M) and how critical this funding is to Council's financial stability. This reliance is displayed by the swing in Loddon's operating result when external funding timing is misaligned with expenditure.

Cash outflow from investing activities as per the Statement of Cash Flows show ongoing key investment in long-term assets. This is matched with our Statement of Capital Works where Loddon's **capital works delivery totalled \$17.9M in 2023/24**, compared to \$10.2M in 2022/23 (see Graph 1 for prior year comparisons, over page). Expenditure from the unspent grants reserve recognised the finalisation of key funded projects. This saw **reserve balances** decrease by \$15.4M to a **total balance of \$18.3M** as at 30 June 2024.

### RISK ANALYSIS

Preparation and auditing of Financial Statements and the Performance Statement are legislated functions of Council. Council must complete and publish these documents along with the Report of Operations by 31 October each year, or in the year of a general election, on a day not later than the day before Election Day – being 25 October in 2024.

Graph 1 – Loddon Shire Capital Expenditure prior year comparisons



By having a structured project plan for delivery of the statements to the Victorian Auditor-General's representative, the risk of not meeting the legislative timeline is mitigated.

### CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

The Audit and Risk Committee has been provided with an overview of the Financial Statements and Performance Statement at the Audit and Risk Committee Meeting held on 2 September 2024.

### RESOLUTION 2024/116

Moved: Cr Linda Jungwirth

Seconded: Cr Wendy Murphy

That Council:

1. Adopts the Financial Statements and Performance Statements for the year ended 30 June 2024 as presented "in principle".
2. Authorises the Principal Accounting Officer to make any amendments to the Financial Statements and Performance Statements for the year ended 30 June 2024 that may be requested by RSD Audit or the Victorian Auditor-General.
3. Authorises the Mayor and one other Councillor, the Chief Executive Officer and the Principal Accounting Officer to certify the audited Financial Statements and Performance Statements for the year ended 30 June 2024.

**CARRIED**

**10.2 C614 - ANNUAL RESEALS 2024-2025****File Number:** 14.01.001**Author:** Adam Cooper, Project Management Coordinator**Authoriser:** David Southcombe, Manager Assets and Infrastructure**Attachments:** 1. **C614 Tender Evaluation Report - Confidential**

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

**(under separate cover)**

**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council:

1. Award Contract 614 – Annual Reseal Program 2024-2025 to Boral Resources (Vic) Pty Ltd
2. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to undertake the necessary administrative actions to complete the Contract documents
3. Approve the reallocation of \$201,994 of funding from the Local Bridges & Culverts Program to the Road Reseals 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**

The annual reseal program forms part of the Annual Infrastructure Program 2024-2025. This program was approved by Council at its June 2024 ordinary meeting.

**BACKGROUND**

In late August 2024, Loddon Shire advertised a tender for the 2024-2025 Annual Reseal as part of the Annual Infrastructure Program. A report covering the Annual Infrastructure Program was provided to Council at its June 2024 ordinary meeting.

**ISSUES/DISCUSSION**

The annual reseal program identified approximately 41km of the local sealed road network for seal renewal.

The evaluation criteria and weightings for the tender assessment are:

- mandatory risk management including OH&S requirements and relevant insurances, pass or fail
- financial benefit to Council, weighting 40%
- capability, demonstrated experience, systems and processes, weighting 20%
- capacity, access to labour, commitment to end date, weighting 25%
- financial benefit to community, weighting 10%
- environmental sustainability, weighting 5%

Following public advertising, five conforming tenders were submitted. The submissions have been evaluated by an assessment panel (four Council officers in conjunction with Council's contract supervisor). Their Tender Evaluation Report reviewed in confidential Attachment 1.

Based on the tenders submitted, Boral Resources (Vic) Pty Ltd demonstrated best value, the capacity and capability to undertake and deliver this project.

### **COST/BENEFITS**

All submitted tenders are higher than the budget allocated within the Road Reseal Program. The current funding allocation within this program is \$802,044. Boral Resources submitted price is \$867,307. Additionally, \$50,000 is required for preparation works to be undertaken by Council's Works team prior to sealing works as well as \$87,731 to allow for a 10% contingency. The total required budget allocation is \$1,004,038 and is summarised in the following table.

<b>Item</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Boral Resources Tender	\$867,307
10% Contingency	\$86,731
Work team preparation works	\$50,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,004,038</b>
Road Reseal Program Allocation	\$802,044
Additional funding required	\$201,994

Additional funding of \$201,994 is required to complete the sealing works. It is proposed to reallocate \$201,994 of funding from the Local Bridges & Culverts Program to the Road Reseals Program. Following procurement and awarding of Council's programmed Local Bridges & Culverts contracts, there are sufficient savings within the Local Bridges & Culverts Program to allow this reallocation.

Completion of the 2024-2025 reseal programs will ensure compliance with Council's Road Asset Management Plan 2021.

All tenderers are based outside of the Shire. All tenderers also indicated that some materials would be sourced from Loddon Shire Council. Other local benefits as indicated in the tender submissions will largely be through accommodation, fuel and meals for the works crew.

### **RISK ANALYSIS**

Boral Resources (Vic) Pty Ltd has successfully completed the annual reseal program for Loddon Shire Council previously. Council also undertook up-to-date reference checks as part of the assessment process.

There is the potential for project variations that increase the total cost of works. The estimated cost of the works and any variations are expected to be accommodated within the project budget.

Risk emanating from this project and company is expected to be minimal.

**CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT**

The development of this contract and tender has been prepared in consultation with the Assets and Infrastructure Department and Finance Department.

**RESOLUTION 2024/117**

Moved: Cr Linda Jungwirth

Seconded: Cr Dan Straub

That Council:

1. Award Contract 614 – Annual Reseal Program 2024-2025 to Boral Resources (Vic) Pty Ltd
2. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to undertake the necessary administrative actions to complete the Contract documents
3. Approve the reallocation of \$201,994 of funding from the Local Bridges & Culverts Program to the Road Reseals Program.

**CARRIED**



**10.3 LITTLE LAKE BOORT RECREATION PRECINCT MASTERPLAN****File Number:****Author:** Orrin Hogan, Manager Community Partnerships**Authoriser:** Wendy Gladman, Director Community Wellbeing**Attachments:**

1. Little Lake Boort Foreshore Masterplan
2. Budget estimate at concept - Confidential

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

The attachment contains commercial in confidence estimates that may impact future procurement processes **(under separate cover)**

**RECOMMENDATION**

1. That Council:
  - (a) endorse the Lake Boort Foreshore Recreation Precinct Concept Masterplan
  - (b) approve the allocation of \$267,910 from the Boort Ward community planning funds
  - (c) approve the allocation of \$500,000 from the Community Planning Strategic Fund.

**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 September 2020 Council meeting, Council endorsed the Boort Foreshore Sporting Precinct Development as the nominated project for the 2019/20 Community Planning Strategic Fund, noting that that draft concept plans would be provided to Council when complete for consideration and approval.

At the March 2022 Council meeting, Council endorsed the staging of the Lake Boort Foreshore Recreation Project.

**BACKGROUND**

Council originally endorsed this project in 2020, and when an opportunity arose to install a synthetic surface at the Boort Bowls Club, the project was staged in 2022 as follows:

- stage 1 - Boort Bowls Club Inc Synthetic Turf Project
- stage 2 - Design of Lake Boort Foreshore Recreation Precinct Project which will include costing estimates and identification of potential external funding opportunities
- stage 3 - Construction of Lake Boort Foreshore Recreation Precinct Project as identified in the stage 2 design

The developed concept masterplan is being provided to Council for endorsement as identified in stage 2 of the endorsed delivery program for the Boort Foreshore Recreation Precinct along with allocation of funds which will allow delivery of some smaller components of the plan and provide seed funding to seek external funding.

## ISSUES/DISCUSSION

The Lake Boort Foreshore Recreation Concept Masterplan (the Masterplan) is a comprehensive, long-term planning document designed to outline the vision and goals for the development and management of this high quality recreational area. It serves as a strategic guide for decision-making and future development, ensuring that the precinct evolves to meet the current and future needs of the community and assists in prioritizing investments in infrastructure within the precinct.

The Masterplan supports the next stages of planning, including the development of specific concepts, scopes, and the detailed design and delivery of projects. In essence, the Masterplan for the Boort Foreshore Recreation Precinct is a strategic roadmap that shapes the future of this area. It balances immediate needs with long-term aspirations, ensuring the creation of a vibrant, sustainable, and well-utilised community and tourist precinct.

The Masterplan serves as a conceptual plan only and does not include detailed design or comprehensive spatial detail which will be required to accurately assess cost for partial or total delivery. Detailed design provides for items such as the material pallet and fixture inclusions, which will be considered in line with compliance needs and costings.

The Masterplan development for this recreation precinct has been comprehensive and resulted in the attached document that outlines the vision, goals, and strategic framework for the development and management of a popular recreation area and its public facilities. The endorsement of this masterplan document will ensure informed detailed design and guarantee that the precinct meets the needs of the community, accommodates growth, and aligns with broader municipal and regional planning objectives.

Whilst the preference would be to deliver the project in its entirety, the Masterplan has been zoned to allow a staged delivery if this is required.

## COST/BENEFITS

DWP Design completed the Concept Master plan under direct instruction from a Loddon Shire Council Project Manager. A features survey was also included in this stage. A total of \$39,190 has been expended during 2023/24 financial year and 2024/25 year to date on the Concept Masterplan.

The table (attachment 2) reflects the budget estimate at concept, including potential contributions and required funding.

The Little Lake Boort Foreshore is one of Loddon's popular recreation precincts and highly valued by locals and visitors to the region. The high quality green space is particularly busy in school holiday periods and a hub of activity with the various organised and passive sporting pursuits, including, tennis, croquet, boating, fishing, walking and swimming.

The youth area set aside adjoining Nolan's Park in the concept will likely be a 'design and construct' contract by a specialist provider with a focus on wheeled sports such as scooters, skateboards and bikes. This is a key element of the plan and will greatly improve the recreational opportunity for ages 8-18 years.

Organised sporting clubs have requested that the renewal of aging infrastructure be a key focus along with achieving compliance with DDA standards.

While the conceptual changes to the aquatic centre is addressed in the Masterplan the costs for the access all abilities improvements at the Boort pool sits outside the attached estimated project costs as this may be treated as an individual project in future.

## RISK ANALYSIS

Comprehensive engagement and consultation processes are always challenging to run effectively, posing a risk that the information and feedback received may not represent the broader 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.

With any masterplan development there is a risk that the community expectations will exceed Council's capacity to deliver. With this in mind, the scope for the Masterplan was limited to the popular foreshore area and the conceptual image has stopped short of specifying a material pallet which may need to be rationalised during detailed design to accommodate the budget.

Council will need to consider the long-term financial capacity to maintain this amenity landscape asset. Councils Operational Team must be consulted as part of detailed design to ensure project delivery outcomes do not equate to an unreasonable increase in maintenance requirements.

The subject area around Little Lake Boort is included on the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Register and is included as part of the Recognition & Settlement Agreement between the Victorian Government and Dja Dja Wurrung. Council will need to assess the cultural heritage requirements and Land Use Activity Agreement requirements as part of the statutory permits process.

### **CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT**

The masterplan has been created in consultation with the community and relevant stakeholders, reflecting the collective aspirations and needs of the community, thereby fostering public support. The Masterplan was publically displayed on councils Loddon Connect webpage for a period of three weeks with public feedback received, collated and evaluated leading to plan alterations.

Direct in-person consultation was also conducted with the Boort Tennis Club, Boort Croquet Club, Boort P-12, Boort District Health and the Boort Tourism and Development association. Updated concept plans have since been redistributed to seek final endorsement with all parties providing in-principle support.

The masterplan development for this recreation precinct has been comprehensive and resulted in the attached document that outlines the vision, goals, and strategic framework for the development and management of a popular recreation area and its public facilities. The endorsement of this masterplan document will ensure informed detailed design and guarantee that the precinct meets the needs of the community, accommodates growth, and aligns with broader municipal and regional planning objectives.

### **RESOLUTION 2024/118**

Moved: Cr Neil Beattie

Seconded: Cr Linda Jungwirth

That Council:

- (a) endorse the Lake Boort Foreshore Recreation Precinct Concept Masterplan
- (b) approve the allocation of \$267,910 from the Boort Ward community planning funds
- (c) approve the allocation of \$500,000 from the Community Planning Strategic Fund.

**CARRIED**

## 10.4 COMMUNITY PLANNING SUBMISSIONS ASSESSMENT

**File Number:****Author:** Orrin Hogan, Manager Community Partnerships**Authoriser:** Wendy Gladman, Director Community Wellbeing**Attachments:** 1. 2024-25 Community Planning assessment summary

### RECOMMENDATION

That Council endorse the Community Planning submission assessment outcomes.

### CONFLICT OF INTEREST

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

### PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

A report was provided to the September 2024 Council Forum.

### BACKGROUND

Loddon Shire Council's Community Planning program is a long-term strategic approach to develop sustainable communities. Council commits funds from its annual budget to ensure a number of community planning projects are nominated, considered and delivered in a prioritised and community focused manner.

The process for delivering Community Planning Projects is now evolving to utilise a delivery process consistent with Council's Infrastructure and Assets capital project delivery, with eligible community planning project submissions to progress into a "Project Pipeline" process aiming to achieve a more strategic and structured delivery approach.

Community Planning projects are ideally identified as a priority in a recognised community plan and are submitted to Council during the application period either by the community planning group, or by another party with approval from the community planning group. The Community Planning Framework and Council's Community Support Policy provide details on the eligibility criteria and assessment process.

Whilst not every project submitted is seeking community planning funding, it does provide an avenue to capture community priorities for Council advocacy and for delivery of projects that would form part of Council's infrastructure rolling program.

Community planning funds can contribute directly to the delivery of projects that support the community's vision and improve liveability in our townships and localities, or can be used as seed funding to support applications for external funding.

### ISSUES/DISCUSSION

A total of fifty-four (54) projects were submitted over two application rounds, with the second round closing on 23 April 2024. This evolved into 56 individual listings as two of the original submissions each contained two discreet projects, so these have been separated in the assessment and reporting process.

This is the largest number of submissions ever received via the annual community planning program as, for the first time, we asked Community Planning committees to nominate their five highest priority projects to contribute to the development of a community project pipeline, which will support the staged work needed to progress a project from an idea to being ready to deliver. For some projects this can take a number of years. Where there are competing projects, a prioritisation matrix will assist in determining which projects progress into the next stage of the project delivery cycle. The progress of projects is also subject to meeting any service level parameters established in Council strategy or policy.

Submissions that were assessed as eligible will now enter this process and progress through the planning and delivery stages in a structured manner, noting, that once a project has been accepted into the project pipeline, it does not need to be resubmitted by the community planning committee in subsequent years.

Updates on progression will be provided to community planning committees to keep them abreast of their projects progress, and to support their Community Plan review and development cycles.

Submissions have been assessed for eligibility against the Community Planning Assessment criteria within the Community Support Policy resulting in the following assessment summary:

- 8 submissions have been assessed as ineligible or not supported for consideration as a community planning project. Applicants will be provided with feedback and other potential options available to support their projects.
- 3 submissions have been assessed as projects suitable for advocacy from Loddon Shire Council
- 10 submissions have been assessed as suitable to be delivered by Community Planning Committees once they have progressed to 'ready to deliver' stage
- 18 submissions have been assessed as eligible to enter Council's Community Projects Pipeline
- 8 submissions have been assessed as being already included, or eligible to enter the Infrastructure Rolling Program
- 9 submissions have been assessed as eligible and "awaiting assessment" as they require further information to progress.

## COST/BENEFITS

Council provides allocations to the Community Planning program through the annual budget process. The below table provides the current community planning funding available (including the 2024/25 allocation).

Table 1: Balance of unallocated Community Planning funds by Council Ward.

Boort	\$334,684
Inglewood	\$189,035
Tarnagulla	\$168,562
Terrick	\$206,106
Wedderburn	\$340,233

Following approval those projects that move into the project pipelines will progress through the project framework stages to ensure that they are planned and designed to a point that accurate costings are available for either allocation of community plan funds and delivered.

Community planning funds will be allocated to projects, as required, as they move through the project delivery stages, and reported to Council quarterly.

Council's Community Planning Program has been a success story since its inception 21 years ago. Council and Loddon communities continue to attract significant external funding through the strategic use of the community planning process. This has facilitated delivery of numerous projects in Loddon's small towns and rural districts under this banner, Community Planning has been a catalyst for attracting significant funding to projects such as Donaldson Park and supporting delivery of major projects such as the Pyramid Hill Community Centre.

A Community Development Officer position is provided by Council to support our community planning committees through the development and ongoing revision of their community plans. The priorities within these plans are nominated and detailed by the communities and subject to change as communities and their priorities evolve. The Community Development Officer is a valuable resource to support and guide these committees in their growth and development.

### **RISK ANALYSIS**

A strong focus of the community planning program is to ensure communities have the opportunity to participate in the planning and development of their own projects. This helps engender collaboration and ultimately ownership, and encourages local community members to take a leadership role in improving their town or district, and communicating this with others. When considering initiatives put forward through community planning, risk is assessed across some key areas; appropriate planning, capacity of volunteers, external funding and duration from inception to delivery. When allocating 'seed-funding' the initial risk review considers whether the project is likely to achieve external funding.

Community planning allocations to projects in the past has created an expectation of imminent delivery where, at times, there may be a number of project stages that need to be completed to understand the total scope and cost of the project before proceeding. The evolution to a Community Project Pipeline process will assist Council officers in the strategic and planned delivery of community facility and partnership focused projects. Managing the community's expectations for project delivery can be a challenge, as every community will want their project to be prioritised for delivery. Regular updates and good communications from the Community Partnerships team via appropriate platforms can mitigate this risk.

### **CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT**

The application and assessment process for the Community Planning Program is very thorough, with submissions assessed against eligibility criteria and resulting recommendations being assessed at both departmental and executive levels. Council's Community Development Officer and the Community Partnerships team work with community planning groups to guide and support community plan development and assist the committees in determining local priorities, possible project scope, costs, and modes for delivery of their priority projects.

It is important to recognise that the communities own each of their individual community plans and that the priorities in them are determined through good consultation and negotiation with their local clubs, interest groups and community members.

### **RESOLUTION 2024/119**

Moved: Cr Wendy Murphy

Seconded: Cr Dan Straub

That Council endorse the Community Planning submission assessment outcomes.

**CARRIED**

## 10.5 PRIORITIES 2024

**File Number:****Author:** Renae Colls, Executive Assistant**Authoriser:** Lincoln Fitzgerald, Chief Executive Officer**Attachments:** 1. Loddon Shire Council 2024 Priorities

### RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. adopt the 2024 Priorities document; and
2. authorise the Chief Executive Officer to make administrative changes in order to finalise the content of the document.

### 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

Councillors discussed the 2024 Priorities document at the August 2024 Council Forum.

### BACKGROUND

Council-led advocacy to Federal Governments is a vital tool for building awareness and support for matters that impact our shire and to help secure the essential funding necessary to drive change and deliver on priorities/advocacy matters that benefit our community.

The last Federal Election was conducted on 21 May 2022 and elections are generally conducted every three years but can be called early. Considering the potential that an election could be called during Council caretaker period or early in the term the next Council, it is proposed that the Loddon Shire Council priorities document is updated prior to Council Election Period Policy commencing.

### ISSUES/DISCUSSION

The attached 2024 Priorities document has been developed for consideration and discussion with Council. The document is based on the Council Plan themes and has been broken into two categories, *Projects* and *Advocacy*.

*Projects* are items where funding is sought as a contribution to an infrastructure project or significant service enhancement. Generally, these are items to be delivered directly by Loddon Shire Council.

*Advocacy* items, are projects or programs where Council is seeking funding for other organisations or enhancement to funding streams which will improve service delivery to Loddon Shire residents.

The document includes an overview of Loddon Shire, some key statistics about the municipality, a summary page of projects and advocacy items, a one page summary for each project, and a short description of each advocacy item.

### COST/BENEFITS

External graphic design and printing services were engaged to assist in developing this draft document. The cost of \$1,800 has been funded from the existing Executive Services budget.

**CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT**

Priorities and advocacy matters have been identified and developed internally with Council Officers, Management Executive Group and Councillors. These priorities have been identified from a range of strategic plans and strategies, each of which included community engagement during their development.

**MOTION**

Moved: Cr Linda Jungwirth

Seconded: Cr Wendy Murphy

That Council:

1. adopt the 2024 Priorities document with the addition of an advocacy commitment for sewerage and water in Newbridge; and
2. authorise the Chief Executive Officer to make administrative changes in order to finalise the content of the document.

**LOST**

**RESOLUTION 2024/120**

Moved: Cr Linda Jungwirth

Seconded: Cr Dan Straub

That Council:

1. adopt the 2024 Priorities document; and
2. authorise the Chief Executive Officer to make administrative changes in order to finalise the content of the document.

**CARRIED**



**10.6 APPOINTMENT AND AUTHORISATION - PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT ACT 1987****File Number:****Author:** Lisa Clue, Manager Governance**Authoriser:** Michelle Stedman, Director Corporate**Attachments:** 1. Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation - Planning and Environment Act 1987**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council, in the exercise of the powers conferred by s147(4) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, resolves that:

- (a) the members of Council staff referred to in the instrument attached to this Agenda report be appointed and authorised as set out in the instrument.
- (b) the instrument comes into force immediately after it is signed by Council's Chief Executive Officer, and remains in force until Council determines to vary or revoke it.

**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 Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation was most recently considered by Council in November 2021.

**BACKGROUND**

In order for Council officers to effectively and efficiently discharge their duties, specific delegations, appointments and authorisations are required under a range of Acts and Regulations.

This report seeks to vary the Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation of officers under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*.

**ISSUES/DISCUSSION**

The Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation attached to this Agenda report varies the Instrument currently in place by including two additional members of staff, Darcy Jackson (Statutory Planning Officer) and Raymond Chalkley (Community Compliance Coordinator).

**COST/BENEFITS**

There are no financial impacts associated with this matter.

**RISK ANALYSIS**

Updating this Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation will ensure Council staff have the powers required to undertake their roles.

**CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT**

Staff undertaking or managing planning compliance were engaged during the preparation of this report.

**RESOLUTION 2024/121**

Moved: Cr Dan Straub

Seconded: Cr Wendy Murphy

That Council, in the exercise of the powers conferred by s147(4) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, resolves that:

- (a) the members of Council staff referred to in the instrument attached to this Agenda report be appointed and authorised as set out in the instrument.
- (b) the instrument comes into force immediately after it is signed by Council's Chief Executive Officer, and remains in force until Council determines to vary or revoke it.

**CARRIED**

**11 INFORMATION REPORTS**

Nil

## 12 COMPLIANCE REPORTS

### 12.1 AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE UPDATE

**File Number:****Author:** Michelle Stedman, Director Corporate**Authoriser:** Lincoln Fitzgerald, Chief Executive Officer**Attachments:** Nil

### RECOMMENDATION

That Council receives and notes the Summary of the Audit and Risk Committee Meeting – 2 September 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

Council most recently received an update on a Loddon Shire Council Audit and Risk Committee (ARC) meeting at its May 2024 meeting.

### BACKGROUND

Council's ARC has been established in accordance with section 53 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, to support it in discharging its oversight responsibilities related to financial and performance reporting, risk management, fraud prevention systems and control, maintenance of a sound internal control environment, assurance activities including internal and external audit, and Council's performance with regard to compliance with its policies and legislative and regulatory requirements.

This report is a requirement of the ARC Charter which states:

*'A summary of each ARC meeting will be reported at the next meeting of the Council.'*

### ISSUES/DISCUSSION

#### Summary of meeting

Below is a summary of the ARC meeting held on Monday, 2 September 2024 in the Loddon Shire Council Chambers.

#### Member attendees:

Rod Poxon – Independent Member (Chair)  
Rachelle Tippett – Independent Member (online from 4.03pm)  
Amber Currie – Independent Member  
Cr Gavan Holt – Councillor Representative

#### Officer attendees:

Lincoln Fitzgerald – Chief Executive Officer  
Michelle Stedman – Director Corporate  
Lisa Clue – Manager Governance  
Michelle Hargreaves – Administration Officer Governance  
Deanne Caserta – Manager Financial Services

Other attendees:

Brad Ead – AFS and Associates Pty Ltd  
 Mahesh Silva and Shivam Goel – RSD Audit

Apologies:

Marg Allan – Independent Member

The following matters were considered by the ARC at the meeting:

Report	Discussion points
Status of actions generated during ARC meetings	The ARC acknowledged and noted all resolutions arising from the 6 May 2024 Audit and Risk Committee meeting decision and compliance reports have been acted upon; and one action requested by the Audit and Risk Committee during the course of meetings is deemed complete, six actions are progressing and five actions have not yet started or are not yet due. As requested by the ARC, target dates for completion of actions are now identified and included in these reports.
Audit issues encountered during the course of the final audit	Audit issues encountered during the course of the external audit were discussed with the ARC.
Financial and performance statements year ending 30 June 2024 – for endorsement	<p>The ARC:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Noted the Principal Accounting Officer may need to make amendments to the Financial Statements and Performance Statements for the year ended 30 June 2024 that may be requested by RSD Audit or the Victorian Auditor-General;</li> <li>2. Endorsed the Financial Statements and Performance Statements for the year ended 30 June 2024; and</li> <li>3. Recommended to Council adoption of the Financial Statements and Performance Statements for the year ended 30 June 2024.</li> </ol>
Report on new and emerging risks and fraud related incidents	The ARC noted the CEO's report on new and emerging risks and fraud related incidents including matters relating to financial and reputational risk.
Strategic Internal Audit Program (SIAP) review of program and scopes and status update	The ARC noted the delivery status of the Strategic Internal Audit Program (SIAP) as amended; and endorsed amendments to the number and timing of internal audit topics.

Internal Audit Reports – Depot Operations; Occupational Health Safety and Wellbeing; and Human Resources	The ARC endorsed: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. the <i>Internal Audit Report – Depot Operations</i> and accepted four recommended actions in full, and two in part;</li> <li>2. the <i>Internal Audit Report – Occupational Health Safety and Wellbeing</i> and accepted eight recommended actions in full, and two in part; and</li> <li>3. the <i>Internal Audit Report – Human Resources – Workforce and Succession Planning, Recruitment and Retention</i> and accepted four recommended actions in full.</li> </ol>
Progress on open audit recommendations	The ARC received a report on the status of actions from past internal audits, noting the progress by management on open audit recommended actions and endorsing seven completed audit actions to be closed.
Risk Implementation Plan Progress Report	The ARC received a report on the Risk Management Implementation Plan, including the status of 22 actions, five of which have been recently deemed complete. The ARC endorsed the Risk Management Implementation Plan v3, with the addition of commentary on adjusted due dates for outstanding actions, ahead of its presentation to Council.
ARC Charter Review	The ARC progressed a review of its Charter and resolved to review and provide feedback on the draft Loddon Shire Council Audit and Risk Committee Charter 2024-2026 (v12) to the Director Corporate by 1 October 2024. The ARC will consider for endorsement, a final draft of the Charter at its November meeting, ahead of its presentation to Council to be considered for approval.
Management Responses to External Audit Findings	The ARC received a report on management responses to audit findings, noting Council has one outstanding action.
Recommendations from the results of the 2022/23 Audits; Local Government and impact on the Interim Management Letter	The ARC received an update on additional unresolved findings added to Loddon Shire Council's Interim Management Letter as a result of a late request from the Victorian Auditor-General's Office.
External Audit Outcomes review	The ARC received a verbal update on the outcomes of the external audit from RSD Audit.
Review reimbursement of Councillors expenses	The ARC received, and subsequently noted a report on Councillor expenses, including allowances and reimbursements; and comparative quarterly data.
Council's overall risk profile	The ARC received an update on Council's risk profile; the status of very high and high rated risks contained within Council risk registers and, where applicable associated risk treatment plans; and identified new and emerging risks.

Review of key policies	The ARC received and noted a report on the current status of documents specifically referenced in the ARC Charter, including current target review dates.
Industry update – regulatory and integrity agency findings relevant to Local Government	The ARC received and noted an update on examinations and investigations undertaken by regulatory and integrity agencies, and their findings, relevant to the local government sector.
General Business	<p>End of term – Council appointed ARC representative:</p> <p>Mayor Holt spoke of his time on the ARC as a Councillor representative, including attending 80 ARC meetings.</p> <p>Rod Poxon thanked Mayor Holt for his contribution over the years.</p> <p>Next meeting:</p> <p>It was agreed that the next meeting, originally scheduled for 11 November be held over until after the 2024 Council elections. The meeting date will be decided amongst members over coming weeks.</p>

### **COST/BENEFITS**

This report provides Council with oversight of the work of the ARC, providing a level of surety that services are undertaken efficiently and effectively.

There are no costs associated with development of this report, however there are modest costs associated with the ARC and undertaking regular internal and external auditing of Council activities. These costs are provided for in Council's approved budget.

### **RISK ANALYSIS**

The ARC has risk management oversight for the Council and monitors, reviews, endorses and advises Council on matters as set out in the Charter.

### **CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT**

Officers involved in the conduct of the ARC meeting were consulted in the preparation of this report.

### **RESOLUTION 2024/122**

Moved: Cr Dan Straub

Seconded: Cr Wendy Murphy

That Council receives and notes the Summary of the Audit and Risk Committee Meeting – 2 September 2024.

**CARRIED**

## 12.2 NOTICE OF MOTION - NEWBRIDGE SEWERAGE AND WATER

**File Number:**

**Attachments:** Nil

### MOTION

That a report be provided to Council at a meeting in November 2024 on:

- 1) the next steps required to expand the work undertaken by SGS regarding the feasibility of Newbridge Sewerage and Water to ensure a project concept is ready for funding; and
- 2) the opportunity to fund this further concept work from Council's Strategic Fund.

### RATIONALE

On 2 September 2024 Councillor Linda Jungwirth gave the Chief Executive Officer written notice that she wishes to move a notice of motion. The motion included the following rationale in support of the motion:

The community of Newbridge have been asking Council to work with them to advocate for sewerage and water for many years.

They are very clear on the need for appropriate infrastructure and planning to allow for natural and encouraged growth.

Two studies have been undertaken previously with both showing benefits to providing the town with sewerage and water. The most recent business case was undertaken as an action of the Loddon-Mallee Action Plan.

The Action Plan identified four prospective projects to increase housing in the Loddon-Mallee area. One of these is the potential for providing sewerage and water in the town of Newbridge to allow for growth. The preliminary business case was conducted by SGS Economics and recommended a housing support worker position be created to help the region with solutions to the current housing crisis.

In relation to Newbridge, Loddon-Mallee Housing Action Plan; Newbridge Water and Sewerage Infrastructure Preliminary Business Case states – "This Business Case considers the wider economic benefits of the project which **justify** alternative financing options including the use of the National Housing and Infrastructure Facility to address infrastructure gaps. The options could be helpful to other regional councils (or water authorities) facing similar financing barriers. The Newbridge project aligns with Strategy 2 of the housing action plan on bridging infrastructure gaps." (Pg. 80 Loddon-Mallee Housing Action Plan)

The SGS preliminary analysis regarding sewerage and water for Newbridge concludes that there is a prima facie case for applying for external financing and seeking the involvement of a state agency guarantor to enable the Newbridge Sewerage and Water infrastructure project, given the net benefits to Victoria. The report states that further analysis is needed before moving ahead with the expanded option which would provide for 330 new homes in Newbridge.

The key barrier to the project is sourcing external funding and a third-party financing guarantor. Providing a strong business case to funding bodies such as the NHFIC is a possible way forward as reported in the Loddon-Mallee Housing Action Plan.

Conducting an in-depth analysis of the project in preparation for future funding opportunities would benefit Newbridge and Loddon Shire as a whole if the outcome provided evidence for the benefits of pursuing the project.



**RESOLUTION 2024/123**

Moved: Cr Linda Jungwirth

Seconded: Cr Wendy Murphy

That a report be provided to Council at a meeting in November 2024 on:

- 1) the next steps required to expand the work undertaken by SGS regarding the feasibility of Newbridge Sewerage and Water to ensure a project concept is ready for funding; and
- 2) the opportunity to fund this further concept work from Council's Strategic Fund.

**CARRIED**

**12.3 NOTICE OF MOTION - AMENDMENT TO GOVERNANCE RULE 65****File Number:****Attachments:** Nil**MOTION**

That a report be provided to Council at a meeting in December 2024 or January 2025 on:  
an amendment of Loddon Shire Council's Governance Rules to -

- a. removing 65, item (4)(b) - must relate to a matter of business on the meeting agenda
- b. amending Rule 65, item (4)(c) to add a time period. Ie. Must not relate to subject matter previously responded to by Council in the last six months

**RATIONALE**

On 2 September 2024 Councillor Linda Jungwirth gave the Chief Executive Officer written notice that she wishes to move a notice of motion. The following rationale statement was provided with the motion:

*The Local Government Act 2020* states:- the role of a Council is to provide good governance in its municipal district for the benefit and wellbeing of the municipal community. As such, it's important to me that we work with the community to achieve their vision. Transparency is vital and a matter of good governance. We should encourage the community to show interest in council matters and allow them to participate in issues that affect them. Rule 65, item (4) (b) that a question must relate to matter of business on the meeting agenda, does not allow for the community to ask questions of their choosing regarding Council matters. Allowing an opportunity for community members to ask questions which are of interest to them encourages transparency and fosters a sense of partnership.

Currently the wording in Loddon Shire Council's Governance Rule 65, item (4) (c) must not relate to subject matter previously responded to by Council and does not allow a matter to be raised at a future meeting even if it were still of importance to the community. The reason for the clause is to ensure repetition is not disruptive to Council meetings. Adding a time period allows the community to raise a question again if it remains relevant but ensures questions are not disruptive. This amendment provides transparency and allows the municipal community to participate in council matters relevant to them.

**RESOLUTION 2024/124**

Moved: Cr Linda Jungwirth

Seconded: Cr Wendy Murphy

That a report be provided to Council at a meeting in December 2024 or January 2025 on:  
an amendment of Loddon Shire Council's Governance Rules to -

- a. removing 65, item (4)(b) - must relate to a matter of business on the meeting agenda
- b. amending Rule 65, item (4)(c) to add a time period. Ie. Must not relate to subject matter previously responded to by Council in the last six months

**CARRIED**

**13 URGENT BUSINESS**

Nil

**14 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS**

Nil

**NEXT MEETING**

The next Meeting of Council will be held on 22 October 2024 at Wedderburn commencing at 3.00pm.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 4.45 pm.

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

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**CHAIRPERSON**