

Minutes

Of the Ordinary Council Meeting

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

Date: 23 February 2021

Time: 6pm



RURAL CITY OF
WANGARATTA

Brendan McGrath
Chief Executive Officer

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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**

Councillors:

Ms Irene Grant, Mr David Fuller, Mr Dean Rees, Mr Harry Bussell, Mr Harvey Benton, Ms Ashlee Fitzpatrick, Mr Jack Herry.

Officers:

Brendan McGrath - Chief Executive Officer, Marcus Goonan – Director Infrastructure Services, Jaime Chubb - Director Community Wellbeing, Sarah Brindley – Director Corporate Services, Stephen Swart – Director Development Services

4. **ABSENT**

Nil.

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 27 January 2021 as a true and accurate record of the proceedings of the meeting.

RESOLUTION:

(Moved: Councillor D Fuller/Councillor H Benton)

That Council read and confirm the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of 27 January 2021 as a true and accurate record of the proceedings of the meeting with the following amendment:

The mover and seconder for items 18.1 and 18.2 of the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of 27 January 2021 be updated and amended as per the transcript.

Carried

8. CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURE

In accordance with section 130 of the Local Government Act 2020 a councillor who has a conflict of interest in respect of a matter must disclose the conflict of interest in the manner required by Council's Governance Rules and exclude themselves from the decision making process in relation to that matter, including any discussion or vote on the matter and any action in relation to the matter.

Clause 28.1 of Council's Governance Rules requires a councillor to indicate that they have a conflict of interest by clearly stating:

- (a) the item for which they have a conflict of interest; and
- (b) whether their conflict of interest is general or material; and
- (c) the circumstances that give rise to the conflict of interest.

Immediately prior to the consideration of the item in which they have a conflict of interest, a councillor must indicate to the meeting the existence of the conflict of interest and leave the meeting.

A councillor who discloses a conflict of interest and leaves a Council meeting must not communicate with any participants in the meeting while the decision is being made.

Mayor Dean Rees declared a Conflict of Interest in relation to item 9.1 Wilson Road Footpath Petition due to owning a property within the vicinity and having signed the petition.

9. RECEPTION OF PETITIONS

9.1 WILSON ROAD FOOTPATH PETITION

Meeting Type: Ordinary Council Meeting
Date of Meeting: 23 February 2021
Author: Executive Assistant - Infrastructure Services
File No: IC21/316

The following Council officers and contractors have provided advice in relation to this report and have disclosed a Conflict of Interest regarding the matter under consideration:

Mayor Dean Rees left the meeting at 6:06pm having previously declared a Conflict of Interest.

Executive Summary

A petition/joint letter containing 83 signatures from the ratepayers and residents of Wilson Road, Chandler Street, Weir Street, Sanctuary Close, Heach Street, Boyd Street, Dunphy Street and Thomas Street has been received.

The letter expresses concerns about the lack of a footpath and a drainage along Wilson Road. With the ever-increasing volume of road traffic along Wilson Road, the ratepayers and residents are concerned for the safety of people exercising or commuting along the narrow, uneven roadside.

A copy of the letter has been provided to Councillors under separate cover.

RESOLUTION:

(Moved: Councillor I Grant/Councillor J Herry)

- 1. That the petition/joint letter regarding the Wilson Road Footpath be received.**
- 2. That a report into investigations into the request within the petition/joint letter be considered at the March Ordinary Council meeting.**

Carried

Mayor Dean Rees returned to the meeting at 6.07pm.

Conclusion

In accordance with Local Law No.3 of 2014 – (Administrators) Meeting Procedure, a joint letter 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 joint letter, may be accepted by the Chairperson, unless Council agrees to deal with it earlier.

Attachments

- 1 Wilson Road Footpath Petition Letter - Confidential

9.2 PELICAN COURT PARK REQUEST FOR IMPROVEMENTS/ MAINTENANCE PETITION

Meeting Type: Ordinary Council Meeting
Date of Meeting: 23 February 2021
Author: Executive Assistant - Infrastructure Services
File No: IC21/348

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 petition/joint letter containing 50 signatures from the ratepayers and residents of Pelican Court, Wangaratta has been received.

The letter expresses concerns about the lack of maintenance and requests improvements for the safety of park users and to improve the aesthetics of the park.

A copy of the letter has been provided to Councillors under separate cover.

RESOLUTION:

(Moved: Councillor H Benton/Councillor J Herry)

- 1. That the petition/joint letter regarding the Pelican Court Park be received.**
- 2. That a report into investigations into the request within the petition/joint letter be considered at the March Ordinary Council meeting.**

Carried

Conclusion

In accordance with Local Law No.3 of 2014 – (Administrators) Meeting Procedure, a joint letter 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 joint letter, may be accepted by the Chairperson, unless Council agrees to deal with it earlier.

Attachments

Pelican Court Park Petition Letter – Confidential

In accordance with section 130 of the Local Government Act 2020 a councillor who has a conflict of interest in respect of a matter must disclose the conflict of interest in the manner required by Council's Governance Rules and exclude themselves from the decision making process in relation to that matter, including any discussion or vote on the matter and any action in relation to the matter.

Clause 28.1 of Council's Governance Rules requires a councillor to indicate that they have a conflict of interest by clearly stating:

- (a) the item for which they have a conflict of interest; and
- (b) whether their conflict of interest is general or material; and
- (c) the circumstances that give rise to the conflict of interest.

Immediately prior to the consideration of the item in which they have a conflict of interest, a councillor must indicate to the meeting the existence of the conflict of interest and leave the meeting.

A councillor who discloses a conflict of interest and leaves a Council meeting must not communicate with any participants in the meeting while the decision is being made.

10. HEARING OF DEPUTATIONS

PRESENTATION OF REPORTS

11. COUNCILLOR REPORTS

Cr Ashlee Fitzpatrick

Thanks Mr. Mayor. I just wanted to take a moment to thank our Events Coordinator Kelly Timms and Officer Alison Roberts and all the volunteers for their support during the event we had on the weekend Acoustic Vibes. It was a fantastic turnout and it was a great opportunity for our community members to catch up, listen to some great bands, sing some classic songs and have a dance, which was very much needed during unprecedented times we have had so I just want to say thank you to them.

RESOLUTION:

(Moved: Councillor D Fuller/Councillor H Benton)

Councillor D Fuller moved a motion:

That Cr Fitzpatrick's report be recorded in the minutes.

Carried

OFFICERS' REPORTS

12. EXECUTIVE SERVICES

Nil

13. CORPORATE SERVICES

13.1 COUNCIL PLAN STRATEGIC INDICATORS AND PROJECTS UPDATE

Meeting Type: Ordinary Council Meeting
Date of Meeting: 23 February 2021
Author: Governance and Reporting Advisor
File No: IC21/247

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 purpose of this report is to present the 2020-21 Quarter 2 update for Council Plan Strategic Indicators and projects.

RESOLUTION:

(Moved: Councillor A Fitzpatrick/Councillor I Grant)

That Council notes the Council Plan Projects and Strategic Indicators Status Reports for Quarter 2 of the 2020-21 financial year.

Carried

Background

Each year, Council sets out in the council plan its strategic objectives and the accompanying projects and strategic indicators for monitoring delivery and achievement of those objectives.

The year-to-date results for projects and strategic indicators allow progress against what is important to be measured and assists the community to understand the impact of what council is doing.

Two reports are provided.

The first report is the Council Plan Projects Status Report (**Attachment 1**) which provides information on the status of projects and initiatives to be delivered in the 2020-21 financial year.

37 projects and initiatives are to be completed. In respect of these projects, the following has been achieved:

- 6 are complete
- 31 are not yet complete:

- 12 are nearing completion
- 9 are 60-79% complete
- 8 are 30-59% complete
- 2 are up to 29% complete

The second report is the Council Plan Strategic Indicators Status Report (**Attachment 2**) which provides the year to date quarter 2 results for council plan strategic indicators.

There are 22 strategic indicators showing the following quarter 2 results:

- 14 measures are meeting or exceeding the target
- 8 measures are below target

Several measures have been impacted by the restrictions implemented by the State Government to control the spread of COVID-19.

Implications

Policy Considerations

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

Financial/Economic Implications

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

Legal/Statutory

The *Local Government Act 2020* (Act) requires Council to report on performance annually in the annual report. The Act also requires the Mayor to report to the municipal community, at least once each year, on the implementation of the council plan.

This report provides the community with a Council Plan progress update.

Social

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

Environmental/Sustainability Impacts

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

Council Plan

This report supports achievement of council plan strategic objectives by measuring and communicating progress in strategic projects and indicators.

Risk Management

Risks	Likelihood	Consequence	Rating	Mitigation Action
Council Plan targets are not achieved leading to reputational risk	Low	High	Moderate	Material unfavourable variances are examined and addressed. Regular monitoring and reporting.

Conclusion

This report assists Council and the community to monitor achievement of council plan strategic objectives.

Attachments

- 1 'What You Will See in 2020-21' Q2 status 
- 2 Council plan measures 2021 Q2 

13.2 COUNCILLOR CODE OF CONDUCT

Meeting Type: Ordinary Council Meeting
Date of Meeting: 23 February 2021
Author: Governance and Reporting Advisor
File No: IC21/248

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, following a period of community consultation, to adopt the Councillor Code of Conduct under the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act).

A Councillor Code of Conduct (code) must include the standards of conduct expected to be observed by councillors that are prescribed in regulations and may include other matters which the council considers appropriate.

Council must review and adopt the code within four months of the general election.

RESOLUTION:

(Moved: Councillor I Grant/Councillor H Bussell)

That Council adopts the Councillor Code of Conduct attached to this report (Attachment 1) and revokes the Councillor Code of Conduct adopted in 2017.

For: Cr Benton, Cr Bussell, Cr Fitzpatrick, Cr Fuller, Cr Grant, Cr Herry, Mayor Rees

Against: NIL

Carried

Background

The Act requires council to review and adopt a code.

The code:

- must include the standards of conduct prescribed by the regulations expected to be observed by councillors
- must include any provisions prescribed by the regulations
- must include provisions addressing any matters prescribed by the regulations

- may include any other matters which the Council considers appropriate, other than any other standards of conduct

The code is based on a structure recommended by Local Government Victoria (**Attachment 1**) and includes:

- the prescribed standards of conduct:
 - treatment of others
 - performing the role of councillor
 - compliance with good governance measures
 - councillor must not discredit or mislead council or public
 - standards do not limit robust political debate
- guidance and information to councillors regarding other matters that council considers appropriate, including:
 - promoting wellbeing in the workplace
 - using information
 - relationships with members of staff
 - conduct that is unlawful under other legislation
 - council values
 - the roles of a councillor, council, the mayor and Chief Executive Officer
 - support for councillors
 - councillor interactions with members of staff
 - community expectations
 - election related matters
 - conduct that is prohibited by the Act
 - using council resources
 - complaints
 - councillor personal dealings with council
 - media and spokespersons
 - events
- ways of resolving disputes, including:
 - disputes between councillors
 - disputes between members of the public and councillors
 - disputes between councillors and staff
- a description of the levels of misconduct set out in the Act related to breaches of the standards of conduct

Implications

Policy Considerations

The code is a major council policy which meant that the process of community consultation set out in the Major Council Policy Consultation Local Law applied in relation to its review.

The code replaces the previous code adopted in 2017 which should, as a consequence, be revoked.

Financial/Economic Implications

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

Legal/Statutory

The code must be adopted as required by section 139 of the 2020 Act within 4 months of the general election by a formal resolution of the Council passed at a meeting by at least two-thirds of the total number of Councillors elected to the Council.

The prescribed standards of conduct are set out in regulation 4 and schedule 1 of the *Local Government (Governance and Integrity) Regulations 2020*.

Social

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

Environmental/Sustainability Impacts

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

Council Plan

This report supports achievement of the strategic goal of a sustainable organisation by supporting good governance practices through effective and compliant policies:

Risk Management

The code, upon adoption, will ensure statutory compliance and mitigate reputational, governance and financial risks associated with councillor misconduct.

Consultation/Communication

The process of community consultation set out in the Major Council Policy Consultation Local Law has been followed. The code and its related community impact statement (**Attachment 2**) were exhibited for at least 28 days and community submissions invited.

No submissions were received from the public regarding the code.

Council officers are satisfied that appropriate community consultation has occurred and believe that the matter is now ready for Council's consideration.

Options for Consideration

1. Council adopts the code (**Attachment 1**)

2. Council adopts the code with changes to those sections not prescribed by legislation ('other matters'). This is not recommended because the other matters included are considered appropriate as they cover the provisions of the Act and other acts relevant to a councillor's role as well as protocols essential to achieving good governance and effective decision making.

Conclusion

Appropriate community consultation has occurred, and Council must adopt the code by 24 February 2021 by a formal resolution of the Council passed at a meeting by at least two-thirds of the total number of Councillors elected to the Council..

Attachments

- 1 Councillor code of conduct 
- 2 Community impact statement - councillor code of conduct 

13.3 REVIEW AND DETERMINATION OF COUNCILLOR AND MAYORAL ALLOWANCES

Meeting Type: Ordinary Council Meeting
Date of Meeting: 23 February 2021
Author: Governance and Reporting Advisor
File No: IC21/249

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

Following a period of community consultation, this report is submitted to council to set the allowance levels for councillors and the Mayor.

RESOLUTION:

(Moved: Councillor H Bussell/Councillor J Herry)

That Council, under section 74 of the Local Government Act 1989:

- 1. Sets the allowance level for councillors at \$26,245, subject to any automatic future annual adjustments prescribed by the Minister for Local Government and announced in the Victoria Government Gazette, by plus an amount equivalent to the superannuation guarantee levy, payable from the date of this resolution; and***
- 2. Sets the allowance level for the Mayor at \$81,204, subject to any automatic future annual adjustments prescribed by the Minister for Local Government and announced in the Victoria Government Gazette, plus an amount equivalent to the superannuation guarantee levy, payable from the date of this resolution.***

Carried

Background

Allowances for Mayors, Deputy Mayors and Councillors are provided by section 39 of the 2020 Act.

Despite the repeal of sections 73B and 74 to 74B of the 1989 Act those sections continue to apply in respect of allowances payable to Mayors, Deputy Mayors and Councillors until the first determination made by the Victorian Independent Remuneration Tribunal (Tribunal) under section 23A of the *Victorian Independent Remuneration Tribunal and Improving Parliamentary Standards Act 2019* comes into effect.

The first determination will come into effect 6 months after the tribunal receives a request from the Minister for Local Government to make the determination. The tribunal has not yet received a request to make the determination.

Consequently, the requirements of the 1989 Act continue to apply including the obligation on the Council to review and determine the level of the councillor allowance and the Mayoral allowance within the period of 6 months after a general election or by the next 30 June, whichever is later.

The Victorian Government has set the upper and lower levels for allowances paid to councillors and Mayors. Councils are divided into three categories based on the income and population of each Council. The Wangaratta Rural City Council is a category 2 council with the following current allowance level ranges:

- Mayor - up to \$81,204 per year plus an amount equivalent to the superannuation guarantee levy
- Councillors - \$10,914-\$26,245 per year plus an amount equivalent to the superannuation guarantee levy

Current allowance levels paid to the Wangaratta Rural City Council Mayor and councillors reflect the maximum allowable for the range set for a category 2 council. Allowance levels are subject to annual automatic adjustments that are announced in the Victoria Government Gazette by the Minister for Local Government.

In representing and serving the community, the Mayor and councillors make a significant time commitment, often after normal business hours, in attending meetings, functions and responding to community members. They are also responsible for considering diverse and complex policies and strategies, and social and advocacy issues, and determining a significant annual budget and capital works program. The current allowance levels reflect the significant commitment of time made by councillors and the Mayor.

Submissions to the review of allowances were invited from the community under section 223 of the 1989 Act.

The allowance levels determined by the review are payable from the date of the resolution of the Council determining them.

Implications

Policy Considerations

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

Financial/Economic Implications

Current Mayor and councillor allowance levels together with a provision for the annual automatic adjustment made by the Minister for Local Government are included in the adopted 2020-21 Council budget.

Legal/Statutory

Section 39 of the 2020 Act applies to the subject of this report. Until a first determination is made under this section the provisions of sections 73B and 74 to 74B of the 1989 Act continue to apply.

Social

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

Environmental/Sustainability Impacts

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

Council Plan

This report supports achievement of the council plan non-negotiable strategic objective of meeting all legislative, governance and compliance requirements.

Risk Management

Until the first determination of allowances comes into effect under section 39 of the 2020 Act, sections 73B and 74 to 74B of the 1989 Act continue to apply despite being revoked, including the legal obligation under section 74 to review and determine allowance levels.

Consultation/Communication

The process of community consultation set out in the *Local Government Act 1989* has been followed by inviting public submissions.

One submission was received recommending that \$10,000 be diverted from the mayor's allowance to the deputy mayor. This is not possible for council to do. A council does not have the power to establish a deputy mayor allowance. A council may only pay a Councillor allowance or Mayoral allowance as specified in the most recent of the relevant Order in Council made under section 74B of the 1989 Act or a Minister's notice published under section 73A, 73B or 74C of the 1989 Act as varied by the allowance level determination made by a Council under section 74 of the 1989 Act.

Council officers are satisfied that appropriate community consultation has occurred and believe that the matter is now ready for Council's consideration.

Options for Consideration

1. That Council maintains the current allowance levels for councillors and the Mayor.
2. That Council sets a lower allowance level for councillors and the Mayor. This option is not recommended as the current allowance levels reflect the

significant commitment of time made by councillors and the Mayor to the performance of their Council duties.

Conclusion

Allowance levels for councillors and the Mayor should be maintained at the maximum level allowable for a category 2 council reflecting the significant commitment of time made by councillors and the Mayor.

Attachments

Nil

14. COMMUNITY WELLBEING

14.1 WANGARATTA SPORTS AND AQUATIC CENTRE / BARR RESERVE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT GRANT APPLICATION - COMMUNITY SPORTS INFRASTRUCTURE FUND

Meeting Type: Ordinary Council Meeting
Date of Meeting: 23 February 2021
Author: Executive Assistant Community Wellbeing
File No: IC21/410
Presenters:

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 allocation of future budget towards an application for the Community Sports Infrastructure Fund (CSIF) for the Wangaratta Sports and Aquatic Centre (WSAC) expansion project. It is a requirement of the application that Council's financial contribution be acknowledged.

RESOLUTION:

(Moved: Councillor D Fuller/Councillor A Fitzpatrick)

That Council:

- 1. Supports the application for funding for the Wangaratta Sports and Aquatic Centre expansion project under the Community Sports Infrastructure Fund.***
- 2. Supports the future contribution of \$3,000,000 Council funding for the expansion of the Wangaratta Sports and Aquatics Centre project.***

Carried

Background

In 2020, the Rural City of Wangaratta applied for \$8.9 million dollars in funding through The Victorian Government Community Sports Infrastructure Fund (CSIF - round 1) for the Wangaratta Sport and Events Precinct Expansion Project. Unfortunately, the application was unsuccessful.

Recently the Victorian government announced round 2 of the CSIF program with \$110 million contributed for the 2020-21 state budget. The application process would be by invitation for high quality projects that were unsuccessful in round 1.

Council has been invited to apply and are preparing an application for round 2. Following feedback from Sports and Recreation officers some change in scope has been made to the project to competitively position it in the funding process.

The aim of this development is to expand the indoor stadium and gym of the Wangaratta Sports and Aquatic Centre facility. Realising this project will further set Council's vision for the Sports, Aquatics and Events Precinct to become the premier sporting and events precinct in Regional Victoria. The project will further build upon the recently completed outdoor 50 metre outdoor pool, splash pad and refurbishments to the Wangaratta Sports and Aquatic Centre.

Furthermore, this expansion will create enhanced accessible and inclusive facilities, additional flexible programming opportunities that cater for the health and wellbeing of all our community members and drive economic benefit back to the Rural City of Wangaratta.

The closing date for CSIF is Tuesday 02, March 2021.

Implications

Policy Considerations

The Parklands Masterplan was adopted by Council on December 15, 2020. The Masterplan sets the expansion of the WSAC facility as a major priority with the following inclusions:

- Reconfiguration of current show courts (Basketball, Netball and Volleyball) including seating to meet the required run off areas.
- Provide additional indoor basketball courts.
- Provide indoor netball/multi-use courts.
- Additional male and female rooms that can be easily accessed.
- Additional fitness program room – gymnasium.

The masterplan identifies that the proposed improvement will:

- Formalise WSAC's reputation as a premier sports and recreation facility into the future
- Provide indoor and outdoor sporting facilities of a state and regional competition standard, and for the use of the whole community.
- Provide safe and inclusive aquatics and fitness facilities to ensure the health and wellbeing of our local communities across generations.
- Encourage female participation in sports activities.
- Create a welcoming recreational and lifestyle destination for the community to live, work and play.

Financial/Economic Implications

The Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP) allocates \$13,000,000 to the Parkland Masterplan development over four years from 2022/23 to 2025/26. Of that \$13,000,000 allocation, \$2,000,000 is proposed to be grant funding, the remaining \$11,000,000 is proposed as Council cash.

The current estimate for this project is \$8,500,000. The proposed funding application requests \$5,500,000 from CSIF with a \$3,000,000 contribution of Council cash allocated from the 2022/23 long term financial plan. If successful, this grant will improve Council's financial position over the four-year development of the Parklands Masterplan by \$3,500,000.

There is no set contribution ratio for this funding stream. The contribution Council makes to the project is at their discretion. Feedback from Sport and Recreation officers highlighted that a greater contribution, combined with a smaller financial request would position this project more competitively. This financial split, and rescope of the project achieves both points.

The project will deliver significant economic benefits to Council, the communities of Wangaratta and the broader North East Region:

- Economic impacts generating a total of 39 direct jobs during the construction phase and a total expected impact of \$17.2m into the local economy.
- Responsible infrastructure development resulting in a more efficient service model and allocation of resources – resulting in a reduction in the operating deficit of the centre.
- Ability to host large scale major events and elite training for competitive basketball, netball and volleyball

Direct employment impacts of the expanded Wangaratta Sports and Aquatic Centre facilities are estimated to be significant – with a projected addition of 6FTE (10 staff members).

A business plan, developed in 2020, with full social and economic benefits is attached as a confidential attachment to this report.

Legal/Statutory

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

Social

The project will deliver significant social and health benefits to the community and region - with increased access and opportunity for informal and organised sport, improved access to fitness space and programs, and more diversity in offering for sport and recreation programs and participation.

The project will enable more groups to access the facility more often. The facilities will be able to host significant events and training, which will bring opportunities and benefit to the whole community.

The project will allow for programming that specifically targets groups that are underrepresented in sport and recreation – women, older adults, people with a disability, and people from lower socio-economic communities.

Environmental/Sustainability Impacts

An Environmentally Sustainable Design (ESD) Strategy has been undertaken for this project. The initial assessments of ESD opportunities form part of the

Services Cost Estimate. Assessments of ESD initiatives incorporate feedback from the Council projects team on-site and considers the planning intent to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and water use in operations.

2017 – 2021 Council Plan (2020 Revision)

This report supports the 2017-2021 Council Plan:

Goal

We are Thriving

We will plan, research and advocate for the future:

- To ensure we are responding to the current and future recreational needs of our community and creating sustainable and quality recreation reserves throughout our municipality
- To make sure our services are responsive and adaptable to the changing needs and profile of our community

We will create and deliver:

- Exceptional services and programs that help our families and children to be healthy, happy and connected

We will focus on our business:

By making sure that all our teams work together to plan, develop and deliver innovative projects that enhance the health and wellbeing of our community

Strategic Links

a) Rural City of Wangaratta 2030 Community Vision

N/A

b) Other strategic links

Wangaratta Parklands Masterplan

Risk Management

Risks	Likelihood	Consequence	Rating	Mitigation Action
Community expectation raised and unable to be met	Moderate	Disappointed and disengaged community and	Significant	Clear and accurate communication regarding project and

Risks	Likelihood	Consequence	Rating	Mitigation Action
		stakeholders		funding application
Project costs are larger than estimates	Unlikely	Cost of project is higher than budgeted	Significant	Additional council funding is required, or scope of work is reduced

Consultation/Communication

This project has been a significant priority for the city for almost a decade. The strength of the support behind the need for the project has been evidenced by its consistent presence in consultation outcomes with stakeholders, users, and the broader community.

The process of developing the scope and detail of the project has been informed by:

- Targeted planning and engagement with sport associations and core user groups
- Broad consultation with users and stakeholder groups as part of the master planning and precinct plans
- User consultation and review
- Community consultation and feedback

Consultation also played a vital role in providing valuable input to help shape the Parklands Masterplan. The draft plan was placed on public exhibition for a 60-day period between June and August of 2020. From this, 35 formal responses were received, and 156 online survey questions were answered. Council officers undertook a series of direct consultation sessions with key stakeholders over a period of 10 months. Council officers explored the feedback received and incorporated relevant changes into the final Masterplan.

Options for Consideration

1. That Council supports the provision of \$3,000,000 in future funding for the Wangaratta Sports and Aquatic Centre expansion project and confirms this support within the CSIF application.
2. That Council supports the provision of a smaller amount (less than \$3,000,000) in future funding for the Wangaratta Sports and Aquatic Centre expansion project and confirms this support within the CSIF application.
3. Council does not proceed with the application.

Conclusion

This project is a significant part of the expansion of the Sports, Aquatics and Events precinct, that will support the objective of developing as the premier

Sports and Events precinct in Regional Victoria. If successful in funding, Council will secure significant financial support to deliver the priority.

Attachments

- 1 Building Wangaratta Business Plan 2020 - Confidential

15. INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES

15.1 PETITION REGARDING SANDFORD ROAD UPGRADE AND HAMILTON CRESCENT

Meeting Type: Ordinary Council Meeting
Date of Meeting: 23 February 2021
Author: Manager Infrastructure Planning and Delivery
File No: IC21/302

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 petition was tabled at Council's Ordinary meeting on the 27 January 2021. The petition is seeking that Council consider kerb and channel, footpath and speed humps in Hamilton Crescent, Wangaratta.

This report addresses the request made by the petitioners and provides recommendation for Council consideration.

RESOLUTION:

(Moved: Councillor H Benton/Councillor D Fuller)

That Council:

- 1. Notes the kerb and channel works which are already planned and underway in Hamilton Crescent;***
- 2. Includes the construction of a footpath in Hamilton Crescent in a future year's capital works program;***
- 3. Authorises officers to undertake further investigations into local area traffic management; and***
- 4. Responds to the first signatory with details of the resolution of Council.***

Carried

Background

Hamilton Crescent does not have a footpath within the road reserve. The kerb and channel in Hamilton Crescent is at the end of its useful life and needs replacement.

Officers confirm that the kerb and channel works will be completed with the Sandford Road works. These works will be undertaken between Sandford Road and Rowley Street.

The footpath along Hamilton Crescent is noted on the 10-year strategic footpath program. Detailed design will be undertaken in the 2021/22 year, with construction in the 2022/23 year.

Speed humps are not recommended in residential streets. Officers will collect and review traffic data and undertaken further discussion with the first signatory of the petition.

Implications

Policy Considerations

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

Financial/Economic Implications

The cost of the kerb and channel is \$152,000 and is budgeted for in the 2020/21 capital works budget.

The estimated cost of the footpath construction is \$95,000.

Legal/Statutory

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

Social

Installation of this footpath would increase the connectivity for the residents of Hamilton Crescent.

Environmental/Sustainability Impacts

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

2017 – 2021 Council Plan (2020 Revision)

This report supports the 2017-2021 Council Plan:

Goal

We are Established

We will research and advocate:

To facilitate drainage and road infrastructure to support future growth plans

We will create and deliver:

Timely and appropriate infrastructure to support our growth areas

We will focus on our business:

By enhancing the way we plan and deliver infrastructure projects.

The non-negotiables

Our infrastructure is developed and maintained based on what we understand is important to the people who live, work and visit here.

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

N/A

b) Other strategic links

Freight and Land Use Strategy

Walking and Cycling Strategy

Risk Management

There are no moderate or high risks for the purpose of this report.

Consultation/Communication

There was no community consultation undertaken for this report.

Options for Consideration

1. Council could not adopt the recommendations of this report. The kerb and channel only would be installed.
2. Council could not allocate funding in a future budget to the footpath. The footpath would not be installed.
3. Council could recommend the installation of speed humps and allocate budget to these works.

Conclusion

Based on the above, kerb and channel will be installed in Hamilton Crescent this financial year. A footpath should be considered in a future year's capital works program and further investigation be undertaken into the local area traffic management.

Attachments

Nil.

16. DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

16.1 DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY 2021-2026

Meeting Type: Ordinary Council Meeting
Date of Meeting: 23 February 2021
Author: NRM Coordinator
File No: IC21/287

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

On 23 January 2021, Council resolved to defer the decision on endorsement and public exhibition of the draft Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2021-2026 until the February 2021 Ordinary Council Meeting to enable the Council more time to consider the item. Council Officers have since made changes to the draft strategy to clarify the wording of the objective relating to Council's electricity consumption under the 'Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Energy Reduction' priority area and include minor corrections.

This report is presented to Council to detail the development of the draft Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2021-2026 (see **Attachment 1**) and to seek endorsement of the draft strategy for public exhibition.

The Environmental Sustainability Strategy is a plan for a healthy, resilient, and 'green' future for our municipality. We recognise that climate change and degradation of natural environmental assets are defining issues of our time and the Strategy outlines a vision and action plan over the next five years to address these concerns in order to ensure sustainable social and economic prosperity for the Rural City of Wangaratta.

The draft Strategy builds upon the achievements of the previous Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2014 and seeks to learn from our past experiences; pulling together our existing work and delivering activities that we know have positive benefits.

RECOMMENDATION:**That Council:**

1. *Endorses the draft Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2021-2026.*
2. *Places the draft Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2021-2026 on public exhibition for a period of at least 30 days.*
3. *Considers the submissions received and a final Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2021-2026 at a future Council meeting.*
4. *If no submissions requesting changes to the strategy are received, adopts the Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2021-2026 without further resolution.*

Councillor JH Herry moved an alternate motion:

(Moved: Councillor JH Herry/Councillor D Rees)

That Council:

1. *Endorses the Draft Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2021-2026 with the following changes.*

a. The Council Objective on page 23 that reads:

For at least 50% of Council's electricity to be sourced from renewable energy sources by 2026, with the target being reviewed on a regular basis

Instead reads:

For at least 50% of Council's electricity to be sourced from renewable energy sources by 20251, with the target being reviewed on a regular basis with a view to surpassing it, where possible.

b. The Council Objective on page 23 that reads:

Reduce Council's operational carbon emissions by 50% by 2026 to create financial and carbon savings. (To be confirmed through the development of the Carbon Reduction Action Plan)

Instead reads:

Reduce Council's operational CO₂-e emissions by at least 50% by 20251 to create financial and/or carbon savings. With the target being reviewed on a regular basis with a view to surpassing it, where possible, as the scientific understanding of climate change evolves and technological, economical, and other opportunities arise. (To be confirmed through the development of the Carbon Reduction Action Plan)

c. The Community Performance Objective on page 24 that reads:

Engage and empower the community to reduce energy consumption and carbon emissions.

Instead reads:

Engage and empower the community to reduce energy consumption, and strive to reduce community CO2-e emissions by at least 3.3% per annum², acknowledging this objective is a shared responsibility requiring the cooperation of various community stakeholders, of which the Rural City of Wangaratta will play a leadership role. With the goal being reviewed on a regular basis to ensure it continues to reflect the appropriate magnitude of collective action required as scientific, political, and other developments occur.

2) Places the draft Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2021-2026 on public exhibition for a period of at least 45 days.

3) Considers the submissions received and a final Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2021-2026 at a future Council meeting.

4) If no submissions requesting changes to the strategy are received, adopts the Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2021-2026 without further resolution.

RESOLUTION:

An amended motion was moved by Cr H Benton.

(Moved: Councillor H Benton/Councillor H Bussell)

That Council:

- 1. Endorses the draft Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2021-2026.***
- 2. Places the draft Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2021-2026 on public exhibition for a period of at least 45 days.***
- 3. Considers the submissions received and a final Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2021-2026 at a future Council meeting.***
- 4. If no submissions requesting changes to the strategy are received, adopts the Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2021-2026 without further resolution.***

***For: Cr Benton, Cr Bussell, Cr Fitzpatrick, Cr Fuller, Cr Grant, Mayor Rees
Against: Cr Herry***

The amendment became the motion, was put to vote and was carried.

Carried

Background

The draft Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2021-2026 has been developed to replace the previous Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2014 in order to guide Council in planning for a healthy, resilient and green future for our municipality.

The strategy aims to protect and invest in our environment, natural assets and the health and wellbeing of our community through our environmental sustainability commitment, expertise and leadership. We will achieve this by working with internal and external stakeholders and the community.

Our environment not only provides valuable ecosystem services and natural habitat for our local wildlife, it also is integral for the health and wellbeing of our community and our economic prosperity. There are a number of environmental challenges that we face, that are shared amongst communities around the world, that will present both challenges and opportunities for our region. These are driven by climate change, increasing demand for resources and changes to land use.

Implications

Policy Considerations

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

Financial/Economic Implications

The draft Strategy identifies a significant amount of actions and targets to undertake over the five year lifespan of the strategy. Not all of these costs will be borne by Council, some will be targeted at future grant applications. The possible sources of funding are identified within the action tables of the strategy.

The actions within the strategy will be further scoped for consideration in future budget processes.

Legal/Statutory

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

Social

Under the Local Government Act 2020, Council's primary objective is to endeavour to achieve the best outcomes for the local community having consideration for the long term and cumulative effects of decisions. In seeking to achieve this objective, Council must promote the social, economic and environmental viability and sustainability of the municipality.

We acknowledge that we depend on our local environment for clean and plentiful water to drink, clean air to breathe, productive soils for food and energy sources. These environmental assets sustain our health, our lifestyle and our livelihoods.

Environmental/Sustainability Impacts

Due to climate change and changing environmental conditions, we face significant challenges to maintain environmental sustainability in the future, yet with challenges come opportunities. Opportunities to innovate, lead by example

and inspire communities through demonstrating environmental leadership in our own operations.

2017 – 2021 Council Plan (2020 Revision)

This report supports the 2017-2021 Council Plan:

Goal

We are Sustainable

We will plan, research and advocate for the future:

- For a regional approach to waste management that has economic and environmental benefits
- To assist the community to reduce their impact on the environment
- By accurately understanding the constraints and opportunities that face our organisation, our community and our region
- To identify and promote options to maximise the use of environmentally sustainable design in new and retro fitted residential, industrial and commercial developments
- To make sure that everything we do – from building assets to delivering events – considers the physical, social, cultural and financial needs of our community members

We will create and deliver:

- Opportunities that promote conservation and assistance to community groups to undertake conservation projects
- Opportunities to assist the community to adopt sustainable building and living practices and to reduce energy and water use

We will focus on our business:

- Ensuring roadsides are appropriately used while conserving natural vegetation, through the implementation of Council's Conservation Roadside Management Plan

The non-negotiables

- Our team will make the best and most efficient use of Council's resources.
- Our buildings, facilities and assets will be utilised in an efficient and equitable way.
- Our protection of the environment underpins our development, projects and decisions.

Strategic Links

a) Rural City of Wangaratta 2030 Community Vision

The Community Vision was last completed in 2009, with a new Community Vision due to be completed in 2021. At which point the strategy will be reviewed to ensure it supports the new vision.

b) Other strategic links

Relationships with key Council Plans

We recognise that the strategy needs to co-exist and help deliver on other relevant strategies. The table below illustrates the relationship between the Environmental Sustainability Strategy and other key Council documents, including the Council Plan.

Key Council Plans	PURPOSE
2030 Community Vision	Our community is connected, sustainable and contemporary. We are the place where good things grow.
Council Plan 2017-2021	Council Plan 2017-2021 details Council's strategic objectives and the key strategic activities and actions we will be undertaking to achieve those objectives.
Municipal Health & Wellbeing Plan (MPHWP)	The MPHWP sets the broad mission, goals and priorities to enable people living in the municipality to achieve maximum health and wellbeing.
Conservation Roadside Management Plan	The Roadside Conservation Management Plan aims to conserve roadside native vegetation that often provides valuable habitat and is an important feature in local landscapes.
Waste Management Strategy (WMS)	The Rural City of Wangaratta's WMS was developed to provide a strategy for sustainable waste management over five years. The purpose of this document is to consolidate all the related issues and topics, to provide a complete picture of waste management within the municipality.
Economic Development and Tourism Strategy	The Economic Development and Tourism Strategy has been produced to fulfil Council's aspirations for a vibrant and prosperous community that offers residents and businesses a broad range of highly rewarding opportunities for work and investment.
Tree Management Strategy	The purpose of the strategy is to establish the Rural City of Wangaratta's future strategic direction for tree planting, protection and maintenance.
Walking and Cycling Strategy	Council's Walking and Cycling Strategy is a significant strategic document that will guide the way Council delivers infrastructure that supports the ability of people within our community to be active, to safely move around, and to stay connected
Bush reserves management plans (Northern Beaches and	Both the Kaluna Park and Northern Beaches Plans are to provide practical and perceptive information which will assist management to protect, and

Kaluna Park)	where possible enhance the natural values of these areas.
Wangaratta Planning Scheme	The Planning Scheme is the governing document for use, development and protection of land in the Rural City of Wangaratta.

Consultation/Communication

Prior to commencing writing the draft strategy, Council's Natural Resource Management and Sustainability team consulted with the Wangaratta Landcare and Sustainability Network, Youth Council, Renewable King Valley and Waste Wise Wangaratta for initial feedback. Internal comments was also sought from all directorates. The feedback from this process has been incorporated into the draft strategy.

Further community consultation will occur when the draft strategy is placed on public exhibition. This will take the form of workshops and online submissions.

Officers believe that appropriate consultation has occurred to inform the development of the strategy draft and the matter is now ready for Council consideration.

Options for Consideration

1. That Council endorses the draft Environmental and Sustainability Strategy 2021-2026 and seek community feedback by placing the draft on public exhibition for a period of no less than 30 days. **(Recommended)**
2. That Council does not endorse the draft Environmental and Sustainability Strategy 2021-2026 and seek further adjustments prior to being returned to Council for endorsement at a future meeting. **(Not recommended)**

Conclusion

The draft Environmental and Sustainability Strategy 2021-2026 is an important document to guide Council in its future decision making.

Council has a crucial role to play to get the best results for our municipality by actively engaging and working with our community and stakeholders to:

- build awareness and progress towards environmental sustainability;
- ensure climate change is embedded within our business plans, strategies and policies; and
- to secure the future of Wangaratta, our region and beyond.

Attachments

- 1 Draft Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2021-26 

17. SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Nil

18. ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORTS

Nil

19. MINUTES OF ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETINGS

19.1 RECORD OF ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORTS

Meeting Type: Ordinary Council Meeting
Date of Meeting: 23 February 2021
Author: Executive Service Coordinator
File Name: Assemblies of Councillors
File No: IC21/340

Executive Summary

Advisory Committee Meetings:

Minutes of the following Advisory Committee Meetings are reported to Councillors for information (refer attachments).

1. Arts, Culture, Heritage and Events Advisory Committee – 17 August 2020 – Approved Minutes
2. Wangaratta Economic Development and Tourism Advisory Committee – 10 November 2021 – Draft Minutes
3. Agriculture and Agribusiness Advisory Committee – 28 January 2021 – Draft Minutes
4. Sports and Recreation Advisory Committee – 10 February 2021 – Draft Minutes

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

1. *notes the minutes and draft minutes of these Advisory Committees*

RESOLUTION:

(Moved: Councillor H Benton/Councillor A Fitzpatrick)

That Council:

1. ***Notes the minutes of these Advisory Committees***
2. ***Excludes the Draft Minutes until the Minutes are endorsed.***

Carried

Attachments

- 1 Arts, Culture, Heritage & Events Advisory Committee - 17 August 2020 - Approved Minutes 
- 2 Wangaratta Economic Development and Tourism Advisory Committee - 10 November 2021 - Draft Minutes 

- 3 Agriculture and Agribusiness Advisory Committee - 28 January 2021 - Draft Minutes 
- 4 Sports and Recreation Advisory Committee - 10 February 2021 - Draft Minutes 

20. NOTICES OF MOTION

Nil

21. URGENT BUSINESS**22. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

Please follow link [23 February 2021 Ordinary Council Meeting](#) and refer to minute 62.11 to 66.53 for public questions and responses related to Item 22. Public Question Time.

23. CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS

Nil.

24. CLOSURE OF MEETING

The Meeting closed at 6:51pm.