



Rural City of
Wangaratta

Minutes

For the Ordinary Council Meeting
Council Chambers, Municipal Offices
62-68 Ovens Street, Wangaratta **24 May 2022**

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1. Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners

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

2. Opening Prayer

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

3. Present

Councillors:

Mr David Fuller, Mr Harry Bussell, Mr Harvey Benton, Ms Ashlee Fitzpatrick, Jack Herry.

Officers:

Brendan McGrath, Chief Executive Officer; Marcus Goonan, Director Infrastructure Services; Stephen Swart, Director Infrastructure Services; Juan Hernandez, Acting Director Corporate Services.

4. Absent

Councillors:

Mr Dean Rees;

Officers:

Sarah Brindley, Director Corporate Services.

5. Acceptance of Apologies & Granting of Leave of Absence

That Cr. Grant be noted as an apology having previously advised Council.

Order of Business

6. Citizen Ceremony

Nil.

7. Confirmation of Minutes

(Moved: Councillor H Benton/Councillor D Fuller)

That Council read and confirm the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of 26 April 2022 as a true and accurate record of the proceedings of the meeting.

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.

10. Hearing of Deputations

Nil.

Presentation Of Reports

11. Councillor Reports

Nil.

Officers' Reports

12. Executive Services

Nil.

13. Community Wellbeing

Nil.

14. Corporate Services

Nil.

15. Infrastructure Services

15.1 Merriwa Park Masterplan Adoption

Meeting Type: Ordinary Council Meeting
Date of Meeting: 24 May 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.

Recommendation:

That Council adopts the Merriwa Park Masterplan April 2022.

(Moved: Councillor J Herry/Councillor A Fitzpatrick)

That Council:

1. Council adopts the Merriwa Park Masterplan April 2022
2. Any decision to remove the existing toilet block be determined by future council resolution.

Carried

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

A key feature of the Master Plan is to maintain the existing biodiversity of planted species both native and introduced.

The Masterplan will preserve the significant remnant vegetation throughout Merriwa and Kaluna Parks for future generations. The lagoon system is to be upgraded with a new recycling water system to reduce water usage. The nature play elements and seating within the park will be constructed from sustainable and recycled materials.

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.
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 

Question Submitted by: Rose Wedler On behalf of the Urban Bush Regeneration group (WLS)

The Bush Regeneration Group, which is a part the WLS does weekly work in Kaluna Park and uses the toilet facilities near the sound shell regularly. The group also uses a space in the toilet block to store bulky tools and equipment which has been great.

If the block was to be removed as planned, a valuable storage space which has assisted the group to easily continue with regular regeneration work in Kaluna Park over the years would be lost. Is a suitable replacement storage area incorporated in future plans? What support is the city willing or able to offer to further support the regeneration work of the group by providing an easily accessible storage facility?

Director Goonan responded "Thank you very much for the question. Yes the Bush Regeneration Group undertakes some very important work both in and around Kaluna Park and certainly a suitable replacement storage will be incorporated into any future works that we undertake."

Question Submitted by: Cassandra Pollock

My questions refer to the Merriwa Park Masterplan being discussed at tonight's Wangaratta council meeting.

Question 1 If there is no intention to remove any mature trees during the enactment of this Masterplan, why is the following statement still included on page 7 under the heading "Opportunities" ? "Improve kerbside appeal of Merriwa Park through the removal of a number of exotic trees near the bike hub....."

Director Goonan responded "Thank you for your question Cassandra. Under opportunities on page 7 number 26 it talks about kerbside. This is meaning road reserve trees not trees within the park. There are as you rightly point out several areas within Merriwa Park where within the plan we've noted to preserve and protect the trees. This comment also goes on to state that the removal of these trees would be subject to community feedback and just being clear we're talking about trees within the road reserve not trees within Merriwa Park."

Question 2

I acknowledge the Masterplan incorporates new features that acknowledge the significant indigenous history of this space.

However..... the Masterplan has made NO effort to incorporate an acknowledgement of the rich, varied, recreational 150 year history of Merriwa Park? Why Not? Isn't the swimming and

recreational cultural background of Wangaratta worthy of remembering and celebrating as well? *Director Goonan responded "Thank you for your question again. So Council received 55 submissions on this Masterplan and certainly a lot of verbal feedback through a number of conversations with not only with user groups and the public in general. Throughout the plan's consultation significant feedback on the nature elements of the park and this is highlighted in the plan and also the vision for the park moving forward. The Masterplan is a high level plan as each project is developed in more detail community feedback will continue to be sought and acknowledgements to its sporting history could be added if the community saw fit at that stage."*

15.2 Cell 6 construction at Bowser Landfill

Meeting Type:	Ordinary Council Meeting
Date of Meeting:	24 May 2022
Author:	Director Infrastructure Services
File No:	IC22/880

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 Cell 6 Construction Works and the financial impacts associated with an increase in the quantities and changes to the approved plans.

Due to a significant increase in waste disposal in 2021 at Bowser Landfill attributed to the bushfire waste, the expected serviceable life of Cell 7 has been significantly reduced. To ensure practical completion of Cell 6 construction occurred prior to Cell 7 reaching capacity, the tender was released in August 2021. Although changes can be made at any stage it was expected these changes would be minor and could be covered by the contingency in the contract. Unfortunately, when the final review was completed, several additional items were noted. These items are only partly covered by the contingency.

Additional design requirements in the November 2021 review included:

- 8250 sqm layer of drainage geo-composite (leachate drainage net to side walls)
- 7875 sqm of 'smooth' HDPE liner to reduce drag effect on other liners.
- 130 m of increased diameter leachate pipework to accommodate
- 17200 sqm of constructed Compacted Clay Liner to floor.

Reduced design requirement in the November 2021 review included:

- 7045 sqm in geotextile cushion liner (protective layer).
- 10,595 m³ reduction in 'in-situ' bulk out clay material.

Applying available contingency sums to the pricing received on the additional items the net variation result to Council totals \$195,247.87ex GST. Covid-19 has had a major impact on global shipping markets and commodity prices, these significantly increased following the tender award and further impacted pricing on these items.

In line with Council's Procurement Policy, all contract variations relating to a lump sum contract amount that exceeds the CEO's financial delegation, requires Council approval.

Council Officers have reviewed the contract scope of works and cannot identify any areas for potential savings without compromising the final deliverables.

(Moved: Councillor J Herry/Councillor H Benton)

That Council approve a variation of \$195,247.87 (GST ex) resulting in a revised contract value of \$1,596,787.87 (GST ex) for Contract C32183 Cell 6 Construction Works at Bowser Landfill and adjust the total project budget to \$1,665,631.87 (GST ex).

Carried

Background

Bowser Landfill has 8 landfill cells. 5 cells are now filled (1, 2, 3, 4 and 8), and one cell is still active (7) with two cells to be constructed in the future (5 & 6). After a landfill cell is filled it is temporarily capped with clay until an engineered cap is constructed on top of it. Cell 1 is the only landfill cell that has been capped at the Bowser Landfill, with Cells 2 & 8 capping currently being finalised.

As Cell 7 is now nearly full, Council have been preparing for the construction of the next cell, Cell 6. This has come earlier than anticipated due to receipt of the 2020 bushfire waste last year.

Cell 6 is to be built in accordance with the EPA's Best Practice Landfill Guideline. The construction contract was awarded to Winslow Contractors Pty Ltd at the Ordinary Council Meeting on 28 September 2021.

Implications**Policy Considerations**

Waste Management Strategy 2018 - 2023

Financial/Economic Implications

These works are funded via the waste reserve. The waste reserve is funded through fees and charges raised for the provision of the waste service. Identified projects are assessed and projected in the 10-year capital works plan and Council's Long Term Financial Plan. Funds raised through fees and charges allocated to the waste reserve can only be used for waste capital infrastructure.

Total adopted capital budget was \$1,600,000, to date actual expenditure is \$68,844. The existing contract award is \$1,401,540.00. The proposed variation of \$195,247.87 (GST ex) would result in an adjusted forecast expenditure, including actual of \$1,665,631.87 (GST ex).

Legal/Statutory

The Environment Protection Act 2017, as significantly amended by the Environment Protection Amendment Act 2018.

Social

While the community continue to produce single use waste products, landfills still perform a vital role in waste management. The standards applied to the cell construction by the EPA allows for the control of pollutants, particularly leachate and gases, while also controlling development around sensitive repositories.

Environmental/Sustainability Impacts

Council continues to work with the community on reducing waste to landfill. This includes education, FOGO and possible glass collection. The standards applied to the cell construction by the EPA allowing the control of pollutants, particularly leachate and gases, while also controlling development around sensitive repositories. The leachate and gases are controlled during the filling of the cell and then after capping.

Clay will be sought from the site reducing the impacts of cartage and recycled organic material from Council's facility will be used for topsoiling and rehabilitation.

Strategic Links**Council Plan 2021 – 2025**

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

3. Valuing our Environment**3.2 Reduce waste and enhance resource recovery.**

Ensure services and facilities are operated in compliance with the updated Environmental Protection Act.

Other strategic links

This report supports the Waste Management Strategy and Waste Services Policy.

Risk Management

Tender evaluation, award and consideration of variation have been done in accordance with Council's Procurement Policy.

Consultation/Communication

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

Options for Consideration

1. Approve the variation proposed in this report.
2. Do not approve the variation proposed in this report. This will result in significant delays in the practical completion of the project. It may also result in the contractor disputing the contract.

Conclusion

Officers have reviewed the variation claim from the contractor and found it to be reasonable. To allow the works to continue Council officers recommend that the variation be approved to gain final approval to commence filling Cell 6 upon practical completion.

Attachments

Nil.

15.3 Kerbside Glass Collection Service

Meeting Type:	Ordinary Council Meeting
Date of Meeting:	24 May 2022
Author:	Acting Waste Services Coordinator
File No:	IC22/966

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 approval to proceed to community consultation on the Kerbside Glass Collection Service Model before considering the feedback and proposed service model at a future Council meeting.

The proposed Service Model includes:

- Monthly collection of 'purple lidded' kerbside glass bins for all tenements currently receiving a comingled recycling service.
- Accessible glass 'drop off' facilities within transfer stations for all other tenements.

The proposed kerbside glass collection service model reflects a future service model that enacts Council's obligations under the Victorian Government's Circular Economy (Reduction and Recycling) Act 2021.

Noting that the implementation and commencement date of the proposed kerbside glass collection service model is subject to the completion of the 'Resource Recovery Collective - Hume' collaborative procurement activity, community feedback and Circular Economy (Waste Reduction and Recycling) Act 2021.

Recommendation:

That Council:

1. Endorse the community consultation process for the proposed kerbside glass collection service model for a 28-day public exhibition period, inviting submissions from the community and stakeholders, and
2. Review and consider adopting the proposed kerbside glass collection service model at a future Ordinary Council Meeting taking into consideration submissions made via the community consultation process.

(Moved: Councillor J Herry/Councillor D Fuller)

That Council

1. Endorse a community consultation process for the proposed kerbside glass collection service model for a 60-day community engagement period, inviting submissions from the community and stakeholders, and

2. Review and consider adopting the proposed kerbside glass collection service model at a future Ordinary Council Meeting taking into consideration submissions made via the community consultation process.

Carried

Background

In late February 2020, the Victorian Government released its circular economy policy Recycling Victoria and 10-year action plan for waste and recycling. The policy committed to developing the Victorian Governments Circular Economy Reduction and Recycling Act 2021 (the Act) and establishing a waste authority regulator (Recycle Victoria).

Amongst several proposed changes to existing waste management practices and procedures delivered by Council, the Act requires councils to 'transition' kerbside waste service delivery models to 4 specific waste and recycling streams to all residents by 2030.

The four streams are:

1. Combined food and garden organics (FOGO) (already implemented)
2. Glass (2027)
3. Combined paper, plastic, and metals (Comingled recycling)
4. Residual household waste (Garbage)

In August 2020 the Victorian Government provided Council funding to assist in developing a 'kerbside transition plan' providing details of how Council intends to transition to the four-core kerbside collection service model, including timing of service introductions, infrastructure needs, education requirements and consultation periods. Addressing glass collection requirements formed a priority of the activity given Council having already successfully implemented FOGO collection in 2015.

The 'kerbside transition plan' was informed by extensive analysis, modelling and benchmarking of metrics and data obtained from Council's existing kerbside collection service along with several Victorian Councils which have existing kerbside glass collection services.

Council officers assessed each waste service delivery model based on service delivery, accessibility, forecast glass material diversion rates, potential ancillary costs (i.e., illegal dumping/contamination) and how each option addressed expectations based on Victorian Government policy and communications.

Pending endorsement of the recommended service model, community consultation is planned to commence early June 2022 which aims to seek feedback from the community on the proposed Kerbside Glass Collection Service Model, prior to presentation of a final service model to Council at a future Ordinary Council meeting, taking into consideration submissions made via the community consultation process.

Implications

Policy Considerations

Victorian Government Circular Economy Policy and 10-year action plan for waste and recycling.

Financial/Economic Implications

Initial estimates of key activities associated with the delivery of the preferred service model are:

- Roll-out (delivery) of 80l kerbside glass bins to urban and township tenements \$380,000
- Commissioning of Transfer Station glass 'drop off' facilities \$343,000
- Delivery of ongoing kerbside collection service and materials processing \$380,000 (\$45 per tenement serviced)

Council has been successful in obtaining the following funding toward the key activities:

- DELWP \$214,000 funding assistance to offset transition costs to 4 stream collection.
- DELWP \$343,000 funding assistance to commission Transfer Station glass 'drop off' facilities.

This leaves a shortfall of \$166K to be funded by Council.

Council is currently participating in a regional collaborative procurement activity with 13 other councils and Alpine Resorts throughout the Hume and Goulburn Valley region for provision of kerbside waste and recycling services. The existing procurement project schedule indicates that the tender evaluation process will be complete in October 2022. This activity will provide service delivery options based on the recommended service model resulting in significant financial benefits to the community in the delivery of the additional service. This will be detailed in a report to Council following the completion of the activity.

Legal/Statutory

Victorian Governments Circular Economy Reduction and Recycling Act 2021 (the Act).
Waste authority regulator (Recycle Victoria).

Social

The introduction of a glass service will reduce waste to landfill while maintain the viability of the comingled sorting stations. Improving end user outcomes.

Environmental/Sustainability Impacts

The introduction of a glass service will reduce waste to landfill.

Removing glass from the comingled recycling stream will allow greater opportunity for high value recycling to be produced without the glass contamination.

Glass will be able to be sorted into high and low value glass for better overall recycling results.

Strategic Links**Council Plan 2021 – 2025**

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

3.2 Reduce waste and enhance resource recovery**3.2.1 Reduce waste and enhance resource recovery.**

(3.2.1.2) Ensure service delivery is in accordance with the Recycle Victoria Policy

(3.2.1.5) Introduce a third glass-only bin into the community. Provide educational resources to households to ensure a successful uptake.

Rural City of Wangaratta 2033 Community Vision

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

- M2 Strengthen positive behaviours throughout the community to minimise the negative impact of waste

Risk Management

Risks	Likelihood	Consequence	Rating	Mitigation Action
Negative community response: potential costs of service	Medium	Poor uptake and difficult implementation	6	Continued participation in collaborative procurement activity
Negative community response: requirement of additional bin	Medium	Continued contamination	6	Implement communications plan
Adequacy of collection frequency and location	Low	Continued contamination	4	Implement communications plan
Demonstrating compliance with Council's obligations under the Victorian Government's Circular Economy (Reduction and Recycling) Act 2021.	Low	Unowned under the Act	4	Continued participation in collaborative procurement activity

Consultation/Communication

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

Options for Consideration

1. Endorse the community consultation process for the proposed kerbside glass collection service model for a 28-day public exhibition period.
2. Do not endorse the community consultation process for the proposed kerbside glass collection service model.

Conclusion

It is recommended Council endorse proceeding to Community Consultation on the Kerbside Glass Collection Service Model for a 28-day public exhibition period, inviting submissions from the community and stakeholders until close of business on Thursday 30 June 2022.

Attachments

Nil.

Question: Anne Dunstan

"Is the model actually missing from the attachments because there's not a lot of detail in relation to that. Does it talk about how you're going to educate people, how you're going to introduce this? Is it going to be similar to the organics where rural people don't have access to it but townships will? Are you going to address owners corporation agreements within this like any other waste management policies? You talk about a \$54 charge is that the monthly charge that will be added to people's rates notices for the additional service? It feels like there's details missing and it's going out to public policy in June."

Director Goonan responded "Thank you for your question. We actually have spent quite a bit of time over the last couple of days to try and figure out what exactly the recommendation should be. What we are doing right at the moment is a very open piece of community consultation. We're actually going out to the community and asking them the best way to do this, what would you like to see out of it. So yes it is light on detail because we're not starting at point of knowing what the model is. There is a number of ways that we can roll this service out. All the Act says is that we must have a glass collection service by ex-date. So there's several different models and a number of Council's are using different models. Part of the community consultation is not to go out there and say this is the model we're using and this is how much it's going to cost. What do you think is the best way for us to deliver this service to you as a ratepayer. We have put in a price levy we thought it was important to have some sort of range that's our price at the moment that will change depending on what happens particularly with the procurement collaboration policy that we're going through at the moment that's a yearly charge that would go on to your waste charges as waste charges do. So this will still collect through that same mechanism.

Question: Currently the Waste Management Policy allows negotiating of owners corporation of bins onsite. Will we be able to the same if the glass bin gets introduced to complexes?

Director Goonan responded " That will part form part of the feedback. So if that is something people strongly really want to see within the service model that we propose then that's the feedback we need to get at this stage. We really at a very really basic level as I said we wanted to put something forward that at least gave people an understanding of where our heads were at, where we thought it might be best service bid, but absolutely open to all feedback from the community to inform how we move forward with this. The consultation will take a number of different forms. There will be an online survey, there will be feedback e-mails there will be direct community consultation and there will also be community meetings. So we will put out details as we move through.

16. Development Services

16.1 Tourism Events Grant Program

Meeting Type: Ordinary Council Meeting
Date of Meeting: 24 May 2022
Author: Economic Development & Tourism Officer
File No: IC22/888

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

Applications for funding under Council's Tourism Events Funding Program for events taking place between July and December 2022, recently closed. The allocated budget for this part of the program is \$20,000. Council received eight applications with a total funding request of \$21,480 for this period.

An assessment process has been undertaken with a recommendation that all eight events are funded with a total allocation of \$20,000.

(Moved: Councillor D Fuller/Councillor A Fitzpatrick)

That Council awards the total of \$20,000 to fund the following eight events as part of Round 1 (July - December 2022) of the Tourism Events Funding Program for the 2022/2023 financial year:

Event Name	Organisation	Date of Event	Grant Amount Recommended
Transmoto 8-Hour Enduro Wangaratta 2022	Transmoto Pty Ltd	24-25 September 2022	\$4,100
Eldorado Gold Flag Trail Day 2022	El Dorado Tourism Business Group Incorporated	3 December 2022	\$1,980
King Valley Challenge	Vigor Coaching	5 November 2022	\$2,000
Victorian Junior Road Championships	Carnegie Caulfield Cycling Club	13-14 August 2022	\$2,000

Victorian Salami Festival	Dal Zotto Wines	1 December 2022	\$2,000
Victorian Swimming Club Open Meet	Wangaratta Amateur Swimming Club	26-27 November 2022	\$1,500
La Dolce Vita	Wines of the King Valley	19-20 November 2022	\$5,000
Country Music Festival Wangaratta	Da Vinci Social Club Inc	11-13 November 2022	\$1,420

Carried

Background

Each year Council's Tourism Events Funding Program provides financial assistance to event organisers for the promotion and development of their festivals and events.

The objectives of the Tourism Events Funding Program is to –

- maximise economic and community benefits;
- provide significant branding and marketing opportunities for the municipality and region;
- substantially build the profile of the event to attract visitors from outside of the Rural City of Wangaratta; and
- promote the tourism product strengths of the Rural City of Wangaratta.

Grants are available up to \$5,000 for major and marquee events (events that attract over 500 visitors) and up to \$2,000 for minor events (events that attract less than 500 visitors).

This round of the program, which is providing funding for eligible events taking place from 1 July to 31 December 2022, received eight applications. The total amount requested for this round was \$21,480 with an estimated economic value add to the local economy of \$1.56 million.

The program is split into two rounds per year to provide the best opportunity for Rural City of Wangaratta to capture and support a range of events. Applications must ensure they adhere to any requirements for permits and all COVID19 regulations to conduct their event.

Applications were assessed against the program criteria including their ability to attract visitation to the region, their potential to develop into a key tourism or visitor attraction event in the foreseeable future, a marketing plan well researched and targeting beyond the immediate municipality and other relevant criteria. Following this assessment, eight events are recommended to receive funding.

Implications

Policy Considerations

The program applications have been assessed by a panel of three Council officers from multiple departments with funding allocation recommendations made in line with the Council Plan objective for tourism, the key directions of the Economic Development and Tourism Strategy and the grant program assessment criteria.

Financial/Economic Implications

Council has an allocation of \$20,000 to fund this portion of the program for 1 July to 31 December 2022. The recommendation on the current round under review is to allocate a total of \$20,000 to the successful applicants.

Legal/Statutory

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

Social

Events have the capacity to increase the level of local interest and participation within the community and strengthen regional values. Increased local pride and community spirit, as well as an increased awareness of non-local perceptions.

Environmental/Sustainability Impacts

Environmental and sustainability impacts were included as an assessment criterion for the grants. The aim is to increase events participation and awareness of waste, water reduction and reducing the impact on the environment.

Strategic Links

Council Plan 2021 – 2025

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

Expanding our Economy (Council Plan 2021 – 2025 Section 4)

- Promote the diverse tourism offering within the region
- Drive visitation by generating awareness and consideration of RCOW as an attractive regional tourist destination
- We encourage and support responsible growth of our existing businesses and industries.
- Support the development of small and medium enterprises.
- Enhance the activity in our rural townships.

Rural City of Wangaratta 2033 Community Vision

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

Tourism continues to thrive, with visitors attracted to the region's natural beauty, food and wine, cycling tracks, art facilities, cultural heritage and festivals.

Other strategic links

This report supports the Economic Development and Tourism Strategy 2018-2023.

Risk Management

Risks	Likelihood	Consequence	Rating	Mitigation Action
Event organisers ability to contribute cash and in-kind	(3) possible	(2) minor	Medium	Ask for financial commitment and financials in application
Event organisers capacity to deliver the promised event	(3) possible	(2) minor	Medium	Constant communication with event organisers to ensure event success

Consultation/Communication

Level of public participation	Promises to the public/stakeholders	Tools/Techniques
Inform	Provide an event funding program	The Chronicle Industry eNewsletter Digital Media Channels Council website
Empower	Provide support to event organisers	Advice on completing and submitting applications

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

Options for Consideration

Option 1: (Recommended)

Council approves the allocation of a total of \$20,000 to fund the recommended eight events as part of Round 1 of the 2022/2023 Tourism Events Funding Program.

Option 2: (Not Recommended)

Council rejects or amends the allocation of a total of \$20,000 to fund the recommended eight events as part of Round 1 of the 2022/2023 Tourism Events Funding Program and does not proceed with the program as per council officers' recommendations.

Conclusion

Following a detailed assessment, eight applications were recommended for funding. They are listed in this report, and it is requested that Council approves the allocation of a total of \$20,000 to fund these events.

Attachments

- 1 Tourism Events Grant Program (July-Dec 2022) - Applications Summary & Panel Scores - Confidential

17. Special Committee Reports

Nil.

18. Advisory Committee Reports

Nil.

19. Minutes of Advisory Committee Meetings

19.1 Minutes of Advisory Committee Reports

Meeting Type: Ordinary Council Meeting
Date of Meeting: 24 May 2022
Author: Executive Assistant Corporate Services
File No: IC22/382

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

Executive Summary

Minutes of Advisory Committee Meetings and committee reports are reported to Council for information (please refer attachments.)

Date	Meeting Details	Refer
15 February 2022	Audit and Risk Advisory Committee Minutes	Attachment 1
16 February 2022	Sport and Recreation Advisory Committee	Attachment 2
02 May 2022	Arts, Culture, Events and Heritage Advisory Committee	Attachment 3

(Moved: Councillor H Benton/Councillor J Herry)

That Council notes the minutes of these Advisory Committees.

Carried

Attachments

- 1 Audit and Risk Advisory Committee Minutes - 15 February 2022 
- 2 Sport and Recreation Advisory Committee Minutes - 16 February 2022 
- 3 ACEHAC Minutes - May 2022 

20. Notices of Motion

Nil.

21. Urgent Business

Nil.

22. Public Question Time

22.1	<p>Question Joanne Griffiths</p> <p>“At the 26 April 2022 Council Meeting, I raised serious concerns held in regard to Council’s management in commissioning the proposed Glenrowan Interpretive Cultural Centre, including Council’s application to Heritage Victoria for approval. Mayor Dean Rees stated that my questions he read out had already been answered.</p> <p>This was and is not the case. Furthermore, Mayor Rees’ video-recorded statement that the questions “have already been answered” is not recorded in the Council minutes. This is misleading and unacceptable.</p> <p>In fact, Council’s replies have failed to properly address or explain the following matters, or why Council is insisting on proceeding with the development given it has been made aware that its application was apparently heavily misleading for (at least) the following reasons:</p> <p>The development contravenes Council’s own policies including the adopted policies for management of the precinct in the Conservation and Landscape Management Plan of 2018 (“CLMP”) and its own heritage policies (policies that are still purportedly in effect and binding on Council Officers).</p> <p>The CLMP was not supplied to Heritage Victoria in the application (as was required by the Heritage Regulations) by Council officers acting on Council’s behalf.</p> <p>The Heritage Impact Statement (“HIS”) contained a diagram from the CLMP’s Landscape Technical Guidelines that had been altered to insert an apparent cylindrical building location that was not drawn in the original, effectively misrepresenting that the CLMP had approved of a round building at a location within the park (that would obstruct authentic character heritage ground-level views), when in fact the CLMP specifically rejected any form of building in the park that would cause such obstruction.</p> <p>The HIS misrepresented the recommendations of the CLMP to suggest the CLMP had proposed a building location in the park when in fact this was mentioned only as a theoretical possibility under strict conditions of a design that was of sensitive scale, form and placement and be “non-dominating” and “recessive” allowing the natural landscape to dominate, (and not obscuring of the ground- level through views), conditions both unmet and heavily contradicted by the proposed tower.</p> <p>The artistic photo-montages in the HIS showed the tower development at less than real scale in relation to the surroundings, falsely showing Mt Glenrowan viewed from the footpath at about double the elevation angle of the GICC tower, when it is at about half that, and the view will be heavily obscured from the street.</p> <p>The Heritage Impact Statement to the application stated that Lions Park (Southern Railway Reserve) brought no income to Glenrowan when in fact there was an obvious income generator from the Farmer’s Market, and from tourists stopping over in the town</p>
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	<p>to use the facilities.</p> <p>Does Council accept that it has a duty to investigate this apparently misleading material, the apparent failure of Council Officers to act in accordance with its own policies and in accordance with legislation, and the failure to protect State– and Nationally assessed heritage values? If not, why not?</p> <p>Does Council recognize that its apparent failure or refusal to investigate these matters, and its refusal to suspend works gives rise to the appearance of serious impropriety by Councillors that could constitute serious or gross misconduct in contravention of the <i>Local Government Act</i>?</p> <p>Does Council accept that continuing work on the development in these circumstances is putting ratepayer's funds at risk, as any person may bring an action for orders to cease work in the Supreme Court on the basis of breach of the Heritage Act?</p> <p>Will Council act to protect ratepayers' funds by suspending work and co-operating with any independent investigation of this matter?"</p> <p><i>Director Swart summarised the above question highlighting key points for response. "In response I offer the following. The Glenrowan project has all the required approvals and Council rejects any allegation that the processes to seek and gain these approvals were significantly flawed or that the information submitted as part of these processes was misleading.</i></p> <p><i>The merits of the proposed development were considered by Heritage Victoria, the relevant decision making authority in this case, and the proposal was found to be suitable for approval by that authority.</i></p> <p><i>Council does not consider that the permit application process has contravened any relevant policies or legislation.</i></p> <p><i>The project is being constructed in accordance with the permit issued by Heritage Victoria.</i></p> <p><i>Council does not consider that there has been any breach of the Heritage Act as alleged, but recognises that any person may bring legal action against Council. Council will not suspend work on this project."</i></p>
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23. Confidential Business

Nil.

24. Closure of Meeting

The Meeting closed at 3:37pm.