



Rural City of
Wangaratta

Minutes

For the Scheduled Council Meeting
Eldorado Memorial Hall
94 Main Street, Eldorado
6pm 30 April 2024

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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:

Irene Grant, David Fuller, Dean Rees, Harry Bussell, Harvey Benton, Jack Herry

Officers:

Brendan McGrath, Chief Executive Officer; Marcus Goonan, Director Community and Infrastructure; Sarah Brindley, Director Corporate and Leisure; Simone Nolan, Acting Director Sustainability and Culture

Administration:

Executive Services Coordinator; Councillor and Executive Services Support Officer

4. Absent

5. Acceptance of Apologies & Granting of Leave of Absence

Resolution:

(Moved: Councillor D Fuller/Councillor I Grant)

That an apology was received from Cr Ashlee Fitzpatrick.

Carried

Order of Business

6. Citizen Ceremony

Wednesday 8 May 2024

7. Confirmation of Minutes

Resolution:

(Moved: Councillor D Fuller/Councillor H Benton)

That Council read and confirm the Minutes of the Scheduled Meeting of 26 March 2024 as a true and accurate record of the proceedings of the meeting.

Carried

8. Conflict of Interest Disclosure

In accordance with section 130 of the Local Government Act 2020 a councillor who has a conflict of interest in respect of a matter must disclose 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.

CEO Brendan McGrath declared a conflict of interest in relation to item 22.1 Community Complaint Resolution.

Director Sarah Brindley declared a conflict of interest in relation to item 22.1 Community Complaint Resolution.

9. Reception of Petitions

10. Hearing of Deputations

Presentation Of Reports

11. Councillor Reports

Nil

Officers' Reports

*For full transcript, please refer to the recording on the [Rural City of Wangaratta YouTube channel](#).
Time markers are noted in (minutes:seconds) format.*

12. Executive Services

Nil

Unconfirmed

13. Corporate and Leisure

13.1 2023/2024 Quarter 3 Forecast Review (05:10)

Meeting Type:	Scheduled Council Meeting
Date of Meeting:	30 April 2024
Author:	Financial Controller
File No:	IC23/2000

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

Executive Summary

This report is presented to Council to provide an update of Council's financial performance and anticipated full year financial position based on developments over the last three months.

Resolution:

(Moved: Councillor D Fuller/Councillor J Herry)

That Council approves the 2023/2024 Quarter 3 Forecast Review, including:

1. The increase in the projected full year accounting surplus by \$4.2m to \$11.89m.
2. The increase in capital works expenditure by \$375k to \$37.34m.
3. 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 the 2023/24 Budget.

Council's Quarter 3 Forecast Report indicates increase to the Accounting Surplus of \$4.2m and to the Adjusted Underlying Operating Result by \$2.35m. This was primarily driven by increases in Operating Grants due to recognition of National Disaster Recovery Funding for the 2022 Storm Event, and a decrease in Employee Benefits.

Council's 2023/24 capital works expenditure has increased from \$36.97m to \$37.34m, a net increase of \$375k, impacted by additional material and contractor costs of several existing projects.

Implications

Financial/Economic Implications

Quarter 3 Forecast Review

Rural City of Wangaratta	23/24 Adopted Budget	23/24 Adopted Q2 Forecast	23/24 Q3 Forecast Review	Q2 to Q3 Variance Fav/(Unfav)
31st March 2024	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Income	86,556	89,982	92,527	2,546
Expenses	76,327	82,290	80,637	1,653
Surplus / (deficit) for the year	10,229	7,692	11,890	4,199
Add/(Less) Non-Operating	10,061	14,275	16,124	(1,849)
Adjusted Underlying Result	167	(6,584)	(4,234)	2,350
Capital Works Expenditure	32,462	36,966	37,341	(375)
Net Fav/(Unfav) Q3 Variance				1,975

The Chief Executive Officer is of the opinion that a revised budget is not required, pursuant to Section 97(3) of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

Accounting Surplus – Favourable Increase:

Council's forecasted Accounting Surplus increased by \$4.2m as described below. The decrease in the Adjusted Underlying Operating Result is due to favourable movements in Operating Grants and Employee Benefits.

Operating Grants, net increase \$2.45m:

- Recognition of funding relating to the October 2022 Storm Event (\$2.1m)
- Increased Financial Assistance Grants (\$300k)

Employee Benefits, net decrease \$1.4m:

- Removal of provision for EBA increase placed in budget at the start of the year which has is now captured through actual salary payments (\$570k)
- Adjustment to staff cost allocations within Field Services (\$178k)
- Reduction due to vacancies in Waste Management (\$137k)

Refer to the Income Statement on Attachment 1, Quarter 3 Forecast Review document for detailed commentary on the changes to Council's 2023/24 projected position.

Capital Works

Council's capital works expenditure has increased from \$36.97m to \$37.34m, a net increase of \$375k. The increase can largely be attributed to additional costs associated with materials and contractors relating to Moyhu Hall Refurbishment (\$175k), Wangaratta Flood Mitigation Strategy (\$66k) & Major Patching and Asphaltting (\$62k).

Year-to-date delivery of the Capital Works Program is \$21.32m, with a further \$10.36m of commitments in place.

Balance Sheet

Council's working capital is in a strong position at 319% due to a high cash position from grant funding received in advance.

The third rates instalment was due in February and rates receivables continue to progress well with outstanding rates for the year of \$10.1m as of 31st March 2024.

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 that Council prepares a quarterly statement in respect of Environmental Upgrade Agreements.

There are two active Environmental Upgrade Agreements in operation with a total value of \$57,048.33. Charges due this year total \$4,360.68. Total payment of \$1,090.17 fell due this quarter, which was paid in full. The Balance outstanding at the end of the quarter is \$44,802.35.

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 that Council prepares a quarterly statement in respect of Environmental Upgrade Agreements.

Social

Social benefits of the delivery of Council services and projects are outlined in the 2023/24 Budget and in the Council Plan 2021-25.

Environmental/Sustainability Impacts

Council budgets for and delivers several projects that support its Environmental Sustainability Strategy. Refer to the Council Plan 2021-25 for further details.

Strategic Links

Council Plan 2021 – 2025

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

1. Strengthening our Leadership

Undertake regular and transparent reporting against Council's Adopted Budget.

Risk Management

Risk Management Framework

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

Consultation/Communication

Consultation has been undertaken with Council Managers and the Corporate Management Team. Officers believe that appropriate consultation has occurred, and the matter is now ready for Council consideration.

Options for Consideration

1. That Council endorses the Quarter 3 Forecast Review report – recommended.
2. That Council advises of any changes to the Adopted Budget and proposes an alternative recommendation for changes to the 2023/24 Budget.
3. That Council endorses the Environmental Upgrade Agreement quarterly statement.

Conclusion

This report compares actual performance with Council's 2023/24 adopted Q2 Forecast, adopted by Council on 27th February 2024. Council's Quarter 3 Forecast Review continues to be based on the best estimates of the Organisation as to its financial outlook.

Attachments

- 1 2023-24 Quarter 3 Finance Report 

13.2 Risk Management Policy 2024 and Risk Appetite Statement 2024 (07:08)

Meeting Type:	Scheduled Council Meeting
Date of Meeting:	30 April 2024
Category:	Strategic
Author:	Governance & Reporting Advisor
Approver:	Director Corporate and Leisure

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 endorse Council's Risk Management Policy and Risk Appetite Statement.

Resolution:

(Moved: Councillor I Grant/Councillor H Benton)

That Council:

1. Adopts the Risk Management Policy 2024 and Risk Appetite Statement 2024.

Carried

Background

Effective risk management is important to Council because by having robust risk management practices it enables the Council to maximise opportunity, minimise loss, and improve decisions and outcomes.

The Local Government Act 2020 (the Act) prescribes that Victorian councils are to have due regard to the overarching governance principles of the Act, including giving priority to the best outcomes for the municipal community (including future generations) and ensuring the ongoing financial viability of the municipality. Having an effective risk management framework is a critical element of ensuring Council adheres to these principles.

The Risk Management Policy and Risk Appetite Statements have had minimal changes and are presented to Council in accordance with their required review period and Local Law 4 to ensure they remain current.

Implications

Policy Considerations

'Major Council Policies' to be presented to council to be adopted in accordance with Local Law 4. Usually they require a period of community consultation, however this is not the case when only minor amendments have been made – as in this instance. Therefore the 'Council Policy' process

is being followed meaning Councillors can adopt the policy immediately if satisfied that the proposed amendments don't change the purpose, intent or outcomes of the policy.

Financial/Economic Implications

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

Legal/Statutory

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

Social and Diversity

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

Equity Impact Assessment (EIA)

The Risk Management Policy has had an Equity Impact Assessment (EIA) completed and is compliant with the obligations and objectives of the Victorian Gender Equality Act 2020.

Environmental/Sustainability Impacts

There are no environmental/ sustainability impacts identified for the 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

1.2 An efficient and effective Council

- 1.2.1 Ensure Council's financial sustainability through transparent and accountable financial management.
- 1.2.3 Proactively manage risk across all areas of Council

Risk Management

Risks	Likelihood	Consequence	Rating	Mitigation Action
Failure of having robust risk management processes in effect	Possible	Minor	5 – Medium	Adopting a risk management policy and appetite statement formalising council's approach to risk management practices mitigates this risk.

Consultation/Communication

Community consultation for this report is not required as the policy only contains 'minor amendments' as per Local Law 4 (2015) section 5. Officers involved in the review of the policy and the drafting of this report believe that appropriate consultation has occurred and the matter is now ready for Council consideration.

Options for Consideration

Councillors may elect to seek further review of the policy and Appetite Statement before considering at a future meeting date (not recommended) or adopt the policy in its proposed form (recommended).

Conclusion

Councillors are requested to adopt the Risk Management Policy 2024 and the Risk Appetite Statement 2024.

Attachments

- 1 Risk Management Policy 2024 
- 2 Risk Management Policy - Tracked Changes 
- 3 Risk Appetite Statement 
- 4 Community Impact Statement 

13.3 Audit and Risk Committee Independent Member Appointment (09:20)

Meeting Type:	Scheduled Council Meeting
Date of Meeting:	30 April 2024
Category:	Strategic
Author:	Governance & Reporting Advisor
Approver:	Director Corporate and Leisure

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 formally endorse the appointment of a new independent member to the Audit and Risk Committee.

Resolution:

(Moved: Councillor J Herry/Councillor H Bussell)

That Council:

1. Appoints the candidate listed in Confidential Attachment 1 to this report to the Audit and Risk Committee (Committee) as an independent member, who is not a Councillor and who is not a member of Council staff:
 - a) For a term of 3 years commencing on the date of this resolution; and
 - b) In accordance with any other terms and conditions relevant to independent member established by the *Local Government Act 2020 (Vic)*, the Committee's Charter, Council's Governance Rules and any other relevant council policies or procedures; and;
2. Discloses the successful applicant and notifies any other applicants of Council's decision.

The successful applicant was disclosed as Wilson Tang.

Carried

Background

The Audit and Risk Committee (the Committee) was established by Council in August 2020 under section 53 of the *Local Government Act 2020 (Vic)*.

The Committee Charter (**Attachment 3**) states the Committee must include two Councillors and at least three, and up to four, independent members who are not Councillors and who are not members of Council staff.

The expiration of an independent member's term has resulted in there currently being only three independent members remaining on the Committee. Council may appoint a new independent member to the Committee to ensure there is sufficient independent member representation.

Expressions of Interest to fill the vacancies were advertised in February 2024 and one application was received. This applicant met the qualifying criteria for the position.

A selection panel was established and a Skills Assessment completed (**Confidential Attachment 2**) to assess the applicants and recommend the independent member appointment. The selection panel comprised the independent member Chairperson of the Audit and Risk Committee, the Corporate Planning & Governance Specialist and the Governance & Reporting Advisor.

Implications

Policy Considerations

The process for appointing the independent member set out in Council's Appointment to Council Committees Policy requires that the Chief Executive Officer undertakes an expression of interest process for the appointment of new members before providing a report to Council recommending that Council determine the appointment. This process has been followed.

The Committee's Charter contains membership provisions related to independent member appointments, including that:

1. The committee must include at least three, and up to four, other independent members;
2. Independent members must collectively have expertise in financial management and risk and experience in public sector management;
3. Independent members may be appointed for a term of up to three years;
4. The terms of office of independent members may be arranged to avoid more than two independent members retiring at the same time.

Financial/Economic Implications

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

Legal/Statutory

Section 53 of the Act governs the membership requirements, including that an Audit and Risk Committee must consist of a majority of members who are not Councillors and who collectively have expertise in financial management and risk, and experience in public sector management.

Social and Diversity

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

Equity Impact Assessment (EIA)

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

Environmental/Sustainability Impacts

There are no environmental/ sustainability impacts identified for the 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

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

Risk Management

Risks	Likelihood	Consequence	Rating	Mitigation Action
Council not having sufficient members to obtain a quorum for Audit and Risk Committee meetings	2 - Unlikely	Major	Low	Council endorsing a preferred candidate in accordance with the Audit and Risk Committee Charter.

Consultation/Communication

Expressions of Interest were publicly called to fill these positions. One expression of interest was received. The proposed appointee displayed excellent business acumen and possesses a considerable financial, risk and audit background. The proposed appointee also had sound awareness of the functions of audit and risk committees and has previously worked with Boards, particularly in the local government sector.

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

Options for Consideration

Council can either endorse the appointment of the preferred candidate or call for further Expressions of Interest to try and find a more suitable candidate.

Conclusion

The recent expression of interest process has identified a suitable appointee for the committee. The process and terms of the appointment complies with all legal and policy requirements.

The proposed appointee will assist with the continued improvement of council's governance, integrity and risk outcomes.

Attachments

- 1 Candidate Application - Confidential
- 2 Shortlisting Matrix February 2024 - Confidential
- 3 Audit and Risk Committee Charter 

14. Community and Infrastructure

14.1 Draft Affordable Housing Strategy (12:01)

Meeting Type:	Scheduled Council Meeting
Date of Meeting:	30 April 2024
Category:	Strategic
Author:	Manager Community Services
Approver:	Director Community and Infrastructure

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

•Officers:

Tony Keenan is a member of the Homes Victoria Advisory Board.

Executive Summary

This report is presented to Council to consider the draft Affordable Housing Strategy

Resolution:

(Moved: Councillor I Grant/Councillor D Fuller)

That Council:

1. Endorse the Draft Affordable Housing Strategy 2024 for public exhibition for 28 days.
2. Invites community submissions on the Strategy for 28 days from Friday 3 May up to 5pm on Friday 1 June 2024.
3. If submissions requesting changes to the Strategy are received, reviews and considers adopting the Affordable Housing Strategy 2024 at the next available Scheduled Council Meeting, taking into consideration all submissions made and any further changes.
4. If no submissions requesting changes to the Policy are received, adopts the Affordable Housing Strategy 2024 without further resolution.

Carried

Background

Since COVID, we have seen a rise in people experiencing housing insecurity and experiencing homelessness. Many factors such as increasing housing prices and cost of living pressures are increasing housing stress for families and individuals in our community and across Australia.

In February 2023, Council held a Housing and Homelessness Forum to understand what we can do as a local government organisation to support the community and to further our understanding of the complex issues around housing insecurity.

One of the recommendations from this forum was that Council develop an Affordable Housing Strategy considering the opportunities that we can explore to reduce the amount of people that are experiencing housing insecurity. Within this forum it was agreed that this strategy needs to be place-based – developed to suit the Wangaratta area, the opportunities we have and the community and services that reside here.

Our community has shown that it is compassionate and supportive of people doing it tough. A review of online Wangaratta community noticeboards shows that people are willing to help others, understanding the tough times people are going through and are willing to lend a hand.

While the Affordable Housing Strategy is primarily aimed at increasing affordable, social and key worker housing, it should be recognised that Wangaratta's community and service agencies are incredible in their compassionate approach which plays a big part in minimizing the number of people experiencing homelessness.

Council approved the budget for the Affordable Housing Strategy and a social planner was employed in October 2023. The draft strategy has been developed over the past five months. During this time, we have engaged with local service agencies and other councils to understand & learn about what is needed in this space and how councils can best provide this support.

Council held a follow up Housing and Homelessness Forum in February 2024, bringing these agencies together again to help shape the draft strategy.

The draft strategy is now presented to councilors for consideration of placing on public exhibition.

Implications

Policy Considerations

Council's Affordable Housing Strategy supports the objectives of council's Municipal Health and Wellbeing actions as outlined in the Council Plan 2021 – 2025.

Financial/Economic Implications

A focus on developing social and affordable housing will support our community in their financial security.

The North East Workforce Management and Appropriate Housing (NEWMAH) project identified a lack of appropriate and affordable housing as one of three barriers to employers attracting and retaining key workers to the area.

An increase in the number of affordable, key worker houses in the municipality will help employers meet this labour market challenge.

Legal/Statutory Implications

Action two of the strategy includes some implications on council's Land Use Planning relates to Councils' role as established under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*

Social and Diversity Implications

It is anticipated that there will be a number of social impacts provided through the Affordable Housing Strategy. These are:

- An increase in the number of social, affordable, and key worker houses across the Rural City of Wangaratta
- A reduction, over time, of people experiencing homelessness in the Rural City of Wangaratta.
- Increased housing options for women escaping family violence.
- Improved amenity provided by social housing developments in the City.

Equity Impact Assessment (EIA)

The Strategy will improve equity outcomes through the provision of social, affordable, and key worker houses. This will support:

- Women escaping family violence
- Indigenous residents who are at risk of or are experiencing homelessness

Environmental/Sustainability Impacts

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

Strategic Links

Council Plan 2021 – 2025

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

Growing With Integrity

6.1.2.3 Work with the State Government and social housing providers to facilitate social housing projects.

6.1.2.4 Explore opportunities to facilitate and encourage affordable CBD housing development

6.5.1.1 Implement placemaking projects in new communities to engage residents, build connections and identify priorities.

The Strategy will also support the following objectives of the Council Plan.

2.1 Protection of our own and each others mental health

2.3 Increased sense of inclusivity and connectedness

2.5 Prevention of all forms of violence

4.2 Support employment through business growth, development and recovery.

Risk Management

Risk Management Framework

Risks	Likelihood	Consequence	Rating	Mitigation Action
Commonwealth and State Government funding is not allocated to housing projects in Wangaratta	Unlikely	Major	Medium	Continued advocacy to Victorian and Commonwealth Governments, departments and elected representatives.
Community expectation that Council alone can deliver social, affordable and key worker housing	Possible	Moderate	Medium	Develop and implement and communications and engagement strategy with the community
Housing providers choose to develop and seek funding in other Local Government Areas	Possible unlikely (with mitigation)	Major	High Medium (with mitigation)	If Council is able to offer land or air space for housing and this will mitigate this risk
Commonwealth and State Government funding is not allocated to housing projects in Wangaratta	Unlikely	Major	Medium	Continued advocacy to Victorian and Commonwealth Governments, departments and elected representatives.

Consultation/Communication

Stakeholder consultation has been undertaken in developing the strategy including a half day forum.

Pending endorsement, the Draft Affordable Housing Strategy will be placed on public exhibition for 28 days from Friday 3 May up to 5pm on Friday 1 June 2023.

Options for Consideration

1. Council endorses the Draft Affordable Housing Strategy for public exhibition.
2. Council does not endorse the Draft Affordable Housing Strategy for exhibition, with additional development undertaken on items noted by council.

Conclusion

This strategy presents an approach council can take to increasing affordable housing. Council recognises that this is an issue that many agencies and services are working in, and that we need to be working as a collective to address this within the Rural City of Wangaratta and surrounding areas.

Attachments

- 1 Draft Affordable Housing Strategy 

Public Question:

Roxanne Bodsworth (22:50)

Does it address in any way some of the underlying causes of homelessness like domestic violence, mental health issues, drug addictions? Is that mentioned in there anywhere, and should that be considered as part of the strategic approach?

Cr Herry responded: I think that's the crux of the issue, is getting to the critical nature of housing and that it relates to every aspect of our life and interacts with every aspect of our life, it is influenced by all of the situations that we are in, substance issues, or mental health issues, or domestic violence issues, which is just why it shouldn't be something that we just resign to and say we are just going to leave it to the market and only government owned non-market housing is affordable. It's an essential, critical service, and we need stronger language, we need to change our approach to it, and we're small, Rural City of Wangaratta, we're a small Council, but we can't do it all by ourselves, but we can contribute to that, give it a push.

14.2 Recreation Strategy (27:11)

Meeting Type:	Scheduled Council Meeting
Date of Meeting:	30 April 2024
Category:	Strategic
Author:	Recreation Officer
Approver:	Director Community and Infrastructure

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 adopt the Recreation Strategy 2024-2033. It includes a summary of the changes that were incorporated based on feedback throughout the exhibition period.

The title of the document has been changed to *Recreation Strategy*, from *Recreation and Open Space Strategy*, to better reflect the intent of the document to outline Council's commitment to accessible and diverse recreation for the community. This Strategy will set the direction for the planning, development, maintenance, and activation of spaces by the Rural City of Wangaratta up to 2033.

Resolution:

(Moved: Councillor H Benton/Councillor H Bussell)

That Council:

1. Accepts the amendments made to the Draft Recreation and Open Space Strategy 2024-2033, including the change of title to Recreation Strategy 2024-2033
2. Adopts the Recreation Strategy 2024-2033

Carried

Motion:

(Moved: Councillor J Herry/Councillor H Benton)

Councillor J Herry moved an amendment:

That Council:

1. Accepts the amendments made to the Draft Recreation and Open Space Strategy 2024-2033, including the change of title to Recreation Strategy 2024-2033
2. Adopts the Recreation Strategy 2024-2033

3. That the words “historic” be inserted in the two passages that refer to Merriwa Park and King George V Gardens.

Lost

Background

The Recreation Strategy is part of Council’s commitment to the health and wellbeing of its community, including a commitment to providing space for recreation – whether that recreation is passive enjoyment, informal, play-based, or part of an organised sport. This strategy considers a number of factors, including Wangaratta’s population and community; trends in sport, recreation and physical activity; the spaces within the Rural City used for recreation; as well as other strategies and plans from Council. The strategy is underpinned by the vision of everyone having the opportunity to be active and connected through sport and recreation and the mission to plan and manage our facilities and open spaces to enhance community use, enjoyment and well-being.

Extensive consultation was undertaken as part of the development of the strategy, and feedback from many sources was incorporated into the final document. The majority of the feedback during exhibition was supportive, including from the growing number of non-traditional sports that call the Rural City of Wangaratta home. The majority of changes to the strategy were around the provision of clarity to recommendations and actions, as well as including sporting organisations who had not participated earlier in the process.

The main changes can be found in Attachment 3.

Implications

Policy Considerations

The Recreation Strategy references and impacts various park and open space Master Plans, as well as the Urban Tree Plan 2022, Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2021 and the Walking and Cycling Strategy 2020 among others.

Financial/Economic Implications

A project bid for \$30,000 has been put in for the 24/25 Project year to implement project actions, particularly around activation of spaces, support of community, and concept designs. The Strategy also recommends and prioritises actions for Council-owned and managed facilities that will have costs associated. These costs will need to be reflected in project bids and budgets, subject to the prioritisation of the long term financial plan.

Legal/Statutory

Open space used for recreation is governed by a variety of legislation including the Planning and Environment Act (1987), and the Wangaratta Planning Scheme.

Social and Diversity

The Strategy has significant social and diversity impacts. Well-planned and managed recreational spaces have health benefits to the community, and are necessary especially in lower socio-economic areas. Additionally, generational diversity, gender, caring responsibilities, and race may all play a role in how the community interacts with open space.

Equity Impact Assessment (EIA)

Equity is a principle of delivery for the strategy, and an Equity Impact Assessment was completed for this strategy.

The Equity Impact Assessment for this strategy stressed the importance of seeking multiple voices during the engagement process, including the viewpoint of younger people (completed via school and youth council engagement) and women (completed through targeted engagement and research)

Environmental/Sustainability Impacts

There are environmental and sustainability impacts to this strategy. Resilience to climate change and opportunities to design with environmental impacts in mind are important as recreational spaces are planned and developed, and this is reflected in Sustainability being captured as a principle of delivery for the strategy, and the references to Council's Urban Tree Plan, among others.

Strategic Links

Council Plan 2021 – 2025

This report supports the 2021-2025 Council Plan through the following objectives and actions * denotes an action that is part of our municipal health and wellbeing plan:

2 Nurturing our Wellbeing

- Provide accessible, affordable and inclusive opportunities for all members of our community to participate in physical activity.*
- Plan for the future recreation needs in Wangaratta's North and South growth areas.*
- Update and deliver the Open Space and Recreation Strategy.*

3. Valuing our Environment

- Promote the significance and importance of our rivers and creeks to build community pride, care and protection.*

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
Expectation for Council to fund all recommendations	Unlikely	Minor	4- Low	Communicate the need to apply for external grant funding to augment the Council Long Term Financial Plan
Resistance to	Likely	Minor	6 -	Clear communication that

change of title to Recreation Strategy from Recreation and Open Space Strategy			Medium	this strategy is focused on recreation and the spaces that are used for recreation.
Community concern that the recommendations in the strategy will be enacted without further consultation	Possible	Insignificant	4 - Low	Wording in strategy strengthened around following Council processes, including further consultation as part of project development

Consultation/Communication

Extensive Consultation has been undertaken throughout the development of the strategy. This consultation included:

- Internal Council Officer Interviews
- Project Control Group sessions
- Community Survey (640+ responses)
- Sporting Group Survey (36 Club responses)
- 16 Community drop in sessions (10 in 2023, 6 during exhibition period in 2024) across the Rural City of Wangaratta with 140+ attendees
- School Sessions – primary and secondary
- Sporting group interviews
- Review of Place score Data, and Council's Sporting Group Survey from 2022
- Councillor Briefings
- Sport and Recreation Advisory Committee, Environment and Sustainability Community Reference Group
- Connect Wangaratta Exhibition period – 48 responses

The main changes have been outlined in Attachment 3. and include:

- Change of name from Recreation and Open Space Strategy 2024-2033, to Recreation Strategy 2024-2033
- Changes in wording especially around rationalisation of parks, to provide a more precise recommendation
- Alteration of priorities for some recommendations, for example the investigation of cycling infrastructure
- Including sporting organisations who had not engaged in the initial consultation

Officers believe that appropriate consultation has occurred and the matter is now ready for final endorsement.

Options for Consideration

1. That Council adopts the Recreation Strategy 2024-2033
2. That Council does not adopt the Recreation Strategy 2024-2033 and asks for revisions

Attachments

- 1 Recreation Strategy 2024-2033 
- 2 Executive Summary Recreation Strategy 2024-2033 
- 3 Summary of changes 

Public Question:

Claire Russell for the Merriwa Park and Gardens Group (28:53)

Question relating to the Open Spaces Strategy and is asked by the Merriwa Park and Gardens Group.

Along with being contemporary recreational spaces there are two "citywide" parks referred to in this document that are of historic importance- Merriwa Park & King George V Gardens.

Would council consider a minor addition to the wording of the Recreation Strategy?

We suggest in the two passages dedicated to each of these parks the word "historic" is added.

Director Marcus Goonan responded: Thanks for your question Claire, I'll leave the decision on this minor change to Councillors as part of the recommendation.

14.3 ~~Kerbside Glass Bin Service~~ Resource Recovery Collective – Hume (39:39)

Meeting Type:	Scheduled Council Meeting
Date of Meeting:	30 April 2024
Category:	Strategic
Author:	Waste Management Coordinator
Approver:	Director Community and Infrastructure

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 following the resolution of the March 2023 Scheduled Council Meeting to award the tender 'Resource Recovery Collective – Hume', a regional collaborative tender for waste and recycling services across the Hume region.

Resolution:

(Moved: Councillor H Benton/Councillor D Fuller)

That Council:

1. Awards 'Recycle Kerbside Collection' 'Recycle Acceptance & Processing' and 'Recycle Kerbside Public Place' to Cleanaway Pty. Ltd with the minor adjustment to excluding 'Glass Kerbside Collection' & 'Glass Acceptance & Processing' components.
2. Disclose the contract value for kerbside services 'Recycle Kerbside Collection' 'Recycle Acceptance & Processing' 'Recycle Kerbside Public Place'.

The contract price was disclosed as \$1,350,000.00 per annum

Carried

Background

The March 2023 Scheduled Council Meeting resolved that Council:

- Recognises Cleanaway as the preferred tender for kerbside services 'Recycle Kerbside Collection' 'Recycle Acceptance & Processing' 'Recycle Kerbside Public Place', 'Glass Kerbside Collection' & 'Glass Acceptance & Processing' to Cleanaway.
- Authorises officers to negotiate a final price with the preferred tenderer.
- Approves a maximum allocation of funding of \$1.49m.
- Authorises the CEO to award the tender at a later stage for a maximum lump sum of \$1.49m

- Disclose the contract value for kerbside services 'Recycle Kerbside Collection' 'Recycle Acceptance & Processing' 'Recycle Kerbside Public Place', 'Glass Kerbside Collection' & 'Glass Acceptance & Processing' at the next Council meeting after the contract is awarded.

Council with the assistance of Russell Kennedy Lawyers facilitated the negotiation of the final contract departures and price. In this process Council officers have recommended the removal the following activity/services from the scope of contract.

- 'Glass Kerbside Collection' & 'Glass Acceptance & Processing'

The removal/postponement of the 'Glass Kerbside Collection' & 'Glass Acceptance & Processing' component of the scope of service has been recommended due to the following.

- The supply of new kerbside trucks (C36542 – Supply and Delivery of Four (4) 24m³ Waste Compactor Trucks completed in 2023) has been delayed, with likely delivery of the complete fleet of vehicles to be complete in Q3 25/26.
- The delivery of the new kerbside trucks will govern the implementation of the additional kerbside services (FOGO and glass) a greater economy of scale will be achieved if the procurement and roll-out of kerbside glass and FOGO bins can be executed/undertaken simultaneously.
- The Container Deposit Scheme (CDS) is having a significant impact on glass generation volumes within the municipality, the minimum tendered service frequency (2 monthly) may result in low presentations/volumes collected on service runs. The postponement of roll-out due to delays in delivery of kerbside trucks will allow further time to consider actual glass generation volumes with the full effect of CDS known.
- Funding partners (DEECA and Sustainability Victoria) have been consulted on the proposed postponement of roll-out and have provided in principle support of amended milestone funding payment dates to suit.
- The recommended contractor 'Cleanaway' have been consulted on the proposed postponement and provided in principle support for the execution of a contract (pending Council endorsement) for the 'Recycle Kerbside Collection' 'Recycle Acceptance & Processing' 'Recycle Kerbside Public Place', 'Glass Kerbside Collection' & 'Glass Acceptance & Processing' only.

Implications

Policy Considerations

The design of the regional collaborative tender has considered that there has been significant policy, regulatory and industry change within the waste and resource recovery sector. The project has been informed through careful consideration of these changes to ensure progression towards administering kerbside reform and meeting the targets of the Victorian Government's circular economy policy. It is critical that this can be achieved in a cost effective and compliant way and that the resilience of the sector is enhanced.

Key regulatory and current state changes that have been considered include:

China National Sword

- Widespread disruption to the recycling industry in 2018 due to a ban on the export of waste to China
- SKM Recycling insolvency and Cleanaway entry to the market

Government Intervention

- Guidance Notes and Model Contract Clauses (Model Clauses) for local governments 2018
- National Waste Policy at Federal level
- Greater regulatory scrutiny at State level

Environment Protection Act 2017 (Vic)

- General environmental duty, specific duties and permissions regime
- *Circular Economy Act 2021 (Vic)*
- Greater consistency and transparency in service delivery
- Greater State government oversight (Recycling Victoria)

Local Government Act 2020 (Vic)

- New Procurement Policy (31 December 2021), including enhanced collaborative procurement requirements.

Financial/Economic Implications

Council long term financial plan includes projections and assumptions regarding the cost of kerbside waste and recycling services. This tender will allow Council to project the cost of these services more accurately over the long term. The ability to leverage significant tonnages from across the region will ensure value for money services can be achieved.

Item	Budget for this proposal (Draft budget 24/25 FY)	This Proposal	Variance to Approved Budget	Comments
'Recycle Kerbside Collection' 'Recycle Acceptance & Processing' and 'Recycle Kerbside Public Place'	\$1.30m	\$1.30m	\$0	Council approved a maximum allocation of funding of \$1,49m at the March 2023 meeting.
Net Result	\$1.30m	\$1.30m	\$0	

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Legal/Statutory

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

Social and Diversity

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

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 Valuing our Environment - Reduce waste and enhance resource recovery.

3.2.1 Service our community by managing our waste and recycling streams.

- Ensure service delivery is in accordance with the Recycle Victoria Policy
- Explore feasibility of commercial options to divert materials from waste and recycling streams
- Introduce a third glass-only bin into the community. Provide educational resources to households to ensure a successful uptake.

Rural City of Wangaratta 2023 Community Vision

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

Reduce waste and enhance resource recovery

- Service our community by managing our waste and recycling streams
- Strengthen positive behaviours throughout the community to minimise the negative impact of waste
- Reduce waste and waste generation from Council operations
- Establish our community as leaders in the organics waste processing and associated resource recovery.

Risk Management

Risks	Likelihood	Consequence	Rating	Mitigation Action
Community concern with timing implementation of additional services.	Possible (3)	Moderate (3)	Medium (6)	Extensive community consultation and engagement has been ongoing since 2020, a community consultation plan has been presented to

				Council in March 2024, this will be implemented in advance of the proposed re-scheduled roll-out of Kerbside Glass and FOGO
Poor standard in delivery of kerbside services.	Possible (3)	Moderate (3)	Medium (6)	Contract specifies kerbside service delivery standards and performance measurement requirements.
Financial viability of individual contractors in delivery of contract.	Possible (3)	Moderate (3)	Medium (6)	Financial viability checks/assessments will be conducted on shortlisted tenderers

Consultation/Communication

An early market announcement occurred in March 2022, well prior to the release of the Request for Tender and there was significant promotion of the opportunity during the tender open period. ACCC approval was sought early in the process.

This process requires consultation with industry and approval was provided late in September 2022 to allow the Participants to collaboratively procure waste and resource recovery services until October 2042.

Level of public participation	Promises to the public/stakeholders	Tools/Techniques
Inform	Early market announcement	Significant promotion of the opportunity during the tender open period was undertaken. ACCC approval was sought early in the process.
Consult	Direct consultation with industry	Consultation with broader industry and approval was provided late in September 2022 to allow the participants

		to collaboratively procure waste and resource recovery services until October 2042.
Collaborate	Collaboratively undertake procurements activity on regional scale.	Regional procurement activity involved 11 Councils and Resorts in the 'Hume' (North-East) region.

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

Options for Consideration

1. Council award the recommended tenderer for specific services and execute contract.
2. Council does not award. Further processes and procurement activities would be needed immediately to ensure Council implement adequate services prior to Contract No. C1415/007 – Garbage, Recyclables and Organics Collection Services terminating on 30 June 2024.

Conclusion

This regional tender has provided a key opportunity to leverage significant purchasing power to achieve compliant and high performing services. A strong and functional waste and recycling system is a key contributor to the liveability, sustainability, and productivity that regional communities enjoy and value.

It is recommended that Council officers award kerbside services of 'Recycle Kerbside Collection' 'Recycle Acceptance & Processing' 'Recycle Kerbside Public Place' to Cleanaway for specific services identified in this report.

Attachments

- 1 Rural City of Wangaratta\Desktop\Wangaratta - HRR- Cleanaway- Comingled Glass Collection Processing Services - Collated ex version EXECUTED BY CWY 17.01.23(16187003.1) - Confidential

15. Sustainability and Culture

Nil

16. Special Committee Reports

Nil

17. Advisory Committee Reports

Nil

Unconfirmed

18. Minutes of Advisory Committee Meetings (42:56)

18.1 Minutes of Advisory Committee Meetings

Meeting Type: Scheduled Council Meeting
 Date of Meeting: 30 April 2024
 Author: Councillor and Executive Services Support Officer
 File No: IC24/648

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
3 April 2024	Arts and Culture Advisory Committee	Attachment

Resolution:

(Moved: Councillor D Fuller/Councillor H Bussell)

That Council notes the minutes of these Advisory Committees.

Carried

Attachments

- 1 ACAC Committee Meeting MINUTES - April 2024 

19. Notices of Motion

19.1 Notice of Motion No 69 - Deputy Mayor, Harvey Benton (44:25)

Meeting Type:	Scheduled Council Meeting
Date of Meeting:	30 April 2024
Author:	Councillor and Executive Services Support Officer
File No:	IC24/694

Cr Harvey Benton has given notice of their intention to move as follows at the Scheduled Meeting of Council to be held on 30 April 2024 viz:

Executive Summary

This motion is being brought forward because of the State Government's new legislation which has taken away the community's right to appeal a planning decision to VCAT.

Critically this motion is necessary in order to deliver the desired outcome for section 4.2.2/4.2.21 of the Rural City of Wangaratta's Council Plan which says "Support businesses and industry to innovate, value add, adapt, and grow to the changing needs across the key sectors of Health, Agriculture, Food, Beverage, Tourism, Logistics, Manufacturing and Retail.

Agriculture is a main economic driver (with a multiplier factor of 4) for the Rural City of Wangaratta. The loss and destruction of arable land currently producing food, beverage, and fibre to renewable energy infrastructure (also transmission lines) would have a serious and long-lasting economic impact to the municipality. In addition to the economic impacts, the loss of agricultural land would also have significant negative social and environmental impacts. While clean, renewable energy is vital to the future of our planet, so too is our ability to feed, nurture and positively grow our rural communities.

Notice of Motion:

(Moved: Councillor H Benton/Councillor D Rees)

"That:

1. The Rural City of Wangaratta Council develop and resource an advocacy action plan as a matter of urgency to appeal the current legislation which limits the community's ability to contest a planning decision to Victorian Civil Appeals Tribunal (VCAT).
2. The Rural City of Wangaratta Council asks the State Government to support the protection of agricultural land for food, fibre and viticultural production as any significant change to our rural landscape will have adverse impacts economically, socially and environmentally across the whole municipality.

The Action Plan would be communicated to, and support sought, from all political representatives, peak industry bodies and government agencies.

Peak Local Government bodies and agencies would also be lobbied for support."

Councillor Herry requested a division and the results were:

For: Councillor H Benton, Councillor I Grant and Councillor D Rees

Against: Councillor H Bussell, Councillor D Fuller and Councillor J Herry

As Mayor, Councillor Rees exercises the casting vote.

Carried

Officer Comments

The Minister for Planning has been responsible for deciding planning permit applications for energy generation facilities with an installed capacity of 1 megawatt or greater for some time.

The Minister's decisions on these applications have been subject to potential review by the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT). Changes recently made to all Planning Schemes in Victoria by the Victorian State Government removes the ability for the Minister's decisions on applications for renewable energy facilities with an installed capacity of 1 megawatt or greater to be reviewed by VCAT (review rights).

This means that objectors to an application for example, can no longer apply to VCAT to review the Minister's decisions on these applications.

Other parts of the planning permit application process remain the same such as giving notice of the application to allow submissions to be made in response to the application and seeking the view of authorities including Councils. This continues to provide community members and Council with a pathway to provide views about application to be considered by the Minister prior to a decision being made on a planning permit application.

20. Urgent Business

21. Public Question Time (1:16:11)

For full transcript, please refer to the recording on the [Rural City of Wangaratta YouTube channel](#). Time markers are noted at each question in minutes:seconds format.

21.1	<p>Question taken on notice at Scheduled Council Meeting 26 March 2024: (1:16:20)</p> <p>Jeremy Kraybill: Why did Council's Planning department not provide you with the information you requested including a list of objectors and the VCAT Practice Note PNPE2 information?</p> <p><i>Response: Council must supply VCAT with the information required by VCAT Practice Note PNPE2 which includes a table and attachments. The PNPE2 information includes the names and addresses of the objectors. Parties listed in VCAT's initiating Order are required to receive a copy of the PNPE2 table only, not the attachments. It is Council's practice in these circumstances to advise parties to obtain copies of documents from VCAT as they are the managing authority for the proceedings and determine whether it is appropriate to distribute all documents. This also allows parties an opportunity to obtain any additional documents that may have been provided to VCAT by the applicant for review that Council has not received.</i></p>
21.2	<p>Teegan Doyle (1:17:57)</p> <p>Question: Will Rural City of Wangaratta Council fly the pride flag for IDAHOBIT Day on 17 May 2024?</p> <p><i>Response: Council continues to Support IDAHOBIT day, and will display the flag for the day in a number of venues including in the Council office foyer.</i></p>
21.3	<p>John Bell (1:18:35)</p> <p>Question 1: I would like to ask a question to clarify a few issues with the RCoW customer request system. The requests are in relation to the Eldorado Hall and no one lets the committee know when the contractor is doing the work. The requests are closed before the work has been done. Contractors often make two trips or more to Eldorado to complete the work.</p> <p><i>Director Marcus Goonan responded: With the essential maintenance services we don't always know when the contractors will be attending. We do our best to notify the various committees. The requests are closed once the works are let to the contractor (i.e. we have a binding agreement for the works to be done). The number of trips required depends on the works, sometime the contractors find additional work or the works are different to what was advised. Happy to talk through any other issues in detail.</i></p> <p>Question 2: Dobson Street is impassable in the winter months and it's used by some people in mobility scooters and wheelchairs.</p>

	<p><i>Director Marcus Goonan responded: Dobson Street is managed by Council to the last driveway. The section from the driveway to the gate is not maintained in anyway.</i></p> <p>Roxanne Bodsworth (1:21:51)</p> <p>In the summer months I drive on that track on an almost daily basis to access the swimming beach at the end, along with other people who require it, mostly for fishing and swimming, but also for water pumps for their water rights, and also for maintenance works by Parks Victoria when that happens. There's been no maintenance done there for about 20 years. It did used to be maintained all the way to the gate. The result has been that when it's too boggy, residents have accessed the Dredge through Centennial Park, that's the only option, and this has added further to community conflict. So why did they stop the maintenance of that road to that level, and can it please be repaired and access restored?</p> <p><i>Director Marcus Goonan responded: I don't know what the decision that was made 20 years ago was, it sounds like it was potentially a decision that was made some time around amalgamation or just after. The reality of it is that we have a Road Maintenance Plan and Road Register which clearly sets out which roads we maintain. This will be reviewed within 6 months of the new Council coming on board. I'm more than happy to put this is as one of the roads that we review.</i></p> <p>John Bell (1:24:08)</p> <p>With the Customer Request, if I come to the hall and there's a leak, or a toilet is overflowing, or an oven is not working, so I tend to ring it through, then the next day I get a text message back to say its completed, and the hall is going to be hired that day, but when I come down, the leak is still happening, or the toilet is still not working, or the oven is still not working, yet I've been told through the system that it's been completed. So it's a bit awkward when you're hiring a hall and you're told it was fixed yesterday, but it hasn't. The other issue about contractors making multiple trips, we had a day when the seniors had indoor bowls and the air conditioner man came to service the air conditioner, but the hall is in use so he's wasted his trip, the hall's being used. What I tend to do is put my name and phone number and say contact me so I can say when the hall is available and when it's not. So if they can just contact someone on the committee, let us know when they're coming out, I can advise about specific issue, resources needed, and if the hall is available.</p> <p>The Dobson's Street issue, for one residence on the Wangaratta-Eldorado Road who uses a mobility scooter, that's his safest way to get to the shop or Centennial Park because the shared path starts at the end of Dobson Street and the corner of Centennial Park. So if he can get through that 20 metres of rough ground, he's got a safe track to the shop, because the edge of the road is rough as guts and unsafe with traffic travelling at 60km/h.</p> <p><i>Mayor Dean Rees responded we'll take that under advisement and look into it further.</i></p>
21.4	<p>Marc Saunders (1:28:58)</p> <p>Question 1: Transfer Station closures without notification to users.</p>

	<p><i>Director Marcus Goonan responded: Unfortunately we had a staffing mix up which meant the Transfer Station wasn't opened recently we apologise. We have asked anyone impacted to please call customer services and we will try to work a solution to any issues. We have now resolved the staffing issue so this shouldn't happen going forward.</i></p> <p>Question 2: Old Coach Rd : Maintenance, speed and warning signs re: fatalities, serious injuries both past and potentially future.</p> <p><i>Director Marcus Goonan responded: Old Coach Rd is maintained as per the Road management Plan as an access road right up to number 505 and then a limited access track from there. I drove the road this afternoon before the meeting and although there are some minor sections that could be improved it was in good condition. There were no sections that required work in accordance with our Road Management Plan. As an unsealed "rural" road the set speed limit is 100km/h the limits are approved by the Department of Transport and they will not reduce the speed on these types of road. I will have the team review the road and install any required warning signage under the current guidelines.</i></p> <p>Question 3: Rate increases. They were increased. Local protection? Rates set by Melbourne. Regarding Valuation – who does the valuations on our properties?</p> <p><i>Mayor Dean Rees clarified the rate cap figures. CEO Brendan McGrath responded: Valuations are conducted by the Victorian Valuer-General, who use contractors and councils to physically inspect a number of properties. The value of each property is determined by various factors, recent sales experiences in the area. Inspections occur every 2 – 3 years on each property. Cr Herry noted local controlling factors impact on local valuations</i></p>
21.5	<p>Brian Fox (1:36:54)</p> <p>Question 1: At the last council meeting I attended I questioned the agenda Councillor Report's listing as NIL. I asked that each councillor's name be listed rather than a collective of counsellors. I was of the opinion that this suggestion was well received by Mayor Dean. However nothing has changed. on page 6 of tonight's agenda item number 11. Councillors Reports is NIL. I want to say again each councillor is elected as an individual to represent the residents of the RCOW. Under these circumstances I contend that a collective term is not an appropriate Description. Each counsellor should be listed individually for their report on the happenings within the city during the last month and perhaps beyond.</p> <p><i>Mayor Dean Rees responded: Council reports are provided for councillor consideration if they are important for the community as a whole. If the agenda were to list each councillor's individual achievements during the month, the meeting would go for a lot longer and this is in efficient use of council time.</i></p> <p>Question 2: Regarding rubbish bins distributed within the Rural City of Wangaratta, I ask council to immediately mark all bins with a significant identifiable large number, with some words of encouragement for residents to report by text if the Bin needs attention such as emptying or cleaning. This matter is urgent and</p>

	<p>important should be completed within the next 14 days.</p> <p><i>Director Marcus Goonan responded: Thank you for the question Brian, no, Council will not be installing numbers on bins.</i></p>
21.6	<p>Kieran Klemm (1:39:09)</p> <p>In relation to Rural Zoning, we have restrictions on the amount of dwellings we can have, mainly to preserve it for agricultural use. If we want to have any buildings bigger than 3 square metres, we are required to get a permit. The permit includes the value of the building as of the permit's date and when the works are completed, the value is added to the CIV.</p> <p>When a development is finished, is it added onto the CIV? If the value of the development is added onto the CIV, what value, and if not why not?</p> <p><i>CEO Brendan McGrath responded: No it is not added onto the farmer's rates</i></p> <p><i>Cr Herry added: payment in lieu of rates. Payment in lieu of rates is a much higher figure than any other rates would be on that property. There is a baseline for this amount but there is a negotiation between Council and energy generating operators</i></p>
21.7	<p>John Bell (1:43:56)</p> <p>2017-2018 Council sent out a team to update the toilet block to make accessible. At that point there was going to be a program to renovate halls, when is that program coming to Eldorado?</p> <p><i>Director Marcus Goonan responded: This project was part of the Rural Place Making Project that is throughout the municipality and is still ongoing. A significant amount of money was set aside in 2018 for some works that have been done already as part of this project. Currently going around other townships across the municipality and still coming back to Eldorado in either 2025 or 2026. At that point, Eldorado residents will be asked which projects that they would like to see as part of the project. Encouraging more funding grants.</i></p> <p><i>Mayor Rees: The community also have the opportunity to present a budget submission for any community project.</i></p>
21.8	<p>Natasha Lobbin (1:47:51)</p> <p>How will the review into the Differential Rating System occur?</p> <p><i>Director Sarah Brindley responded: Under the Local Government Act, Council is required to draft or update a number of key documents when a new council is elected. The new Council coming in October 2024 will review all these documents, including the Revenue and Rating Plan (which covers the Differential Rating System).</i></p> <p>Is that something that will come up in the Election Process?</p> <p><i>Mayor Rees: Absolutely</i></p>

	<p>Why was the Agricultural Advisory Committee disbanded and will it be re-instated?</p> <p><i>Cr Harvey Benton responded: There was a review into the viability of Council's Advisory Committees two years ago but the Agriculture Portfolio still meet.</i></p>
21.9	<p>Kelly Bradley (1:51:25)</p> <p>When will the gun at the front of the Eldorado General Store be fixed?</p> <p><i>Director Marcus Goonan responded: Take question on notice to investigate further.</i></p> <p>A further question was asked around the broken patch at the front of the General Store and how dangerous it is, especially for people with mobility issues.</p> <p><i>Director Marcus Goonan: Also part of the Rural Placemaking Projects. All community projects are staged over the years</i></p>
21.10	<p>Michael Carey (1:54:09)</p> <p>Regarding our rural bitumen roads, shoulders have not been graded for some time and are quite dangerous with some spots with severe drops, and rain does pool there making it worse. Why hasn't this maintenance been done?</p> <p><i>Director Marcus Goonan responded: Need a bit more clarification, not sure which road you're referring to.</i></p> <p>Nearly every road.</p> <p><i>Director Goonan: Council's Road Management Plan is the governing document that provides the roadmap for the repair of the roads in which council has ownership and control over in the municipality.</i></p>
21.11	<p>John Moletta (1:56:33)</p> <p>Regarding the Road Management Plan, What are the intervention levels set by Council?</p> <p><i>Director Marcus Goonan responded: not just about the drop, but also about the length. Improvements need to be made, I acknowledge, but also the weather over the last 2 years has not been conducive to repairs, we have been more reactive, but as the weather dries out, we can catch up a bit.</i></p> <p><i>Councillor Jack Herry: Confidence that Rural City of Wangaratta officers manage the roads in the municipality reasonably well but this is a sector wide issue. There has recently been significant increase in funding from the Federal Government to mitigate this.</i></p> <p>John Bell (1:59:55) added: What is the work practice when fixing potholes, why is it done that way? There are situations where some potholes are fixed but others are not when they are very close together.</p>

	<p><i>Director Marcus Goonan responded: admittedly yes repairs were done better in the past, but as I said we have been reactive more recently.</i></p> <p><i>Council officers target potholes at the intervention level set by council.</i></p>
21.12	<p>Natasha Lobbin (2:02:28)</p> <p>Is there a gutter management plan as well as a Road Management Plan? They don't seem to be managed/maintained</p> <p><i>Director Marcus Goonan responded: Gutters and open drains are all included in the Road Management Plan, they are all part of the roads. Climate change also, different rain fall patterns and this has had an impact.</i></p>

22. Confidential Business (2:05:02)

Resolution:

(Moved: Councillor D Fuller/Councillor H Benton)

That Council resolves to close the meeting to members of the public in accordance with Division 3(1) of the Local Government Act 2020 to consider the following items:

22.1 Community Complaint Resolution

Item 22.1 is Confidential under the Local Government Act 2020 as it contains information relating to : (e) Legal Privileged Information and (f) Personal Information.

Carried

Dean Rees left the meeting at 08:05 pm.
Jack Herry left the meeting at 08:05 pm.
Irene Grant left the meeting at 08:05 pm.
David Fuller left the meeting at 08:05 pm.
Harry Bussell left the meeting at 08:05 pm.
Harvey Benton left the meeting at 08:05 pm.

Dean Rees returned to the meeting at 08:10 pm.
Jack Herry returned to the meeting at 08:10 pm.
Irene Grant returned to the meeting at 08:10 pm.
David Fuller returned to the meeting at 08:10 pm.
Harry Bussell returned to the meeting at 08:10 pm.
Harvey Benton returned to the meeting at 08:10 pm.

Resolution:

(Moved: Councillor D Fuller/Councillor I Grant)

That Standing Orders be resumed.

Carried

23. Closure of Meeting

The Meeting closed at 8:12pm.