

# Agenda

## For the Ordinary Council Meeting

**Location:** Council Chambers, Municipal Offices  
62-68 Ovens Street, Wangaratta

**Date:** Tuesday, 18 August 2015

**Time:** 6.00pm



RURAL CITY OF  
**WANGARATTA**

Brendan McGrath  
Chief Executive Officer



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

|  | Page No. |
|--|----------|
| 1. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL OWNERS.....  | 5        |
| 2. OPENING PRAYER .....  | 5        |
| 3. PRESENT .....   | 5        |
| 4. ABSENT .....  | 5        |
| 5. ACCEPTANCE OF APOLOGIES & GRANTING OF LEAVE OF ABSENCE .....  | 5        |
| ORDER OF BUSINESS .....  | 5        |
| 6. CITIZEN CEREMONY .....  | 5        |
| 7. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES .....   | 5        |
| 8. CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURE .....   | 5        |
| 9. RECEPTION OF PETITIONS.....   | 6        |
| 10. HEARING OF DEPUTATIONS .....   | 6        |
| PRESENTATION OF REPORTS .....  | 6        |
| 11. ADMINISTRATORS' REPORTS.....   | 6        |
| OFFICERS' REPORTS .....  | 7        |
| 12. EXECUTIVE SERVICES .....   | 7        |
| 12.1 COUNCIL PLAN PROGRESS REPORT - 1 APRIL - 30 JUNE 2015 .....   | 7        |
| 13. CORPORATE SERVICES .....   | 11       |
| 13.1 MAJOR COUNCIL POLICY CONSULTATION LOCAL LAW NO. 4 OF 2015 .....   | 11       |
| 13.2 PETITION FROM THE SAVE YARRUNGA POOL GROUP .....  | 17       |
| 13.3 COUNCIL POLICY REVIEW .....   | 18       |
| 14. COMMUNITY WELLBEING .....  | 21       |
| 14.1 COMMUNITY ACCESS AND INCLUSION PLAN .....   | 21       |
| 14.2 COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM POLICY AND PROCEDURES AND SELECTION<br>PANEL TERMS OF REFERENCE .....                          | 28       |
| 15. INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES .....  | 32       |
| 15.1 MURRAY TO MOUNTAINS RAIL TRAIL - WANGARATTA TO WHITFIELD RAIL TRAIL -<br>PETITION RESPONSE .....                        | 32       |
| 16. DEVELOPMENT SERVICES .....   | 36       |
| 16.1 WANGARATTA PLANNING SCHEME AMENDMENT C48 - PANEL REPORT AND<br>RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF THE AMENDMENT WITH CHANGES ..... | 36       |
| 17. SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS .....  | 43       |
| 18. ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORTS .....   | 44       |
| 18.1 ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORTS .....  | 44       |
| 19. RECORDS OF ASSEMBLIES OF ADMINISTRATORS .....  | 45       |
| 19.1 RECORDS OF ASSEMBLIES OF ADMINISTRATORS .....   | 45       |
| 20. NOTICES OF MOTION .....  | 47       |
| 21. URGENT BUSINESS .....  | 47       |
| 22. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME .....   | 47       |

|              |   |           |
|--------------|---|-----------|
| <b>23.</b>   | <b>CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS .....</b>  | <b>47</b> |
| <b>24.</b>   | <b>CLOSURE OF MEETING.....</b>  | <b>47</b> |
|              | <b>ATTACHMENTS .....</b>  | <b>47</b> |
| <b>12.1</b>  | <b>COUNCIL PLAN PROGRESS REPORT - 1 APRIL - 30 JUNE 2015</b>  |           |
| ATTACHMENT 1 | COUNCIL PLAN QUARTERLY REPORT - JUNE 2015 .....   | 48        |
| <b>13.1</b>  | <b>MAJOR COUNCIL POLICY CONSULTATION LOCAL LAW NO. 4 OF 2015</b>  |           |
| ATTACHMENT 1 | MAJOR COUNCIL POLICY CONSULTATION LOCAL LAW.....  | 85        |
| ATTACHMENT 2 | LOCAL LAW COMMUNITY IMPACT STATEMENT LOCAL LAW NO. 4 OF 2015 ....   | 107       |
| <b>13.3</b>  | <b>COUNCIL POLICY REVIEW</b>  |           |
| ATTACHMENT 1 | COUNCIL POLICY REVIEW SUMMARY.....  | 117       |
| <b>14.1</b>  | <b>COMMUNITY ACCESS AND INCLUSION PLAN</b>  |           |
| ATTACHMENT 1 | COMMUNITY ACCESS AND INCLUSION CHARTER.....   | 122       |
| ATTACHMENT 2 | COMMUNITY ACCESS AND INCLUSION PLAN.....  | 128       |
| ATTACHMENT 3 | POLICY OF EQUITY AND ACCESS.....  | 136       |
| <b>14.2</b>  | <b>COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM POLICY AND PROCEDURES AND SELECTION<br/>PANEL TERMS OF REFERENCE</b>                                |           |
| ATTACHMENT 1 | COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM POLICY AND PROCEDURE.....  | 141       |
| ATTACHMENT 2 | COMMUNITY GRANTS SELECTION PANEL - TERMS OF REFERENCE .....   | 147       |
| <b>16.1</b>  | <b>WANGARATTA PLANNING SCHEME AMENDMENT C48 - PANEL REPORT AND<br/>RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF THE AMENDMENT WITH CHANGES</b>       |           |
| ATTACHMENT 1 | C48 PANEL REPORT .....  | 150       |
| <b>18.1</b>  | <b>ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORTS</b>   |           |
| ATTACHMENT 1 | 11 MAY 2015 - AGRICULTURE & AGRI-BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE<br>MEETING .....   | 227       |
| ATTACHMENT 2 | 1 JUNE 2015 - ARTS, CULTURE AND HERITAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE<br>MEETING .....  | 229       |
| ATTACHMENT 3 | 2 JUNE 2015 - COMBINED AAAC & WANGARATTA UNLIMITED ADVISORY<br>COMMITTEE MEETING.....   | 230       |
| ATTACHMENT 4 | 15 JUNE 2015 - COMBINED AAAC & WANGARATTA UNLIMITED ADVISORY<br>COMMITTEE MEETING.....  | 232       |
| ATTACHMENT 5 | 13 JULY 2015 - AGRICULTURE & AGRI-BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE<br>MEETING .....  | 234       |
| <b>19.1</b>  | <b>RECORDS OF ASSEMBLIES OF ADMINISTRATORS</b>  |           |
| ATTACHMENT 1 | 11 MAY 2015 - AGRICULTURE & AGR-BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE<br>MEETING .....  | 236       |
| ATTACHMENT 2 | 2 JUNE 2015 - COMBINED AGRICULTURE & AGR-BUSINESS ADVISORY<br>COMMITTEE & WANGARATTA UNLIMITED ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING.....  | 238       |
| ATTACHMENT 3 | 15 JUNE 2015 - COMBINED AGRICULTURE & AGR-BUSINESS ADVISORY<br>COMMITTEE & WANGARATTA UNLIMITED ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING..... | 240       |
| ATTACHMENT 4 | 13 JULY 2015 - AGRICULTURE & AGR-BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE<br>MEETING .....   | 242       |
| ATTACHMENT 5 | 28 JULY 2015 - DRAFT RURAL STRATEGY DISCUSSION .....  | 244       |
| ATTACHMENT 6 | 5 AUGUST 2015 - ADMINISTRATOR'S BRIEFING FORUM .....  | 245       |



**1. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL OWNERS**

*We acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which we are meeting. We pay our respects to their Elders and to Elders from other communities who may be here today.*

**2. OPENING PRAYER**

*Almighty God, we humbly ask thee to bless and guide this council in its deliberations so that we may truly preserve the welfare of the people whom we serve. Amen*

**3. PRESENT****4. ABSENT****5. ACCEPTANCE OF APOLOGIES & GRANTING OF LEAVE OF ABSENCE****ORDER OF BUSINESS****6. CITIZEN CEREMONY**

Nil

**7. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES****RECOMMENDATION:**

***That Council read and confirm the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of 21 July 2015 as a true and accurate record of the proceedings of the meeting.***

**8. CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURE**

In accordance with sections 77A, 77B, 78 and 79 of the *Local Government Act 1989* Councillors are required to disclose a ‘*conflict of interest*’ in a decision if they would receive, or could reasonably be perceived as receiving, a direct or indirect financial or non-financial benefit or detriment (other than as a voter, resident or ratepayer) from the decision.

**Disclosure must occur immediately before the matter is considered or discussed.**

**9. RECEPTION OF PETITIONS**

Nil

**10. HEARING OF DEPUTATIONS**

**PRESENTATION OF REPORTS**

**11. ADMINISTRATORS' REPORTS**

Nil

## **OFFICERS' REPORTS**

### **12. EXECUTIVE SERVICES**

#### **12.1 COUNCIL PLAN PROGRESS REPORT - 1 APRIL - 30 JUNE 2015**

**Meeting Type:** Ordinary Council Meeting  
**Date of Meeting:** 18 August 2015  
**Author:** Executive Assistant - Corporate Services  
**File Name:** Council Plan  
**File No:** 20.030.01

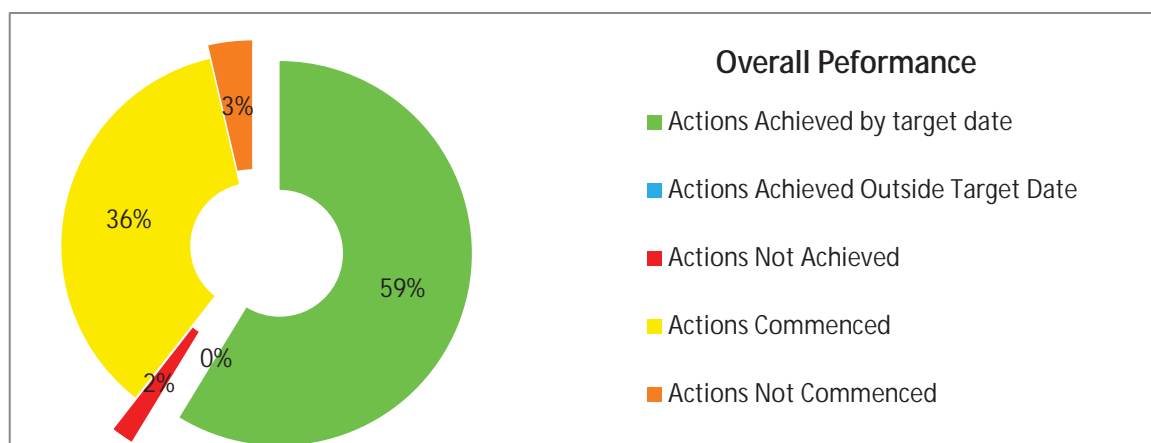
No Council officers or contractors who have provided advice in relation to this report have declared a conflict of interest regarding the matter under consideration.

#### **Executive Summary**

This report is presented to Council to provide an update of Council's performance against the Council Plan for the period 1 April – 30 June 2015.




The following table provides a summary of annual achievement against the Council Plan actions:

| Target Date  | Number of Actions | Achieved by Target Date | Achieved Outside Target Date | Commenced | Not Achieved | Not Commenced |
|--------------|-------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|-----------|--------------|---------------|
| 2014         | 6                 | 4                       | -                            | 2         | -            | -             |
| 2015         | 76                | 57                      | -                            | 16        | 2            | 1             |
| 2016         | 19                | 3                       | -                            | 15        | -            | 1             |
| 2017         | 6                 | -                       | -                            | 4         | -            | 2             |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>107</b>        | <b>64</b>               | <b>0</b>                     | <b>37</b> | <b>2</b>     | <b>4</b>      |



## **Legend**

The Council Plan Quarterly Report (*refer attachment*) contains traffic light indicators to signify progress on Council Plan Actions. These indicators have the following meanings:

-  - Actions are achieved or on track for achievement.
-  - Actions are delayed or require attention to be achieved.
-  - The action has been seriously delayed or stopped.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

***That Council receive the Council Plan 2013-2017 Progress Report for the period 1 April – 30 June 2015.***

## **Background**

Part of Council's Mission is to provide the leadership necessary to maintain open communication and community engagement. Providing regular reports to the community on Council's progress in achieving the objectives and strategies of the Council Plan supports this Mission.

## **Implications**

### **Policy Considerations**

There are no specific Council policies or strategies that relate to this report.

### **Financial/Economic Implications**

During the year Council has achieved a number of significant achievements that will support the economic viability and growth of the community. Key projects include the commencement of the Saleyards roofing project and draft Structure Plans being endorsed by Council for public consultation for the North West and Southern urban growth areas. We have also progressed Council's CBD Masterplan that will provide a blueprint for a vibrant urban heart to attract visitors, employment and will support surrounding rural and tourism sectors. The development of a freight strategy in 2016 will divert heavier vehicles from the centre of Wangaratta and encourage more pedestrian traffic in the CBD.

### **Legal/Statutory**

The *Local Government Act 1989* requires Council to prepare and approve a Council Plan within the period of 6 months after each general election or by the next 30 June, whichever is later.

Council strives for legislative compliance and in so doing has completed its program of internal audits as overseen by its Audit Advisory Committee.

## **Social**

Council Plan actions have enhanced the social fabric of our community. Important achievements include the implementation of the Bullawah Cultural Trail project, the review of our Community Access and Inclusion Plan and the presentation of the Wangaratta Performing Arts Centre programs. The Youth Council is a key component of Council's role in developing our youth. A highlight this year was the Youth Summit that attracted 140 young people who workshopped priority issues and developed projects for funding consideration.

## **Environmental/Sustainability Impacts**

Council's Environmental Sustainability Strategy was adopted by Council and will provide a guide to future actions that will support our environmental and natural resources. We are also progressively changing our street lights over to energy efficient lighting. Additionally, significant work was undertaken to implement our Waste Management Strategy by preparing for the organic waste collection, commencing in 2015/16 in order to prolong the life of Bowser landfill.

## **2013 – 2017 Council Plan (2015 Revision)**

This report supports the 2013-2017 Council Plan.

### **We will plan and make decisions for the future:**

to make sure that everything we do – from building assets to delivering events – considers the physical, social, cultural and financial needs of all our community members.

### **The Non-negotiables**

We consult and engage effectively with the community and provide information that is clear, accessible and easy to understand about local decision making.

## **Strategic Links**

### **a) Rural City of Wangaratta 2030 Community Vision**

The Council Plan supports the aspirations and objectives of the Rural City of Wangaratta 2030 Community Vision.

## **Risk Management**

| Risks                                | Likelihood | Consequence | Rating   | Mitigation Action                         |
|--------------------------------------|------------|-------------|----------|---|
| Council Plan Objectives not achieved | Low        | High        | Moderate | Ensure continued monitoring and reporting |

**Consultation/Communication**

Officers believe that appropriate consultation has occurred and the matter is now ready for Council consideration.

**Options for Consideration**

Council must now consider the progress update report for the period 1 April – 30 June 2015 against the 2013-2017 Council Plan.

**Conclusion**

This report assists Council to monitor its performance in achieving the actions prescribed within the Council Plan.

**Attachments**

- 1 Council Plan Quarterly Report - June 2015

### 13. CORPORATE SERVICES

#### 13.1 MAJOR COUNCIL POLICY CONSULTATION LOCAL LAW NO. 4 OF 2015

|                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| <b>Meeting Type:</b>    | <b>Ordinary Council Meeting</b>          |
| <b>Date of Meeting:</b> | <b>18 August 2015</b>                    |
| <b>Author:</b>          | <b>Manager - Business and Governance</b> |
| <b>File Name:</b>       | <b>LOCAL LAWS &amp; REGULATIONS</b>      |
| <b>File No:</b>         | <b>58.020.001</b>                        |

No Council officers or contractors who have provided advice in relation to this report have declared a conflict of interest regarding the matter under consideration.

#### Executive Summary

This report is presented to Council to consider making a new Local Law, the Major Council Policy Consultation Local Law No.4 of 2015 (proposed Local Law). This Local Law prescribes a consultation process that must be followed when Council proposes to determine, make, amend, modify or revoke a Major Council Policy.

The proposed Local Law will create an enshrined commitment to public consultation on Major Council Policy proposals and provide opportunities for affected people to be heard by Council and for their submissions to be taken into account in Council's deliberations.

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

***That Council, in accordance with sections 111 and 223 of the Local Government Act 1989:***

- 1. Gives public notice of its intention to make Local Law No. 4 of 2015 - Major Council Policy Consultation Local Law (refer attachment), and invites written submissions until Friday 25 September 2015;***
- 2. Endorses the Local Law Community Impact Statement - Major Council Policy Consultation Local Law No. 4 of 2015 (refer attachment) for the purpose of community consultation;***
- 3. Publishes public notices of its intention to make Local Law No. 4 of 2015 - Major Council Policy Consultation Local Law in the Victoria Government Gazette, the Wangaratta Chronicle and on Council's internet website;***

- 4. Establishes a committee of Council to hear any persons who have requested to be heard in respect of their submissions on the proposed Local Law No. 4 of 2015 - Major Council Policy Consultation Local Law and sets the hearing time for 4:00 pm Monday 5 October 2015 in the Council Chambers, Wangaratta Government Centre;**
- 5. Considers all submissions when deciding whether or not to make the proposed Local Law No. 4 of 2015 - Major Policy Consultation Local Law at the Ordinary Meeting of Council scheduled for Tuesday 20 October 2015.**

### **Background**

The *Local Government Act 1989* (the Act) contains provisions that are aimed at fostering the best possible governance processes for making and implementing decisions.

Firstly, the Act provides that the primary objective of Council must be to endeavour to achieve the best outcomes for the local community having regard to the long term and cumulative effects of decisions. In doing so, Council must ensure transparency and accountability in its decision making.

In addition, the Act establishes that Council's key role is to provide leadership for the good governance of the municipal district and the local community through acting as a representative government and taking into account the diverse needs of the local community, fostering community cohesion and encouraging active participation in civic matters.

This proposed Local Law seeks to improve achievement of these objectives and roles by ensuring that Major Council Policy proposals are only resolved after undergoing a community consultation process similar to that required by section 223 of the Act.

A Major Council Policy proposal includes any proposed action to determine that a policy is or is no longer a Major Council Policy or to make, amend, modify or revoke a Major Council Policy. A Major Council Policy proposal does not include any proposed change consisting only of minor amendments which are changes of an insubstantial, administrative or minor editorial nature that do not alter its purpose or outcomes or impact on related policies or stakeholders to whom the policy applies. Examples of minor amendments include format and typographical improvements, updating titles of positions and organisational units, and changes to the responsible officer, authorising officer and review date.

A Major Council Policy is one that sets out Council's position on an issue or set of issues to guide decision-making and the exercise of power in respect of decisions that impact on the lives and wellbeing of residents, ratepayers, visitors and businesses. Major Council Policies are likely to include policies regarding



allocation of community resources, allocation of Council grant funding, management of Council risks as well as policies related to Councillors, Councillor Support arrangements, Committees of Council and Councillor Conduct.

The proposed Local Law provides that:

- non-compliance with the Local Law procedure will render a Major Council Policy legally ineffective
- a Major Council Policy Impact Statement is prepared and published to assist with the consultation process
- existing policies listed in Schedule 2 of the proposed Local Law will be deemed to be Major Council Policies
- Council may consult individually with any person whose interests are likely to be materially affected
- the provisions of the proposed Local Law do not apply if, by or under the Act or any other Act, Council must follow a specified form of consultation
- every Major Council Policy must be accessible and available at the Council office during ordinary business hours and on Council's internet website.

### **Implications**

#### **Policy Considerations**

There are no specific Council policies or strategies that relate to this report.

#### **Financial/Economic Implications**

There is a cost associated with the legal requirements to advertise the making of the Local Law and to advertise the adoption of the Local Law. The preparation and adoption of the Local Law can be met within existing Council resources.

#### **Legal/Statutory**

The procedure for making a Local Law is set out in section 119 of the Act.

#### ***Procedure for making a local law***

- (1) *Before a Council makes a local law it must comply with the following procedure.*
- (2) *The Council must give a notice in the Government Gazette and a public notice stating—*
  - (a) *the purpose and general purport of the proposed local law; and*

*S. 119(2)(b) amended by No. 64/2009 s. 55(1).*

- (b) *that a copy of the proposed local law and any explanatory document can be obtained from the Council office; and*

*(c) that any person affected by the proposed local law may make a submission relating to the proposed local law under section 223.*

*S. 119(2A) inserted by No. 64/2009 s. 55(2).*

*(2A) The Council must ensure that—*

*(a) a copy of the proposed local law; and*

*(b) an explanatory document setting out prescribed details in relation to the local law—*

*is available for inspection at, and obtainable from, the Council office during ordinary business hours.*

*(3) After a local law has been made the Council must give a notice in the Government Gazette and a public notice specifying—*

*(a) the title of the local law; and*

*(b) the purpose and general purport of the local law; and*

*(c) that a copy of the local law may be inspected at the Council office.*

*(4) After a local law has been made the Council must send a copy to the Minister.*

The legally required procedure for making the Local Law will be followed.

The proposed Local Law has been legally reviewed to confirm that it complies with all regulatory requirements.

## **Social**

In accordance with State legislation all local laws are required to be reviewed to assess any impacts on National Competition Policy and the principles under the Human Rights Charter.

The proposed Local Law is considered to be compatible with the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities. A report on the Human Rights Impacts of this Local Law is attached (refer attachment).

The introduction of this Local Law imposes no restrictions on competition and therefore complies with National Competition Principles. A report on the competition aspects proposed by this Local Law is attached (refer attachment).

## **Environmental/Sustainability Impacts**

There are no environmental/ sustainability impacts identified for this subject of this report.

**2013 – 2017 Council Plan (2015 Revision)**

This report supports the 2013-2017 Council Plan:

**Goal**

We are Connected.

**We will plan and make decisions for the future:**

developing strategies to ensure an exceptional customer experience and to enhance, communication and engagement.

**The non-negotiables**

We consult and engage effectively with the community and provide information that is clear, accessible and easy to understand about local decision making.

There are opportunities for everyone to participate and contribute to social, economic and cultural life.

**Goal**

We are Sustainable.

**We will plan and make decisions for the future:**

to make sure that everything we do – from building assets to delivering events - considers the physical, social, cultural and financial needs of all our community members.

**Strategic Links****a) Rural City of Wangaratta 2030 Community Vision**

N/A

**b) Other strategic links**

N/A

**Risk Management**

The proposed Local Law enhances community input into Council decision making by requiring Council to follow a consultation process before determining, making, amending, modifying or revoking a policy which the Council has designated to be a Major Council Policy. It also provides that every Major Council Policy must be available and accessible.

This approach addresses the risk that the community becomes disaffected by a perception that Council does not consult when making decisions about important

matters that materially impact their lives, jobs and future or change the way the municipality is governed.

The approach is consistent with the existing consultation provisions of the Act. Consequently, the approach has been tested and is familiar to Council. Implementation risk is considered to be low.

### **Consultation/Communication**

In the process of developing the proposed Local Law, Administrators have been consulted. Council's lawyers have been consulted in the drafting of the proposed Local Law. The proposed Local Law will be exhibited to the public as part of the statutory process.

Submissions will be invited from the community in regards to the proposed Local Law in accordance with section 223 of the Act.

A notice to this effect will be advertised in the Chronicle newspaper on Friday 21 August 2015 and in the Victoria Government Gazette and also on Council's website indicating that submissions will be received up to 5.00pm on Friday 25 September 2015.

Persons making submissions can request an opportunity to be heard in respect of their submission. A Special Committee of Council has been established to hear submissions on the proposed local law on Monday 5 October 2015.

All submissions will be considered by Council when deciding whether or not to make the proposed Local Law at the Ordinary Meeting of Council scheduled for Tuesday 20 October 2015.

### **Option for Consideration**

An alternative approach to the proposed Local Law requirements for consultation would be to rely on a Council policy document. This approach is not favoured as it does not provide for any legal consequences of non-compliance. Council would also be able to change provisions without needing to consider public submissions. Consequently, the alternative policy approach would be an ineffective method of improving transparency and accountability in Council's decision making.

### **Conclusion**

Council should commence the process of making the proposed Local Law which will create an enshrined commitment to public consultation on Major Council Policy proposals and provide opportunities for affected people to be heard by Council and for their submissions to be taken into account in Council's deliberations.

### **Attachments**

- 1 Major Council Policy Consultation Local Law
- 2 Local Law Community Impact Statement Local Law No. 4 of 2015

### 13.2 PETITION FROM THE SAVE YARRUNGA POOL GROUP

|                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| <b>Meeting Type:</b>    | <b>Ordinary Council Meeting</b>                 |
| <b>Date of Meeting:</b> | <b>18 August 2015</b>                           |
| <b>Author:</b>          | <b>Executive Assistant - Corporate Services</b> |
| <b>File Name:</b>       | <b>Aquatics Planning Study</b>                  |
| <b>File No:</b>         | <b>61.040.004</b>                               |

No Council officers or contractors who have provided advice in relation to this report have declared a conflict of interest regarding the matter under consideration.

#### **Executive Summary**

This report is presented to Council to address the issues raised in a petition from the Save Yarrunga Pool Group containing a total of 2,271 signatures. The petitioners request that Council look at other alternatives to closing the Yarrunga Pool that don't disadvantage South Wangaratta.

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

##### ***That Council:***

- 1. receive the petition regarding the request to investigate other alternatives to closing the Yarrunga Pool that don't disadvantage South Wangaratta***
- 2. consider a report regarding the request within the petition at the September 2015 Ordinary Council Meeting.***

#### **Conclusion**

In accordance with Local Law No.3 of 2014 – (Administrators) Meeting Procedures a petition presented to the Council must lay on the table until the next ordinary meeting of the Council and no motion, other than to receive the petition, may be accepted by the Chairperson, unless Council agrees to deal with it earlier.

#### **Attachments**

Nil.

### 13.3 COUNCIL POLICY REVIEW

**Meeting Type:** Ordinary Council Meeting  
**Date of Meeting:** 18 August 2015  
**Author:** Manager - Business and Governance  
**File Name:** Policy Review  
**File No:** 10.005.003

No Council officers or contractors who have provided advice in relation to this report have declared a conflict of interest regarding the matter under consideration.

#### **Executive Summary**

A comprehensive review has been undertaken of all of Council's policies to ensure that they provide consistency, clarity, transparency and accountability for Council's decision making processes and service delivery.

This report is presented to Council to endorse actions, resulting from the review, to revoke or amend review dates of Council policies.

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

##### ***That Council:***

- 1. note the outcomes of the review of Council's policies;***
- 2. in accordance with the outcome of the review, retain ten policies unchanged as listed in the Council Policy Review Summary attachment;***
- 3. in accordance with the outcome of the review, retain 59 policies with updated review dates consistent with a schedule that reflects the four year Council term as listed in the Council Policy Review Summary attachment; and***
- 4. in accordance with the outcome of the review revoke the following policies:***
  - Advertising Signs Policy;***
  - Car Parking Contributions Policy;***
  - Community Amenity Local Law No. 1 Permit Issue Guidelines;***
  - Comprehensive Signs Policy;***
  - Customer Request Management Policy;***
  - Exemption for Farm Buildings Policy;***
  - Policy Position on Brothels in the Rural City of Wangaratta;***
  - Special Rates & Charges and other Contributory Projects Policy;***
  - Wangaratta Planning Scheme - Effluent and Waste Water Disposal; and***
  - Whistleblowers Protection;***

**Background**

Policies are essential to ensure that legal, fair and consistent decisions are made across the Council. They support Council in achieving its corporate objectives and provide crucial guidelines for Councillors, staff and other stakeholders.

**Implications****Policy Considerations**

The review identified that:

- 10 policies should be retained unchanged;
- 59 policies should be retained with an updated review date that fits a review schedule consistent with the four year Council term; and
- 10 policies are no longer relevant or required for Council's decision making processes and should be revoked.

The outcome of the review is summarised in the Council Policy Review Summary (*refer attachment*).

**Financial/Economic Implications**

There are no financial or economic implications identified for the subject of this report.

**Legal/Statutory**

There are no legal/statutory implications identified for the subject of this report.

**Social**

There are no social impacts identified for the subject of this report.

**Environmental/Sustainability Impacts**

There are no environmental/ sustainability impacts identified for this subject of this report.

**2013 – 2017 Council Plan (2015 Revision)**

This report supports the 2013-2017 Council Plan:

**Goal**

We are Sustainable.

**The non-negotiables**

All legislative and compliance requirements are met.

**Consultation/Communication**

| Level of public participation | Promises to the public/stakeholders      | Tools/Techniques                               |
|-------------------------------|--|--|
| Inform                        | Make policies available to the community | Publish policies on Council's internet website |

Officers believe that appropriate consultation has occurred and the matter is now ready for Council consideration.

**Conclusion**

The review has identified those policies to be retained and nine policies for revocation. A review schedule consistent with the four year Council term has been incorporated via updated policy review dates.

**Attachments**

- 1 Council Policy Review Summary



## **14. COMMUNITY WELLBEING**

### **14.1 COMMUNITY ACCESS AND INCLUSION PLAN**

**Meeting Type:** Ordinary Council Meeting  
**Date of Meeting:** 18 August 2015  
**Author:** Rural Access Worker  
**File Name:** COMMUNITY ACCESS AND INCLUSION  
**File No:** 66.080.007

No Council officers or contractors who have provided advice in relation to this report have declared a conflict of interest regarding the matter under consideration.

#### **Executive Summary**

This report is presented to Council to:

- Provide background to the review and revision of the Rural City of Wangaratta Access and Inclusion Plan 2009-2012;
- summarise the outcomes of the review;
- introduce a suite of three documents that describe the background and thinking behind a whole-of-Council approach to access and inclusion –
  - (i) Policy for Equity and Access for People with Disabilities;
  - (ii) Community Access and Inclusion Charter;
  - (iii) Community Access and Inclusion Action Plan; and
- seek Council's endorsement of these draft documents for public community consultation.

It is recommended that Council endorse the three draft documents attached for public consultation for a period of no less than four weeks.

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

##### ***That Council:***

- 1. endorse the suite of three draft documents for the purpose of public consultation:**
  - (i) Policy for Equity and Access for People with Disabilities;**
  - (ii) Community Access and Inclusion Charter; and**
  - (iii) Community Access and Inclusion Action Plan.**
- 2. review feedback on the draft documents following a public consultation period of no less than four weeks; and**
- 3. prepare finalised versions of the three documents for adoption by Council based on any submissions received.**

## **Background**

Census figures for the municipality of Wangaratta (ABS 2011) indicate that more than 21% of the population has a disability. Relative to other Victorian LGAs, Wangaratta has a significantly higher proportion of its population who receive the disability support pension and who need assistance with core activities of daily living. A large proportion of residents will also experience some form of temporary disability at any given time and over half of all people over the age of 50 years have some form of sight, hearing or mobility impairment.

The review and revision of the out-dated Access and Inclusion Plan 2009-2012 was necessary to ensure that Council complies with its legal and ethical obligations mandated by disability discrimination and human rights legislation.

For people with disabilities to have the same opportunities to participate in community life, it is important that Council's services and facilities address the access requirements of people of all abilities.

The review and revision of Council's Access and Inclusion Plan 2009-2012 was undertaken over a six month period by a Steering Group with representation from across most Council departments and aimed to:

- promote a whole-of-organisation approach to identifying physical, attitudinal and communication barriers for people of all abilities when accessing Council's services, facilities and events;
- review outcomes of the existing Access and Inclusion Plan and identify opportunities to improve how services are delivered;
- conduct broad consultation with the community to identify and gain a greater understanding of the barriers to access and inclusion within the Wangaratta Municipality; and
- develop a revised approach to access and inclusion planning.

Stages of the Review/Revision Process included:

1. establishing an internal Steering Group;
2. reviewing current RCOW practices around access and inclusion;
3. undertaking community consultation;
4. developing revised access and inclusion planning documents;
5. presenting draft documents to Council;
6. seeking community and stakeholder feedback on revised documents;
7. adopting finalised documents; and
8. communicating revised documents to the community and stakeholders.

Steps 1-5 have occurred to date and steps 6-8 are required to finalise the review process.

## **Discussion**

Format of access and inclusion planning documents:

Key recommendations from the internal review of the impact on Council practices of the Access and Inclusion Plan 2009-2012 included:

- in recognition of the fact that improving access for people with disabilities invariably benefits everyone in the community, to use the term **Community Access and Inclusion** for planning documents; and
- to move away from the format of the previous plan and create a suite of documents that describe the Council's approach to access and inclusion with particular audiences in mind.

Targeting an internal Council audience, the *Policy of Equity and Access for People with Disabilities* aims to establish a framework to assist Council to identify and implement strategies by adopting the 'social model of disability' in its approach to reducing barriers to community participation.

The *Community Access and Inclusion Charter* targets the community and business sectors and aims to communicate the sense of shared responsibility between Council and the community to meet the changing needs of people of all abilities.

The *Community Access and Inclusion Action Plan* aims to outline opportunities for Council to improve accessibility to its services and facilities and is informed by the outcomes of broad community consultation.

### *Community Consultation - February to March 2015*

Community engagement elicited input from more than 450 participants through small group discussions with disability support and advocacy groups, an online survey and individual interviews. Opportunities for improvement and collaboration included in the *Action Plan* respond to the most important issues raised and have been organised into four key themes –

- an active and engaged community;
- communication for all;
- accessible buildings and infrastructure; and
- civic leadership.

## **Implications**

### **Policy Considerations**

Within a legislative context, the Victorian State Disability Plan 2013-2016 and the Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities 2006 inform proposed strategies to improve access and inclusion for people with disabilities, their families and carers.

Pursuant to section 38 of the Victorian Disability Act 2006 – *public sector bodies are to develop and implement disability action plans to address service barriers that cause direct or indirect discrimination and to report on the implementation of this plan in the organisation's annual report.*

The Victorian Charter of Human Rights 2006 requires *local councils to consider human rights when they make, interpret and apply laws, develop policies and provided day-to-day services.*

### **Financial Implications**

Implementation of projects proposed in the *Community Access and Inclusion Action Plan* will be subject to the availability of funding from a number sources including:

- Rural Access funding;
- relevant Council department budgets;
- partnerships with community groups and agencies; and
- grants and sponsorship.

### **Legal/Statutory**

The Victorian and Federal governments have in place legislation which recognises the rights of all people to equality and which makes discrimination based on disability unlawful. Legislation includes, but is not limited to the following:

#### Federal

- Australian Human Rights Commission Act 1986.
- Disability Discrimination Act 1992.
- Disability Access to Premises Standards (Buildings) 2013.
- Australian Standards for Access and Mobility 1428 Suite of Standards.
- National Disability Strategy 2010-2020.

#### State

- Equal Opportunity Act 1995.
- Local Government Act 1989 – Section 3C.
- Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006.

### **Social**

The Rural City of Wangaratta has a commitment to social justice for all people and to the provision of services which are accessible to all members of its community.

Community access and inclusion policies and plans have the capacity to produce the systemic change which is required to eliminate disability discrimination. Through its *Action Plan* the Council is better able to meet its objective of

providing high quality service to the whole community, of which people with disabilities constitute over 21%.

### **Environmental/Sustainability Impacts**

There are no environmental/sustainability impacts identified for the subject of this report.

### **Economic Impacts**

There are no economic impacts identified for the subject of this report.

### **2013 – 2017 Council Plan (2015 Revision)**

This report supports the 2013-2017 Council Plan:

#### **Goal**

We are Healthy.

#### **We will research and advocate:**

in partnership with the right people to make sure that everyone feels safe in their homes, in their streets and in their communities.

#### **We will create and deliver:**

active conversations, exciting events and engaging spaces that allow everyone to join in and participate in all elements of community life.

open spaces throughout our municipality that allow everyone to enjoy our beautiful environment and location.

#### **We will plan and make decisions for the future:**

that ensure we are responding to the current and long-term recreational needs of our community.

#### **We will focus on our business:**

by making sure that all our teams work together to plan, develop and deliver innovative recreation projects.

### **The non-negotiables**

Our most vulnerable – including older people and people with a disability – can receive the services and support they need.

Everyone can access a range of recreation facilities and programs that encourage an active and healthy lifestyle.

## **Strategic Links**

### **a) Rural City of Wangaratta 2030 Community Vision**

The outcomes of the review of the Access and Inclusion Plan 2009-2012 and the subsequent policy, charter and action plan are consistent with the 2030 Community Vision – *The Rural City of Wangaratta is an accessible community, where anyone, regardless of age, race religion or ability is able to access the things they need to fulfil their potential and live a happy and productive life.*

### **b) Other strategic links**

The proposed policy, charter and action plan supports the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2013 -2017:

#### 4.2.6 Review of Access and Inclusion Plan

4.3.1 Improve the community's knowledge, awareness and support for mental health challenges and the services available for community members

4.3.3 Planning for new and redeveloped community facilities incorporate Universal Design Principals.

## **Risk Management**

A risk assessment has been completed for this project. The risks associated with this review are considered to be minor.

## **Consultation/Communication**

| Level of public participation | Promises to the public/stakeholders  | Tools/Techniques  |
|-------------------------------|--|---|
| Inform                        | We will keep you informed.   | Disseminate draft documents for review through a range of channels and in a variety of formats. |
| Consult                       | We will keep you informed, listen to and acknowledge concerns and aspirations, and provide feedback on how public input influenced decision making. We seek your feedback on drafts and proposals. | To obtain public feedback on the draft Community Access and Inclusion documents.                |
| Involve                       | We will work with you to ensure that your concerns and aspirations are directly reflected in   | To work directly with the public throughout the process to ensure that public concerns and      |

| Level of public participation | Promises to the public/stakeholders  | Tools/Techniques  |
|-------------------------------|--|---|
|                               | the alternatives developed and provided feedback on how public input influenced decisions. | aspirations are consistently understood and considered. |
| Collaborate                   | N/A  |   |
| Empower                       | N/A  |   |

Copies of all three draft documents under consideration, as per attachments, will be available for public inspection as part of the formal consultation process.

Officers believe that appropriate consultation has occurred and the matter is now ready for Council consideration.

### **Options for Consideration**

#### **Option 1 (Recommended)**

Consider the draft documents attached, make any minor/necessary administrative adjustments and endorse the drafts for comprehensive stakeholder and public consultation for no less than four weeks commencing in the 2015/2016 financial year. This is the best way to progress disability access and inclusion planning and to ensure that Council meets its legal and ethical obligations.

#### **Option 2 (Not recommended)**

Consider the draft documents attached and adopt the draft. This is not recommended at this early stage as it would exclude community input into the draft documents.

#### **Option 3 (Not recommended)**

Do not endorse the draft documents attached. This would lead to a delay in finalising access and inclusion planning and may leave the Council in breach of its legal requirements and open to complaints resulting from discrimination.

### **Conclusion**

Having effective access and inclusion planning documents in place not only ensures that the Council complies with its legal and moral obligations, it also makes good strategic sense by tackling potential discriminatory practices in a proactive way, reducing the likelihood of complaints against Council and encouraging collaboration with businesses and service providers.

### **Attachments**

- 1 Community Access and Inclusion Charter
- 2 Community Access and Inclusion Plan
- 3 Policy of Equity and Access



## 14.2 COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM POLICY AND PROCEDURES AND SELECTION PANEL TERMS OF REFERENCE

**Meeting Type:** Ordinary Council Meeting  
**Date of Meeting:** 18 August 2015  
**Author:** Community Projects Officer  
**File Name:** Community Grants  
**File No:** 68.040.001

No Council officers or contractors who have provided advice in relation to this report have declared a conflict of interest regarding the matter under consideration.

### **Executive Summary**

This report is presented to Council to provide a policy and recommended procedures governing Council's Community Grants Program and Terms of Reference (***refer attachment***) for the Community Grants Program's Selection Panel, as recommended by the 2015 Community Grants Review Report.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

***That Council adopts the:***

- ***Community Grants Program Policy.***
- ***Community Grants Program Selection Panel's Terms of Reference.***

### **Background**

The Rural City of Wangaratta's Community Grants Program was reviewed during the 2014/15 financial year by Projectura Pty Ltd, resulting in the Rural City of Wangaratta Community Grants Program – 2015 Review Report.

The Review provided recommendations under categorised headings of:

- Program Governance
- Program Design
- Marketing and Communication
- Program Links.

The highest priority was identified as the Program Governance category. The priorities within this category are:

- Council officers develop a Community Grants Policy and present it Council for adoption
- Clearly define the objectives of the grants program, paying attention to distinctions between grant categories
- Council officers develop Terms of Reference for the Grants Selection Panel and present to Council for endorsement.



Council Officers have commenced implementation of these recommendations through assessing other local government's grant programs policies and procedures and reviewing the Victorian Local Government Association Best Practice in Local Government – Resource Book.

### **Implications**

#### **Policy Considerations**

The previous Community Grants Policy created in 2011, is now obsolete and no longer reflects Council Plan objectives.

#### **Financial/Economic Implications**

The adoption of this Policy and Terms of Reference will provide a governance framework for Council's Community Grants Program which has an annual budget allowance.

#### **Legal/Statutory**

There are no legal/statutory implications identified for the subject of this report.

#### **Social**

As a key funding program for Wangaratta's community groups, good governance and clear transparent policies and procedures are crucial to maintaining the credibility and sustainability of the Community Grants Program.

#### **Environmental/Sustainability Impacts**

There are no environmental/ sustainability impacts identified for this subject of this report.

### **2013 – 2017 Council Plan (2015 Revision)**

This report supports the 2013-2017 Council Plan:

#### **Goal**

We are Connected.

#### **We will research and advocate:**

on behalf of our groups and committees to ensure they have the resources and knowledge to do the things.

#### **We will create and deliver:**

exceptional services and programs that help our families and children to be healthy, happy and connected.

#### **We will plan and make decisions for the future:**

that ensure we are responding to the current and long-term recreational needs of our community.

**We will focus on our business:**

by ensuring that we have the processes in place to support our community groups and committees to be viable and sustainable.

**The non-negotiables**

The best use of Council's resources.

There are opportunities for everyone to participate and contribute to social, economic and cultural life.

**Strategic Links****a) Rural City of Wangaratta 2030 Community Vision**

N/A

**b) Other strategic links**

N/A

**Risk Management**

| Risks                      | Likelihood | Consequence | Rating | Mitigation Action   |
|----------------------------|------------|-------------|--------|---|
| Policy and ToR not adopted | Possible   | Moderate    | High   | Ensure that policy is adequately reviewed and Council is appropriately briefed prior to adoption. |
|                            |            |             |        |   |
|                            |            |             |        |   |

**Consultation/Communication**

Internal consultation has taken place across the Community Wellbeing Directorate, and broader council business units. Considerable external engagement was undertaken during the development of the Community Grants Program – 2015 Review Report.

| Level of public participation | Promises to the public/stakeholders             | Tools/Techniques           |
|-------------------------------|---|----------------------------|
| Inform                        |   |                            |
| Consult                       | Community grant applicants                      | Phone survey, face-to-face |
| Involve                       | Council officers                                | Face-to-face interviews    |
| Collaborate                   | Community and Recreation Business Unit Officers | Face-to-face interviews    |
| Empower                       |   |                            |

Officers believe that appropriate consultation has occurred and the matter is now ready for Council consideration.

### **Options for Consideration**

There are no options for consideration.

### **Conclusion**

The Community Grants Program will benefit from a policy and procedure framework to better align the program objectives with the 2013-2017 Council Plan. The Terms of Reference for the Community Grants Program's Selection Panel will ensure that Wangaratta's community groups are assured of good governance, maintaining the credibility and sustainability of the Community Grants Program.

### **Attachments**

- 1 Community Grants Program Policy and Procedure
- 2 Community Grants Selection Panel - Terms of Reference

## 15. INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES

### 15.1 MURRAY TO MOUNTAINS RAIL TRAIL - WANGARATTA TO WHITFIELD RAIL TRAIL - PETITION RESPONSE

**Meeting Type:** Ordinary Council Meeting  
**Date of Meeting:** 18 August 2015  
**Author:** Executive Assistant - Infrastructure Services  
**File Name:** MURRAY TO THE MOUNTAINS RAIL TRAIL INFORMATION / ISSUES  
**File No:** 78.030.002

No Council officers or contractors who have provided advice in relation to this report have declared a conflict of interest regarding the matter under consideration.

#### Executive Summary

This report is presented to Council to respond to the petition submitted by the Moyhu Action Group requesting Council carry out pre-construction planning of the Wangaratta to Whitfield Rail Trail (Stage 3 Oxley to Whitfield).

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

##### ***That Council:***

- 1. splits Stage 3 of the Oxley to Whitfield Rail Trail creating Stage 3A, Oxley to Moyhu being the priority stage; and***
- 2. continues to advocate and lobby to seek future State and Federal Government, and external funding opportunities, in order to further progress the construction of the Oxley to Whitfield Rail Trail (Stage 3).***

#### Background

A petition submitted by the Moyhu Action Group containing 690 signatures was tabled at the 19 May 2015 Ordinary Council meeting. The petitioners request that Council commence pre-construction planning of the Oxley to Whitfield Rail Trail (Stage 3 of the Wangaratta-Whitfield Rail Trail).

The Oxley to Whitfield trail has been identified as a trail that will enhance the quality and diversity of regionally significant track / trail experiences within the Hume Region as part of the Hume Region Significant Tracks and Trails Strategy (HRSTTS) 2013 – 2022. This trail is prioritised fifth on the recommended list of tracks and trails developments within the Hume Region and whilst it has been identified as a priority for the Rural City of Wangaratta, indicative costings for construction of the Oxley to Whitfield section, total approximately \$6.9M.

In order for the construction of the Stage 3 Oxley to Whitfield Rail Trail to proceed, Council will require significant partnered funding from external funding bodies, currently of which none are available.

A Hume Region Tracks and Trails Committee, comprising Local Government representatives, Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, Parks Victoria, Sport and Recreation Victoria, Regional Development Victoria, Hume Regional Development Australia and community representatives, meets regularly to progress the recommendations within the HRSTTS and investigates funding opportunities to further progress the recommended track/trail priorities within the Hume region.

Each Local Government Authority continues to pursue tracks and trails projects in their own municipality, with the HRSTTS adding value through a clearly articulated regional strategic framework, enhancing future funding opportunities.

Council officers met with the Moyhu Action Group on 13 July 2015 and discussed opportunities to progress the rail trail. It was determined that the first priority of Stage 3 is the Oxley to Moyhu section and this would become its own sub-stage (Stage 3A).

The Moyhu Action Group will focus on the creation of cycling loops in and around Moyhu to enhance Moyhu as a cycling destination.

### **Implications**

#### **Policy Considerations**

When Council's Recreation and Open Space Strategies are reviewed, they will be updated accordingly to reflect reference and linkages to the HRSTTS.

#### **Financial Implications**

Pre-construction planning for the Oxley to Moyhu section (Stage 3A) of the Oxley to Whitfield Rail Trail (Stage 3) will include estimates for construction.

These estimates can then be presented as part of the annual budget consideration processes.

It is expected that funding will continue to be sought for projects such as the construction of the Oxley to Whitfield Rail Trail (Stage 3), in line with the priority list outlined in the HRSTTS.

#### **Legal/Statutory**

Any considerations for legal / statutory impacts on future track or trail development will be reviewed and given consideration according to the prioritisation tool for rating tracks and trails in the HRSTTS.

## **Social**

Any considerations for social impacts on future track or trail development will be reviewed and given consideration according to the prioritisation tool for rating tracks and trails in the HRSTTS.

## **Environmental/Sustainability Impacts**

Any considerations for environmental / sustainability impacts on future track or trail development will be reviewed and given consideration according to the prioritisation tool for rating tracks and trails in the HRSTTS.

## **Economic Impacts**

While it cannot be quantified it is expected that the construction of the Oxley-Moyhu section (Stage 3A) will bring additional cyclists and economic activity into Moyhu and the greater region.

## **2013-2017 Council Plan (2015 Revision)**

This report supports the 2013-2017 Council Plan:

### **Goal**

We are Connected.

### **We will create and deliver:**

quality and accessible pathways and cycling and walking tracks that build local and regional connections.

### **The non-negotiables:**

We have a strong and accessible network of pathways and walking and cycling tracks throughout the municipality that provide community links and recreational activity areas that offer a unique and interesting mix of business, services, social and cultural spaces.

### **What we do every day:**

We maintain 105km of shared paths and 137km of footpaths.

## **Strategic Links**

### **a) Rural City of Wangaratta 2030 Community Vision**

The 2030 Community Vision has a strong focus on cycling tracks / trail development and the benefit they provide to the community, these outcomes are:

- Achieve improved public transport and cycling linkages between townships and Wangaratta.
- Tourism continues to thrive, with visitors attracted to the region's natural beauty, food and wine, cycling tracks, arts facilities, cultural heritage and festivals.

**b) Other strategic links**

- a) Hume Region Significant Tracks and Trail Strategy;
- b) Tourism North East Strategic Plan;
- c) Hume Region Strategy for Sustainable Communities; and
- d) Victorian Trails Strategy.

**Risk Management**

There are no risks associated with the subject matter of this report.

**Consultation/Communication**

Officers believe that appropriate consultation has occurred and the matter is now ready for Council consideration.

**Conclusion**

While the Oxley to Whitfield Rail Trail is an identified priority for the Rural City of Wangaratta on the recommendation list within the HRSTTS, indicative costings for construction are very high and external funding opportunities are not currently available.

The additional staging of this project may attract funding that would not be available for the larger project.

Council will also continue to actively participate in the Hume Region Tracks and Trails Committee and will advocate and lobby to seek available State, Federal and other external funding opportunities in the future to further progress the construction of the Oxley to Whitfield Rail Trail.

**Attachments**

Nil

**16. DEVELOPMENT SERVICES****16.1 WANGARATTA PLANNING SCHEME AMENDMENT C48 - PANEL REPORT AND RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF THE AMENDMENT WITH CHANGES**

**Meeting Type:** Ordinary Council Meeting  
**Date of Meeting:** 18 August 2015  
**Author:** Coordinator Strategic Planning  
**File Name:** Wangaratta Planning Scheme Amendment C48 - King River and Tributaries Flood Mapping  
**File No:** 73.030.061

No Council officers or contractors who have provided advice in relation to this report have declared a conflict of interest regarding the matter under consideration.

**Executive Summary**

This report is presented to Council to consider the recommendations of the independent Panel convened to consider submissions to Amendment C48 to the Wangaratta Planning Scheme. Amendment C48 seeks to revise existing flood mapping for the King River and introduce new mapping over four of its tributaries. Council's agreement is sought to adopt Amendment C48 with changes (as recommended by the Panel), and submit the amendment to the Minister for Planning for final approval.

**RECOMMENDATION:*****That Council:***

- 1. Considers the recommendations of the C48 Panel Report pursuant to section 27 of the Planning and Environment Act 1987 (the Act);***
- 2. Adopts Amendment C48 to the Wangaratta Planning Scheme with all changes as recommended by the Panel pursuant to section 29 of the Act;***
- 3. Submits Amendment C48 to the Minister for Planning for approval pursuant to section 31 of the Act; and***
- 4. Notifies the North East Catchment Management Authority and submitters to the amendment of Council's decision.***



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## **Background**

The *King River Rural Floodplain Study* (September 2004) and the *King River Tributaries Flood Mapping Study* (December 2004) were undertaken as a joint project between Council and the North East Catchment Management Authority (NECMA) in 2004.

The flood mapping from these studies has been converted to land use planning overlays, being the Flood Overlay (FO) and the Land Subject to Inundation Overlay (LSIO). This mapping forms the basis of Amendment C48.

Specifically, Amendment C48 reviews existing flood mapping for the King River and introduces new flood mapping across four of its tributaries, being Hurdle Creek, Boggy Creek, Black Range Creek and Meadow Creek.

In July 2013, Council resolved to seek authorisation from the Minister for Planning to prepare and exhibit Amendment C48. The amendment was placed on public exhibition during February-March 2014.

Council received a total of 41 submissions, of which 29 remained outstanding. In November 2014, Council resolved to refer the unresolved submissions to a Panel appointed by the Minister for Planning under Part 8 of the Act.

## **Discussion**

### **Panel Hearing:**

A Directions Hearing was held on 28 January 2015 and the full Panel Hearing took place on 11 May 2015. The Panel consisted of two members. Council was represented by its Strategic Planning Coordinator. Two officers represented NECMA and seven submitters made an appearance.

Due to preliminary directions from the Panel for Council and NECMA officers to undertake site inspections with submitters, there was a long delay between the Directions Hearing and Panel Hearing. The result of these site visits was a significant reduction in outstanding submissions. In most cases, issues were resolved through on-ground inspections and NECMA provided revised maps to submitters as a follow up. As a result, only seven submitters made an appearance at the Panel Hearing.

### **Panel Report and Recommendations:**

Council received a copy of the Panel Report on 24 July 2015. The Panel concludes that the Amendment is well founded and strategically justified. The Panel reviewed the flood mapping methodology adopted by NECMA and is satisfied that it accords with common practice in developing overlays.

Overall, the Panel recommends that Wangaratta Planning Scheme Amendment C48 be adopted as exhibited subject to:

- Changes to mapping as a result of negotiations between Council, NECMA and landowners
- Minor changes to wording in the Schedule to the FO and LSIO as recommended by Council

- The removal of some sections of LSIO mapping that were erroneously exhibited and later identified by Council.

### **Next Steps in the Amendment Process:**

Council must consider the recommendations made in the Panel Report. To progress the amendment, Council is required to make a decision to:

- Adopt the amendment (as exhibited); or
- Adopt the amendment (subject to changes recommended by officers and to address the Panel Report); or
- Abandon the amendment

The chart below illustrates the key steps in this amendment process undertaken (blue) and the steps required to finalise the amendment (orange).



If Council adopts the amendment, the final step in the amendment process is to submit the adopted amendment (with the prescribed fee and documents) to the Minister for Planning for final approval. This will complete the implementation of the King River and tributaries flood studies into the Wangaratta Planning Scheme and finalise Council's role in the formal steps of the amendment process.

### **Implications**

#### **Policy Considerations**

This amendment implements the flood mapping component of the *King River Rural Floodplain Study* (September 2004) and the *King River Tributaries Flood Mapping Study* (December 2004).

The amendment ensures Council meets its obligations under State and Local planning policy to adequately identify and map land at risk of a 1:100 year flood event.

#### **Financial Implications**

*Council Cost – Panel Hearing:* Council is required to fund the amendment including any Panel hearing. Council is awaiting the invoice from Planning Panels Victoria, but with two Panel members, costs are expected close to \$10,000.

**Council Cost – Approval (administrative fee):** Should Council support the amendment, a statutory fee of \$798.00 must be paid on submission of the amendment for Ministerial approval.

These operational expenses will be covered within the 2015-16 budget for planning scheme amendments.

### **Legal/Statutory**

This amendment is being processed in accordance with the requirements of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*.

### **Social**

By reviewing existing King River flood mapping, and introducing new mapping along four tributaries, the amendment will help to align development outcomes and controls in flood prone areas with identified flood risk. Whilst some private properties will experience a decrease in the extent of flood mapping, the majority of affected properties will incur an increase in controls. The important issue, however, is that the mapping is as accurate as possible so as to minimise the future risk to life and property from the impacts of flooding.

### **Environmental/Sustainability Impacts**

The amendment will have a positive effect on the environment of the King River floodplain by:

- Reinforcing the natural environmental flooding conditions and hazards in planning maps and controls
- Protecting the environs of the King River and its tributaries for flood storage and passage from inappropriate development
- Ensuring that new development within the floodplain maintains or improves river, wetland and floodplain health.

### **Economic Impacts**

Concern has been expressed by some property owners that flood mapping will affect the value of their property, and may result in an increase in insurance premiums. The Panel reports that ‘the accurate delineation of land which may become affected due to flood waters provides more certainty for landowners and minimises the risk of future financial and safety impacts on the majority of the population’.

It is considered that the importance of accurate flood mapping and appropriate controls to monitor buildings and works in the floodplain outweighs the possible economic impacts to landowners.

It should be noted that Amendment C52 (gazetted on 07 August 2014) introduced a range of planning permit exemptions for minor buildings and works on all land affected by the FO and LSIO. A recommendation of the Panel relates to further clarification of exempt works to include general agricultural activity, (excluding laser levelling).

For all other buildings and works within an FO or LSIO, a planning permit will be required with referral to NECMA. This will impose an additional financial burden on affected landowners.

### **2013 – 2017 Council Plan (2015 Revision)**

This report supports the 2013-2017 Council Plan:

#### **Goal**

We are Sustainable.

#### **We will plan and make decisions for the future:**

by updating the Planning Scheme and the Municipal Strategic Statement by developing new and reviewing existing strategies, including Rural Land Use.

#### **The non-negotiables**

Our natural environment and assets are protected.

### **Strategic Links**

#### **a) Rural City of Wangaratta 2030 Community Vision**

Amendment C48 is consistent with the Strategy that *‘the rural waterways are enhanced to contribute to a healthy rural environment’*.

#### **b) Other strategic links**

The Draft *Victorian Floodplain Management Strategy* being prepared by the Victorian Government highlights the importance of land use planning as a tool to manage and mitigate the impacts of flooding, and reduce risks to life and property.<sup>b</sup> The amendment is consistent with the intent of this draft Strategy.

### **Risk Management**

| Risks  | Likelihood | Consequence | Rating   | Mitigation Action  |
|--|------------|-------------|----------|--|
| Amendment is not approved by the Minister for Planning | Low        | High        | Moderate | Work with DELWP to ensure the need for the amendment is understood and supported and all relevant documentation is provided. |

### **Consultation/Communication**

| Level of public participation | Promises to the public/stakeholders  | Tools/Techniques   |
|-------------------------------|--|--|
| Inform                        | N/A  | N/A  |
| Consult                       | N/A  | N/A  |
| Involve                       | <i>We will work with you to ensure your opinions and issues are directly reflected in the alternatives developed and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision</i>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opportunity to make a submission that may change the outcome of the exhibited amendment</li> <li>• Outstanding objecting submissions altered the outcome – a Panel hearing was requested</li> </ul> |
| Collaborate                   | <i>We will look to you for direct advice and innovation in formulating solutions and incorporate your advice and recommendations into the decisions to the maximum extent possible</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opportunity for the submitters to work directly with Council officers to update mapping information for their properties</li> </ul>   |
| Empower                       | N/A  | N/A  |

Officers believe that appropriate consultation has occurred and the matter is now ready for Council consideration.

### **Options for Consideration**

To progress the amendment Council has three options:

#### **Option 1 (Recommended):**

Adopt the amendment subject to the changes recommended by the Panel and supported by Council and NECMA officers. This is the recommended action as it finalises the implementation of the two flood studies prepared in 2004. This option is responsive to matters raised by the consultation process and addresses submissions to the amendment. This option is also consistent with recommendations from the Panel Report.

#### **Option2 (Not recommended)**

Adopt the amendment as exhibited, with no changes. This option fails to acknowledge input from submitters to the amendment that has resulted in more accurate mapping. This option is also inconsistent with the recommendations of the Panel Report.

**Option 3 (Not recommended)**

Abandon the amendment. This is not recommended as it would result in failure to implement the recommendations of the two King River flood studies with regard flood mapping. Council has an obligation to identify and map known flood prone land in order to minimise risk to life and property from future development.

**Conclusion**

Amendment C48 seeks to update existing flood mapping for the King River floodplain and introduce new mapping over four of its tributaries. The flood mapping is based on two studies undertaken jointly with NECMA in 2004. Despite the delay in implementing the mapping, the data remains valid and is supplemented by new LiDAR information available to NECMA. The amendment will increase the accuracy of flood mapping and ensure adequate controls are applied to land with a known flood risk.

This report recommends that Council considers the report of the C48 Panel, resolves to adopt the amendment in line with the Panel's recommendations and submits the amendment to the Minister for Planning for final approval.

**Attachments**

- 1 C48 Panel Report

**17. SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Nil

## 18. ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORTS

### 18.1 ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Meeting Type:** Ordinary Council Meeting  
**Date of Meeting:** 18 August 2015  
**Author:** Executive Assistant - Corporate Services  
**File Name:** Advisory Committees  
**File No:** 10.020.002

No Council officers or contractors who have provided advice in relation to this report have declared a conflict of interest regarding the matter under consideration.

#### Executive Summary

Minutes of the following Advisory Committee Meetings are reported to Administrators for information.

Agriculture and Agri-business Advisory Committee:

- 11 May 2015
- 13 July 2015.

Agriculture and Agri-business Advisory Committee and the Wangaratta Unlimited Advisory Committee special combined meeting (*refer attachment*):

- 2 June 2015
- 15 June 2015

Arts, Culture and Heritage Advisory Committee:

- 1 June 2015

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

***That Council notes this report.***

#### Attachments

- 1 11 May 2015 - Agriculture & Agri-Business Advisory Committee Meeting
- 2 1 June 2015 - Arts, Culture and Heritage Advisory Committee Meeting
- 3 2 June 2015 - Combined AAAC & Wangaratta Unlimited Advisory Committee Meeting
- 4 15 June 2015 - Combined AAAC & Wangaratta Unlimited Advisory Committee Meeting
- 5 13 July 2015 - Agriculture & Agri-Business Advisory Committee Meeting



## 19. RECORDS OF ASSEMBLIES OF ADMINISTRATORS

### 19.1 RECORDS OF ASSEMBLIES OF ADMINISTRATORS

**Meeting Type:** Ordinary Council Meeting  
**Date of Meeting:** 18 August 2015  
**Author:** Executive Assistant - Corporate Services  
**File Name:** Assemblies of Council Meeting Notes  
**File No:** 1.020.020

#### Executive Summary

An “Assembly of Administrators” is a meeting at which matters are considered that are intended or likely to be the subject of a Council decision and is either of the following:

- a meeting of an advisory committee where at least one Administrator is present; or
- a planned or scheduled meeting that includes at least half the Administrators and at least one Council officer.

At an assembly of Administrators, a written record is kept of:

- a) the names of all Administrators and members of the Council staff attending;
- b) the matters considered;
- c) any conflict of interest disclosures made by an Administrator attending; and
- d) whether an Administrator who has disclosed a conflict of interest leaves the assembly.

The written record of an assembly of Administrators is, as soon as practicable:

- a) reported at an Ordinary Meeting of the Council; and
- b) incorporated in the Minutes of that Council meeting.

| Date          | Meeting details   | Refer           |
|---------------|---|-----------------|
| 11 May 2015   | Agriculture & Agri-Business Advisory Committee Meeting          | Refer Item 18.1 |
| 2 June 2015   | Combined AAAC & Wangaratta Unlimited Advisory Committee Meeting | Refer Item 18.1 |
| 15 June 2015  | Combined AAAC & Wangaratta Unlimited Advisory Committee Meeting | Refer Item 18.1 |
| 13 July 2015  | Agriculture & Agri-Business Advisory Committee Meeting          | Refer Item 18.1 |
| 28 July 2015  | Draft Rural Strategy Discussion                                 | Attachment      |
| 5 August 2015 | Administrator’s Briefing Forum                                  | Attachment      |

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

***That Council receives the reports of Assemblies of Administrators***

**Attachments**

- 1 11 May 2015 - Agriculture & Agr-Business Advisory Committee Meeting
- 2 2 June 2015 - Combined Agriculture & Agr-Business Advisory Committee & Wangaratta Unlimited Advisory Committee Meeting
- 3 15 June 2015 - Combined Agriculture & Agr-Business Advisory Committee & Wangaratta Unlimited Advisory Committee Meeting
- 4 13 July 2015 - Agriculture & Agr-Business Advisory Committee Meeting
- 5 28 July 2015 - Draft Rural Strategy Discussion
- 6 5 August 2015 - Administrator's Briefing Forum

**20. NOTICES OF MOTION**

Nil

**21. URGENT BUSINESS**

**22. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

**23. CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS**

23.1 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S PERFORMANCE REVIEW

**RECOMMENDATION:**

*That the meeting be closed to members of the public to discuss staffing matters.*

**24. CLOSURE OF MEETING**




**ATTACHMENTS**



# Council Plan Quarterly Report

## (2015 Fourth Quarter)

Legend – Output Indicator Performance

-  On track
-  Needs attention
-  Critical



RURAL CITY OF  
**WANGARATTA**

Period: June 2015

# Table of Contents

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| <b>01 EXECUTIVE SERVICES</b>   | <b>4</b>  |
| 1.1 TO ENSURE WE CONSULT AND ENGAGE EFFECTIVELY WITH THE COMMUNITY IN OUR DECISION MAKING.   | 4         |
| 1.1.1 <i>Engage the community in decision-making for the development of the Rural City of Wangaratta</i>   | 4         |
| 1.1.2 <i>Take a whole-of-government approach to the development and wellbeing of the Rural City of Wangaratta</i>  | 5         |
| <b>02 COMMUNITY WELLBEING</b>  | <b>8</b>  |
| 2.1 TO FOCUS ON KEY ISSUES AFFECTING OUR UNIQUE COMMUNITIES.   | 8         |
| 2.1.1 <i>Undertake Community Planning that enhances the strength and liveability of our townships.</i>   | 8         |
| 2.2 TO IMPROVE COMMUNITY WELLBEING.  | 9         |
| 2.2.1 <i>Support our community to be resilient.</i>  | 9         |
| 2.3 TO PROVIDE INCLUSIVE, ACCESSIBLE AND HIGH QUALITY COMMUNITY SERVICES.  | 10        |
| 2.3.1 <i>Provide affordable, accessible and high quality children's services.</i>  | 10        |
| 2.3.2 <i>Support the development of integrated health provision.</i>   | 10        |
| 2.4 TO IMPROVE OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL RESIDENTS TO PARTICIPATE IN A RANGE OF COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES AND ACCESS A RANGE OF LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES THROUGHOUT LIFE.  | 11        |
| 2.4.1 <i>Provide the opportunity for everyone to participate fully and contribute to the social, economic and cultural life.</i>   | 11        |
| 2.4.2 <i>Continue to actively participate in networks and partnerships to increase and improve young people's access to community life.</i>                                  | 12        |
| 2.5 ENSURE PARTICIPATION AND ACCESS FOR ALL.   | 14        |
| 2.5.1 <i>Deliver high quality and diverse community and professional arts, cultural and heritage projects and programs across a range of locations/sites.</i>                | 14        |
| 2.6 TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO BOTH LOCAL AND REGIONAL SPORT AND RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES TO IMPROVE HEALTH AND WELLBEING.   | 16        |
| 2.6.1 <i>Undertake a planned approach to maintaining and improving quality and accessible recreation and sporting facilities and programs.</i>                               | 16        |
| 2.7 TO PROVIDE HIGH QUALITY PASSIVE AND ACTIVE RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES, TOGETHER WITH SIGNIFICANT SPORTING EVENTS.  | 16        |
| 2.7.1 <i>Encourage the greater use of recreation facilities including formal sports facilities, open spaces, shared paths and aquatic centres.</i>                           | 16        |
| <b>03 DEVELOPMENT SERVICES</b>   | <b>18</b> |
| 3.1 TO CONSOLIDATE WANGARATTA'S POSITION AS A REGIONAL CENTRE.   | 18        |
| 3.1.1 <i>Further progress Wangaratta as the leading retail and service centre in north east Victoria.</i>  | 18        |
| 3.1.2 <i>Enhance liveability attributes through urban renewal and transport connectivity.</i>  | 19        |
| 3.2 TO CREATE AN ENVIRONMENT WHICH ENCOURAGES NEW AND EXISTING BUSINESSES TO ACHIEVE THEIR ASPIRATIONS FOR GROWTH, JOB OPPORTUNITIES AND INCREASED INVESTMENT IN OUR REGION. | 19        |
| 3.2.1 <i>Take a lead role in encouraging the uptake of and investment in new industries and initiatives.</i>   | 19        |
| 3.2.2 <i>Maintain an environment which is supportive of business growth and workforce sustainability.</i>  | 20        |
| 3.2.3 <i>Support an innovative and sustainable agricultural sector.</i>  | 21        |
| 3.3 TO SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGE A SUSTAINABLE, INNOVATIVE AND RESILIENT TOURISM SECTOR.   | 22        |
| 3.3.1 <i>Facilitate the promotion of visitor attraction.</i>   | 22        |
| 3.4 TO ENSURE LAND USE PLANNING PROVIDES BALANCED OUTCOMES FOR COMMUNITY, GROWTH, EXISTING LAND USE, ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE.   | 24        |

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| 3.4.1 Review updated 2013 State Planning and zoning guidelines and ensure that the Wangaratta Planning Scheme and Municipal Strategic Statement are consistent with state regulations and reflect local planning strategies. .... | 24        |
| 3.4.2 Maintain and improve local planning strategies to meet community needs. ....  | 25        |
| 3.5 TO PROTECT AND ENHANCE THE NATURAL LANDSCAPE, TREESCAPES AND WATERWAYS. ....  | 26        |
| 3.5.1 Responsibly manage the local environment. ....  | 26        |
| 3.6 TO SUPPORT OUR COMMUNITY TO EXPERIENCE AND APPRECIATE A HEALTHY, DIVERSE AND EXCITING NATURAL ENVIRONMENT. ....   | 27        |
| 3.6.1 Enhance community understanding of conservation values and provide opportunities to experience and contribute to the environment. ....  | 27        |
| 3.7 TO ESTABLISH COUNCIL LEADERSHIP TO ASSIST THE COMMUNITY TO LIVE SUSTAINABLY. ....   | 28        |
| 3.7.1 Reduce impact of Council's activities and provide leadership in sustainability by demonstrating best practice. ....   | 28        |
| 3.7.2 Develop initiatives for the community to reduce resource use and waste to achieve sustainable living. ....  | 28        |
| <b>04 INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES .....</b>   | <b>30</b> |
| 4.1 TO PLAN FOR AND PROVIDE INFRASTRUCTURE APPROPRIATE TO THE COMMUNITY'S NEEDS.....  | 30        |
| 4.1.1 Implement asset management systems that ensure the sustainability of our community assets. ....   | 30        |
| <b>05 CORPORATE SERVICES .....</b>  | <b>34</b> |
| 5.1 TO ENSURE THAT COUNCIL'S PLANS AND BUDGETS ARE RESPONSIBLE AND SUSTAINABLE. ....  | 34        |
| 5.1.1 Provide responsible financial practices ensuring Council's annual financial viability. ....   | 34        |
| 5.1.2 Apply a triple bottom line approach to the assessment of new initiatives. ....  | 34        |
| 5.2 TO DELIVER BEST VALUE SERVICES .....  | 35        |
| 5.2.1 Support specific undertakings on a business basis to meet agreed community benefit. ....  | 35        |
| 5.2.2 Minimise risk as a way of providing a safe public and work place environment. ....  | 35        |
| 5.2.3 Invest in and deploy proven Information Management Systems to ensure effective access to information and services. ....   | 36        |
| 5.3 TO PROVIDE ACCESSIBLE, OPEN AND TRANSPARENT GOVERNANCE.....   | 36        |
| 5.3.1 Invest in and deploy proven Information Management Systems to ensure effective access to information and services. ....   | 36        |

## 01 Executive Services

1.1 To ensure we consult and engage effectively with the community in our decision making.

1.1.1 Engage the community in decision-making for the development of the Rural City of Wangaratta.

**1.1.1.1 Review the 2030 Community Vision.**

Overall Rating Average:  Percentage Complete: 0.00 Target Date: 30/06/2017

**Quarter 4 Comment**

Planned to occur following the 2016 Council Election.

**1.1.1.2 Review the Community Engagement Strategy and Communication Strategy incorporating social media opportunities.**

Overall Rating Average:  Percentage Complete: 75.00 Target Date: 31/12/2014

**Quarter 4 Comment**

A project to improve and strengthen our customer experience is under way. This is coupled with a broader customer experience project that will define the way we relate to our community. Will be publicly launched in February 2016.

**1.1.1.3 Hold four Council meetings in rural townships and eight in the Wangaratta Government Centre.**

Overall Rating Average:  Percentage Complete: 100.00 Target Date: 30/06/2015

**Quarter 4 Comment**

Four council meetings have been held in rural townships in the financial year 2014/15. Council meetings were held in Whitfield, Tarrowingee, Edi Upper and Oxley.

**1.1.1.4 Review the most appropriate electoral structure for the Rural City of Wangaratta.**

Overall Rating Average:  Percentage Complete: 100.00 Target Date: 30/06/2016

**Quarter 4 Comment**

The Victorian Electoral Commission has completed a review of electoral representation for the Rural City of Wangaratta resulting in a final report recommending a four ward structure.

### 1.1.2 Take a whole-of-government approach to the development and wellbeing of the Rural City of Wangaratta.

#### 1.1.2.1 Participate in Regional Cities Victoria to represent the community's needs and opportunities to other levels of Government.

Overall Rating Average:  Percentage Complete: 100.00 Target Date: 30/06/2015

#### **Quarter 4 Comment**

Council has participated in all RCV activities in 14/15 year.

#### 1.1.2.2 Maintain strong external links with all spheres of Government and respective Departments and authorities.

Overall Rating Average:  Percentage Complete: 100.00 Target Date: 30/06/2015

#### **Quarter 4 Comment**

Participating in Hume Region Local Government Network, Hume Region Managers forum, LGPro and MAV CEOs forums, President of LGPro and meeting regularly on key issues with Regional and State Government Staff.

#### 1.1.2.3 Advance the implementation of the “Water Security for Wangaratta” project.

Overall Rating Average:  Percentage Complete: 100.00 Target Date: 30-Jun-2015

#### **Quarter 4 Comment**

The Water Security for Wangaratta project reviewed the existing reliability of supply and future growth requirements. It identified water supply options for Wangaratta and Glenrowan and, subject to future requirements, assessed each option to determine the best solution to improve water security for the area.

The project was completed in August 2014 when the Project Steering Committee provided a recommendation to the Minister for Water based on the project findings.

It recommended to the Minister for Water that additional groundwater use provides the best value for money with the least negative impact and is the preferred source of water to secure Wangaratta's water supply.

The Project Steering Committee recommended that by 2018, the end of the current water planning cycle, North East Water consider greater use of existing groundwater bores to increase Wangaratta's water supply reliability.

The Project Steering Committee also recommended that as part of the next water planning cycle, North East Water develop a staged plan to implement additional groundwater use to meet increasing demand and changing climate condition.



**1.1.2.4 Actively participate in the implementation of the Hume Strategy for Sustainable Communities and pursue the opportunities arising from it.**

Overall Rating Average:  Percentage Complete: 100.00 Target Date: 30/06/2015

**Quarter 4 Comment**

Through 4Hume, and the Hume Region Local Government Network, key issues have been identified and are being actioned, and advocated for. CEO is also the Co-Chair of the Hume Region Land Use group.

**1.1.2.5 Advocate for continued investment into hospitals, government services, education, recreation facilities, children's services, arts and culture, and public transport.**

Overall Rating Average:  Percentage Complete: 100.00 Target Date: 31/08/2014

**Quarter 4 Comment**

Ongoing activity with support for investment into hospitals, government services, education, recreation facilities, children's services, arts and culture and public transport provided at every opportunity.

**1.1.2.6 Investigate opportunities to provide improved telecommunications, incorporating broadband and mobile telephone coverage.**

Overall Rating Average:  Percentage Complete: 100.00 Target Date: 31/08/2014

**Quarter 4 Comment**

Council officers met with representative from Telstra to discuss the black spot issues. Agreement was reached for the Rural City to provide \$5,000 support in the case that black spots in the region were selected for attention through the Federal Government process. The municipality was selected in the process and several block spots in the region will now be addressed.

**1.1.2.7 Advocate for a fast train passenger service between Melbourne and Sydney following the Hume corridor.**

Overall Rating Average:  Percentage Complete: 100.00 Target Date: 30/06/2015

**Quarter 4 Comment**

This project is progressing without any further communication with Council and would appear as though a corridor through Shepparton is the preferred route. Council will advocate where possible for enhanced services to and from Wangaratta and for the corridor to come via Wangaratta.

**1.1.2.8 Advocate for a reliable train service for Wangaratta.**

Overall Rating Average:  Percentage Complete: 100.00 Target Date: 30/06/2015

***Quarter 4 Comment***

A renewed push for improved train services in the region is about to commence. A meeting called by Steph Ryan MP Member for Euroa, to be held on August 14 in Benalla will look at actions to be taken in support of better services. A pledge prior to the 2014 State Election by the Victorian Coalition has not been matched by the in-coming government leading to the formation of a lobby group called the North East Rail Alliance being formed. The Rural City of Wangaratta will be represented at his meeting.

## 02 Community Wellbeing

2.1 To focus on key issues affecting our unique communities.

2.1.1 Undertake Community Planning that enhances the strength and liveability of our townships.

**2.1.1.1 Review and advance our Community Planning program to achieve more strategic and high level outcomes throughout our communities.**

Overall Rating Average:  Percentage Complete: 10.00 Target Date: 30/06/2015

**Quarter 4 Comment**

Review of strategic models (nationally and internationally) has been completed and project brief developed. Whole of organisational focus on community planning being facilitated. Place Making program planned for 2015 implementation.

**2.1.1.2 Program township works based on community planning and strategic priorities.**

Overall Rating Average:  Percentage Complete: 15.00 Target Date: 30/06/2015

**Quarter 4 Comment**

Opportunities to support improved township planning and project delivery through improved community planning processes a key consideration in the review of community engagement practices.

**2.1.1.3 Facilitate the undertaking of a Wangaratta CBD Master Plan that will comprehensively plan for the future use, growth and development of the CBD.**

Overall Rating Average:  Percentage Complete: 90.00 Target Date: 30/06/2015

**Quarter 4 Comment**

Tract Consultants engaged for the project. Consultation underway and draft priority concepts being scoped. Scheduled for August 2015 completion, with final Master Plan available for public comment in September.

## 2.2 To improve community wellbeing.

### 2.2.1 Support our community to be resilient.

#### 2.2.1.1 Work with other agencies to develop and implement approaches to enhance and strengthen community resilience and safety.

Overall Rating Average:  Percentage Complete: 100.00 Target Date: 30/06/2015

##### **Quarter 4 Comment**

Grant awarded through Regional Development Victoria to develop Resilient Community Program in the King Valley during 2015. Project meetings currently under way with the community. Agencies included: SES, CFA, VicPol, DHS.

#### 2.2.1.2 Develop a policy position that details Council's commitment to the facilitation of community multi-use facilities throughout the shire that ensure communities have access to facilities that support their social, recreational and learning need.

Overall Rating Average:  Percentage Complete: 50.00 Target Date: 30/06/2015

##### **Quarter 4 Comment**

Capacity for multiuse is a consideration for all community focused projects. Addressing multiuse is a requirement on all State Government funding applications.

Requirement for a multiuse focus stated in EOI process for eligible sport and recreation projects in 2015.

#### 2.2.1.3 Support initiatives that support the opportunity for community groups, committees and organisations to be self-reliant.

Overall Rating Average:  Percentage Complete: 100.00 Target Date: 30/06/2015

##### **Quarter 4 Comment**

Food-for-all Forum and Bike Reference Group initiated in 2014-15.

Community Grants Program review completed in May 2015 to ensure program relevancy.

#### 2.2.1.4 Identify and support potential community leaders and continue to develop and recognise them within the community.

Overall Rating Average:  Percentage Complete: 50.00 Target Date: 30/06/2015

##### **Quarter 4 Comment**

Community Projects Officer developing a database of community leaders, both rural and urban. Capacity building and leadership opportunities being sought on a case by case basis.

Volunteer appreciation event undertaken in May to recognise community volunteer contribution.

Council support for Community Pride committee and KABV award nominations.

**2.2.1.5 Support community volunteering throughout the municipality.**

Overall Rating Average:  Percentage Complete: 100.00 Target Date: 30/06/2015

**Quarter 4 Comment**

Volunteer Appreciation Event undertaken in May 2015.

Support for volunteer skills bank auspiced by The Centre - CARN

**2.3 To provide inclusive, accessible and high quality community services.****2.3.1 Provide affordable, accessible and high quality children's services.****2.3.1.1 Work with service providers to enhance and improve integrated early years' service delivery that meets the needs of the community.**

Overall Rating Average:  Percentage Complete: 100.00 Target Date: 30/06/2015

**Quarter 4 Comment**

Working towards Council's vision for the Wangaratta Children's Services Centre as a single point of contact for early childhood services. Transition from Gateway Health has commenced. This will be fulfilled when the municipality's Maternal and Child Health Services are delivered directly by the Rural City of Wangaratta from August 1, 2015. Approximately 241 families and 293 children attend the Wangaratta Children's Centre. Long Day Care, Kindergarten, Family Day Care, Maternal & Child Health Services, NERPSA, Scope and Noah's Ark are operated from the Centre.

**2.3.1.2 Explore local service gaps and opportunities to provide a flexible and responsive early years' service that meets the needs of the community.**

Overall Rating Average:  Percentage Complete: 100.00 Target Date: 31/08/2014

**Quarter 4 Comment**

Preliminary work undertaken for the development of the Municipal Early Years Plan. Long Day Care staff development 3 year plan is being implemented which is improving staff skills. Four working groups to work on priorities for enhancement of service delivery.

**2.3.2 Support the development of integrated health provision.****2.3.2.1 Work with service providers to enhance and improve delivery of aged care and community support services.**

Overall Rating Average:  Percentage Complete: 100.00 Target Date: 30/06/2015

**Quarter 4 Comment**

Working with Gateway Health and North East Health and other relevant service providers and networks to develop an integrated approach for service provision.

**2.3.2.2 Maintain involvement in local and regional youth networks, in health, education and other interventional service areas.**

Overall Rating Average:  Percentage Complete: 100.00 Target Date: 30/06/2015

**Quarter 4 Comment**

Continue to participate in relevant networks such as Borinya Board Meetings, Youth Service Providers Network, Municipal Public Health & Wellbeing Partnership, Department of Justice Hume Region Forum & Preventing Family Violence Network.

**2.3.2.3 Review Council's Access and Inclusion Plan.**

Overall Rating Average:  Percentage Complete: 90.00 Target Date: 31/08/2014

**Quarter 4 Comment**

Draft Community Access and Inclusion Plan scheduled for August 2015 council meeting

**2.4 To improve opportunities for all residents to participate in a range of community and cultural activities and access a range of learning opportunities throughout life.**
**2.4.1 Provide the opportunity for everyone to participate fully and contribute to the social, economic and cultural life.**
**2.4.1.1 Strengthen the partnerships with the local Indigenous community by identifying joint activities and inclusion opportunities.**

Overall Rating Average:  Percentage Complete: 100.00 Target Date: 30/06/2015

**Quarter 4 Comment**

- Progressed the implementation of the Bullawah Cultural Trail project
- Community Engagement activities at New Year's Event commenced through sand sculpture project and community workshops focused on reconnecting the community to the river
- Communication & Engagement Strategies developed
- Koorie Engagement Officers briefed regarding schools & young people involvement. Place Naming proposals developed with the two suspension bridges along the trail
- Elders Rock Meeting held & subsequent follow up meetings scheduled with Infrastructure staff for planning and implementation
- Development of the EOI for artists to create 3 site specific sculptures
- Meetings with Elders to finalise stories and the plans for the trail
- Progressed plans for NAIDOC Week in July 2015
- Attendance at Dirrawarra Indigenous Network meetings

**2.4.1.2 Work in partnership with key stakeholders to implement a Multicultural Strategic Plan.**

Overall Rating Average:  Percentage Complete: 100.00 Target Date: 30/06/2015

**Quarter 4 Comment**

Supported NEMA in Harmony Day event - March 2015

Collaborated with Events Coordinator to present a Taste of Harmony workplace event at the Rural City of Wangaratta in March 2015

**2.4.2 Continue to actively participate in networks and partnerships to increase and improve young people's access to community life.****2.4.2.1 Actively advocate for and support the development of young people in the areas of civic participation, leadership and community involvement.**

Overall Rating Average:  Percentage Complete: 100.00 Target Date: 30/06/2015

**Quarter 4 Comment**

Youth Council is a group of up to 12 young people aged between 14 – 18 years which meets regularly to discuss youth issues, help organise youth & community events and take part in leadership forums and self-development activities. The 2014/2015 Youth Council is active in events, consultation and leadership development - most recent major activity was the Youth Summit. Approximately 140 young people workshopped priority issues and developed projects to be considered for funding.

Youth councillors participate on relevant council and community committees such as Sport & Recreation Advisory Committee, Arts Culture & Heritage Advisory Committee, and Community Pride Committee. Youth councillors are involved in civic activities such as Australia Day Celebrations and community activities such as youth week activities and senior's festival.

**2.4.2.2 Work with identified strategic networks and partnerships to achieve outcomes for young people.**

Overall Rating Average:  Percentage Complete: 100.00 Target Date: 30/06/2015

**Quarter 4 Comment**

A number of support agencies and government bodies work with young people within the Rural City of Wangaratta including:

- North East Support and Action for Youth (NESAY)
- NorthEast Health
- Gateway Health
- Rural Housing Network
- Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)
- Employment & Training Agencies
- Victoria Police
- North East Tracks Local Learning Employment Network (LLEN)
- RoadSafe North East
- Mind Australia – North East Integrated Group Project (NEIGP)
- Workways – Youth Connections
- Council officers regularly work with these organisations to support strategic outcomes for young people
- Centre for Active Recreation Network (CARN)
- The Centre
- Goulburn Ovens Institute of Tafe (GOTAFE)
- Department of Justice
- Women's Health Goulburn North East
- High County Library
- School - Wangaratta High School, Galen Catholic College, Cathedral College and Borinya Community Partnership
- Anglicare
- North East Regional Youth Affairs Network
- Wangaratta Blue Light Youth Club Steering Committee
- Wangaratta Youth Service Providers Network

Planning for Wangaratta Youth Summit has drawn resources from the majority of these organisations. The Foundation for Young Australians (FYA) provides opportunities for young Australians aged 18 - 20 to undertake gap year volunteer placements in the Asia Pacific. In partnership with FYA and Global Vision International, the Rural Council of Wangaratta offered a \$2,500 partial scholarship for one young resident to experience Asia.



## 2.5 Ensure participation and access for all.

2.5.1 Deliver high quality and diverse community and professional arts, cultural and heritage projects and programs across a range of locations/sites.

**2.5.1.1 Develop a Wangaratta Cultural Precinct Master Plan to assess and plan for the long term cultural facility and program needs of the city.**

Overall Rating Average:  Percentage Complete: 80.00 Target Date: 30/06/2016

### **Quarter 4 Comment**

Progressed community engagement activities for CBD Master Plan consultation phase in conjunction with Arts Culture and Events team and consultants.

Manager - Arts, Culture and Events and Gallery Director participated in CBD Master Plan internal workshop to assist in scoping out the focus of the plan, the community engagement and the position of the Cultural Precinct as part of the CBD Master Plan.

**2.5.1.2 Explore opportunities to support the upgrade and growth of the Wangaratta Art Gallery, in line with the concepts developed in the Wangaratta Cultural Precinct Master Plan.**

Overall Rating Average:  Percentage Complete: 20.00 Target Date: 30/06/2016

### **Quarter 4 Comment**

Manager - Arts Culture and Events and Gallery Director met with Creative Victoria to discuss options for Gallery improvements in light of Gallery upgrade on hold for at least 5 - 10 years.

Manager - Arts Culture and Events and Gallery Director participated in CBD Master Plan internal workshop to scope out the focus of the plan, the community engagement and the position of the Cultural Precinct as part of the CBD Master Plan

**2.5.1.3 Ensure the Wangaratta Performing Arts Centre and the Wangaratta Art Gallery provide high quality and accessible programs and are promoted as regional arts, culture, conference and events venues.**

Overall Rating Average:  Percentage Complete: 100.00 Target Date: 30/06/2015

**Quarter 4 Comment**

Wangaratta Art Gallery presented three major exhibitions in Gallery1, one local artists group in Gallery 2 (due to Summer closure until March) and two exhibitions in the WPAC lower foyer.

Public Programs for the period include: School holiday art classes, Xpress Yourself - a National Gallery of Victoria interactive art project, Art Lover's Talks, Business After Hours function, opening functions, and school visits.

A Gallery Donations and Bequests program is in research and development stages. The Gallery holds Deductible Gift Recipient status with the Australian Taxation Office - ATO.

WPAC team completed a Small Towns tour visiting 3 rural townships- El Dorado, Whitfield and Milawa. Attendance numbers averaged 55 at each venue.

WPAC team participated in the inaugural Down by the River event - working with the Wangaratta Library to showcase both organisations and their cultural services.

WPAC launched Season 2015 to over 100 people in February 2015.

Attendance at performances has remained steady compared to 2014.

**2.5.1.4 Develop a Cultural Services Plan to inform the future direction of Councils cultural events, facilities and programs within the municipality.**

Overall Rating Average:  Percentage Complete: 15.00 Target Date: 30/06/2015

**Quarter 4 Comment**

No further progress on this action in this period. The focus has been on the CBD Master Plan and how it will inform the Cultural Strategy.

**2.5.1.5 Implement the Public Art Strategic Plan for capital works projects and identify priority projects for public art commissions.**

Overall Rating Average:  Percentage Complete: 75.00 Target Date: 30/06/2016

**Quarter 4 Comment**

Expressions of Interest have been circulated for three site specific sculptures for the Bullawah Cultural Trail. The funds have been provided through an external grant.

**2.6 To improve access to both local and regional sport and recreation opportunities to improve health and wellbeing.**

**2.6.1 Undertake a planned approach to maintaining and improving quality and accessible recreation and sporting facilities and programs.**

**2.6.1.1 Continue to plan and develop high quality, accessible pathways that build local and regional connections.**

Overall Rating Average:  Percentage Complete: 100.00 Target Date: 30/06/2015

**Quarter 4 Comment**

Participating in Regional Development Victoria's Significant Tracks and Trails initiatives.

**2.6.1.2 Develop a Play Space Strategy which examines the distribution and diversity of the play network, play and recreation opportunities for young people and the development of a 'regional' play space.**

Overall Rating Average:  Percentage Complete: 20.00 Target Date: 30/06/2015

**Quarter 4 Comment**

The development of a Playspace Strategy has been funded under the 2015-16 Operational Budget.

**2.6.1.3 Implement the priority projects and actions identified in the Recreation Strategy.**

Overall Rating Average:  Percentage Complete: 100.00 Target Date: 30/06/2015

**Quarter 4 Comment**

Recommendations continue to be progressed/actioned. Regular review of progress undertaken by the Sport and Recreation Advisory Committee.

Showgrounds Strategic Plan developed and adopted by Council.

**2.7 To provide high quality passive and active recreational opportunities, together with significant sporting events.**

**2.7.1 Encourage the greater use of recreation facilities including formal sports facilities, open spaces, shared paths and aquatic centres.**

**2.7.1.1 Assist with the review of strategic plans for recreation reserve Committees of Management and development of Master Plans as required.**

Overall Rating Average:  Percentage Complete: 100.00 Target Date: 30/06/2015

**Quarter 4 Comment**

Wangaratta Showgrounds Strategy was adopted by Council in April 2015.

Identified priorities are Glenrowan, Milawa, and Whorouly.

**2.7.1.2 Review Aquatic Strategy, taking into consideration population demand, visitation trends and budgetary requirements to enable the development of a scope of works to assist in pursuing funding.**

Overall Rating Average:  Percentage Complete: 100.00 Target Date: 30/06/2015

**Quarter 4 Comment**

The Wangaratta Aquatic Plan for the Future was adopted in April 2015.

**2.7.1.3 Implement the priority projects and actions identified in the Open Space Strategy.**

Overall Rating Average:  Percentage Complete: 50.00 Target Date: 30/06/2017

**Quarter 4 Comment**

Recommendations continue to be progressed/actioned. Regular review of progress undertaken by the Sport and Recreation Advisory Committee.

Open Space Strategy informed the township structure plans for Glenrowan, Milawa and Oxley. and Growth Area Plans in North and South Wangaratta.

**2.7.1.4 Develop a long term strategy for enhancing the passive recreational use of waterways, including the Ovens and King Rivers as a major attraction and focus with a minimal impact on the natural environment.**

Overall Rating Average:  Percentage Complete: 30.00 Target Date: 30/06/2016

**Quarter 4 Comment**

Parkrun Program initiated in Wangaratta - informal running program with a national focus.

Participating in Bullawah Cultural Trail initiative.

## 03 Development Services

3.1 To consolidate Wangaratta's position as a regional centre.

3.1.1 Further progress Wangaratta as the leading retail and service centre in north east Victoria.

3.1.1.1 Attract further bulky goods and large retail outlets in appropriate locations.

Overall Rating Average:  Percentage Complete: 15.00 Target Date: 30/06/2017

### **Quarter 4 Comment**

Activity has not formally commenced on this initiative due to priority being given to the resolution of the former Ovens College Site however, some preliminary discussions have been undertaken. The project is earmarked to commence during the 2015 - 2016 financial year with the completion of a gap analysis. This research will provide clarity around what products/services are catered for in the municipality and which are not. This data will allow for a targeted investment attraction program.

3.1.1.2 Support our retail sector by:

- Developing a Retail Attraction Strategy which protects the concept of a compact central business district (CBD)
- Delivering, or facilitating the delivery of, workshops and information to local businesses

Overall Rating Average:  Percentage Complete: 90.00 Target Date: 30/06/2015

### **Quarter 4 Comment**

The Economic Development & Tourism Unit of Council has undertaken a review of the existing Economic Development Strategy. A revised strategy has been developed covering a two year period to cover 2016 LG election. As part of this strategy an Investment Attraction Action Plan has been developed and is to be endorsed by Council as part of the overall revised Strategy. The Retail Sector is an important part of this plan and activities will commence in early July 2015. The Economic Development & Tourism Unit will again conduct the Small Business Festival with workshops for small business and a networking event will again be part of the Festival.

3.1.1.3 Market the Rural City of Wangaratta as a great place to live.

Overall Rating Average:  Percentage Complete: 100.00 Target Date: 30/06/2015

### **Quarter 4 Comment**

Officers from the Economic Development & Tourism Unit of the Rural City of Wangaratta have again attended the Regional Victorian Living Expo in Melbourne. The Expo was very well attended and feedback has been positive. Enquiries have already been received as a result of the attendance at the Expo. Information provided to the Expo attendees contains a strong marketing message regarding the natural assets and attractions of the region with Wangaratta as the hub.

**3.1.1.4 Market Wangaratta as a regional retail centre.**

Overall Rating Average:  Percentage Complete: 50.00 Target Date: 30/06/2016

**Quarter 4 Comment**

Significant activity has been undertaken in this area again this term. Active marketing via e-newsletter to our database created through the Regional Living Expo. Several new web sites and promotional videos have been developed for the region and are now in the public domain. The Economic Development & Tourism Unit manages a very active social media platform for business and visitors. There has been an increase in new and redeveloped retail businesses with more in the future.

**3.1.2 Enhance liveability attributes through urban renewal and transport connectivity.****3.1.2.1 Implement the South Wangaratta Urban Renewal Masterplan as a staged approach:**

- Former Ovens College site
- Newman Street, including Avian Park

Overall Rating Average:  Percentage Complete: 50.00 Target Date: 30/06/2015

**Quarter 4 Comment**

The Rural city of Wangaratta Economic Development & Tourism Staff are now negotiating with several interested parties with a view to attracting formal offers for the former Ovens College site. A small parcel of land in the site is being offered to the CFA to provide added space, and a home for the SES is being provided adjacent to the CFA site.

**3.2 To create an environment which encourages new and existing businesses to achieve their aspirations for growth, job opportunities and increased investment in our region.****3.2.1 Take a lead role in encouraging the uptake of and investment in new industries and initiatives.****3.2.1.1 Maintain a stock of investment-ready industrial land to assist in the attraction of new industry.**

Overall Rating Average:  Percentage Complete: 50.00 Target Date: 30/06/2015

**Quarter 4 Comment**

Council has limited supply of investment ready industrial land. Around 5 hectares in Murrell St as yet undeveloped with larger acreage in North Wangaratta. Recent interest in parcels in both areas will further deplete supplies.

**3.2.1.2 Implement a manufacturing sector support strategy.**

Overall Rating Average:  Percentage Complete: 100.00 Target Date: 30/06/2015

**Quarter 4 Comment**

This item is complete.

**3.2.2 Maintain an environment which is supportive of business growth and workforce sustainability.**

**3.2.2.1 Participate in appropriate regional workforce development initiatives and assist education and training providers to provide workforce training and up skilling which matches industry needs.**

Overall Rating Average:  Percentage Complete: 100.00 Target Date: 30/06/2015

**Quarter 4 Comment**

Hume Workforce Strategy officially launched 4 May 2015 by Minister for Agriculture and Regional Development Jaala Pulford.

**3.2.2.2 Assist with the development and implementation of regional strategies which assist key industry sectors to prosper in times of change.**

Overall Rating Average:  Percentage Complete: 100.00 Target Date: 30/06/2015

**Quarter 4 Comment**

Work is ongoing with surrounding Councils to implement the recently released Hume Workforce Development Strategy. The Strategy which was several years in the making and has now been released and implementation will commence in 2015-2016 financial year.

**3.2.2.3 Undertake the role of the Regional Certification body for the region on an ongoing basis and continue to implement the Regional Skilled Migration Scheme.**

Overall Rating Average:  Percentage Complete: 100.00 Target Date: 30/06/2015

**Quarter 4 Comment**

Regional Certification duties are being undertaken, continuing to 2016/2017.

**3.2.2.4 Work with relevant agencies to support new residents and migrants in the municipality.**

Overall Rating Average:  Percentage Complete: 100.00 Target Date: 30/06/2015

**Quarter 4 Comment**

Meeting schedule established with the North East Multicultural Association and Victorian Multicultural Commission

### 3.2.3 Support an innovative and sustainable agricultural sector.

#### 3.2.3.1 Review the Alpine Valleys Agrifood Strategy.

Overall Rating Average:  Percentage Complete: 100.00 Target Date: 30/06/2015

##### **Quarter 4 Comment**

This initiative is now called the "Hume Regional Food Opportunities Strategy" and has been developed as a three stage strategy. The documents are now complete and implementation will commence during the 2015-2016 financial year. The strategy was driven by Regional Development Australia with support from Regional Development Victoria and all surrounding Hume Region Councils.

#### 3.2.3.2 Develop an action plan for the Alpine Valleys Agrifood Communication Strategy.

Overall Rating Average:  Percentage Complete: 100.00 Target Date: 30/06/2017

##### **Quarter 4 Comment**

The Communication Strategy has been incorporated as Stage 3 of the overarching Food Opportunities Strategy. The strategy has now been completed and implementation will commence in the 2015-2016 financial year.

#### 3.2.3.3 Advocate for higher education opportunities for the rural agricultural sector through Charles Sturt University, Goulburn Ovens Institute of TAFE and other providers.

Overall Rating Average:  Percentage Complete: 100.00 Target Date: 30/06/2015

##### **Quarter 4 Comment**

The Charles Sturt University learning Centre in Wangaratta have been working collaboratively with officers from the Rural City of Wangaratta and Business Wangaratta in the development of business education forums in the field of agriculture. An Agrifood forum was held in late June with 60 attendees and a business succession forum to be held in August. The Charles Sturt University recently launched a degree course in Vet Science and 73 students enrolled. These activities/partnerships are promoting education and innovation in the agriculture sector.

#### 3.2.3.4 Support the development of partnerships and initiatives that promote innovation in the agricultural sector.

Overall Rating Average:  Percentage Complete: 100.00 Target Date: 30/06/2015

##### **Quarter 4 Comment**

Strong working partnerships have been developed with GoTafe, Charles Sturt University and Business Wangaratta in particular. Events have been organised providing education opportunities for stakeholders in the agri sector. Charles Sturt University's very successful launch of a Vet Science qualification (73 enrolments) is evidence of the drive to promote the agri sector



### 3.3 To support and encourage a sustainable, innovative and resilient tourism sector.

#### 3.3.1 Facilitate the promotion of visitor attraction.

##### 3.3.1.1 Develop product and experiences in line with the current brand strengths of:

- Cycling
- Food, wine and beer
- Nature, outdoor and adventure
- Culture and Heritage
- Ned Kelly
- Jazz
- Business and events
- You're Welcome in Wangaratta
- Sports Tourism
- The Ultimate in Liveability

Overall Rating Average:  Percentage Complete: 100.00 Target Date: 30/06/2015

##### **Quarter 4 Comment**

This item is complete.

##### 3.3.1.2 Work in collaboration with regional, state and federal tourism agencies to leverage marketing which will showcase the region.

Overall Rating Average:  Percentage Complete: 100.00 Target Date: 30/06/2015

##### **Quarter 4 Comment**

Marketing of the region is ongoing. The region secured a significant rotary conference of 1000 delegates in 2015 and another due in 2016 again with close to 1000 delegates. Officers are working closely with Tourism North East to leverage Tourism Victoria activities and combine efforts to develop new experiences; this has included the development of three new websites.

##### 3.3.1.3 Review Council's Cycle Tourism Strategy, taking into consideration the:

- Warby Range Road and opportunities with the Warby Ranges; and
- Oxley to Whitfield Rail Trail

Overall Rating Average:  Percentage Complete: 60.00 Target Date: 30/06/2015

##### **Quarter 4 Comment**

The Tourism and Economic Development Unit are currently undertaking a review of their Tourism & Economic Development Strategy, this will incorporate Cycle Tourism. A Tourism SWOT has been undertaken with key industry leaders - this will provide direction to the Tourism & Economic Development Strategy and subsequent Cycle Strategy.

**3.3.1.4 Participate in the North East Region Cycle Tourism Strategy.**

Overall Rating Average:  Percentage Complete: 100.00 Target Date: 30/06/2015

**Quarter 4 Comment**

This item is complete.

**3.3.1.5 Develop a Visiting Friends and Relatives Marketing Strategy.**

Overall Rating Average:  Percentage Complete: 60.00 Target Date: 30/06/2015

**Quarter 4 Comment**

Visiting Friends and Relatives (VFR) targeted activity has been incorporated into programs such as the Official Visitors Guide and Victorian Tourism Week Activities. A project proposal to develop a VFR strategy and campaign was unsuccessful in receiving funding. Subsequently Council Staff have included VFR marketing elements into existing campaigns.

**3.3.1.6 Collaborate with the Board of the Wangaratta Festival of Jazz to ensure the longevity and continued success of the event.**

Overall Rating Average:  Percentage Complete: 100.00 Target Date: 30/06/2015

**Quarter 4 Comment**

This item is complete.

**3.3.1.7 Facilitate industry standard e-commerce uptake by tourism operators.**

Overall Rating Average:  Percentage Complete: 100.00 Target Date: 30/06/2015

**Quarter 4 Comment**

This item is complete.

**3.3.1.8 Develop the opportunities for economic benefit from outdoor, nature based and recreational activities.**

Overall Rating Average:  Percentage Complete: 100.00 Target Date: 30/06/2015

**Quarter 4 Comment**

Economic Development & Tourism officers are working with Tourism North East, local associations/organisations, State Government representatives and other regional stakeholders to continue the growth and development of product and experiences for locals and visitors in the area of outdoor, nature based recreational activities

**3.3.1.9 Increase tourism opportunities through participation in the North East Regional Tourism Board.**

Overall Rating Average:  Percentage Complete: 100.00 Target Date: 30/06/2015

**Quarter 4 Comment**

The Rural City of Wangaratta is represented on the Board of Tourism North East by our Chief Executive Officer, and officers from the Economic Development & Tourism Unit work closely with Tourism North East staff on projects and events in the region.

**3.4 To ensure land use planning provides balanced outcomes for community, growth, existing land use, environment and heritage.**

**3.4.1 Review updated 2013 State Planning and zoning guidelines and ensure that the Wangaratta Planning Scheme and Municipal Strategic Statement are consistent with state regulations and reflect local planning strategies.**

**3.4.1.1 Update the Planning Scheme and the Municipal Strategic Statement to reflect the revised State Planning Policy Framework, Rural City of Wangaratta 2030 Community Vision and 2013 - 2017 Council Plan.**

Overall Rating Average:  Percentage Complete: 5.00 Target Date: 30/06/2015

**Quarter 4 Comment**

This project has been delayed due to changes in state government (guidelines and policy) and is proposed to be completed in the 2015/16 period

**3.4.1.2 Review the Rural Land Use Strategy.**

Overall Rating Average:  Percentage Complete: 80.00 Target Date: 30/06/2015

**Quarter 4 Comment**

All previous documentation has been reviewed along with an analysis and incorporation of relevant state government changes to produce a new strategy that has been tested with Council's advisory committees and is to be presented at Council meeting for its consideration in July 2015 for public consultation. Council endorsed the Draft Strategy for public consultations for 6 weeks. Public consultations occurring from 22nd July 2015 to 4th September 2015. The Draft Strategy is to be updated following feedback from the public and presented to Council for adoption.

### 3.4.1.3 Develop structure/development plans for identified future development areas for consideration as amendments to the planning scheme including contributions by developers.

Overall Rating Average:  Percentage Complete: 80.00 Target Date: 30/06/2016

#### Quarter 4 Comment

Draft Structure Plans for North West and South Growth Areas in Wangaratta have been prepared. Council endorsed these plans for public consultation at its June 2015 Council meeting. Public consultation process is occurring from 13th July- 21st August 2015. Consultants have been engaged for preparing Infrastructure Contribution Plans to support development of both the growth areas. The draft structure plans are to be updated following feedback from the public and presented to Council for their adoption.

### 3.4.2 Maintain and improve local planning strategies to meet community needs.

#### 3.4.2.1 Undertake a place based approach to the development of the Wangaratta Central Activities Area incorporating:

- Review of existing planning arrangements; and
- Review the Wangaratta Urban Design Framework to enhance the Wangaratta Central Activities Area including landscaping, treescaping, street furniture and public art

Overall Rating Average:  Percentage Complete: 0.00 Target Date: 30/06/2016

#### Quarter 4 Comment

This project in part was to be assisted by the outcomes of the Master Plan for CBD of Wangaratta. Some residential components of this project were to be considered following the completion of the CBD Master Plan as any outcomes would inform these components. No funding has been provided for this project in the 2015-16 Council Budget. This project may be undertaken during 2016-17 financial year subject to funding.

#### 3.4.2.2 Investigate a strategic approach to developing a precinct maximising the benefits of the new Rural Industries campus including: \*

- Equine;
- Agrifood;
- Livestock;
- Racing; and
- Accommodation

Overall Rating Average:  Percentage Complete: 50.00 Target Date: 30/06/2016

#### Quarter 4 Comment

Economic Development & Tourism staff continue to work collaboratively with GoTafe and Charles Sturt University and the Turf club in particular, to promote the facilities available in Wangaratta.

### 3.5 To protect and enhance the natural landscape, treescapes and waterways.

#### 3.5.1 Responsibly manage the local environment.

##### 3.5.1.1 Identify and develop vegetation corridors for environmental, pedestrian and aesthetic benefits.

Overall Rating Average:  Percentage Complete: 100.00 Target Date: 30/06/2015

##### **Quarter 4 Comment**

Tree planting planned for corridors to enhance environmental and aesthetic benefits along Three Mile Creek and One Mile Creek.

##### 3.5.1.2 Develop and commence implementation of the Domestic Waste Water Management Plan.

Overall Rating Average:  Percentage Complete: 50.00 Target Date: 30/06/2015

##### **Quarter 4 Comment**

A Draft Domestic Wastewater Management Plan has been developed but needs review and further development to account for State Government requirements. Budget for further work has been approved for the 2015/16 financial year.

##### 3.5.1.3 Review Council's Storm Water Management Plan and recommend a broader framework for a future Plan, including water re-use opportunities.

Overall Rating Average:  Percentage Complete: 0.00 Target Date: 30/06/2015

##### **Quarter 4 Comment**

Yet to be commenced, and work is planned for completion by end of 2015 calendar year.

##### 3.5.1.4 Support the community to use firewood sustainably with information on options and the operation of firewood depots.

Overall Rating Average:  Percentage Complete: 100.00 Target Date: 30/06/2015

##### **Quarter 4 Comment**

Depots continued to be stocked with timber from Council operations. The depots were maintained to remove unwanted debris. Information is published on Council media to identify this service.

### **3.5.1.5 Complete the review of the Merriwa and Kaluna Parks Masterplan and consider pathway connections with other areas of the Central Business District and Riverside.**

Overall Rating Average:  Percentage Complete: 100.00 Target Date: 30/06/2016

#### **Quarter 4 Comment**

The review was adopted by Council at the March 2015 Ordinary Council Meeting. Any additional pathways will be considered as part of the CBD Masterplan.

### **3.5.1.6 Liaise with the North East Catchment Management Authority to implement actions in the Regional Catchment Strategy that enhance the natural environment in the Rural City of Wangaratta.**

Overall Rating Average:  Percentage Complete: 100.00 Target Date: 30/06/2015

#### **Quarter 4 Comment**

Council is working with NECMA to produce a Draft Memorandum of Understanding to improve cooperation in the environmental objectives of both organisations.

Council has collaborated with NECMA to secure a green army team to assist with implementation of environmental actions

## **3.6 To support our community to experience and appreciate a healthy, diverse and exciting natural environment.**

### **3.6.1 Enhance community understanding of conservation values and provide opportunities to experience and contribute to the environment.**

#### **3.6.1.1 Improve access to and enjoyment of Council's bushland and waterway reserves through improved infrastructure and signage.**

Overall Rating Average:  Percentage Complete: 100.00 Target Date: 30/06/2015

#### **Quarter 4 Comment**

To improve safe access at Northern Beaches, 5 old and damaged bridges and boardwalks have been removed and a new bridge installed at a key crossing point. A degraded footbridge in Kaluna Park has been replaced. Two seats have been installed on the Ovens River path in cooperation with Wangaratta Urban Landcare Group.

#### **3.6.1.2 Promote understanding of conservation through education and public events and assist community groups that undertake conservation projects.**

Overall Rating Average:  Percentage Complete: 100.00 Target Date: 30/06/2015

#### **Quarter 4 Comment**

This quarter commenced with a community workshop to assist with household energy saving. The annual education program was completed for 2014-15 with a business energy seminar on June 16 2015 presented by John Dee, the founder of Planet Ark. The Environment Unit assisted the North Wangaratta Community Group to complete their Ovens River environs project with development of interpretive signs.

### 3.7 To establish Council leadership to assist the community to live sustainably.

3.7.1 Reduce impact of Council's activities and provide leadership in sustainability by demonstrating best practice.

**3.7.1.1 Prepare an Environment Sustainability Strategy for Council consideration and commence approved actions.**

Overall Rating Average:  Percentage Complete: 100.00 Target Date: 30/06/2015

**Quarter 4 Comment**

This item is complete.

**3.7.1.2 Establish a Corporate Sustainability Strategy to achieve Council targets in greenhouse gas reduction, water use reduction and other corporate environment indicators and thereby promote environmental sustainability in all operational areas of Council.**

Overall Rating Average:  Percentage Complete: 100.00 Target Date: 30/06/2016

**Quarter 4 Comment**

This Strategy was adopted by Council at the 9 December 2014 Ordinary Council Meeting.

**3.7.1.3 Convert Council owned streetlights to energy efficient lights.**

Overall Rating Average:  Percentage Complete: 60.00 Target Date: 30/06/2016

**Quarter 4 Comment**

60% of the street lights have been replaced with the remaining 40% due for completion in September 2015.

**3.7.2 Develop initiatives for the community to reduce resource use and waste to achieve sustainable living.**

**3.7.2.1 Provide information and active education on sustainable building and living, waste disposal, energy and water use within the community via the EcoLiving project, public events and Council's website.**

Overall Rating Average:  Percentage Complete: 100.00 Target Date: 30/06/2015

**Quarter 4 Comment**

From April to June 2015 a range of energy efficiency education events were provided:

- Energy Efficiency workshop for households
- Energy Cut event demonstrating 20 areas of energy saving for businesses
- Briefing with Rural Housing Network and development energy saving information packs for low income households.
- Development and launch of a 'Watts Working Better' schools video competition to promote energy efficiency.

### **3.7.2.2 Engage with regional authorities and neighbouring Councils to develop a regional approach to waste management to complement Council's Waste Management Strategy.**

Overall Rating Average:  Percentage Complete: 100.00 Target Date: 30/06/2015

#### **Quarter 4 Comment**

The North East Region Future Landfills Options Study Main Report and the Bowser Landfill Preliminary Assessment Report have been finalised - these reports will be used as primary source documents for the development of the North East Waste and Recovery Group's - Waste Resource Recovery Implementation Plan (WRRIP). This plan will set the direction of waste for the region for the next 10 years.

### **3.7.2.3 Advocate for appropriate support and assist the response to the social needs related to a variable climate.**

Overall Rating Average:  Percentage Complete: 50.00 Target Date: 30/06/2016

#### **Quarter 4 Comment**

No further action this quarter.

### **3.7.2.4 Investigate options to maximise the use of environmentally sustainable design in new and retro fitted residential, industrial and commercial developments.**

Overall Rating Average:  Percentage Complete: 50.00 Target Date: 30/06/2016

#### **Quarter 4 Comment**

Education programs have been established and are being implemented.

### **3.7.2.5 Assist the community to reduce litter and recycle away from home in public places and at events – through appropriate infrastructure, information and education.**

Overall Rating Average:  Percentage Complete: 100.00 Target Date: 30/06/2015

#### **Quarter 4 Comment**

This is now complete, Council successfully received grant funding from Keep Australia Beautiful to install 10 Public Place Recycling (PPR) systems at Moyhu Reserves. New event hood top bin have been purchased as part of the Keep Australia Beautiful funding. Also further additional funding from Sustainability Victoria has been spent on 10 street-scape recycling bins within the CBD. As part of this grant 10 existing street-scape bins have been modified to accept co-mingled recycling.



## 04 Infrastructure Services

4.1 To plan for and provide infrastructure appropriate to the community's needs.

4.1.1 Implement asset management systems that ensure the sustainability of our community assets.

**4.1.1.1 Refine the management of Council's infrastructure assets through participation in the Municipal Association of Victoria's STEP program and through improved modelling and supporting data.**

Overall Rating Average:  Percentage Complete: 100.00 Target Date: 30/06/2015

**Quarter 4 Comment**

Our Asset Management practices are at a core standard in accordance with the NMAF (National Asset Management Assessment Framework).

**4.1.1.2 Develop and implement management plans; incorporating rolling capital works and cyclic maintenance programs for Council's infrastructure.**

Overall Rating Average:  Percentage Complete: 85.00 Target Date: 30/06/2015

**Quarter 4 Comment**

Asset Management Plans are 85% complete. Status is as follows:

- Overview - Completed Draft
- Roads Asset Management Plan - Completed Draft
- Bridge Asset Management Plan - Completed Draft
- Drainage Asset Management Plan - Completed Draft
- Buildings Asset Management Plan - Started
- Open Space Asset Management Plan - Started

**4.1.1.3 Develop landscape strategies for main roads, key township entrances.**

Overall Rating Average:  Percentage Complete: 25.00 Target Date: 30/06/2017

**Quarter 4 Comment**

Awaiting the release of the CBD Masterplan which will include recommendations for landscaping of the main roads of key township entrances.

**4.1.1.4 Develop options for overcoming drainage deficiencies within rural and urban areas.**

Overall Rating Average:  Percentage Complete: 95.00 Target Date: 30/06/2015

**Quarter 4 Comment**

The majority of the work in developing options in dealing with drainage deficiencies within the proposed Growth Areas surrounding Wangaratta has been undertaken. Finalising the options should be completed within the following 3 - 6 months.

#### **4.1.1.5 Negotiate with the State Government regarding responsibilities and obligations associated with the management and maintenance of the urban levee system in Wangaratta.**

Overall Rating Average:  Percentage Complete: 20.00 Target Date: 30/06/2016

##### **Quarter 4 Comment**

The revised Draft Flood Plain Management Strategy is currently out for consultation. It is expected that the final document will be completed prior to December 2015.

#### **4.1.1.6 Resolve a course of action for addressing traffic and pedestrian issues within the Wangaratta Central Activities Area.**

Overall Rating Average:  Percentage Complete: 50.00 Target Date: 30/06/2015

##### **Quarter 4 Comment**

Traffic and Pedestrian issues has been highlighted with the development of the Wangaratta CBD Masterplan. Works in conjunction with VicRoads continues with the development of the Smart Roads Program which will place a high emphasis on improving pedestrian access throughout the CAA.

The Wangaratta Freight Strategy is also being developed which will also investigate options to improve freight movements and management through and around the Wangaratta CAA.

#### **4.1.1.7 Continue to work with regional partners to identify and address public and community transport gaps.**

Overall Rating Average:  Percentage Complete: 100.00 Target Date: 30/06/2015

##### **Quarter 4 Comment**

Council continues to provide representation on the Hume Regional Freight Strategy Forums. The Development of the Wangaratta Freight Strategy in conjunction with VicRoads has also commenced which will have regard to the Hume Regional freight Strategy as well as identifying localised issues within the municipality.

#### **4.1.1.8 Implement the Wangaratta Central Activities Area Car Parking Strategy.**

Overall Rating Average:  Percentage Complete: 90.00 Target Date: 30/06/2016

##### **Quarter 4 Comment**

Strategy completed. Extensive Implementation on the recommendation of the Strategy has already occurred, in particular meeting future demands with the introduction of the Multi-Deck Car-park. Other works currently being designed and planned to occur in the future, with the re-development of some satellite car-parks. However, the introduction of the multi-deck car-park has hastened the supply for car-parking within the CAA, with availability now meeting demands expected in 5 - 10 years.

**4.1.1.9 Complete budgeted annual capital works program.**

Overall Rating Average:  Percentage Complete: 75.00 Target Date: 30/06/2015

**Quarter 4 Comment**

With an extensive load with carry overs from the previous financial year, Council were able to complete approximately 75% of the Capital Works program. However, significant work has commenced on a number of major projects which should be delivered within the first 6 months of the 2015/2016 Financial year.

**4.1.1.10 Develop a freight strategy that considers:**

- Larger and heavier vehicles being used to carry freight;
- Freight bypass on the western side of Wangaratta;
- Freight impacted local roads including first and last mile issues; and
- Establishment of a distribution centre/hub to service the Ovens and King Valleys

Overall Rating Average:  Percentage Complete: 40.00 Target Date: 30/06/2016

**Quarter 4 Comment**

Following consent from the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources and VicRoads, the Brief for Expressions of Interest for the development of the Wangaratta Freight Strategy has been completed and will be advertised in July 2015.

The Strategy will have a focus on diverting the heavier vehicles away from the Wangaratta CAA as well as having regard to the Hume Regional Freight Strategy and encouraging a more pedestrian friendly CAA.

**4.1.1.11 Commence the development of the Wangaratta Saleyards upgrade.**

Overall Rating Average:  Percentage Complete: 100.00 Target Date: 30/06/2015

**Quarter 4 Comment**

Stage one is progressing well. Webster's Electrical have installed 75% of the overhead electrical cable trays and cable for the lighting system to Stage 1 over the past two weeks. Meredith roof plumbing has been installing the guttering, rain heads, downpipes to all 5 skillions and cantilevers. Roof access points, safety mesh and safety rails have been installed and cantilever roof sheeting is on site. The sheeting of the roof has commenced.

**4.1.1.12 Implement the Rural City of Wangaratta Waste Management Strategy.**

Overall Rating Average:  Percentage Complete: 35.00 Target Date: 30/06/2017

***Quarter 4 Comment***

The tender for the mobile garbage bins, the kitchen caddies and the compostable bin liners has been awarded. These items are due to be delivered in the two weeks prior to the commencement date of 1st September.

The education plan is progressing in the background. Over the next two months, we will see the roll out of the communications and public education program.

## 05 Corporate Services

5.1 To ensure that Council's plans and budgets are responsible and sustainable.

5.1.1 Provide responsible financial practices ensuring Council's annual financial viability.

5.1.1.1 Maintain a Long Term Financial Plan predicated on the following:

- Maintaining service delivery at agreed standards;
- Rate income at rate property value growth plus MAV cost index factor;
- Efficient and effective resource management (assets, human resources); and
- Debt at an acceptable level

Overall Rating Average:  Percentage Complete: 100.00 Target Date: 30/06/2015

**Quarter 4 Comment**

The 2015/16 Long Term Financial Plan was adopted by Council on 16 June 2015, along with the 2015/16 Budget.

5.1.2 Apply a triple bottom line approach to the assessment of new initiatives.

5.1.2.1 Undertake a rating review to ensure that the rating strategy is consistent with Council Plan objectives and Ministerial Guidelines.

Overall Rating Average:  Percentage Complete: 100.00 Target Date: 31/08/2014

**Quarter 4 Comment**

Rating Strategy completed in April 2014.

Recommendations implemented in the 2014/15 Budget.

## 5.2 To deliver Best Value Services

### 5.2.1 Support specific undertakings on a business basis to meet agreed community benefit.

#### 5.2.1.1 Identify Council's contribution for the following business units:

- Waste Management;
- Wangaratta Public Cemetery;
- Wangaratta Childcare Service;
- Wangaratta Saleyards;
- Wangaratta Performing Arts Centre;
- Wangaratta Aquatic Facilities;
- Wangaratta Visitor Information Centre;
- Community Support North East; and
- Plant and fleet

Overall Rating Average:  Percentage Complete: 100.00 Target Date: 30/06/2015

#### **Quarter 4 Comment**

Council's contribution to Waste Management; Wangaratta Public Cemetery; Wangaratta Childcare Service; Wangaratta Saleyards; Wangaratta Performing Arts Centre; and Wangaratta Aquatic Facilities has been confirmed through the service plan review and updated in the 2015/16 budget, Strategic Resource Plan and Long Term Financial Plan.

### 5.2.2 Minimise risk as a way of providing a safe public and work place environment.

#### 5.2.2.1 Review corporate planning and enterprise risk management systems.

Overall Rating Average:  Percentage Complete: 100.00 Target Date: 30/06/2015

#### **Quarter 4 Comment**

Council's performance planning and risk management system implementation has been finalised.

#### 5.2.2.2 Review the Business Continuity Plan.

Overall Rating Average:  Percentage Complete: 100.00 Target Date: 30/06/2015

#### **Quarter 4 Comment**

Updated business continuity arrangements have been implemented and subjected to audit by 3rd party experts.

**5.2.3 Invest in and deploy proven Information Management Systems to ensure effective access to information and services.**

**5.2.3.1 Upgrade the electronic data management system.**

Overall Rating Average:  Percentage Complete: 5.00 Target Date: 30/06/2016

**Quarter 4 Comment**

Project specification document signed by Council's Corporate Management Team. Request For Tender will be sent out 3 July 2015 and internal Launch of project will be held in August.

**5.2.3.2 Review Council's information technology strategy to ensure organisational efficiencies are maximised and the community's expectations are met.**

Overall Rating Average:  Percentage Complete: 10.00 Target Date: 30/06/2016

**Quarter 4 Comment**

The strategy document has been started in a draft format. Once draft is completed, external expertise will be used to ensure the strategy is robust and appropriate for Council.

**5.3 To provide accessible, open and transparent governance**

**5.3.1 Invest in and deploy proven Information Management Systems to ensure effective access to information and services.**

**5.3.1.1 Complete internal audits on time and implement findings as appropriate.**

Overall Rating Average:  Percentage Complete: 100.00 Target Date: 30/06/2015

**Quarter 4 Comment**

The 2014/15 full year audit plan has been completed.

The Internal Audit Projects were:

- Project management;
- Fraud and corruption control;
- Events Management; and
- Contract Management

**5.3.1.2 Ensure key business processes of Council are subject to regular audit to ensure compliance**

Overall Rating Average:  Percentage Complete: 100.00 Target Date: 30/06/2015

**Quarter 4 Comment**

This item is complete.

**5.3.1.3 Ensure key business processes of Council are documented and documentation is updated regularly.**

Overall Rating Average:  Percentage Complete: 100.00 Target Date: 30/06/2015

***Quarter 4 Comment***

The key business processes of Council are documented in policies and procedures.



**Wangaratta Rural City Council**  
**Major Council Policy Consultation Local**  
**Law**

**No. 4 of 2015**

**TABLE OF PROVISIONS**

| Clause  | Page      |
|---|-----------|
| <b>PART 1 – INTRODUCTION</b>                                | <b>1</b>  |
| 1 Title   | 1         |
| 2 Objectives  | 1         |
| 3 Authorising Provision                                     | 2         |
| 4 Commencement and End Dates                                | 2         |
| 5 Definitions and Notes                                     | 2         |
| <b>PART 2 – MAJOR COUNCIL POLICIES</b>                      | <b>4</b>  |
| 6 Power to make or change a Major Council Policy            | 4         |
| 7 Procedure to make or change a Major Council Policy        | 4         |
| 8 Existing policies   | 7         |
| 9 Consultation with affected persons                        | 7         |
| 10 Other consultation requirements                          | 7         |
| <b>PART 3 - AVAILABILITY OF MAJOR COUNCIL POLICIES</b>      | <b>8</b>  |
| 11 Availability and accessibility of Major Council Policies | 8         |
| <b>SCHEDULE 1</b>   | <b>10</b> |
| <b>SCHEDULE 2</b>   | <b>18</b> |

# **Wangaratta Rural City Council**

## **Major Council Policy Consultation Local Law**

**No. 4 of 2015**

### **PART 1 – INTRODUCTION**

#### **1 Title**

This Local Law will be known as the "Major Council Policy Consultation Local Law".

#### **2 Objectives**

The purpose of this Local Law is to:

- (a) prescribe the procedure to be followed before determining, making, amending, modifying or revoking a Major Council Policy;
- (b) ensure transparency and accountability in Council decision making;
- (c) enhance governance of the municipal district and the local community;
- (d) promote taking into account the diverse needs of the local community in decision making; and
- (e) provide for the peace, order and good government of the municipal district.

### **3 Authorising Provision**

This Local Law is made under section 111(1) of the *Local Government Act 1989*.

### **4 Commencement and End Dates**

This Local Law—

- (a) commences on the day following the day on which notice of the making of this Local Law is published in the Victoria Government Gazette, and operates throughout the municipal district; and
- (b) ends on the 10th anniversary of the day on which it commenced operation.

### **5 Definitions and Notes**

- (1) In this Local Law, unless the context or subject-matter indicates otherwise:

*"Act"* means the *Local Government Act 1989*;

*"Council"* means Wangaratta Rural City Council;

*"Major Council Policy"* means any policy which Council has determined, by reason of its importance, to be a Major Council Policy under clause 6. Major Council Policy transparently sets out Council's position on an issue or set of issues to guide decision-making and the exercise of power in respect of decisions that impact on the lives and wellbeing of residents, ratepayers, visitors and businesses. Major Council Policies are likely to include policies regarding funding of capital works, allocation of community resources, allocation of Council grant funding, management

of Council risks as well as policies related to Councillors, Councillor support arrangements, committees of Council and Councillor conduct;

*“Major Council Policy proposal”* includes any proposed action to determine that a policy is or is no longer a Major Council Policy or to make, amend, modify or revoke a Major Council Policy. A Major Council Policy proposal does not include any proposed change consisting only of minor amendments;

*“Minor amendments”* means changes to a policy of an insubstantial, administrative or minor editorial nature, and does not alter its purpose or outcomes or impact on related policies or stakeholders to whom the policy applies. Minor amendments include, but are not limited to, format and typographical improvements, updating the titles of positions and organisational units, and changes to the responsible officer, authorising officer and review date;

*“person”* includes a body corporate, such as a company or incorporated association;

*“policy”* includes a policy, procedure, code and protocol (however described), whether already made or proposed. Policy sets out an official position of Council establishing the key principles and provisions that govern decision-making processes;

*“public notice”* has the same meaning as in section 3(1) of the Act; and

*“Schedule”* means a schedule to this Local Law.

- (2) Introductions to Parts, headings and notes are explanatory notes and do not form part of this

Local Law. They are provided to assist understanding.

## **PART 2 – MAJOR COUNCIL POLICIES**

Introduction: This Part is concerned with the determination, making, amendment, modification and revocation of Major Council Policies.

### **6 Power to make or change a Major Council Policy**

- (1) Council may prepare and approve a policy for or with respect to any act, matter or thing in respect of which Council has a function or power under the Act or any other Act.
- (2) Council may determine that a policy is or is no longer a Major Council Policy.
- (3) Council may make, amend, modify or revoke a Major Council Policy.

### **7 Procedure to make or change a Major Council Policy**

- (1) Before Council resolves a Major Council Policy proposal it must comply with the following procedure.
- (2) In relation to the Major Council Policy proposal, Council must prepare—
  - (a) a proposed Major Council Policy; and
  - (b) a Major Council Policy Impact Statement in the form set out in Schedule 1 setting out explanatory information to assist consultation with the community.

- (3) Council must give a public notice, and publish on Council's internet website a notice, of the Major Council Policy proposal stating—
  - (a) the Major Council Policy proposal; and
  - (b) the nature, purpose and rationale of the Major Council Policy proposal; and
  - (c) that a copy of the proposed Major Council Policy and an impact statement can be obtained from the Council office during ordinary business hours and from Council's internet website; and
  - (d) that any person has a right to make a submission about the proposal; and
  - (e) the date by which submissions are to be submitted, being a date which is not less than 28 days after the date on which the public notice is published, and details of how a submission can be submitted; and
  - (f) that a person making a submission is entitled to request in the submission that the person wishes to appear in person, or to be represented by a person specified in the submission, at a meeting to be heard in support of the submission;
- (4) Council must ensure that—
  - (a) a copy of the proposed Major Council Policy; and
  - (b) a Major Council Policy Impact Statement in the form set out in Schedule 1 setting out explanatory information to assist consultation with the community —

are available for inspection at, and obtainable from, the Council office during ordinary business hours and on Council's internet website.

- (5) If a request has been made under sub-clause 7(3)(f), Council must—
  - (a) provide the person with the opportunity to be heard in support of the submission in accordance with the request at a meeting of Council or of a committee determined by Council; and
  - (b) fix the day, time and place of the meeting; and
  - (c) give reasonable notice of the day, time and place of the meeting to each person who made a request;
- (6) If the committee determined under sub-clause 7(5)(a) is not responsible for making the decision in respect of which the submissions have been made, the committee must provide a report on its proceedings, including a summary of hearings, to the Council;
- (7) Council or the special committee responsible for making the decision must—
  - (a) consider all the submissions made under this clause and any report made under sub-clause 7(6); and
  - (b) notify in writing, each person who has made a separate submission, and in the case of a submission made on behalf of a number of persons, one of those persons, of the decision and the reasons for that decision.

- (8) If Council fails to comply with any requirement imposed by sub-clause 7(2), 7(3) 7(4), 7(5), 7(6) or 7(7) it is Council's intention that any decision to—
- (a) determine that a relevant policy is or is no longer a Major Council Policy; or
  - (b) make, amend, modify or revoke a relevant Major Council Policy
- is legally ineffective.

## **8 Existing policies**

In the case of a policy already made which is referred to in Schedule 2, Council will be deemed to have made that policy as a Major Council Policy in compliance with sub-clauses 7(2), 7(3) 7(4), 7(5), 7(6) and 7(7).

## **9 Consultation with affected persons**

Nothing in this Local Law prevents Council from consulting individually with any person whose interests are likely to be materially affected by any proposal to determine that a policy is or is no longer a Major Council Policy or to make, amend, modify or revoke a Major Council Policy.

## **10 Other consultation requirements**

Nothing in this Local Law applies if, by or under the Act or any other Act, Council must follow a specified form of consultation (including but not limited to giving notice to the public and inviting submissions) before determining that a policy is or is no longer a Major Council Policy or making, amending, modifying or revoking a Major Council Policy.



### **PART 3 - AVAILABILITY OF MAJOR COUNCIL POLICIES**

Introduction: This Part is concerned with ensuring that Major Council Policies are available and accessible.

#### **11 Availability and accessibility of Major Council Policies**

Council must ensure that a copy of every Major Council Policy—

- (1) is available for inspection at the Council office during the Council office's ordinary business hours;
- (2) can be purchased on demand at the Council office during the Council office's ordinary business hours; and
- (3) is published on Council's internet website—
  - (a) from the date the Major Council Policy comes into operation; and
  - (b) in a consolidated and up-to-date form.
- (4) A failure to comply with sub-clauses 11(1), 11(2) or 11(3) does not—
  - (a) constitute a failure to make the Major Council Policy available; or
  - (b) affect the validity of the Major Council Policy.

The Common Seal of                   )  
WANGARATTA RURAL CITY        )  
COUNCIL was hereunto            )  
affixed in the presence of:        )

.....Administrator

.....Chief Executive Officer

## SCHEDULE 1

Clause 7(2)

### FORM OF MAJOR COUNCIL POLICY IMPACT STATEMENT



### Major Council Policy Impact Statement

[Name or other identification of proposed Major Council Policy]

---

Council provides the following information to the community in respect of the proposed Major Council Policy.

#### PART A - General

##### Background

[This section should include the general context of the Major Council Policy proposal, for example, whether the Major Council Policy is new or the proposal results from the expiration of an existing Major Council Policy.

A brief outline of the process used to achieve the draft Major Council Policy proposal, who was involved; the timeline etc. should be inserted here.]

##### Objectives

[In this section include comment about how the Major Council Policy proposal impacts the achievement of the primary objective of Council, endeavouring to achieve the best outcomes for the local community having regard to the long term and cumulative effects of decisions, by having regard to one or more of the following facilitating objectives:

- promoting the social, economic and environmental viability and sustainability of the municipal district;
- ensuring that resources are used efficiently and effectively and services are provided in accordance with the Best Value Principles to best meet the needs of the local community;

- improving the overall quality of life of people in the local community;
- promoting appropriate business and employment opportunities;
- ensuring that services and facilities provided by the Council are accessible and equitable;
- ensuring the equitable imposition of rates and charges; or
- ensuring transparency and accountability in Council decision making.]

## **PART B - Major Council Policy proposal overall**

[The contents of this part will vary according to the conclusions reached by Council. If specific findings are made in respect of some provisions, these might best be reported in Part C against that provision. Similarly, if there are specific exceptions – for example, a problem addressed by the Major Council Policy is of great community interest so Council proposes to report on success more frequently – that might be addressed specifically in Part C.

### **Measures of success of the Major Council Policy proposal**

[Set out clear indicators by which Council will measure the success of, and the ongoing need for, the Major Council Policy for example, reduction in complaints, reduction in instances of problem, reduction in cost, improvement in accessibility or equity, improvement in business and employment opportunities etc.

Set out the frequency with which success will be measured and reported on to the community].

### **Legislative context**

[Identify existing legislation on any issue covered by the Major Council Policy proposal and clarify how the proposal interacts with that legislation. That is, while the legislation and Major Council Policy proposal may address the same topic, they deal with different aspects.

Major Council Policy should not be created unnecessarily.

Council needs to ensure that a Major Council Policy does not duplicate, overlap, contradict or is inconsistent with existing legislation.]

### **Risk assessment**

[The results of any risk assessment (that is, a report) undertaken should be attached. The risk management objective should be to achieve balance between the risk reduction and the economic and social costs of reduction.

To the extent that the risk assessment report addresses issues, reference can be made in this table rather than reiterating the risk assessment report.

A Major Council Policy proposal is an ideal opportunity to use a risk management approach to prioritise the risks sought to be addressed. This approach assesses if a problem exists, if the problem is a Council problem that impacts on the achievement of Council's policy objectives, if response to the problem is required, if a Major Council Policy is the best way of dealing with the problem and if a Major Council Policy is likely to be effective.

Risk management techniques will also help assess whether the proposed treatment of the risk, that is, the Major Council Policy will be effective in terms of economic cost, which includes the cost of imposition on the community and the cost of administration, in terms of social cost, for example, the restriction of freedom versus the community benefit and in terms of any other criteria adopted.]

#### **Policy approach adopted**

[A brief explanation of the policy approach adopted by Council should be given and whether that approach is consistent throughout all materials relied on by Council. Consistency should be assessed in regards to any of the ways in which the administration and application of a Major Council Policy is undertaken, including:

- incorporation of standards, codes and guidelines;
- exercise of discretions;
- conditions attached to decisions;
- exemptions;
- requirement to give public notice of applications; and
- enforcement.

Whether the approach adopted is consistent with neighbouring and like Councils should be addressed here.]

#### **Least burden / greatest advantage test**

[Council must ensure that the policy approach it adopts involves the least burden or the greatest advantage to its community.

Policy interventions often come at a cost. The impact statement obliges assessment of the benefit of the Major Council Policy proposal against the burden imposed. If that burden is greater than the benefit, alternatives should be considered including reconsidering the need to intervene at all.

Measuring the net benefit of a Major Council Policy proposal requires all of the costs and benefits to be taken into account. In assessing the positive impacts of a Major Council Policy proposal consider questions like these:

- Does the Major Council Policy proposal result in a better or wider range of Council services, even though they might come at a greater cost?
- Will the Major Council Policy proposal result in improved competition, lower prices, availability of better products, improved productivity or the creation of new jobs?
- Does the resultant reduction in risk or improvement in safety of the Major Council Policy proposal have an economic benefit that will be felt in the community? Is the benefit likely to be immediate or will it only emerge over the long term? Have these benefits been modelled and have the models been independently reviewed or tested?
- Who does the Major Council Policy proposal benefit? Are the benefits real, tangible and meaningful or are they unimportant to the affected groups?
- Are there windfall gains to any group that need to be noted? Are the identified benefits distributed fairly or are there equity issues to be considered?
- Does the Major Council Policy proposal represent such a significant saving to Council that business and the community will regard the costs as worth bearing?

Costs are those that arise from lost time, compliance burdens, inconvenience, delay, foregone opportunity or threats to competitiveness.

Businesses can be impacted by Major Council Policy. Impacts include the administrative cost of complying with Major Council Policy requirements such as a grant, training package or in many cases, simply supplying statistics to Council, as well as the cost to business of changing products or services as a result of Major Council Policy requirements.

- What kind of businesses? How many are there? What industries are they in? Where are they based?

- How many people do they employ and how long have they been in business? What products or services do they deliver?
- Are they represented by an industry association? How likely is it that any new costs will simply be passed on to consumers?
- How well prepared are the business owners to cope with new requirements?
- Are there special burdens on small business arising from the fact they often lack the required specialist legal, accounting or HR skills in-house? Are the regulatory costs disproportionately burdensome on small business? Does the analysis adequately take into account the different impacts on small businesses of different sizes, types and locations?

Community organisations can be subject to impacts. Council is a significant source of funding and influence on their activities, and burdens can flow from grant and other funding conditions including paperwork and other activity associated with applying for, administering and reporting on the use of grants.

- What sectors do they operate in? Are they large or small?
- What kinds of activities do they undertake? Do they deliver services on behalf of government?
- Are they represented by a peak body?

Individuals and households experience the impacts of red tape directly and indirectly, including increased compliance effort. The approach of Council officers, whether in day-to-day dealings with the public or the design and delivery of services, can impose a range of costs on people who deal with Council.

- Who are the people or households affected? How many are there?
- Why are they affected? Will the burden fall on those who can least afford it?
- What type of households do they live in? Where do they live and work?
- How old are they? Are there cultural issues you need to take into consideration?

- What understanding do they have of the policy issue you are dealing with?
- Are they organised into any representative entity?]

### Restriction of competition

[The results of a review in accordance with National Competition Principles should be attached.

If the Major Council Policy proposal is likely to restrict competition, the impact statement must demonstrate benefits that outweigh the costs and that no alternative means of achieving the same objective is available. Consideration must be given to whether the Major Council Policy proposal will:

- affect existing firms differently, altering competitive relations between them in a way that would reduce the intensity of competition in the market as a whole?
- restrict entry for certain new businesses? What is the likely degree of this restriction and is it likely to significantly reduce competitive pressures in the longer term?
- result in changes to:
  - the ability of businesses to provide a good or service?
  - requirements for a licence or permit as a condition of operation?
  - the ability of some types of firms to participate in Council procurement?
- raise prices by imposing new costs on businesses?
- alter the ability of businesses to advertise or market their products?
- place limits on:
  - the ability of consumers to decide from whom they can purchase goods or services?
  - the mobility of customers to move between suppliers of goods or services by imposing high 'switching' costs?
  - information available to consumers that decreases their ability to choose effectively between competing businesses?]

### Permits



[If the proposed Major Council Policy has a generic provision dealing with permits, this section should be used to briefly explain: why permit conditions are required, why any conditions are not spelled out, the process by which conditions will be determined, and if conditions vary from neighbouring or like Councils, why that is the case.]

If the proposed Major Council Policy has permit requirements within specific provisions, a similar explanation should be provided in Part C against each provision.]

#### Fees

[Significant differences between the level of fees to be adopted by Council (if set out in the Major Council Policy proposal) and those of neighbouring or like Councils should be explained either here or in the comparison section.]

#### Comparison with neighbouring and like Councils

[Council should detail those Councils whose policies have been compared, the points of comparison and the result of the comparison.]

#### Charter of Human Rights

[The results of a review for compatibility with the Charter of Human Rights should either be set out here or attached. The results should specify whether any rights are engaged and justify any limitation on rights.]

#### Consultation

[There are many reasons to consult in advance of a policy decision. Common courtesy is one; not to mention being confident something important hasn't been missed in the analysis. Other reasons include:

- Understanding the attitudes and likely reactions of the people affected;
- Making sure every practical and viable policy alternative has been considered;
- Confirming the accuracy of the data on which Major Council Policy proposal was based;
- Ensuring there are no implementation barriers or unintended consequences;
- Making sure that people know that their opinions count on matters that affect them.

This section of the impact statement must:

- Explain the purpose and objectives of consultation;
- Outline a plan for conducting the most efficient and meaningful consultation;
- Explain who should be consulted—and who does not need to be consulted; and
- Summarise the major topics to be covered and what issues might be raised.

The results of consultation should be set out here including:

- the response(s) obtained as a result of community consultation and any adjustments made to the proposed Major Council Policy as a result; and
- Council's reply to submissions received.]

## **Part C –Major Council Policy proposal specific provisions**

### **Part(s) of the Major Council Policy**

[Include a section for each specific provision.

Operative policy provisions only, that is, introductory, preliminary or explanatory provisions do not need to be addressed unless the explanation helps in understanding. Where provisions within a part deal with a related issue, it may be more appropriate to address the part as a whole rather than the individual provisions.]

#### **Description**

[The purpose of this listing is to identify the relevant provision of the proposed Major Council Policy, not reiterate it.]

#### **The issue the provision is intended to address**

[Articulating the issue will help with accurate drafting.

Differentiate between the fact giving rise to the issue and the issue itself.]

#### **Description of the problem**

[Why is it a problem? What is the evidence? How big a problem? For example, how many ratepayers inconvenienced, cost to Council (ratepayers), etc. Who causes the problem?]

#### **Council objective**

[Why is it a Council problem? A number of objectives may be involved: protection of Council assets, safety of public, public amenity. A reasonably specific objective is to be preferred. Words such as 'amenity' or 'safety' should be sufficiently qualified to relate them to a specific objective.]

**Where is Council's objective set out?**

[The objective may be set out in the Council Plan, or a policy document, or the results of a risk assessment that has been adopted by Council, etc.]

**How does proposed Major Council Policy provision help achieve objectives?**

[Will it remove an impediment? Is it a direct solution – for example, requiring a notice or permit so Council can exercise control?]

## **SCHEDULE 2**

Clause 8

### **EXISTING POLICIES DEEMED TO BE MAJOR COUNCIL POLICIES**

#### **Charters of Advisory Committees**

Agriculture and Agribusiness

Arts, Culture and Heritage

Audit

Place Naming

Sport and Recreation

Wangaratta Unlimited Board

Youth Council

#### **Charters and Delegations of Special Committees**

Bowmans-Murmungee Memorial Hall and Tennis Reserve

Carboor Soldiers Memorial Hall & Recreation Reserve

Edi Upper Hall & Recreation Reserve

Eldorado Memorial Hall

Everton Hall & Sports Complex

Friends of Lacluta

Milawa Public Hall and Park

Moyhu Soldiers Memorial Hall

Myrrhee Soldiers Memorial Hall

North Wangaratta Sports Reserve

Old Murmungee Hall

Oxley Shire Hall

Wangaratta Showgrounds

Whitfield Recreation Reserve

Whorouly Public Hall

Whorouly Memorial Park

### **Policies**

Annual Meeting of Council

Appointment of Acting Mayor

Appointment to Committees of Council

Asset Management

Australia Day Event and Awards

Community Access and Inclusion Charter

Community Amenity (Amendment) Local Law No. 1 - Local  
Laws Policies

Community Grants

Community Hire of Public Facilities

Community Loans

Councillor Code of Conduct

Election Period Caretaker Arrangements

Facility Maintenance

Fraud Control

Gifts, Benefits & Hospitality

Human Rights Charter

Information Privacy

National Competition Policy - Wangaratta Indoor Sports &  
Aquatic Centre

Policy for Equity and Access for People with Disabilities

Procurement

Professional Development for Councillors

Register of Interests Returns

Reimbursement of Expenses for Councillors and Members of  
Council Committees

Reserve and Sports Ground User Charges Pricing

Risk Management

Sale of Council Land

Waste Charge

## Local Law Community Impact Statement

### Major Council Policy Consultation Local Law No. 4 of 2015

Council provides the following information to the community in respect of the proposed Local Law.

#### PART A – General

##### Background

Council is considering making a new Local Law, the Major Council Policy Consultation Local Law No. 4 of 2015 (proposed Local Law), that prescribes a consultation process that must be followed when Council proposes to determine, make, amend, modify or revoke a Major Council Policy.

The proposed Local Law will create an enshrined commitment to public consultation on Major Council Policy proposals and provide opportunities for affected people to be heard by Council and for their submissions to be taken into account in Council's deliberations.

##### Objectives

The objectives of the Local Law are set out in the draft of the Local Law under clause 2. Of particular note are the purposes of ensuring transparency and accountability in Council decision making and taking into account the diverse needs of the local community.

The Local Government Act 1989 (the Act) contains provisions that are clearly aimed at fostering the best possible governance processes for making and implementing decisions.

Firstly, the Act provides that the primary objective of Council must be to endeavour to achieve the best outcomes for the local community having regard to the long term and cumulative effects of decisions. In doing so, Council must ensure transparency and accountability in its decision making.

In addition, the Act establishes that Council's key role is to provide leadership for the good governance of the municipal district and the local community through acting as a representative government and taking into account the diverse needs of the local community, fostering community cohesion and encouraging active participation in civic matters.

This proposed Local Law seeks to improve achievement of these objectives and roles by ensuring that Major Council Policy proposals are only resolved after undergoing a community consultation process similar to that required by section 223 of the Act.

A Major Council Policy proposal includes any proposed action to determine that a policy is or is no longer a Major Council Policy or to make, amend, modify or revoke a Major Council Policy. A Major Council Policy proposal does not include any proposed change consisting only of minor amendments which are changes of an insubstantial, administrative or minor editorial nature that do not alter its purpose or outcomes or impact on related policies or stakeholders to whom the policy applies. Examples of minor amendments include format and

typographical improvements, updating titles of positions and organisational units, and changes to the responsible officer, authorising officer and review date.

A Major Council Policy is a policy that sets out Council's position on an issue or set of issues to guide decision-making and the exercise of power in respect of decisions that impact on the lives and wellbeing of residents, ratepayers, visitors and businesses. Major Council Policies are likely to include policies regarding funding of capital works, allocation of community resources, allocation of Council grant funding, management of Council risks as well as policies related to Councillors, Councillor support arrangements, committees of Council and Councillor conduct.

## **PART B – Overall Impact Assessment**

The proposed Local Law will enable Council to determine a policy is, or is not, a Major Council Policy and will prescribe a public consultation process to be followed when the Council proposes to determine, make, amend, modify or revoke a Major Council Policy.

The proposed Local Law is being made under section 111(1) of the Act and will operate throughout the municipal district of the Wangaratta Rural City Council.

The proposed Local Law has been legally reviewed to confirm that it complies with all regulatory requirements.

### **Measures of success of the Major Council Policy proposal**

The success of the proposed Local Law will be best measured by the extent to which it improves the decision making processes of Council.

Council will assess outcomes as part of its periodical review of its 'Satisfaction with council decisions' service indicator which measures the community satisfaction rating out of 100 with how council has performed in making decisions in the interest of the community.

### **Existing legislation that might be used instead**

The Local Government Act 1989 gives councils broad powers to make local laws with respect to any function or power of the Council.

Apart from normal meeting procedures, there are no statutory procedures to be followed by councils when they determine, make, amend, modify or revoke their many policies, procedures, codes and protocols.

There are, however, a number of statutory powers conferred on council that require a public notice and submissions process under section 223 of the Act. These include adoption of key Council documents (such as the Budget and the Council Plan), sale of land, closure of roads, declaration of special rates and review of Councillor Allowances.

The section 223 public submissions process requires a council to give public notice of the proposal and to consider submissions received before making a final decision on the matter. A person who makes a written submission is entitled to request to be heard by the Council or a Committee appointed by the Council in support of the submission. When the council makes a final decision on the proposal, it must notify each submitter of the decision and the reason for the decision.



The proposed Local Law will require Council to follow a similar public notice and submissions process before determining, making, amending, modifying or revoking a Major Council Policy.

Council considers the proposed Local Law is the best approach to ensure that key policies, procedures, codes and protocols are exposed to an adequate level of community consultation.

### **State legislation more appropriate**

Council is of the view that the issues identified in relation to the proposed Local Law are Council issues. Accordingly, the provisions of the proposed Local Law are an appropriate solution.

### **Overlap of existing legislation**

Existing State legislation, in the Local Government Act 1989, provides for a prescribed consultation process when Council deals with important plans, strategies and actions. This proposed Local Law does not duplicate the existing legal requirements. Rather, it enhances what is already in place.

Furthermore, Clause 10 of the proposed Local Law provides for the application of any other specified form of consultation that is required by or under the Act or any other Act ahead of the requirements of this Local Law.

### **Overlap of planning scheme**

The proposed Local Law has no relevance to the Planning Scheme.

### **Risk assessment**

The proposed Local Law enhances community input into Council decision making by requiring Council to follow a consultation process before determining, making, amending, modifying or revoking a policy which the Council has designated to be a Major Council Policy. It also provides that every Major Council Policy must be available and accessible.

This approach addresses the risk that the community becomes disaffected by a perception that Council does not consult when making decisions about important matters that materially impact their lives, jobs and future or change the way the municipality is governed.

The approach is consistent with the existing consultation provisions of the Act. Consequently, the approach has been tested and is familiar to Council.

### **Legislative approach adopted**

No other legislation can be used.

The proposed Local Law is a standalone instrument. No other document, such as a standard, code or guideline, is incorporated by reference in the proposed Local Law.

The proposed regulatory approach is consistent with existing consultation provisions of the Act.

### **Restriction of competition**

Council has conducted a review of the proposed Local Law in accordance with National Competition Principles. The results of that review are attached.

The proposed Local Law relates only to Council processes and there are no National Competition Policy implications associated with the proposal.

### **Penalties**

This Local Law imposes an obligation only on Council itself and therefore no practical sanction applies.

Clause 7(8) of the proposed Local Law sets out Council's intention that any decision regarding a Major Council Policy proposal that is made without complying with the consultation provisions of the Local Law, would be legally ineffective.

### **Permits**

The proposed Local Law does not make provision for the issue of permits.

### **Fees**

The proposed Local Law does not prescribe any fees.

### **Performance standards or prescriptive**

It is considered appropriate that the proposed Local Law is prescriptive because its purpose is to prescribe the procedure to be followed by Council before determining, making, amending, modifying or revoking a Major Council Policy.

The prescriptive nature of the proposed Local Law provides procedural certainty for Councillors, Council staff and the community.

It is consistent with existing processes required by the Act.

### **Comparison with neighbouring and like Councils**

Council is aware that Brimbank City Council has made a local law that prescribes a procedure in relation to determining, making, amending, modifying or revoking key policies. Council has compared the proposed Local Law with the existing Local Law of Brimbank City Council. Comparisons have been made regarding scope and procedure.

The scope for the proposed Local Law differs from the Brimbank approach in that it specifically excludes minor amendments to Major Council Policies. Minor amendments are changes of an insubstantial, administrative or minor editorial nature that do not alter its purpose or outcomes or impact on related policies or stakeholders to whom the policy applies. Examples of minor amendments include format and typographical improvements, updating titles of positions and organisational units, and changes to the responsible officer, authorising officer and review date. This refinement of scope is aimed at ensuring the process is as efficient as possible.

Procedural differences between the proposed Local Law and the Brimbank approach include the requirement for a Major Council Policy Impact Statement in a particular form and provisions regarding the availability and accessibility of Major Council Policies.

The Major Council Policy Impact Statement will enhance the community consultation process through provision of sufficient information regarding the policy issue.

Provisions for availability and accessibility of Major Council Policies will ensure that the community will be able to find and understand policy documents that guide decision-making and the exercise of power in respect of decisions that impact on the lives and wellbeing of residents, ratepayers, visitors and businesses.

### **Charter of Human Rights**

Council has assessed the proposed Local Law for compatibility with the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities. A report of this assessment is attached.

In summary, Council found that the key points of reference are the right to freedom of expression and the right to participate in the conduct of public life. The proposed Local Law provides for a higher level of community consultation in relation to Major Council Policies, including a mandatory public notice and submissions process and additional consultation, at Council's discretion, with any person or body corporate whose interests are likely to be materially affected.

The proposed Local Law is considered to be fully compatible with the Charter of Human Rights.

### **Consultation**

In the process of developing the proposed Local Law, Administrators have been consulted, Council's lawyers have been consulted in the drafting of the proposed local law and the draft local Law will be exhibited to the public as part of the statutory process.

Public consultation will be undertaken in accordance with section 223 of the Act.

All submissions and any proposed changes will be considered by Council prior to the Local Law being made.

### **Submissions**

Submissions are invited from the community in regards to the proposed Local Law in accordance with section 223 of the Act.

A notice to this effect will be advertised in the Chronicle newspaper on Friday 21 August 2015 and in the Victoria Government Gazette and also on Council's website indicating that submissions will be received up to 5.00pm on Friday 25 September 2015.

Persons making submissions can request an opportunity to address Council. A Special Committee of Council has been established to hear submissions on the proposed local law on Monday 5 October 2015.

All submissions will be considered by Council when deciding whether or not to make the proposed Local Law at the Ordinary Meeting of Council scheduled for Tuesday 20 October 2015.

## **Part C – Specific Provisions**

### **Power to make or change a Major Council Policy**

Clause 6 of the proposed Local Law enables Council to determine that a policy is, or is no longer, a Major Council Policy. The clause also provides that Council can make, amend, modify or revoke a Major Council Policy.

A policy is defined under the Local Law to include a procedure, code or protocol, and could be an existing or proposed new policy. A Major Council Policy means any policy which Council has determined, by reason of its importance, to be a Major Council Policy. Major Council Policy transparently sets out Council's position on an issue or set of issues to guide decision-making and the exercise of power in respect of decisions that impact on the lives and wellbeing of residents, ratepayers, visitors and businesses.

Council has adopted a broad range of policies, strategies and plans to guide Council's planning and delivery of services. To determine that an existing or proposed new policy is a Major Council Policy, Council would need to be satisfied the policy is an important policy. It is expected a limited number of policies will be designated as Major Council Policies which are likely to include policies regarding funding of capital works, allocation of community resources, allocation of Council grant funding, management of Council risks as well as policies related to Councillors, Councillor support arrangements, committees of Council and Councillor conduct.

This provision ensures that there is adequate definition of the scope and application of Council's powers under this part.

Council has many policies including those that are purely administrative in nature. This provision confines the scope of the proposed Local Law to those policies that are important and that impact the community.

### **Procedure to make or change a Major Council Policy**

Clause 7 of the proposed Local Law prohibits Council from making a decision concerning a Major Council Policy proposal without completing prescribed steps.

A Major Council Policy proposal includes any proposed action to determine that a policy is or is no longer a Major Council Policy or to make, amend, modify or revoke a Major Council Policy. A Major Council Policy proposal does not include any proposed change consisting only of minor amendments which are of an insubstantial, administrative or minor editorial nature, and do not alter its purpose or outcomes or impact on related policies or stakeholders to whom the policy applies.

Minor amendments include format and typographical improvements, updating the titles of positions and organisational units, and changes to the responsible officer, authorising officer and review date.

The proposed Local Law requires Council to prepare a proposed Major Council Policy and an impact statement, make those documents available to the community and undertake a public notice and submissions process mirroring the procedure set out in section 223 of the Act.

Section 223 of the Act requires Council to give public notice of a specified proposal in a newspaper generally circulating in the municipality and on Council's website, and to consider submissions received before making a final decision on the proposal. A person who makes a written submission is entitled to request in the submission to be heard by Council or a Committee appointed by Council in support of their submission. When Council makes a final decision on the proposal, Council must notify, in writing, each submitter of the decision and the reasons for the decision.

Council's intention is that, unless the procedure that is prescribed in the proposed Local Law is followed, any decision made in relation to a Major Council Policy would be legally ineffective.

Clause 8 of the proposed Local Law provides that the existing policies listed in Schedule 2 of the proposed Local Law are deemed to be Major Council Policies. This provision reduces the potential initial administrative burden facing Council of determining each existing important policy as Major Council Policy.

Clause 9 of the proposed Local Law allows Council to undertake, in addition to the mandatory public notice and submission process, additional consultation individually with any person or body corporate, such as a company or incorporated association, whose interests are likely to be materially affected by a Major Council Policy proposal. The mode of this additional consultation is not specified and it is therefore open for Council to decide the form and extent of the consultation. This provision embodies Council's commitment to effective community engagement with the objective of empowering communities to contribute to decision making and to work collaboratively with Council. It is proposed any additional consultation process will be specified in the Major Council Policy itself or in the Council resolution designating the policy as a Major Council Policy.

Clause 10 of the proposed Local Law provides that the consultation requirements in the Local Law do not apply if, under any Act, Council is required to follow a specified consultation process before making a determination in relation to a Major Council Policy. For example, if Council intended to determine that the Council Plan is a Major Council Policy under the Local Law, it would be required to follow the specified consultation process for adopting a Council Plan under the Act rather the consultation process outlined in the Local Law.

### **Availability of Major Council Policies**

Clause 11 of the Proposed Local Law provides for the availability and accessibility of every Major Council Policy. This provision mirrors the requirement under the Act for Local Laws to be available for inspection, available for purchase, on Council's website and in a consolidated form. The intent of this provision is that a person should not be prejudicially affected if a copy of a Major Council Policy was not available or accessible.

## Local Law Human Rights Charter Assessment

### Major Council Policy Consultation Local Law No. 4 of 2015

As from 1 January 2008 all public authorities (including Councils) are required to act in accordance with the Human Rights Charter, and to consider human rights when making a decision.

The Charter is a law that protects the rights of all people in Victoria. It introduces standards and a framework to assist public authorities to consider the rights of all interested parties, and to be better able to strike a balance between an individual's rights and those of competing public interests.

The rights in the Charter may be subject to reasonable limitations in order to achieve this balance. As with all discerning decision making, if limitations are applied, this must be documented.

There are twenty rights listed in the Charter that promote the principles of freedom, respect, equality and dignity. These are listed at the end of this document.

| Issues and Purpose                              | Rights Impacted<br>Positive  | Rights impacted<br>Negative | Justification and alternatives   |
|---|--|-----------------------------|--|
| PART 1 – INTRODUCTION                           | Nil  | Nil                         | No impact as it sets Title, Objectives, Authorising Provision, Commencement and End Dates and Definitions.   |
| PART 2 – MAJOR COUNCIL POLICIES                 | <u>Right to hold an opinion and freedom of expression:</u><br>Establishes the right for a person to make a submission and be heard regarding a Major Council Policy proposal.  | Nil                         | The consultation provisions of the proposed Local Law mirror the requirements set out in section 223 of the Local Government Act 1989 (the Act).<br>The Act and any amendments to it are assessed against the Charter by State Parliament. |
|   | <u>Right to take part in public life:</u><br>Establishes the right for a person to make a submission and be heard regarding a Major Council Policy proposal.<br>Provides for additional consultation, at Council's discretion, with any person or body corporate whose interests are likely to be materially affected. | Nil                         | The mandatory steps for community consultation improve upon the existing legal requirements contained in the Act.  |
| PART 3 - AVAILABILITY OF MAJOR COUNCIL POLICIES | Nil  | Nil                         | No impact as it sets out an obligation on Council.   |

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## Victoria's Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities

The Charter sets out the rights, freedoms and responsibilities that are shared by all Victorians and protected by law.

The Charter protects the following rights in Victoria:

- Right to be recognised and treated equally before the law;
- Right to life and to not have your life taken without a lawful reason;
- Protection from cruel treatment or punishment, including torture and medical treatment without consent;
- Freedom from forced work or slavery;
- Right to move freely within Victoria, to come into and leave Victoria, and to choose where to live;
- Right to privacy and to protect your reputation;
- Freedom of thought, conscience, religion and belief;
- Right to hold an opinion and freedom of expression;
- Right to gather together, take part in a peaceful demonstration or protest, and to join groups such as political, sport or union groups;
- Protection of families and children;
- Right to take part in public life, including the right to vote;
- Right to enjoy your culture, practise your religion, and speak your language;
- Right not to have your property taken away, unless the law says it can be taken;
- Right not to be arrested or detained unfairly, and right to the security of person, such as protection from harassment and threats in everyday life;
- Right to be treated humanely when arrested or detained ;
- Protection of children in the criminal process;
- Right to a fair hearing ;
- Rights in criminal proceedings including the right to be presumed innocent until proved guilty; and
- Right not to be tried or punished more than once for the same crime.

## Local Law National Competition Policy Assessment

### Major Council Policy Consultation Local Law No. 4 of 2015

#### Introduction

A local law must not restrict competition unless it can be demonstrated that:-

- The benefits of the restrictions to the community as a whole outweigh the costs; and
- The objectives of the local law can only be achieved by restricting competition.

This report applies the competition test to the proposed Major Council Policy Consultation Local Law No. 4 of 2015.

#### Part 1 – Introduction

Part A sets out the title of the Local Law, the objectives of the Local Law, the authorising legal provision for the Local Law, when the Local Law commences and ends and definitions of words and phrases used in the Local Law.

It does not contain any restriction on competition.

#### Part 2 – Major Council Policies

Part B contains provisions that provide for the determination, making, amendment, modification and revocation of Major Council Policies. The obligations set out in this part apply to Council only.

It does not contain any restriction on competition

#### Part 3 – Availability of Major Council Policies

Part C sets out the requirements for the availability and accessibility of Major Council Policies. The obligations set out in this part apply to Council only.

It does not contain any restriction on competition



## Council Policy Review Summary

| Action / Policy Title   | Date / Comment   |
|---|------------------|
| Retain without change   | Next review date |
| Appointment to Committees of Council Policy   | February 2017    |
| Australia Day Event and Awards Policy   | July 2016        |
| Community Hire of Public Facilities Policy  | March 2016       |
| Councillor Code of Conduct  | April 2017       |
| Election Period Caretaker Arrangements Policy   | June 2016        |
| Procurement Policy  | June 2016        |
| Risk Management Policy  | September 2017   |
| Sewer Connection Exemption Policy   | December 2018    |
| Town Planning Conciliation Meetings   | June 2018        |
| Waste Charge Policy   | January 2016     |
| Retain and change review date   | Next review date |
| Agriculture and Agribusiness Advisory Committee Charter                                     | June 2017        |
| Annual Meeting of Council Policy  | January 2016     |
| Appointment of Acting Mayor Policy  | January 2016     |
| Asset Management Policy   | June 2016        |
| Arts, Culture and Heritage Advisory Committee Charter                                       | June 2017        |
| Audit Advisory Committee Charter  | June 2019        |
| Bowmans-Murmungee Memorial Hall and Tennis Reserve Special Committee Charter & Delegations  | September 2017   |
| Carboor Soldiers Memorial Hall & Recreation Reserve Special Committee Charter & Delegations | September 2017   |
| Chief Executive Officer Performance Appraisal Process                                       | January 2016     |
| Commemorative plaques and other markers   | June 2019        |

| Action / Policy Title   | Date / Comment |
|---|----------------|
| Community Amenity (Amendment) Local Law No. 1 - Local Laws Policies         | June 2016      |
| Community Grants Policy   | June 2016      |
| Community Loans Policy  | June 2020      |
| Debt Collection & Penalty Interest on Unpaid Debtors Policy                 | June 2019      |
| Development Approval Facilitation Policy                                    | January 2020   |
| Edi Upper Hall & Recreation Reserve Special Committee Charter & Delegations | September 2017 |
| Eldorado Memorial Hall Special Committee Charter & Delegations              | September 2017 |
| Everton Hall & Sports Complex Special Committee Charter & Delegations       | September 2017 |
| Facility Maintenance Policy   | September 2017 |
| Food Premises - Exemptions  | June 2019      |
| Fraud Control Policy  | June 2018      |
| Friends of Lacluta Special Committee Charter & Delegations                  | September 2017 |
| Gifts, Benefits & Hospitality Policy  | March 2018     |
| Guidelines for Delegates Reports to Council                                 | October 2018   |
| Guidelines for the use of the Community Bus                                 | October 2018   |
| Human Rights Charter  | January 2019   |
| Information Privacy Policy  | June 2019      |
| Kiosk Hire  | June 2019      |
| Late Payment of Rates   | June 2019      |
| Milawa Public Hall and Park Special Committee Charter & Delegations         | September 2017 |
| Moyhu Soldiers Memorial Hall Special Committee Charter & Delegations        | September 2017 |
| Myrrhee Soldiers Memorial Hall Special Committee Charter & Delegations      | September 2017 |

| Action / Policy Title  | Date / Comment |
|--|----------------|
| National Competition Policy - Wangaratta Indoor Sports & Aquatic Centre Policy     | June 2020      |
| North Wangaratta Sports Reserve Special Committee Charter & Delegations            | September 2017 |
| Old Murmungee Hall Special Committee Charter & Delegations                         | September 2017 |
| Oxley Shire Hall Special Committee Charter & Delegations                           | September 2017 |
| Place Naming Committee Charter   | June 2017      |
| Professional Development for Councillors Policy                                    | June 2018      |
| Protected Disclosure Policy  | August 2018    |
| Public Art Policy  | June 2016      |
| Rate Refund / Financial Hardship Policy  | June 2019      |
| Register of Interests Returns Policy   | March 2018     |
| Reimbursement of Expenses for Councillors and Members of Council Committees Policy | June 2017      |
| Reserve and Sports Ground User Charges Pricing Policy                              | January 2016   |
| Sale of Council Land Policy  | June 2019      |
| Sister City/Friendship City Relationship Program                                   | December 2018  |
| Sport and Recreation Advisory Committee Charter                                    | June 2018      |
| Street Furniture Relocation Policy   | June 2019      |
| Temporary Reservation - On-Street Car Parking                                      | June 2020      |
| Use of Council's Name and Nomenclature Policy                                      | January 2018   |
| Use of Mayoral Pendant Policy  | January 2018   |
| Wangaratta Art Gallery Collection Policy   | June 2016      |
| Wangaratta Community Event Signs   | June 2019      |
| Wangaratta Showgrounds Special Committee Charter & Delegations                     | September 2017 |

| Action / Policy Title  | Date / Comment   |
|--|--|
| Wangaratta Unlimited Board (Advisory Committee) Charter              | June 2018  |
| Whitfield Recreation Reserve Special Committee Charter & Delegations | September 2017   |
| Whorouly Public Hall Special Committee Charter & Delegations         | September 2017   |
| Whorouly Memorial Park Special Committee Charter & Delegations       | September 2017   |
| Youth Council Advisory Committee Charter                             | June 2019  |
| Revoke   | Justification  |
| Advertising Signs Policy   | This policy has been updated via Amendment C46 and now forms part of the Planning Scheme and should be removed.  |
| Car Parking Contribution Policy                                      | Not required. Planning scheme provisions adequately cover this requirement.  |
| Community Amenity Local Law No. 1 Permit Issue Guidelines            | This policy will be incorporated into the local law policy document.   |
| Comprehensive Signs Policy   | The advertising signs section has been updated via Amendment C46 and now forms part of the Planning Scheme and should be removed. The administration and installation of an on-road sign is dealt with through existing legislation and delegations and is not required. The footpath A frame signs section is covered by Council's amenity local law and referenced policies and is not required. |
| Customer Request Management Policy                                   | Replaced by corporate policy and procedures  |
| Exemption for Farm Buildings Policy                                  | Outdated and not required. Planning scheme provisions adequately cover these structures.   |
| Policy Position on Brothels in the Rural City of Wangaratta          | Not required. Planning scheme provisions adequately cover such developments.   |

| Action / Policy Title  | Date / Comment  |
|--|---|
| Special Rates & Charges and other Contributory Projects Policy | Policy not required as the Local Government Act prescribes consultation requirements. |
| Wangaratta Planning Scheme - Effluent and Waste Water Disposal | Not required. Planning scheme provisions adequately cover such developments.          |
| Whistleblowers Protection                                      | Replaced by the Protected Disclosure Policy   |



Version 1.0 Feb 2015  
Version 2.0 Mar 2015  
Version 3.0 April 2015

# Rural City of Wangaratta

## Community Access and Inclusion Charter 2015



### Our Vision

*Rural City of Wangaratta - the Ultimate in Liveability*

### A Shared Responsibility

*Council, working together with community groups, service agencies, schools, health services and businesses, to build an accessible and inclusive community.*

*This document is available in electronic format (email, website, CD)*

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*and large print upon request*

Being involved in the community is important to all of us and most people take for granted the ability to go about their daily lives in the community without experiencing any barriers. People with disabilities face barriers to everyday activities such as hearing what is said, reading print and signs, climbing stairs, safely moving around the community and communicating with others.

The **Community Access and Inclusion Charter** adopts the *social model of disability* which emphasises that many of the difficulties experienced by people living with disability are the direct result of barriers imposed by the environment and not the disability itself. The Charter represents Council and community commitment to removing barriers to participation in community life for people with disabilities, their carers and families.

Through its operations the Council aspires to uphold and demonstrate **core principals** for access and inclusion. Working collaboratively with the community, Council will pursue and promote **shared goals** towards building an accessible and inclusive community.



## Barriers to Access and Inclusion

Wangaratta residents with a disability, their families and carers were asked to tell us about the difficulties they face. This is what they said:

|                                |                               |                                 |                             |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Attitudes                      | Lack of meaningful employment | Format of information           | Website usability           |
| Access to buildings            | Lack of suitable parking      | Safety concerns for pedestrians | Unsuitable signage          |
| Limited transport options      | Family friendly               | Inadequate lighting             | Not enough suitable seating |
| Entrance steps                 | Scooter access                | Respite options                 | Recreational activities     |
| Involvement in decision making | Disability awareness          | Communication skills            | Bilingual information       |
| Cluttered aisles               | Access to events              |                                 |                             |



# Our Shared Responsibilities

## Rural City of Wangaratta Council

Council accepts the following responsibilities in relation to its planning, decision making and operations and aims to:

- incorporate access and inclusion principles in the way we plan and deliver services
- consider how to improve how we communicate and engage with all members of the community
- systematically improve the accessibility of council buildings and infrastructure
- ensure council services, programs and events take into account the diverse needs of community members
- support equal employment opportunities
- exercise leadership by advocating for the rights of disadvantaged groups within our Community.

## Community

Community groups, health and support services, educational institutions, retailers and businesses also have a crucial role to play towards building an inclusive and accessible community by:

- providing a safe and accessible environment
- treating all people with respect and dignity
- providing a professional and friendly service
- initiating and supporting events and campaigns to raise disability awareness
- being flexible to support individual needs where possible

- being proactive in improving your awareness of disability and confidence to communicate and assist individuals.
- incorporate *Principles of Universal Design* across planning for facilities, services, communication, consultation and events.

### Principles of Universal Design

1. **Equitable** use for people of all abilities.
2. **Flexible** to meet a range of individual needs.
3. **Simple** and **Intuitive** to use.
4. **Easy to Interpret** and understand.
5. **Safe** and **Sensible** to use.
6. **Easy to Use** with low physical effort.



**People with disability have a unique insight into the barriers they face and practical suggestions to reduce these. They wish to be consulted on matters that affect them giving rise to the saying:**

**“Nothing about us, without us”**

# Whole-of-Council Approach

The Rural City of Wangaratta **Community Access and Inclusion Charter** is one of a suite of three Council documents that describe the background to and thinking behind a whole-of-Council approach to access and inclusion.

1. **Policy for Equity and Access for People with Disabilities**
2. **Community Access and Inclusion Charter**
3. **Community Access and Inclusion Action Plan**

These documents outline the Council's commitment to meet its legislative and ethical obligations under federal and state legislation, standards and guidelines.



The **Policy for Equity and Access for People with Disabilities** guides Council's approach to good practice where diversity is celebrated, human rights protected and varying abilities valued and developed.

The **Community Access Inclusion Action Plan** links community expectations with opportunities for Council to improve accessibility of its services and facilities. Outcomes will be reviewed and reported in the Council's Annual Report.

By adopting this **Community Access and Inclusion Charter**, the Council aims to communicate its commitment to work together with all facets of the community to inform and meet the

**Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006**

**Victorian State Government Disability Act 2006**

**Victorian Equal Opportunity Act 2010**

**Commonwealth Disability Discrimination Act 1992**

**Commonwealth Work Health and Safety Act 2011**

## We Welcome Your Feedback

As part of the continuous improvement process at the Rural City of Wangaratta Council, we welcome feedback about your experiences of access and inclusion. You can contact us via:



PO Box 238  
Wangaratta, Vic 3676



Phone (03) 5722 0888  
**NRS Friendly**



[council@wangaratta.vic.gov.au](mailto:council@wangaratta.vic.gov.au)

changing needs of people of all abilities within the community.



Version 1.0 Mar 2015  
Version 2.0 April 2015

# Rural City of Wangaratta

## Community Access and Inclusion Action Plan 2015 - 2017



*This document is available in electronic format (email, website, CD)  
and large print upon request*

## Background

The Rural City of Wangaratta Council recognises the importance of accessible services, facilities and communities. This includes the capacity for everyone to participate in the social, cultural and political life of the community. Access is fundamental to creating healthy and cohesive communities.

The number of people with a disability is far higher than many assume. According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS 2013), an estimated 1 in 5 people in Victoria identify themselves as having some form of disability with the prevalence higher in regional areas.

For people with disabilities, access and inclusion can mean different things depending on the type of disability and what is necessary to participate in their community. Strategies to remove potential barriers to access and inclusion for people with a disability will inevitably improve access for everyone in the community.

## Purpose and Scope

The Rural City of Wangaratta **Community Access and Inclusion Action Plan** is one of a suite of three Council documents that outline Council's commitment to meet its legislative and ethical obligations under Federal and State legislation, standards and guidelines.

1. Policy for Equity and Access for People with Disabilities
2. Community Access and Inclusion Charter
3. Community Access and Inclusion Action Plan

The **Community Access and Inclusion Action Plan** aims to assist Council to work with the community and business sectors to identify and implement strategies that ensure residents and visitors are not restricted from accessing services and facilities or participating in community and civic events.

The Action Plan has adopted the *social model of disability*. The social model identifies that many of the difficulties that occur for people living with a disability are the direct result of barriers imposed by the environment and not the disability itself.

Opportunities identified within the Action Plan were informed by community consultation conducted during March 2015. Community engagement elicited input from more than 450 participants through small group discussions with disability support and advocacy groups, a survey and individual interviews. Opportunities included in this Action Plan respond to the most important concerns raised and have been organised into the following four key themes:

- |   |
|---|
| <b>Theme 1: An Active and Engaged Community</b>         |
| <b>Theme 2: Communication for All</b>                   |
| <b>Theme 3: Accessible Buildings and Infrastructure</b> |
| <b>Theme 4: Civic Leadership</b>                        |

## Theme 1: An Active and Engaged Community

The Council is committed to increasing the participation of people of all abilities in local government planning. Council values the lived experience of people with a disability, their carers and families and the role they can play in identifying needs and as proactive partners in responding to those needs.

In many cases it is society's attitudes towards people with disabilities that leads to direct or indirect discrimination. Council is committed to bringing about tangible changes in attitudes and practices that discriminate.

| Community Expectations  | Opportunities for Council   |
|---|---|
| People with disability, their families and carers can participate in an inclusive democracy and have their say on issues that affect them.  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Review how Council engages with individuals and groups and develop guidelines to ensure that we consult effectively and inclusively with all diverse groups that make up the community in our decision making.</li> <li>◆ Establish an Accessibility Reference Group with a diverse representation of people with lived experience of disability who will act as ambassadors for various groups within the community and work collaboratively with Council to achieve access and inclusion outcomes.</li> </ul>  |
| People of all abilities experience the Rural City of Wangaratta as a socially cohesive and connected community which supports their right to play an active part in the life of the municipality. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Celebration of Abilities – create ongoing opportunities to raise awareness of and celebrate the valuable contribution people with a disability make to our community culminating with annual events for International Day for People with Disability (3<sup>rd</sup> December).</li> <li>◆ Arts Access for Everyone – plan and deliver a diverse range of performing and arts projects that link people with a disability to mainstream activities.</li> <li>◆ Inclusive Events – develop an <i>Inclusive Events Guide</i> and make available assistive equipment via the community resource kit.</li> </ul> |
| Affordable and flexible   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Collaborate with local commercial and volunteer transport</li> </ul>   |



|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| transport options. | services to map and promote accessible transport options. |
|--------------------|---|

## Theme 2: Communication for All

The Council recognises that information it distributes must be available in a form appropriate to the needs of people who cannot use standard means of communication. This includes people who have impaired hearing or vision, who use communication devices or translation services, as well as those who need help in using the information provided.

| Community Expectations   | Opportunities for Council  |
|--|--|
| People with disability can easily communicate and do business with Council and have confidence in their dealings with Council staff. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Through staff training, resource development and assessment, work towards <i>Communication Access</i> accreditation for all Council customer service points.</li> <li>◆ Develop NERDS based training to increase disability awareness and communication skills for all staff.</li> <li>◆ Review the Council's Corporate Style Guide to incorporate best practice guidelines for creating accessible documents in a range of formats to address accessibility requirements.</li> <li>◆ Undertake an audit of the Council's website in line with the World Wide Web Access Consortium (W3C) guidelines for web content accessibility and plan for incremental upgrades to the website.</li> </ul> |

## Theme 3: Accessible Buildings and Infrastructure

The Council recognises that physical access is a critical issue for people experiencing disabilities (temporary or long term), age related conditions or parents with children in prams and aims to incorporate the *principles of universal design* across all planning for infrastructure, facilities and major projects.

| Community Expectations  | Opportunities for Council  |
|---|--|
| <p>People will experience Council's public buildings, venues and outdoor spaces as accessible, people friendly and welcoming spaces.</p>                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Progressively undertake an audit of accessible parking in public areas and identify and report on improvements required to ensure parking bays meet the current Australian Standards and consider parking to multi-purpose vehicles that transport people with a disability.</li> <li>◆ Progressively undertake an audit of pathways and access ways to ensure continuous and accessible travel to meet AS1428 standards and Universal Design Principles.</li> <li>◆ Progressively undertake an audit of existing Council buildings and facilities to prioritise and plan for improvements to comply with the AS1428 Standards and meet Universal Design Principles.</li> <li>◆ Planning for new and redeveloped community facilities will incorporate Universal Design Principles including guidelines to ensure agents and contractors comply with AS1428 requirements.</li> <li>◆ Embed access audit training and skills within the organisation.</li> </ul> |
| <p>People with disability will have the opportunity to participate in planning an accessible and growing municipality and can enjoy a well designed</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Include community consultation in all audit processes.</li> <li>◆ Communicate plans and achievements around access and inclusion to the community</li> </ul>  |



|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| built environment. | ◆ Include input from the Accessibility Reference Group as part of the sign off on projects. |
|--------------------|---|

## Theme 4: Civic Leadership

The Council continues to play a leadership role to improve access and inclusion for people of all abilities through its various roles: advocacy, partnerships, planning, service provision, employer and regulator.

The implementation of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) is an important initiative that will have wide ranging impacts on the way services are delivered at a national, state and local level. The adoption of principles outlined in this policy will help Council prepare for change and respond with innovation and flexibility.

| Community Expectations   | Opportunities for Council   |
|--|---|
| NDIS ready community   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Work in collaboration with disability agencies and support groups to facilitate information sessions and training in preparation for the roll out of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).</li> </ul>   |
| Wangaratta Rural City Council offers a range of employment, traineeship and volunteering opportunities and for people of all abilities.  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Undertake an Employability Access Audit of Council processes, policies and the environment through the Commonwealth Government's Job Access Program.</li> <li>◆ Partner with employment and training agencies to actively promote and support work experience, school to work transitions, apprenticeships and mentoring opportunities for people with disabilities.</li> </ul>                                    |
| The Council will work in partnership with the business and tourism sector to assist organisations to meet their legal and community expectations that all people have fair access to goods and services. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Participate in a regional strategy to promote the message that good access is good business.</li> <li>◆ Support and encourage an inclusive tourism sector with products, services and experiences that are accessible to people with a wide range of abilities.</li> <li>◆ Create an accessible tourism information guide that highlights accessible features of attractions, events and accommodation.</li> </ul> |

|  |  |
|--|--|
|  | ◆ Update the Wangaratta CBD Mobility Map to incorporate a broad range of accessibility features. |
|--|--|



## Policy of Equity and Access for People With Disabilities

|                                  |                |  |
|----------------------------------|----------------|--|
| Responsible Officer:             | Document No:   |  |
| Manager Community and Recreation | Adoption Date: |  |
| Authorising Officer:             | Approved By:   |  |
| Director Community Wellbeing     | Review Date:   |  |
|                                  | Policy Type:   |  |

### Background

The Rural City of Wangaratta Council recognises the importance of accessible services, facilities and communities. This includes the capacity for everyone to participate in the social, cultural and political life of the community. Access is fundamental to creating healthy and cohesive communities.

The number of people with a disability is far higher than many assume. According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS 2013), an estimated 1 in 5 people in Victoria identify themselves as having some form of disability with the prevalence higher in regional areas.

For people with disabilities, access and inclusion can mean different things depending on the type of disability and what is necessary to participate in their community. Strategies to remove potential barriers to access and inclusion for people with a disability will inevitably improve access for everyone in the community.

Access and inclusion refers to the opportunity for all people to participate in and engage independently with the environment and community. In practice, this means that all people have the right to equitable access to resources, decision-making, expertise, experience, connections, and information and through solutions to match their needs.

Council continues to play a leadership role in supporting access and inclusion for people of all abilities through its various roles: advocacy, partnerships, planning, service provision, educator, employer and regulator.

### Purpose and Scope

This policy broadly describes the background to and thinking behind a whole-of-Council approach to delivering accessible and flexible services that inform and meet the changing needs of people with a disability, their families and carers.

This policy establishes a framework to assist Council to work with the community and business sectors to identify and implement strategies to ensure that residents and visitors are not restricted from accessing services and facilities or participating in community and civic events.

This policy has adopted the *social model of disability*. The social model identifies that many of the difficulties that occur for people living with a disability are the direct result of barriers imposed by the environment and not the disability itself.

This policy has adopted the following definition of disability:

*“A person with a disability has a physical, intellectual, sensory or aged-related impairment or mental illness (or a combination of these) and as a result faces barriers in the social and physical environment that prevent them from fully participating and contributing to community life.”*

## Legislative Compliance

The Victorian and Federal governments have passed legislation which makes discrimination based on disability, gender, nationality, age, marital status, religion or sexuality unlawful. These include but are not restricted to:

### Federal

Australian Human Rights Commission Act 1986 (Commonwealth)  
Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (Commonwealth)  
Disability Access to Premises Standards (Buildings)  
Building Code of Australia 2013  
Australian Standards for Access and Mobility 1428 Suite of Standards  
National Disability Strategy 2010 - 2020  
National Disability Insurance Scheme

### Victorian

Victorian State Disability Plan 2013 – 2016  
Equal Opportunity Act 1995  
Local Government Act 1989 – Section 3C  
Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006  
Victorian Disability Amendment Act 2012

## Policy Principles

The Rural City of Wangaratta is committed to the following principles of access and inclusion and model these in the way that Council does its business, delivers service and programs, and engages with the community.

**Access** – People who experience disabilities have equal rights to access the physical environment, information, communication and services and to participate as citizens in their communities.

**Diversity** – People who experience disabilities have a freedom and a right to define themselves. The diversity of people who experience disability, including their ethnicity, needs to be recognised and where necessary, there should be flexibility to meet individual needs.

**Equity** – Equity of outcomes and equitable opportunities for all people is critical to the development of our organisation and community. People with disabilities have a right to equity regardless of gender, ethnicity, type of disability and when the disability was acquired.

**Inclusion** – All people, including those with disabilities, have the right to live in an inclusive community where they are able to make the most of their talents and abilities in learning, training and work.

**Participation** – People who experience disabilities have a basic human right to participate in all aspects of the community, this includes the right to influence and shape policy at all levels.

**Human Rights** – The Council will acknowledge and abide by the terms of International, Commonwealth and State Human Rights legislation.

## Policy Outcomes

This policy provides a framework by which Council and its delegated managing agents can identify and implement appropriate actions which reflect the six access and inclusion principles.

*Refer to Appendix A: Community Access and Inclusion Action Plan.*

This Policy recognises that Council is in a position to positively influence the planning and design of infrastructure and the built environment and their day-to-day operations through the development, assessment and control responsibilities. Council can also influence events, services or programs that are held on Council property are hosted by Council or financially sponsored by Council.

## Responsibilities

### Chief Executive Officer

Lead the establishment and maintenance of an appropriate culture of respect for human rights and dignity throughout the organisation.

### Corporate Management Team

Endorse this policy.

Lead, coordinate and monitor implementation of this policy.

### Management

Comply with this policy.

Ensure that Council employees adhere to this policy.

### Council employees, Volunteers and Contractors

Comply with this policy.

## Definitions

|                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| <b>Physical Disability</b> | Reduced physical capacity which, for example, affects mobility. |
|----------------------------|---|

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Sensory Disability</b>                          | Impairment of the senses (most commonly sight and hearing).   |
| <b>Mental Illness</b>                              | A mental health condition arising from continuous or intermittent disorders related to thinking, feeling, volition or behaviour.  |
| <b>Intellectual Disability</b>                     | Permanently impaired learning ability (usually from birth) which prevents or inhibits people from developing the range of physical and social skills usually found in a person of that age.   |
| <b>Age-related Disability</b>                      | Physical, sensory, intellectual disability or mental illness typically related to the onset of age.   |
| <b>Principles of Universal Design (COAG, 2014)</b> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Equitable</b> use for people of all abilities.</li> <li>2. <b>Flexible</b> to meet a range of individual needs.</li> <li>3. <b>Simple</b> and <b>Intuitive</b> to use.</li> <li>4. <b>Easy</b> to <b>Interpret</b> and understand.</li> <li>5. <b>Safe</b> and <b>Sensible</b> to use.</li> <li>6. <b>Easy to Use</b> with low physical effort.</li> <li>7. <b>Useable</b> in terms of size, space and accessibility.</li> </ol> |
| <b>National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)</b> | A new way of providing community links and individualised support for people with permanent and significant disability, their families and carers.  |

## Links to Corporate Documents

The objectives of this policy are consistent with the following Rural City of Wangaratta documents:

- 2030 Community Vision
- Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2013-2017
- Council Plan 2013-2017
- Open Space Strategy 2012

## References

Australian Bureau of Statistics (2013) *Census of Population Housing*, Canberra.

Council of Australian Governments (2014) *National Dialogue on Universal Housing Design*, Canberra.

## Review

This policy shall be reviewed on a biennial basis.

---

**Appendix A: Community Access and Inclusion Action Plan**



# COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM

## *POLICY & PROCEDURE*



### Scope

This policy outlines the requirements to deliver a community grants program on an annual basis through eligibility and criteria to determine the budget expenditure on project applications which can best deliver on Council's vision and strategic objectives.

### Policy Details

The Community Grants Program seeks applications from community groups, incorporated not-for-profit organisations or legal entity with the Rural City of Wangaratta that meet the eligibility criteria.

### Grant Categories

One annual **Minor Grants** category – up to \$5,000

One annual **Major Grants** category – up to \$15,000

### Objective

The objective of the program is to provide opportunities for everyone to participate and contribute to social, economic and cultural life within the Rural City of Wangaratta.

### Eligibility

To be **eligible**, applicants must demonstrate that their community project meets one or more of the Community Grants Program goals and outcomes which align with the Council Plan.

The **goals and outcomes** of the program include:

- People are **healthy**, active & safe
- Communities are **growing** in skills and knowledge
- People are **connected**
- People are **creative**
- Communities are **sustainable**

**Applicants** will need to have a current Australian bank account in the name of the group or organisation, or arrange for a legal entity to auspice the funds. Grants will be provided on a GST exclusive basis.

Applicants must complete the application form and submit before the program closing date and time. Late applications will be deemed ineligible.

## **Assessment**

Submitted applications which meet the eligibility criteria will be assessed by a panel.

The **Selection Panel** will be made up of five members:

- One administrator/councilor;
- One director;
- One manager;
- One grants coordinator; and
- One community member, such as the Australia Day Award recipient or a resident who has made a significant volunteering contribution within the community.

The Assessment Panel will be provided with a **Terms of Reference**. The panel will measure the applications against weighted criteria which align with the grant program's goals and outcomes, then ranked in order of highest to lowest priority. The priority list will inform the recommendations for a Briefing paper which is presented to the Corporate Management Team, followed by a Business Paper which goes before a Council Meeting for endorsement.

## **Successful Applications**

Once successful applications are endorsed, all applicants will be notified of the outcome through methods identified in the Council Report.

**Successful applicants** must:

- complete and sign a funding agreement;
- comply with the funding agreement;
- comply with the grant guidelines; and
- complete and sign a financial acquittal and project report.

Any funds which are not expended, or variation to the project delivery, will need to be discussed with the Grants Coordinator to determine a course of action.

The Grants Coordinator will **monitor** the successful applicant's project implementation and support unsuccessful applicants seek further funding opportunities.

On completion of each funding round, an **evaluation** of that round and the success of the project delivery will be undertaken to inform the design of future rounds.

## Framework

The framework established below highlights the program timeline, establishes key milestones, supports transparency and institutes accountability in the administration of the community grants program.

### *Community Grants Program Framework*



## Procedure

### *Set strategic direction for the grants program*

- Align the grants program with council's strategic goals;
- adopt a policy that will properly articulate the intent and goals; and

- apply a consistent and transparent approach to all grants across the organisation.

### ***Design the grants program***

- Document the aims and objectives of the grant program;
- use pre-established performance measures to provide meaningful assessment of the grant program;
- consider risk management;
- determine the decision-making process for grants;
- prepare plain English guidelines for the community for the grant program; and
- develop program application forms.

### ***Let the community know about the grants program***

- Raise community awareness and encourage applications - include information about the types of grants, eligibility criteria, application processes and timeframes;
- consider providing information sessions for community organisations and the general public regarding the program;
- publicly advertise the program including guidelines and closing dates for applications; and
- ensure the policy is available for inspection by the public at the local government office and on the council's website.

### ***Assess the grants application***

- Establish procedures to avoid potential conflicts of interest (actual and perceived) by anyone (staff, councillors or member of the public) involved in the assessment and selection of grants;
- establish a clear process to receive and acknowledge applications and deal with late applications;
- develop a Scrutineer's Terms of Reference to include a Scutineering matrix to assess applications against predetermined criteria;
- establish procedures to prevent 'double dipping' by grant recipients (e.g. include specific questions on the application form);

- outline the process to follow when approving a grant to a community organisation;
- document decisions properly;
- ensure there is a process to advise successful and unsuccessful applicants of outcomes; and
- have formal agreements in place.

### ***Monitor approved grants***

- Set out the governance arrangements to formally monitor and report the benefits of the grants program for the community;
- maintain good records to identify higher risk grants which require monitoring;
- determine how to manage unspent grants or grant money not appropriately spent;
- develop a practical acquittal process and advise grant recipients;
- implement a procedure to manage non-acquittals including regular review and, where appropriate, cessation of grant funding; and
- ensure grantees promote the community grant program and acknowledge council as the provider of the grant.

### ***Evaluate the grants program***

- Understand the objectives of the evaluation;
- determine how best to assess the quantitative and qualitative outcomes of the program (e.g. outcome reports by grant recipients; collection of data against relevant performance indicators such as participation rates, economic activity or environmental targets);
- undertake a review of administrative costs; and
- report the results of the evaluation to council.

## **Review**

It is recommended that the Community Grants Program Policies and Procedures be reviewed every three years.

## **Links to strategic and quality documents & Standards**

Rural City of Wangaratta 2030 Vision

Rural City of Wangaratta Council Plan 2013-2017 (2015 Revision)

- We deliver the Community Grants Program

Rural City of Wangaratta Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2013-2017

Rural City of Wangaratta Community Grants - Program Review Report 2015

VGLA – Best Practice in Local Government Community Grants, sighted at:

<http://www.vlga.org.au/site/DefaultSite/filesystem/documents/Community%20Engagement/VLGA.2002%20Best%20Practice%20in%20Local%20Government.pdf>

<http://www.dlg.qld.gov.au/local-government/governance/local-government-community-grants-process-toolkit.html>

## COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM

### SELECTION PANEL – TERMS OF REFERENCE



The Rural City of Wangaratta is committed to supporting not-for-profit organisations and community groups to achieve their goals, particularly when they align with Council goals outlined in the Council Plan 2013-17(2015 Revision). To ensure decisions are transparent and accountable, Council targets its support and resources to external organisations via a major and minor community grants categories:

- *Community Grants – Major Category*
- *Community Grants – Minor Category*

#### *Purpose of assessment panels:*

- To review, assess and provide objective, independent recommendations to Council in relation to funding for grants programs.
- To ensure that guidelines and assessment criteria endorsed by Council have been applied consistently and equitably for all applications.

#### *Principles:*

- Council is committed to ensuring equity and transparency in decision making processes.
- Conflict of interest and pecuniary interests are declared prior to assessing applications.
- Panels will be representative of the diversity within the community in relation to gender, cultural background, abilities and age to ensure diversity of views and perspectives.
- Privacy and confidentiality of Council and applicant information will be maintained at all times.
- Canvassing of panel members provides grounds for ineligibility for applicants.

#### *Responsibilities of panel members:*

- The Rural City of Wangaratta values of integrity, courage, accountability, respect and excellence are to be demonstrated by all panel members.
- Complete assessment using the Council approved assessment criteria ensuring panel members provide objective recommendations.
- Adherence to the principles outlined in the Terms of Reference and full declaration of any conflict of interest.
- Complete assessment within the designated time frames.
- Attendance at briefing sessions and meetings.

---

***Application assessment process and decision making:*****Assessment panel**

The Assessment Panel is an assessment panel that are made up of:

- one Councillor/Administrator;
- one Director;
- one Manager;
- one Grants Coordinator; and
- one community member on an annual basis (such as the Australia Day Award recipient or a resident who has made a significant volunteer contribution as recorded in the Council's Significant Volunteering Register).

The role of the Assessment Panel is to make recommendations to Council. The assessment process and decision making consists of the following steps:

1. Applications received with preliminary sorting by staff for eligibility.
2. Council staff provides a presentation on assessment information and advice on applications to the Assessment Panel members.
3. Assessment Panel members undertake assessment and make recommendations to Council.
4. Council make the final decision.

To ensure that diverse perspectives are acknowledged and to provide exposure to local government decision making processes, panels may include observers where appropriate. Observers have a responsibility to adhere to the principles outlined in this document though they do not have voting rights.

***Appointment process:***

The Council makes appointments to the assessment panel based on merit, skills and expertise in relevant grants program areas as outlined in the selection criteria. In doing so, Council also recognises that the Wangaratta community is diverse and gives consideration to factors such as gender, abilities, age and cultural background.

***Remuneration for community panel member:***

- Community panel members are remunerated for their contribution through the provision of a Wangaratta Performing Arts Centre voucher to the value of \$100.

Assessment Panel members are appointed on an annual basis per program category.



***Time commitment:***

Panel members will be required to undertake between 1-3 days reading time, and an additional 1-2 days meeting time per grant round dependent on the number of applications they are required to assess.

***Support to assessment panels:***

- All assessment panel members are briefed on the context of the Community Grants Program categories, their role and the process of recommendations to Council.
- Panels are provided with all necessary tools for assessment.
- All assessment meetings are noted to ensure rationale for decisions are clearly noted and to ensure accountability.

*Planning and Environment Act 1987*

**Panel Report**

**Wangaratta Planning Scheme Amendment C48  
King River and tributaries flood overlays**



**22 July 2015**

*Planning and Environment Act 1987*

Panel Report pursuant to Section 25 of the Act

Wangaratta Planning Scheme Amendment C48

King River and tributaries flood overlays

22 July 2015



Trevor McCullough, Chair



Greg Sharpley, Member

## Contents

|   | Page      |
|---|-----------|
| <b>Executive Summary .....</b>  | <b>i</b>  |
| <b>1 Introduction.....</b>  | <b>1</b>  |
| 1.1 The Proposal.....   | 1         |
| 1.2 Background.....   | 2         |
| 1.3 Panel Process.....  | 5         |
| 1.4 Conflict of interest.....   | 6         |
| 1.5 Issues dealt with in this report.....   | 6         |
| <b>2 Planning Context.....</b>  | <b>8</b>  |
| 2.1 Policy framework.....   | 8         |
| 2.2 Planning scheme provisions .....  | 10        |
| 2.3 Planning and Environment Act 1987.....  | 11        |
| 2.4 Ministerial Directions and Practice Notes.....  | 12        |
| 2.5 Strategic Assessment.....   | 12        |
| <b>3 Extent of the proposed overlays .....</b>  | <b>13</b> |
| 3.1 The issues .....  | 13        |
| 3.2 Submissions resolved prior to and after the Panel Hearing .....   | 15        |
| 3.3 Submission 3 – Mr Bou-Chahine - Lot 1 TP222903 Upper King River<br>Road, Cheshunt .....   | 17        |
| 3.4 Submission 4 – Mr and Ms Leavold 156 Wards Lane, Meadow Creek .....   | 19        |
| 3.5 Submission 5 – Mr Burrowes - 659 Burrowes Road and 4609 Wangaratta<br>– Whitfield Road, Cheshunt .....                                    | 19        |
| 3.6 Submission 12 – Mr Martinelli - 794 Upper King River Road, Cheshunt .....   | 20        |
| 3.7 Submission 16 – Mr and Ms Sheppard – 4805 Wangaratta – Whitfield<br>Road, Whitfield.....  | 21        |
| 3.8 Submission 22 – Mr and Ms Minifie - 1092 Oxley – Meadow Creek Road,<br>Meadow Creek and 926 Oxley – Meadow Creek Road, Meadow Creek ..... | 21        |
| 3.9 Recommendations .....   | 22        |
| <b>4 Other issues .....</b>   | <b>23</b> |
| 4.1 Errors in the exhibited LSIO maps .....   | 23        |
| 4.2 Council processing of applications for replacement buildings .....  | 23        |
| 4.3 Proposed changes to the Municipal Strategic Statement.....  | 23        |
| 4.4 Recommendation .....  | 24        |
| <b>Appendix A List of Submitters</b>  |           |
| <b>Appendix B Proposed changes to the FO and LSIO</b>   |           |
| <b>Appendix C Panel Preferred Schedules to the FO and LSIO</b>  |           |
| <b>Appendix D LSIO areas to be removed</b>  |           |

## List of Tables

|   | Page |
|---|------|
| Table 1    Presentations to the Panel Hearing ..... | 5    |

## List of Figures

|   | Page |
|---|------|
| Figure 1    The subject area .....        | 1    |
| Figure 2    Location of submissions ..... | 14   |

## List of Abbreviations

|         |   |
|---------|---|
| The Act | <i>Planning and Environment Act, 1987</i>     |
| ARI     | Annual Recurrence Interval                    |
| FO      | Floodway Overlay                              |
| LiDAR   | Light Detection and Ranging                   |
| LSIO    | Land Subject to Inundation Overlay            |
| MSS     | Municipal Strategic Statement                 |
| NECMA   | North East Catchment Management Authority     |
| SPPF    | State Planning Policy Framework               |
| VFMS    | Victorian Floodplain Management Strategy 2014 |
| VPP     | Victoria Planning Provisions                  |

## Overview

| Amendment Summary         |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| <b>The Amendment</b>      | Wangaratta Planning Scheme Amendment C48   |
| <b>Common Name</b>        | King River and tributaries flood overlays  |
| <b>Subject Site</b>       | The Amendment affects land in flood prone areas of the King River flood plain including along the King River and its tributaries: Hurdle Creek, Meadow Creek, Black Range Creek and Boggy Creek  |
| <b>Purpose</b>            | The Amendment proposes to update the flood mapping in the planning scheme (the LSIO and FO) for the King River and its tributaries in response to the recommendations of the <i>King River Rural Floodplain Study September 2004</i> and <i>King River Tributaries Flood Mapping Study December 2004</i> , and to include the studies as reference documents in the Scheme |
| <b>The Proponent</b>      | Rural City of Wangaratta in conjunction with the North East Catchment Management Authority (NECMA)   |
| <b>Planning Authority</b> | Rural City of Wangaratta   |
| <b>Authorisation</b>      | A02718 authorised on 16 January 2014   |
| <b>Exhibition</b>         | 5 February to 28 March 2014  |
| <b>Submissions</b>        | Number Received: 41<br>Number opposing or requesting changes: 36 landowners<br>Number supporting: 5 agencies<br>A list of all submitters is contained in Appendix A  |

| Panel Process              |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| <b>The Panel</b>           | Trevor McCullough (Chair), Greg Sharpley             |
| <b>Directions Hearing</b>  | Wangaratta, 28 January 2015                          |
| <b>Panel Hearing</b>       | Wangaratta, 11 May 2015                              |
| <b>Further Information</b> | Received 12 June 2015                                |
| <b>Appearances</b>         | Council, NECMA and 7 submitters as listed in Table 1 |
| <b>Site Inspections</b>    | Unaccompanied, 28 January 2015                       |
| <b>Date of this Report</b> | 22 July 2015   |

## Executive Summary

### (i) Summary

Amendment C48 to the Wangaratta Planning Scheme proposes to implement the *King River Rural Floodplain Study, September 2004* and *King River Tributaries Flood Mapping Study, December 2004* by applying the Floodway Overlay and the Land Subject to Inundation Overlay to land in the floodway of the King River and its tributaries.

The Amendment has been prepared jointly by Wangaratta Rural City Council and the North East Catchment Management Authority (NECMA). The proposed overlays have been produced using available topographical mapping and historical flood records of significant flood events.

Submitters questioned the integrity of background flood studies as a basis for the flood mapping and raised site specific issues. The majority of submitters requested changes to the mapping on their properties based on anecdotal evidence, historical records and photographs of flood events. Concerns generally related to potential impact of overlays on the location of dwellings and agricultural sheds.

Council and the NECMA engaged in consultation with submitters in an effort to ensure that the most accurate records have been utilised in mapping flood levels. Council and the NECMA have used local knowledge of flood levels provided by submitters along with more accurate information on topography provided through LiDAR data (where available) and on-site inspection. Consultation has resulted in a number of changes to the proposed mapping, all of which are recommended by the Panel for adoption.

The Panel concludes that the Amendment should be adopted subject to a substantial number of changes to the extent of the overlays and subject to minor changes to the proposed overlay schedules.

### (ii) Recommendation

Based on the reasons set out in this Report, the Panel recommends that Wangaratta Planning Scheme Amendment C48 should be adopted as exhibited subject to the following:

1. Adopt the revised Floodway Overlay and Land Subject to Inundation Overlay mapping based on plans included in Appendix B of this report.
2. Adopt the revised wording of Minor Works as specified in the schedules to the Floodway Overlay and Land Subject to Inundation Overlay as shown in Appendix C of this report.
3. Remove the Land Subject to Inundation Overlay from the areas as shown in Appendix D of this report.



# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 The Proposal

### (i) The subject area

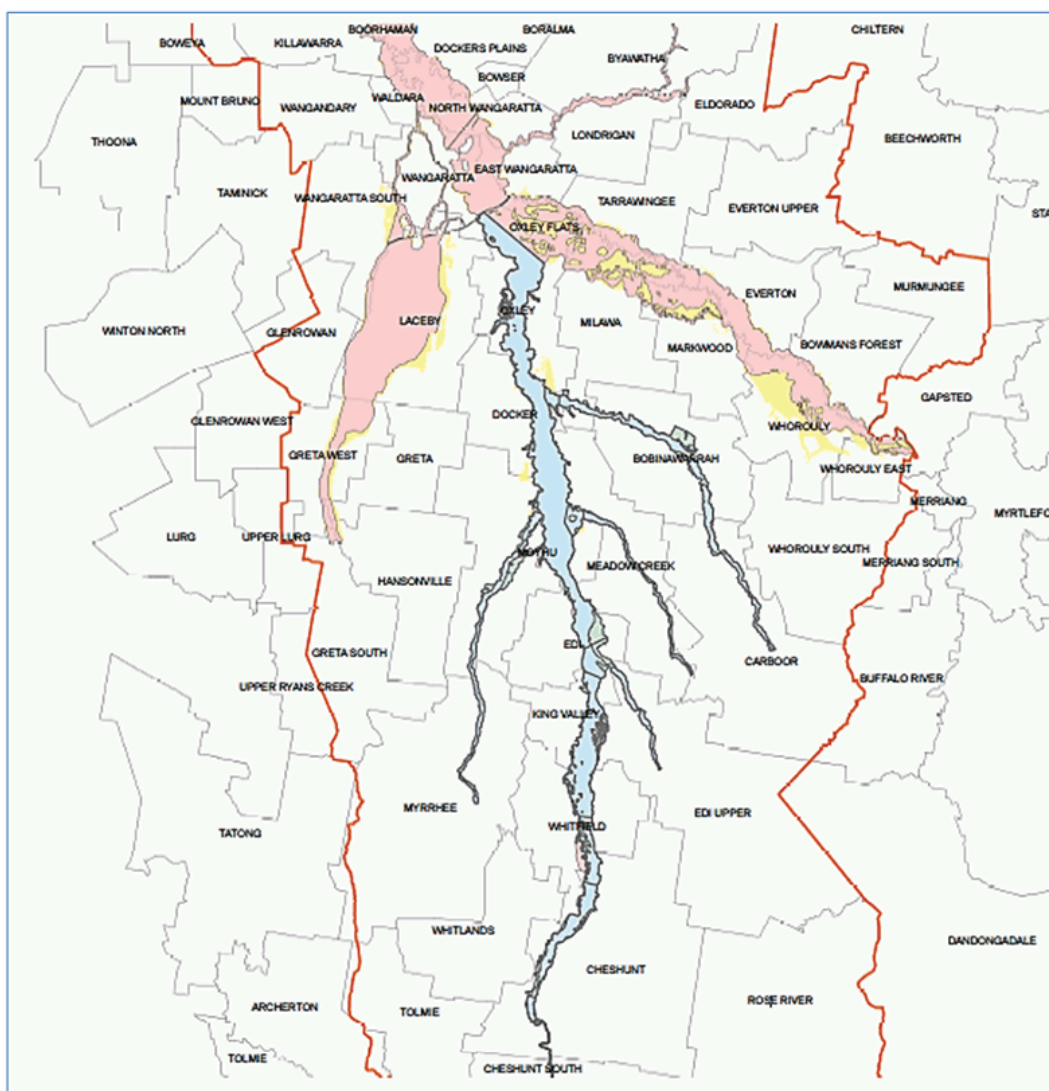


Figure 1 The subject area

The Amendment applies to land shown in Figure 1 and comprises the floodplain of the King River and tributaries (Boggy Creek, Black Range Creek, Meadow Creek and Hurdle Creek), extending from Lake William Hovell at the southern part of the municipality, north to the Hume Freeway immediately southeast of the Wangaratta township. Areas coloured pink and yellow in Figure 1 are subject to existing overlays. The areas coloured blue and green are the areas subject to this Amendment.

**(ii) Amendment Description**

The Amendment proposes to implement the *King River Rural Floodplain Study, September 2004* and *King River Tributaries Flood Mapping Study, December 2004* as follows:

- Amend flooding overlays (FO and LSIO) along the King River.
- Apply new flooding overlays (FO and LSIO) along King River tributaries (boggy Creek, Black Range Creek, Meadow Creek and Hurdle Creek).
- Amend clause 21.12 to include the *King River Rural Floodplain Study September 2004* and *King River Tributaries Flood Mapping Study December 2004* as reference documents in the scheme.
- Amend clause 21.10, strategic directions, environmental significance, to include a new strategic direction which makes reference to the findings and recommendations of the *King River Rural Floodplain Study September 2004* and *King River Tributaries Flood Mapping Study December 2004*.
- Amend clause 21.10 Environmental Management and Heritage, 'Further Work' to encourage further flood studies and mapping in the King River floodplain and tributaries and to ensure that the provisions remain current and appropriate.

**1.2 Background**

The *King River Rural Floodplain Study September 2004* and the *King River Tributaries Flood Mapping Study December 2004* were undertaken as a joint project between the Council and the North East Catchment Management Authority (NECMA) in 2004.

For the King River, this work was undertaken to replace the current Planning Scheme overlays (adopted in 2003). The current overlays reflect earlier mapping of historic flood events and the 2004 study for the King River rework the existing mapping and, along with community consultation undertaken by the NECMA, includes modification to the existing planning scheme overlays.

There were no existing flood overlays for the King River tributaries in the Planning Scheme. The work completed in December 2004 represents the most current mapping utilising available data. NECMA also conducted a community questionnaire at that time to assist in validating flood data.

**Flood History**

The NECMA advised that significant flooding has occurred in 1917, 1974, 1993, 1998 and 2010.

The 1993 event is the largest on record for the King River downstream of Moyhu and for the King River tributaries, but did not result in significant flooding in the Upper King River. The event was a 100 year ARI event downstream of Moyhu and larger than 100 year ARI in the King River tributaries.

The 1998 event was the largest on record for the Upper King River and exceeded the 1993 event in this area.

## Mapping methodology

The NECMA outlined the flood mapping methodology adopted as follows:<sup>1</sup>

*The proposed overlays reflect flood extent mapping from flood studies undertaken in 2004, but not previously implemented:*

- *King River Rural Floodplain Study – September 2004 (Water Technology)*
- *King River Tributaries Flood Mapping Study – December 2004 (Earth Tech Engineering)*

*Planning Scheme Amendment C48 represents a necessary and positive action to improve the quality of flood overlays for the King River and introduce overlays for the King River tributaries, based on the best currently available information.*

*The flood studies preceded the availability of LiDAR terrain information and utilised 10m contour information (King River) and 2m contour information (King Tributaries) further informed by site inspection, historic imagery and flood levels and field work.*

*Neither flood study relied upon hydraulic modelling but utilised extensive historic flood level information, flood photography and flood extent mapping and community consultation (questionnaires and meetings / drop in sessions).*

*The overlays developed in the King River Rural Floodplain Study (2004) were based on further examination of available flood information and community consultation. Use was made of flood imagery from 1998 upstream of Moyhu and 1993 downstream of Moyhu. The study included the identification of some large islands of higher ground which are to be removed from the overlays. This results in local increase and decrease in flood extents. Upstream of Cheshunt there is a net increase in flood extent. Between Cheshunt and Moyhu there is a general reduction in flood extent while downstream of Moyhu the changes are generally small.*

*The overlays developed in the King River Tributaries Flood Mapping Study (2004) were based on landholder questionnaires, community consultation and survey of historic flood marks (principally 1993). There is no flood imagery available for the King River tributaries and flood extents were determined based on site topography (2m contours), site inspection and community consultation in relation to observations from the 1993 flood event.*

*The overlays are not, and do not purport to be, an absolute representation of flood risk. The extent and scale of the mapping, covering a total of almost 200km of river and creek, makes it infeasible to achieve absolute spatial accuracy at a site scale.*

*The overlays are considered to represent an improvement in flood mapping for the King River (compared to the existing overlays). The inclusion of flood*

<sup>1</sup> Paras 14 to 24 and 28 to 29 of the NECMA submission to the Panel Hearing

*mapping for the King River tributaries is necessary to appropriately identify land with a known flood risk which currently has no flood overlays.*

*The overlays represent the best currently available information to identify flood prone land at the system or catchment scale and the North East CMA considers that the proposed overlays are appropriate as a trigger for planning purposes in the rural environment.*

*The North East CMA assesses planning permit referrals based on the best available information at the site scale and responds based on the actual risk. The existence of an overlay is never taken as the final determination of risk for the site. As has been the case in the assessment of submissions for the current amendment, the North East CMA compiles and assesses all available information (flood levels, imagery, LiDAR, ground and oblique photos and flood studies) to determine the flood risk in relation to proposed development.*

*The more recent availability of LiDAR may enable future hydraulic modelling and more refined mapping. The suitability of current planning overlays throughout the North East CMA region will be considered in future development of a regional floodplain management strategy (following finalisation of the state floodplain management strategy). Prioritisation of future flood investigations across the region will be determined based on consideration of flood risk and mitigation measures.*

*Not all sites were inspected as the availability of LiDAR and imagery generally allowed verification of conditions by desktop assessment.*

*The revisions made to overlay extents in response to the 25 resolved submissions result in changes in flood extent, generally of the order of up to approximately 20m, reflective of the scale at which the original mapping was undertaken. Review of the submissions did not reveal a systemic failing in the overlay mapping.*

The Panel has reviewed this methodology and is satisfied that it accords with common practice in developing overlays. There is an inherent level of uncertainty in mapping of flood levels and topography, but the Panel is satisfied that the NECMA has endeavoured to apply the best available data in the approach it has taken. The NECMA has been open to input from submitters and has appropriately applied local knowledge of flood levels in reaching its conclusions.

The use of LiDAR data has been regarded by previous panels<sup>2</sup> as a suitable level of detail with which to plot topography for the purposes of developing flood overlays. It is noted that older, less detailed (pre-LiDAR) terrain information has been used as a base for the majority of the mapping. The Panel accepts this, but also notes NECMA's plans to review flood mapping in the future to apply LiDAR data more broadly. The Panel believes that the topographical base used for this Amendment is suitable for the purpose, and notes that the more detailed LiDAR data has been used (where available) to undertake more detailed mapping where necessary, i.e. generally where submitters have identified impacts on the

<sup>2</sup> For example Wellington C33; Bass Coast C82; Mansfield C15



potential to build on the land. The Panel notes that, in any case, the FO and LSIO do not create prohibitions on buildings and works, but rather just create a permit trigger.

### 1.3 Panel Process

At the Directions Hearing a number of submitters indicated that the proposed LSIO and FO contours did not reflect actual ground conditions and advised that, despite raising objections with either NECMA or Council, their particular properties had not been reviewed. Discussions with NECMA and Council at the Directions Hearing identified that a number of submitters had raised this issue and due to timing constraints neither the Council nor NECMA had been able to attend the properties to investigate the apparent conflicts.

At the direction of the Panel, the Council and NECMA undertook site inspections with all of the remaining submitters and, where necessary, undertook additional modelling based on more recent LiDAR information which became available to NECMA. As a result the initially proposed Panel Hearing date was postponed to provide the parties an opportunity to undertake site investigations and if necessary revised mapping of the affected properties.

The outcome of this further consultation was that the majority of submissions were resolved based on revised mapping prepared between Council and NECMA. Of the original 41 submitters, only 7 parties remained to be heard at the Panel Hearing held on 11 May 2015.

Those in attendance at the Panel Hearing are listed in Table 1.

| Submitter                      | Represented by                       |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Wangaratta Rural City Council  | Ms Victoria Mallinder                |
| NECMA                          | Mr Tim Loffler and Mrs Natalie Dando |
| Mr Brian and Mrs Reta Sheppard |                                      |
| Mr Rod and Ms Susan Leavold    |                                      |
| Mr Peter Burrowes              |                                      |
| Mr Alan and Ms Deborah Conroy  |                                      |
| Mr David Minifie               |                                      |
| Mr Marco Martinelli            |                                      |
| Mr John Bou-Chahine            |                                      |

Table 1 Presentations to the Panel Hearing

Following the Hearing, Council and NECMA requested further time to finalise detailed mapping and attend to a small number of matters discussed at the Hearing. This further information was provided to the Panel on 12 June 2015.

The Panel process was unusual in that long periods of time elapsed between the Directions Hearing and the Panel Hearing, and then further time was allowed after the Hearing to finalise mapping. Whilst the process took much longer than normal, the Panel is of the view that a much better outcome has resulted. The vast majority of submissions have been resolved and the additional consultation time has enabled the flood mapping to be done

more accurately in key locations. The Panel wishes to thank the Council and NECMA officers and each of the submitters for their patience in reaching a final position.

#### **1.4 Conflict of interest**

The Panel members have declared that they have no conflicts of interest in any of the matters before the Panel.

#### **1.5 Issues dealt with in this report**

The Panel considered all written submissions, as well as submissions presented to it during the Hearing. In addressing the issues raised in those submissions, the Panel has been assisted by the information provided to it as well as its observations from inspections of specific sites.

##### **Views of the relevant agencies**

The Panel notes that the following agencies were contacted in relation to the proposed Amendment: Department of Environment and Primary Industries, EPA Victoria, Goulburn Murray Water, North East Water, and VicRoads. All agencies supported the proposed Amendment.

##### **Key issues raised in landowner submissions**

Submitters raised the following key issues:

- A range of responses from strong objection to general support for the application of flood overlays as a general principle.
- Integrity of background flood studies as a basis for the flood mapping was questioned.
- Individual property owners requesting changes to the mapping boundaries on their own properties, based on anecdotal evidence, historical records and photographs of flood events, particularly in relation to dwellings and agricultural sheds.
- No changes in mapping should occur around the Cheshunt/Cheshunt South area as a result of the *King River Rural Flood Study 2004*.
- Current 100mm extent of earthworks permit exemption should be amended to 300mm to allow operation of agricultural machinery.
- Support for revision of existing overlays as depicted in the *King River Tributaries Flood Mapping Study* (December 2004) in the Meadow Creek area.

The key issue raised in relation to the proposed Amendment overwhelmingly related to the accuracy of mapping the LSIO and FO contours.

The Panel has reviewed submissions that have been resolved and is satisfied that the process adopted by Council and the NECMA to review the mapping is sound. The Panel therefore accepts the changes made to the mapping for all resolved submissions. This is discussed in more detail in Chapter 3.

The remaining unresolved site specific submissions are also discussed in Chapter 3.

In Chapter 4 the Panel discusses a number of other corrections and modifications proposed to the Amendment documents during the course of the Panel process.

### **Report structure**

This report deals with the issues under the following Chapter headings:

- Planning Context
- Extent of the proposed overlays
- Other issues.

## 2 Planning Context

Council provided a response to the Strategic Assessment Guidelines as part of the Explanatory Report.

The Panel has reviewed the policy context of the Amendment and made a brief appraisal of the relevant zone and overlay controls and other relevant planning strategies.

### 2.1 Policy framework

#### (i) State Planning Policy Framework

Council submitted that the Amendment is supported by the following clauses in the SPPF:

Clause 11.05-4 *Regional planning strategies and principles* requires planning to ‘respond to the impacts of climate change and natural hazards and promote community safety by siting and designing new dwellings, subdivision and other development to minimise risk to life, property, the natural environment and community infrastructure from natural hazards, such as bushfire and flood’.

Clause 13 *Environmental Risks* directs that planning ‘should adopt a best practice environmental management and risk management approach which aims to avoid or minimise environmental degradation and hazards’.

The specific objective of floodplain management is:

*To assist the protection of:*

- Life, property and community infrastructure from flood hazard.
- The natural flood carrying capacity of rivers, streams and floodways.
- The flood storage function of floodplains and waterways.
- Floodplain areas of environmental significance or of importance to river health.

Strategies at Clause 13.02-1 include to:

- Identify land affected by flooding, including floodway areas, as verified by the relevant floodplain management authority, in planning scheme maps. Land affected by flooding is land inundated by the 1 in 100 year flood event or as determined by the floodplain management authority.
- Avoid intensifying the impacts of flooding through inappropriately located uses and developments.

Planning must consider as relevant any floodplain management strategy adopted by the responsible floodplain management authority.

Clause 14.02-2 *Water quality* directs that planning ‘discourage incompatible land use activities in areas subject to flooding, severe soil degradation, groundwater salinity or geotechnical hazards where land cannot be suitably managed to ensure minimum impact on downstream water quality or flow volumes.’

The proposed Amendment is consistent with, and responds appropriately to State planning policy. Council and NECMA have prepared floodplain studies to identify the 1 in 100 year



flood event levels along the King River and four of its tributaries. This information has been mapped and converted to planning scheme overlays as required by State planning policy.

The SPPF at Clause 11.05 promotes the sustainable growth and development of regional Victoria through a series of Regional Growth Plans. The Hume Regional Growth Plan is an integrated strategic document for the Hume region that sets out key directions under five themes of environment, community, economy, transport and land use.

Key directions under the Environment theme include:

- Anticipating and adapting to the effect of climate change
- Managing our water resources sustainably
- Protecting native habitat and biodiversity

Amendment C48 highlights the continued cooperation between Council and NECMA to identify flooding hazard within the municipality, and by applying the overlays, assist in protecting water quality and biodiversity and reducing risk to life and property.

#### **(ii) Local Planning Policy Framework**

Council submitted that the Amendment supports the following local planning objectives:

##### **3.1.3 Local Planning Policy Framework**

The Municipal Strategic Statement (MSS) of the Wangaratta Planning Scheme (Clause 21.10) identifies *'flooding is a major land use issue in the municipality, which has the major floodplain systems of the Ovens River and King River. Strategic directions include 'to recognise and protect the natural functions of floodplains and the need to restrict subdivision, buildings and works in floodplains in accordance with flood hazard'.*

As a consequence, Council has sought to identify and protect land known to be subject to flooding through application of appropriate planning tools. As discussed earlier in this report, there has been a series of planning scheme amendments to implement current flooding data as it becomes available. Amendment C48 seeks to further refine and apply the planning tools to the King River floodplain and its tributaries, based on the most recent flood studies available to it and NECMA.

#### **(iii) Other planning strategies or policies used in formulating the Amendment**

The draft *Victorian Floodplain Management Strategy 2014* (VFMS) has been prepared by the (former) Department of Environment and Primary Industry and progressed through a community consultation process. The intention is for this Strategy to replace the 1998 Victoria Flood Strategy. One of the primary directions of the draft VFMS is to focus on prevention and mitigation of flood impacts. Land use planning is identified as a key component of this Strategy. The key directions are included below:

##### *(10) Mitigating flood risks through planning and building*

- *Community resilience can be improved by using a mix of strategic and statutory planning tools.*

- *Land use planning and building controls are generally more cost effective than flood mitigation infrastructure, flood warning systems, flood education programs or flood emergency responses.*
- *The draft strategy sets out the direction for considering access and egress matters in land use planning. The State Emergency Service (SES), MW and CMAs will advise local councils on an area's suitability for development when they are preparing regional growth plans.*
- *The 1% Annual Exceedance Probability (AEP) flood will remain the design flood event to regulate new development and construction standards in Victoria.*
- *Local councils have an important role in ensuring that their planning schemes correctly identify the areas at risk of a 1% AEP flood.*
- *DEPI will work with local government to streamline the processes involved in converting flood study outputs into appropriate Municipal Planning Scheme amendments.*

The draft VFMS identifies Council planning schemes as a key tool to prevent and mitigate the impacts of flooding. The aim is to keep the 1% Annual Exceedance Probability, or 1 in 100 year flood event, as the appropriate measure. This has been used as the basis for the Amendment C48 flood overlays. It is noted that more resources will clearly be required to prepare flood studies and translate the data into planning scheme overlays.

## **2.2 Planning scheme provisions**

### **(i) Zones**

No changes are proposed to zones as part of this Amendment.

### **(ii) Overlays**

*Using Victoria's Planning System* identifies the Floodway Overlay (FO) and the Land Subject to Inundation Overlay (LSIO) as the appropriate Victoria Planning Provision (VPP) land management tools to apply to flood prone land.

The FO is to be used where land is identified as part of the active floodway, or to a high hazard area with high flow velocities, where impediment of flood water can cause significant changes in flood flows and adversely affect other areas.

The LSIO is to be used in areas which are subject to inundation, but are not part of the primary floodway.

#### **Floodway Overlay**

Amendment C48 proposes to review the extent of the FO that already applies to the King River floodplain. The current mapping has been in place since 2003 and the *King River Rural Floodplain Study (September 2004)* seeks to revise and refine the extent from immediately below Lake William Hovell, to its merger with the Ovens River floodplain north of Oxley township.

The FO is also being applied along the length of four tributaries to the King River. These tributaries have been identified as subject to flooding based on data gathered following the 1993 floods.

The FO does not pose restrictions on use of land, but triggers the need for a planning permit for all subdivision, buildings and works within the overlay area. In some cases, where the FO is applied extensively across land this may result in limiting the types of uses that can occur. The FO outlines some exemptions from the need for a permit, and the schedules introduce further local-level exemptions.

#### **Land Subject to Inundation Overlay**

The LSIO has been revised along the extent of the King River floodplain. Some areas currently mapped as LSIO have been identified for removal, particularly along the northern reaches of the floodplain. The LSIO is applied less extensively than the FO and picks up peripheral areas where flood waters are less deep and hazardous.

Application of the LSIO does not restrict the use of land, but triggers a planning permit for subdivision, buildings and works. The LSIO controls are less restrictive than the FO controls, in recognition of a lesser flood hazard. Further permit exemptions have been introduced through the Schedule to the LSIO at a local level.

#### **Schedules to the FO and LSIO**

The Amendment proposes changes to the Schedules to the Overlays. These changes are discussed in Chapter 4.

### **2.3 Planning and Environment Act 1987**

#### **Does the Amendment adequately address any environmental, social and economic effects identified under section 12(2)(b) and (c) of the Act?**

The social and economic effects have been addressed in the Explanatory Report. Council submitted as follows:

##### *Environmental effects:*

The Amendment will have no adverse effects on the environment.

The Amendment will have a positive effect on the environment of the King River system by introducing the recommendations and mitigation measures contained in the *King River Rural Floodplain Study September 2004* and *King River Tributaries Flood Mapping Study December 2004*, and encourage future flood studies and mapping of the King River system as 'further work' into Clause 21.10 *Environmental Management and Heritage*, which will help to:

- Recognise natural environmental flooding conditions and hazard in planning mapping, strategies and controls.
- Protect the King River environs for flood storage and passage.
- Ensure that development maintains or improves river and wetland health, waterway protection and flood plain health.

*Social and economic effects:*

Overall, the Amendment is expected to have positive social and economic benefits for landowners, Wangaratta Rural City Council and the general community. Positive social and economic effects will accrue from the amendment through:

- Minimising and managing risk to people, property, stock and public assets in flood prone areas.
- Aligning development outcomes and controls in flood prone areas with identified, current flood risk.
- Providing increased certainty and consistency for development proposals in flood prone areas.

## **2.4 Ministerial Directions and Practice Notes**

### **(i) Ministerial Directions**

Council submitted that the Amendment meets the relevant requirements of The following Ministerial Directions:

#### **PPN11 Strategic Assessment Guidelines**

The Amendment is consistent with Ministerial Direction 11 (Strategic Assessment Guidelines).

#### **The Form and Content of Planning Schemes (s7(5))**

The Amendment is consistent with the Ministerial Direction on the Form and Content of Planning Schemes under Section 7(5) of the Act.

### **(ii) Planning Practice Notes**

#### **Planning Practice Note PPN12**

The Floodway Overlay and Land Subject to Inundation Overlay have been applied in accordance with Practice Note 12 *Applying the flood provisions in planning schemes (Nov 2012)*.

## **2.5 Strategic Assessment**

The Panel accepts Council's assessment as set out in the explanatory report. The Amendment is well supported by the State and local sections of the planning scheme.

The Panel is satisfied that the Amendment has been prepared in accordance with the Act and all relevant Ministerial Directions and Planning Practice Notes. The Panel agrees that the Amendment applies the most appropriate VPP tools to give effect to the Amendment.

The Panel concludes that the Amendment is well founded and is strategically justified subject to addressing the more location specific issues raised in submissions as discussed in the following chapters.



### 3 Extent of the proposed overlays

#### 3.1 The issues

At the time of the Directions Hearing several of the submitters were not satisfied with the proposed location of the LSIO and FO, and advised the Panel that in their opinion a site inspection with relevant officers of Council and NECMA would allow for local revision of the proposed LSIO and FO to better accord with the topography of the area. Following the Directions Hearing the Panel issued directions requiring NECMA and Council officers to undertake site reviews and discussions with the various submitters in order to identify any areas of the LSIO and FO which should be modified to better accord with local topography.

NECMA advised the Panel that, subsequent to the Directions Hearing, improved contour mapping (LiDAR data) was made available which allowed better correlation between the LSIO and FO, site topography and modelled flood levels. The Panel was advised that a number of site inspections were undertaken prior to the Panel Hearing, many of which had resulted in improvements to the location of the LSIO and FO to comply with topographic information and addressed the concerns of the various submitters.

The Panel is satisfied that the revised modelling based on the more accurate LiDAR contours has more accurately identified the correct location for the LSIO and FO contours where it has been applied. However, the Panel was unable to ascertain if there were other properties which had not made a submission but which were covered by the Amendment which should be reviewed in light of the more accurate contour information. Given the scale of the overlay mapping, it is likely that there are still some inaccuracies in some locations where the more up to date mapping data has not been applied. The Panel process has hopefully identified the majority of locations where any inaccuracies directly affect property owners. In most cases where changes have been requested, it has been because the proposed overlays may impact on the potential to locate dwellings or outbuildings in preferred locations. All property owners in the areas affected by the Amendment have been given the same opportunity to identify any inaccuracies.

Given the process that has occurred and the large scale of the Amendment, the Panel does not recommend that LiDAR data be used to update all overlay mapping prior to this Amendment being adopted. The Panel does, however, suggest that Council be prepared to revise the overlays in the future if clear errors are identified that directly affect landowner's ability to productively use the land.

As a general principle, the Panel supports any improvements to the overlay mapping that have been identified through applying LiDAR data or by using 'local knowledge'.

36 submissions were received by landowners who challenged the accuracy of the overlay mapping at particular locations as shown in Figure 2:

- King River – 14 submissions (3 upstream of Cheshunt, 4 between Cheshunt and Moyhu, 8 downstream of Moyhu)
- Meadow Creek – 2 submissions
- Hurdle Creek – 18 submissions including 11 related to a joint submission
- Boggy Creek – 1 submission

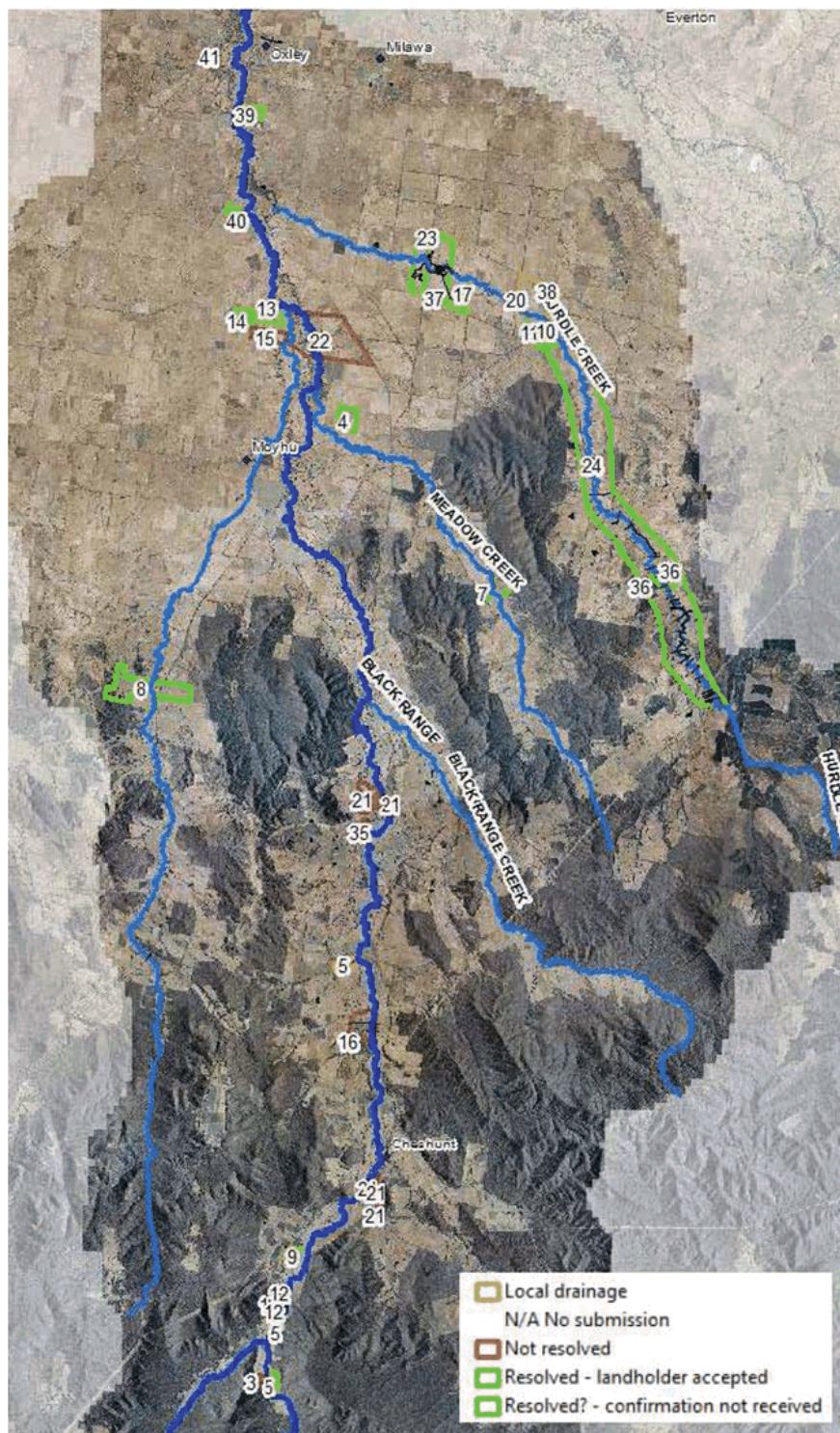


Figure 2 Location of submissions



Of these 36 submissions, Council and the NECMA advised that 29 submissions were substantially resolved prior to the completion of the Panel Hearings. These included the joint submission from Carboor residents (Hurdle Creek). These submissions are briefly discussed in section 3.2 of this report.

Seven submitters made presentations in relation to their issues at the Hearing. These are discussed in sections 3.3 to 3.8 of this report.

### **3.2 Submissions resolved prior to and after the Panel Hearing**

#### **(i) Discussion**

The NECMA advised that submissions 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 17, 20, 21, 23, 35, 37, 38, 39, 40 and 41, along with the 11 joint submissions (24 – 33 and 36) were resolved in further discussion with submitters, either before the Directions Hearing, between the Directions Hearing and Hearing, or in some cases finalised after the Hearing.

In the case of the few submissions that were finalised after the Hearing, the issues were discussed at the Hearing but the mapping was finalised and agreements confirmed after the Hearing. The Panel allowed Council and NECMA time to finalise these matters in the interests of achieving a more resolved position.

The Panel makes no further comment in relation to the majority of these submissions other than to record the changes that have been agreed to the overlays as shown in Appendix B of this report. Appendix B records all changes agreed on the overlay extents and the changes are shown in submitter number order.

Further commentary is provided below on the joint submission from the Carboor residents (submissions 24 – 33 and 36) and the submission from Mr and Ms Conroy (submission 23).

#### **(ii) Submissions 24-33 and 36 – Carboor residents**

##### **Overview of issues**

In principle the submitters supported and agreed with the establishment of the flooding overlays for the Carboor Valley based on the 1993 flood levels. The submitters identified some inaccuracies and proposed amendments to the overlays which were marked on hand drawn maps provided to NECMA and the Council.

In addition, they felt that the permit exemption for minor earthworks proposed in the schedule to the FO was unworkable and minor earthworks to raise the surface up to 300mm should be permitted to allow the operation of mouldboard plough or disk plough.

##### **Submissions**

The Carboor Residents comprise 11 property owners who all resided in this area at the time of the 1993 floods and were involved in the collection of information for the 2004 flood study. Properties included within the Carboor Residents submission include- 1668 Carboor-Everton Road Carboor; 17 Mahers Lane, Carboor; 1848 Carboor-Everton Road, Carboor 1945, Carboor-Everton Road, Carboor; 1933 Carboor-Everton Road, Carboor, 2259 Carboor-Everton Road, Carboor, 2367 Carboor-Everton Road, Carboor; 2037 Carboor-Everton Road, Carboor; 2151 Carboor-Everton Road, Carboor; 28 – 38 Mahers Lane, Carboor: 117 Lake

Buffalo – Carboor Road, Carboor; 1753 Carboor-Everton Road, Carboor, 1851, Carboor-Everton Road, Carboor; and 2151 Carboor-Everton Road, Carboor.

Council and the NECMA advised the Panel that a site inspection was held on 3 March 2015 with three members of the Carboor residents and officers from NECMA and Council. Council advised that the mapping provided to the submitters on 24 April 2015 has been verbally agreed to by the key stakeholders.

In relation to the exemption for minor earthworks in the FO schedule, Council submitted that it is not intended to prevent general farming activities such as ploughing and Council has suggested minor changes to the schedules to clarify this. The proposed changes are as shown in Appendix C – Panel preferred version of the overlay schedules.

### **Discussion**

The Panel accepts that the positive discussions and agreement between the various parties based on the hydraulic modelling, historic records and LiDAR information has identified the appropriate delineation of FO and LSIO areas on the properties. The revised mapping is as shown in Appendix B by submission number.

In relation to the issue concerning the height of minor earthworks, the Panel accepts that ploughing may result in localised point levels which are in excess of 100mm, however, a practical approach needs to be adopted. The Panel considers that the impact of deep ploughing is extremely unlikely to result in any area of land which could have a significant impact on flood flows. The Panel accepts the clarification proposed by Council in the revised schedule to the overlays.

### **Conclusion**

The Panel concludes that the following changes to the Amendment should be adopted:

- Adopt the revised FO and LSIO mapping for Carboor based on plans included in Appendix B of this report.
- Adopt the revised wording of Minor Works as specified in the schedules to the FO and LSIO as shown in Appendix C of this report.

### **(iii) Submission 23 – Mr A and Ms D Conroy - 892 Allans Lane, Bobinawarrah**

#### **Submissions**

Mr and Mrs Conroy raised four issues in relation to the flood mapping:

- They object to the implementation of C48 based on the NECMA flood study from 2004, which they submit is now out of date.
- They consider that the Flood Overlay is a revenue generating process to enable the Council to collect additional revenue from permit applicants and will create more bureaucracy for landholders.
- Landholders will face increased insurance cost and negative effects on their land values.



- The proposed FO and LSIO are substantially inaccurate. To this end they cited the fact that their house as shown under the Flood Overlay, however, they submit it is never been flooded in the past 50 years.

Mr and Ms Conroy requested that the FO and LSIO be revised as per a hand drawn map provided to the NECMA.

The NECMA supported the review and prepared a revised map on 10 September 2014. A site inspection was held on 23 February 2015 between the submitters and officers from NECMA and Council to discuss the mapping. The submitters advised that they are satisfied with the 2014 revised plan as shown in Appendix B.

### Discussion

Following additional evaluation of the site by Council and NECMA using revised Flood Mapping and LiDAR information, the appropriate locations for the FO and LSIO have been identified.

In relation to the other matters raised by the Conroys:

- The Panel accepts that the flood study was undertaken in 2004, however, it is satisfied that the additional modelling work, site specific investigation and ground level identification using recent LiDAR information provides the Council and NECMA with an appropriately accurate level of information on which to base the proposed FO and LSIO mapping.
- The Panel is satisfied that, while members of the public may consider the introduction of LSIO and FO overlays a bureaucratic imposition, the accurate delineation of land which may become affected due to flood waters provides more certainty for landowners and minimises the risk of future financial and safety impacts on the majority of the population. Future owners of the land will not otherwise be aware of potential flooding impacts.

### Conclusion

The Panel concludes:

- The revised FO and LSIO contours as presented on the revised plan produced 10 September 2014 should be adopted as shown in Appendix B.

## 3.3 Submission 3 – Mr Bou-Chahine - Lot 1 TP222903 Upper King River Road, Cheshunt

### (i) Submissions

Mr Bou-Chahine's land is situated at the top end of the proposed Amendment area where the King River leaves the confines of the incised valley above and spreads out over the upper reaches of the King River floodplain. The FO is proposed to be applied to the majority of the property, and the LSIO to the remainder as shown in the map in Appendix B.

Mr Bou-Chahine asserted that the NECMA floodplain report of 2004 was flawed and advised that flooding occurs on his property more consistent with the Department of Natural Resources and Environment (former) flood study of 1997, but not in accordance with the most recent flood modelling. He advised that, in his experience, the flood waters have been

at least 90m away from the King River Road and not over the road as shown on the flood mapping.

He strongly objected to the proposed FO and LSIO applied by the Amendment and, as the whole of his property is currently mapped to be either LSIO or FO, he has been advised that it is unlikely that he will be unable to develop a dwelling on any area of the land.

Mr Bou-Chahine provided the Panel with an extensive history associated with his attempts to develop the land. This included background in relation to the appeals, discussions with various Council officers, various government agencies including NECMA, Goulburn Murray Water and two appeals to VCAT. In summary, the Panel understands that Mr Bou-Chahine has unsuccessfully applied for a dwelling development on the land. It is outside the scope of the Panel to comment on these issues. The Panel must focus solely on the proposed Amendment, i.e. whether the land should be subject to LSIO and FO.

In his submission, Mr Bou-Chahine raised concerns in relation to the operation of Lake William Hovell upstream of his property during heavy rainfall periods and contends that with better operation any flooding on his property could be minimised.

Council and the NECMA responded that a site inspection was conducted on 25 February 2015 with the submitter and officers from NECMA and Council. Unfortunately no agreement was reached due to the complex and historical nature of the issues, which are considered by Council and NECMA to be beyond the scope of this Amendment.

In relation to the application of the FO and LSIO to the land, the NECMA presented LiDAR data, photographs of the site in the 2010 flood event which show the site inundated though to the road and aerial photographs of the site in the 1998 flood event which also show the majority of the site inundated. The NECMA submitted that the photographic evidence strongly supported the inclusion of the site in the overlays as proposed, and the existence of LiDAR data in this area allowed relatively accurate mapping of the flood extent.

## **(ii) Discussion**

In relation to the management of flooding from Lake William Hovell, the Panel can only consider the current operating regime and cannot make findings in relation to a potential future operating regime.

At the Hearing, the Panel queried the NECMA representative in relation to the accuracy of the modelling on the submitters land. The Panel was advised that the property is situated at the top end of the floodplain for the King River and therefore subject to some uncertainty in relation to flood depths as the fast flowing water from the steep and narrow King River valley emerges onto the floodplain. However, the Panel was advised that the flood modelling and later review using LiDAR information has confirmed that the whole of the property below the King River road is subject to flooding or inundation during a 100 year ARI event.

The Panel is therefore unable to accept Mr Bou-Chahine's submission that his land is not subject to inundation and flooding.

**(iii) Conclusion**

The Panel concludes:

- The proposed flood mapping for the Bou-Chahine land should be adopted as exhibited.

**3.4 Submission 4 – Mr and Ms Leavold 156 Wards Lane, Meadow Creek****(i) Submissions**

Mr and Ms Leavold attended the Panel Hearing to confirm their agreement with the revised LSIO mapping of 9 September 2014.

Council and the NECMA confirmed the agreed mapping at the Hearing.

**(ii) Conclusion**

The Panel concludes:

- The revised mapping for the Leavold property as shown in Appendix B should be adopted.

**3.5 Submission 5 – Mr Burrowes - 659 Burrowes Road and 4609 Wangaratta – Whitfield Road, Cheshunt****(i) Submissions**

Mr Burrowes sought a reduction in the extent of the LSIO, to follow an existing escarpment. NECMA and Council supported the review of the revised boundaries and Council prepared and sent a revised map to the submitter on 10 September 2014. This was followed up with an on-site meeting between Council and the submitter on 22 September 2014.

Mr Burrowes submitted at the Hearing that he was not satisfied with the proposed changes discussed at 22 September 2014 meeting and provided further hand drawn sketches to NECMA for review. He submitted that the LSIO should be removed from around the house as it had never been affected by flooding.

The NECMA did not support the proposed changes without further investigation. Based on the discussions at the Hearing, Council and NECMA resolved to undertake a further site inspection with a view to removing the LSIO around the house. Revised overlay mapping was provided after the Hearing that the Panel understands is now agreed between the parties. The revised mapping is as shown on two maps included in Appendix B.

**(ii) Discussion**

Based on advice from Council and NECMA, it is considered appropriate to adopt the revised agreed FO and LSIO at both properties.

**(iii) Conclusion**

The Panel concludes:

- The revised FO and LSIO mapping on the Burrowes' properties should be adopted as shown in the maps included in Appendix B.

### **3.6 Submission 12 – Mr Martinelli - 794 Upper King River Road, Cheshunt**

#### **(i) Submissions**

Mr Martinelli requested five sections of the LSIO and FO boundaries on the subject site be modified or removed from the Flood Overlay as they are not flood prone. He advised that he had been the owner of the property for 60 years and that there were seven dwellings on the property.

The revised mapping was generally not supported by NECMA, however, following further discussions between NECMA and Council officers after the Directions Hearing, there was some support for changes based on the revised LiDAR mapping.

A series of flooding projections and modelling were presented by NECMA with the following outcomes:

- 753 Upper King River Road. Parties agreed to follow the Green line as shown along the LiDAR contour with the sheds remaining clear.
- 794 Upper King River Road. Agreed that the Green line shown on the LiDAR contour was correct and the LSIO should be modified.
- North of 753 Upper King River Road. Mr Martinelli advised that this land is on separate title and wanted the land not to have any overlays. NECMA advise that the LiDAR was correct and should not be modified. Mr Martinelli advised that the property dwellings are only cut off for one to two days during peak floods and could be accessed by truck.

#### **(ii) Discussion**

The Panel notes the agreed positions on 753 and 794 Upper King River Road.

In relation to north of 753 Upper King River Road, the Panel does not accept the suitability of access during peak flood periods as this could lead to safety issues for both the occupiers of the houses and emergency services who may be requested to assist. The Panel is therefore of the opinion that the mapping as revised following the LiDAR mapping should be adopted.

#### **(iii) Conclusion**

The Panel concludes:

- 753 Upper King River Road. The revised mapping as agreed at the Hearing and shown in Appendix B should be adopted.
- 794 Upper King River Road. The revised mapping as agreed at the Hearing and shown in Appendix B should be adopted.
- North of 753 Upper King River Road. The revised mapping as proposed by NECMA and shown in Appendix B should be adopted.



### **3.7 Submission 16 – Mr and Ms Sheppard – 4805 Wangaratta – Whitfield Road, Whitfield**

#### **(i) Submissions**

The submitters were concerned that the flood overlay as shown is too close to their house. They advised that in 74 years flood waters have not come closer than 25m. They acknowledged that the dairy has been inundated, but that no other outbuildings have been affected by peak floods. Mr and Ms Sheppard requested a review of the proposed extent of the flood overlays.

Council and NECMA indicated that a revision of the overlay boundary around the house was considered appropriate based on the review of the LiDAR in aerial photography. At the Hearing the parties discussed the proposed corrections including the removal of a section of LSIO adjacent to the house.

#### **(ii) Discussion**

Based on the revised flood mapping using the LiDAR and aerial photography, the Panel agrees that it is appropriate that the flooding mapping in the vicinity of the house and outbuildings should be modified as per discussions at the Hearing.

#### **(iii) Conclusion**

The Panel concludes:

- The revised FO and LSIO mapping for the Sheppard land as discussed at the Panel Hearing and shown in Appendix B should be used as the basis for the proposed Amendment.

### **3.8 Submission 22 – Mr and Ms Minifie – 926 and 1092 Oxley – Meadow Creek Road, Meadow Creek**

#### **(i) Submissions**

Mr and Ms Minifie submitted that the cottage on their land is above the inundation level and therefore should not be included within the overlay. They advised that the existing FO boundary was fairly accurate, however, there could be some minor improvements in accuracy.

Mr and Ms Minifie submitted that there needed to be an increase of the LSIO extent near the boundary and that the flood mapping should be accurate. They advised that an island should be included to allow for the potential future farm infrastructure development as distinct from replacement of existing.

The NECMA generally supported the review of the revised boundaries and a further site inspection was held on 24 February 2015 with the submitter and officers from the NECMA and Council. Final resolution was not reached at this meeting.

The NECMA provided modelling and mapping overlays on the LiDAR base at the Panel Hearing and, following some further discussion, Mr and Ms Minifie indicated were happy with the 'green overlay line' which passed around the house.

**(ii) Discussion**

The Panel notes that it is generally preferred that 'islands' in overlays be deleted so that no dwellings are developed which may be isolated during flooding periods. In this case, the Panel notes the submitters desire to retain the islands to enable the construction of outbuildings. They submitted that outbuildings would not be unduly affected during periods of flooding. Given that this Amendment primarily relates to rural land where there are a number of conditions required to be met in relation to the development of a dwelling, the Panel is satisfied that, in this instance, it is appropriate to leave the 'islands' within the overlays.

**(iii) Conclusion**

The Panel concludes:

- The overlay mapping presented at the Hearing for the Minifie land as shown in Appendix B should be adopted.

**3.9 Recommendations**

The Panel recommends that Amendment C48 to the Wangaratta Planning Scheme be adopted as exhibited subject to the following changes:

1. **Adopt the revised Floodway Overlay and Land Subject to Inundation Overlay mapping based on plans included in Appendix B of this report.**
2. **Adopt the revised wording of Minor Works as specified in the schedules to the Floodway Overlay and Land Subject to Inundation Overlay as shown in Appendix C of this report.**

## 4 Other issues

### 4.1 Errors in the exhibited LSIO maps

Council made the following submission in relation to the LSIO mapping:

*It has come to the attention of Council planning staff in the past week that there are errors in the exhibited extent of the LSIO. It appears that some areas of LSIO intended to be removed as part of this amendment, were retained and subsequently exhibited. The errors were picked up in an analysis between 'raw' data provided to Council by NECMA and placed on Council's GIS system, and the final maps produced by DELWP. As officers involved in the map production are no longer at Council it is difficult to ascertain the cause of the errors.*

*A set of 'marked up' maps is attached (refer Appendix 4 – Identified LSIO errors) for the Panel's consideration. The areas of LSIO identified on the maps should be removed from the final maps as they were included in the exhibited copy by accident. In terms of procedural fairness, as the proposal requires removal of a restriction, rather than instatement, it is considered affected property owners will be better off and hence, require no specific notification of the changes. It appears that only one submission (Submission 14) is affected by the error, and the extent of revision to this property goes beyond the removal of the LSIO, so an appropriate outcome has still been reached here.*

The LSIO areas that were incorrectly exhibited (and now proposed to be removed) are quite large. The Panel agrees with Council, however, that removal of these areas from the LSIO does not disadvantage any landowners and therefore accepts that the changes should be made as part of this Amendment. The LSIO areas proposed to be removed are shown in Appendix A.

### 4.2 Council processing of applications for replacement buildings

Council advised that at a site inspection attended by a land owner and Council and NECMA officers, the issue of equity was raised in relation to the cost to farmers of applying for planning permits to continue conducting business on their farms. In particular, the issue of having to apply for a permit to replace an existing building or structure within the FO or LSIO was raised.

Council indicated that it would review need for permits in these circumstances and also review the permit fees in these circumstances.

The Panel makes no further comment as these are internal Council matters.

### 4.3 Proposed changes to the Municipal Strategic Statement

The Amendment proposes changes to the MSS as follows:

- Amend clause 21.12 to include the *King River Rural Floodplain Study September 2004* and *King River Tributaries Flood Mapping Study December 2004* as reference documents in the scheme.

- Amend clause 21.10, strategic directions, environmental significance, to include a new strategic direction which makes reference to the findings and recommendations of the *King River Rural Floodplain Study September 2004* and *King River Tributaries Flood Mapping Study December 2004*.
- Amend clause 21.10 Environmental Management and Heritage, 'Further Work' to encourage further flood studies and mapping in the King River floodplain and tributaries and to ensure that the provisions remain current and appropriate.

The changes proposed are non-contentious and were not opposed by any submitters. The Panel supports the changes as they are reflective of the findings of the flood studies and recognise the need for future enhancement as better data becomes available.

#### **4.4 Recommendation**

The Panel recommends the following change to the flood overlay mapping be adopted:

- 3. Remove the Land Subject to Inundation Overlay from the areas as shown in Appendix D of this report.**



## Appendix A List of Submitters

| No    | Submitter  |
|-------|--|
| 1     | This number not assigned                         |
| 2     | NE Region VicRoads                               |
| 3     | J Bou-Chahine                                    |
| 4     | R & S Leavold                                    |
| 5     | P Burrowes                                       |
| 6     | Goulburn-Murray Water                            |
| 7     | W Piccolo & R Bowers                             |
| 8     | P Shanley  |
| 9     | B Johnsen  |
| 10    | L Price & MB O’Keefe                             |
| 11    | A Gibb   |
| 12    | M Martinelli                                     |
| 13    | J & G Nugent                                     |
| 14    | D Newton & N Box                                 |
| 15    | J L McDonald                                     |
| 16    | B & R Sheppard                                   |
| 17    | H & A Bennett                                    |
| 18    | Department of Environment and Primary Industries |
| 19    | North East Water                                 |
| 20    | J, P & P Del Mastro                              |
| 21    | P Bettio, G & M Bettio                           |
| 22    | D & S Minifie                                    |
| 23    | A & D Conroy                                     |
| 24-33 | Joint submission from residents of Carboor       |
| 24    | D Sutherland                                     |
| 25    | G Mitchell                                       |
| 26    | M & C Holmes                                     |
| 27    | J Box  |
| 28    | R Box  |

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Wangaratta Planning Scheme Amendment C48 | Panel Report | 22 July 2015

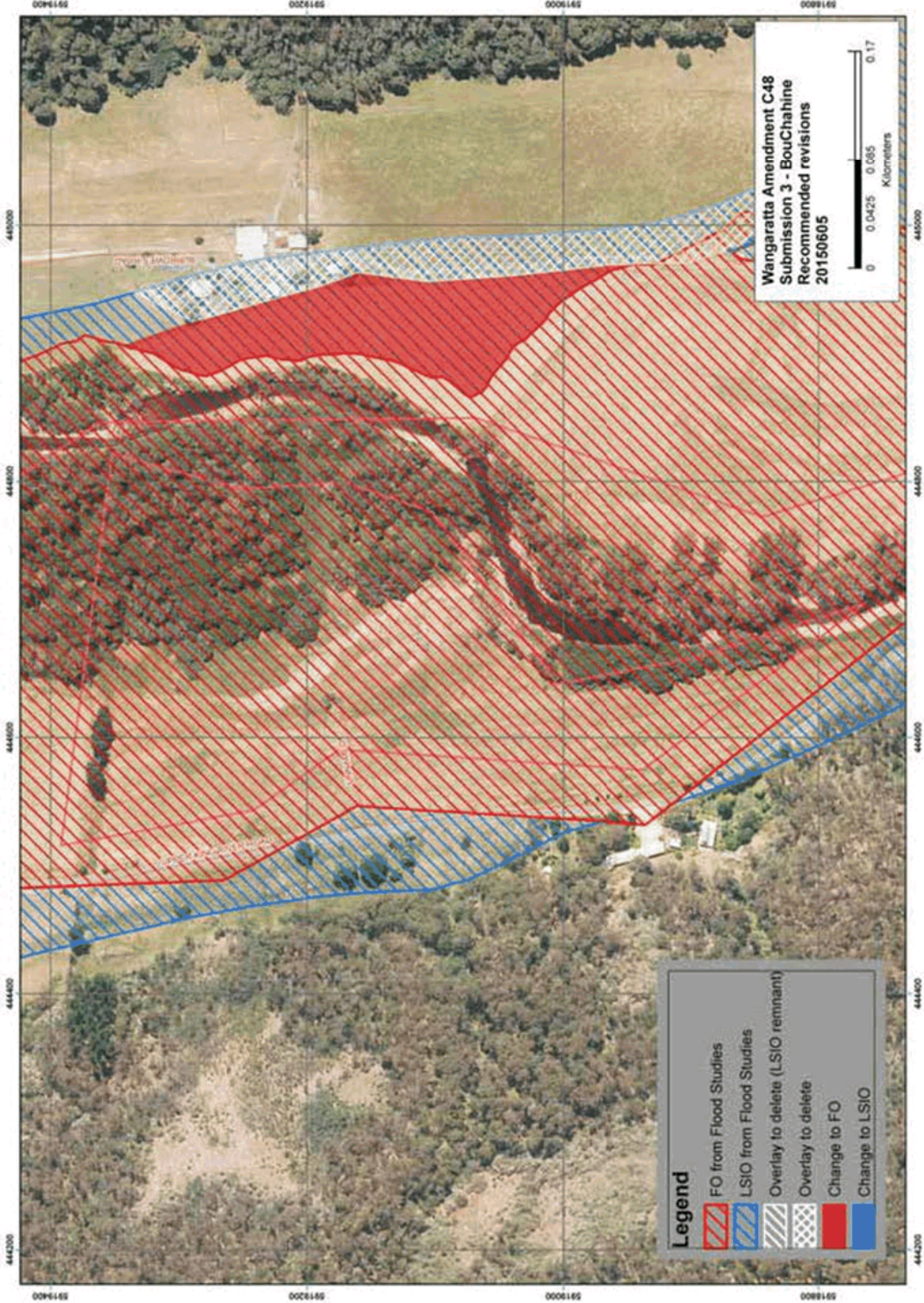
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| No | Submitter   |
|----|---|
| 29 | C Box   |
| 30 | R Fisher  |
| 31 | D Mitchell  |
| 32 | E Roman   |
| 33 | A Holmes  |
| 34 | EPA North East                                    |
| 35 | J Box & F Corsini                                 |
| 36 | R Fisher (also party to Carboor joint submission) |
| 37 | M Conroy  |
| 38 | S Hurley  |
| 39 | A & S Aldous                                      |
| 40 | M Carson  |
| 41 | P Ash (late submission received 30 January 2015)  |

## **Appendix B Proposed changes to the FO and LSIO**

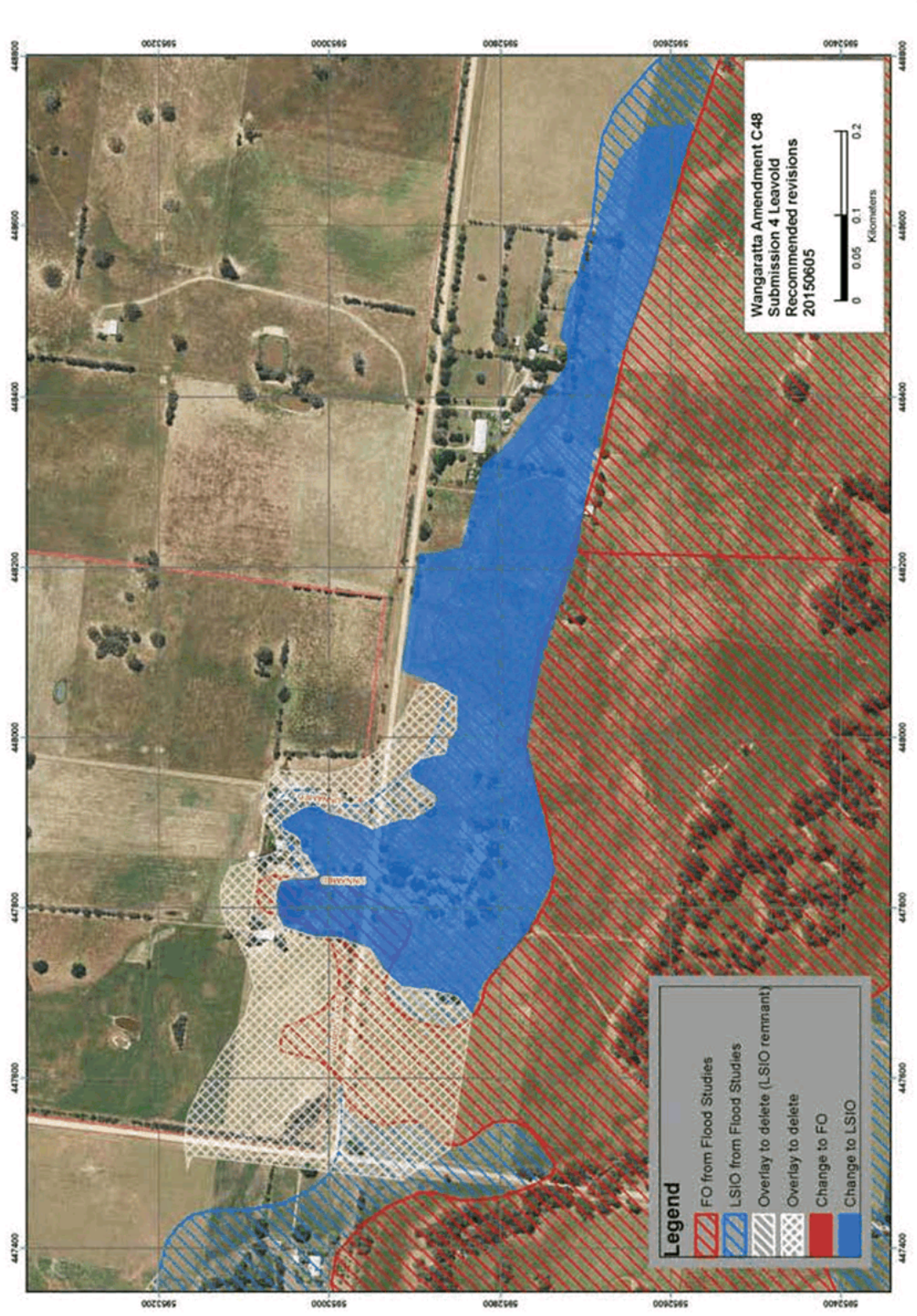
Changes shown are changes compared to the exhibited mapping.

Wangaratta Planning Scheme Amendment C48 | Panel Report | 22 July 2015



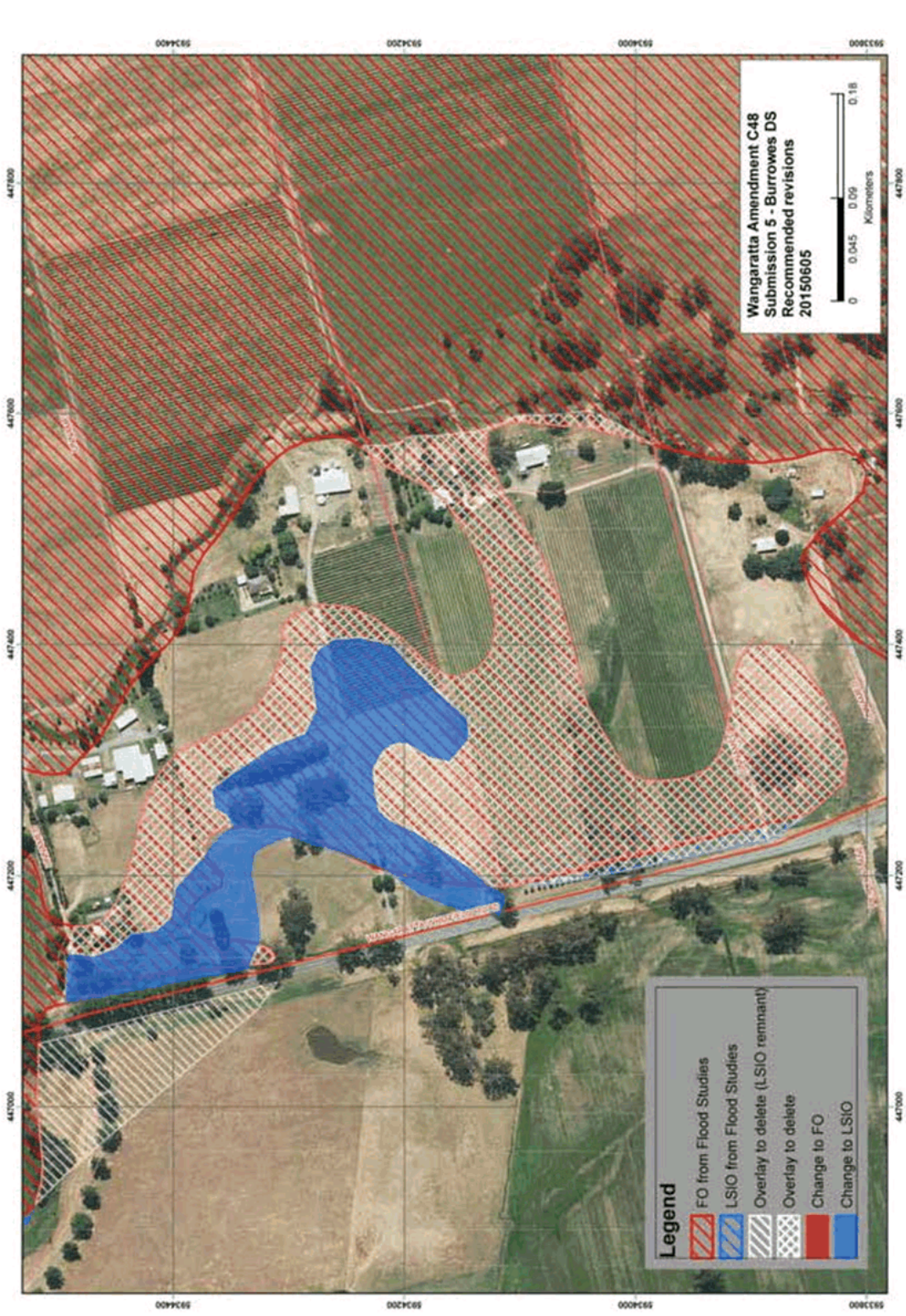


Wangaratta Planning Scheme Amendment C48 | Panel Report | 22 July 2015

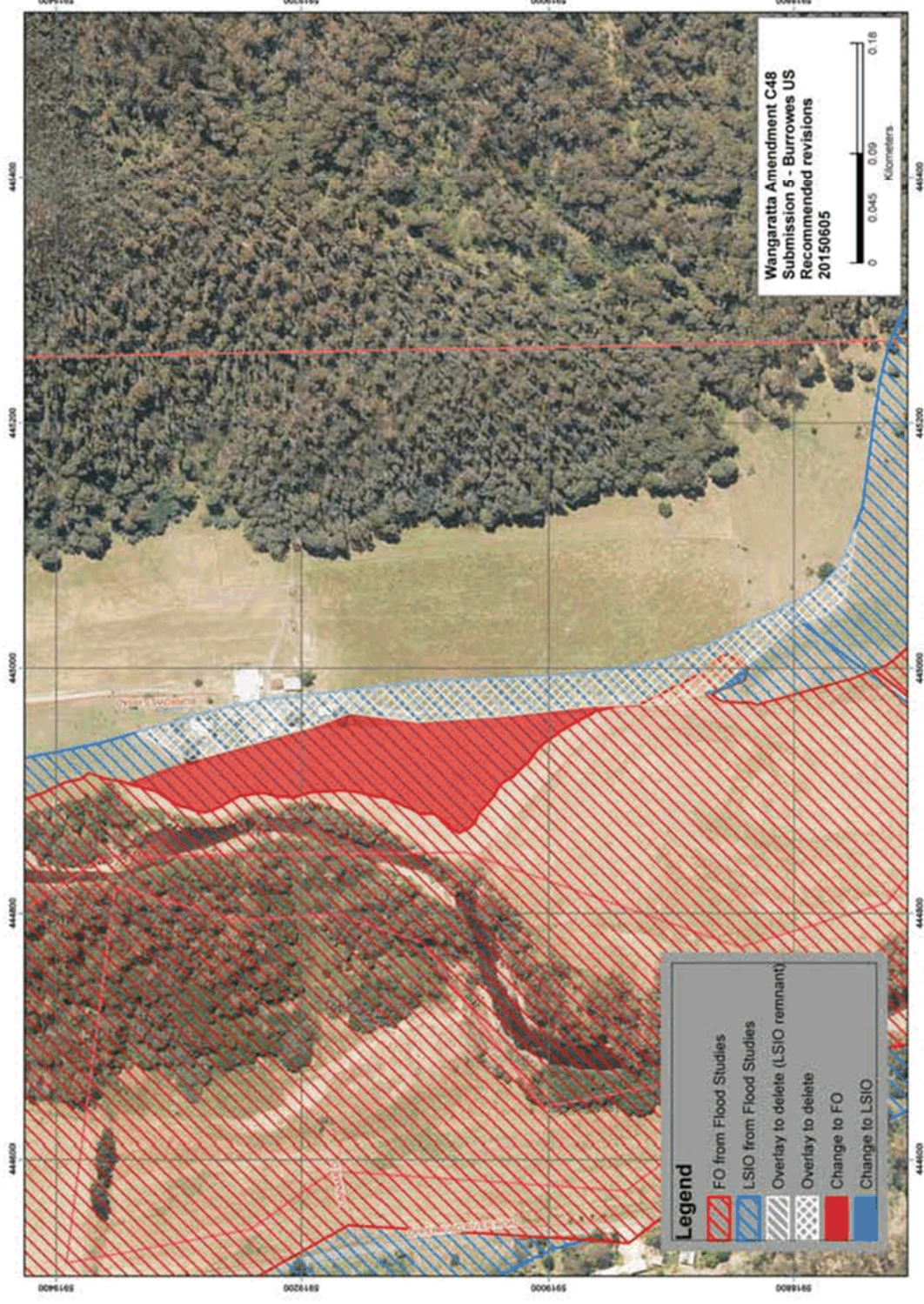




Wangaratta Planning Scheme Amendment C48 | Panel Report | 22 July 2015

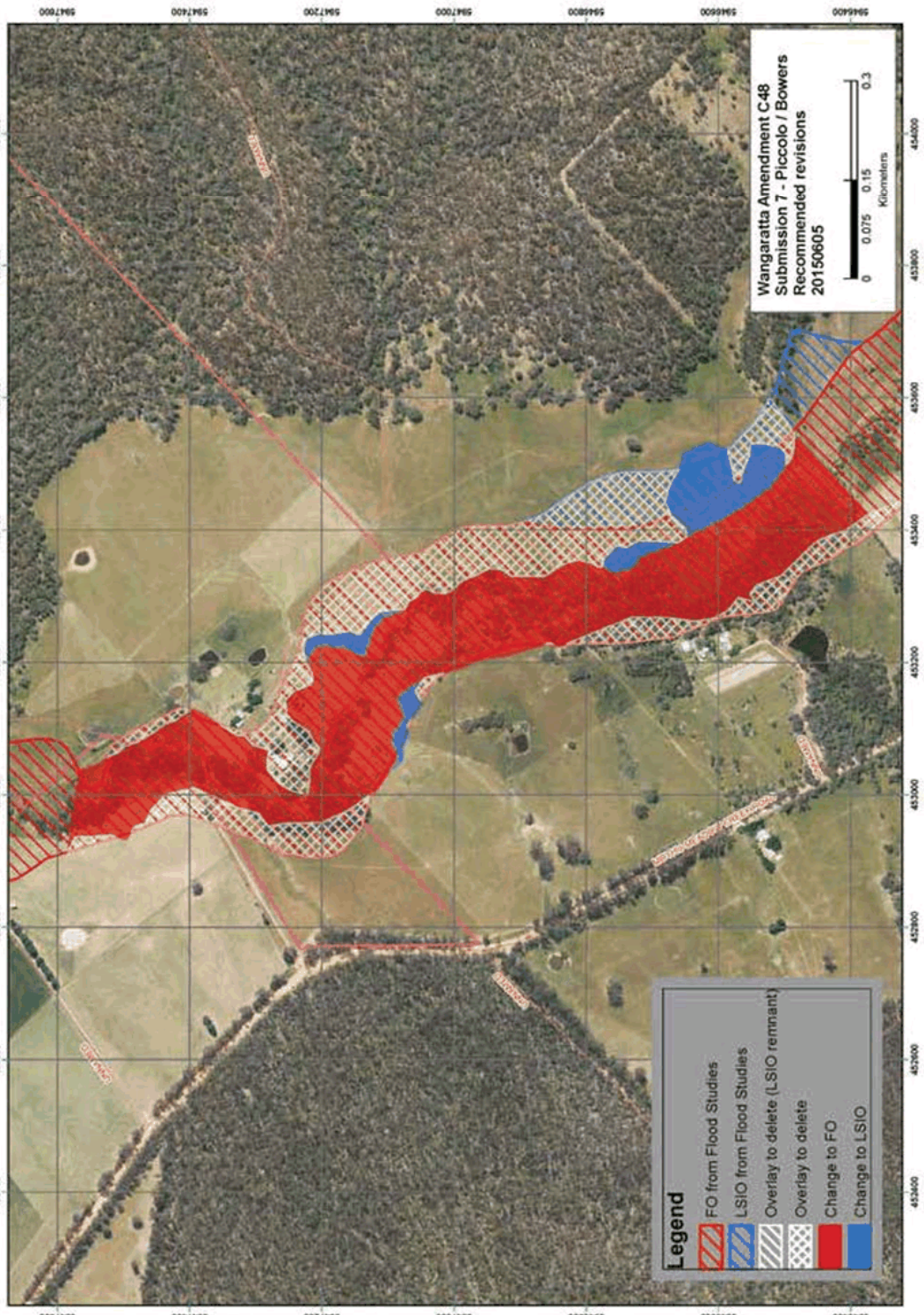






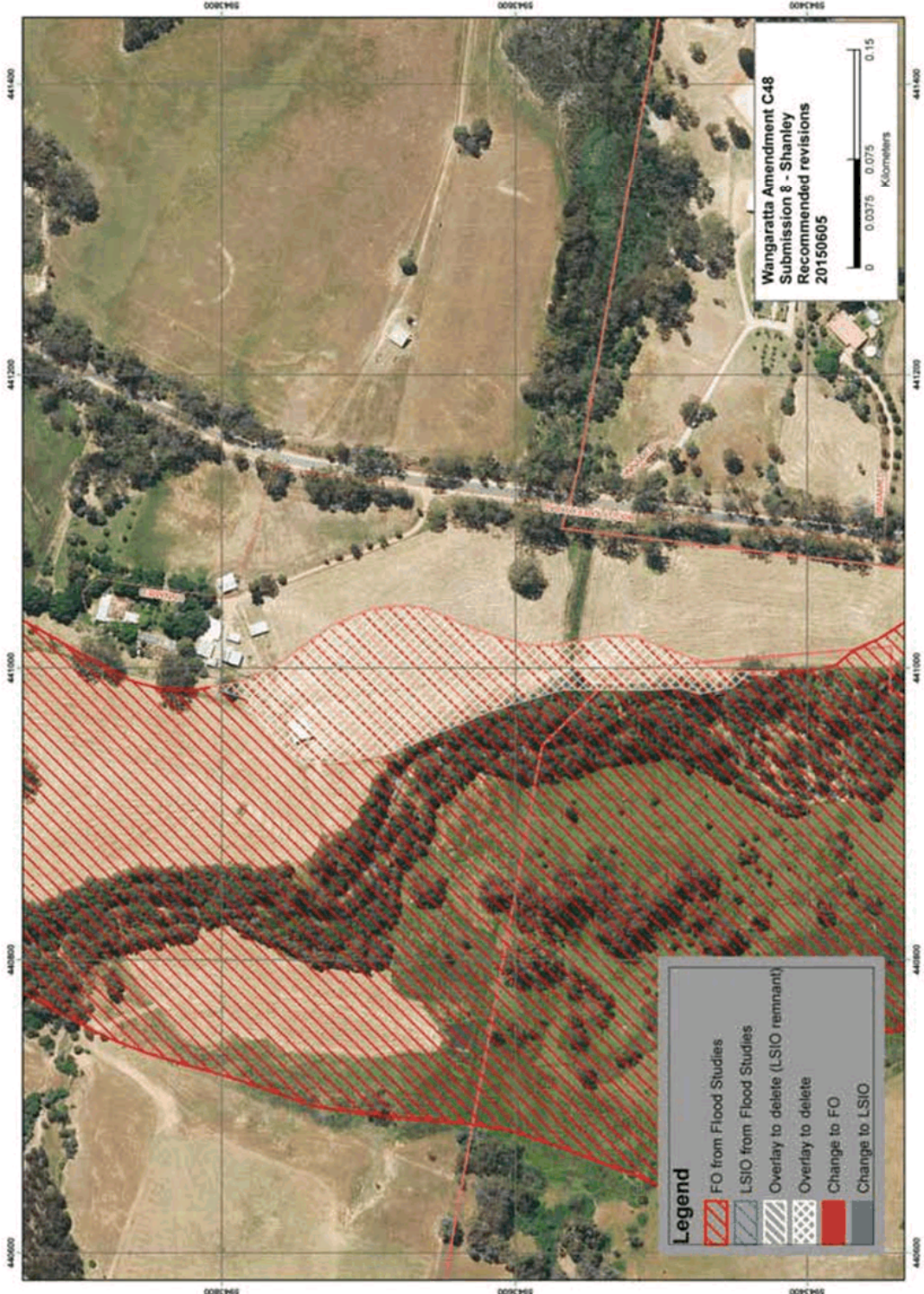


Wangaratta Planning Scheme Amendment C48 | Panel Report | 22 July 2015



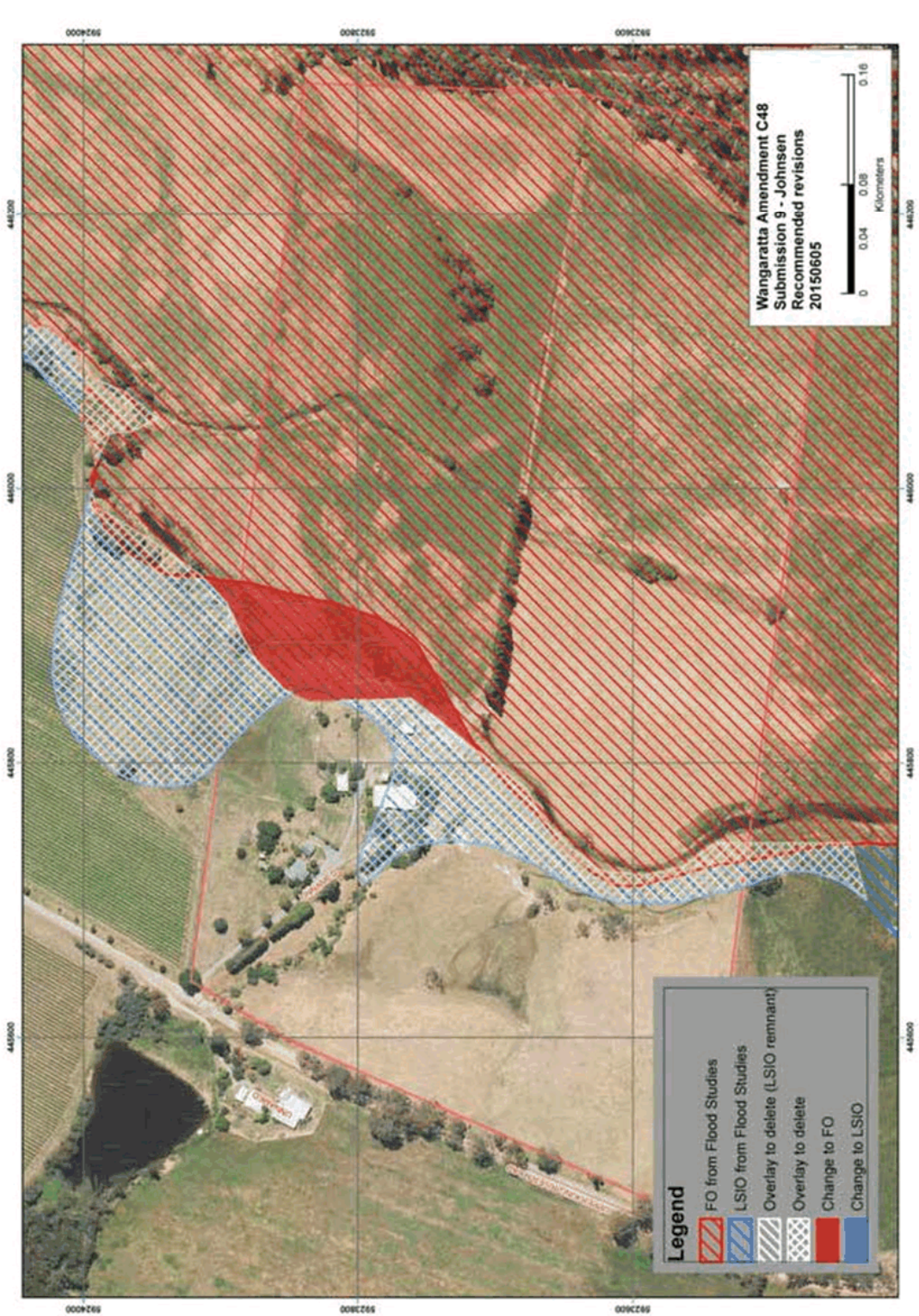


Wangaratta Planning Scheme Amendment C48 | Panel Report | 22 July 2015



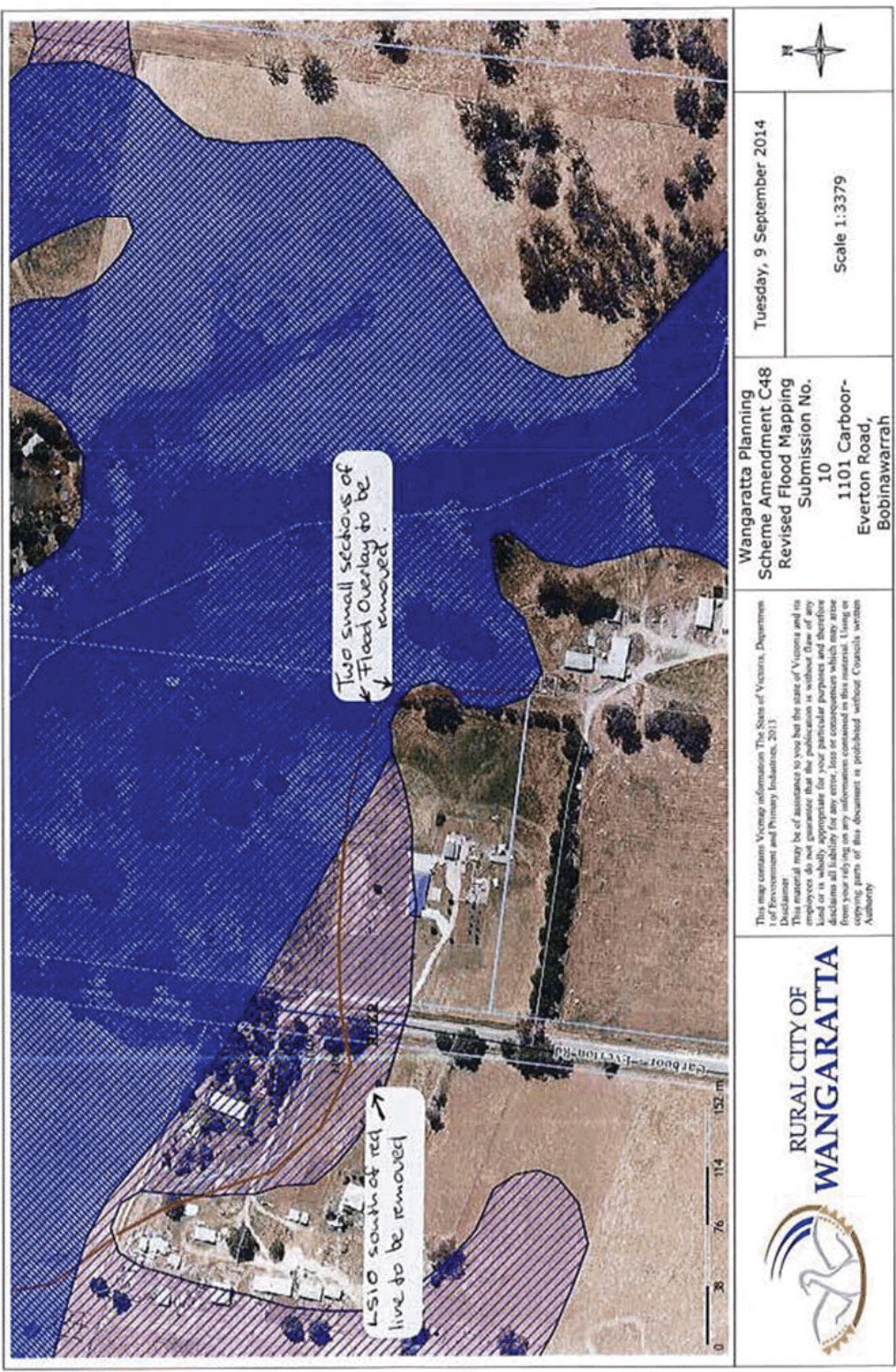


Wangaratta Planning Scheme Amendment C48 | Panel Report | 22 July 2015



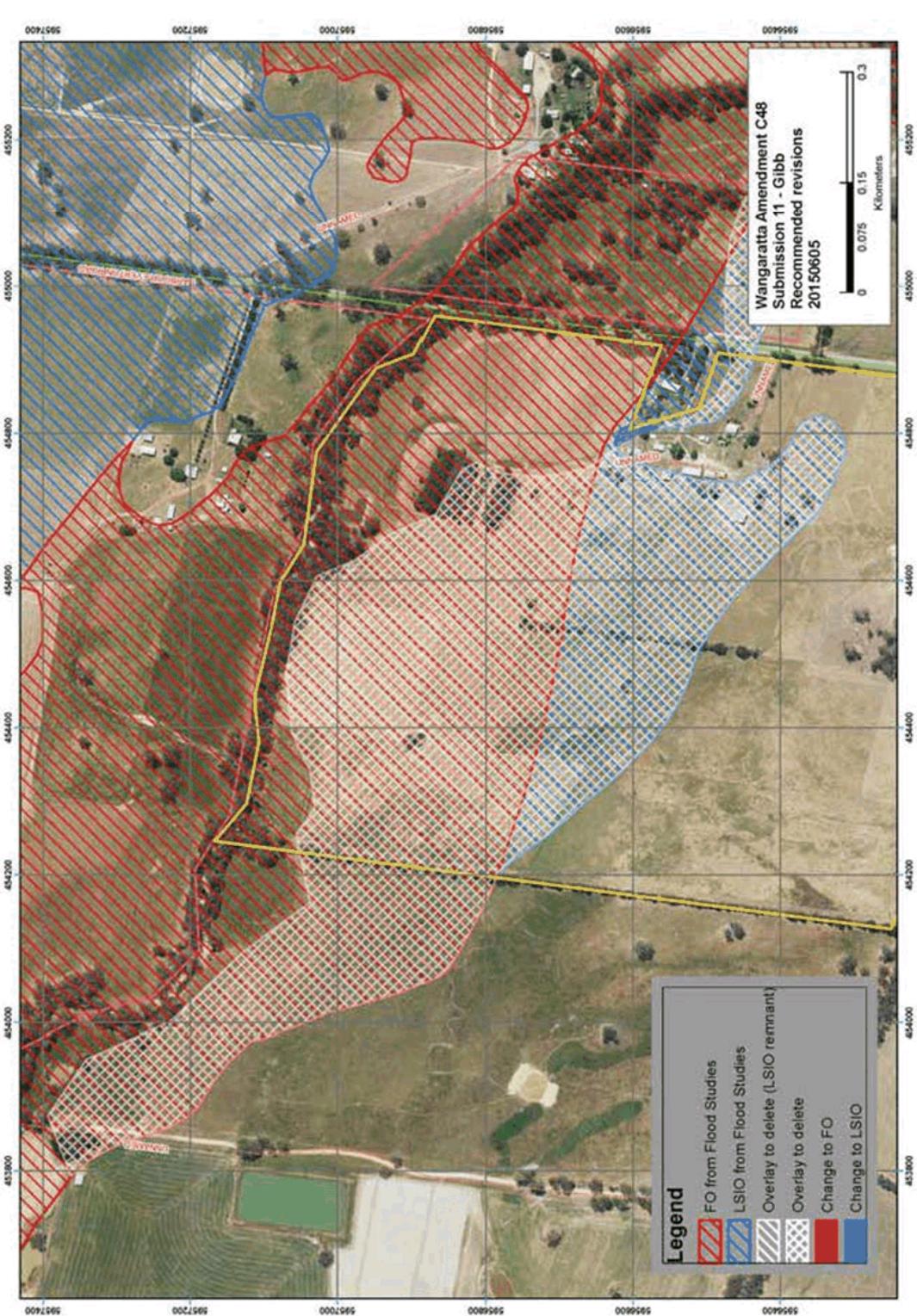


Wangaratta Planning Scheme Amendment C48 | Panel Report | 22 July 2015



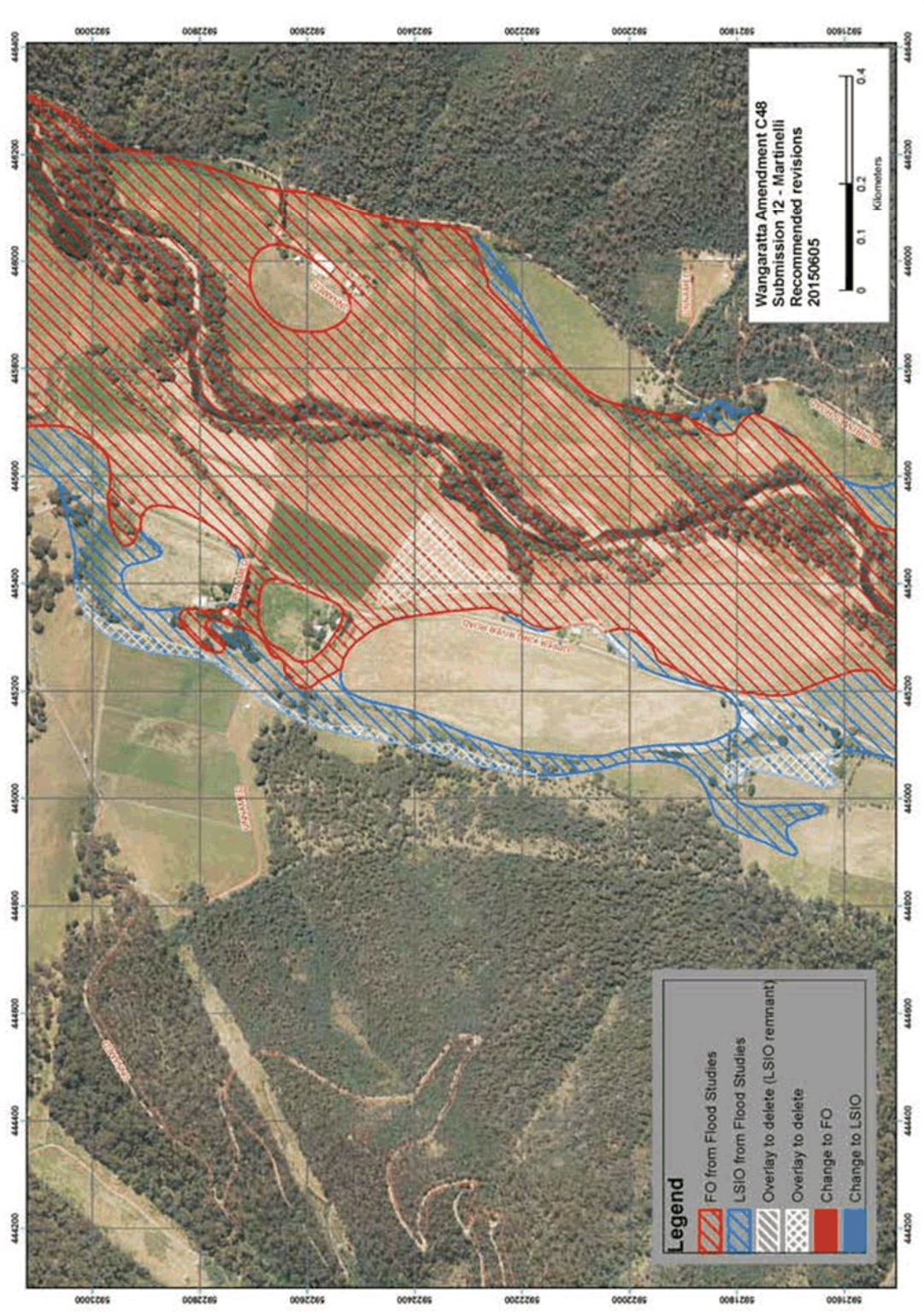


Wangaratta Planning Scheme Amendment C48 | Panel Report | 22 July 2015



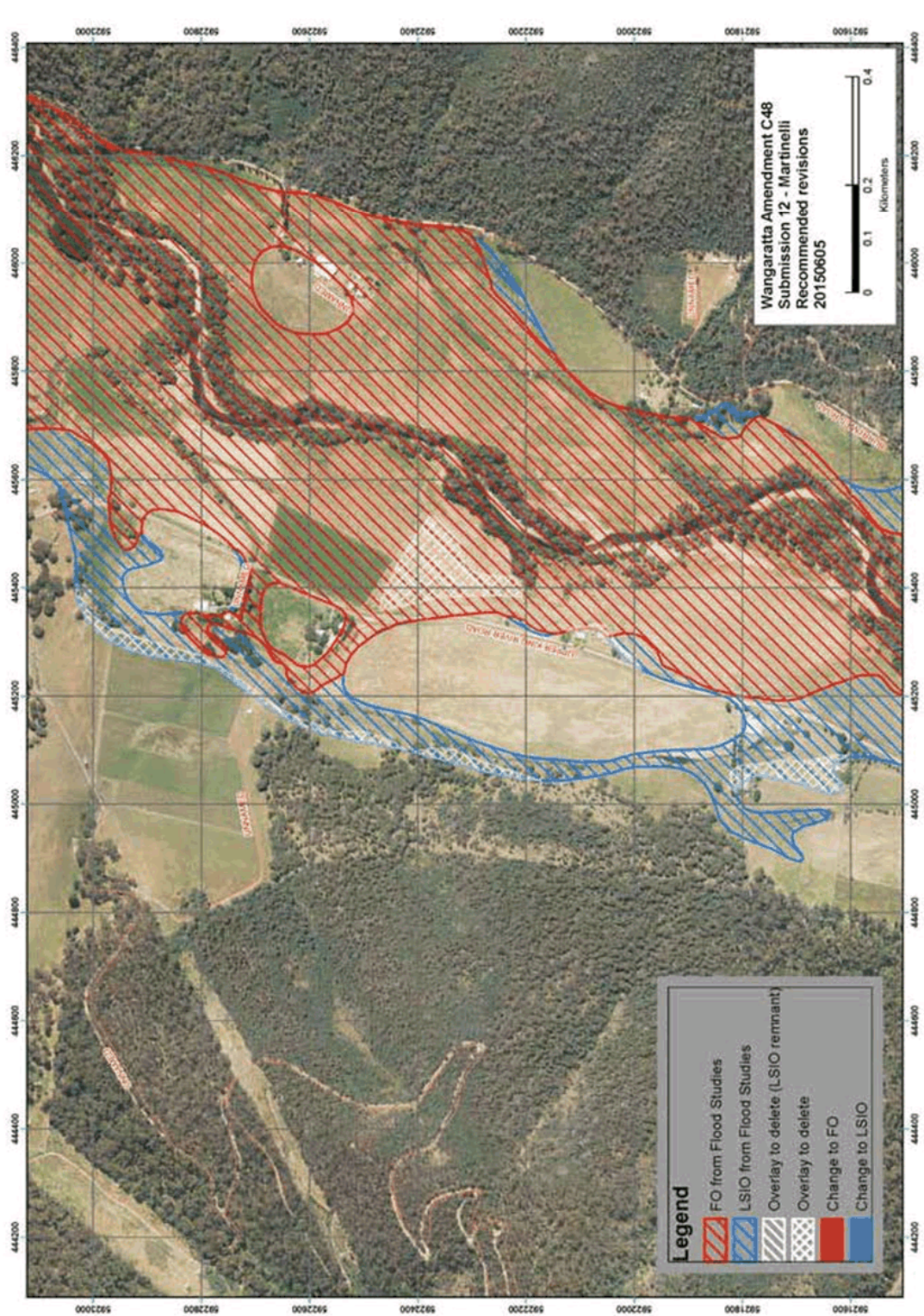


Wangaratta Planning Scheme Amendment C48 | Panel Report | 22 July 2015



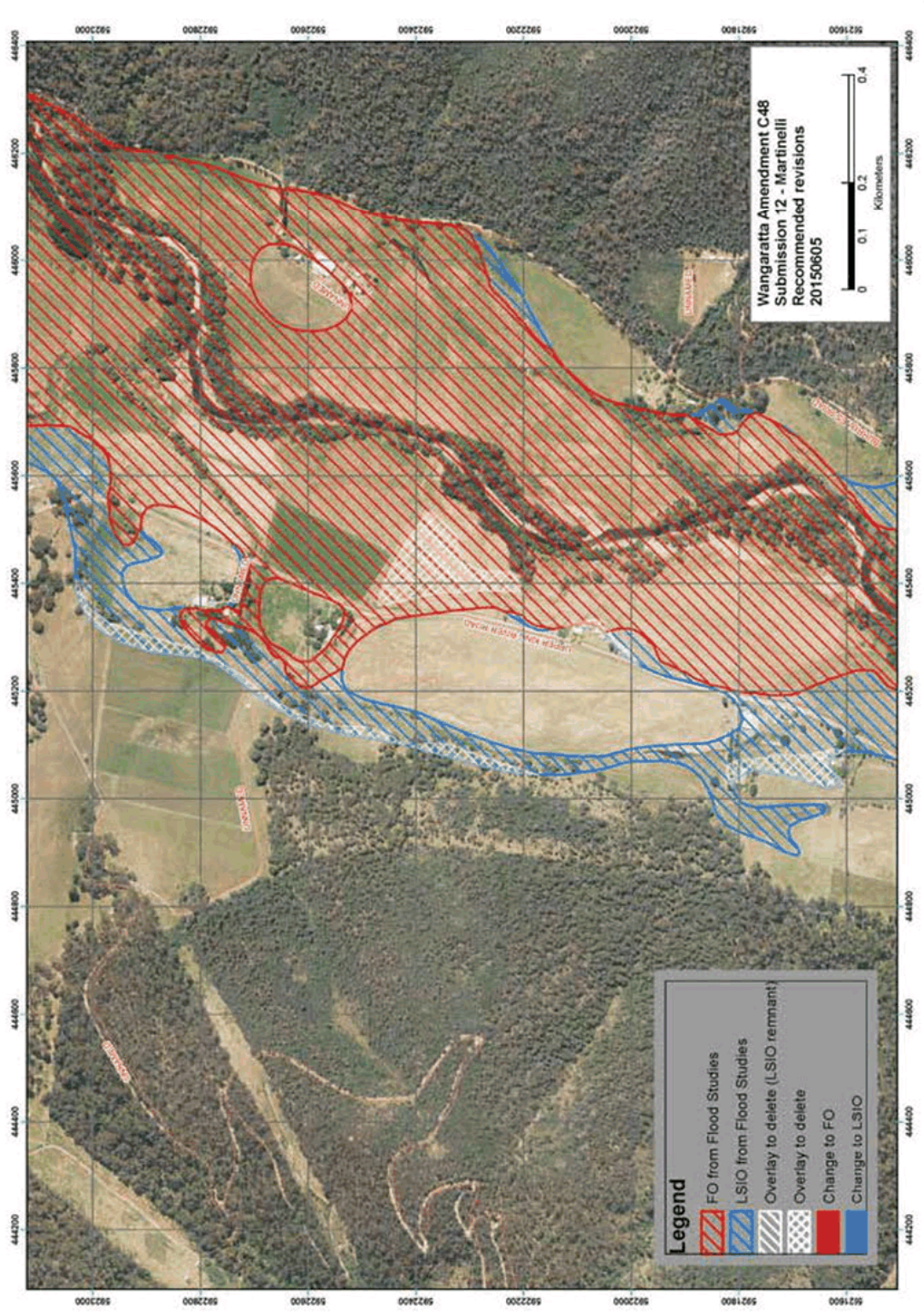


Wangaratta Planning Scheme Amendment C48 | Panel Report | 22 July 2015



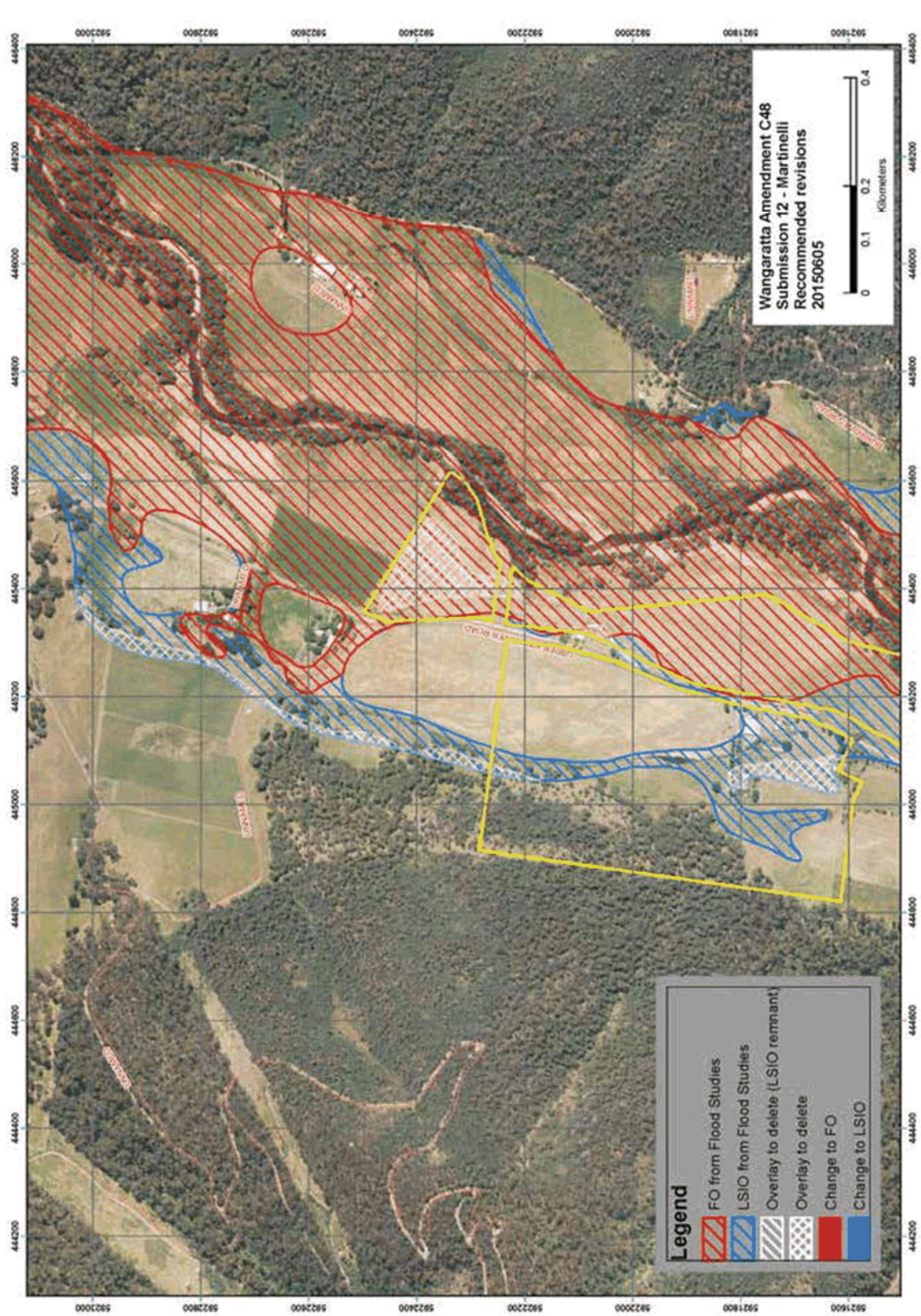


Wangaratta Planning Scheme Amendment C48 | Panel Report | 22 July 2015



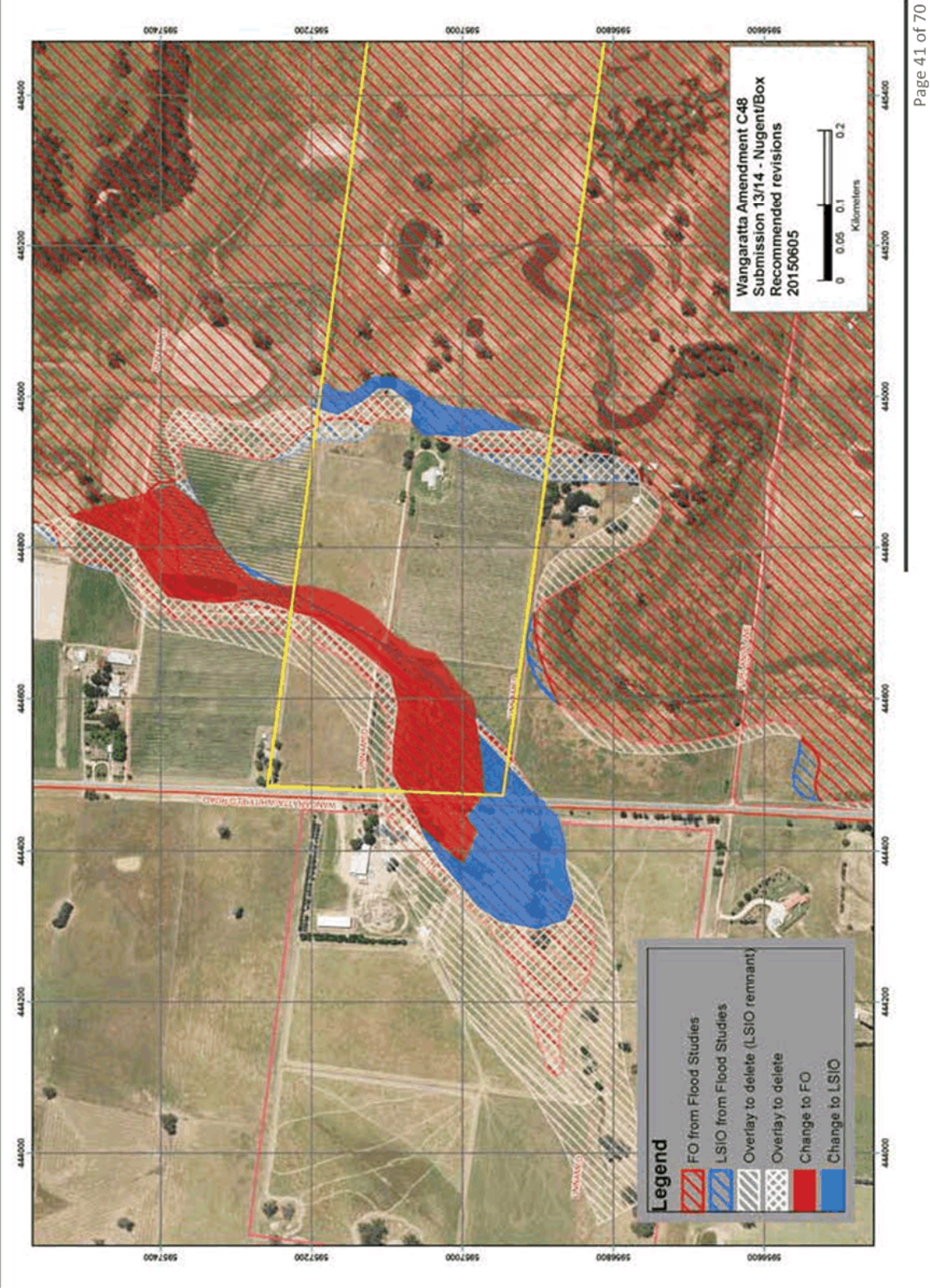


Wangaratta Planning Scheme Amendment C48 | Panel Report | 22 July 2015

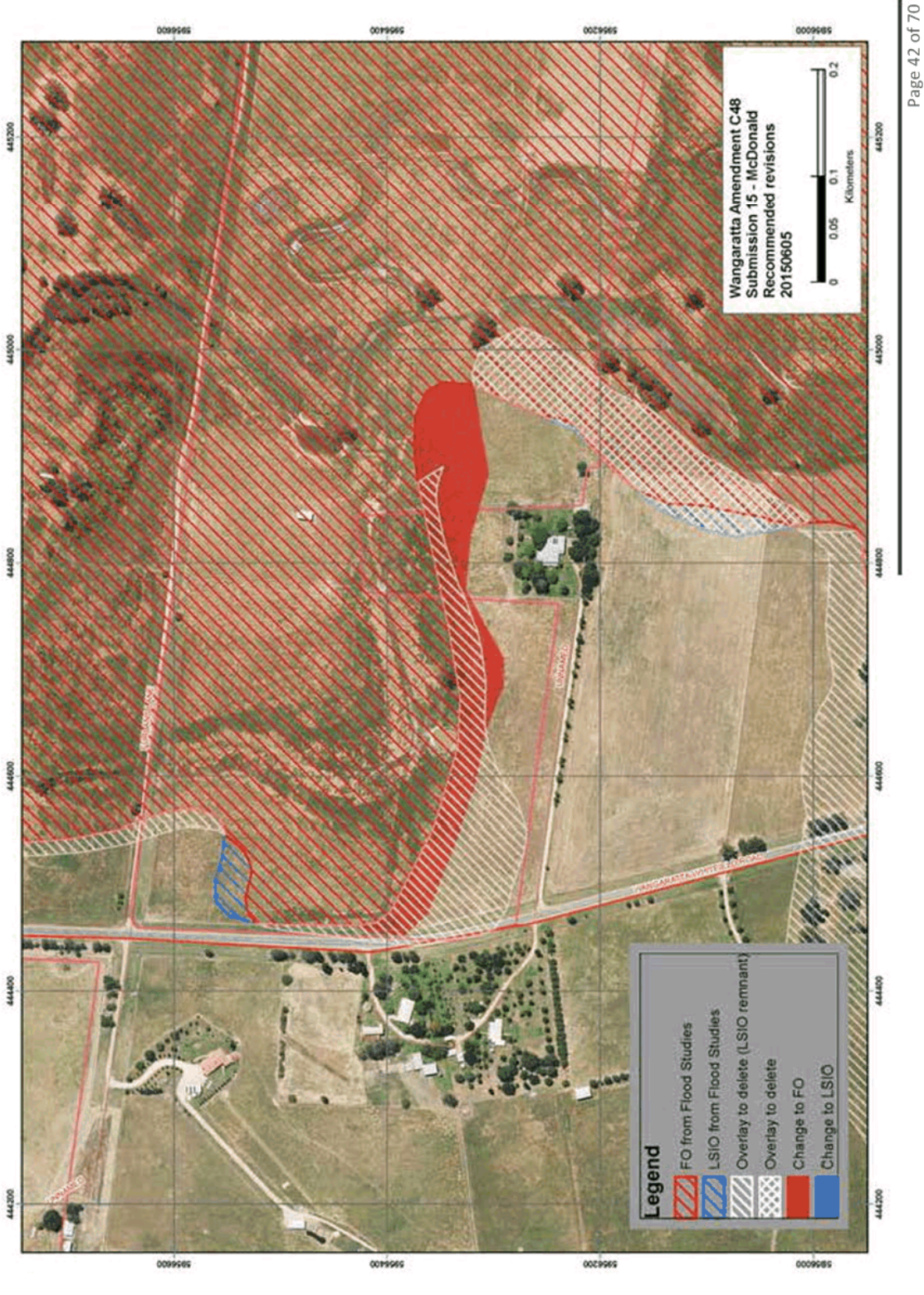




Wangaratta Planning Scheme Amendment C48 | Panel Report | 22 July 2015

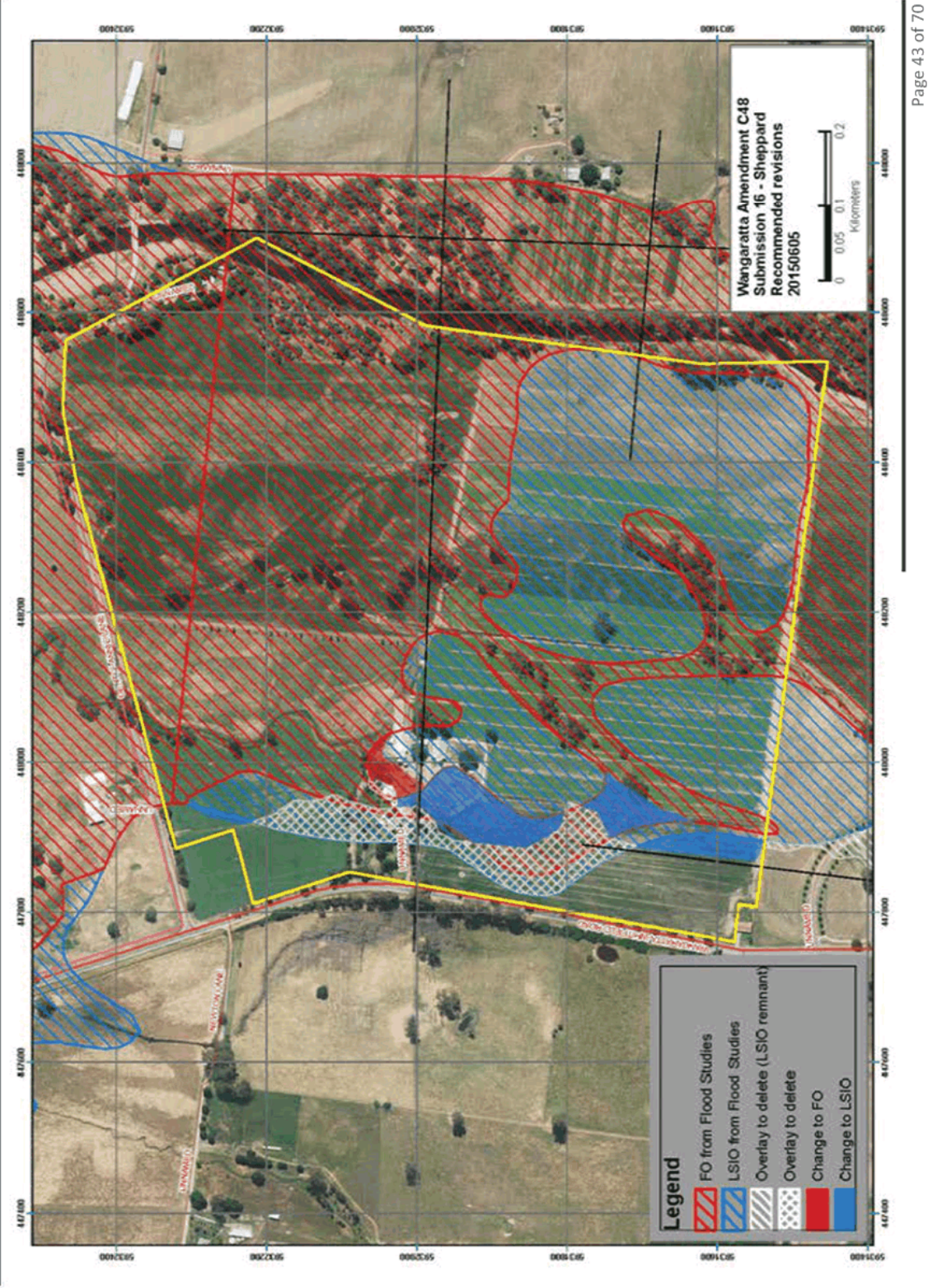






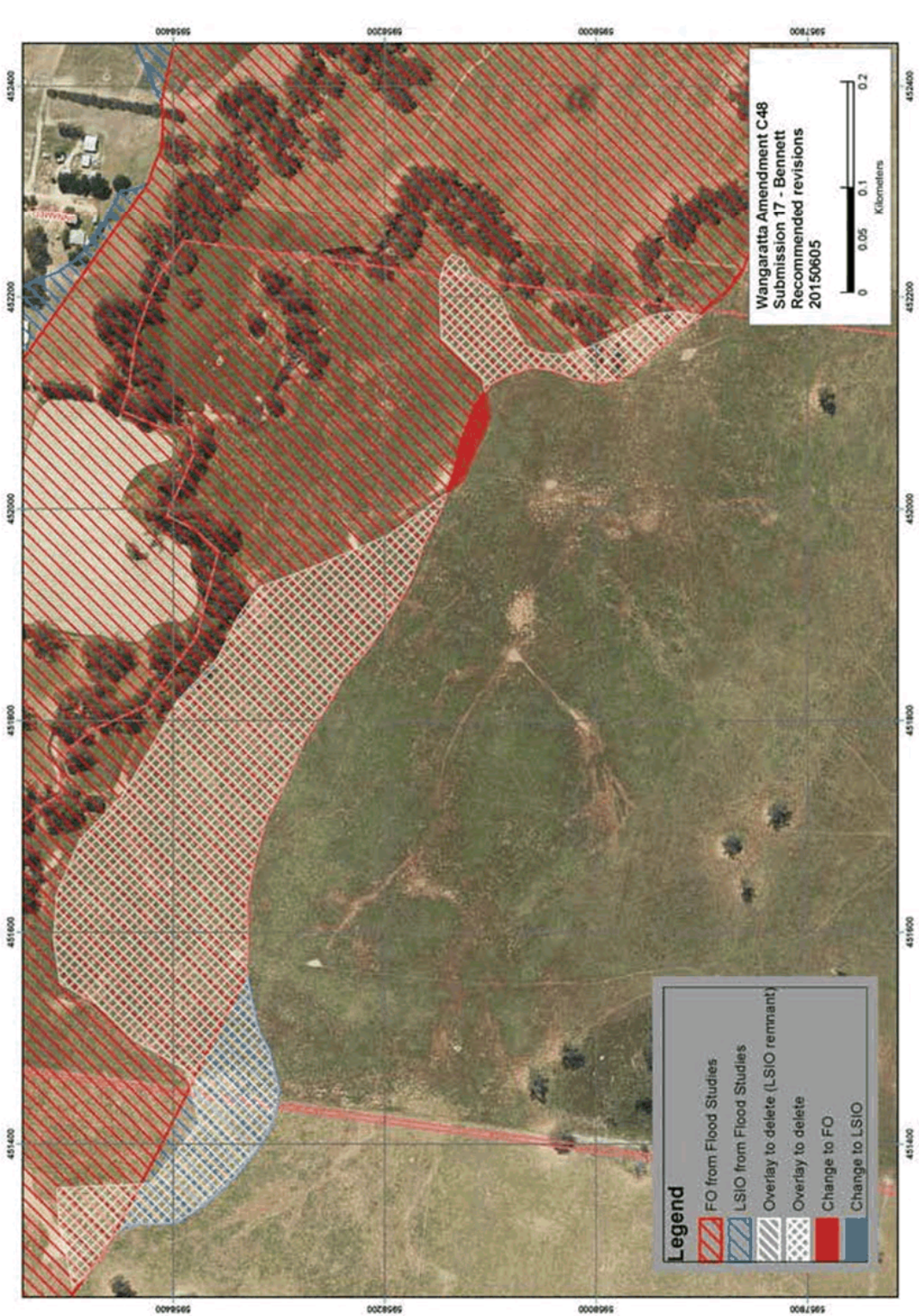


Wangaratta Planning Scheme Amendment C48 | Panel Report | 22 July 2015



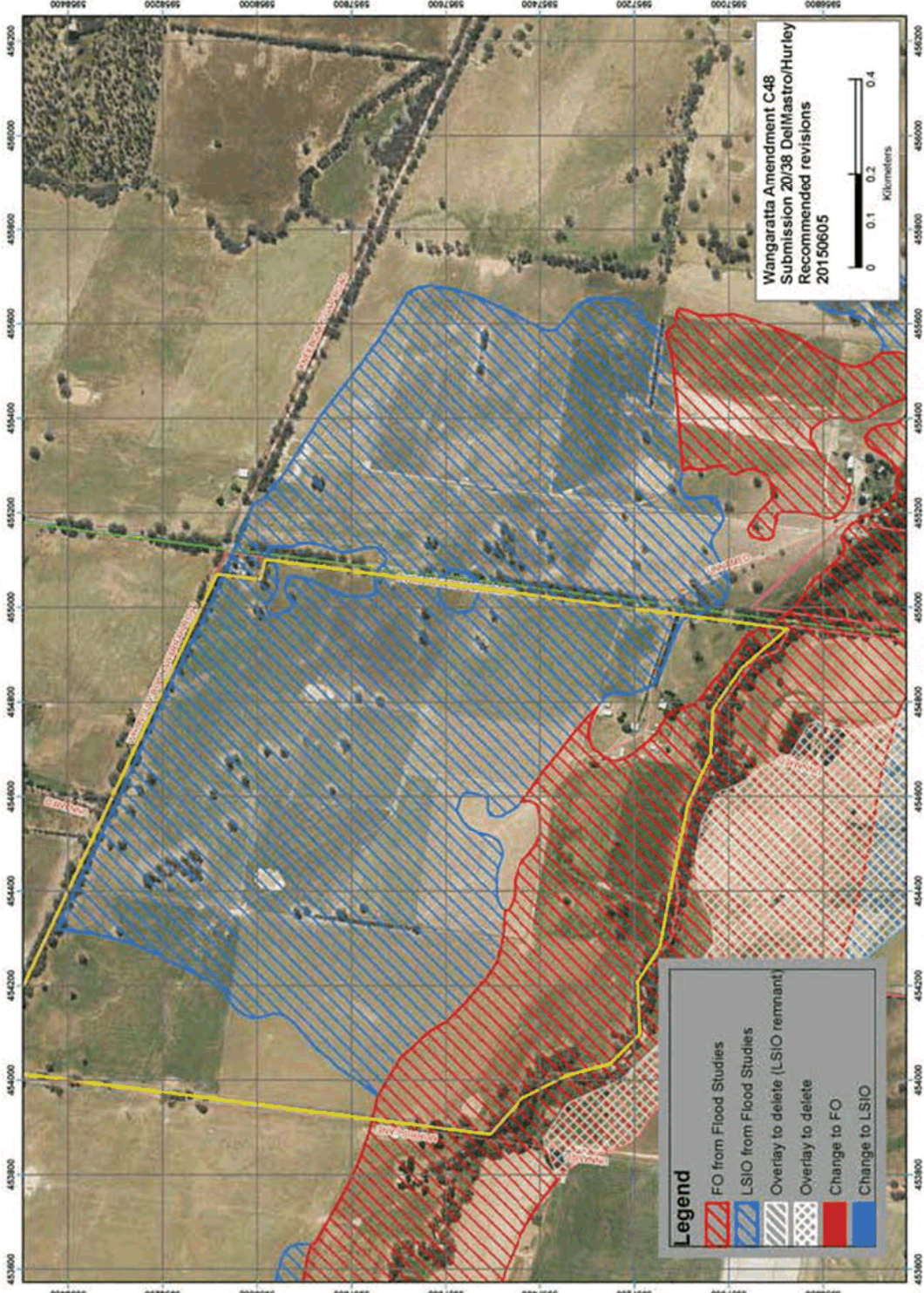


Wangaratta Planning Scheme Amendment C48 | Panel Report | 22 July 2015



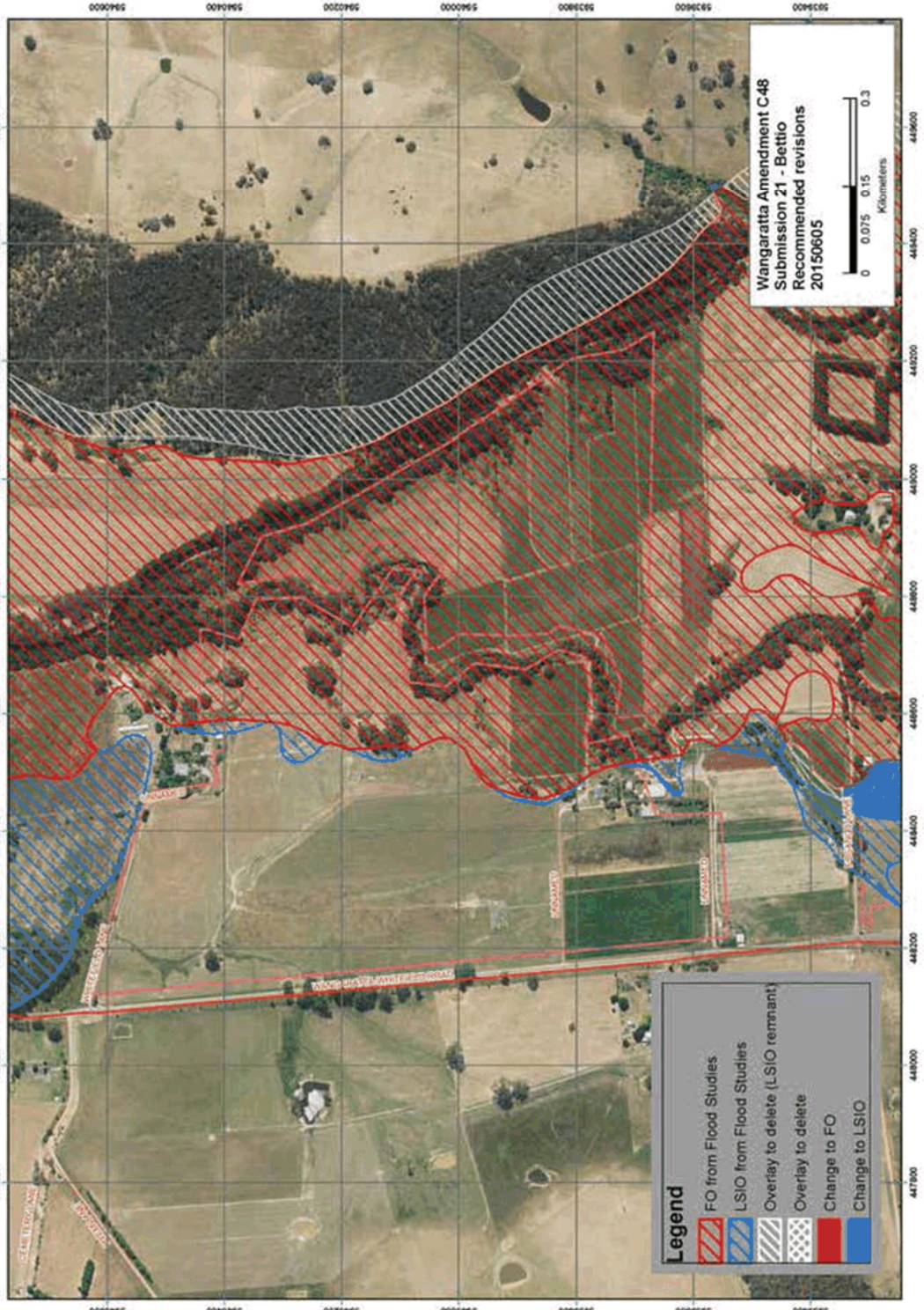


Wangaratta Planning Scheme Amendment C48 | Panel Report | 22 July 2015

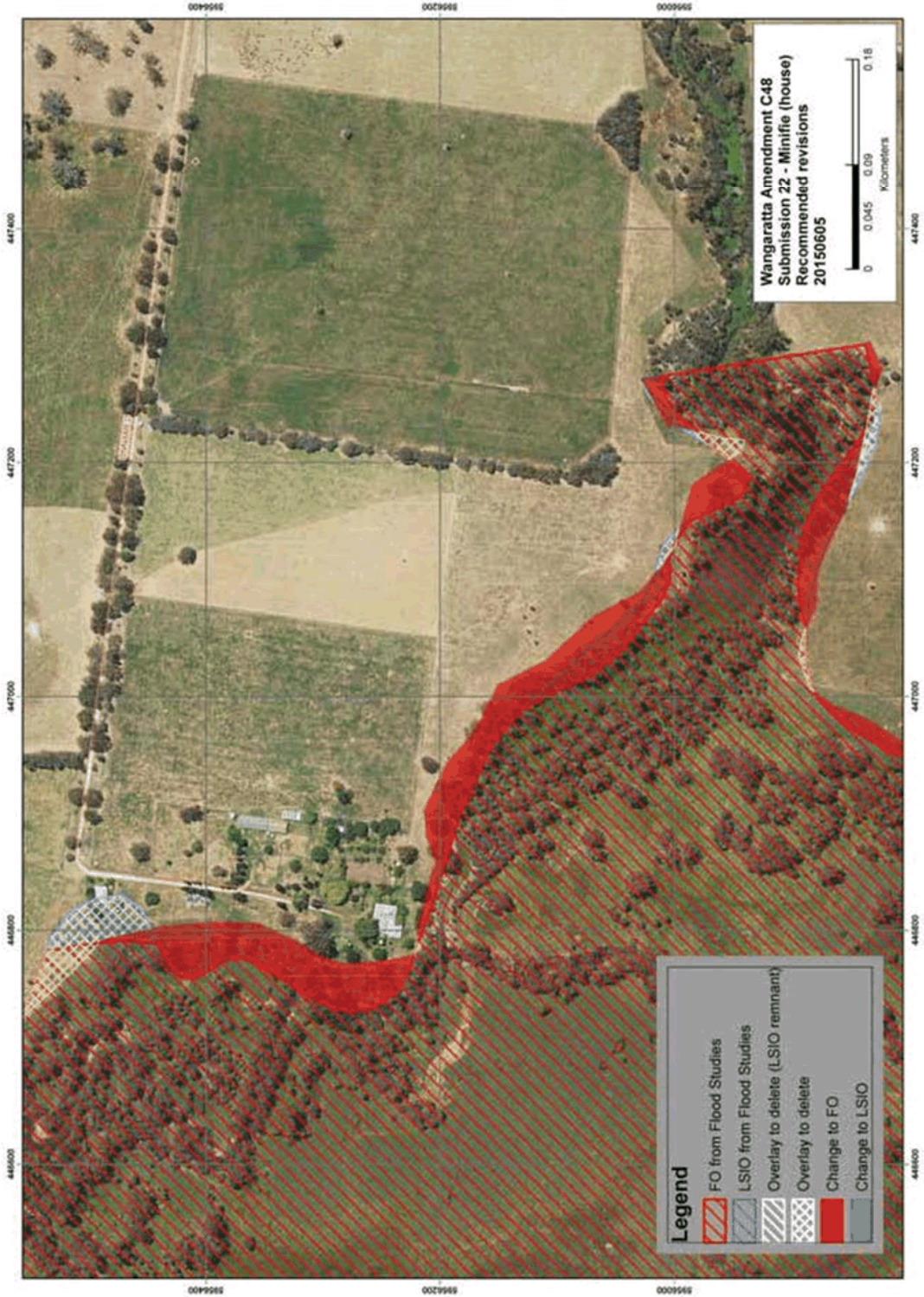




Wangaratta Planning Scheme Amendment C48 | Panel Report | 22 July 2015

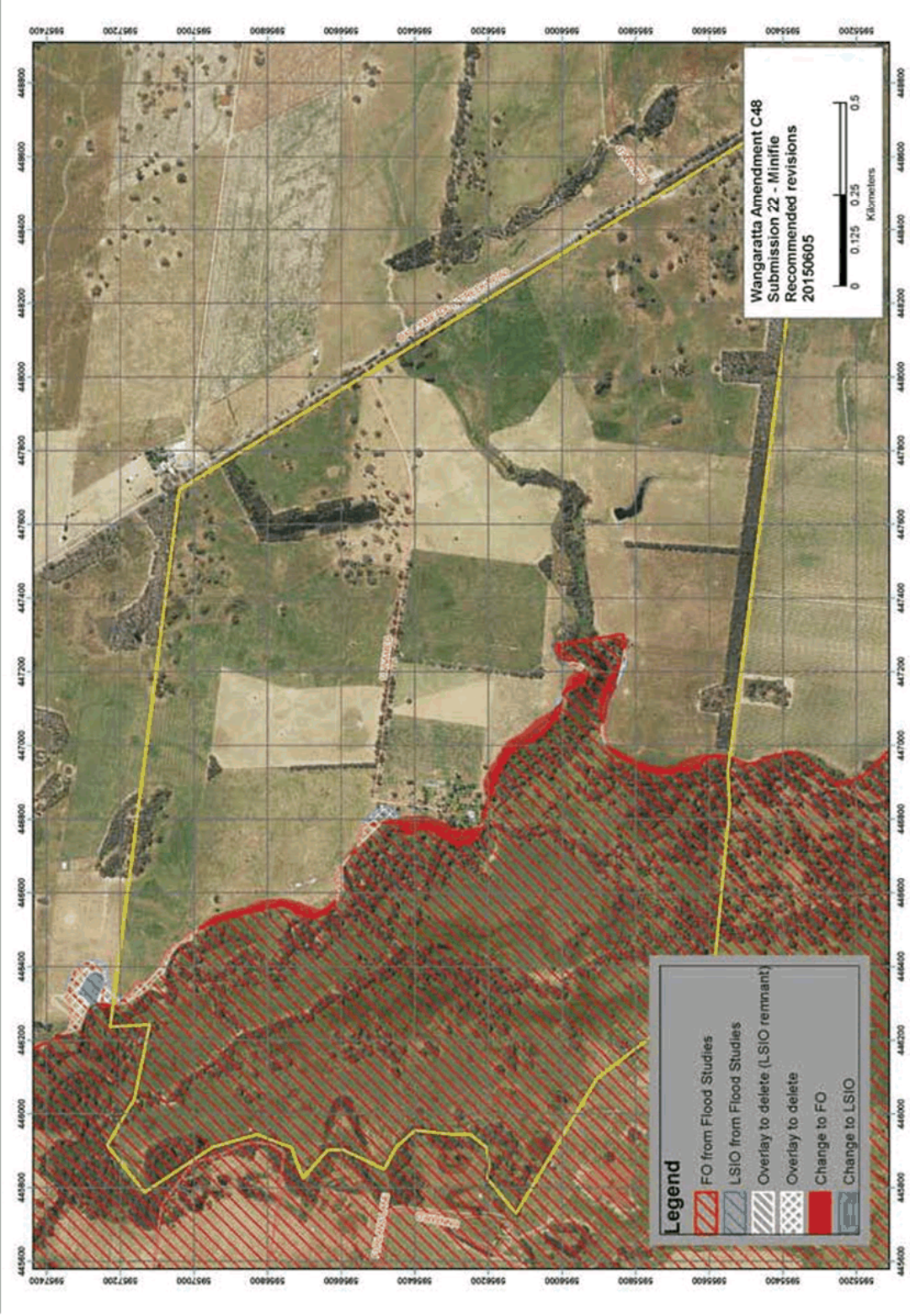






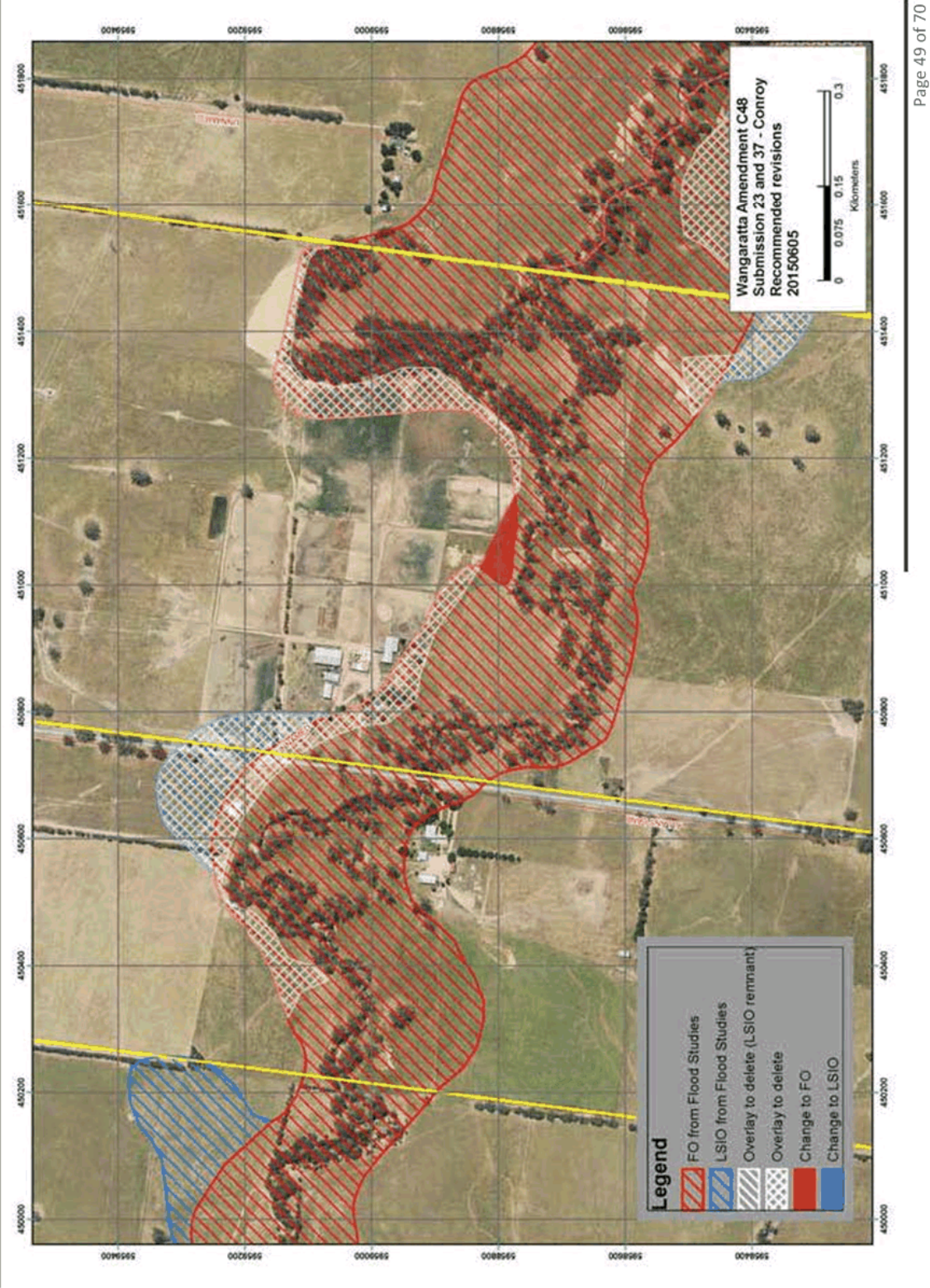


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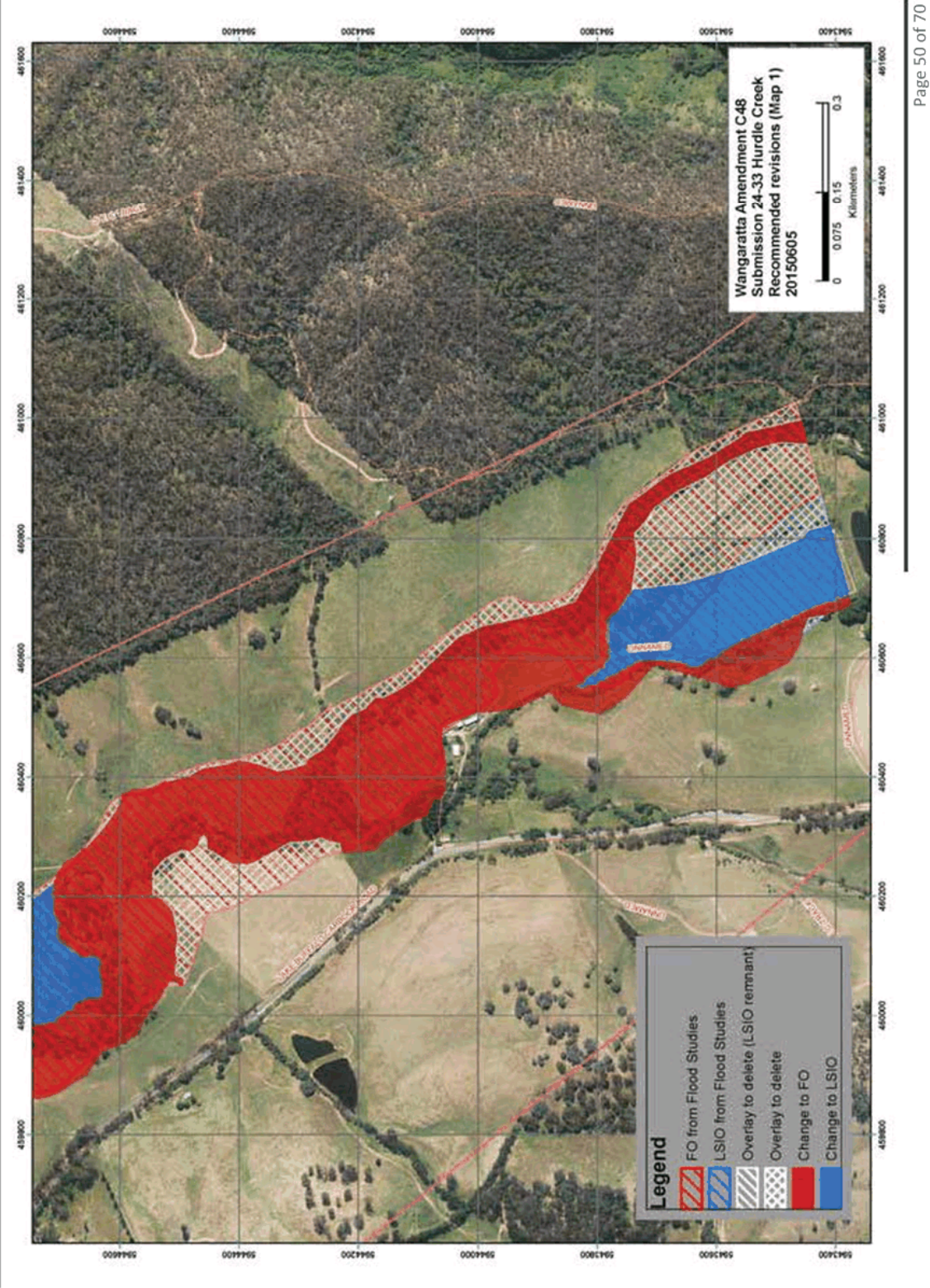


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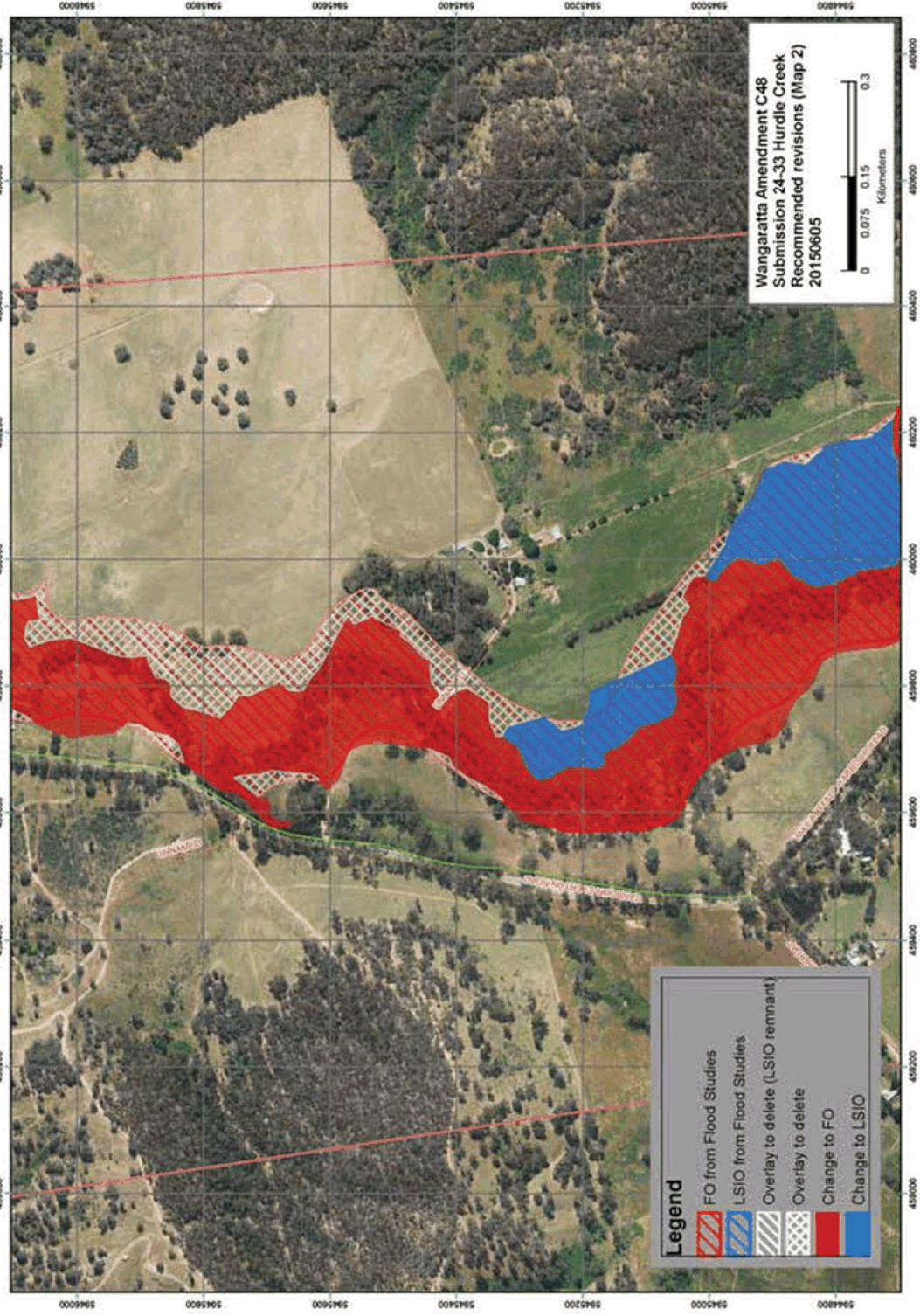


Wangaratta Planning Scheme Amendment C48 | Panel Report | 22 July 2015





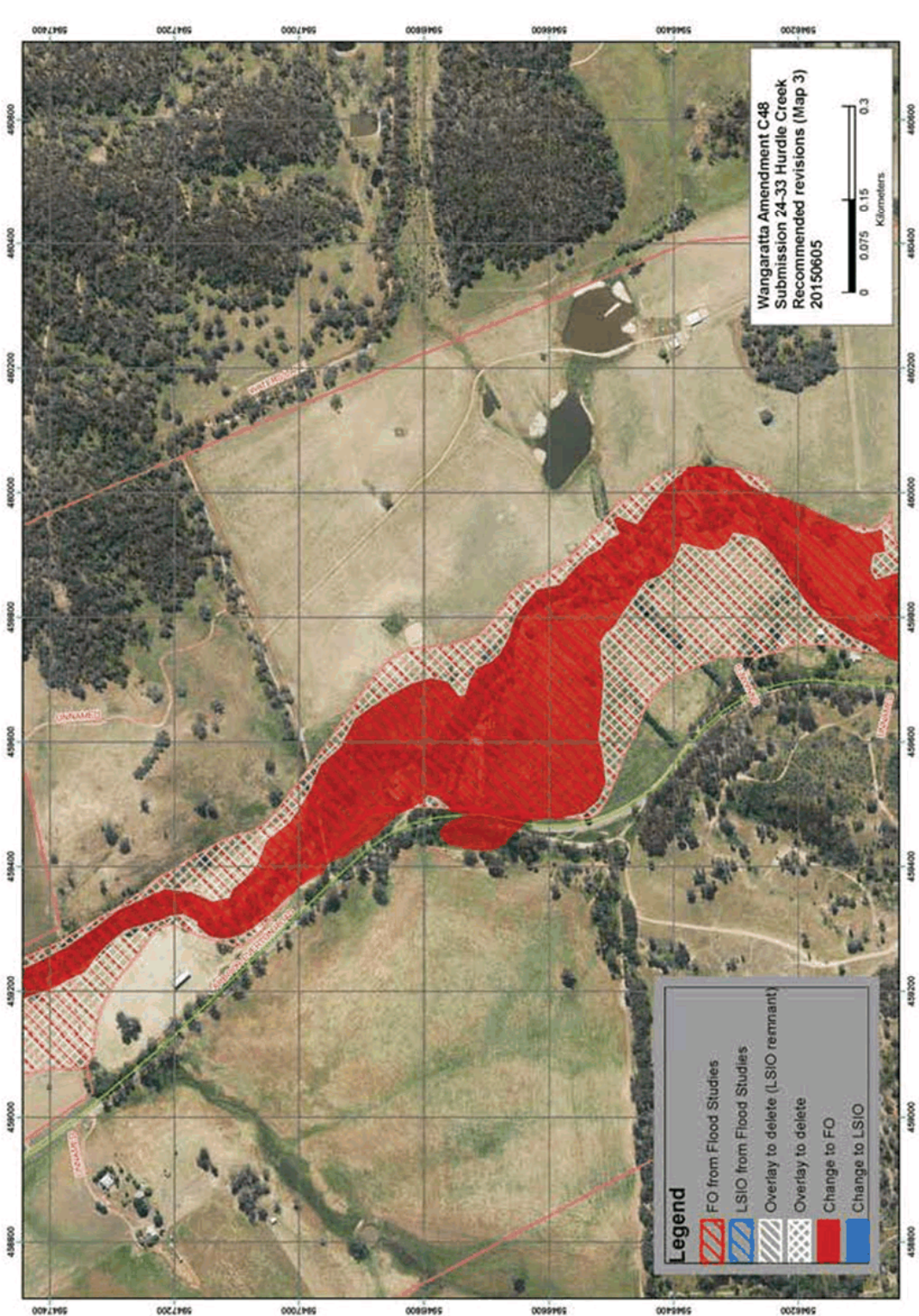
## Wangaratta Planning Scheme Amendment C48 | Panel Report | 22 July 2015



Page 51 of 70

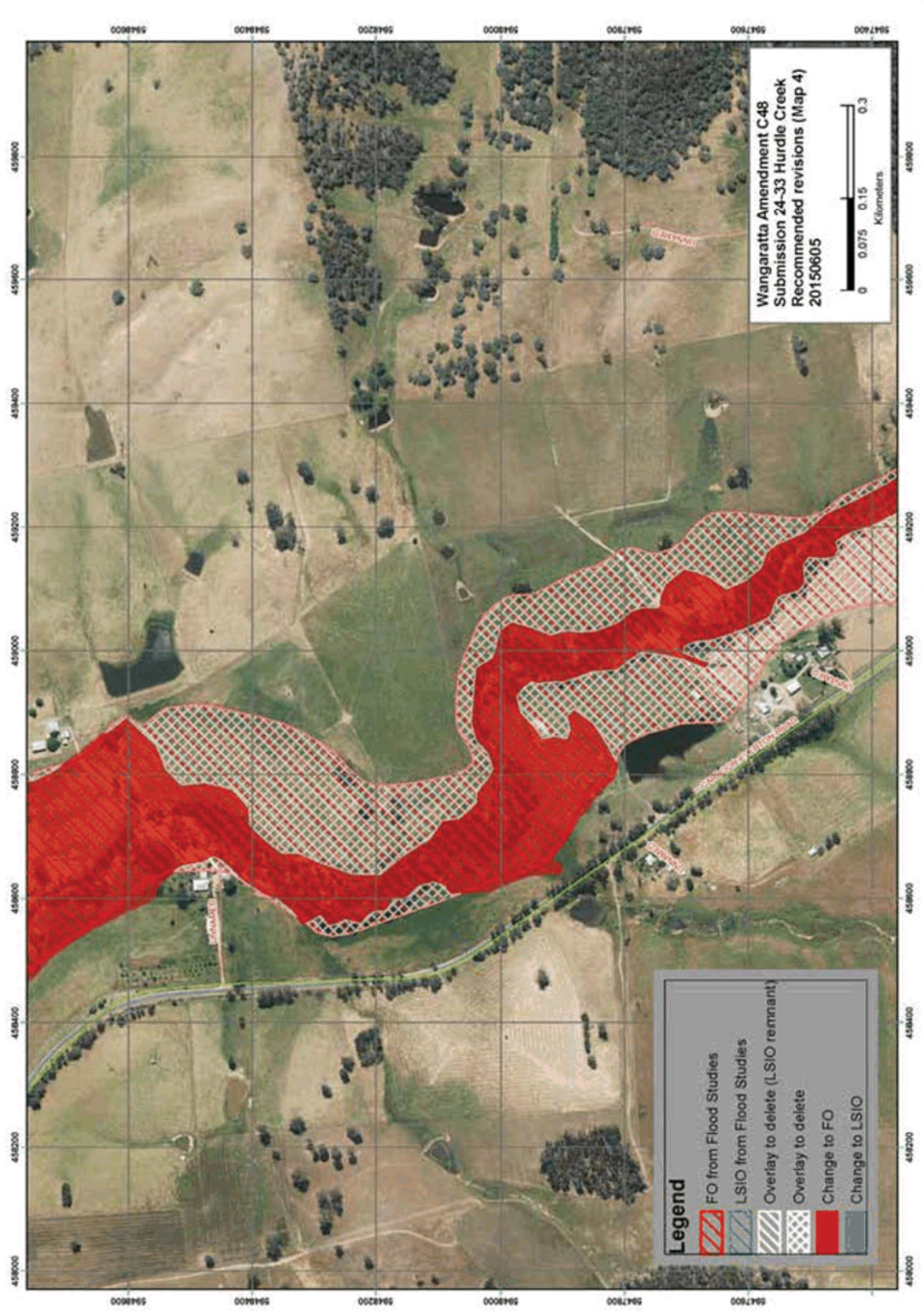


Wangaratta Planning Scheme Amendment C48 | Panel Report | 22 July 2015



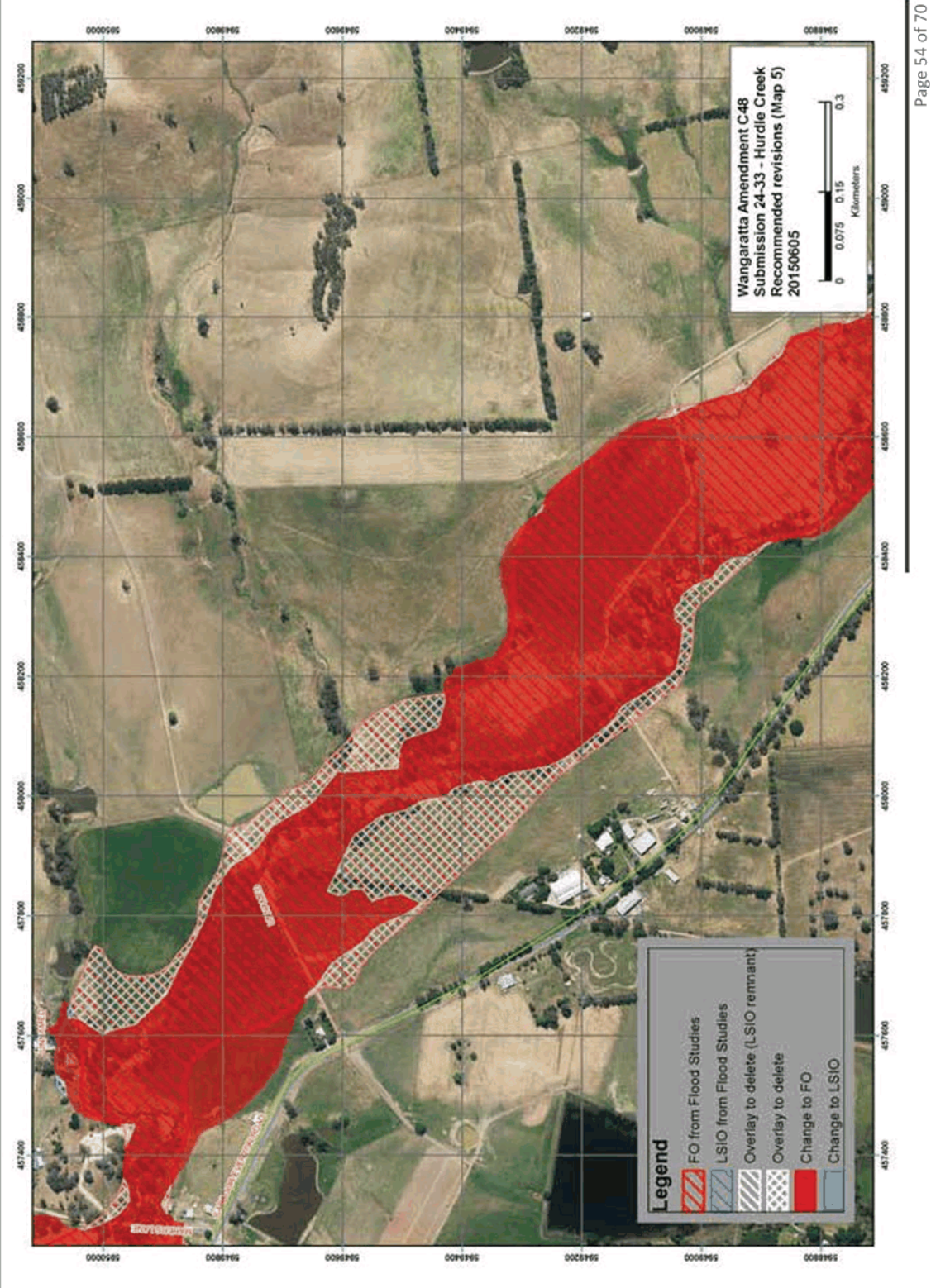


Wangaratta Planning Scheme Amendment C48 | Panel Report | 22 July 2015



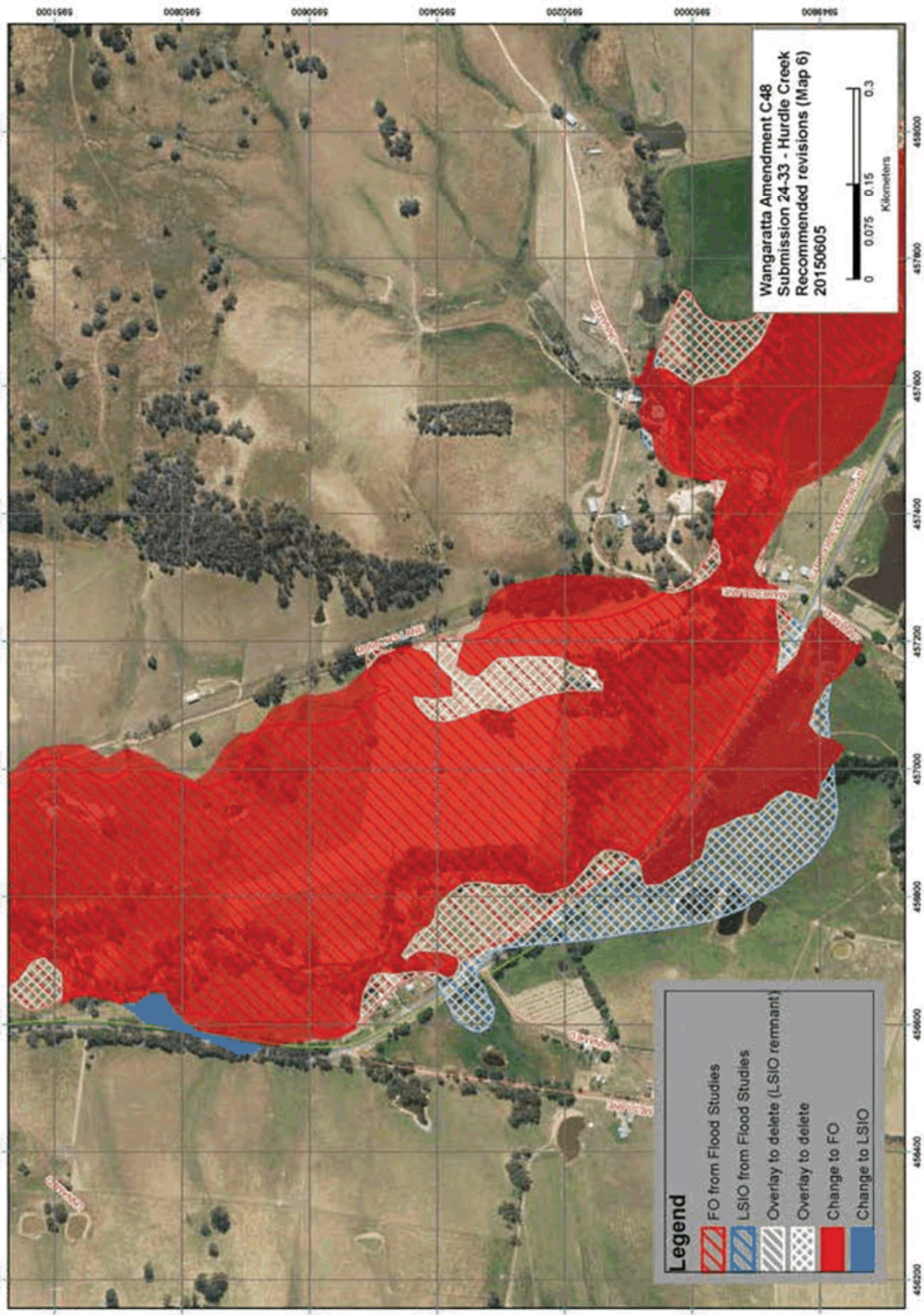


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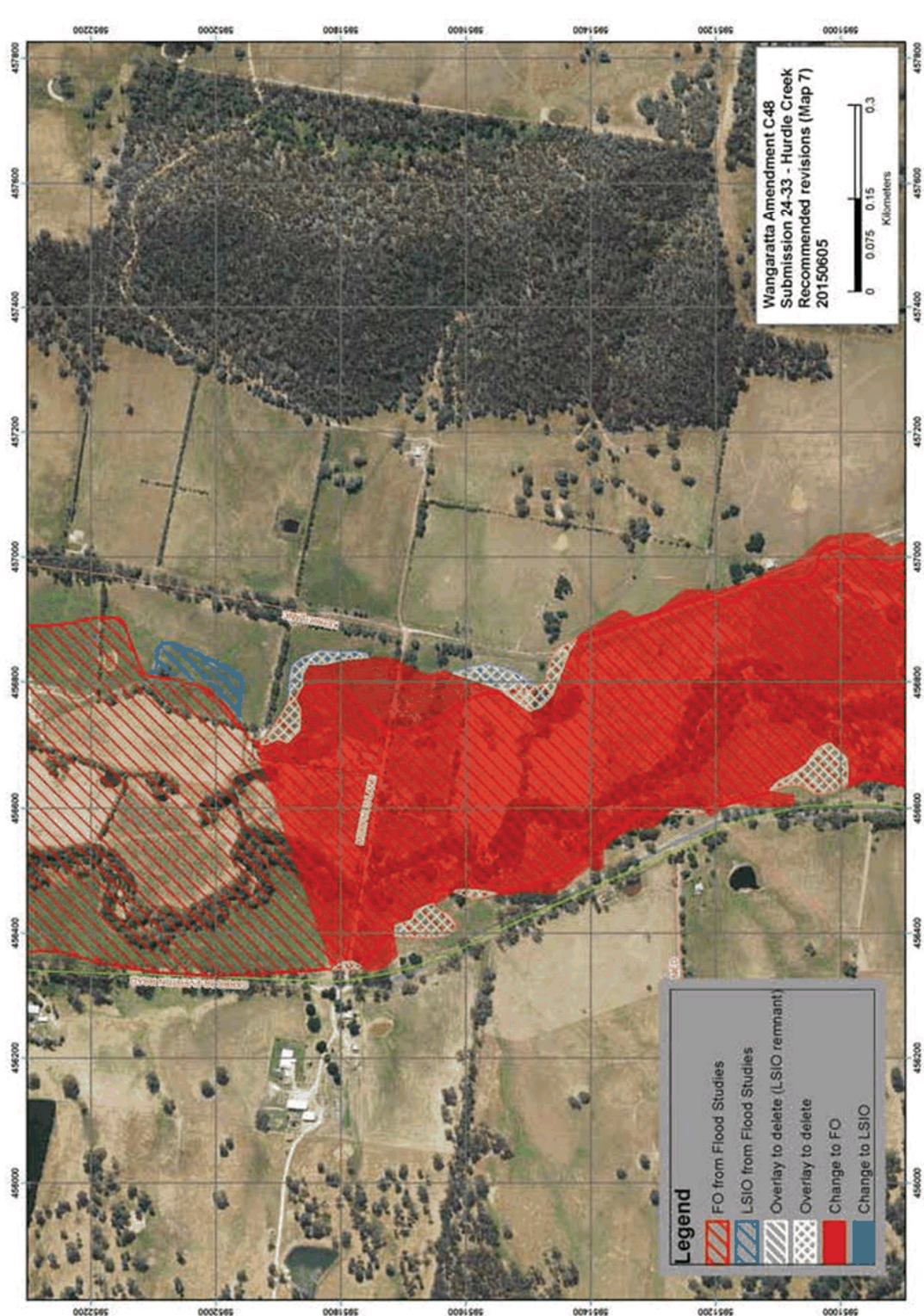


Wangaratta Planning Scheme Amendment C48 | Panel Report | 22 July 2015



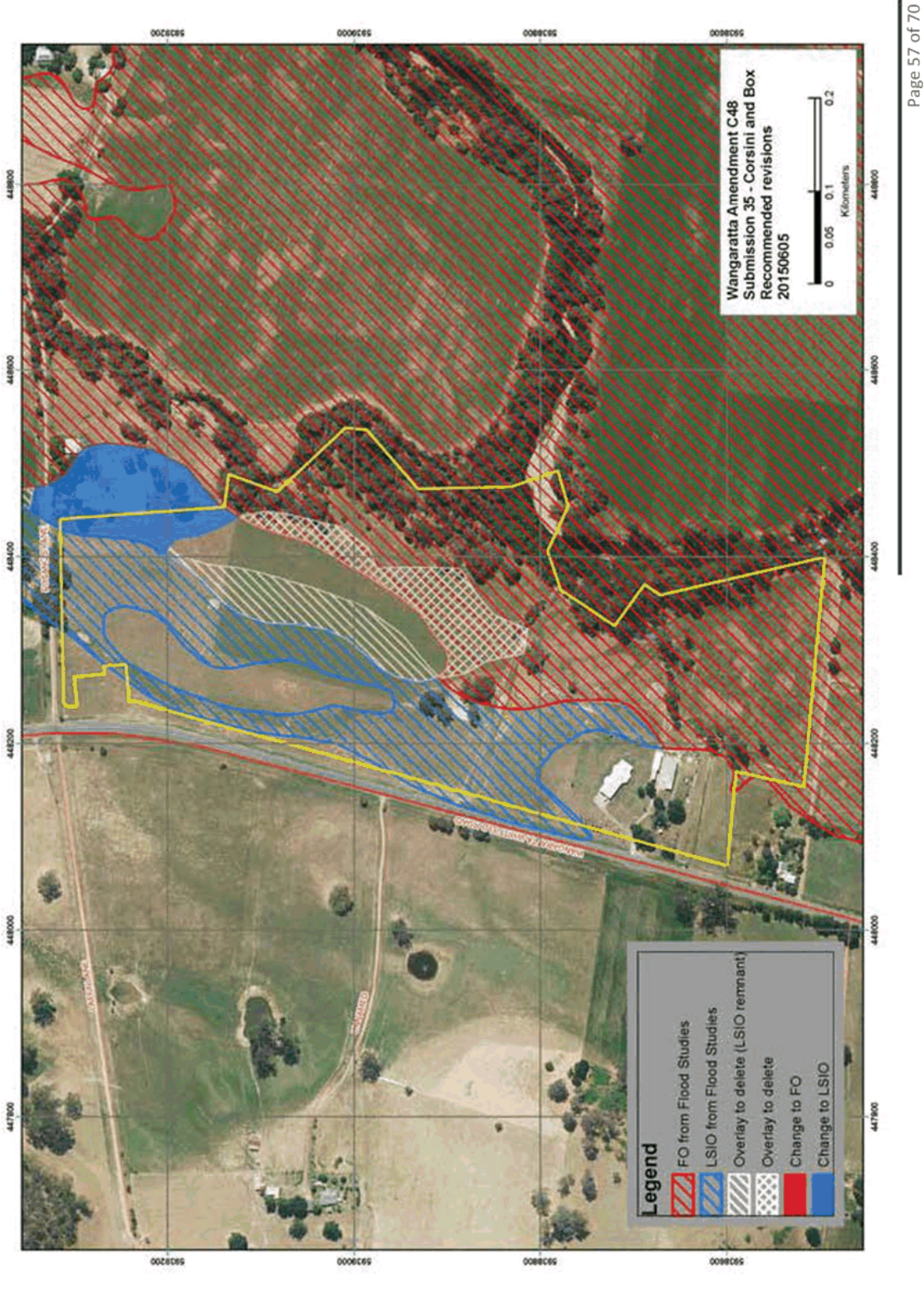


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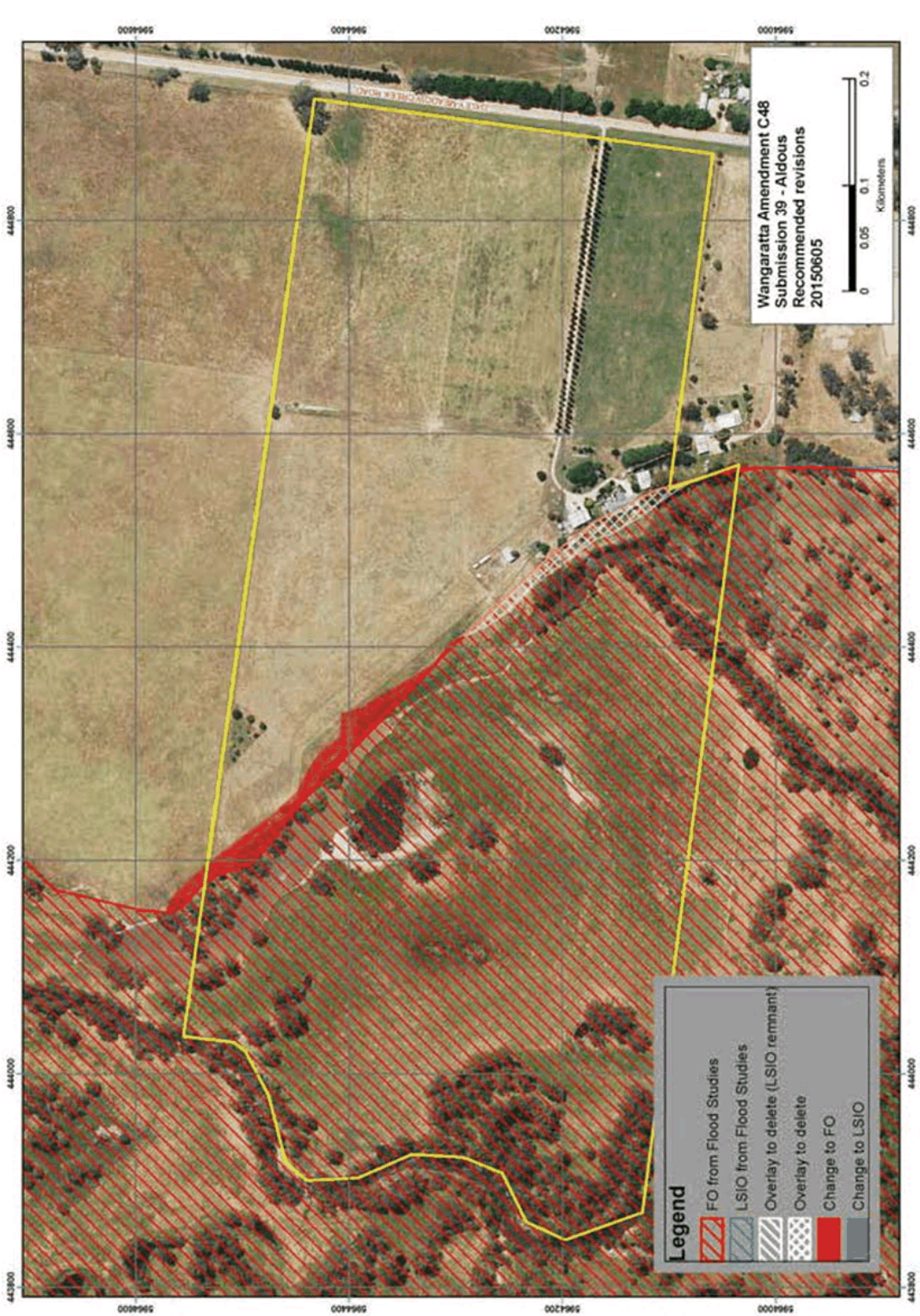


Wangaratta Planning Scheme Amendment C48 | Panel Report | 22 July 2015



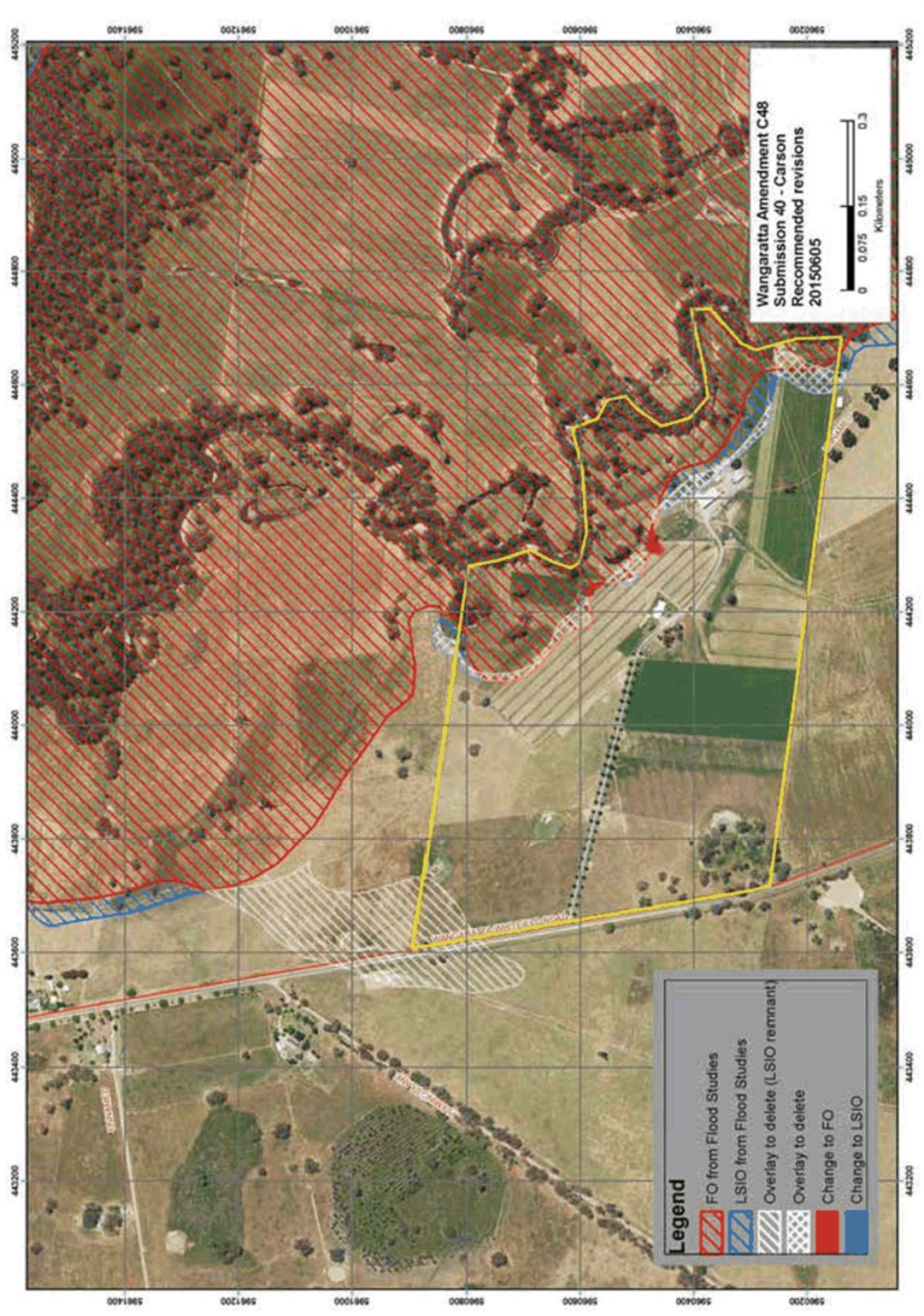


Wangaratta Planning Scheme Amendment C48 | Panel Report | 22 July 2015





Wangaratta Planning Scheme Amendment C48 | Panel Report | 22 July 2015







Ash Submission 41

## **Appendix C Panel Preferred Schedules to the FO and LSIO**

Changes shown are changes from the exhibited version.



## WANGARATTA PLANNING SCHEME

07/08/2014  
C52**SCHEDULE TO THE FLOODWAY OVERLAY**Shown on the planning scheme map as **FO** or **RFO****1.0**07/08/2014  
C52**Permit requirement**

A permit is not required to construct or carry out the following buildings or works:

**Buildings**

- Single or multiple dwelling extensions, where the combined floor area of extensions constructed since 25 February 1999 is not greater than 20 square metres provided that the total number of bedrooms is not increased.
- An upper storey extension to an existing dwelling provided that the total number of bedrooms is not increased.
- A pergola, verandah, deck or carport associated with an existing dwelling provided that:
  - The works occupy an area of less than 20 square metres;
  - The works are fully open in nature and do not include cladding or base boards that may impede the flow of floodwaters;
  - The works are located more than 30m from any waterway.
- An in-ground swimming pool associated with an existing dwelling provided that:
  - The swimming pool and any associated works are located at least 30m from any waterway;
  - Only open type standard pool fences are used, that do not impede the flow of flood water;
  - Surplus earthworks are moved outside any land covered by Floodway Overlay or Land Subject to Inundation Overlay and do not obstruct or impact natural flow paths, drainage lines or flood flows.
- Single or multiple extensions to a non-habitable building (other than for retail, office or industrial purposes) where the combined floor area of extensions constructed since 25 February 1999 is not greater than 20 square metres.
- A mast, antenna, power pole, light pole, or telecommunication facility, if the associated buildings and works meet the requirements of Clause 52.19.
- An outdoor advertising sign/structure provided it does not alter flood flows or floodplain storage capacity.

**Works**

- Minor earthworks that do not obstruct or impact natural flow paths, drainage lines or flood flows and do not raise the natural surface by more than 100 mm, provided that the earthworks are greater than 100m from neighbouring dwellings. Typically, minor earthworks may include the maintenance of on farm access ways, existing unsealed roads and general agricultural activities such as ploughing. Minor earthworks do not include laser levelling for irrigation purposes.

## Wangaratta Planning Scheme Amendment C48 | Panel Report | 22 July 2015

## WANGARATTA PLANNING SCHEME

07/08/2014  
C52**SCHEDULE TO THE LAND SUBJECT TO INUNDATION OVERLAY**Shown on the planning scheme map as **LSIO****1.0****Permit requirement**07/08/2014  
C52

A permit is not required to construct or carry out the following buildings or works:

**Buildings**

- Single or multiple dwelling extensions, where the combined floor area of extensions constructed since 25 February 1999 is not greater than 20 square metres.
- The construction of a pergola, veranda, carport, or swimming pool associated with an existing dwelling.
- The construction of a non-habitable building (other than industrial, retail or office) with a floor area not more than 100m<sup>2</sup>.
- An extension to a non-habitable building (other than industrial, retail or office) with a floor area not more than 100m<sup>2</sup>.
- Construction of a sports ground (without grandstand or raised viewing areas), golf course, playground picnic shelter and barbeque.

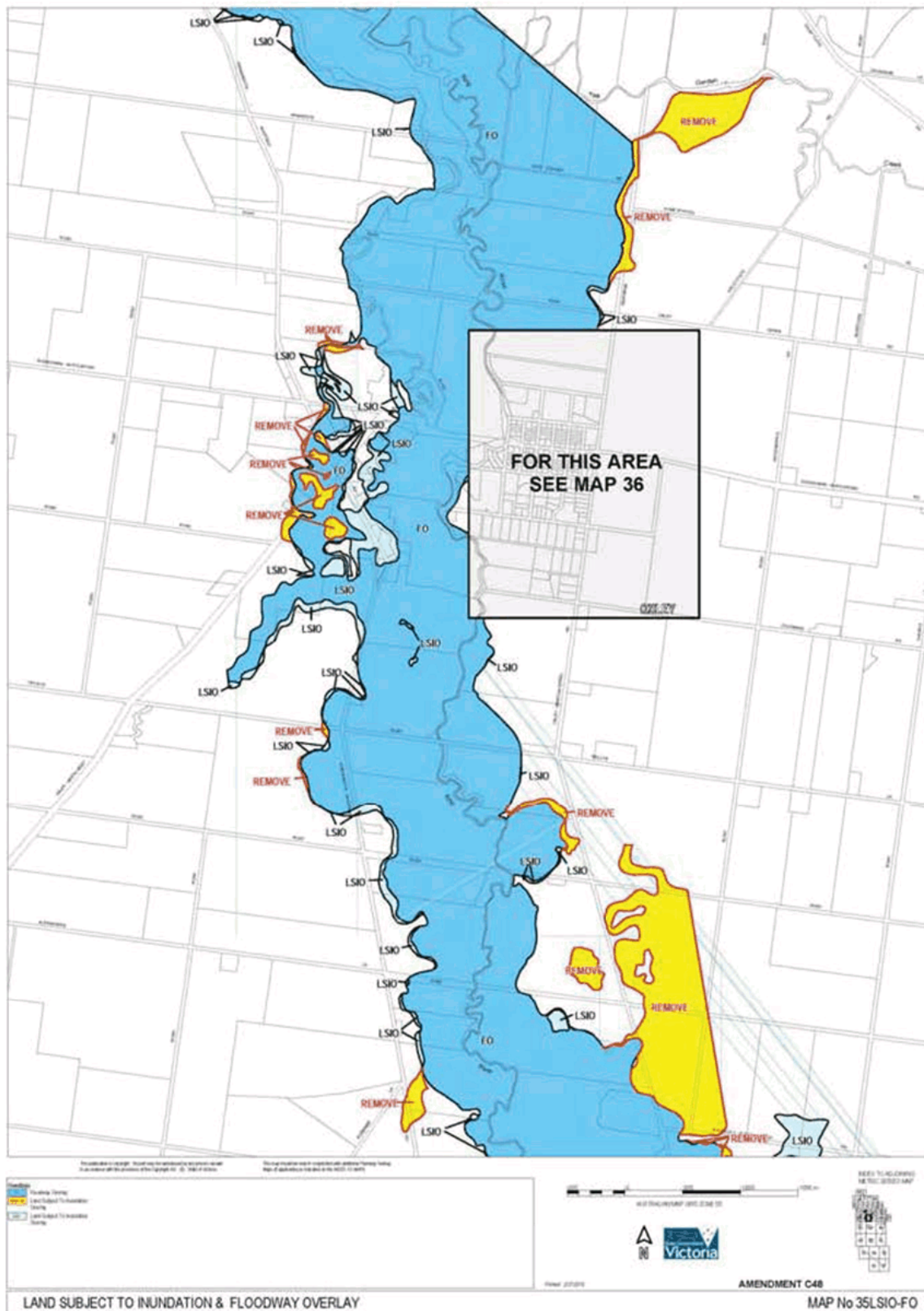
**Works**

- Minor earthworks that do not obstruct or impact on natural flow paths, drainage lines or flood flows and that raise the natural surface level of the land by less than 100mm. Typically, minor earthworks may include the maintenance of on farm access ways, existing unsealed roads and ~~the like~~ general agricultural activities such as ploughing. Minor earthworks do not include laser levelling for irrigation purposes.

## Appendix D LSIO areas to be removed

The attached maps show LSIO areas incorrectly shown in the exhibited versions and proposed to be removed.

# WANGARATTA PLANNING SCHEME - LOCAL PROVISION

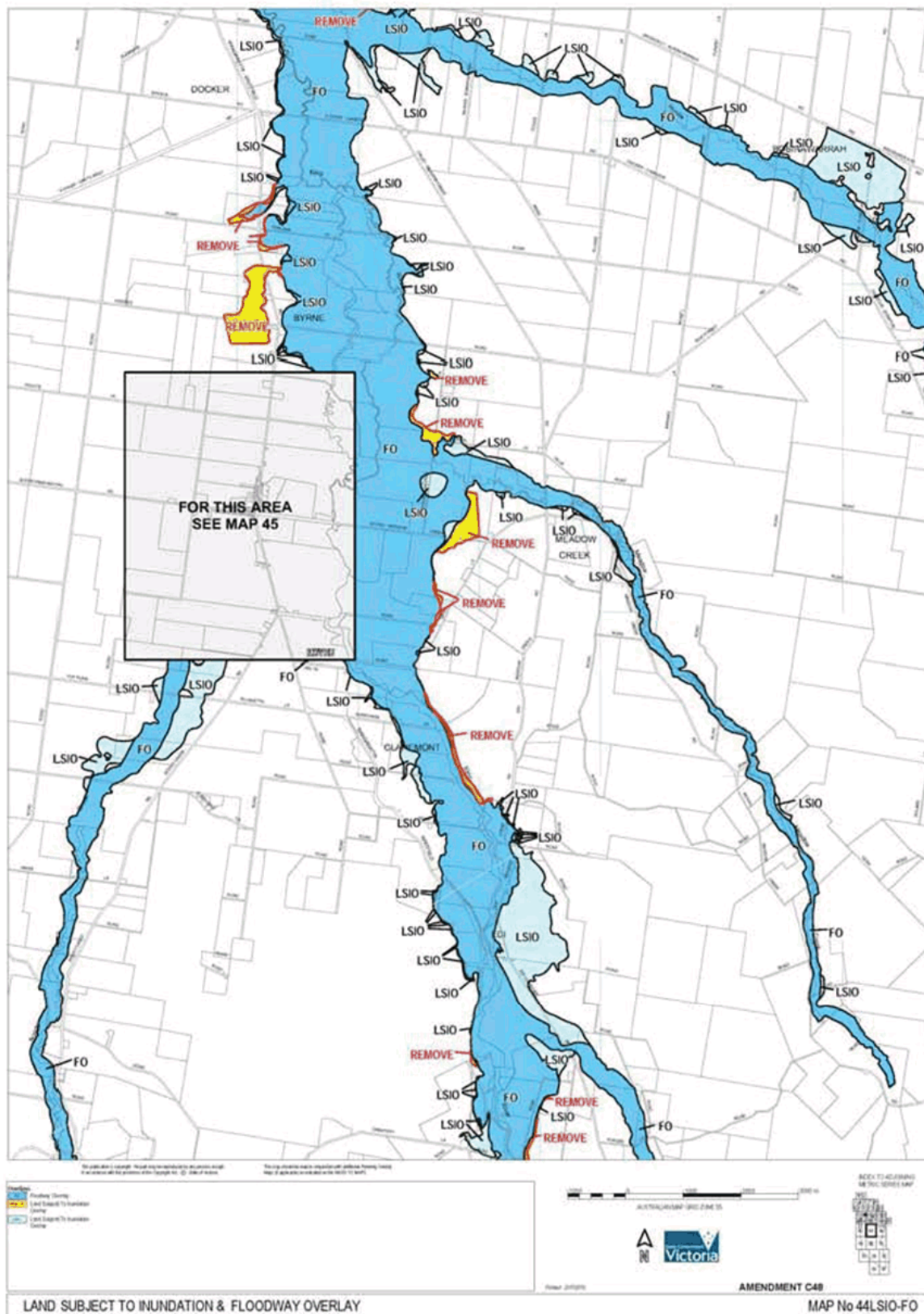


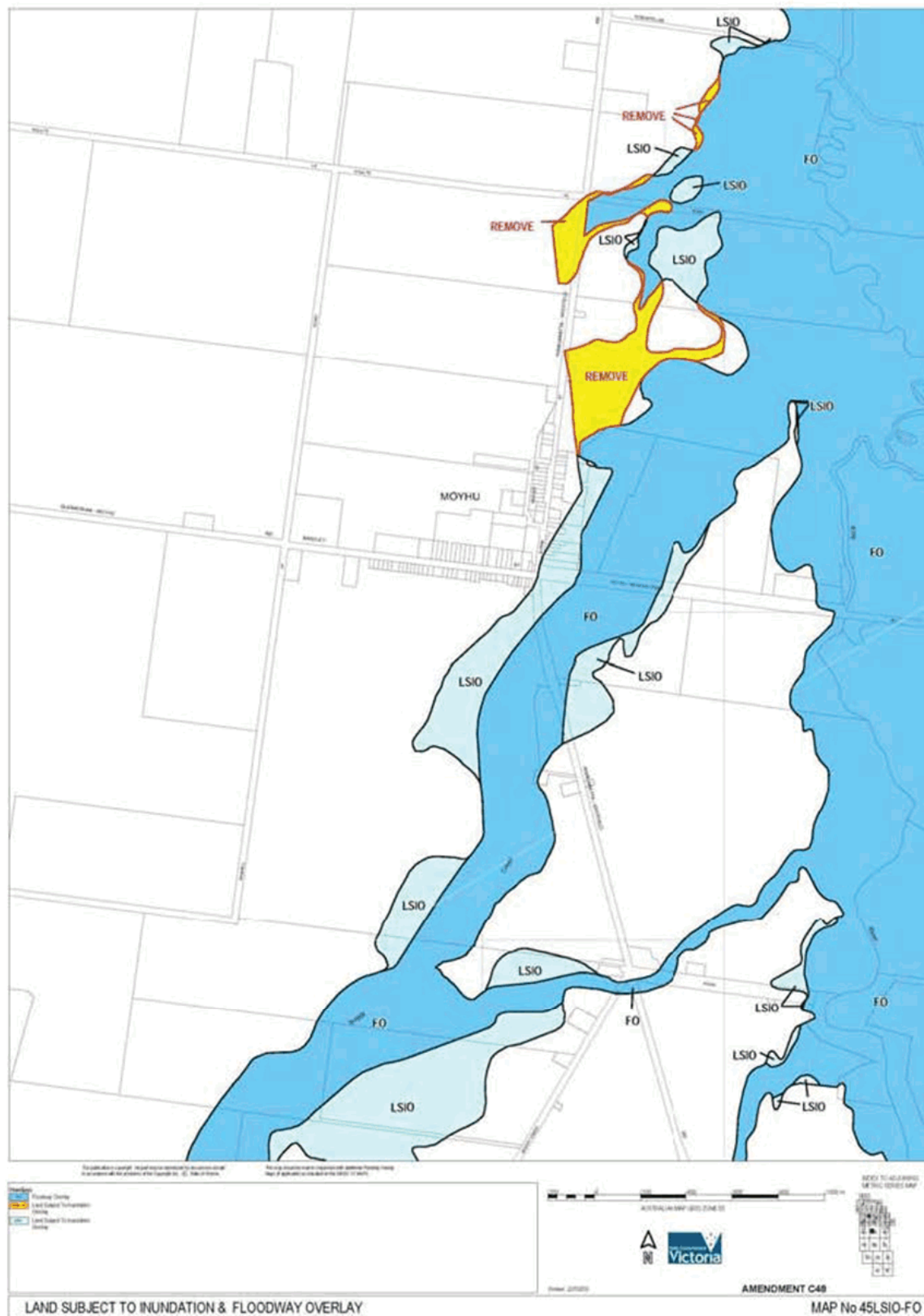


# WANGARATTA PLANNING SCHEME - LOCAL PROVISION

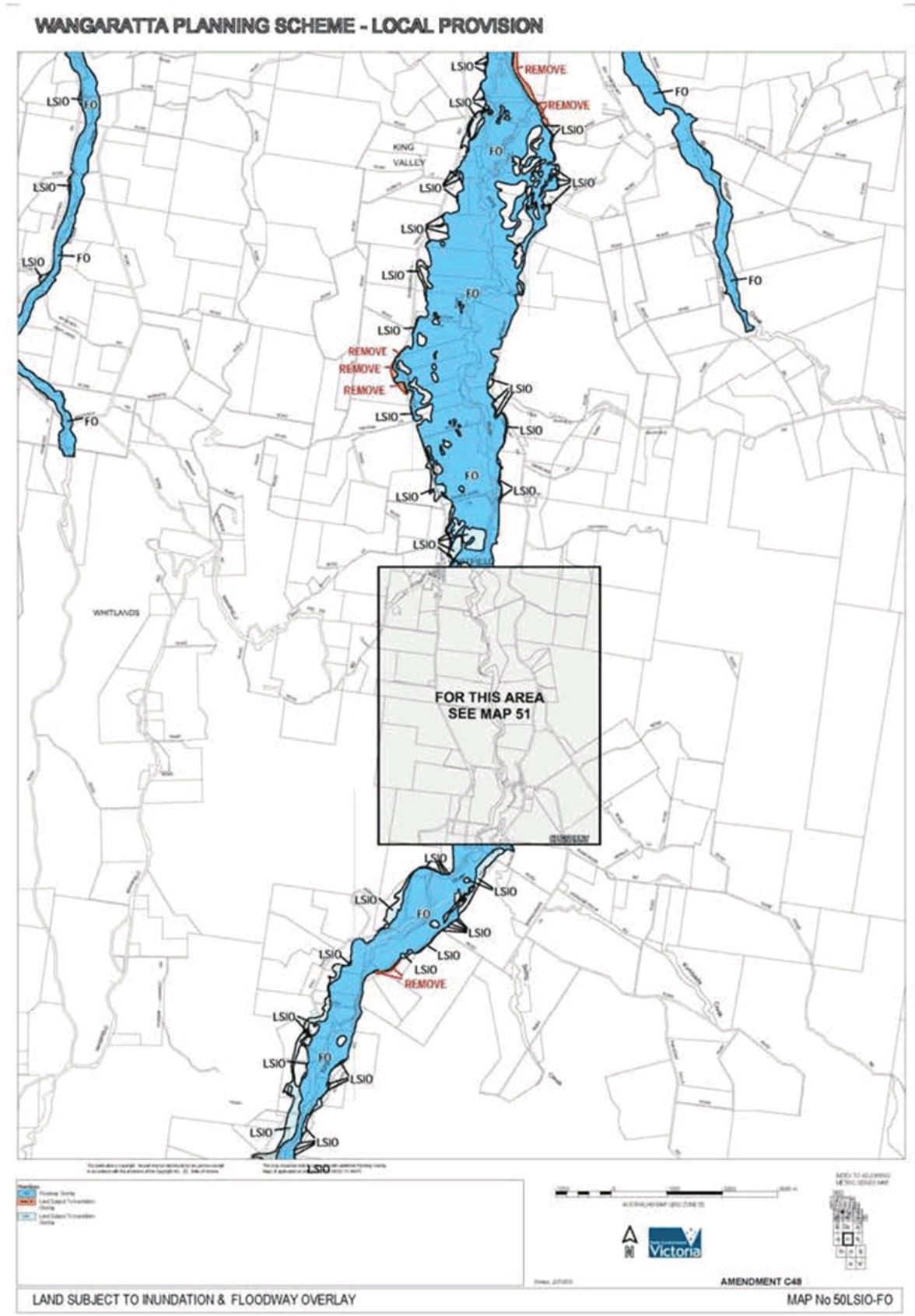


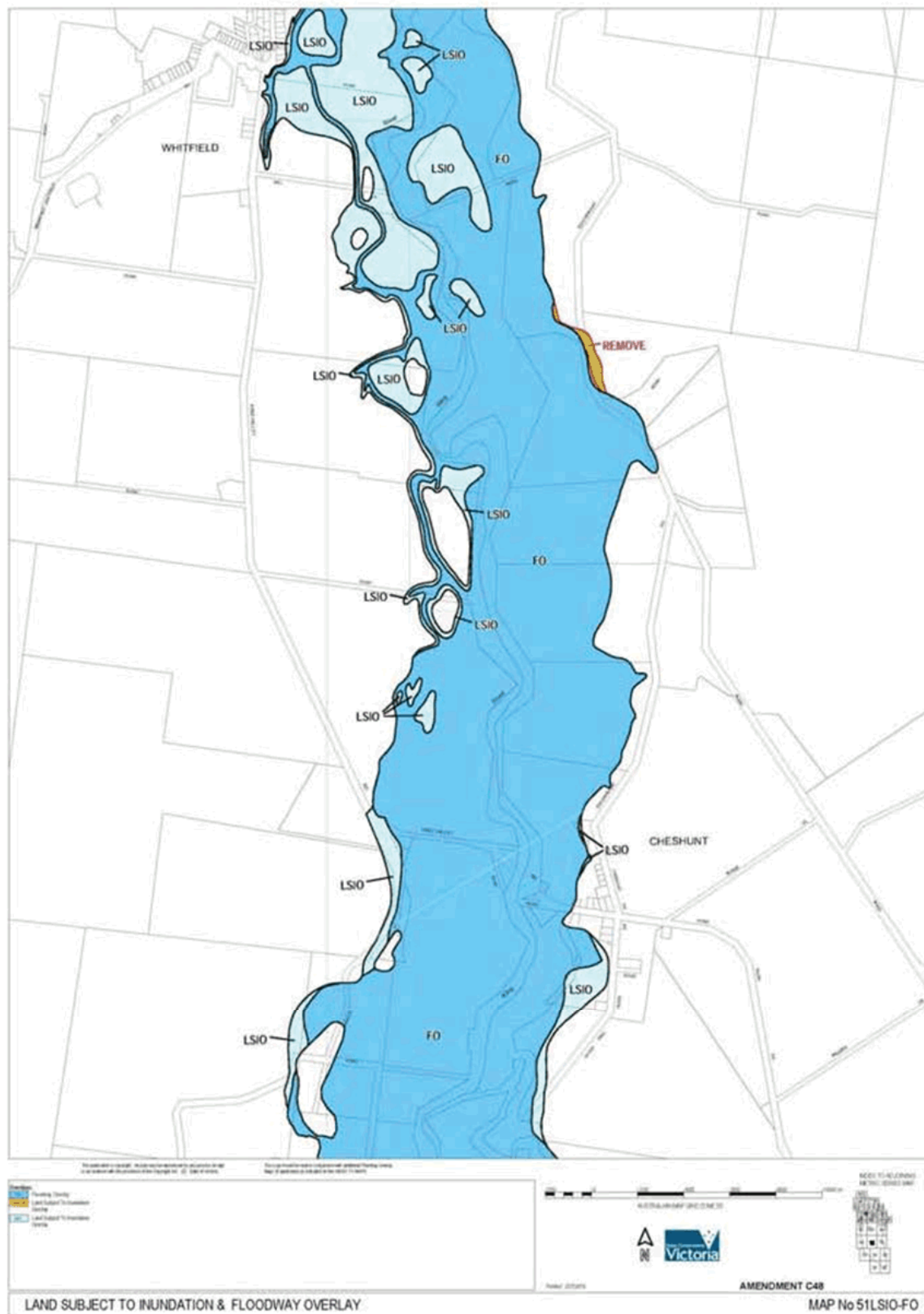


**WANGARATTA PLANNING SCHEME - LOCAL PROVISION**

**WANGARATTA PLANNING SCHEME - LOCAL PROVISION**





**WANGARATTA PLANNING SCHEME - LOCAL PROVISION**

## Agriculture and Agribusiness Advisory Committee Meeting

Held on Monday 11 May 2015, 5.00pm

At the Ovens Room, Level 1, Wangaratta Government Centre

### MINUTES

File No: 25.070.006

|           |   |
|-----------|---|
| <b>1.</b> | <b>PRESENT (VOTING):</b> Graeme Norman, Lachlan Campbell, Harry Bussell, Rosey Bennett, Geoff Bussell, Stuart Green,<br><b>NON VOTING:</b> Ailsa Fox, Joanne Turner, Brendan McGrath, Barry Green   |
| <b>2.</b> | <b>APOLOGIES:</b> Joe LaSpina<br><br>Moved: G.Norman      Seconded: G.Bussell<br><i>That apologies be accepted</i>  |
| <b>3.</b> | <b>CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATIONS:</b>   |
| <b>4.</b> | <b>MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:</b><br><br><b>RECOMMENDATION:</b><br>Moved: G.Bussell      Seconded: R.Bennett<br><i>That the Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 16 March be accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting.</i>  |
| <b>5.</b> | <b>BUSINESS ARISING FROM LAST MEETING:</b>  |
| <b>6.</b> | <b>GENERAL BUSINESS:</b>  |
| 6.1       | Red Meat senate inquiry - does the group want to make individual submissions?   |
| 6.2       | Food opportunity strategy feedback - this was emailed out 10 <sup>th</sup> April<br><br>It was decided that it would not be appropriate to put in a submission from Council but individuals were encouraged to make submissions. Jo provided a template for people to use and explained ways submissions can be made. She is available to help anyone wanting to make a submission before the 30 June deadline.<br><br>Feedback from the group was received on the strategy which will be passed on to RCoW's committee representative:<br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some of the figures seemed 'seasonal'</li> <li>• The focus on growth seemed to be around niche products. The group felt that more should be put on our strengths/mainstream industries such as sheep/wool/beef which are our main commodities</li> </ul> A flow on point from this was obtaining statistics on what industries make up our region. It would be good to get numbers around how many in each industry. Jo to look at providing stats to review at our next meeting in July. |
| 6.3       | Membership on AAAC<br><br>3 positions on the committee due for renewal in August - will be advertised in the coming months. Joe, Harvey and Geoff's positions are all up for renewal.   |
| 6.4       | Communication to this group from Council.<br><br>Jo asked the AAAC what information they would like to receive from her on different opportunities in the industry. The group is happy to receive any relevant information via email and were in favour of a regular (monthly) newsletter as they often don't find out  |



|     |   |   |
|-----|---|---|
|     |   | about workshops/events/grants until too late.   |
| 6.5 | <u>If time</u> – around the table discussion on why people are part of the group. | <p>G.Norman – came across from former saleyards committee. Represents other groups including VFF and fire brigade.</p> <p>R.Bennett – wanted to be able to have input/have a voice. Making sure rural issues are addressed when decisions are being made.</p> <p>G.Bussell – Wanted to help Council have a broader view and ensure agriculture is represented. Would like to see a portfolio for Ag at Council.</p> <p>H.Bussell – Wants to see the economic development of Wangaratta and sees agriculture as a big part of this. Would like to see measurements and targets put in place.</p> <p>S.Green – Stuart used to manage a planning department in Gippsland. Sees Council as having a role in helping the agriculture industry. Would like to see measurements and targets put in place.</p> <p>L.Campbell – wanted to make a difference. A way to have a voice to reduce red tape. Would like to see Council as a leader in our region in agriculture.</p> <p>Everyone would like to see at least a few of the new Councillors with agricultural knowledge/background.</p> |
| 6.6 | Wangaratta Saleyards  | Harry asked if Council keeps statistics on activity at the Wangaratta Saleyards. Brendan confirmed that Council does. The group would be interested in regular stats on sales. Brendan and Ailsa gave a brief update on future options for the Wangaratta saleyards management including a co-operative.  |
| 6.7 | Joint meeting with Wangaratta Unlimited   | <p>It is proposed to have a joint meeting with Wangaratta Unlimited Advisory Committee on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June at 5.30pm. A separate meeting invitation and proposed agenda will be circulated with two main agenda items – 1. Scope of the committees and them working together, 2. Rural Land strategy.</p> <p>Graeme Norman advised that he will be unable to attend this meeting.</p>  |
| 6.8 | Rural Land Use Strategy   | Barry advised that the AAAC will be consulted and given the opportunity to review the draft strategy before it goes out for broader consultation. This will be done at the combined meeting on the 2 June, 2015   |
| 6.9 | Rates   | Lachlan would like to discuss rate levels/increases. This will be added to the July agenda.   |
| 7.  | <b>CORRESPONDENCE</b>   |   |
| 8.  | <b>NEXT MEETING</b>   | <b>13 July 2015 AAAC only</b>   |
| 9.  | <b>MEETING CLOSED</b>   | There being no further business, the meeting closed at 6pm  |

**ACHAC 1 JUNE 2015 MEETING REPORT**

|                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| <b>Meeting Type:</b>    | <b>Ordinary Council Meeting</b>                      |
| <b>Date of Meeting:</b> | <b>18 August 2015</b>                                |
| <b>Author:</b>          | <b>Executive Assistant Community Wellbeing</b>       |
| <b>File Name:</b>       | <b>Arts, Culture and Heritage Advisory Committee</b> |
| <b>File No:</b>         | <b>67.010.004</b>                                    |

No Council officers or contractors who have provided advice in relation to this report have declared a conflict of interest regarding the matter under consideration.

**Executive Summary**

The Arts, Culture and Heritage Advisory Committee (ACHAC) reporting on their meeting held on 01 June 2015.

**Attendees:**

Penny Hargrave, Justine Ambrosio, Elisha Barry, Rhonda Diffey, David Godkin, Lorraine Monshing, Ken Gaudion, Loueen Twyford, Val Brennan

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

The following items addressed at the meeting are reported to Administrators for information:

1. The Audience Engagement Program was discussed and an update given regarding RCoW's participation in the program
2. An overview of the Events Strategy was given
3. The CBD Christmas Decorations throughout the CBD
4. An overview of the CBD Masterplan
5. The Jazz Festival Community Engagement Program and changes to the 2015 event
6. The report for the Arts Culture and Heritage Events was presented and distributed to members.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

***That Council notes this report.***

**Attachments**

Nil.

**AAAC and Wangaratta Unlimited - SPECIAL JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**Held Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June, 2015 at 5.30pm**  
**at Council Chamber, Wangaratta Government Centre**

## MINUTES

File No:

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>1. PRESENT</b>   | Ailsa Fox, Rodney Roscholler, Barry Green, Gary Warrener, Jacqui Hoggan, Guy Wilkinson, Stephen Oxley, Robert Floyd, Rosey Bennett, Harvey Benton, Harry Bussell, Lachlan Campbell, Joe LaSpina, Joanne Turner, Wendy Lester, Grant Jones, Vin McKenzie, Geoff Bussell, Irene Grant   |
| <b>2. APOLOGIES</b><br>Graeme Norman, Barry Sullivan, Helen Haines, Brendan McGrath, Stuart Green   | Moved: Robert Floyd<br>Seconded: Grant Jones<br>That apologies be accepted  |
| <b>3. CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATIONS</b>   | Carried<br>None to declare  |
| <b>4. NEW BUSINESS</b>  |   |
| <b>4.1</b> How can the two advisory committees work together?<br><br>Discuss and agree on strategies to ensure AAAC and Wang Unlimited work collaboratively to identify opportunities in the agribusiness sector. | Topics identified as priority from the facilitated Wangaratta Unlimited meeting were discussed by both groups: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Saleyards</li> </ul> Council is currently in discussions with key stakeholders around future management. The group is keen for the project to be completed before decisions on future management are made. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organic/green waste</li> </ul> Outputs from processing organic matter can be used as fertiliser. It is important that Council supports this project. North East Waste and Resource Recovery Group (NEWRRG) are working with Council on this project. Interim plans are for organic waste to be taken to Shepparton while a planning permit is being processed for the Bowser site. Management options will be looked at in the future. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alpine Valley Agri-food Strategy – Now Hume Region Food Opportunity Study</li> </ul> The group felt that this Strategy was an important document to provide structure around projects and priorities going forward. Gary advised that the document didn't contain a lot of solid data specific to the Rural City of Wangaratta. This will be an area to look into. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alpine Valley Dairy Pathway Project</li> </ul> An overview of this project was given by Lachlan. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Corporatized farming</li> </ul> This will link in with the Rural Land Strategy. |

|  |   |
|--|---|
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water sources – including underground</li> </ul> <p>Both groups felt it was important to retain security of supply of a critical resource.</p> <p>Other topics to note were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transport</li> <li>• Tourism – a number of promotional clips have been developed to promote the King Valley and Glenrowan and well as a new Regional Digital Platform             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o <a href="http://www.visitkingvalley.com.au/">http://www.visitkingvalley.com.au/</a></li> <li>o King Valley Clip: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xT82iqkfZg">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xT82iqkfZg</a></li> <li>o Glenrowan Clip: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JQjf44Oo68k">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JQjf44Oo68k</a></li> </ul> </li> <li>• NBN – there is now a website (<a href="http://www.nbnco.com.au/">http://www.nbnco.com.au/</a>) where you can enter your home or work address to see if the NBN has been, or will be connected.</li> </ul> <p><b>Is this a complete list or are there more opportunities?</b> Education was noted as another option</p> <p><b>What are the priorities?</b> Hume Region Food Opportunity Study (HRFOS)</p> <p><b>Where are the opportunities for joint collaboration for the two groups?</b> Working on the action plan that comes out of the HRFOS. Harry and Lachlan indicated interest in being part of this working group.</p> <p>Barry made a presentation on the draft Rural Strategy which included why it is being reviewed, the purpose of the strategy, methodology in reviewing, key issues/considerations, 2012 review recommendations &amp; 2015 review recommendations.</p> <p>Next meeting scheduled for <b>Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June at 5.30pm</b> in the Council Chamber.</p> |
| <b>4.2</b> Rural Strategy                      |   |
| <b>5.</b> <b>MEETING CLOSED</b><br>Time 8.15pm |   |

**AAAC and Wangaratta Unlimited - SPECIAL JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**Held Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June, 2015 at 5.30pm**  
**at Council Chamber, Wangaratta Government Centre**

## MINUTES

File No: 25.070.006

|   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <b>1. PRESENT</b>                           | Ailsa Fox, Alan Clark, Barry Green, Gary Warrener, Joanne Turner, Rodney Roscholler (arrived at approx. 7.10pm), Robert Floyd, Barry Sullivan, Grant Jones (left at approx. 6.25pm), Rosey Bennett, Harry Bussell, Harvey Benton, Geoff Bussell, Joe LaSpina |   |
| <b>2. APOLOGIES</b>                         | Wendy Lester, Steve Oxley, Jacqui Hoggan, Guy Wilkinson, Lachlan Campbell, Vin McKenzie, Irene Grant, Stuart Green, Helen Haines   |   |
| <b>3. CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATIONS</b> |  |   |
| <b>4. GENERAL BUSINESS</b>                  |  |   |
| <b>4.1 Rural Strategy</b>                   |  |   |
|   | <b>Wangaratta Unlimited</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 40ha min lot size</li> <li>• "Activity Zone"</li> <li>• How to find a way not to say 'no'</li> <li>• Positive message – encourage farm use, market forces</li> </ul>                    | <b>AAAC</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support the increase of people in rural areas</li> <li>• Encourage growth</li> <li>• Timeframes</li> <li>• Tarrawingee not included in population list.</li> <li>• 40ha as of right issue</li> <li>• Supporting community</li> <li>• Opportunity – sale of existing derelict houses into smaller blocks</li> <li>• Use of common sense/understanding</li> <li>• Vision for the future</li> <li>• Overriding decisions by other authorities</li> <li>• Community will drive the strategy</li> </ul> |
| <b>5. SUPPER</b>                            |  |   |



|    |  |
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| 6. | <p><b>Further Discussion</b></p> <p><b>1. How do you see planning influencing the future of Rural Land Use?</b><br/>         Making decisions with the future in mind<br/>         Linking in with other documents and policies<br/>         It should support the future. Be a positive influence<br/>         Facilitate different uses and opportunities<br/>         Planning should create opportunity</p> <p><b>2. Planning Zone presently covers 98% of Private Rural land with exactly the same planning controls, is this appropriate?</b><br/>         Consensus from the group was that this could/should decrease with an increase in different zones such as Rural Activity and Rural Living Zones.</p> <p><b>3. What are opportunities/constraints that you see in the rural areas?</b><br/>         Snow Road from Oxley to Markwood – opportunity to create a corridor of Rural Activity Zone along with other localised sites.</p> <p><b>4. Is 40ha (100acres) an appropriate lot size?</b><br/>         Mixed thoughts from the group on this one due to a lack of knowledge on what is possible.</p> <p><b>5. What role do you see opportunities such as Tourism and Agribusiness playing within the rural landscape?</b><br/>         Both groups felt there was opportunity to support the tourism and agribusiness sector more through the planning process. The maps with earmarked areas for rezoning to assist in this were reviewed as part of the meeting with general agreement that these should be included in any draft.</p> <p>Other notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider removing the word ‘strongly’ from the 1<sup>st</sup> recommendation</li> <li>• Develop information/diagram in ‘plain English’ as well as FAQ’s (frequently asked questions) which look at better explaining which are State Government requirements that we have no control over. Developed as part of marketing material</li> <li>• Ensure Tarrawingee is noted in section 3.1 – Population and demographics table</li> </ul> |
| 7. | <p><b>MEETING CLOSED</b></p> <p>Time</p> <p>8.30pm</p>   |

## Agriculture and Agribusiness Advisory Committee Meeting

### To be held Monday 13 July 2015, 5.00pm

### At the Ovens Room, Level 1, Wangaratta Government Centre

## MINUTES

File No: 25.070.006

|     |   |   |
|-----|---|---|
| 1.  | <b>PRESENT (VOTING):</b> Harvey Benton (arrived 5.30pm), Geoff Bussell, Vin McKenzie, Rosey Bennett (arrived 5.40pm), Joe LaSpina, Lachlan McKenzie<br><b>NON VOTING:</b> Ailsa Fox, Joanne Turner, Brendan McGrath, Ruth Kneebone (left approx. 6pm) |   |
| 2.  | <b>APOLOGIES:</b> Harry Bussell, Barry Green, Graeme Norman, Stuart Green   | Moved: Vin      Seconded: Geoff<br><i>That apologies be accepted</i>  |
| 3.  | <b>CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATIONS:</b>   | None declared   |
| 4.  | <b>MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:</b>   | <b>RECOMMENDATION:</b><br>Moved: Geoff      Seconded: Lachlan<br><i>That the Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 11 May be accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting.</i>   |
| 5.  | <b>BUSINESS ARISING:</b>  |   |
| 5.1 | Rates   | Ruth Kneebone, Manager Corporate Service made a presentation on rates in the Rural City of Wangaratta.  |
| 6.  | <b>GENERAL BUSINESS:</b>  |   |
| 6.1 | Economic Development & Tourism Strategy   | Draft strategy was circulated for comment. Jo will review SWOT analysis for Tourism and Agriculture to ensure all key points have been covered.   |
| 6.2 | Saleyards statistics  | 14/15 figures of cattle through Wangaratta Livestock Exchange were presented.<br>The group would like to review these figures at the start of each financial year – but have other years to compare them to.  |
| 6.3 | Joint meetings with Wang Unlimited re the Rural Planning Strategy.  | Ailsa asked the group if they found the meetings to be worthwhile and the group agreed they were.<br>Joe raised that he thought a proposed Rural Activity Zone along the snow road from Oxley to Markwood would benefit from extending along to the Rocky Point area.   |
| 6.4 | Wangaratta Livestock Exchange future management   | Vin questioned the timing of investigating other management options for the running of the saleyards. He felt that it would be better to wait until the yards upgrades were finished.<br>Brendan explained that Council was exploring a Cooperative model and gauging if there was merit in this option at present.<br>Vin and Harvey felt that the AAAC should be involved more closely in this investigation process. |

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|     |                                 | <p>A discussion was held around if there was a conflict of interest with this project and Brendan has suggested the group revisit conflict of interest provisions.</p> <p>Action: to invite Tony Raven (Manger – Business and Governance) to the next meeting.</p> <p>Action: to monitor LSAV reports and report anything of interest to this group at future meetings.</p> |
| 6.5 | Municipality boundary alignment | <p>Harvey asked if there have been any further discussions around the proposed boundary alignment with Indigo Shire. Ailsa advised that Council has no interest in pursuing the realignment of Council boundaries.</p>  |
| 7.  | <b>CORRESPONDENCE</b>           |   |
| 8.  | <b>NEXT MEETING</b>             | <b>14 September 2015</b>  |
| 9.  | <b>MEETING CLOSED</b>           | <p>There being no further business, the meeting closed at 6.50pm</p>  |

## Agriculture and Agribusiness Advisory Committee Meeting

Held on Monday 11 May 2015, 5.00pm

At the Ovens Room, Level 1, Wangaratta Government Centre

### MINUTES

File No: 25.070.006

|           |   |   |                     |
|-----------|---|---|---------------------|
| <b>1.</b> | <b>PRESENT (VOTING):</b> Graeme Norman, Lachlan Campbell, Harry Bussell, Rosey Bennett, Geoff Bussell, Stuart Green,<br><b>NON VOTING:</b> Ailsa Fox, Joanne Turner, Brendan McGrath, Barry Green | Moved: G.Norman<br><i>That apologies be accepted</i>  | Seconded: G.Bussell |
| <b>2.</b> | <b>APOLOGIES:</b> Joe LaSpina   |   |                     |
| <b>3.</b> | <b>CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATIONS:</b>   |   |                     |
| <b>4.</b> | <b>MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:</b>   | <b>RECOMMENDATION:</b><br>Moved: G.Bussell<br><i>That the Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 16 March be accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting.</i>  | Seconded: R.Bennett |
| <b>5.</b> | <b>BUSINESS ARISING FROM LAST MEETING:</b>  |   |                     |
| <b>6.</b> | <b>GENERAL BUSINESS:</b>  |   |                     |
| 6.1       | Red Meat senate inquiry - does the group want to make individual submissions?   | It was decided that it would not be appropriate to put in a submission from Council but individuals were encouraged to make submissions. Jo provided a template for people to use and explained ways submissions can be made. She is available to help anyone wanting to make a submission before the 30 June deadline.   |                     |
| 6.2       | Food opportunity strategy feedback - this was emailed out 10 <sup>th</sup> April  | <p>Feedback from the group was received on the strategy which will be passed on to RCoW's committee representative:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some of the figures seemed 'seasonal'</li> <li>• The focus on growth seemed to be around niche products. The group felt that more should be put on our strengths/mainstream industries such as sheep/wool/beef which are our main commodities</li> </ul> <p>A flow on point from this was obtaining statistics on what industries make up our region. It would be good to get numbers around how many in each industry. Jo to look at providing stats to review at our next meeting in July.</p> |                     |
| 6.3       | Membership on AAAC  | 3 positions on the committee due for renewal in August - will be advertised in the coming months. Joe, Harvey and Geoff's positions are all up for renewal.   |                     |
| 6.4       | Communication to this group from Council.   | Jo asked the AAAC what information they would like to receive from her on different opportunities in the industry. The group is happy to receive any relevant information via email and were in favour of a regular (monthly) newsletter as they often don't find out   |                     |

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|     |   | about workshops/events/grants until too late.   |
| 6.5 | <u>If time</u> – around the table discussion on why people are part of the group. | <p>G.Norman – came across from former saleyards committee. Represents other groups including VFF and fire brigade.</p> <p>R.Bennett – wanted to be able to have input/have a voice. Making sure rural issues are addressed when decisions are being made.</p> <p>G.Bussell – Wanted to help Council have a broader view and ensure agriculture is represented. Would like to see a portfolio for Ag at Council.</p> <p>H.Bussell – Wants to see the economic development of Wangaratta and sees agriculture as a big part of this. Would like to see measurements and targets put in place.</p> <p>S.Green – Stuart used to manage a planning department in Gippsland. Sees Council as having a role in helping the agriculture industry. Would like to see measurements and targets put in place.</p> <p>L.Campbell – wanted to make a difference. A way to have a voice to reduce red tape. Would like to see Council as a leader in our region in agriculture.</p> <p>Everyone would like to see at least a few of the new Councillors with agricultural knowledge/background.</p> |
| 6.6 | Wangaratta Saleyards  | Harry asked if Council keeps statistics on activity at the Wangaratta Saleyards. Brendan confirmed that Council does. The group would be interested in regular stats on sales. Brendan and Ailsa gave a brief update on future options for the Wangaratta saleyards management including a co-operative.  |
| 6.7 | Joint meeting with Wangaratta Unlimited   | It is proposed to have a joint meeting with Wangaratta Unlimited Advisory Committee on Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> June at 5.30pm. A separate meeting invitation and proposed agenda will be circulated with two main agenda items – 1. Scope of the committees and them working together, 2. Rural Land strategy.  |
| 6.8 | Rural Land Use Strategy   | Graeme Norman advised that he will be unable to attend this meeting.  |
| 6.9 | Rates   | Barry advised that the AAAC will be consulted and given the opportunity to review the draft strategy before it goes out for broader consultation. This will be done at the combined meeting on the 2 June, 2015   |
| 7.  | <b>CORRESPONDENCE</b>   | Lachlan would like to discuss rate levels/increases. This will be added to the July agenda.   |
| 8.  | <b>NEXT MEETING</b>   | <b>13 July 2015 AAAC only</b>   |
| 9.  | <b>MEETING CLOSED</b>   | There being no further business, the meeting closed at 6pm  |



**AAAC and Wangaratta Unlimited - SPECIAL JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**Held Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June, 2015 at 5.30pm**  
**at Council Chamber, Wangaratta Government Centre**

## MINUTES

File No:

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>1. PRESENT</b>   | Ailsa Fox, Rodney Roscholler, Barry Green, Gary Warrener, Jacqui Hoggan, Guy Wilkinson, Stephen Oxley, Robert Floyd, Rosey Bennett, Harvey Benton, Harry Bussell, Lachlan Campbell, Joe LaSpina, Joanne Turner, Wendy Lester, Grant Jones, Vin McKenzie, Geoff Bussell, Irene Grant   |
| <b>2. APOLOGIES</b><br>Graeme Norman, Barry Sullivan, Helen Haines, Brendan McGrath, Stuart Green   | Moved: Robert Floyd<br>Seconded: Grant Jones<br>That apologies be accepted  |
| <b>3. CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATIONS</b>   | Carried<br>None to declare  |
| <b>4. NEW BUSINESS</b>  |   |
| <b>4.1</b> How can the two advisory committees work together?<br><br>Discuss and agree on strategies to ensure AAAC and Wang Unlimited work collaboratively to identify opportunities in the agribusiness sector. | Topics identified as priority from the facilitated Wangaratta Unlimited meeting were discussed by both groups: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Saleyards</li> </ul> Council is currently in discussions with key stakeholders around future management. The group is keen for the project to be completed before decisions on future management are made. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organic/green waste</li> </ul> Outputs from processing organic matter can be used as fertiliser. It is important that Council supports this project. North East Waste and Resource Recovery Group (NEWRRG) are working with Council on this project. Interim plans are for organic waste to be taken to Shepparton while a planning permit is being processed for the Bowser site. Management options will be looked at in the future. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alpine Valley Agri-food Strategy – Now Hume Region Food Opportunity Study</li> </ul> The group felt that this Strategy was an important document to provide structure around projects and priorities going forward. Gary advised that the document didn't contain a lot of solid data specific to the Rural City of Wangaratta. This will be an area to look into. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alpine Valley Dairy Pathway Project</li> </ul> An overview of this project was given by Lachlan. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Corporatized farming</li> </ul> This will link in with the Rural Land Strategy. |

|  |   |
|--|---|
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water sources – including underground</li> </ul> <p>Both groups felt it was important to retain security of supply of a critical resource.</p> <p>Other topics to note were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transport</li> <li>• Tourism – a number of promotional clips have been developed to promote the King Valley and Glenrowan and well as a new Regional Digital Platform             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o <a href="http://www.visitkingvalley.com.au/">http://www.visitkingvalley.com.au/</a></li> <li>o King Valley Clip: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xCt82iqkfZg">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xCt82iqkfZg</a></li> <li>o Glenrowan Clip: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JQjf44Oo68k">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JQjf44Oo68k</a></li> </ul> </li> <li>• NBN – there is now a website (<a href="http://www.nbnco.com.au/">http://www.nbnco.com.au/</a>) where you can enter your home or work address to see if the NBN has been, or will be connected.</li> </ul> <p><b>Is this a complete list or are there more opportunities?</b> Education was noted as another option</p> <p><b>What are the priorities?</b> Hume Region Food Opportunity Study (HRFOS)</p> <p><b>Where are the opportunities for joint collaboration for the two groups?</b> Working on the action plan that comes out of the HRFOS. Harry and Lachlan indicated interest in being part of this working group.</p> <p>Barry made a presentation on the draft Rural Strategy which included why it is being reviewed, the purpose of the strategy, methodology in reviewing, key issues/considerations, 2012 review recommendations &amp; 2015 review recommendations.</p> <p>Next meeting scheduled for <b>Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June at 5.30pm</b> in the Council Chamber.</p> |
| <b>4.2</b> Rural Strategy                      |   |
| <b>5.</b> <b>MEETING CLOSED</b><br>Time 8.15pm |   |

**AAAC and Wangaratta Unlimited - SPECIAL JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**Held Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June, 2015 at 5.30pm**  
**at Council Chamber, Wangaratta Government Centre**

## MINUTES

File No: 25.070.006

| 1. PRESENT  | Ailsa Fox, Alan Clark, Barry Green, Gary Warrener, Joanne Turner, Rodney Roscholler (arrived at approx. 7.10pm), Robert Floyd, Barry Sullivan, Grant Jones (left at approx. 6.25pm), Rosey Bennett, Harry Bussell, Harvey Benton, Geoff Bussell, Joe LaSpina   |      |   |                                     |  |  |      |   |
|---|--|------|---|-------------------------------------|--|--|------|---|
| 2. APOLOGIES  | Wendy Lester, Steve Oxley, Jacqui Hoggan, Guy Wilkinson, Lachlan Campbell, Vin McKenzie, Irene Grant, Stuart Green, Helen Haines   |      |   |                                     |  |  |      |   |
| 3. CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATIONS  |  |      |   |                                     |  |  |      |   |
| 4. GENERAL BUSINESS   |  |      |   |                                     |  |  |      |   |
| 4.1 Rural Strategy  | <table><tr><th>Wangaratta Unlimited</th><th>Items for discussion for each group</th></tr><tr><td><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>40ha min lot size</li><li>"Activity Zone"</li><li>How to find a way not to say 'no'</li><li>Positive message – encourage farm use, market forces</li></ul></td><td><table><tr><th>AAAC</th></tr><tr><td><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Support the increase of people in rural areas</li><li>Encourage growth</li><li>Timeframes</li><li>Tarrowingee not included in population list.</li><li>40ha as of right issue</li><li>Supporting community</li><li>Opportunity – sale of existing derelict houses into smaller blocks</li><li>Use of common sense/understanding</li><li>Vision for the future</li><li>Overriding decisions by other authorities</li><li>Community will drive the strategy</li></ul></td></tr></table></td></tr></table> |      | Wangaratta Unlimited  | Items for discussion for each group | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>40ha min lot size</li><li>"Activity Zone"</li><li>How to find a way not to say 'no'</li><li>Positive message – encourage farm use, market forces</li></ul> | <table><tr><th>AAAC</th></tr><tr><td><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Support the increase of people in rural areas</li><li>Encourage growth</li><li>Timeframes</li><li>Tarrowingee not included in population list.</li><li>40ha as of right issue</li><li>Supporting community</li><li>Opportunity – sale of existing derelict houses into smaller blocks</li><li>Use of common sense/understanding</li><li>Vision for the future</li><li>Overriding decisions by other authorities</li><li>Community will drive the strategy</li></ul></td></tr></table> | AAAC | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Support the increase of people in rural areas</li><li>Encourage growth</li><li>Timeframes</li><li>Tarrowingee not included in population list.</li><li>40ha as of right issue</li><li>Supporting community</li><li>Opportunity – sale of existing derelict houses into smaller blocks</li><li>Use of common sense/understanding</li><li>Vision for the future</li><li>Overriding decisions by other authorities</li><li>Community will drive the strategy</li></ul> |
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| AAAC  |  |      |   |                                     |  |  |      |   |
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| 5. SUPPER   |  |      |   |                                     |  |  |      |   |

|    |  |
|----|--|
| 6. | <p><b>Further Discussion</b></p> <p><b>1. How do you see planning influencing the future of Rural Land Use?</b><br/>         Making decisions with the future in mind<br/>         Linking in with other documents and policies<br/>         It should support the future. Be a positive influence<br/>         Facilitate different uses and opportunities<br/>         Planning should create opportunity</p> <p><b>2. Planning Zone presently covers 98% of Private Rural land with exactly the same planning controls, is this appropriate?</b><br/>         Consensus from the group was that this could/should decrease with an increase in different zones such as Rural Activity and Rural Living Zones.</p> <p><b>3. What are opportunities/constraints that you see in the rural areas?</b><br/>         Snow Road from Oxley to Markwood – opportunity to create a corridor of Rural Activity Zone along with other localised sites.</p> <p><b>4. Is 40ha (100acres) an appropriate lot size?</b><br/>         Mixed thoughts from the group on this one due to a lack of knowledge on what is possible.</p> <p><b>5. What role do you see opportunities such as Tourism and Agribusiness playing within the rural landscape?</b><br/>         Both groups felt there was opportunity to support the tourism and agribusiness sector more through the planning process. The maps with earmarked areas for rezoning to assist in this were reviewed as part of the meeting with general agreement that these should be included in any draft.</p> <p>Other notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider removing the word ‘strongly’ from the 1<sup>st</sup> recommendation</li> <li>Develop information/diagram in ‘plain English’ as well as FAQ’s (frequently asked questions) which look at better explaining which are State Government requirements that we have no control over. Developed as part of marketing material</li> <li>Ensure Tarrawingee is noted in section 3.1 – Population and demographics table</li> </ul> |
| 7. | <p><b>MEETING CLOSED</b></p> <p>Time</p> <p>8.30pm</p>   |

## Agriculture and Agribusiness Advisory Committee Meeting

### To be held Monday 13 July 2015, 5.00pm

### At the Ovens Room, Level 1, Wangaratta Government Centre

## MINUTES

File No: 25.070.006

|     |   |   |
|-----|---|---|
| 1.  | <b>PRESENT (VOTING):</b> Harvey Benton (arrived 5.30pm), Geoff Bussell, Vin McKenzie, Rosey Bennett (arrived 5.40pm), Joe LaSpina, Lachlan McKenzie<br><b>NON VOTING:</b> Ailsa Fox, Joanne Turner, Brendan McGrath, Ruth Kneebone (left approx. 6pm) |   |
| 2.  | <b>APOLOGIES:</b> Harry Bussell, Barry Green, Graeme Norman, Stuart Green   | Moved: Vin      Seconded: Geoff<br><i>That apologies be accepted</i>  |
| 3.  | <b>CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATIONS:</b>   | None declared   |
| 4.  | <b>MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:</b>   | <b>RECOMMENDATION:</b><br>Moved: Geoff      Seconded: Lachlan<br><i>That the Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 11 May be accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting.</i>   |
| 5.  | <b>BUSINESS ARISING:</b>  |   |
| 5.1 | Rates   | Ruth Kneebone, Manager Corporate Service made a presentation on rates in the Rural City of Wangaratta.  |
| 6.  | <b>GENERAL BUSINESS:</b>  |   |
| 6.1 | Economic Development & Tourism Strategy   | Draft strategy was circulated for comment. Jo will review SWOT analysis for Tourism and Agriculture to ensure all key points have been covered.   |
| 6.2 | Saleyards statistics  | 14/15 figures of cattle through Wangaratta Livestock Exchange were presented.<br>The group would like to review these figures at the start of each financial year – but have other years to compare them to.  |
| 6.3 | Joint meetings with Wang Unlimited re the Rural Planning Strategy.  | Ailsa asked the group if they found the meetings to be worthwhile and the group agreed they were.<br>Joe raised that he thought a proposed Rural Activity Zone along the snow road from Oxley to Markwood would benefit from extending along to the Rocky Point area.   |
| 6.4 | Wangaratta Livestock Exchange future management   | Vin questioned the timing of investigating other management options for the running of the saleyards. He felt that it would be better to wait until the yards upgrades were finished.<br>Brendan explained that Council was exploring a Cooperative model and gauging if there was merit in this option at present.<br>Vin and Harvey felt that the AAAC should be involved more closely in this investigation process. |



|     |                                 |   |
|-----|---------------------------------|---|
|     |                                 | <p>A discussion was held around if there was a conflict of interest with this project and Brendan has suggested the group revisit conflict of interest provisions.</p> <p>Action: to invite Tony Raven (Manger – Business and Governance) to the next meeting.</p> <p>Action: to monitor LSAV reports and report anything of interest to this group at future meetings.</p> |
| 6.5 | Municipality boundary alignment | <p>Harvey asked if there have been any further discussions around the proposed boundary alignment with Indigo Shire. Ailsa advised that Council has no interest in pursuing the realignment of Council boundaries.</p>  |
| 7.  | <b>CORRESPONDENCE</b>           |   |
| 8.  | <b>NEXT MEETING</b>             | <b>14 September 2015</b>  |
| 9.  | <b>MEETING CLOSED</b>           | <p>There being no further business, the meeting closed at 6.50pm</p>  |



## **ASSEMBLY OF ADMINISTRATORS**

**Date: 28 July 2015**

**Meeting: Draft Rural Strategy Discussion**

**Commenced: 2:10pm**

### Present:

Administrator: Ailsa Fox, Chair; Rodney Roscholler

Officers: Barry Green, DDS

### Apologies: Nil

In attendance: Tomas and Gabi Moritz

### Conflict of Interest Disclosures: Nil

### Matters Considered:

The following items were discussed:

1. Draft Rural Strategy

### Meeting Closed:

The meeting closed at 2:40pm.



## **ASSEMBLY OF ADMINISTRATORS**

**Date: 5 August 2015**

**Meeting: Administrator's Briefing Forum**

**Commenced: 12:30pm**

### Present:

Administrator: Ailsa Fox, Chair; Irene Grant; Rodney Roscholler

Officers: Brendan McGrath, CEO; Ruth Kneebone, DCS; Barry Green, DDS;  
Jaime Carroll, DCW ; Alan Clark, DI; Leonie Painter, AMCS; Paul  
Bennett, TLCSNE; Tony Raven, MB&G

### Apologies: Nil

### Conflict of Interest Disclosures: Nil

### Matters Considered:

The following items were discussed:

1. Planning Update
2. Economic Development Update
3. Provision of Services
4. Major Council Policy Consultation - Local Law

### Meeting Closed:

The meeting closed at 4:00pm.