



Rural City of
Wangaratta

Minutes

For the Ordinary Council Meeting

26 April 2022

Whorouly Public Hall, 12 Church Street - Whorouly VIC 3735

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Unconfirmed

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, Jack Herry

Officers:

Brendan McGrath, Chief Executive Officer, Marcus Goonan, Director Infrastructure Services, Sarah Brindley, Director Corporate Services and Stephen Swart Director Development Services.

4. Absent

Nil

5. Acceptance of Apologies & Granting of Leave of Absence

Resolution:

(Moved: Councillor A Fitzpatrick/Councillor D Fuller)

That Councillor Irene Grant be granted leave of absence from 16 May until 07 June 2022.

Carried

Order of Business

6. Citizen Ceremony

Nil.

7. Confirmation of Minutes

Resolution:

(Moved: Councillor H Benton/Councillor J Herry)

That Council read and confirm the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of 29 March 2022 as a true and accurate record of the proceedings of the meeting with the following amendments:

- *16.3 Question by Dorothea Preston that item will be answered later on I'll take that precourse*
- *16.3 Correction to the spelling of last names*
- *Correction to the recommendation for 16.4 recommendation added in*
- *Two minor changes of spelling from solidity to salinity*

Carried

8. Conflict of Interest Disclosure

Nil.

9. Reception of Petitions

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.

Nil.

10. Hearing of Deputations

Nil.

Presentation Of Reports

11. Councillor Reports

Nil.

Officers' Reports

12. Executive Services

Nil.

13. Community Wellbeing

Nil.

Unconfirmed

14. Corporate Services

Resolution:

(Moved: Councillor D Fuller/Councillor A Fitzpatrick)

Councillor D Fuller moved a motion:

That the order of business be amended to deal with item 14.3 Quarter 3 Forecast Review followed by 14.1 2022/23 Draft Budget.

Carried

14.3 2021/22 Quarter 3 Forecast Review

Meeting Type:	Ordinary Council Meeting
Date of Meeting:	26 April 2022
Author:	Manager Finance
File No:	IC22/583

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 Quarter 3 Forecast Review is presented to Council to provide an update of Council's year-to-date (YTD) financial performance and expected full year forecast based on developments over the last two months.

Resolution:

(Moved: Councillor J Herry/Councillor A Fitzpatrick)

That Council endorses the Quarter 3 Forecast Review, including

1. The increase to the projected accounting surplus of \$2.28m
2. The reduction to the projected capital works program of \$6.595m, with \$6.647m of works identified to be carried forward to the Draft 2022/23 Budget
3. The addition of a \$70k (\$100k over two years) capital project for building renewals at the Children's Services Facility, and
4. The Environmental Upgrade Agreement Quarterly Statement.

Carried

Background

Council has completed its third quarter financial reporting process to manage and monitor its financial performance against budget. The Quarter 3 Forecast is the forecast position presented in the Draft 2022/23 Budget.

Council's projected accounting surplus has increased by \$2.28 million to \$10.0 million. The projected underlying operating deficit (calculated by removing capital related income from the accounting surplus) has decreased by \$3.27 million to \$1.52 million, largely due to the timing of receipt of recurrent federal grant funding.

The 2021/22 Capital Works Budget has decreased by \$6.595 million to \$24.32 million, with \$6.647 million of works identified to be carried over into the Draft 2022/23 Budget. Capital works delivery in 2021/22 has been challenging for all councils, impacted by a combination of Covid and bad weather earlier in the year. Shortages of supply continue for both materials and contractors, with the cost of materials such as steel increasing significantly. Council has a number of large tenders currently out in the market. It is anticipated Council will need to continue to respond and actively manage and adjust capital works delivery for the remainder of the year (and likely continuing into 2022/23), subject to supplier tender response rates and pricing.

Implications

Policy Considerations

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

Financial/Economic Implications

Rural City of Wangaratta 31 March 2022	21/22 Adopted Budget	21/22 Adopted Quarter 2 Forecast	21/22 Quarter 3 Forecast Review	21/22 Q2 to Q3 Forecast Variance
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Income	80,274	84,605	86,109	1,504
Expenses	70,102	76,878	76,105	(773)
Surplus / (deficit) for the year	10,172	7,727	10,004	2,277
Capital Works Expenditure	27,282	30,913	24,318	(6,595)

Income Statement – Surplus Increase

Council's Quarter 3 Forecast Review projects a \$2.277 million favourable movement to surplus.

The favourable forecast largely relates to a Federal Budget decision to pay Councils 75% of the Federal Financial Assistance Grants in advance. These grants are not tied to a specific performance obligation aside from Council operations and road maintenance and must therefore be recognised as income on receipt. This income is heavily relied on by all Local Governments to deliver the services and public facilities the community expect, need and enjoy. Council had budgeted to receive 50% in advance as is normal procedure, with the additional 25% received in advance for 2022/23 resulting in a forecast increase of \$2.28 million. A corresponding decrease to budgeted income has been reflected in the Draft 2022/23 Budget.

Grant funding relating to capital projects is subject to assessment under AASB 1058 Income for Not-for-Profit Entities, whereby Council cannot recognise income for a capital project unless the related performance obligations have been completed. For capital works, this usually means completion of the project, often recognised in stages. Of the \$6.647 million of capital works identified in the Draft 2022/23 Budget as required to be carried forward from 2021/22, there is \$1.42 million of funding tied to these projects that will also be carried forward.

Other forecast adjustments influencing the increase to projected surplus include an increase to contributions, reflective of Council receiving funds under a Developer Contribution Plan and decreases to employee costs as savings relating to vacancies and changes to operating conditions earlier in the year as a result of COVID restrictions are realised.

Capital Works Program – Decrease to Budget

The capital works program is forecast to decrease by \$6.595 million to \$24.32 million, due to a mix of projects identified to be carried forward, the inclusion of new projects, and savings identified for completed projects.

Council continues to experience challenges in respect of contractor and materials availability, with delays of up to 25 weeks being experienced for some projects. These challenges are echoed across many Local Government counterparts and are reflective of surging demand, supply shortages and supply bottlenecks following COVID restrictions and stimulus.

Projects identified to be carried forward into the Draft 2022/23 Budget include:

- \$2.63 million for the Ned Kelly Glenrowan Heritage Project. This is a multi-year project worth \$5.3 million, with \$2.7 million of grant funding.
- \$1.5 million for Bowser Landfill Cell 6 Construction
- \$600k for the King Valley Prosecco Road Masterplan Implementation. This is a multi-year project worth \$4m that is fully funded.
- \$602k for the Merriwa Park Retaining Wall Repairs
- Other projects totalling \$1.288 million, as detailed in the attached Statement of Capital Works and note 4.5.3 of the Draft 2022/23 Budget.

New projects identified and recommended are:

- \$70k (\$100k over two years) for building renewal of the Children's Services Facility. The facility has undergone a service review and are delivering on operational recommendations and targets. These building renewals will improve the administration area and meeting spaces, to improve ways of working by better connecting the team and enhance the facilities available to users.
- \$50k for the Showgrounds Relief Centre. Council was successful in seeking \$2.039m of grant funding to improve the relief centre capacity of the Showground facility following the 2020 bushfires. This work will be delivered over two years, with works to commence this financial year.
- \$25k for Energy Efficiency Upgrades to preschool and kinder facilities – partially funded.

Balance Sheet

Council's working capital is in a strong position at 254% due to borrowings drawn down in 20/21, grant funding received in advance not yet recognised as a liability, and the delivery profile of Council's Capital Works Program. Liquidity is forecast to reduce over the remainder of the financial year as delivery of the 21/22 Budget continues, though will stay within the levels identified in Council's Ten-Year Financial Plan.

Collection of rates continues to progress, with only 3.8% of rates and charges in arrears. Ratepayers having trouble paying are encouraged to contact Council to negotiate a payment arrangement.

Environmental Upgrade Agreements – Quarterly Statement

Environmental Upgrade Agreements provide funding for sustainability or climate adaptation building upgrades. Under these loans, a lender provides finance to the property owner for the upgrade and repayment of the loan is administered through Council rates.

Section 181G of the *Local Government Act 1989* requires the Council prepare a quarterly statement in respect of Environmental Upgrade Agreements.

Council entered into no new Environmental Upgrade Agreements during the third quarter of 2021/22.

There are two Environmental Upgrade Agreements in operation with a total value of \$57,048.33. Charges due this year total \$3,942.65. Total payment of \$1,090.17 fell due this quarter, which was paid in full.

Legal/Statutory

In accordance with section 94 of the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act), Council must prepare a budget for each financial year. Additionally, section 101 of the Act requires Council to apply principles of sound Financial Management. Section 97 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.

Section 181G of the *Local Government Act 1989* requires the Council prepare a quarterly statement in respect of Environmental Upgrade Agreements.

Social

Social benefits of the delivery of Council services and projects are outlined in the 2021/22 Budget and in the Council Plan 2021-25.

Environmental/Sustainability Impacts

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

Strategic Links

Council Plan 2021 – 2025

This report supports the 2021-2025 Council Plan through the following objectives and actions:

1. Strengthening our Leadership

- a. Maintain liquidity ratio – target > 100%
- b. Ensure Council's financial sustainability through transparent and accountable financial management.
- c. Undertake regular and transparent reporting against council's adopted Annual Budget.

Risk Management

Risks	Likelihood	Consequence	Rating	Mitigation Action
Poor performance against budget	M	M	M	Regular monitoring and reporting of the 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.

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

Options for Consideration

1. That Council endorse the Quarter 3 Forecast Review – recommended.
2. That Council endorse the Quarter 3 Forecast Review and proposes any recommendation(s) for alternative changes to the 2021/22 Budget forecast.

Conclusion

The Quarter 2 Forecast Review reports year-to-date performance against budget and projected full year forecast adjustments.

Attachments

- 1 Financial Statements - 2021/22 Quarter 3 Forecast Review 

14.1 2022/23 Draft Budget

Meeting Type:	Ordinary Council Meeting
Date of Meeting:	26 April 2022
Author:	Manager Finance
File No:	IC22/498

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 2022/23 Draft Budget (Draft Budget), which has been prepared in accordance with Section 94 of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

Resolution:

(Moved: Councillor D Fuller/Councillor I Grant)

That Council:

1. Endorses the 2022/23 Draft Budget attached to this report.
2. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to:
 - a. give public notice of the preparation of the 2022/23 Draft Budget in the Wangaratta Chronicle on Friday 29 April 2022 inviting the public to make written submissions on the 2022/23 Draft Budget; and,
 - b. make available for public inspection the 2022/23 Draft Budget at the Wangaratta Government Centre; and,
 - c. publish the 2022/23 Draft Budget on Council's website; and,
 - d. receive written submissions up to 5pm Friday 27 May 2022.
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 2022/23 Draft Budget.
4. Considers all submissions when deliberating on the adoption of the 2022/23 Draft Budget, with or without amendment, at the Scheduled Council Meeting to be held on Tuesday 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).

Highlights

Headline figures of the Draft Budget include:

- Total income of \$89.26 million
- Total operating expenditure of \$71.11 million
- An accounting surplus of \$18.15m
- An adjusted underlying operating deficit of \$883k
- A capital works program of \$37.14 million, inclusive of \$6.65 million of works to be carried over from 2021/22
- A rate rise of 1.75% in line with the Fair Go Rate System cap
- No new borrowings

Capital Works Budget

The proposed capital works budget of \$37.14 million is made up of \$30.50 million of new works for 2022/23 and \$6.65 million of works from the 2021/22 capital works program.

The program will be funded by \$18.89 million of grant funding and \$18.25 million of Council cash from operations, reserves and investments.

The \$30.50 million of new works for 2022/23 includes:

- \$9.59 million for the WSAC extension (\$10.49 million over two years, with \$5.50 million of funding)
- \$2.8 million for the delivery of the King Valley Prosecco Road Masterplan (\$4 million over two years fully funded)
- \$1.5 million for Flood Mitigation Structures (\$5.4 million over two years, with \$3.5 million of State and Federal funding)
- \$1.83 million of gravel re-sheeting
- \$1 million for initial works to Newman Street Drainage
- \$350k for the Moyhu Hall Redevelopment
- \$251k for new footpaths
- \$100k to continue Wangaratta entrance beautification
- \$125k to complete delivery of the Everton Infrastructure Plan

A full listing of capital works projects can be viewed in Note 4.5 of the attached 2022/23 Draft Budget.

Surging demand for contractors and materials, supply shortages and bottlenecks following COVID restrictions, stimulus and other global events have caused delays to the delivery of the 2021/22 capital works program, as outlined in the 2021/22 Quarter 3 Forecast Review. As such, \$6.65 million of projects have been identified as being required to carry forward into the 2022/23 financial year. These projects are identified in Note 4.5.3 of the attached Draft Budget, and include Ned Kelly Glenrowan Heritage Project \$2.63 million, Bowser Cell 6 Construction \$1.53 million and King Valley Prosecco Road Masterplan \$600k.

Operating Budget

Operational budget highlights include the continued delivery of Council's adopted Marketing and Branding Strategy, with large scale marketing promotion and awareness campaigns to attract visitors, new residents and investment. This is complimented by continued business attraction and investment activities, which will be guided by a review of the Economic Development and Tourism Strategy.

Other operational highlights include funding for the implementation of the Visitor Services Strategy, which includes the inclusion of visitor services at the new Ned Kelly Glenrowan Heritage Project Centre to capture and disseminate visitation through the municipality.

The Draft Budget also provides funding for the Environmental Sustainability Strategy, which will see actions implemented including education programs on energy efficiency and emission reduction plan deliverables.

Grant funding opportunities for the community in the budget year include \$192.5k for Community Grants across General, Access and Inclusion, Mental Health and Resilience and Active Wangaratta streams. This is in addition to \$90k identified for sponsorships by application.

Council has also made provision in the Draft Budget to deliver a traffic management plan with short and long term solutions for improving traffic management in the CBD, as identified in the Council Plan (item 5.1.3.4).

The impact of early receipt of 75 per cent of the 2022/23 Federal Financial Assistance Grants should be noted in respect of Council's budgeted 2022/23 operating position. As described in Council's 2021/22 Quarter 3 Forecast Review, much of this funding has been received in advance in 2021/22 and must be recognised on receipt. This timing difference has reduced projected operating grants in the 2022/23 budget, therefore reducing the budgeted adjusted underlying operating result.

Rates

The Fair Go Rate Cap of 1.75 per cent is reflected in the Draft Budget, resulting in projected general rates revenue of \$29.76 million. This is an increase to the 2020/21 Rate Cap of 1.5 per cent, which is reflective of increased CPI projections. 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.

Property valuations are undertaken annually, with the Valuer-General being the sole valuation authority. Section 4.1.1 of the Draft Budget reflects preliminary revaluation data as at 1 January 2022. The valuations will not be finalised until June and therefore are subject to change, in addition to other changes that may occur through the finalisation of supplementary valuations. Section 4.1.1 including the rate in the dollar will be revised and disclosed prior to adoption of the 2022/23 Budget based on any such changes.

Current draft valuation data suggests an average capital improved value increase across the municipality of 28.66 per cent. This does not mean that Council will generate 28.66 per cent in additional rates, rather it will influence how much of the total rates revenue, which is capped at a 1.75 per cent increase, will be contributed by each individual property. Property owners may see an increase or decrease to their Council rates depending on their individual property value movement relative to other properties in the municipality.

Movements in individual property valuations (capital improved value or CIV) are not yet certified by the Victorian Valuer-General and are difficult to communicate through the Draft Budget Document. Section 4.1.2(f) of the attached Draft Budget provides an indication of the valuation movements for each rating differential, however individual property valuation movements will not be advised until the 2022/23 annual rates and valuation notice for each property are distributed.

User Fees and Charges

User fees and charges have been reviewed by each operating unit to ensure they continue to represent the determined fee structure and account for increases to CPI, benchmarking and full-cost recovery where applicable. Many fees relating to hire of Council facilities including performing arts, gallery and library have been frozen in recent years due to the impact of COVID. As we adjust to COVID normal, these fees have largely been adjusted by CPI for the budget year.

Due to changes to the funding model for Aged and Community Care, fee increases are proposed for home care and domestic assistance beyond CPI. The proposed fees have been benchmarked against industry and designed to ensure Council is still able to provide these services to the community while remaining financially sustainable.

Kerbside waste charges are proposed to increase by 6% overall. Kerbside waste charges fund both the current operational requirements of collection and disposal of waste, including State Government Levies, in addition to future capital works and rehabilitation of landfill facilities.

Statutory fees and fines that are determined by prescribed fee or penalty units will be updated on publishing of the 2022/23 unit rates by the Department of Treasury and Finance.

Other Budget Influences

In preparing the 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.

COVID has had an impact on Council's financial position since 2019/20, due to changed operating requirements and the significant impact to Council's ability to collect User Fees. The Draft Budget sees significant improvement to projected User Fee income, an important source of revenue outside of rates revenue and operating grants. This revenue stream however continues to remain susceptible to any future COVID related restrictions or changes to operating conditions should they occur.

Budgetary pressures extending into future years may include increases to Council's insurance premiums, having seen a further increase of 4.5 per cent this year following a number of years of increases of 15 per cent, the continued increase to the superannuation guarantee, possible outcomes from future employee bargaining agreement negotiations and the continued pressure of the rate cap, especially in an environment where cost inflation of materials and services Council procures far exceeds the 1.75 per cent rate cap.

Financial Performance Indicators

Section 5 of the attached Draft Budget documents Council's current and projected forecast across a number of prescribed indicators. These indicators are useful for analysing Council's

financial position and are further supported by the Financial Policy Statements adopted in Councils Ten-Year Financial Plan.

Noteworthy results include strong working capital (greater than 100 per cent), indebtedness returning to within Financial Policy Statement guidelines (less than 60 per cent) over the budgeted and projected years and asset renewal and upgrade as a percentage of depreciation averaging 92 percent over the four budgeted and forecast years. Council's operating position remains close to breakeven, with the Financial Sustainability Program continuing to ensure this measure remains within target over the life of the Long-Term Financial Plan.

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

	2021/22 Projected Full Year Forecast ('000s)	2022/23 Draft Budget ('000s)	Variance ('000s)	Comments
Revenue/Income	\$86,109	\$89,263	\$3,154	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Total non-recurrent capital grants have increased, reflecting the size and nature of proposed 2022/23 capital works program - Total operating grants have reduced as a number of non-recurrent programs do not continue - Total user fees increase, reflecting of anticipated recovery from impacts of COVID - Rates and charges increase per the rate cap and published draft waste charges
Expense	\$76,105	\$71,108	(\$4,997)	- Decrease in expenditure largely reflective of non-recurrent operating expenditure in 2021/22 (including Gun Club Rehabilitation, COVID Outdoor Activation and Business Concerge funding, Managing Pests and Weeds) that will not continue into 2022/23.
Net Result (Accounting Surplus)	\$10,004	\$18,155	\$8,151	

Legal/Statutory

The 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 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 Draft Budget, including funding the implementation of the Environmental Strategy Action Plan.

Strategic Links

The 2022/23 Draft Budget describes the resources required to deliver the strategic objectives of the Council Plan 2021-2025. See section 2 of the Draft Budget for services and major initiatives to be delivered under each strategic objective.

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 Draft Budget has been developed in consultation with Managers, Leadership and Councillors to ensure it reflects delivery of the Council Plan.

The following deliberative engagement approach will now be taken in accordance with Council's Community Engagement policy:

Level of public participation	Stakeholder group	Tools/Techniques
Inform	Community	Undertake public exhibition

		process: Public notice in local newspaper and make available for viewing online and at Council's main office.
Involve	Community	Consider community submissions.

Following endorsement of the Draft Budget at the Scheduled Council Meeting on 26 April, the document will be placed on public exhibition for 28 days from Friday 29 April to invite submissions from the community.

The Draft Budget will be available for inspection at the Wangaratta Government Centre and on Council's website at www.wangaratta.vic.gov.au.

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

Tuesday 26 April 2022	Ordinary Council Meeting to endorse the 2022/23 Draft Budget
Friday 29 April 2022	Invite the public to make submissions in response to the 2022/23 Draft Budget
Friday 27 May 2022	Submission period closes at 5:00pm
Early-June 2022 – date and time to be determined	If required, Council Committee is formed to hear submissions
Tuesday 28 June 2022	Adoption of the 2022/23 Budget at the June Ordinary Council Meeting

Options for Consideration

Council must prepare a Budget for the 2022/23 financial year to comply with the Act. Options for consideration are:

1. Endorse the 2022/23 Draft Budget in the current state (refer to Attachment); or
2. Council recommends changes to the 2022/23 Draft 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 2022/23 financial year which is in breach of the Act.

Conclusion

The Draft 2022/23 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 2022/23 Budget for public exhibition from 29 April 2022 to 27 May 2022.

Attachments

- 1 2022/23 Draft Budget 

14.2 Delegations

Meeting Type:	Ordinary Council Meeting
Date of Meeting:	26 April 2022
Author:	Governance & Reporting Advisor
File No:	IC22/566

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 on the Council's suite of Instruments of Delegations.

Resolution:

(Moved: Councillor H Bussell/Councillor I Grant)

That Council endorses the delegation, functions and/or powers described in 'Instrument of Delegation to members of Council staff' as attached.

Carried

Background

Council provides a wide range of services to its residents and requires decisions to be made on an extensive range of matters. It is impractical for the elected Council members or the CEO to provide all these services and make all these decisions by themselves. The *Local Government Act 2020* (Vic) recognised this and allows for the Council and CEO to delegate some of their functions to other staff within the organisation who have the relevant expertise or knowledge on the subject matter. Some of these delegations have been amended to satisfy operational or legislative changes.

Maddocks law firm provides Council with regular notifications of amendments required to be made to the Instruments of Delegations as legislation and regulations evolve. The associated changes have been made, reviewed by the Corporate Management Team and are now presented to Council for formal adoption of the Instrument of Delegation to members of Council staff.

A summary of all the latest amendments required is included in the letter from Maddocks (Attachment 1). Council should note that in addition to the above, updates have also been made to the Instrument of Sub-Delegation by the CEO and minor incidental changes have been made to Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation, Instrument of Authorisation and Delegation by the Municipal Building Surveyor and Instrument of Delegation by the CEO. Those Delegations are authorised by the CEO and do not require a resolution of Council to be amended.

Attachment 2 is the current 'Instrument of Delegation to members of Council staff', last endorsed by Council in November 2021. Attachment 3 contains marked-up changes to this Instrument for reference only and Attachment 4 is the clean updated Delegation document, presented here to Council for final endorsement.

Implications

Policy Considerations

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

Financial/Economic Implications

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

Legal/Statutory

The *Local Government Act 2020* and its associated regulations sets out the legal requirements for delegations. Section 11 outlines a Council may delegate a power, duty or function to its Chief Executive Officer and section 47 of the Act outlines the Chief Executive Officer's power to delegate their powers to Council Officers. Further, the Chief Executive Officer is required to keep a register of their delegations.

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.

Strategic Links

Council Plan 2021 – 2025

This report supports the 2021-2025 Council Plan through the following objectives and actions:

1. Strengthening our Leadership

1.1.1.6 Continue to provide transparency for the community regarding the information being considered in decision making processes.

Rural City of Wangaratta 2033 Community Vision

This report supports the 2033 Community Vision through the following objectives:

Provide open and transparent communication to the community to build trust, respect and understanding.

Risk Management

Council risks facing legal issues if it acts outside its delegation. It is incumbent upon Council to ensure it acts in accordance with all delegations to ensure compliance with relevant legislative requirements.

Consultation/Communication

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

Conclusion

Delegations form a key part of a Council's operations and provide for better efficiency and of key Council services. Delegations are regularly updated and Council will be notified.

Attachments

- 1 Maddocks Letter 
- 2 Instrument of Delegation to members of Council Staff Clean 
- 3 Instrument of Delegation to members of Council Staff Marked Up 
- 4 Instrument of Delegation to members of Council Staff November 2021 

Unconfirmed

15. Infrastructure Services

15.1 Merriwa Park Masterplan adoption

Meeting Type:	Ordinary Council Meeting
Date of Meeting:	26 April 2022
Author:	Project Officer
File No:	IC22/96

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 with a recommendation to adopt the Merriwa Park Masterplan, following a 60-day public exhibition period which received 55 formal submissions.

The final Masterplan has provided a 10-year action plan for implementation and delivery of future works. Whilst establishing a key vision for the park “to protect and enhance Merriwa Park’s beautiful natural environment and provide an environment of fun and relaxation, with activities for the whole family to enjoy”.

Council Officers are satisfied the appropriate community consultation has occurred and incorporated where possible into the final plan.

Resolution:

That Council adopt the Merriwa Park Masterplan April 2022.

Item 15.1 was withdrawn and will be presented to the May Council meeting.

Background

Merriwa Park is located in Ryley Street, Wangaratta tucked away within Wangaratta’s CBD. Merriwa Park is a large, beautiful park.

The existing Masterplan for Merriwa Park was developed in 2014. Since this Masterplan was developed Council have completed several plans and feasibility studies which have impacted on the usage of Merriwa Park and its aging infrastructure.

The Masterplan will assist Council to confidently plan future investments within the park and ensure the park is developed in line with the community’s expectations.

At the November Council Meeting last year, the draft Masterplan was recommended for public consultation. Following the 60-day public consultation period, 55 formal submissions were received. Overall submissions received were supportive, identifying the below key themes which have been incorporated into the final Masterplan.

Key themes:

- Concerns no bus parking
- Removal of the Bike Hub
- Tree removal Ryley Street
- Artwork & Wayfinding Signage
- Fernery Improvements
- Water Quality Concerns
- Concerns around the promotion of fishing within the lagoon
- Request for additional improvements to the Soundshell
- Rear car parking
- Rear toilets to remain
- Footpath construction to be gravel / natural

Implications**Policy Considerations**

Procurement Policy.

Financial/Economic Implications

The 10-year masterplan has an estimated implementation cost of \$6.5M (ex GST), which will be incorporated into Council's Long Term Financial Plan.

Legal/Statutory

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

Social

The Masterplan will continue to build on the characteristics of Merriwa Park and enhance the park's natural environment to provide a fun and relaxing environment for locals and visitors to enjoy.

Environmental/Sustainability Impacts

The Masterplan will look to preserve the significant remnant vegetation throughout Merriwa and Kaluna Parks for future generations.

Strategic Links**Council Plan 2021 – 2025**

This report supports the 2021-2025 Council Plan through the following objectives and actions:

- 1. Strengthening our Leadership**
Adopt and maintain a responsible and transparent 10 Year Financial Plan
- 2. Valuing our Environment**
Enhance urban vegetation corridors for environmental, recreational, and aesthetic benefit to the community.
- 3. Expanding our Lifestyle**
Develop a Masterplan to improve the waterways and community infrastructure at Merriwa Park including the junction of the Ovens and King Rivers.

Rural City of Wangaratta 2033 Community Vision

This report supports the 2033 Community Vision through the following objectives:

- Beautiful and accessible parks, gardens and open spaces
"We maintain our parks and gardens, reserves and open spaces to ensure the safety and enjoyment of our people and the protection of our spaces".

Risk Management

Risks	Likelihood	Consequence	Rating	Mitigation Action
Community dissatisfaction	Possible	Moderate	Medium (6)	Community consultation
Budget expectations	Possible	Major	High (7)	Actions adopted into the LTFP where possible / External funding will be required.

Consultation/Communication

Prior to the development of the draft Masterplan online stakeholder engagement sessions were held with key stakeholders shown below to capture their needs for the future development of Merriwa Park.

Key stakeholders:

- Wangaratta Lawn Tennis Club
- Wangaratta Lions Club
- Wangaratta Urban Landcare Group

Community feedback was captured through one online community engagement sessions which received only three attendees, in addition to an online survey which received 30 detailed responses.

The draft Masterplan was placed on public exhibition for 60 days. The draft Masterplan was further promoted via signage installed throughout the park and social media posts.

Following public consultation 55 submissions received, which identified the below key themes.

A summary of how these key themes were addressed in the final plan is reflected below:

Themes	How will this be achieved?
Concerns no bus parking	Bus parking is proposed on Ryley Street, with improvements to be undertaken to improve pedestrian access to the park. Consideration for bus access during events will remain.
Removal of the Bike Hub	Proceed to relocate / determine usage requirements as per draft plan.
Tree removal Ryley Street	Trees to remain.

Themes	How will this be achieved?
Artwork & Wayfinding Signage	Improve this action, particularly around Ryley Street.
Fernery Improvements	Build on current actions to include additional infill planting, re-establishment of the "loop track" and path improvements.
Water Quality Concerns	Develop a management plan to undertake improvements to improve water quality, via water filtration and sediment control.
Concerns around the promotion of fishing within the lagoon	Fishing to be removed from the plan.
Request for additional improvements to the Soundshell	Provide support to the Lions Club to seek funding for future upgrades.
Rear car parking	Rear parking provisions will remain and further highlighted in the final plan.
Rear toilets to remain	Rear toilets are to be removed. New toilets suitable for small events installed closer to the playspace. Adequate space has been retained for portable toilet hire at the rear of the park for large events.
Footpath construction to be gravel / natural	Final plan will reflect granitic paths where suitable.

All formal submissions have received a personalised response from Council on how their feedback was included, or how their needs will be addressed outside of this Masterplan.

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

Options for Consideration

1. Adopt the final Merriwa Park Masterplan
2. Defer the adoption of the Masterplan, recommending further review

Conclusion

Council Officers are satisfied that appropriate community engagement has been undertaken and recommend adopting the Merriwa Park Masterplan.

Attachments

- 1 Merriwa Park Masterplan 

15.2 Draft Asset Plan: 2022-2032

Meeting Type:	Ordinary Council Meeting
Date of Meeting:	26 April 2022
Author:	Acting Asset Planning Coordinator
File No:	IC22/307

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 seek endorsement to place the Draft Asset Plan 2022-2032 on Public Exhibition for a period of 28 days from 27 April 2022.

Council must maintain an Asset Plan of 10 year strategic and financial outlook within the Integrated Strategic Reporting and Planning Framework in accordance with Section 92 of the Local Government Act 2020. The first Asset Plan must be adopted by 30 June 2022, and thereafter by 31 October in the year following a general election.

This report presents the Rural City of Wangaratta's inaugural Asset Plan delivered under the Act.

Resolution:

(Moved: Councillor H Benton/Councillor I Grant)

That Council:

1. Endorses the Draft Asset Plan 2022-2032 for public exhibition for a period of 28 days from 27 April 2022.
2. Reviews and considers adopting the Draft Asset Plan 2022-2032 at a future Ordinary Council Meeting taking into consideration all submissions made.
3. If no submissions requesting changes are received, adopts the Draft Asset Plan 2022-2032 without further resolution.

Carried

Background

The Local Government Act 2020 (the Act) mandates Councils to undertake a principles-based approach to integrated strategic planning and reporting, including development of an Asset Plan with a ten year outlook.

The first Asset Plan must be adopted by Council prior to 30 June 2022 in accordance with Section 92 of the Act. Thereafter, by 31 October in the year following a general election.

The requirement for an Asset Plan in the Act is welcome recognition that asset management practices are an integral part of local government's business. Inclusion in the Integrated Strategic

Reporting and Planning Framework acknowledges that decisions around assets are not made for the sake of assets alone, they are made in the pursuit of the delivery of the Community Vision and the Council Plan.

Local Government Victoria released its official guidance on preparation of the Asset Plan on 22 February 2022. The guidance specifies that an Asset Plan should be:

- Community Focused and Non-Technical
- Use reliable inputs (a robust and reliable asset register and annual budgeting forecasts)
- Integrated and Strategic with the Community Vision and Financial Plan

In accordance with the guidance, the key components delivered in this Draft Asset Plan include commentary on:

- Strategic Intent
- Linkages to the Community Vision and Council Plan
- Financial Integration (to the Long Term Financial Plan)
- Summary of Asset Classes and Current State of the Assets assessment
- Challenges and Choices when managing Council's Assets

Implications

Given the Asset Plan is the last component of the Act to be delivered and has been segregated from other integrated strategic planning and reporting, in particular the development of the Financial Plan and Strategy, there is a risk that the plan remains less integrated in this first 4-year cycle. This will be mitigated by adopting greater collaboration in the Improvement Plan action items.

As individual Asset Management Plans in the Asset Portfolio level are developed and/or updated with detailed renewal modelling and financial forecasting, the Council Financial Plan will need to be revised and updated in accordance.

Policy Considerations

The Draft Asset Plan 2022-2032 follows the Local Government Victoria Asset Plan guidance released on 22 February 2022.

It is noted that the Act and guidance from Local Government Victoria has provided exemption from deliberative community engagement for this first iteration of the Asset Plan.

Financial/Economic Implications

The Draft Asset Plan 2022-2032 provides a current state of the assets summary for the Asset Portfolios of Transport (Roads, Paths, Bridges), Stormwater, Buildings and Open Spaces and provides commentary on current renewal forecasts and 10-year financial planned expenditure.

Legal/Statutory

The Asset Plan has been prepared in accordance with Section 92 of the Local Government Act 2020.

Social

The Draft Asset Plan 2022-2032 states how Council intends to manage \$768 M asset portfolio for which Council is the trusted custodian on behalf of residents, rate payers, business owners and visitors of the Rural City of Wangaratta.

Environmental/Sustainability Impacts

Environmental and sustainability impacts have been considered and discussed in the challenges and choices with respect to each Asset Portfolio in the Plan. Issues of environmental and sustainability consideration will have a significant impact on how we choose to manage our assets both physically and financially into the future.

Strategic Links**Council Plan 2021 – 2025**

This report supports the 2021-2025 Council Plan through the following objectives and actions:

1. Strengthening our Leadership

Action Item 1.2.1.3 Develop an Asset Management Plan that outlines the key elements involved in maintaining Council Assets

Other strategic links

This Asset Plan supports through the Integrated Strategic Reporting and Planning Framework:

- Rural City of Wangaratta 2033 Community Vision
- Council Plan 2021-2025
- Financial Plan 2021-2031
- Annual Budget

Risk Management

The Asset Plan 2022-2032 provides an overarching framework for the provision of sound asset management practice within the Rural City of Wangaratta. When adhered to and practiced well will reduce the risk that Council will not be able to support the \$768 M asset portfolio for which it is the trusted custodian on behalf of the community.

Consultation/Communication

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

It is noted that the Act and guidance from Local Government Victoria has provided exemption from deliberative community engagement for this first iteration of the Asset Plan.

Significant deliberative engagement has already occurred via the Shape Wangaratta Engagement Panel, community collaborators in the development of the Council Plan 2021-2025 and the Wangaratta Community Vision 2033 and the Financial Future Survey undertaken when developing the Financial Plan 2021-2031.

Inputs from each of these previous engagements and consultations have been considered in development of the Asset Plan.

Following endorsement by Council, the Draft Plan will be placed on public consultation for a period of 28 days.

Options for Consideration

Endorses the Draft Asset Plan 2022-2032 for public exhibition.

Do not endorse and request officers to make further changes before public exhibition.

Conclusion

The draft Asset Plan 2022-2032 has been developed in accordance with Council's Engagement Policy and with consideration of the other complimentary Long Term 10 year strategic plans required under the Act, being the Community Vision and the Financial Plan.

This asset plan will help guide future financial decisions for long term growth and renewal planning resource allocation in the pursuit of sound asset management practices for the benefit of the whole community within the Rural City of Wangaratta.

Attachments

- 1 Draft Asset Plan 2022-2032 

16. Development Services

16.1 Sale of Land - 75 Carboor-Whorouly Road, Whorouly South

Meeting Type: Ordinary Council Meeting
Date of Meeting: 26 April 2022
Author: Manager - Economic Development, Environment & Strategy
File No: IC22/676

The following Council officer has provided input in relation to this report and has disclosed a perceived conflict of interest regarding the matter under consideration:

•**Officer: Manager- Economic Development, Environment & Strategy**

The Council officer has not made any decisions related to this matter.

It has been assessed that it is still appropriate that the Officer completed this report as they are the only person with expertise in certain areas of the report, their line manager has determined that any perceived conflict of interest has not influenced the advice provided, and because the decision-making parties on this matter are Council's Corporate Management Team and Councillors, not the Officer concerned.

Executive Summary

This report is presented to Council to finalise Council's statutory process to sell the land at 75 Carboor-Whorouly Road, Whorouly South being the land described in Certificates of Title being Crown Allotment 77E, Parish of Whorouly Volume 6045 Folio 886 and Crown Allotment 77D, Parish of Whorouly Volume 5462 Folio 254.

In accordance with *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act) a consultation period for the sale of council land has been completed. The parcel of land (the former Whorouly South Community Centre and Scout Hall), has been vacant and underutilised for a number of years, and is no longer required by Council.

Two Expressions of Interest were received from surrounding landowners, and it is recommended to proceed to sell the land to one of these interested parties.

Resolution:

(Moved: Councillor J Herry/Councillor I Grant)

That Council:

1. Agrees to proceed to sell the land at 75 Carboor-Whorouly Road, Whorouly South being the land described in Certificates of Title being Crown Allotment 77E, Parish of Whorouly Volume 6045 Folio 886 and Crown Allotment 77D, Parish of Whorouly Volume 5462 Folio 254, in accordance with section 114 of the *Local Government Act 2020*;
2. Seeks authorisation from the Minister for Planning to prepare and exhibit a planning scheme amendment to rezone the land at 75 Carboor-Whorouly Road from Public Use

Zone 3 (Health and Community) to Farming Zone.

3. Delegates to the Director Development Services responsibility to make any changes to documents as required by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning or identified by Council officers in the preparation of the planning scheme amendment material.

Carried

Background

The subject land was the former site of the Whorouly South Community and Scout Hall (the Centre). The Centre buildings were demolished in August 2014.

At a Council meeting in July 2014 a request was put before Council to sell the land subject to community feedback and submissions. Council subsequently received 12 submissions from local residents opposed to Council selling the land to be absorbed into surrounding farmland.

As a consequence of the community opposition to the sale of the land, Council at the December 2014 Council meeting resolved to request that the community form an incorporated body (or source a willing incorporated body) to assume the operational management and maintenance of the Whorouly South Reserve and, upon notification of an eligible incorporated body, enter into a license agreement with Council for the management and maintenance of the Whorouly South Reserve. Council also resolved to review the agreement in three years' time to determine the on-going community support and use for the Whorouly South Reserve.

Council received another Expression of Interest to purchase the land more recently and while completing the relevant due diligence officers found that the above resolution and requirements had not been completed, despite efforts of Council officers to negotiate the management of the site with the community and a incorporated body.

The land is no longer required by Council and in December 2021 Council resolved to give public notice of its intention to sell the land at 75 Carboor-Whorouly Road, Whorouly South and consider the sale of this land at a future Council meeting.

Council officers completed the Notice of Intention to Sell Land in accordance with *Local Government Act 2020*, placing notices on Council's website and in the Wangaratta Chronicle, the submission period was open for six weeks (17 December 2021 to 28 January 2022) - (see **Attachment 1**). No objections or submissions were received during this time and officers are now of the view that council can proceed with the sale of land, and rezoning of the land from Public Use Zone 3 (Health and Community) to Farming Zone through a planning Scheme amendment.

Eligible surrounding landowners were provided with an opportunity to submit an Expression of Interest to purchase the land and two Expressions of Interest were received.

Implications

Policy Considerations

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

Financial/Economic Implications

Expenditure will be incurred for the valuation and will be provided for under the Sale of Land budget FY21/22. Legal costs associated with the contract of sale and completion of it, will be also incurred and these will be offset by the sale of the property.

Legal/Statutory

Local Government Act 2020 – Section 114

Restrictions on power to sell or exchange land

1. Except where section 116 applies, if a Council sells or exchanges any land it must comply with this section
2. Before selling or exchanging the land, the Council must—
 - a. at least 4 weeks prior to selling or exchanging the land, publish notice of intention to do so
 - i. on the Council's Internet site; and
 - ii. in any other manner prescribed by the regulations for the purposes of this subsection; and
 - b. undertake a community engagement process in accordance with its community engagement policy; and obtain from a person who holds the qualifications or experience specified under section 13DA(2) of the Valuation of Land Act 1960 a valuation of the land which is made not more than 6 months prior to the sale or exchange.

Social

Council acknowledges that Whorouly South has a strong community focus with access to good facilities and a reserve nearby in Whorouly. The subject land has not been used by the community for many years.

Environmental/Sustainability Impacts

The site will be maintained by the future landowner including appropriate noxious weed control.

Strategic Links**Council Plan 2021 – 2025**

This report supports the 2021-2025 Council Plan through the following objectives and actions:

1. Strengthening our Leadership

- 1.1 An engaged and connected community

Consultation/Communication

Level of public participation	Promises to the public/stakeholders	Tools/Techniques
Inform	Conducted Community Engagement for the proposed sale of land	Completed Notification on Council Website and Advertised in Local Paper
Consult	Notice to sell the land went out to community consultation for a period of 6 weeks until 28 th January 2022	Website and Local Paper

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

Options for Consideration

Council agrees to proceed with the sale of land at 75 Carboor-Whorouly Road, Whorouly South and authorises council officers to proceed with a planning scheme amendment to rezone the land from Public Use Zone 3 (Health and Community) to Farming Zone

Council does not give approval to proceed with the sale of land at 75 Carboor-Whorouly Road, Whorouly South and does not authorises council officers to proceed with a planning scheme amendment to rezone the land from Public Use Zone 3 (Health and Community) to Farming Zone.

Conclusion

Council officers have undergone a review of the history of the site and the previous Council decisions and found that the site is not being used for its intended purpose as noted in the Council resolutions.

Council gave notice of the intention to sell the land as required under the Act and undertook a formal Expression of Interest process to ensure a fair and equitable procedure for eligible surrounding landowners to express interest in purchasing the land. Two Expressions of Interest were received and officers recommend selling the land to one of these interested parties.

The requirements for the sale of land under *Local Government Act 2020* have been met and it is appropriate to proceed with the sale of land at 75 Carboor-Whorouly Road, Whorouly South.

Attachments

- 1 Notice of Intention to Sell Land - 75 Carboor-Whorouly Road 

Question from Pat Webb “Is it to be farming land because one of the tenderers doesn’t own a farm they only own a building block.” *Cr. Dean Rees responded “Yes That is correct that will be a farming zone that will be attached.”*

Question from Pat Webb “They can’t move anything else machinery or on to it?” *Cr. Dean Rees responded “ It depends what comes under the farming zone and what they can do under the farming zone.”*

Question from Pat Webb “I would like to know what’s going on with that it can’t used for anything else but farming land. There are two titles why can’t it be used as a building block?”

Director Stephen Swart responded “Back to your first question, If the land sale does goes through and Council makes that decision tonight, the intention is that the land would be then incorporated with the successful interested party’s property and the land would then go from public use zone into the Farming Zone. Under the Farming Zone, there a number of different uses are allowed and that includes mostly things related to farming but also a range of other things building sheds

and so on that people use for farming purposes. All of those types of things are allowed on land in a farming zone, some of that would require a planning permit some of that would not require a planning permit. So this parcel of land would fall under the Farming Zone and would be managed under the rules of that farming zone.

Question from Pat Webb “So they could not move machinery or rubbish on to the block?”

Director Stephen Swart responded “It’s very hard to give a definite answer to that it depends on exactly why they are doing that and how that’s it’s being done. As an example if it’s farming machinery that is part of a normal farming operation then that wouldn’t require a planning permit under the farming zone. If it’s not farming machinery and it’s being used for another purpose that is something that might trigger a planning permit or might be prohibited so it really depends on the detail of what exactly the person is intending to do on that block.

Question from Pat Webb “How do we as neighbours know what they’re going to do or do we have a say in it or are we notified if they’re applying for a permit?”

Director Stephen Swart responded “If a planning permit is required under the farming zone and somebody applies for a planning permit Council will give notice of that planning permit that means that neighbours will get letters to let them know that there’s an application with Council and you will have an opportunity to look at that application and make a submission if you want to. That’s the normal planning permit process. I have to stress that in some instances planning permits might not be treated so that should be noted.”

Question from Jim McNamara “With the sale of this property will it be sold to the highest tender or does Council take into considerations into equal consideration?”

Director Stephen Swart responded “As part of the expression of interest process we did ask the interested parties how they intend to use the land or whether they have any reason as to how the land will be incorporated into their properties and that did play a role, but another aspect is of course how much the offer is, in this case the details of the offers and the putting of offers would be confidential but those are the types of things that we would consider.”

Question from Elise Pethybridge “I’m wondering why if this is going to the Minister for Planning why it went from public to farming it can’t be a house block because surely that’s in the interest of the Whorouly community and considering it’s flood overlay and land locked?”

Director Stephen Swart responded “Thanks for the question if this sale does go through the land gets. One of the things that could happen in the farm zone is for somebody to apply for a house on that block. Now that’s something that is hard to predict you know what the future might hold but there could be a house on the block with a planning permit application in place application has to be made though so that is possible.

Question from Elise Pethybridge “If you have to go to the Minister for Planning for a housing zone won’t they take that into consideration or just say no? It says here you’re going to go to the Minister for Planning to get it converted to a farming zone it’s currently public use so why can’t you go to the Minister for Planning and get it rezoned it to housing?”

Director Stephen Swart responded “Generally when we rezone land it has to be based on a strategy of some sort so Council would go through a process of compiling a strategic plan for certain areas Wangaratta as an example where we would identify growth areas then that strategic plan would be incorporated into the Planning Scheme only then would the Minister consider rezoning of that land. In this case the only reason we are looking at rezoning the land is the fact that its potentially changing it from public ownership to private ownership. If it’s going to private ownership it’s not appropriate to keep it in the public use zone anymore it has to go another zoning. Of the zoning in the area looks at how the land surrounding the area is zoned. In that case it’s the farming zone. If we are looking to change that land from public use zone to

residential zone just as an example or township zone to allow residential development, we'd have to go through the process that I described. We'd have to have a strategy prepared that justifies that sort of zoning and that will take many years and it really depends on the process and outcome whether that rezoning process is going to be successful. You'd have to argue that doing that for one individual block is inefficient.

Question from Elise Pethybridge commented on Stephen Swarts comments that someone who bought that could convert it into a house block and if they did that and it went through, the amount of money they would profit from the sale of that land I think could be better used within our community on projects here. "I don't know why we're losing this opportunity?" Director Stephen Swart responded *"What I did say under the farming zone it's possible to apply for a dwellings I didn't say they would be able to get a permit for the dwelling. It's really hard to get a permit for a house in the farming zone. Farming zone is really there for farming processes unless somebody can illustrate that there house is there to help them with their farming business. So even though it is possible it's not a given that outcome would be allowed. It's a difficult process.*

Cr. Dean Rees responded "Under the farming zone rules 100 acres is what you need to be able to get a house.

So even though this is its own title would it just be combined into that?

Cr. Dean Rees responded "Yes there's a lot of land in farming zones on 5 acre title, 20 acre title 50 acre title doesn't mean you'll get a planning get a house on it. If you had 100 acres you'd certainly have a good chance."

Question from Elise Pethybridge "The two titles from my understanding one of them was a scout hall and other was the old school block. I'm wondering that Scout Hall land I think was gifted to the scouts, it's not owned by Council so I am wondering what happens to that money?" Director Stephen Swart responded *"I'm not aware of the history of ownership of these titles. You are correct that there is two titles involved.*

Question from Jack Herry "Coming back to criteria that inform selection on the tender, not purely based on highest price there is a n element of intended use and how much does that inform our awarding of any given tender. Say for example, if they provide a brief with an outline on what they intend to do how much sway does that have on the matter?" Director Stephen Swart responded *" As I mentioned before it's something that we ask for as part of the expression of interest process so people were allowed to tell us what their intentions were with the land moving forward and the other aspect which is important is what the financial offer is. So we can consider both of those things end of the day we need to balance those things out a little bit. I do also have to add that when it comes to people's intentions in terms of how they use land right in the short term it definitely makes a difference, but in the longer term the planning scheme is the tool that will manage our land issues. So if this land is included in the farming zone moving forward, the farming zone is the main tool that will manage our land issues and it will determine what people would be able to I guess use that land for into the future and what they will be able to develop on the land moving forward. So that is the short term consideration, the long term consideration would be embedded in the planning scheme."*

Question from Jim McNamara "The money that is going to be received for that now which is coming back to shire, is that going to be spent in this community or go back to the Council coffers?"

CEO Brendan McGrath responded "Thanks for the question Jim without going in to too much detail around the value of the sale because that is confidential, by time we complete the sale

process including the valuation we have to do on the land as part of the process we're obliged to do, any legal expenses around changing the title and the process that Stephen's already outlined with the rezoning I imagine there'd be very little if anything left to go back into any other projects. Council is not taking a big bag of cash away from the sale I can assure you of that."

Question from Dan Ivone Expressed disappointment on the sale of the land at Whorouly South. "When are you going to give us something back?"

CEO Brendan McGrath responded "Dan thanks for your question it's a really sensible question. Can I just make the point in case you and others aren't aware, Council considered selling this block of land this going back 6 or 7 years ago 2014 where we got to at that point due to feedback from the community was we want to keep it, we're going to establish a group to do something with the site we'll make it a local park we'll get the community involved and get it using. None of that occurred over that period of time 7 or 8 years ago, so we decided to revisit it, readvertised the process and here we are. It's not like Council hadn't considered leaving it in the community and giving the community an opportunity to do something like that with it. That was done and that for whatever reason was never taken up."

17. Special Committee Reports

Nil

18. Advisory Committee Reports

Nil

19. Minutes of Advisory Committee Meetings

Nil

20. Notices of Motion

Nil

21. Urgent Business

22. Public Question Time

22.1	<p>Ms Dorothea (Missie) Preston</p> <p>As discussed, the question I asked at the last Council meeting was omitted from the minutes, it was also not included in the video recording.</p> <p>Can you please note to the Councillors that the minutes are therefore not correct as the following question was not included in relation to permit application PInApp20/063 (Gold Ore Processing at 145 Murrumgee Road Murrumgee);</p> <p>“Is there a engineering design and specification for the construction of the bunding?”</p> <p><i>Director Swart responded “The Notice of Decision issued in relation to planning permit PInApp20/063 includes conditions from a the North East Catchment Management Authority and Goulburn Murray Water requiring an earth bund to be constructed around the southern perimeter of the works.</i></p> <p><i>This bund is shown on the plans submitted with the application, but no detailed engineering plans were submitted with the application.</i></p> <p><i>It is typical for the more detailed engineering plans for works associated with a development to be prepared after planning approval is granted. This type of technical detail is not generally required to allow for a decision to be made about a planning permit application unless there are doubts about the feasibility of the necessary engineering</i></p>
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	<p><i>works. In the case of the proposed bund, this structure is a basic structure that is feasible to construct and therefore it is appropriate that detailed engineering plans be required as a condition of the planning permit rather than being required to be submitted with the application.</i></p> <p>Question from Cr. Rees “Can I extend on that question for clarification? It was approved at planning stage by us once those are plans submitted now, do they need to be approved by Planning or Infrastructure?”</p> <p><i>Director Swart responded “Yes. So plans will be submitted to council for further approval so that is called secondary consent and will go through our Infrastructure team to check as part of drainage process.</i></p> <p>Question from Cr. Rees “So in alliance with North Catchment Authority who asked for bunding who will it be referred to at Council for approval of engineering drawings to align with the planning department and NECMA requirements?”</p> <p><i>Director Swart responded “The engineering plans would be submitted to our Infrastructure services team to consider as part of drainage plans to be approved.”</i></p>
22.2	<p>Jim McNamara</p> <p>“We would like the council to consider erecting a “No Camping”, sign at the Whorouly Bowmans bridge that crosses the Ovens river.</p> <p><i>Director Swart responded “The area of land along the Ovens River is managed by the Victoria State government and the regulation of camping in this area is the responsibility of the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning. Council does not have the authority to restrict access to this land.”</i></p> <p>Jim commented on the distances between dwellings to the area near the river and camping and toilets. “Under those two implications who do we see to get some sort of a no camping sign put up is it you guys or is it with the Department?”</p> <p><i>Cr. Rees responded “It is the Department of Environment Land and we will certainly take that up with them, Stephen any further advice on that one?”</i></p> <p><i>Director Swart responded “Yes so it is the Department of Environment Land Water and Planning today I’ve sent them an e-mail to them on the back of this question to try and find out who within the Department actually is the person you could deal with if you had further questions. I haven’t had a response just yet, but I’ll continue to follow that up.”</i></p> <p><i>Cr. Rees responded “We’ll take your number down at the end of the night Jim and make sure we get your e-mail and we will follow it through.”</i></p>
22.3	<p>Mr Anthony X Griffiths</p> <p>This question was sent within the appropriate time frame, as a 'Question to Council' for the meeting on March 29 2022 and was acknowledged by Council but wasn't read out. Could Council please explain why?</p> <p>The question is about the proposed tower in Lions Park Glenrowan Heritage Precinct.</p>

	<p>Council's application for a permit for this development to Heritage Victoria certified to be true and correct was followed by a statement from Council responding to objection that placing the tower in the park was destructive and insensitive to the heritage values of the place.</p> <p>Council's letter to Heritage Victoria dated 30 August 2021 stated "thorough investigation has confirmed no siege events took place in the park."</p> <p>That statement was false being contradicted by the Glenrowan Master Plan 2002 (GMP) that is the founding document for the heritage listing of the precinct and by evidence put before Council in the objection.</p> <p>Council cannot deny that the park was a gathering point for supporters of the Kelly gang and that rockets were launched from the park by the supporters and that it was a place where events at Glenrowan Inn including its tragic burning were monitored by police, friends and relatives of participants. It was used by photographers and artists and civilians, supporters and spectators. It was also a gathering point for undertakers and the place where bodies of the deceased were ultimately taken after being retrieved from the coals of the burnt Glenrowan Inn and initially taken to the Glenrowan station by police and recovered by relatives in the most tragic and upsetting of circumstances, which was reported in the Kilmore Free Press at the time.</p> <p>On 22 February Council claimed that the Glenrowan Master Plan had been considered in the application and approval of the permit.</p> <p>"Why has Council given misleading information and no consideration to the feelings of relatives and friends and descendants in its decision to put the tower in the park against strong heritage recommendations and disrespecting the strongest commemorative value of the space?"</p> <p>"How can Council justify cladding the building in burnt black timber as a "reference to the historic aesthetic", when that is clearly a distressing insult to descendants?"</p> <p>Will Council respect history, heritage and relatives wishes by ceasing construction and placing this development elsewhere?"</p> <p><i>Director Swart responded "A permit application process was completed in accordance with the Heritage Act for this project. This process included providing public notice of the application giving anyone the opportunity to inspect the application and make a submission to Heritage Victoria.</i></p> <p><i>As part of the heritage application process the impact of the proposal on the heritage place was considered, including the siting of the building. Heritage Victoria considered all relevant matters including consistency with strategic plans, impacts on the heritage place and public submissions and determined that it would be appropriate to issue a permit for the development.</i></p>
22.4	<p>Joanne Griffiths (Ned Kelly Centre).</p> <p>This question is in regard to Council's answers to questions on 22 February and 29 March regarding the alleged views claimed as justification for the design and siting of the</p>

proposed Glenrowan Cultural Interpretive Centre Tower in the heritage important open space in Lions Park, Glenrowan.

Council's answers have stated the location for which approval was sought in its Heritage Impact Statement to Heritage Victoria is consistent with the Conservation and Landscape Management Plan 2018 (that was adopted by council in June 2018) and the prior Glenrowan Masterplan 2002. Notably, the HIS stated it did not reassess any of the findings of significance of those comprehensive prior heritage studies.

In fact the CLMP and GMP both ranked Lions Park as an important open space foreground of authentic character to the siege site and both strongly recommended against any building within the park that would interfere with the planned enhancement of ground level views between Gladstone Street and the Glenrowan Inn and Station. These findings formed part of the CLMP policies adopted by Council which included restoration of the original views by removal of the existing buildings including the former toilet block, and by removal of non-indigenous trees.

"Why did council's HIS submitted to Heritage Victoria fail to comply with these very strong recommendations and policies and why was the CLMP not listed as an attachment to the HIS despite it being required as part of the application under the Heritage Regulations?"

"Does Council acknowledge that Council's HIS at page 31 Application purported to include a diagram of the site from the CLMP page 13 by Mr Michael Cook that had a tower location drawn onto it, when in fact that tower is not in the original diagram? Does Council admit that this was misleading?"

"Does Council acknowledge the various claims made in the HIS that a specific location for an interpretive centre in Lions park were made in the CLMP, when in fact the CLMP placed very strong conditions placed on any such building that it regarded only as a possibility if the conditions were met by good design, and that those conditions are not met by the current tower?"

"Does Council acknowledge the siting of the tower heavily contradicts the CLMP and GMP recommendations it adopted, and the Burra Charter that considers towers in Heritage places generally inappropriate?"

"Is Council aware that the decision signed by the Executive Director Heritage Victoria on 2 September 2021 appears to have relied on misleading information in the HIS, and is it aware that the signed decision of the Director has failed to clearly specify whether the application should be approved or rejected?"

"Will Council suspend this heritage damaging construction until these matters are fully investigated and resolved?"

Cr Rees responded "The points raised in this question by Joanne Griffiths I will state have previously been raised. I also refer to the response provided to the question from Anthony Griffith which we did about the heritage permit process and construction of the viewing structure. So what I'm stating these questions have been asked in a public forum such as this and also in private."

22.5	<p>Ms Sue Nicholl</p> <p>Raised concerns about the speed signs in that go through town. Would like the 100km sign moved to the other side of Ron Nicoll bridge and perhaps 60kn signs through town. Something needs to be done.</p> <p><i>Director Goonan responded "Thank you for your question Sue. You're not probably going to like my answer because it's going to sound like as though I am passing the buck a little bit. Unfortunately speed zoning sits with Regional Roads Victoria and then Vic Roads in Melbourne. We can certainly advocate even on our roads that is. We can certainly advocate for that and I'm more than happy to do some research on that. We can put counters out etc. and we do that pretty regularly on most of our roads to see what traffic is doing that will give us both an indication of both speed, numbers of vehicles and types of vehicles. From there, then we can continue that conversation the bit where I was saying I don't want to disappoint you, it's not a quick process unfortunately, so you are looking if it needs to go all the way to Vic Roads in Melbourne you're looking at potentially 12 months, that's how long it takes to go through before it can be approved. Things such as shifting 60km signs out to where 80km signs and things like that are things that can be approved locally but that doesn't sound like what you're talking about in this situation. I won't be able to move that one straight away, that's one I would have to go down to Melbourne for. So, what we need to do is assess it there is a number of criteria that Vic Roads have set for us even putting in an application we need to make sure it meets that application and from there we can move forward so more than happy to come back to you with a little bit of data around a couple of weeks' time and then we can continue that conversation."</i></p>
22.6	<p>Mr Laurie Chalmers.</p> <p>In 2018 I forgot to bring the letter with me that notified that to all locals that the road was going to be sides reformed and the road resealed. A month later some machinery turned up scraped off a little side of the road and that was all that was done and now the asphalt is breaking away the road is getting narrower and there's a lot more trucks with dog trailers, gravel trucks and cattle trucks moving through especially on the hotel corner is broken right away so all the trucks have got to wide around the corner and getting a bit dangerous. Wondering when this may happen?</p> <p><i>Cr. Dean Rees responded "We might have to come back to you on advisement unless Marcus knows now."</i></p> <p><i>Director Goonan responded "Thank you Laurie I will have to come back to you I don't know our exact program for next year. Certainly it sounds like it requires some sort of reseal I'm not sure what the works are that you previously spoke of so I apologise for that, but I can have a look into that and I will come back to you and let you know where that might sit on our reseal program. So we spend out \$800,000 a year on our resealing that gets us around 50km of reseal done so you can imagine it doesn't get us a hell of a lot, but certainly I can have the crews out there to have a look and see what we can do."</i></p> <p><i>Cr. Dean Rees responded "Is it alright if we grab your phone number and so Marcus can get back in touch with you and just arrange a meeting and come out thank you."</i></p>

22.7	<p>Ms Elise Pethybridge “At Whorouly South there’s a Y intersection and it was bought up with Council 4 years ago now about fixing it because it’s a hazard and I think recently Roley Matheson raised it.”</p> <p><i>Cr. Dean Rees responded “I’ve been talking to Director Goonan about that with Councillor Bussell and we are intending to get out there shortly and have a look at it with Roley. It is on our agenda hasn’t forgotten about it. I was only talking to Marcus Goonan about that a few days ago saying we have to get out there and have a look and he said you fix it up and I’ll be there and Cr. Bussell will come out as well seeing as this is his ward and get Roley to come down and explain. I know he’s had a couple of near misses.</i></p> <p>Elise Pethybridge responded “I’m the property on that intersection so if I can be notified too when you come out that would be great.</p> <p><i>Cr. Dean Rees responded “we will grab your number too.”</i></p>
22.8	<p>Ms Christine Chalmers Raised concerns in relation to the Whorouly netball courts and lodging of community grants “Do all the Councilors’ know about the community grants we have put in for the last couple of years? What do we have to do to get it into the budget? Is it because we’re right at the end of Rural city of Wangaratta Shire?”</p> <p><i>Cr. Dean Rees responded “I can assure you it is looked at very regularly, Councillor Bussell harasses us all about it so we all do know about it. I do believe it was one of his election promises, is that correct? We do have lot of sporting clubs around and other clubs that are constantly wanting money all the time and we know it is on our important list here. We may have a bit of an update Director Goonan?”</i></p> <p><i>Director Goonan responded “I’m not sure whether Councilors Bussell is going to be happy with this because it is potentially outside his term, but the current long term financial plan for Council which is a ten year plan has us reconstructing the courts here in the 2025 / 2026 financial year. We have detailed design happening this year what the detailed design does is it gives us a chance to apply for more and better funding particularly from Netball Victoria. In my time at Council which is almost 5 years now we have only reconstructed three netball courts in the whole municipality that includes no netball courts within Wangaratta. That’s Milawa North Wangaratta and Glenrowan. It is not that we’re spending a whole bunch of money replacing netball courts within Wangaratta everyone is screaming out for new netball courts and it does take time. Certainly my staff spend a hell of a lot of time supporting a lot of sporting clubs to try to get funding for their facilities and sometimes we’re lucky and we’re able to do that and other times we’re not. There is money in the budget, yes it’s a little while off but it is certainly in there.</i></p> <p><i>Cr. Dean Rees responded “I will say with us doing the detailed design work on those courts if a grant funding application comes out through the government Victoria or the Federal government if you don’t have this detailed design work done then there is no point in applying for a grant. This is how North Wang got it done and got the funding forward on North Wang that had the works were ready to go and bang we got it through Bridgette McKenzie at the National Party. At the time through the Federal election to get that done. But we’re doing this work this year so if something came up at the end of the</i></p>

	<p><i>year or start of the New Year we can put that funding application in because we've got it for shovel ready projects.</i></p> <p>Councillor Bussell "What's involved in the detailed design?"</p> <p><i>Director Goonan responded "The detailed design will be obviously coming out with the consultant with the committee and user groups about exactly what they would like to see, numbers of courts and type of material etc. From then we go away and actually do soil tests have at look what the material is underneath making sure that we've got something that will stand up. There's drainage, there's some loose guidelines would be the best way to put it around where hardcourts should face and how they should face. I know these don't actually face in the right direction currently so there is a little bit of work to be done around that because then we need to have a conversation around ok, where exactly the rooms and the roads etc, footpaths and things like that need to go around them actually sit. So there's quite a bit of work in that detailed design."</i></p> <p>Christine Chalmers "So will that detailed design be done this year?"</p> <p><i>Director Goonan responded "Done next financial year. Coming financial year subject to the budget being approved in June, we will get going on it asap."</i></p> <p><i>Cr. Dean Rees responded "That funding amount is in the budget for us to adopt at the June meeting. There is \$30,000 in the budget to complete that work. Doesn't stop putting in a submission to the budget for this year to get accepted so Ruth if you want to put in another submission in to do that it can be looked at and then where to from there."</i></p> <p><i>Cr. Irene Grant responded "If you lobby your state and federal member in terms of that fact that you're wanting to get this funding up it puts the pressure on them also to provide that money back to Council."</i></p> <p><i>Cr. Dean Rees responded "And it's a funding process it could be a shared funding process shared between the state and us or through the Federal Government and us."</i></p> <p>Question Christine Chalmers "Do we have to put in a grant every year – grants that weren't agreed to last year they'd have to be re put in again, you don't carry them over to the following year?"</p> <p><i>CEO Brendan McGrath responded "Can I just clarify when you talk about grants do you mean a budget submission on this?"</i></p> <p>Christine Chalmers responded "Yes."</p> <p><i>CEO Brendan McGrath responded "It's probably better from our perspective if you can resubmit that. Every year we reconsider the budget so it's better for us if you resubmit it. A whole bunch of other people will be making submissions and the risk is that's what our attention is on if we don't get something fresh from you. So if you've got something you can change the dates on and resubmit then that's helpful."</i></p>
22.9	<p>Mr Jim McNamara</p> <p>"In the case of public land like Whorouly South being sold, is it always that it goes to a tender like it did or wouldn't it be in that rate payers interests for it to be advertised</p>

	<p>properly so everybody knows about it and to be put to a public auction. What is the ruling on that is it a Council decision or a set process?"</p> <p><i>CEO Brendan McGrath responded "There is a set process Jim it's set out in legislation that we have to follow. Our normal practice would be that it is advertised be that for sale or advertise that we're running a tender process. I'm pretty sure in this case there was a notice put in the Wangaratta Chronicle. I heard earlier that not everyone reads the Wangaratta Chronicle, but the fact remains that it is our locally circulating paper so that is what we rely on for these sorts of notices. It would be very very rare circumstances that we would sell land without it being advertised in some fashion like that."</i></p> <p>Jim McNamara "Isn't it the best way to be put out to the public is for a sign to go up there saying it's for sale whether it's a public auction or tender, but at least something go up on the property so that everyone who drives past knows what's going on?"</p> <p><i>CEO Brendan McGrath responded "Yes not a bad suggestion at all, so we'll take that up."</i></p> <p>Question from Mr Dan Ivone "So is that tender process closed?"</p> <p><i>CEO Brendan McGrath responded "Yes it is."</i></p> <p><i>Cr. Dean Rees responded "It was advertised in the Wangaratta Chronicle".</i></p>
22.1.1	<p>Ms Pauline McPherson Raised drainage works that were surveyed planned for Church Street and for Lagoon Drive. In 2018 / 2019 plans were drawn up for the drainage works and so money has been spent by Council to do the work to prepare for the work and it's never happened. I notice it's not in the budget again. "Do I have to put in a submission for it to go ahead even though Council have already funded the planning for it?"</p> <p><i>CEO Brendan McGrath responded "I'll answer the first part of the question while Marcus is searching through the Long Term Plan to see where it sitting there. It's quite normal for us to do advanced design work. Going back a number of years we would try and design a project and get it funded and build it all within one year and then it would be that would fail. So our new practice now is we try and advance design a whole range of things that we know need to be done so that they are more project ready when they're funded either by us or others so that's kind of normal practice. It doesn't always follow that we design one year and build the next, but we try and have designs ready so that they are buildable when we've got funding."</i></p> <p><i>Director Goonan responded "The Infrastructure plans were completed as part of the Rural Placemaking Project about 4 or 5 years ago now. The Rural Placemaking Project was envisaged and came to life and was supported by Council. From there what we've actually done because there were so many infrastructure projects within that in each of the smaller towns we'd been out, and we've actually done an infrastructure plan for most of the towns. Milawa has one, Oxley has one, Whorouly has one, Tarrawingee has one and so on etc. The way we work with it is we do the plan which takes us about a year or so and then we come back a couple of years' time and start spending some money on that. The reality of that is though when we're talking about money, we're talking \$150,000 - \$200,000 and most of the total of works in each of those towns is probably up</i></p>

	<p><i>around \$800,000 - \$900,000 worth of works. We will get there slowly but these plans are deliberately put down so that we're not causing problems to someone else or we're not cutting ourselves out of being able to do something later on so it's a bit more of a holistic approach as opposed to doing a piece meal bits within the towns.</i></p> <p>Pauline McPherson "This was surveyed, this work was actually done and it's a school, there's an open drain and there's cars and a bus it's not something for 10 years down the track."</p>
29.1.2	<p>Mr Collin Walker</p> <p>Spoke about the Whorouly Recreation Reserve and the lack of support Council has provided "What plans does Council have to support the recreation reserve? Why isn't Council doing their job to supporting the sub-committees and continuing to push these things?"</p> <p><i>Cr. Dean Rees responded "You do have a ward Councillor like Councillor Bussell who does push a lot of your programs forward. I'll convert back to Moyhu. Moyhu has been pushing for 10 or 15 or 20 years to have their hall fixed and cleaned up and finally got the money through in more recent times that it's programmed into this budget upon it being accepted in June. Things do take time everybody has got their hand out at the moment for money on everything every facility everything is dated and dilapidated, we've got the same thing at Tarrawingee I met with the Tarrawingee people about their toilet just on Monday, so it is constant. You are in our thoughts thank you for looking after it and doing such a great job you do a great job and we do appreciate it and I know Councillor Bussell as your ward councillor will be working hard to make sure we get some things done out here."</i></p> <p><i>Cr. Irene Grant responded "Councillor Bussell isn't the only Councillor that advocates. I mean we're trying to be all things to all people. We hear your concerns and I think we try our best to spend what money we have in the most even-handed way right across the municipality. I hear all sorts of things we try to make the best decisions with all the information that we have. We try and be as fair as we possibly can and as the Mayor said we recognise the hard work that the community to put in to keep these facilities looking as good as they do. We are trying our very best and what we constantly do to is try and find some external money that we can help to boost what we do. And as I said earlier around the budget we spend almost half of what we bring in as revenue on infrastructure, but even that is not enough. It is a difficult task and constant and competing interests. In understand where you're coming from in terms of fairness to Council we try and be as even handed as we can possibly be."</i></p>

23. Confidential Business

Nil.

24. Closure of Meeting

The Meeting closed at 7:47pm.