

# Minutes

## Of the Ordinary Council Meeting

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

**Date:** 27 April 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  
Celeste Brockwell, Acting Director Development Services

## 4. ABSENT

### Councillors:

NIL

### Officers:

Stephen Swart, Director Development Services

## 5. ACCEPTANCE OF APOLOGIES & GRANTING OF LEAVE OF ABSENCE

### ORDER OF BUSINESS

## 6. CITIZEN CEREMONY

Nil

## 7. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

**RESOLUTION:**

**(Moved: Councillor H Benton/Councillor D Fuller)**

***That Council read and confirm the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of 23 March 2021 as a true and accurate record of the proceedings of the meeting.***

**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 a 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:

- The item for which they have a conflict of interest; and
- whether their conflict of interest is general or material; and
- 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 now communicate with any participants of the meeting while the decision is being made.

## 9. RECEPTION OF PETITIONS

### 9.1 PETITION: EDI-CHESHUNT AND PETTIFERS ROADS, EDI UPPER

<b>Meeting Type:</b>	<b>Ordinary Council Meeting</b>
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	<b>27 April 2021</b>
<b>Author:</b>	<b>Executive Services Coordinator</b>
<b>File No:</b>	<b>IC21/655</b>
<b>Presenters:</b>	<b>Director Infrastructure Services</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

A petition/joint letter containing 28 signatures from community members has been received. The petition requests that Council undertake works to address the condition of Edi-Cheshunt and Pettifers Roads in Edi Upper.

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

#### **RESOLUTION:**

**(Moved: Councillor H Bussell/Councillor I Grant)**

- 1. *That the petition/joint letter regarding Edi-Cheshunt and Pettifers Roads in Edi Upper be received.***
- 2. *That the petition be referred to the Chief Executive Officer for a report to a future Council Meeting.***

**Carried**

#### Conclusion

Clause 13 of the Rural City of Wangaratta Governance Rules, provides that a petition presented to the Council, may be dealt with in any of the following ways. The petition may:

- be received
- where the petition relates to an item listed on the agenda, be considered in conjunction with that agenda item
- be referred to the Chief Executive Officer for consideration and response
- be referred to the Chief Executive Officer for a report to a future Council meeting

Where the petition relates to an operational matter, Council must refer it to the Chief Executive Officer for consideration.

Where a petition relates to a planning matter which is the subject of a public notification process under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, the petition will be treated as a joint submission in relation to that planning matter.

Where a petition relates to a matter which is the subject of a community engagement process under the *Local Government Act 2020*, the petition will be treated as a joint submission in relation to that matter.

### **Attachments**

- 1 Petition regarding Edi-Cheshunt and Pettifers Road, Edi Upper - Confidential

## 9.2 PETITION REQUESTING CHURCH LANE ROAD UPGRADE

<b>Meeting Type:</b>	<b>Ordinary Council Meeting</b>
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	<b>27 April 2021</b>
<b>Author:</b>	<b>Executive Services Officer</b>
<b>File No:</b>	<b>IC21/722</b>
<b>Presenters:</b>	<b>Director Infrastructure Services</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**

A petition/joint letter containing 24 signatures from regular road users has been received.

The petition advises that Church Lane in Milawa 3678, having a high amount of traffic daily, would benefit greatly from a tar upgrade.

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

#### **RESOLUTION:**

**(Moved: Councillor H Bussell/Councillor J Herry)**

- 1. That the petition/joint letter requesting Church Lane Road Upgrade Request be received.***
- 2. That the petition be referred to the Chief Executive Officer for a report to a future Council Meeting.***

**Carried**

### **Conclusion**

Clause 13 of the Rural City of Wangaratta Governance Rules, provides that a petition presented to the Council, may be dealt with in any of the following ways. The petition may:

- be received
- where the petition relates to an item listed on the agenda, be considered in conjunction with that agenda item
- be referred to the Chief Executive Officer for consideration and response
- be referred to the Chief Executive Officer for a report to a future Council meeting

Where the petition relates to an operational matter, Council must refer it to the Chief Executive Officer for consideration.

Where a petition relates to a planning matter which is the subject of a public notification process under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, the petition will be treated as a joint submission in relation to that planning matter.

Where a petition relates to a matter which is the subject of a community engagement process under the *Local Government Act 2020*, the petition will be treated as a joint submission in relation to that matter.

### **Attachments**

- 1 Petition Requesting Church Lane Road Upgrade - 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**

Nil

**PRESENTATION OF REPORTS**

**11. COUNCILLOR REPORTS**

Nil

**OFFICERS' REPORTS**

**12. EXECUTIVE SERVICES**

Nil

### 13. COMMUNITY WELLBEING

#### 13.1 DRAFT COUNCIL PLAN 2021 - 2025 AND DRAFT COMMUNITY VISION 2033

<b>Meeting Type:</b>	<b>Ordinary Council Meeting</b>
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	<b>27 April 2021</b>
<b>Author:</b>	<b>Executive Assistant Community Wellbeing</b>
<b>File No:</b>	<b>IC21/274</b>
<b>Presenter:</b>	<b>Director Community Wellbeing</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

Council must maintain a Community Vision that is developed with the community in accordance with its deliberative engagement practices.

Section 90 of the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act) requires that Council must prepare and adopt a Council Plan for a period of at least the next 4 financial years after a general election in accordance with its deliberative engagement practices.

The deliberative engagement practices employed are set out in Council's community engagement policy.

The Council Plan will also incorporate the Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan that is required under section 26 of the *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008* as allowed by section 27 of that Act.

Having prepared a draft Community Vision 2033 and a draft Council Plan 2021-2025 in accordance with its deliberative engagement practices, Council wishes to provide the opportunity for the community to have input into the final versions of each document by making submissions on the drafts.

#### **RESOLUTION:**

**(Moved: Councillor A Fitzpatrick/Councillor J Herry)**

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

**1. *Endorses the Draft 2021 - 2025 Council Plan and Draft Community Vision 2033 attached to this report;***

**2. *Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to:***

***(a) give public notice of the preparation of the Draft 2021 - 2025 Council Plan and Draft Community Vision 2033 in the Wangaratta***

- Chronicle on Friday 30, April 2021 inviting the public to make written submissions on the Draft Community Vision 2033 and to make written submissions on the Draft Council Plan 2021 – 2025;***
- (b) make available for public inspection the Draft 2021 - 2025 Council Plan and Draft Community Vision 2033 at the Wangaratta Government Centre;***
- (c) publish the Draft 2021 - 2025 Council Plan and Draft Community Vision 2033 on the Council's Internet website;***
- (d) receive written submissions up to 5pm Friday 28, May 2021.***

- 3. forms a committee of Councillors to meet on a date to be determined to hear any person wishing to be heard in support of their written submission, which relates to:***
- (a) the Draft Community Vision 2033;***
- (b) the Draft Council Plan 2021-2025;***
- 4. considers all submissions on the Draft 2021 - 2025 Council Plan and Draft Community Vision 2033 when deliberating on the adoption of the Draft 2021 - 2025 Council Plan and Draft Community vision 2033 with or without amendment at an Unscheduled Council Meeting to be held on Monday 28, June 2021 at 6:00pm.***

**Carried**

### **Background**

Council must maintain a Community Vision that is developed with the community in accordance with its deliberative engagement practices.

Section 90 of the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act) requires that Council must prepare and adopt a Council Plan for a period of at least the next 4 financial years after a general election in accordance with its deliberative engagement practices.

The Council Plan will also incorporate the Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan that is required under section 26 of the Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008 as allowed by section 27 of that Act.

The deliberative engagement practices employed are set out in Council's community engagement policy.

In round one of the deliberative engagement, The Shape Your Community Survey was shared through Council's social media channels including Facebook and Instagram pages from 4 February 2021 until 26 February 2021. The survey was also promoted and distributed by Council's Shape Wangaratta community panel members.

E-mails were sent to local community groups, businesses, and organisations, including over 350 contacts from Council's community directory. In addition to

this survey, a child-friendly survey was emailed to 21 primary schools across the municipality.

888 responses from adults were received and 216 responses were received from children. Six strategic objectives were developed from the information obtained from the Shape Your Community Survey that the draft Council Plan 2021-2025 focuses on. These areas include:

1. Strengthening our Leadership
2. Protecting our Wellbeing
3. Valuing our Environment
4. Expanding our Economy
5. Enhancing our Lifestyle
6. Growing with Integrity

Following the survey, six online deliberative engagement sessions, and one face to face session were held with the Shape Wangaratta Community Panel.

### **Implications**

#### **Policy Considerations**

Various Council policies may be impacted by the outcome of the development to the 2021 – 2025 Council Plan.

The draft Community Vision and draft Council Plan have been prepared in accordance with Council's deliberative engagement practices set out in the Community Engagement Policy.

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

The 2021/22 Draft Budget has been prepared in parallel with the Draft Community Vision and Draft 2021-2025 Council Plan. The Budget resources the Council Plan to enable the outcomes in the Council Plan to be achieved.

Expanding our Economy' and 'Growing with Integrity' are strategic objectives within the Council Plan. The delivery of the Council Plan will support continued economic growth of the municipality whilst maintaining the lifestyle we all value.

#### **Legal/Statutory**

The development of the draft Community Vision and draft Council Plan are consistent with Sections 88 and 90 of the Act.

#### **Social**

The objectives and strategies contained in the draft Community Vision 2033 and in the draft Council Plan 2021 - 2025 are designed to provide positive social outcomes for the community.

## **Environmental/Sustainability Impacts**

The objectives and strategies contained in the draft Community Vision 2033 and in the draft Council Plan 2021 – 2025 are designed to enhance sustainability and provide positive environmental outcomes for the community.

## **Risk Management**

If the draft Council Plan 2021-2025 is not endorsed by Council and the linkages to the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan are not supported by Department of Families, Fairness and Housing, it may jeopardise the final Council Plan 2021-2025 being adopted by 30 June 2021 in line with Council's objective.

## **Consultation/Communication**

Deliberative engagement practices have been employed to prepare the draft Community Vision and draft Council Plan.

In late 2020, Council called for expressions of interest inviting community members to be part of a community engagement panel called Shape Wangaratta. Council received a huge amount of interest and in December 2020 Council appointed 128 community members from a range of demographics, gender, age and skills sets to be part of the engagement panel that would help to deliberate and inform on all of Council's ongoing strategic projects and priorities.

As part of the draft Council Plan 2021 – 2025 development, The Shape Your Community Survey was shared through Council's social media channels including Facebook and Instagram pages from 4 February 2021 until 26 February 2021. The survey was also promoted and distributed by our Shape Wangaratta community panel members.

E-mails were sent to local community groups, businesses and organisations, including over 350 of Council's community directory contacts.

Hardcopy surveys were provided at the Wangaratta Government Centre, Wangaratta Sports and Aquatic Centre, Wangaratta Library, Wangaratta Performing Arts and Convention Centre, Wangaratta Art Gallery, Wangaratta Children's Services Centre and the Visitor Information Centre.

In addition to the original survey, a child-friendly survey was emailed to 21 primary schools across the local government area.

Face-to-face workshop sessions were held with students at three local schools including Oxley Primary School, Whitfield Primary School and Wangaratta West Primary School. Face-to-face community consultation was also held in Reid Street (outside NAB), on 19 March 2021, as well as at the Moyhu Market on 20 March 2021. Council officers had several informal conversations with the community about the survey findings, as well as potential actions that should be included under these strategies.

Below is a list of the face-to-face consultation engagement sessions that were held for the survey:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Location</b>
19 February 2021	9:00am – 12:00pm	Kiosk (Cnr Reid & Murphy Street)
22 February 2021	9:30am – 10:30am	Whitfield Primary School
23 February 2021	10:00am – 11:30am	Milawa Hall (Adverse Community Event)
23 February 2021	1:00pm – 4:00pm	Kiosk (Cnr Reid & Murphy Street)
24 February 2021	10:00am – 11:30am	Eldorado (Adverse Community Event)
24 February 2021	2:00pm – 3:00pm	Oxley Primary School
25 February 2021	3:00pm – 6:00pm	Kiosk (Cnr Reid & Murphy Street)
26 February 2021	1:45pm – 3:00pm	Wangaratta West Primary School Assembly

Six strategic objectives that were developed from the Shape Your Community Survey:

1. Strengthening our Leadership
2. Protecting our Wellbeing
3. Valuing our Environment
4. Expanding our Economy
5. Enhancing our Lifestyle
6. Growing with Integrity

The Shape Wangaratta Panel were then engaged to develop actions under each of the above strategic objectives. This was done through six online workshops on the below dates:

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Date</b>
Strengthening our leadership	22 March 2021 8:00-10am
Protecting our wellbeing	22 March 2021 12:00-2pm
Valuing our environment	22 March 2021 4:00-6pm
Expanding our economy	25 March 2021 10:00-12pm
Enhancing our lifestyle	26 March 2021 8:00-10am
Growing with integrity	26 March 2021 12:00-2pm

Council has developed storytelling sessions, receiving stories from residents about life in the Rural City of Wangaratta, including a resident of Myrree and four school captains from Wangaratta West Primary School. Input was also received from Helen Haines MP and from the Shape Wangaratta panel.

A face-to-face workshop was held with the Shape Wangaratta Panel at the Wangaratta Performing Arts Centre on 31 March 2021 from 6-8pm. Thirty of the panel members attended this session. The main strategic objectives receiving the most engagement and focus were environment and climate change.

A public notice inviting the community to make submissions on the draft Community Vision 2033 and on the draft Council Plan 2021 - 2025 will be advertised following endorsement by Council.

The Shape Wangaratta Community Panel will be invited to further review the documents and provide considered feedback. Communication and promotion with the broader community will encourage consideration of community priorities.

The draft Community Vision 2033 and the draft Council Plan 2021 - 2025 will also be available for inspection at the Wangaratta Government Centre and on Council's internet website at [www.wangaratta.vic.gov.au](http://www.wangaratta.vic.gov.au)

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

### **Options for Consideration**

The option to place the community vision and council plan out for community review at this date aligns to Council's objective of simultaneously developing and adopting the Council Plan and Council Budget. Council may elect to delay the endorsement and community review of the Council Plan. It is required that the Community Vision and Council Plan be adopted by Council by October 31, 2020.

This option would mean that the Council Plan and Council Budget are adopted several months apart.

### **Conclusion**

The draft Community Vision 2033 and the draft Council Plan 2021 – 2025 were developed in accordance with Council's deliberative engagement practices and with direct input from the community. The development of these documents will continue to guide the direction of Council projects, services and resource allocation.

### **Attachments**

- 1 DRAFT COUNCIL PLAN 2021 - 2025 
- 2 DRAFT COMMUNITY VISION 2033 

## 14. CORPORATE SERVICES

### 14.1 DRAFT REVENUE AND RATING PLAN 2021

<b>Meeting Type:</b>	<b>Ordinary Council Meeting</b>
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	<b>27 April 2021</b>
<b>Author:</b>	<b>Director Corporate Services</b>
<b>File No:</b>	<b>IC21/690</b>
<b>Presenters:</b>	<b>Director Corporate Services</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 Local Government Act 2020 requires each Council to prepare and adopt a Revenue and Rating Plan to cover a minimum period of four years following each Council election. The Revenue and Rating Plan establishes the revenue raising framework within which the Council proposes to work.

#### **RESOLUTION:**

**(Moved: Councillor J Herry/Councillor I Grant)**

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

- 1. Endorses the Draft Revenue and Rating Plan 2021 for public exhibition (Attachment 1);***
- 2. Invites public submissions regarding the Draft Revenue and Rating Plan 2021 up to 5pm on Friday 28 May 2021;***
- 3. If submissions requesting changes to the Draft Revenue and Rating Plan 2021 are received:***
  - a. Forms a Committee of Council to hear submissions on the Draft Revenue and Rating Plan 2021 if required, at a time to be determined;***
  - b. Reviews and considers adopting the Draft Revenue and Rating Plan 2021 at the Scheduled Council Meeting on Tuesday 22 June 2021, taking into consideration all submissions made.***
- 4. If no submissions requesting changes are received, adopts the Draft Revenue and Rating Plan 2021 without further resolution.***

**Carried**

## **Background**

Council provides a range of services and infrastructure for the local community, and in doing so, must collect revenue to cover the costs incurred in providing them.

The purpose of the Draft Revenue and Rating Plan 2021 (hereafter ‘Revenue and Rating Plan’) is to determine the most appropriate and affordable revenue and rating approach for the Rural City of Wangaratta council (RCOW) and municipality which, in conjunction with other income sources will adequately finance the objectives of the Council Plan.

The revenue streams addressed by this document are:

- Rates
- Grants
- Fees and Charges (Statutory and Non-Statutory)
- Contributions
- Interest on Investments
- Borrowings

The Revenue and Rating Plan sets out the approach currently used for how each of these revenue streams is determined. The approaches used by RCOW are often legislated and are very consistent with those taken by other local councils. No notable changes to the existing approach are proposed.

## **Implications**

### **Policy Considerations**

The Revenue and Rating Plan is an important part of Council’s Integrated Strategic Planning and Reporting Framework and sets out how income will be generated to fund delivery of the next Council Plan. Strategies outlined in this plan will feed into council’s budgeting and long-term financial planning documents, as well as connect with other strategic planning documents within Council’s Integrated Planning Framework.

More specifically, this Revenue and Rating Plan outlines the principles and strategic framework that Council will utilise in calculating and distributing rates to property owners. In this regard it is supplementary to the Annual Budget which determines the quantum of rate revenue and rating differential amounts. The Revenue and Rating Plan is also supported by the Rural City of Wangaratta Rating Strategy 2018-22 which defines in detail how rates are set across the municipality.

The Revenue and Rating Plan is underpinned by policies that provide stability and predictability such as Council’s policy for Financial Hardship Assistance for Rates.

Anticipated future changes to legislation and policy that may prompt this document to be revised are:

- The Local Government Rating System Review: This review was undertaken by the Victorian State Government in 2019 and a list of recommendations was

presented to Government in March 2020. At the time of writing this report, the recommendations have not yet been implemented, and timelines have not been announced.

- Investigation into how councils respond to Financial Hardship: The Victorian Ombudsman is currently undertaking this investigation. The investigation report is expected to be tabled in Parliament in the coming weeks.

RCOW will review actions and recommendations from these two reports and update the Revenue and Rating Plan and any other related policies if necessary. We welcome in particular any recommendations and sharing of best practice with regards to the equitable setting of rates and support for any community members experiencing financial difficulty.

### **Financial/Economic Implications**

The Revenue and Rating Plan explains how Council forecasts the revenue needed to deliver essential community infrastructure and services for the municipal population. It also explains how the raising of revenues will be apportioned between ratepayers and other users of facilities and services.

This plan sets out Council's ratings structure, including the decision not to charge a municipal charge or special charge, to ensure the fair and equitable distribution of rates across property owners. It also sets out principles that are used in decision making related to other revenue sources such as projects funded by grants, and fees and charges.

It is important to note that this plan does not set revenue targets for Council – this is done via the Annual Budget. Rather, it outlines the principles that inform how Council will go about calculating and collecting this revenue.

### **Legal/Statutory**

This report has been informed by both the *Local Government Act 2020* and the *Local Government Act 1989*. The relevant Act and legislation are referred to in the applicable sections of the document (attached).

### **Social**

The revenues raised by Council are used to deliver essential services and infrastructure for the community. Council will deploy 'subsidised pricing' where council subsidises a service by not passing the full cost of that service on to the customer. These subsidies can be funded from Council's rate revenue or other sources such as Commonwealth and State Government grant funding programs. Examples of subsidised pricing include swimming pool user fees for the Wangaratta Sports and Aquatics Centre, hire of sports fields, use of the Library, or visitation to the Art Gallery.

Grant funding continues to be a significant revenue source for council, enabling the delivery of ongoing and major initiatives for the municipality which require a greater investment than the rating revenue alone can afford.

## Environmental/Sustainability Impacts

There are no direct 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 Sustainable

- Our team will make the best and most efficient use of Council’s resources
- Our legislative, governance and compliance requirements will be met

#### **Strategic Links**

The following documents are all linked as part of the Strategic Integrated Planning Framework, including with the Revenue and Rating Plan:

- Community Vision 2021 – 33
- Council Plan 2021-25
- Annual Budget 2021/22
- Long Term Financial Plan
- Asset Plan
- Workforce Plan

#### **Risk Management**

Risks	Likelihood	Consequence	Rating	Mitigation Action
That council revenues do not cover total council costs in the long term.	Unlikely (Once in 5-10 years)	Catastrophic (>\$1m, Cannot deliver essential services)	High	Development of Revenue & Rating Plan and accompanying Budget and Long Term Financial Plan.
Revenue and Rating Plan not adopted within statutory timelines.	Unlikely (Once in 5-10 years)	Major (Reputational / Governance concern)	Medium	Revenue and Rating Plan to be presented with any amendments June 22 2021 for adoption.
Revenue and Rating Plan adopted without consideration of Financial implications.	Unlikely (Once in 5-10 years)	Catastrophic (>\$1m)	High	Ensure regular review and reporting on Council’s budget/actuals and Long Term Financial Plan and revise this Plan via council resolution if required.

## **Consultation/Communication**

Level of public participation	Promises to the public/stakeholders	Tools/Techniques
Inform	Community	Public notice in local newspaper and make available for viewing at Council main office. Undertake public exhibition process.
Consult	Audit Advisory Committee	Request advice. Request submissions.
Involve	Community	Consider submissions.

The following public consultation process will be followed to ensure due consideration and feedback is received from relevant stakeholders.

Revenue and Rating Plan community engagement process:

- April 27: Draft Revenue and Rating Plan endorsed to be placed on public exhibition.
- April 30 – May 28: Public submissions invited
- Following May 28: Hearing of public submissions, exact date and time to be determined
- June 22: Revenue and Rating Plan (with any revisions) presented to June 2021 Scheduled Council Meeting for adoption.

A public notice will be published in the Wangaratta Chronicle on Friday 30 April explaining the submission process. Submissions will be received up to 5pm on 28 May 2021.

In their written submission, a person may also request to be heard by a Committee of Council in support of their submission, prior to Council considering the proposal. A Committee of Council will be established to hear submissions on the proposed policy, if required, at a time to be determined.

## **Options for Consideration**

1. Proceed to public exhibition with the attached Draft Revenue and Rating Plan 2021 – Recommended.
2. Proceed to public exhibition with a revised Draft Revenue and Rating Plan.

## **Conclusion**

Council must prepare and adopt a Revenue and Rating Plan for a period of at least four years following the Council election, to be adopted by 30 June 2021.

The plan provides a medium-term plan for how Council will generate income to deliver on the Council Plan, program and services and capital works commitments. It defines the revenue and rating 'envelope' within which Council proposes to operate.

## **Attachments**

- 1 Draft Revenue and Rating Plan 2021 

## 14.2 2021/2022 DRAFT BUDGET

<b>Meeting Type:</b>	<b>Ordinary Council Meeting</b>
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	<b>27 April 2021</b>
<b>Author:</b>	<b>Manager Finance</b>
<b>File No:</b>	<b>IC21/685</b>
<b>Presenters:</b>	<b>Director Corporate Services</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 endorsing the 2021/22 Draft Budget (Draft Budget), which has been prepared in accordance with Section 94 of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

**RECOMMENDATION:***That Council:*

1. *Endorses the 2021/22 Draft Budget attached to this report.*
2. *Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to:*
  - (a) give public notice of the preparation of the 2021/22 Draft Budget in the Wangaratta Chronicle on Friday 30, April 2021 inviting the public to make written submissions on the 2021/22 Draft Budget; and,*
  - (b) make available for public inspection 2021/22 Draft Budget at the Wangaratta Government Centre; and,*
  - (c) publish the 2021/22 Draft Budget on Council's website; and,*
  - (d) receives written submissions up to 5pm Friday 28, May 2021.*
3. *Forms a committee of Councillors to meet at a date to be confirmed to hear any person wishing to be heard in support of their written submission on the 2021/22 Draft Budget.*
4. *Considers all submissions when deliberating on the adoption of the 2021/22 Draft Budget, with or without amendment, at an Unscheduled Council Meeting to be held on Monday, 28 June 2021 at 6.00pm.*

**RESOLUTION:****(Moved: Councillor D Fuller/Councillor I Grant)*****That Council:***

- 1. Endorses the 2021/22 Draft Budget attached to this report, updated with amendments to reflect the adjusted rating calculations that use the latest 2021 valuation data just received.***
- 2. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to:***
  - (a) give public notice of the preparation of the 2021/22 Draft Budget in the Wangaratta Chronicle on Friday 30, April 2021 inviting the public to make written submissions on the 2021/22 Draft Budget; and,***
  - (b) make available for public inspection 2021/22 Draft Budget at the Wangaratta Government Centre; and,***
  - (c) publish the 2021/22 Draft Budget on Council's website; and,***
  - (d) receives written submissions up to 5pm Friday 28, May 2021.***
- 3. Forms a committee of Councillors to meet at a date to be confirmed to hear any person wishing to be heard in support of their written submission on the 2021/22 Draft Budget.***
- 4. Considers all submissions when deliberating on the adoption of the 2021/22 Draft Budget, with or without amendment, at an Unscheduled Council Meeting to be held on Monday, 28 June 2021 at 6.00pm.***

**Carried****Background**

The *Local Government Act 2020* provides that Council must:

- Prepare a budget for each financial year and the subsequent three financial years by June 30 – Section 94(1)
- Ensure the budget contains financial statements, a description of services and initiatives, the total amount that Council intends to raise by rates and charges, prescribed indicators of service performance and a statement as to how these will contribute to achieving the strategic objectives specified in the Council Plan required by the regulations – Section 94(2).
- Ensure the budget is developed in accordance with the financial management principles and its community engagement policy – Section 96(1)

The 2021/22 Draft Budget has been prepared in parallel with the Draft Community Vision and 2021-2025 Draft Council Plan.

## Highlights

The Draft Budget projects an accounting surplus of \$8.43 million in 2021/22 and:

- Total operating income of \$68.46 million
- Total operating expenditure of \$68.92 million
- An underlying operating deficit of \$461k
- A capital works program of \$23.24 million
- A rate rise of 1.5%, in line with the Fair Go System rate cap
- No new borrowings
- The reversal of the higher rate cap variation proposed in the 2020/21 Budget.

## Capital Works Budget

The proposed Capital Works budget of \$23.24 million includes the completion of the multi-year Ned Kelly Glenrowan project (\$3.25m in 2021/22 and \$4.5m over two years) and commencement of the delivery of the Prosecco Road Masterplan (\$2m of the total \$4m over two years). Both projects will be receiving significant funding from the State Government in support of regional economic recovery.

After a number of years of significant investment in new assets, the 2021/22 capital works budget has been pared back and focuses on the renewal and upgrade of existing assets, at a level that seeks to ensure Council's financial sustainability.

Other highlights of the Capital Works Program include:

- \$3.46 million in Building renewal
- \$1.66 million on resheeting gravel roads across the municipality.
- \$1.60 million to construct Cell 6 at the Bowser Landfill.
- \$850k on the annual road reseal program.
- Renewal of Brash Avenue and Langlands Street kerb and channel for a combined total of \$694k, funded by the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure funding stream.
- \$680k for the reconstruction of Mackay Street, also funded by the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure funding stream.
- Expansion of the maturation pad at the organics processing facility to increase processing capacity at a cost of \$530k.
- Completion of the lighting upgrade at the North Wangaratta Recreation Reserve, total of \$695k over two years.
- \$385k for the renewal of the Detour Road bridge.
- \$350k on major asphaltting and patching.
- \$150k for the delivery of the Tarrawingee Infrastructure Plan.

Funding sources for Council's capital works program include \$14.496 million from Council operations, cash reserves and investments and \$8.74 million from external grants and cash contributions. No new borrowings are proposed in the 2021/22 financial year.

The Draft Budget projects an underlying operating deficit of \$461k in 2021/22, with continued operating deficits expected in the remaining three years of the budget. Council officers continue to work on improving the long-term financial

sustainability of Council by undertaking operational reviews to seek efficiencies and ensure the best use of Council's resources to deliver the Council Plan.

### Operating Budget

Operational budget highlights include the continuation of the large-scale marketing promotion and awareness campaign with provision for campaigns targeted at attracting both visitors and new residents. Business attraction and investment initiatives continue, along with a return to a COVID-normal events calendar, featuring Summer in the Parks, the Outdoor Ball and Winterfest. Funding has been allocated to the implementation of the Environmental Strategy Action Plan, which includes the Carbon Reduction Action Plan as a major deliverable.

### Rates

The Fair Go Rate Cap of 1.50 per cent is reflected in the Draft Budget, resulting in projected general rates revenue of \$28.7 million. This is reduction to the 2020/21 Rate Cap of 2.00 per cent, which continues to put pressure on Council's financial position. The full rate cap has been applied to ensure Council is able to maintain revenues in line with inflation and fund projects and services that our community values into the future.

The one-off rate increase of 5.00 per cent factored into year three of the 2020/21 Budget has been removed, indicating that Council does not anticipate requiring a Rate Cap Variation in the short-term to enable delivery of the Council Plan. This has been achieved through the initiation of a substantial Financial Sustainability Program spanning all Council business units. Council continues to undertake reviews to identify operating efficiencies while maintaining the level of service required by the community, but is limited in its ability to provide new services or extend current service levels, as demonstrated by the projection of continued underlying operating deficits. Council still has to further strengthen its financial sustainability in the medium term (next 5-10 years) and will continue the Financial Sustainability Program to identify further savings and benefits. As a position of last resort, consideration of a Higher Rate Cap Variation may still need to be revisited in the future. This would require significant community consultation and approval from the Essential Services Commission.

Property valuations are undertaken annually, with the Valuer-General being the sole valuation authority. Section 4.1.1 of the 2021/22 Draft Budget reflects valuations as at 1 January 2020 as the current year valuations will not be finalised until June 2021. Section 4.1.1 including the rate in the dollar will be revised and disclosed prior to adoption of the 2021/22 Budget.

### Other Fees and Charges

Waste charges are proposed to increase by 6 per cent for recycling and organics collection services. Kerbside garbage collection will increase by 6 per cent, plus an additional \$6.91, representative of the State Government increase to the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) Levy. Council continues to apply an additional \$15.00 rebate for those eligible for the Municipal Rates Concession for a total cost of approximately \$47k, in consideration of the increased cost of recycling service charges following the Recycling Reform.

The 2021/22 Draft Budget Schedule of Fees and Charges is included in Section 6 of the Budget. It is budgeted that proposed user fees, charges and statutory fees and fines will raise a total of \$13.21 million during the 2021/22 financial year. Parking fees are proposed to increase from \$1.00 per hour to \$1.10 per hour, having not increased since 2014. Commercial waste charges have also increased to include the State Government increase to the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) Levy.

### **Other Budget Influences**

In preparing the 2021/22 Draft Budget, several internal and external influences have been taken into consideration, as they impact significantly on the services delivered by the Council in the budget period.

The ongoing impact of COVID-19 continues to place pressure on Council's ability to generate revenues to fund services and infrastructure the community needs. Services that Council projects to continue to be impacted by COVID-19 restrictions and changes to consumer behaviour and utilisation include the Wangaratta Sports and Aquatic Centre and the Wangaratta Performing Arts and Convention Centre. Reductions in projected revenue continue to be offset by reductions to expenditure where possible and it is expected that a period of rebuilding these services to their previous levels of participation will be experienced.

Budgetary pressures extending into future years include increases to Council insurance premiums, having increased an average of 15% per annum over the last four years, the planned increase to the superannuation guarantee, and regulatory changes to waste management, including increases to the State Government EPA Levy and the introduction of a fourth bin for glass in the coming years.

Council's Financial Sustainability Program is integral to ensuring Council is able to continue to provide services and infrastructure required by the community in a financially sustainable way.

## **Implications**

### **Policy Considerations**

The Annual Budget resources the Council Plan to enable the outcomes in the Council Plan to be achieved, including the implementation of Council policies.

### **Financial/Economic Implications**

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

	<b>2020/21 Projected Full Year Forecast ('000s)</b>	<b>2021/22 Draft Budget ('000s)</b>	<b>2021/22 Variance ('000s)</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Revenue	\$84,828	\$75,351	(\$7,477)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Total non-recurrent capital grants have reduced reflecting size and nature of proposed 21/22 capital works program.</li> <li>- Reduction in operating grants expected, largely due to changes resulting from non-recurrent programs including Working for Victoria</li> </ul>
Expenditure	\$71,862	\$68,918	(\$2,944)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Reduction in expenditure largely reflective of the non-recurrent operating expenditure in 20/21 including the Working for Victoria program and the Gun Club Rehabilitation.</li> </ul>
<b>Net Surplus</b>	<b>\$12,965</b>	<b>\$8,433</b>	<b>(\$4,532)</b>	

### **Legal/Statutory**

The 2021/22 Draft Budget has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 1989*, *Local Government Act 2020* and the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014 No.17*.

### **Social**

The 2020/21 Draft Budget provides resources for the implementation of various strategies, plans, works and the delivery of services required to achieve the objectives of the Council Plan including an active and engaged community.

## **Environmental/Sustainability Impacts**

Environmental and sustainability impacts have been considered when developing the 2021/22 Draft Budget, including funding the implementation of the Environmental Strategy Action Plan.

## **2021 – 2025 Council Plan**

The 2021/22 Draft Budget is consistent with the six strategic objectives of the Draft 2021-2025 Council Plan, which include:

- Strengthening our Leadership
- Nurturing our Wellbeing
- Valuing our Environment
- Expanding our Economy
- Enhancing our Lifestyle
- Growing with Integrity

The Draft 2021/22 Budget also includes Service Performance Outcome indicators and Financial Performance indicators (sections 2 and 5) as required by the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014 No. 17*. The final outcomes of these indicators will be reported in the 2021/22 audited annual report.

## **Strategic Links**

The Draft 2021/22 Budget describes the resources required to deliver the strategic objectives of the Draft Council Plan 2021-2025.

## **Risk Management**

A well-planned budget will reduce the risk that Council will not be able to provide the services expected and required by the community.

Risks	Likelihood	Consequence	Rating	Mitigation Action
Budget not adopted within statutory timeframes	Low	High	Medium	Ensure Budget timetable for adoption is adhered to.
Budget adopted without consideration of Long-Term Financial implications	Low	High	Medium	Ensure continual review of Council's Long-Term Financial Plan as part of budget setting process.
Budget adopted without consideration of ratepayer input	Low	High	Medium	Undertake community consultation.

## **Consultation/Communication**

The 2021/22 Draft Budget has been developed in parallel with the Draft Community Vision and Draft Council Plan, for which extensive deliberative community engagement has occurred.

It is anticipated that following the endorsement of the 2021/22 Draft Budget at the Ordinary Council meeting on 27 April 2021, the document will be placed on public exhibition for 28 days from Friday 30 April 2021 to invite submissions from the community.

The 2021/22 Draft Budget will be available for inspection at the Wangaratta Government Centre and on Council's website at [www.wangaratta.vic.gov.au](http://www.wangaratta.vic.gov.au).

Anyone who makes a written submission can request to be heard by a Council Committee in support of their submission. The proposed timeline is as follows:

Tuesday 27 April 2021	Ordinary Council Meeting to endorse the Draft 2021/22 Budget
Friday 30 April 2021	Invite the public to make submissions on the Draft 2021/22 Budget
Friday 28 May 2021	Submission period closes at 5:00pm
Early June 2021 – Date and Time to be confirmed	If required, Council Committee is formed to hear submissions
Monday 28 June 2021	Adoption of the 2021/22 Budget at the Unscheduled Council Meeting.

## **Options for Consideration**

Council must prepare a Budget for the 2021/22 financial year to comply with the Act.

Options for consideration are:

1. Endorse the Draft 2021/22 Budget in the current state (refer to Attachment); or
2. Council recommends changes to the Draft 2021/22 Budget which are required to be made prior to the document being made available for public consultation and to receive submissions. This is not recommended as it risks that the organisation wouldn't have an adopted budget in place ready for the start the 2021/22 financial year which is in breach of the Act.

## **Conclusion**

The Draft 2021/22 Budget reflects the resources required to deliver the Council Plan and has been developed with input from Councillors, and Council Officers.

This report seeks Council to endorse and authorise the exhibition of the Draft 2021/22 Budget for public exhibition from 30 April 2021 to 28 May 2021.

## **Attachments**

- 1 2021/2 Draft Budget 

### 14.3 INSTRUMENT OF DELEGATION FROM COUNCIL TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER - REVIEW

<b>Meeting Type:</b>	<b>Ordinary Council Meeting</b>
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	<b>27 April 2021</b>
<b>Author:</b>	<b>Governance and Reporting Advisor</b>
<b>File No:</b>	<b>IC21/632</b>
<b>Presenters:</b>	<b>Director Corporate Services</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 review the instrument of delegation from Council to the Chief Executive Officer (the instrument) in accordance with section 11 of *the Local Government Act 2020* (the Act).

#### **RESOLUTION:**

**(Moved: Councillor D Fuller/Councillor I Grant)**

***In the exercise of the power conferred by section 11(1)(b) of the Local Government Act 2020 (the Act), Wangaratta Rural City Council (Council) RESOLVES THAT –***

- 1. There be delegated to the person holding the position, or acting in or performing the duties, of Chief Executive Officer the powers, duties and functions set out in the attached Instrument of Delegation from Council to the Chief Executive Officer (Attachment 2), subject to the conditions and limitations specified in that instrument.***
- 2. The instrument comes into force immediately the common seal of Council is affixed to the instrument.***
- 3. Authorises the Mayor and Chief Executive Officer to sign and seal the instrument.***
- 4. On the coming into force of the instrument all previous delegations to the Chief Executive Officer are revoked, other than the Chief Executive Officer - Emergency Delegations instrument adopted by Council resolution at the 5 May 2020 ordinary meeting of Council.***
- 5. The duties and functions set out in the instrument must be performed, and the powers set out in the instrument must be executed, in accordance with any guidelines or policies of Council that it may from time to time adopt.***

**Carried**

## **Background**

Section 11 of the Act requires that ‘A Council must review, within the period of 12 months after a general election, all delegations which have been made under this section and are still in force.’

There are 2 instruments that have been made by Council under section 11 of the Act that are still in force:

1. Instrument of delegation from Council to the CEO
2. Instrument of delegation from Council to members of Council staff

Instrument 2 above was reviewed by council on 23 March 2021 leaving instrument 1 to review.

The instrument was updated and adopted just last year and no changes are proposed. Council to CEO delegation instruments typically are unchanged over a few years unless an issue arises necessitating a change.

The current instrument is attached (Attachment 1) together with the instrument recommended for adoption (Attachment 2).

## **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**

Section 11 of the Act applies to 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.

## **Council Plan**

This report supports the council plan strategic objective of a sustainable organisation by ensuring that Council’s legal obligations are met.

### **Risk Management**

There are no significant risks arising from the recommendation made in this report.

### **Consultation/Communication**

Consultation is not required regarding the subject of this report.

### **Options for Consideration**

That Council either:

1. Adopts the instrument in line with the recommendation.
2. Adopts the instrument with changes - not recommended as the instrument was updated and adopted just last year and there have been no issues necessitating a change.

### **Conclusion**

Having considered this report and the attached instrument it is appropriate that the Council formalise the delegations as recommended.

### **Attachments**

- 1 SIGNED - Instrument of delegation from Council to the CEO 28 August 2020 
- 2 Instrument of delegation from Council to the CEO 

#### 14.4 2020/2021 QUARTER 3 FORECAST REVIEW

**Meeting Type:** Ordinary Council Meeting  
**Date of Meeting:** 27 April 2021  
**Author:** Management Reporting Coordinator  
**File No:** IC21/709  
**Presenters:** Director Corporate Services

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 financial performance and anticipated full year financial position based on developments over the last three months.

#### **RESOLUTION:**

**(Moved: Councillor H Benton/Councillor J Herry)**

***That Council reviews and approves the 2020/2021 Quarter 3 Forecast Review, including:***

- 1. The improvement to surplus of \$4.53m;***
- 2. The increase to capital works expenditure of \$316k;***
- 3. A budget transfer of \$70k from the Carboor-Everton Road Emergency Egress project to the Gravel Resheeting project, representative of project savings from the \$140k originally approved by resolution at the September 2020 Council Meeting.***

**Carried**

#### **Background**

Council has completed its third quarter financial reporting process to manage and monitor its financial performance against budget.

Council's projected surplus has increased by \$4.53m largely due to additional grant funding and non-monetary contributions as well as operational savings in employee costs. Overall, this has resulted in a \$2.26m improvement to the adjusted underlying operating result.

## **Implications**

### **Financial Implications**

#### **Quarter 3 Forecast Review**

<b>Rural City of Wangaratta</b>	<b>20/21</b>	<b>20/21</b>	<b>20/21</b>	<b>Q3 to Q2</b>
<b>31st March 2021</b>	<b>Adopted Budget</b>	<b>Adopted Q2 Forecast</b>	<b>Q3 Forecast Review</b>	<b>Forecast Variance</b>
	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>
<b>Income</b>	<b>76,458</b>	<b>80,975</b>	<b>84,840</b>	<b>3,865</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	<b>70,397</b>	<b>72,531</b>	<b>71,862</b>	<b>-669</b>
<b>Surplus / (Deficit) for the Year</b>	<b>6,061</b>	<b>8,444</b>	<b>12,978</b>	<b>4,534</b>
<b>Capital Works Expenditure</b>	<b>28,876</b>	<b>32,140</b>	<b>32,456</b>	<b>316</b>
<b>Rehabilitation Expenditure</b>	<b>1,800</b>	<b>2,585</b>	<b>2,585</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Net Fav/(Unfav) Q3 Variance</b>				<b>4,850</b>

The Quarter 3 movements in surplus and capital works expenditure result in a net favourable impact of \$4.85m in 2020/2021. Commentary of each of these areas is provided below and in the attached Quarter 3 Financial Report.

Council's Quarter 3 Forecast Review continues to be based on our best estimates of impact of COVID-19. It is difficult to formulate reliable economic estimates due to the uncertainties associated with the pace of recovery following the easing of restrictions in Victoria, albeit the outlook continues to improve as services gradually return to full capacity following the most recent announcements. Council will continue to closely monitor developments and update its financial projections as necessary.

#### **Surplus – Favourable Increase**

Council's Quarter 3 Forecast Report indicates an expected overall improvement to the surplus of \$4.53m. This is largely due to receipt of unbudgeted gifted assets of \$1.82m (see note 4), additional operating grants of \$1.7m and capital grants of \$338k, combined with a decrease to employee costs of \$1.61m. Of this favourable movement, \$2.16m is attributable to capital income and contributions for which the capital expenditure is not reflected in the income statement. Excluding these items provides Council's adjusted underlying operating result, which shows a \$2.26m improvement compared to Quarter 2, with an underlying operating surplus of \$633k now projected.

The favourable underlying operating result movement of \$2.26m is represented by:

- Increase in operating grants of \$2.06m due to Council successfully obtaining funding for Gun Club Rehabilitation, Suicide Prevention Program, Packaged Home Care, Ovens & Murray Multicultural Regional Area Partnership, Strategic Engagement Coordinator, Creative Bushfire Recovery Program and Start Up Shake Up Launch. These non-recurrent operating grants create an obligation for Council to deliver a program or service which is represented in additional employee costs and materials and services expenditure.
- Decrease in employee costs of \$1.6m due to less than anticipated costs across the organisation as a result of both staff vacancies and reduced service provision as a result of COVID-19.
- Increase in materials and services of \$1.02m which is a combination of significant operational savings in Training, Memberships, Facilities, Turf Management, and Performing Arts, offset by increases to the funded non-recurrent Gun Club Rehabilitation and the write off of Works in Progress on non-Council assets.
- Increase in net gains on the sale/disposal of Council assets of \$100k due to the greater than anticipated sale value of plant and equipment offset by the corresponding increase in written down value of plant and equipment sold.

Refer to the Income Statement on the attached Quarter 3 Forecast Review document for detailed commentary on the changes to Council's 2020/2021 position.

#### Capital Works – Increase in Expenditure

Council's capital works expenditure will increase from \$32.14m to \$32.46m which can mostly be attributed to:

- The inclusion of Piepers Lane Bridge Reconstruction of \$365k which has been fully funded by the State Government Agrilinks Upgrade Program.
- Increase in Aquatic Facility project cost of \$635k due to changes to project scope and additional works incurred as the project progressed including service relocation, lighting upgrades and tiling. This is proposed to be offset by savings and the reprioritisation of projects within the Recreation, Leisure & Community Facilities and Footpaths, Signage and Other Design Work totalling \$639k.

The attached report anticipates a total projected capital works spend of \$35.04m which also includes the \$2.58m of planned rehabilitation works.

### Balance Sheet

Council's working capital is in a strong position at 285% due to a high cash position in anticipation of the delivery of the remainder of Council's capital works program. Further borrowings of \$7m are projected for the final quarter of 2020/2021 as per the Adopted Budget.

Rate receivables continue to progress well given the economic uncertainties as a result of COVID-19 restrictions, with only 6.3% of rates and charges in arrears. Ratepayers having trouble paying are encouraged to contact Council to negotiate a payment arrangement.

### **Policy Considerations**

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

### **Legal/Statutory**

In accordance with section 127 of the Local Government Act 1989 (the Act), Council must prepare a budget for each financial year. Additionally, section 136 of the Act requires Council to apply principles of sound Financial Management. Section 138 of the Act requires the Chief Executive Officer, at least every three months, to prepare a statement comparing the budgeted financial performance with the actual performance to date and present this report to Council.

### **Social**

Social benefits of the delivery of Council services and projects are outlined in the 2020/21 Budget.

### **Environmental/Sustainability Impacts**

Council budgets for and delivers several projects that support its Environmental Sustainability Strategy.

### **2017 – 2021 Council Plan (2020 Revision)**

This report supports the 2017-2021 Council Plan:

#### **Goal**

We are Sustainable

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

Our team will make the best and most efficient use of Council's resources.

**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
Poor performance against budget	M	M	M	Regular monitoring and reporting of budget position
Covid-19 economic impacts exceed forecasts	M	H	H	Monthly review of forecasts

**Consultation/Communication**

Consultation has been undertaken with Council Managers and Corporate Management Team and the matter is now ready for Council consideration.

**Options for Consideration**

1. That Council endorse the Quarter 3 Forecast Review report – recommended.
2. That Council advises of any changes to the Quarter 2 Forecast Review and proposes an alternative recommendation for changes to the 2020/21 Budget.

**Conclusion**

This report compares actual performance with Council's Quarter 2 Forecast, adopted by Council on 27 January 2021. Council's Quarter 3 Forecast Review continues to be based on the best estimates of the organisation as to its financial outlook, including consideration of the ongoing impacts of COVID-19.

**Attachments**

- 1 Quarter 3 Forecast Review 

## 15. INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES

### 15.1 WASTE SERVICES POLICY

<b>Meeting Type:</b>	<b>Ordinary Council Meeting</b>
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	<b>27 April 2021</b>
<b>Author:</b>	<b>Acting Waste Services Coordinator</b>
<b>File No:</b>	<b>IC21/459</b>
<b>Presenters:</b>	<b>Director Infrastructure Services</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 provide details of Council's Draft Waste Services Policy 2021.

#### **RESOLUTION:**

**(Moved: Councillor I Grant/Councillor A Fitzpatrick)**

***That Council adopts the Waste Services Policy 2021 as presented.***

**Carried**

#### Background

The policy sets out the Council's waste services including exceptions to these services and associated costs.

The Waste Services Policy 2021 will assist in delivering the outcomes specified in Council's Waste Management Strategy.

Waste collection and associated charges are set through the fee and charges process.

Upon review, no changes are proposed to the Waste Services Policy 2020.

#### Implications

##### **Policy Considerations**

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

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

Implementation of the Policy assists in ensuring that appropriate fees are obtained to safeguard financial viability of the kerbside waste collection services.

**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.

**2017 – 2021 Council Plan (2020 Revision)**

This report supports the 2017-2021 Council Plan:

**Goal**

We are Sustainable

**What we do everyday:**

We service our community by managing our waste and recycling streams

**We will plan, research and advocate for the future:**

For a regional approach to waste management that has economic and environmental benefits

**We will create and deliver:**

The outcomes identified in the Rural City of Wangaratta Waste Management Strategy

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

N/A

**b) Other strategic links**

N/A

**Risk Management**

No risks have been identified through the implementation of this Policy.

**Consultation/Communication**

As no changes are proposed to the Policy, it has been determined that no consultation will be required.

**Options for Consideration**

The Waste Services Policy is reviewed and adopted annually.

**Conclusion**

A review of the Waste Services Policy has identified no changes are required and is therefore ready for adoption by Council.

The Waste Services Policy will next be reviewed in March 2022.

**Attachments**

- 1 Waste Services Policy 2021 

## 15.2 PETITION SEEKING COZENS STREET, WANGARATTA BE ADDED TO THE ROAD REGISTER

<b>Meeting Type:</b>	<b>Ordinary Council Meeting</b>
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	<b>27 April 2021</b>
<b>Author:</b>	<b>Director Infrastructure Services</b>
<b>File No:</b>	<b>IC21/486</b>
<b>Presenters:</b>	<b>Director Infrastructure Services</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**

A petition was tabled at Council's Ordinary meeting on the 23 March 2021. The petition was seeking Cozens Street, Wangaratta be included in the Rural City of Wangaratta Register of Public Roads.

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

#### **RESOLUTION:**

**(Moved: Councillor D Fuller/Councillor J Herry)**

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

- 1. Includes the segment of Cozens Street between Vincent Road and Newman Street, Wangaratta as an "Access Road" in Council's Register of Public Roads; and***
- 2. Instructs officers to draw up the required paperwork and for approval under Director of Infrastructure Services delegation.***

**Carried**

### **Background**

Cozens Street runs from Bullivant Street to Vincent Road in Wangaratta.

Only the segment between Bullivant Street and Newman Street is included on Council's Road Register. This segment is a sealed Access Road which is inspected annually in accordance with Council's Road Management Plan.

The segment between Newman Street and Vincent Road is not included on Council's Road Register and therefore not inspected.

This segment is unsealed. This section is approximately 174m long. The width at Vincent Road is 3.5m and at Newman Street is 8.0m wide.

It is proposed to add the above segment of Cozens Street to Council's Road Register. The segment fronts both residential houses and light industry, it is frequently used by traffic.

Adding this segment to Council's Road Register would allow it to be inspected and maintained in accordance with Council's Road Management Plan.

An access road is not required to be sealed and at this stage Council officers have no proposal to seal this segment.

The Director of Infrastructure Services has the delegated Council powers, duties and functions under sections 17 & 19 of the Road Management Act:

- Registering such roads in the public road register including the details required by Schedule 2 of the Act (which includes the road classification).

### **Implications**

#### **Policy Considerations**

Council's Road Management Plan

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

There is no cost to Council to add the road to the road register. The ongoing maintenance will be completed under existing programs.

#### **Legal/Statutory**

Road Management Act

#### **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.

### **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**

N/A

**Risk Management**

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

**Consultation/Communication**

There has been no public consultation. The Road Management Plan is out for public comment including the road register.

**Options for Consideration**

1. Council could choose to not adopt the recommendations. Leave the road off the register and not maintained by Council.

**Conclusion**

The segment fronts both residential houses and light industry, it is frequently used by traffic. Adding this segment to Council's Road Register would allow it to be inspected and maintained in accordance with Council's Road Management Plan

**Attachments**

1 Petition Seeking Cozens Street, Wangaratta be added to the Road Register  
- Confidential

### 15.3 PETITION REGARDING TRAFFIC CONDITIONS AND SPEED LIMITS IN CHESHUNT AND WHITFIELD, KING VALLEY

**Meeting Type:** Ordinary Council Meeting  
**Date of Meeting:** 27 April 2021  
**Author:** Executive Assistant - Infrastructure Services  
**File No:** IC21/686  
**Presenters:** Marcus Goonan, Director Infrastructure Services

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 Councils Ordinary meeting on the 23 March 2021. The petition expressed concerns with the speed limits and traffic conditions that presently exist in the surrounds of Cheshunt and Whitfield in the King Valley.

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

#### **RESOLUTION:**

**(Moved: Councillor H Bussell/Councillor A Fitzpatrick)**

- 1. Direct Officers to review the speed zoning between Gentle Annie Lane, Whitfield and Cheshunt;**
- 2. Seek support through the Traffic Liaison Group for an application to VicRoads for a change to the speed zone, as the responsible authority;**
- 3. Direct officers to report back to Council and the Cheshunt Community; and**
- 4. Request greater Police presence to enforce speed limits during peak periods.**

**Carried**

#### **Background**

King Valley Road is a Council maintained road, running from Whitfield to Cheshunt. The road has a varied two-way pavement width without sealed shoulders. The speed limits in both Whitfield and Cheshunt meet current speed zoning requirements regarding type, number and spacing of signage.

There has been a significant increase in traffic through the entire King Valley and additional development along the King Valley Road over the past 3 years.

Officers have traffic data from 2021 that shows a significant increase in vehicles per day through Cheshunt since early 2019. The 85%tile speed of these vehicles

is 60km/h. Although data from near the wayside stop in 2019 showed the 85%tile speed to be 80km/h in a 60km zone.

Council officers convene meetings of the Traffic Liaison Group which includes representatives from VicRoads, Victoria Police and others. The role of the group is to investigate and discuss solutions to road safety issues in the municipality such as speed zoning.

Given the increase in traffic and development, officers believe that the area's speed zoning should be reviewed and referred to the Traffic Liaison Group seeking support. Any change would need to be approved by VicRoads as they are the responsible authority.

Although speed zones can be reduced, compliance is still a major consideration that is not controlled by Council.

### **Implications**

#### **Policy Considerations**

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

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

The cost of the speed zoning signage changes is expected to be less than \$8,000.

#### **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.

### **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**

N/A

**Risk Management**

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

**Consultation/Communication**

Council Officers and Councillors have had several one-on-one meetings with residents regarding this project.

**Options for Consideration**

1. Council could not adopt the recommendations of this report. No review of the speed zone would be undertaken.

**Conclusion**

There has been a significant increase in traffic through the entire King Valley and additional development along King Valley Road over the past 3 years.

Given the increase in traffic and development, officers believe that the area's speed zoning should be reviewed.

**Attachments**

- 1 Petition Regarding Traffic Conditions and Speed Limits in Cheshunt and Whitfield, King Valley - Confidential

#### 15.4 AUSTRALIAN RAIL TRACK CORPORATION - INLAND RAIL PROJECT

**Meeting Type:** Ordinary Council Meeting  
**Date of Meeting:** 27 April 2021  
**Author:** Director Infrastructure Services  
**File Name:** Community Relations - Liaison - Australian Rail Track Corporation  
**File No:** IC21/665

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 Australian Rail Track Corporation (ARTC) has requested Council's support to commence State government approval processes for the Inland Rail project as it applies to sites at Wangaratta and Glenrowan.

The ARTC has considered options for each site, identified preferred options, undertaken concept designs and are in the process of completing reference designs, and has sought Council's feedback consistently during this process. The next step in the process is for the ARTC to obtain State Government approvals for the project, including:

- Permits from Heritage Victoria for the proposed works at Glenrowan and Wangaratta.
- A planning scheme amendment from the Minister for Planning to provide the planning approval for the project.

The ARTC has requested Council's consent as a land manager/owner for the Heritage Victoria permit applications and Council's support for the planning scheme amendment process.

This report is presented to Council to consider Council's position on the project proposals for the Wangaratta railway station precinct and the Beaconsfield Parade bridge at Glenrowan and provide this position to the ARTC to address the request to support the State government approval processes.

#### **RESOLUTION:**

**(Moved: Councillor I Grant/Councillor A Fitzpatrick)**

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

- 1. Supports the ARTC commencing State government approval processes for works at Glenrowan and Wangaratta as part of the Inland Rail Project, subject to receiving the final designs for each site (which is not currently available). This support includes:***

- *land manager/owner consent to apply for Heritage Victoria permits for proposed works at Glenrowan and Wangaratta.*
- *support for the commencement of a Ministerial Planning Scheme Amendment which will provide planning approval for the project.*

**2. Adopts the following position on the Inland Rail project for locations within the Rural City of Wangaratta:**

- *That ARTC continue to engage in meaningful consultation with the community and local agencies prior to finalising designs.*
- *Supports, in principle, the ARTC's proposal for the Wangaratta station precinct, including lowering the tracks under the Green Street bridge and replacing the Green Street bridge abutments and deck in the same location on the same alignment, moving the existing east track at the station to create a new west track, and replacing the existing Cusack and Docker Street footbridges with a more centrally located cross-corridor pedestrian / cycle underpass, subject to:*
  - *the current east track cut (known as 'the dive') being filled or covered as part of the ARTC's works to create an improved connection and interface with the station precinct streetscape;*
  - *the provision of a well-designed pedestrian and cycle underpass that is to the satisfaction of Council, to ensure it provides for easy all-abilities access, avoids the need for cyclists to dismount and considers the safety and security of users, including sightlines through the underpass;*
  - *the provision of a bicycle connection under or across Green Street;*
  - *improved bicycle connectivity from North to South along the railway line being further explored;*
  - *the integration of the new railway precinct streetscaping with future Inland Rail works at the railway station;*
  - *the existing Rowan Street pedestrian underpass being upgraded as part of the Inland Rail project.*
- *Supports, in principle, the ARTC's proposal for the replacement of the existing Beaconsfield Parade bridge at Glenrowan with a new bridge directly to the west of the existing bridge, subject to:*
  - *access being provided to both ends of Woolshed Road;*
  - *minimal tree removal and the protection of amenity along the railway line;*
  - *acceptable bus, long vehicle and car parking arrangements, and suitable vehicle and pedestrian access to these parking areas, being delivered as part of the Inland Rail project;*
  - *the cumulative impact of the Glenrowan bridge project and the Ned Kelly Glenrowan project being addressed to the satisfaction of Council and Heritage Victoria.*

**Carried**

## **Background**

The Inland Rail project will transform the way freight will move around the country. It will complete the spine of the national freight network between Melbourne and Brisbane via regional Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland.

The Tottenham to Albury section of Inland Rail is planned along 305km of existing rail corridor from metropolitan Melbourne to the Victoria-NSW border at Albury-Wodonga. The project will see enhancements of existing structures to provide increased clearances along the rail corridor to accommodate double stack freight trains. This includes works at sites in Wangaratta and Glenrowan.

In response to the ARTC's early design thinking Council resolved in September 2018 to:

1. *Support a formal position on the Tottenham to Albury Project including:*
  - *Engage in meaningful consultation with the community and local agencies*
  - *Maintain the heritage look, feel and character of the stations*
  - *Create / maintain all ability access from both sides of the railway precincts, including from any existing station buildings to new track locations*
  - *At Wangaratta Station:*
    - *Maintain dual tracks but move tracks to the West side of the station;*
    - *Consider installation of dropped tracks for entire length of works to reduce impact on existing structures;*
    - *Fill in the created disused line to allow additional open space to be created; and*
    - *Consider the overall impact of a pedestrian underpass versus pedestrian bridges*
  - *At Glenrowan Station:*
    - *Maintain current track location alignment and level*
  - *At Springhurst Station:*
    - *Consider all access requirements*
2. *Approve officers to respond to ARTC and other government agencies with Council's formal position.*

Following this resolution, the ARTC completed further community engagement activities, considered Council's adopted position and progressed the design process for the Glenrowan and Wangaratta locations. The ARTC presented these '70% designs' to Council in December 2018 and in response Council resolved in January 2019 to:

1. *Adopt the following updated formal position on the Inland Rail project as it relates to locations within the Rural City of Wangaratta:*
  - *The ARTC continue to engage in meaningful consultation with the community and local agencies*
  - *Support the ARTC's preferred solution within the Wangaratta station precinct, including modifying the Green/Roy Street bridge deck and lowering the tracks in this location, moving the existing east track at the*

*station to create a new west track, and replacing the existing Cusack and Docker Street footbridges with a more centrally located cross-corridor pedestrian / cycle connection. This support is on the basis of:*

- *the ARTC facilitating discussions with relevant agencies and authorities to consider filling in the current east track cut.*
- *the provision of a well-designed, all abilities pedestrian / cycle underpass at the station instead of a new pedestrian bridge.*
- *The ARTC consider the potential impact of increased train traffic on road traffic flows at the Sisley Avenue and Sanford Road railway crossings in Wangaratta and the need for overpasses in these locations.*
- *Not support the ARTC's preferred solution for Beaconsfield Parade, Glenrowan (lowering the existing track) and request the ARTC to continue investigating options for removing the existing bridge in this location and constructing a new bridge in a suitable alternative location.*
- *Considers all access conditions at the Springhurst station.*

*2. Approve officers to respond to the ARTC and other government agencies with Council's updated formal position on the Inland Rail Project.*

Since January 2019 the ARTC undertaken further work on their proposals for both sites, including consultation activities, considering alternative bridge locations in Glenrowan and advancing design work. The ARTC has been working with Council officers during this process and has briefed Councillors.

The ARTC is in the process of finalising reference designs for the Wangaratta and Glenrowan sites. Key parts of the proposed works to create the required additional clearances to accommodate double stack freight trains at the two sites include:

*Wangaratta Railway Station Precinct:*

- Lowering the racks under the Green Street bridge and replacing the Green Street road bridge abutments in the same location on the same alignment.
- Relocating the existing track and platform on the eastern side of Wangaratta Station so it sits parallel to the new track on the western side of the station.
- Replacing the existing Cusack and Docker Street footbridges with a more centrally located cross-corridor pedestrian / cycle underpass.

*Glenrowan:*

- Replace the existing Beaconsfield Parade bridge with a new bridge directly west of the existing bridge.

The ARTC will seek State Government approval for the proposed works and has requested Council's support for these approval processes. State government approvals will include Heritage Victoria permits for the proposed works at Glenrowan and Wangaratta (as the sites are included Victorian Heritage

Register) and a Ministerial Planning Scheme Amendment to provide planning approvals for the Inland Rail Project in Victoria.

Council officers continue to work with the ARTC as part of the reference design process, to consider detail outcomes at each site, including:

- At Wangaratta:
  - the future of ‘the dive’ and the opportunity it presents to improve connection between the station and other parts of the station precinct;
  - the design of the proposed pedestrian and cycle underpass to ensure it prioritises safety and security and allows for easy shared use for cyclists, pedestrians and mobility device users;
  - cycle connections at Green Street and North to South along the railway line;
  - integration of proposed works with existing new railway precinct streetscaping;
  - Improving the existing Rowan Street pedestrian underpass.
  
- At Glenrowan:
  - road access and vehicle parking arrangements around the proposed bridge site;
  - minimising tree removal and other ways to minimise amenity impacts;
  - considering the cumulative heritage impacts of the ARTC’s bridge project and the Ned Kelly Glenrowan project.

It is recommended that Council support the ARTC commencing with the State government approvals process. This support should not be considered full support of the final design outcomes for each site as these details are not currently available.

Council officers also recommend that Council adopts an updated position on the Inland Rail project as it relates to locations within the Rural City of Wangaratta, recognising that the design process has not been completed and that Council officers continue to discuss detailed outcomes for each site with the ARTC.

### **Implications**

#### **Policy Considerations**

- Economic Development Strategy
- Wangaratta CBD Masterplan
- Wangaratta Planning Scheme
- Glenrowan Township Development Plan

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

There are no direct financial implications on Council. The project will have a positive impact on the local community with additional employment during construction. It is important to ensure the final outcome delivers this benefit long term.

#### **Legal/Statutory**

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

**Social**

This project is likely to have considerable impacts on accessibility, character and amenity of the railway station precincts in Wangaratta and Glenrowan.

**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 plan, research and advocate for the future:**

- For a local and regional rail system that is reliable, more frequent and fast.
- With regional partners to identify and address public and community transport gaps.

**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**

N/A

**Risk Management**

Risks	Likelihood	Consequence	Rating	Mitigation Action
Works are completed without Council's requirements being incorporated	Possible	Loss of community amenity, heritage values, access and connectivity	Medium	Continue to actively engage with the with the ARTC

**Consultation/Communication**

The ARTC continues to engage with communities and stakeholders to progress planning for the Tottenham to Albury section of Inland Rail. Engagement has included one-on-one discussions, community meetings, special interest group sessions, interviews, opportunities to provide feedback via a website and stakeholder consultation (including Council, industry and agencies). Most recent community engagement activities included a 'pop-up' event at the Wangaratta

railway station and a mail out to the Glenrowan community. Members of the public can continue to make submissions via the ARTC website.

When it comes to the State Government approvals processes, the ARTC is undertaking a voluntary exhibition process for the Planning Scheme Amendment and the Heritage Victoria permit applications will also be publicly exhibited.

### **Options for Consideration**

1. To support the ARTC commencing State Government approval processes and adopt an updated formal position (recommended).
2. Not support the ARTC commencing State Government approval processes or adopt an updated formal position (not recommended).

### **Conclusion**

Inland Rail is a once-in-a-generation project and works required as part of this project will have impacts on the Wangaratta railway precinct and Glenrowan heritage precincts. The ARTC has progressed its planning for these works and are currently completing detail designs. The ARTC will also commence State government approval processes for the works and is seeking Council support for this. It is recommended that Council support the ARTC commencing the approvals process, subject to this not being considered full support of the final design outcomes for each site. It is also recommended that Council adopts an updated position on the Inland Rail project recognising that the final design process has not been completed and that Council officers continue to discuss detailed outcomes for each site with the ARTC.

### **Attachments**

Nil

## 16. DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

### 16.1 VISITORS SERVICES STRATEGY

<b>Meeting Type:</b>	<b>Ordinary Council Meeting</b>
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	<b>27 April 2021</b>
<b>Author:</b>	<b>Economic Development and Tourism Coordinator</b>
<b>File No:</b>	<b>IC21/502</b>
<b>Presenter:</b>	<b>Acting Director Development Services</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 detail the development of the draft Visitor Services Strategy 2021 and to seek endorsement of the draft strategy for public exhibition and consultation.

Visitor servicing plays an important role in enhancing the visitor experience, through delivery of physical and digital content that provides visitors with information at a range of stages in the visitor journey. The draft strategy (see **Attachment 1**) outlines a number of initiatives and actions for consideration, that will help to reinvigorate our visitor services and ensure our tourism industry is well serviced to meet our visitor and tourism needs now and into the future.

#### **RESOLUTION:**

**(Moved: Councillor D Fuller/Councillor H Bussell)**

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

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

**Carried**

#### Background

The tourism industry plays an integral part in our local economy, as well as being a major employer. The industry is ever evolving and adapting to change as visitors change their preferences for experiences and how they access information. The development of the draft Visitor Services Strategy is an

opportunity to review the current visitor services provided by Rural City of Wangaratta.

The draft strategy provides an overview of current status in information dissemination in regard to the public facing and digital visitor servicing activities, and further provides an understanding of the current and future trends in information delivery and opportunities for information dispersal.

The objective of the draft strategy is to increase information dissemination to visitors before, during and after visitation to the Rural City of Wangaratta. The draft strategy identifies the following strategic directions:

- Decentralising of physical visitor information services
- Embracing and investing in digital visitor servicing
- Engage and empower tourism businesses and residents

Actions are identified in the draft strategy to achieve objectives under each direction.

### **Implications**

#### **Policy Considerations**

The draft strategy builds on the framework provided by Council's Economic Development Strategy 2018-2023.

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

The draft strategy identifies a significant number of actions to undertake over the next five to ten years. External sources of funding will need to be identified to assist with the delivery of the actions of the strategy alongside funding from Council.

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**

Implementation of the strategy will help improve dissemination of visitor information. As identified in the draft strategy a large percentage of visitation falls within the 'Visiting Friends and Relatives' category and the draft strategy provides recommendations on how best to engage with the local community to guide and assist with the promotion of key tourism experiences.

#### **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 Growing

### **We will plan, research and advocate for the future:**

- To support our existing industry sector to innovate, adapt and grow

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

- Tourism products and experiences that build our attraction to visitors.
- Innovate and flexible visitor services that respond to the changing expectation of people visiting our region.

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

- To ensure we understand and plan for the long-term opportunities, challenges and priorities that face our growth potential.

### **The non-negotiables**

- Our rural communities are supported and recognised as significant contributors to the economic and social character of the municipality.
- Our tourism industry is promoted, valued and vibrant

## **Strategic Links**

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

The Community Vision was last completed in 2019, 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**

Economic Development Strategy 2018-2023

## **Consultation/Communication**

A project steering committee was established with a cross section of Council staff and representatives from Tourism North East. Workshops were conducted with a range of internal and external stakeholders to review current visitor services and expectations for the future.

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

Further community consultation will occur when the draft strategy is placed on public exhibition. This will take the form of public consultation forums, meetings with key tourism stakeholders and online/phone submissions.

### **Options for Consideration**

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

### **Conclusion**

The draft Visitor Services Strategy 2021 will help guide the Council's decisions for the future of visitor servicing. The draft Strategy is ready for public exhibition.

### **Attachments**

- 1 Draft - Visitor Services Strategy 2021 

## 16.2 AGRICULTURE AND AGRIBUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE - COMMITTEE APOINTMENTS

**Meeting Type:** Ordinary Council Meeting  
**Date of Meeting:** 27 April 2021  
**Author:** Economic Development Officer  
**File No:** IC21/656  
**Presenter:** Acting Director Development Services

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 two applications received to fill vacancies on the Agriculture and Agribusiness Advisory Committee (AAAC). Nominations were called for in August 2020 through the annual term of service expiry and one position was filled leaving three vacant positions. Two additional applications were received more recently and are now being presented to Council for consideration.

#### **RESOLUTION:**

**(Moved: Councillor H Benton/Councillor D Fuller)**

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

1. ***Appoints the following people as a representative's on the Agriculture and Agribusiness Advisory Committee for a term of three years ending August 2023:***
  - ***Elizabeth Wilson and***
  - ***Megan Star***

**Carried**

### **Background**

Advisory Committee members are appointed as voluntary members to set terms of service. The advisory committees have a maximum of nine representatives with three being up for renewal annually to ensure a level of continuity. An expression of interest process was undertaken in August 2020 to fill vacancies on the AAAC which resulted in only one position being filled and leaving three vacant positions.

All applications are assessed against a Skills Matrix which ensures adequate representation across a number of sectors and aims to fill any skills gaps identified for each committee. The AAAC skills matrix includes horticulture, cropping, dairy, timber as well as a range of additional agriculturally based skills.

Attached to this report is a copy of the applications, and assessment against the skills matrix (refer to confidential attachments).

## **Implications**

### **Policy Considerations**

Community representatives on Council advisory committees provide valuable advice and assistance to the Council. The Appointment to Committees of Council Policy recognises the important role that committees play in providing advice and services to Council and establishes the guiding principles for the appointment of committees.

### **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**

Community representatives on Council committees provide valuable advice and assistance to the Council. The Committees provides the opportunity for two way engagement between Council and community members in the agricultural and business sector.

### **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 Connected

**We will focus on our business:**

To ensure that we understand and plan for the long-term opportunities, challenges and priorities that face our growth potential.

### **Consultation/Communication**

Level of public participation	Promises to the public/stakeholders	Tools/Techniques
Inform	Our commitment to communicate and engage with our community about local decision making in a way that is clear, accessible and easy to understand.	Expressions of interest were open to the public for a period of 4 weeks in August 2020. These were advertised through a number of media platforms including the local paper and Council website.

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

### **Options for Consideration**

1. Council appoints the two applicants to the Agriculture and Agribusiness Advisory Committee. – Recommended
2. Council does not appoint the applicants to the Agriculture and Agribusiness Advisory Committee. – Not Recommended

### **Conclusion**

Following consideration of the applications for Council's AAAC, it is recommended to appoint the applicants to the committee for a three-year term. This appointment will assist the committee in continuing to provide Council with advice, feedback and guidance on a range of matters in the agricultural and agribusiness sector.

### **Attachments**

- 1 Nomination 1 - AAAC - Confidential
- 2 Nomination 1 - AAAC - Confidential
- 3 Skills Matrix and Review - AAAC - Confidential

**17. SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Nil

## 18. ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORTS

### 18.1 BIENNIAL AUDIT AND RISK REPORT

**Meeting Type:** Ordinary Council Meeting  
**Date of Meeting:** 27 April 2021  
**Author:** Governance and Reporting Advisor  
**File No:** IC21/698  
**Presenters:** Chief Executive Officer

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 Audit & Risk Committee has prepared and endorsed a biennial audit and risk report in accordance with section 54 of the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act). The report describes the activities of the committee and includes its findings and recommendations.

The report shows that the committee has effectively discharged its functions and responsibilities as required by the Act.

The Act requires that the Chief Executive Officer table the biennial audit and risk report at the next Council meeting. This report is presented to Council to meet that obligation.

#### **RESOLUTION:**

**(Moved: Councillor I Grant/Councillor J Herry)**

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

**Carried**

#### Attachments

1 Biennial Audit and Risk Report - Confidential

## 19. MINUTES OF ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETINGS

### 19.1 RECORD OF ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Meeting Type:** Ordinary Council Meeting  
**Date of Meeting:** 27 April 2021  
**Author:** Executive Service Coordinator  
**File Name:** Assemblies of Councillors  
**File No:** IC21/724  
**Presenter:** Chief Executive Officer

#### Executive Summary

#### Advisory Committee Meetings:

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

1. Sport and Recreation Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes – 10 February 2021 (endorsed)

#### **RESOLUTION:**

**(Moved: Councillor H Benton/Councillor A Fitzpatrick)**

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

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

**Carried**

#### Attachments

- 1 Sport and Recreation Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes - 10 February 2021 (Endorsed) 

**20. NOTICES OF MOTION**

Nil.

**21. URGENT BUSINESS**

Nil.

**22. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

Please follow the link [27 April 2021 Ordinary Council Meeting](#) and refer to minute from 56:30 to 59:50 for public questions and responses related to item 22. Public Question Time.

**23. CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS**

Nil.

**24. CLOSURE OF MEETING**

The Meeting closed at 6.56pm.