



Rural City of
Wangaratta

Minutes

For the Scheduled Council Meeting
Boorhaman Recreation Reserve
Boorhaman Road, Boorhaman
6pm 16 September 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, Ashlee Fitzpatrick, Jack Herry

Officers:

Brendan McGrath, Chief Executive Officer; Ben Thomas, Acting Director Community and Infrastructure; Tom Coelli-Donaghy, Acting Director Corporate and Leisure; Stephen Swart, 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

Order of Business

6. Citizen Ceremony

Nil

7. Confirmation of Minutes

Resolution:

(Moved: Councillor H Benton/Councillor I Grant)

That Council read and confirm the Minutes of the Scheduled Meeting of 27 August 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 Material Conflict of Interest for:

*15.2 due to being a land owner in the area, and
22 as it relates to my annual review*

Cr Harvey Benton declared a General Conflict of Interest for:

14.1 due to being an Executive of one of the community groups

Cr Irene Grant declared a Material Conflict of Interest for:

15.2 due to being a land owner in the area

Cr Ashlee Fitzpatrick declared a Material Conflict of Interest for:

15.2 due to family being land owners in the area

9. Reception of Petitions

10. Hearing of Deputations

Presentation Of 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.*

11. Councillor Reports

Nil

Officers' Reports

12. Executive Services

Nil

13. Corporate and Leisure

Nil

14. Community and Infrastructure

14.1 Community Grants Recommendations 2024-25 (04:07)

Meeting Type:	Scheduled Council Meeting
Date of Meeting:	16 September 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:** Rebecca Sacco, Grant Assessor, Member of Everton Tennis Club. Recused self from conversations and scoring as per advice from Governance.

Harvey Benton left the meeting at 06:05 pm having previously declared a Conflict of Interest. Harvey Benton returned to the meeting at 06:12 pm.

Executive Summary

This report is presented to Council to approve Community Grant applications for 2024/25

The Community Grants Program supports local projects, programs and events with community groups and organisations who work to enhance the social, cultural, and environmental experience of local residents.

Community organisations can apply for funding for programs of work that deliver on outcomes from the Council Plan, from \$1,000 to \$10,000 per year.

Resolution:

(Moved: Councillor H Bussell/Councillor D Fuller)

That Council:

1. Approves the recommended applicants for the 2024/25 Community Grants as per the confidential attachment.
2. Once approved Council will disclose the successful applicants.

Carried

Cr Harry Bussell, Cr Dave Fuller, and Cr Irene Grant read the list of successful applicants:

Green cells note projects funded by the \$20,000 allocated for historical signage.

Community Group	Project	Amount Requested	Amount Recommended
Wangaratta Baptist Church	Family Outreach Fun Days	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
Moyhu & District Pre School	Moyhu & District Pre School Outdoor Play Space Upgrade	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
Wangaratta Players, Inc.	Technology Upgrade	\$5,272.50	\$5,272.50
North Wangaratta Community Group	Sheltered Picnic Table at Reedy Creek	\$7,655.00	\$7,655.00
Gateway Health	Active Rural Communities	\$8,000.00	\$8,000.00
Hamilton Park Co-Operative Limited	Hamilton Park Playground development	\$5,488.00	\$5,488.00
North East Canoe Club	Beginners in Whitewater Kayaking	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
Moyhu Tennis Club	Moyhu Tennis Club Community BBQ Upgrade	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
NE Health Careers Forum - Organising Committee	North East Health Careers Forum	\$700.00	\$700.00
Blind Sport and Recreation Victoria	Making meals, rhythm, and beats with People with Vision Loss in Wangaratta	\$7,414.00	\$4,114.00
North East Multicultural Association	RCOW Harmony Day Celebration 2025	\$4,500.00	\$4,500.00
Boys to the Bush Ltd	Good Yarns, Great Community: Boys to the Bush (BttB) Wangaratta	\$4,250.00	\$2,210.00
Murmungee hall committee	Can't you hear my heart beat	\$2,945.00	\$2,945.00
Open Door Neighbourhood House	Being safe within our community	\$7,000.00	\$7,000.00
Wangaratta Hockey Club	The Dragon Diner	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
Wangaratta Bowls and Sports Club Inc.	Honour Boards Replacement	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00
Bobinwarrah Soldier Memorial Hall	Centenary Celebration ~ Bobinawarrah Soldier Memorial Hall	\$6,727.10	\$6,727.10
Glenrowan Primary School	Outdoor kitchen sink	\$3,355.00	\$3,355.00
GRETA SPORTING COMPLEX INC	Community BBQ Area and Paved Pathways	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
Rotary Club of Milawa Oxley	Milawa Oxley Family Fair & Market	\$7,092.00	\$7,092.00
Wangaratta Pickleball Club Inc	Provision of Pickleball Freestanding Posts	\$5,300.00	\$5,300.00
Mens Shed	Computer Upgrade	\$2,507.00	\$2,507.00
Wangaratta Snow Sports Youth Development Inc.	Cross Country Skiing for All	\$10,000.00	\$1,945.00
Boorhaman Golf Club	Warm up area and Driving range bays	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
Springhurst Community and Recreation Hall Reserve	Replacement of Air conditioning receiver board	\$4,485.00	\$4,485.00
Melbourne Symphony Orchestra	Melbourne Symphony Orchestra – Extending Engagement in Wangaratta 2025	\$10,000.00	\$5,106.00
Wangaratta Baseball Softball Club	Indigenous Spirit.. Juniors Baseball Jersey Project	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00
El Dorado Museum Association Inc	Woolshed Valley Panels Upgrade	\$6,820.60	\$6,820.60
Wangaratta Rifle Club Inc	Henry Johnson Story Board	\$2,334.21	\$2,334.21

Background

The Community Grants Program opened between 15 May and 2 July 2024. Community Grants were promoted via the Rural City Connections in the Wangaratta Chronicle, radio, council social media, council website, council newsletters and direct emails to community groups and organisations.

Community and Recreation team members held drop-in sessions around the rural communities and in Wangaratta.

Applications have been assessed in a two-stage assessment:

Stage 1 – Eligibility – All applications assessed by Community Groups Officer and Community and Recreation Coordinator to determine eligibility against criteria outlined in the Community Grants Guidelines. A number of applications were deemed to be ineligible.

Stage 2 - 52 applications were assessed by the Assessment Panel. The panel was made up of five Council staff who are from various Council directorates and teams and were able to provide expertise in different areas.

Following stage 2 a further review of the applications was undertaken considering the requirements of Council's Community Grants Sponsorship Policy. Based on the policy and recommendations of the panel, the contents of the Confidential attachment are now presented for consideration by Council.

Implications

Policy Considerations

The Community Grants Program is informed by Council's Grants and Sponsorships Policy (2021)

Financial/Economic Implications

The Community Grants Program has a budget of \$160,000. Some projects have been funded lesser than requested amounts, but only where the applicant has indicated they have capacity to deliver with less funding.

In 2024/25 \$20,000 of the \$160,000 budgeted was designated for historic preservation projects in the community.

Legal/Statutory

A number of projects will require planning and building permits and will be notified of such as part of their approval process.

Social and Diversity

The granting of funds to community groups achieves social outcomes that benefit our community. Other social implications relate to the impact unfunded projects may have on community initiatives and projects. All unsuccessful projects are supported to develop their projects and applications to strengthen future funding opportunities – both within Council and through other funding opportunities.

Equity Impact Assessment (EIA)

Equity questions are part of the application, and assessment of grant submissions takes into consideration the social impact of projects for communities.

Environmental/Sustainability Impacts

Environment and sustainability questions are asked as a part of the application process, and assessment of submissions considers these

Strategic Links**Council Plan 2021 – 2025**

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

2. Nurturing our Wellbeing

2.1.1.3 Support the development and delivery of community driven mental health and wellbeing projects through Council's Community Grants Program

2.3.1.5 Support the delivery of LGBTQIA+ programs and services, such as the Rainbow Ball.

2.3.2.2 Continual review and improvement of community grant programs across Council, based on feedback, trends and best practice.

3. Valuing our Environment

3.1.2.5 Ensure that the Council Community Grants Program supports environmentally sustainable projects.

5. Enhancing Our Lifestyle

5.5.1.3 Continue to explore and advocate for the availability of accessible community creative exhibition spaces throughout our municipality.

Rural City of Wangaratta 2033 Community Vision

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

H2 Facilitate and support strong, accessible, and sustainable community groups that add vibrancy to our community

H3 Increase opportunities for people to connect to their community and each other

I1 Deliver and support programs that increase participation in physical activity

I3 Facilitate improved access to healthy food and beverages

I4 Take action to address food security challenges within our community

X1 Increase the exposure and experience of art for our community and visitors

Y2 Support the delivery of events throughout the municipality that provide social, cultural and economic benefits

Risk Management

Due to the competitive nature of the Community Grants Program, the number of applications far exceeds the funding available. Programs not funded to the requested amount may not be able to be delivered, and Council officers will undertake conversations with the recipients about their capacity to deliver on a lesser amount before funding is awarded.

Council officers will provide feedback to unsuccessful applicants when requested and provide information about alternative funding opportunities through discussions with applicants and through Council's External Grants webpage.

To mitigate any risk in the event that successful applicants are unable to deliver projects or will require an extension the Community and Recreation team will monitor projects throughout the project delivery period and stay on top of any issues as they arise, ensuring positive outcomes.

Recipients will also be required to acquit their year's expenditure, and have that acquittal presented to Council.

Risks	Likelihood	Consequence	Rating	Mitigation Action
Disappointed applicants – due to the competitive nature of the Community Grants Program, the number of applications far exceeds the funding available.	Possible	Minor	Medium	Council officers to provide feedback to unsuccessful applicants when requested and provide information about alternative funding opportunities.
Successful applicants may be unable to deliver	Possible	Minor	Medium	Community and Recreation team will monitor projects throughout delivery period to stay on top of issues as they arise.
Increasing scope of community grants program to include specific focus on accessibility and inclusion (2021) and Mental Health (2022 as per council plan) without any funding increase can lead to further over-subscription of the grant program.	Probably	Minor	Medium	Consider the budget allocation for community grants, as well as development of targeted promotions of these targets.

Consultation/Communication

The Community Grants Program opened between 15 May and 2 July 2024. Community Grants were promoted via the Rural City Connections in the Wangaratta Chronicle, radio, council social media, council website, council newsletters and direct emails to community groups and organisations.

Community and Recreation team members held drop in sessions around the rural community in Eldorado, Milawa, North Wangaratta, Whorouly, Whitfield, Glenrowan and Wangaratta. Officers had conversations or meetings with the following organisations to discuss their applications: including Wangaratta District Men's Shed, Greta Sporting Complex, Glenrowan Primary School, Eldorado Museum, Oxley Residents Association, Bobinawarrah Hall, Nth Wangaratta FNC, Wangaratta Players, NE Windsports, Nth Wang Community Group, Moyhu Action Group, Wangaratta Artist Society, Murmungee Hall

Upon endorsement, successful and unsuccessful applicants will be notified by email. Information about successful applicants will be made available through Council's website, social media and media release.

Options for Consideration

1. That Council endorse the Community Grants Assessment Panel's recommendation.
2. That Council reconsiders all submitted projects and the assessment process.

Conclusion

With assessment now complete, projects for funding have been listed in this report for Council's consideration.

Attachments

- 1 Community Grant Recommendations - Confidential

14.2 Inclusive Wangaratta (12:51)

Meeting Type:	Scheduled Council Meeting
Date of Meeting:	16 September 2024
Category:	Strategic
Author:	Manager Community Services
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 endorse the revised Draft Inclusive Wangaratta Plan (2024-2029) to be put back on community exhibition for a further twenty-eight days.

Recommendation:

That Council:

1. Considers the submissions received during the community engagement and exhibition period for the Inclusive Wangaratta Plan 2024-2029.
2. Endorse the revised Inclusive Wangaratta Plan 2024-2029 for public exhibition for a period of 28 days from 20 September 2024
3. If no significant changes are needed in response to community feedback, that the revised Inclusive Wangaratta Plan 2024-2029 is adopted with no further resolution.
4. If significant changes are required, the feedback and changes are brought back to a future Council meeting for discussion prior to adoption.

Councillor D Rees moved an alternate motion:

That Council

1. Considers submissions and thanks submitters for their input during development and the exhibition stages
2. Resolves to cease all further work on the development of this plan until the newly elected Council has an opportunity to consider how it wishes to proceed
3. Acknowledges the work by officers and the working group to develop the plan to this point
4. Acknowledges the importance of a plan for inclusiveness for all members of our community.

The alternate motion was seconded by Cr. Benton.

For: Councillor H Benton, Councillor H Bussell, Councillor A Fitzpatrick, Councillor D Fuller, Councillor I Grant and Councillor D Rees

Against: Councillor J Herry

Carried.**Background**

The Draft Inclusive Wangaratta Plan 2024-2029 (Inclusive Wangaratta) assists Council in meeting its legislated responsibilities in considering the access and inclusion of its services and the community. The plan also takes into consideration Council's duty to consider the health and wellbeing of all community members, and the disadvantages that they might face, under the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing act.

Council officers developed the Inclusive Wangaratta Working Group (IWWG) as part of its commitment to the motion moved at the 23 March 2021 Council Meeting by Cr. Fuller. Over the past twelve months, Council officers have worked with the IWWG and the community to develop the draft Inclusive Wangaratta Plan.

The development of the plan has seen the following opportunities for community input:

- Feedback on the draft actions via the Connect Wangaratta Portal for six weeks in February and March 2024
- Feedback on Inclusive Wangaratta via the Connect Wangaratta Portal in June and July 2024.

Feedback has shown that there is a wide range of views of Diversity and Inclusion in Wangaratta. Terminology was also queried and questioned, including the scope and coverage of this plan in terms of the groups in our society that it seeks to support. Information has been provided in the updated plan about the communities of priority referred to in Inclusive Wangaratta.

Key issues raised included the actions around inclusive toilets and the terminology used. The plan has been adjusted to give clarity to this, including a photo of existing unisex toilets in the Rural City of Wangaratta to give context to this topic.

The display of flags was also noted in submissions with a range of views on the position council should take in this issue. This plan proposes that council develops a flag policy to clarify this position and give guidance to council officers in this space. This policy will involve community consultation during its development prior to being taken to council for a decision on its adoption.

The policy has been updated with some context around the requirements for displaying the Australian, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Flags, whereby we are required to fly these flags in accordance with this act.

Feedback was noted that Inclusive Wangaratta needs to provide greater clarity in how this plan sits relative to the Community Accessibility and Inclusion Plan in addressing the requirements of the Disability Act 2006.

Based on the changes to Inclusive Wangaratta, council officers believe this plan should be placed on exhibition for a period of 28 days to give the community the opportunity to comment on these changes.

Implications

Policy Considerations

The Inclusive Wangaratta Plan replaces the Community Access and Inclusion Plan 2019-2022

Financial/Economic Implications

There is funding in the budget and long-term financial plan to assist with implementation of the Inclusive Wangaratta Plan.

Legal/Statutory

Council has a legislated responsibility to consider equity and inclusion, and Inclusive Wangaratta helps Council fulfill requirements of the Disability Act (2006) and the Local Government Act (2020)

Social and Diversity

This report directly addresses factors that will improve access across our communities and is a commitment to continue working to meet the needs of Wangaratta's diverse community over the next five years.

Equity Impact Assessment (EIA)

An Equity Impact Assessment was required for this report. The assessment led to the creation of the Inclusive Wangaratta Working Group, a group of people with lived experience of disability, LGBTQIA+, generational diversity, cultural diversity, Aboriginal and other such factors. Their experience and understanding of Wangaratta from these perspectives helped inform the development of Inclusive Wangaratta. Additionally, it led to an initial consultation period earlier this year, where feedback from the wider community on draft actions was undertaken and incorporated.

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:

2. Nurturing our Wellbeing

2.2.1.1 Delivery of the Community Access and Inclusion Plan; including reviewing/updating in 2022.

- 2.2.1.2** Ensure that key projects engage people, including people of all abilities in the design process, to ensure the needs of all community members are considered.
- 2.2.2.4** Develop, endorse and implement an Age Friendly Strategy.
- 2.2.4.1** Advocate to ensure that members of our community can access the services they need to support their mental, physical and sexual health and wellbeing.
- 2.3.1.1** Deliver annual events and initiatives that focus on celebrating diversity, connection and belonging for everyone within our community.
- 2.3.1.3** Support locally based community awareness campaigns to highlight the benefits of a diverse and equitable community.
- 2.3.1.5** Support the delivery of LGBTQIA+ programs and services, such as the Rainbow Ball.
- 2.3.2.2** Continual review and improvement of community grant programs across Council, based on feedback, trends and best practice.
- 2.3.3.2** Support equitable access to community activities, sports and events through the development and implementation of projects that address the barriers to participation – especially for children and young people.
- 2.4.1.3** Provide accessible, affordable and inclusive opportunities for all members of our community to participate in physical activity.
- 2.5.1.1** Review Council's Workforce Plan and develop and incorporate actions to ensure a respectful, equitable and inclusive workplace culture.
- 2.5.3.1** Work with all levels of community, including local organisations, groups and sporting clubs, to promote gender equity and respect and its relationship to family violence.

5. Enhancing our lifestyle

- 5.2.1.1** Increase the representation of our cultural story and history throughout our community and recognise its impact on our sense of place.
- 5.2.1.2** Deliver projects in partnership with our indigenous and cultural groups to celebrate the diversity and history of our region.
- 5.2.2.3** Continue to promote, recognise and celebrate NAIDOC week within our community.
- 5.2.2.4** Partner with local community groups to increase the support and inclusion of our population that were born overseas.

Community Vision

This report supports the 2021-2033 Community Vision through the following objectives and actions:

- H1** Build an increased understanding and acceptance of diversity within the community
- H3** Increase opportunities for people to connect to their community and each other
- J1** Implement strategies to build a respectful, equitable and inclusive workplace culture
- J3** Partner to create a community environment that is safe and minimises harm.
- G1** Strengthen Council's approach to designing and supporting inclusive and liveable communities
- G2** Support our older community members
- G3** Ensure young people are engaged, recognised, and supported within the community
- G4** Support all our community members to be healthy and well, especially our most vulnerable
- X3** A future that plans for evolving cultural needs and aspirations of our community
- U1** We celebrate our diverse cultural heritage, and the history of our place and people
- U2** Recognise and celebrate our social and cultural diversity.
- Y1** Provide a range of Council run events to engage and celebrate the local community
- Y2** Support the delivery of events throughout the municipality that provide social, cultural and economic benefits

Consultation/Communication

The Inclusive Wangaratta Plan has been developed in conjunction with community, through a collaborative process. The first draft actions were available for comment on Connect Wangaratta, for six weeks over February and March 2024. During this period, two community pop-ups were held, and consultation was undertaken internally, and with Youth Council.

The draft Inclusive Wangaratta Plan was endorsed for exhibition from 28 June 2024 for 28 days. During this time, we received 36 submissions through the Connect Wangaratta Portal and via e-mail. On the back of the submissions 8 people also request to be heard by Councillors and also provided feedback in person.

Officers believe that appropriate consultation has occurred, but at this stage given the diverse feedback the plan should be presented back to the community for further feedback.

Options for Consideration

1. That Councillors endorse the draft plan for exhibition for 28 days, utilising the Connect Wangaratta Portal in addition to accepting written submissions.
2. That Councillors adopt the revised plan as attached.

Conclusion

Council received wide ranging feedback on the draft Inclusive Wangaratta Plan 2024-2029. This feedback has now been incorporated where appropriate. Given the changes officers believe the draft plan should be put back on public exhibition.

Attachments

- 1 Inclusive Wangaratta Feedback - June - July 2024 - Confidential
- 2 Draft Inclusive Wangaratta Plan 2024-2029 

Public Questions: (18:10)

Cassandra Pollock

Question 1

How can Council justify another round of Public Consultation?

Mayor Dean Rees responded:

I don't think its good enough, I don't think it represents what the community is asking for, and I think there's been too much time spent on it for a policy where we have a policy that we've never had any problems with before, (the 2019 policy), I feel we need to review other Council's policies who are a lot less arduous than what ours is, and that's my belief as why I've raised this as an alternate motion that it needs to cease, and basically be scrapped, and start from scratch. I think we need to have a working group, that isn't Council based, and not led by certain officers at Council.

Question 2

In the spirit of transparency, what external organisations have formally submitted to this existing draft?

CEO McGrath responded:

We will need to take that on notice to allow us to look into that and to be sure we are able to disclose that information.

If it doesn't break any laws, could you make that information available on the Council website, attached to any explanation about what's happened on this?

Mayor Rees responded:

We'll have a look at that on the Privacy Policy situation and make sure we can. If we can't, we'll also recommend that your question came up about that and that we can't disclose because of privacy reasons.

Toni Brezac (25:03)

Question 1

It has come to my attention that my first email submission to the first draft of the Inclusion Plan action points, which was displayed on Wangaratta Connect, was not taken into consideration. I know that to be true. And now we have a scenario that a publicly consulted document is being voted upon without any public access to a feedback summary. I understand confidentiality, but a summary would be good. This is a document that has made clear space for outside lobby groups and activists to determine local policy. Is this level of underhandedness and lack of transparency what community members can expect when deciding upon LGBTQI+ and other contentious issues?

Mayor Rees responded:

Thank you Toni, good question and again, another reason why I brought through these recommendations. The Council policy basically start from scratch at some of the stages. The previous policy is still a good policy and a current one. It is part of the Act that we do have to upgrade this policy because it has come to the end of its time, and it will be done at some stage but it needs to be done better.

Cr Jack Herry suggested perhaps an answer as to why we have taken this path might be beneficial.

CEO Brendan McGrath responded:

In relation to the summary of submissions, I know there were a number of submitters who specifically requested that their submissions and the content of those were kept confidential. Some of the submissions expressed views that are a bit sensitive, so people were genuinely concerned about their submissions being treated confidentially. That is why they were provided to all of you [Councillors] confidentially, so they are all treated consistently. We will look into whether we can disclose those in a different way when it comes time for the new Council to consider it.

Toni Brezac

Question 2

We're talking a summary, surely there must be a way to present to the community, feedback on where allegiances lie, and thoughts lie. This is an issue that I get is sensitive, I've been very reluctant to put my name to it, I'm thankful I can't be put out of a job for doing it because we know people have been. There must be a mechanism that allows to let community members know where the wind is blowing on this.

CEO McGrath responded:

The point you make is a good one, and I've heard it, and what I was trying to articulate was when it comes time for the new Council to consider this in whatever shape and fashion they do, we'll consider how we can provide that sort of anonymous and confidential summary at that point. But the motion that we have on the table now is quite specific that we're ceasing all work, I would take that to include sending someone off to develop a summary of submissions would be work in my view, so we wouldn't be doing that unless Council wants to amend that, but certainly can look how that can be provided when it comes time for the new Council to have a look at it.

Unconfirmed

14.3 C43853 – Truck, Plant & Equipment Hire (47:24)

Meeting Type:	Scheduled Council Meeting
Date of Meeting:	16 September 2024
Category:	Strategic
Author:	Field Services Manager
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 with the recommendation to award contract C43853 – Truck, Plant & Equipment Hire.

Resolution:

(Moved: Councillor H Bussell/Councillor H Benton)

That Council:

1. Awards contract C43853 – Truck, Plant and Equipment Hire Panel to:
 - Coates Hire Operations Pty Ltd,
 - Conx Hire,
 - Hume Hire,
 - Northeast Civil Construction Pty Ltd,
 - Porter Plant
 - Cooks Earthmoving Laser Landforming Pty Ltd.in accordance with approved evaluation report.
2. That Contract C43853 – Truck, Plant and Equipment Hire be signed by the CEO under delegation.

For: Unanimous

Carried

Background

Council seeks to establish a panel of service providers for Truck, Plant and Equipment Hire. These services are used across multiple areas of Council, primarily in Maintenance, Horticulture and Waste Management.

Council Officers reviewed the opportunities for collaboration with other Councils or public bodies but couldn't find any suitable for this project. There are existing state panels for traffic management but these are metro based and not suitable.

Implications

Policy Considerations

Council's procurement policy outlines the approved methods and processes for procurement.

Financial/Economic Implications

Truck, Plant and Equipment Hire services will be undertaken within approved Council budgets. It is estimated that Council spend in excess of \$500,000 on Truck, Plant and Equipment Hire services annually.

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)

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

1.3.2 Engage in meaningful dialogue with the community and demonstrate how community participation is being used to inform decisions.

Risk Management

Risk Management Framework

Risks	Likelihood	Consequence	Rating	Mitigation Action
Unsatisfactory quality of works	Possible (3)	Moderate (3)	Medium (6)	Project Manager to monitor

Consultation/Communication

As these hire works are supporting other projects, and are not stand alone works in themselves, Officers believe that appropriate consultation has occurred and the matter is now ready for Council consideration.

Options for Consideration

1. Award contract C43853 – Truck, Plant and Equipment Hire to be awarded by Council to the following: Coates Hire Operations Pty Ltd, Conx Hire, Hume Hire, North East Civil Construction Pty Ltd, Porter Plant and Cooks Earthmoving Laser Landforming Pty Ltd. in accordance with approved evaluation report.
2. Not award contract C43853 – Truck, Plant and Equipment Hire in accordance with approved evaluation report and retender publicly as per Council's procurement policy.

Conclusion

Following an internal evaluation against pre-determined evaluation criteria and weightings, contract C43853 – Truck, Plant and Equipment Hire is recommended to be awarded to Coates Hire Operations Pty Ltd, Conx Hire, Hume Hire, North East Civil Construction Pty Ltd, Porter Plant and Cooks Earthmoving Laser Landforming Pty Ltd. in accordance with approved evaluation report.

Attachments

- 1 C43853 - Truck, Plant & Equipment Hire - Evaluation Report - Confidential

14.4 C34852 - Traffic Control Management Services (49:13)

Meeting Type:	Scheduled Council Meeting
Date of Meeting:	16 September 2024
Category:	Strategic
Author:	Field Services Manager
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 with the recommendation to award contract C34852 - Traffic Control Management Services.

Resolution:

(Moved: Councillor H Benton/Councillor A Fitzpatrick)

That Council:

1. Awards contract C34852 - Traffic Control Management Services Panel to:
 - Game Traffic & Contracting
 - Stadelmann Traffic Pty Ltdin accordance with approved evaluation report.
2. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to sign and seal all the relevant contract documents for contract C34852 - Traffic Control Management Services.

For: Unanimous

Carried

Background

Council seeks to establish a panel of service providers for Traffic Management Services. These services are used across multiple areas of Council, including, but not limited to, road maintenance and re-sheeting, CBD gardening works, public event and during cleanup of weather events.

Council Officers reviewed the opportunities for collaboration with other Councils or public bodies but couldn't find any suitable for this project. There are existing state panels for traffic management but these are metro based and not suitable.

Implications

Policy Considerations

Council's procurement policy outlines the approved methods and processes for procurement.

Financial/Economic Implications

Traffic Management services will be undertaken within approved Council budgets. It is estimated that Council spend between \$500,000 - \$600,000 on traffic management services annually.

Legal/Statutory

Local Government Act 2020

All pricing is to be inclusive of associated Traffic Management requirements in accordance with the following Australian Standard, as changes from time to time:

- Australian Standard 1742.3 (2009) – Traffic Control Devices for Works on Roads
All traffic controllers must hold:
- A current Traffic Controller's Statement of Attainment from an accredited training provider

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

- 1.3.2 Engage in meaningful dialogue with the community and demonstrate how community participation is being used to inform decisions.

Risk Management

Risk Management Framework

Risks	Likelihood	Consequence	Rating	Mitigation Action
Unsatisfactory quality of works	Possible (3)	Moderate (3)	Medium (6)	Project Manager to monitor

Consultation/Communication

As these traffic management works are supporting other projects, and are not stand alone works in themselves, Officers believe that appropriate consultation has occurred and the matter is now ready for Council consideration.

Options for Consideration

1. Award contract C34852 - Traffic Control Management Services to Game Traffic & Contracting and Stadelmann Traffic Pty Ltd in accordance with approved evaluation report.
2. Not award contract C34852 - Traffic Control Management Services in accordance with approved evaluation report and retender publicly as per Council's procurement policy.

Conclusion

Following an internal evaluation against pre-determined evaluation criteria and weightings, contract C34852 - Traffic Control Management Services is recommended to be awarded to Game Traffic & Contracting and Stadelmann Traffic Pty Ltd in accordance with approved evaluation report.

Attachments

- 1 C43852 - Traffic Control Management Services - Evaluation Report - Confidential

14.5 Contract 65197 - Salisbury Street Reconstruction (50:06)

Meeting Type:	Scheduled Council Meeting
Date of Meeting:	16 September 2024
Category:	Strategic
Author:	Project 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 with the recommendation to award contract 65197 Salisbury Street Renewal.

Resolution:

(Moved: Councillor H Bussell/Councillor I Grant)

That Council:

1. Awards contract 65197 Salisbury Street Renewal to Wangaratta Excavation & Dry Hire
2. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to sign and seal all the relevant contract documents for contract 65197 Salisbury Street Renewal.
3. Discloses the contract price of contract 65197 Salisbury Street Renewal.

For: Unanimous

The contract price was disclosed as \$502,700.88 (GST exclusive)

Carried

Background

Council has a long-term program to reconstruct urban streets in built up residential/commercial areas. Associated works at Salisbury Street are pavement reconstruction, upgrading road drainage, providing property access and concrete footpath and a T intersection with Jackel Street on the western side.

Council Officers reviewed the opportunities for collaboration with other Councils or public bodies but couldn't find any suitable for this project.

Implications

Policy Considerations

Council's procurement policy outlines the approved methods and processes for procurement. Collaborative procurement was not considered for this procurement.

Financial/Economic Implications

Council's 2024/25 capital works budget has \$1,850,000 (ex GST) for the Annual Road Reconstruction of which \$520,000 (ex GST) has been allocated to Salisbury Street.

Legal/Statutory

The Local Government Act 2020

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

1.3.2 Engage in meaningful dialogue with the community and demonstrate how community participation is being used to inform decisions.

Risk Management

Risk Management Framework

Risks	Likelihood	Consequence	Rating	Mitigation Action
Not achieving the proposed timelines	Possible (3)	Moderate (3)	Medium (6)	Project manager to monitor
Unsatisfactory quality of works	Possible (3)	Moderate (3)	Medium (6)	Project Manager to monitor

Consultation/Communication

As the project is reinstating existing infrastructure with no change of service it is the Officers believe that appropriate consultation has occurred and the matter is now ready for Council consideration.

Options for Consideration

1. Award contract 65197 Salisbury Street Renewal to **Wangaratta Excavation & Dry Hire**
2. Not award contract and retender publicly as per Council's procurement policy.

Conclusion

Following an internal evaluation against pre-determined evaluation criteria and weightings, contract 65197 Salisbury Street Renewal is recommended to be awarded to Wangaratta Excavation & Dry Hire in accordance with approved evaluation report.

Attachments

- 1 65197 Salisbury Street Renewal - Evaluation Report - Confidential

15. Sustainability and Culture

15.1 Economic Development & Tourism Strategy (51:56)

Meeting Type: Scheduled Council Meeting
Date of Meeting: 16 September 2024
Category: Strategic
Author: Economic Development and Tourism Coordinator
Approver: Director Sustainability and Culture

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 and adopt the Economic Development & Tourism Strategy, following public exhibition and community consultation.

The Strategy (see **Attachment 1**) has been reviewed and updated in response to feedback and submissions received, during the community engagement and exhibition period. The proposed changes to the Strategy are summarised in **Attachment 2**.

Resolution:

(Moved: Councillor H Bussell/Councillor I Grant)

That Council:

1. Considers the submissions received during the community engagement and exhibition period for the Economic Development & Tourism Strategy 2024-2029.
2. Endorses the changes to the Draft Economic Development & Tourism Strategy 2024-2029.
3. Adopts the Economic Development & Tourism Strategy 2024-2029.

For: Councillor H Benton, Councillor H Bussell, Councillor A Fitzpatrick, Councillor D Fuller, Councillor I Grant and Councillor D Rees

Against: Councillor J Herry

Carried

Background

The Draft Economic Development & Tourism Strategy 2024-2029 has been developed to continue sustainable economic growth of the municipality. The strategy aims to be a roadmap to a prosperous, vibrant and sustainable Rural City of Wangaratta. It is intended to replace the former Economic Development & Tourism Strategy 2018-2023, and continuing projects and programs that build a resilient and diverse economy.

The draft Strategy was informed by extensive consultation with local community, business and industry stakeholders and builds on the following 5 key principles to help achieve our Community Vision:

- Vibrant
- Sustainable
- Diverse
- Prosperous
- Safe

Strategic themes identified in the draft Strategy are:

- Investment attraction and local business support
- Infrastructure and planning
- Tourism development
- Skills and workforce development
- Township activation

The draft Strategy was publicly exhibited from 26 June to 2 August 2024. During this period three drop-in information sessions were held and direct contact was made with participants of the strategy inception workshops and interviews inviting review and feedback.

Key themes from the submissions relevant to the draft Strategy were:

- Marketing to attract visitors and visitor information services
- Providing additional facilities for visitors and expanding the tourism experience
- Resources for the delivery of the Strategy
- Inclusion of performance indicators
- Underutilisation of existing facilities
- Advisory boards
- Data used in the Strategy
- Infrastructure and planning

A summary of submissions received and the recommended amendments made to the draft Strategy are included in **Attachment 2**.

Implications

Policy Considerations

The Economic Development & Tourism Strategy supports and complements the Council Plan 2021-2025, as well as a number of strategies relating to recreation and tourism activities.

Financial/Economic Implications

While there are no direct financial implications to this report, the Strategy does recommend and prioritise actions for Council to deliver. These costs will need to be reflected in project bids, through grants and operational budgets as identified within the Strategy.

Legal/Statutory

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

Social and Diversity

The Strategy has significant social and economic impacts. A thriving economy will support jobs growth, education and a vibrant community and industry.

Equity Impact Assessment (EIA)

An Equity Impact Assessment has been undertaken that informed the community engagement and considerations within the Strategy.

Environmental/Sustainability Impacts

The Strategy complements sustainable growth of the local economy, with consideration for circular economy opportunities, adapting to a changing climate and resilience of the business community.

Strategic Links**Council Plan 2021 – 2025**

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

4. Expanding our Economy

- 4.1 A valued and vibrant tourism industry.
- 4.2 Support employment through business growth, development and recovery.
- 4.3 Education for everyone.
- 4.4 Vibrant and engaging places.

Rural City of Wangaratta 2033 Community Vision

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

- A valued and vibrant tourism industry.
 - Work closely with partners and tourism operators to understand and support our unique tourism product.
 - Build on domestic travel trends to maximise benefits for our region.
 - Drive visitation by generating awareness and consideration of RCOW as an attractive regional tourism destination.
- Education for everyone
 - Education that supports growth in skills and employment opportunities.
 - Broaden local education and learning pathways, linking with Universities, TAFE and other training providers.
- Support employment through business growth, development and recovery.
 - We encourage considered investment in the development of new businesses and industries.
 - We encourage and support responsible growth of our existing businesses and industries.

- Support the development of small and medium enterprises.
 - Foster innovation and partnerships to develop local entrepreneurs and support start-ups.
 - Support agriculture sustainability projects and initiatives to facilitate a resilient and vibrant farming sector.
 - Support economic recovery following emergencies.
- Vibrant and engaging places.
 - Establish Wangaratta's CBD as a regional business, commercial service and retail centre.
 - Enhance the activity in our rural townships.

Other strategic links

This report supports the Ovens Murray Regional Economic Development Plan (Regional Development Victoria).

Risk Management

Risk Management Framework

Risks	Likelihood	Consequence	Rating	Mitigation Action
Commonwealth and State Government funding is not available to deliver the Strategy objectives.	Likely	Moderate	Minor	Continued advocacy to Victorian and Commonwealth Government departments and elected representatives.

Consultation/Communication

Officers undertook consultation with the community regarding the Strategy and some changes to the Strategy have been made as a result of submissions received. These changes are outlined in **Attachment 2**.

Consultation included:

- Invitation for feedback through the 'Have Your Say' via Connect Wangaratta.
- Three drop-in sessions.
- Email and direct contact to former contributors to the Strategy development.

Options for Consideration

1. That Council Endorses the changes to the draft Economic Development & Tourism Strategy 2024-2029 and adopts the Economic Development & Tourism Strategy 2024-2029. (recommended)
2. That Council does not endorse the recommended changes to the draft Economic Development & Tourism Strategy 2024 – 2029 or adopt the Economic Development & Tourism Strategy 2024-2029. (not recommended)

Conclusion

Submissions regarding the draft Economic Development & Tourism Strategy 2024-2029 has been considered and changes made to the strategy in response. The amended Economic Development & Tourism Strategy 2024-2029 is ready for Council adoption.

Attachments

- 1 Economic Development & Tourism Strategy 2024-2029 
- 2 Feedback Summary and Amendments 

Public Questions (53:00)

Jennifer Garrett

Question 1 – Part 1

Regarding Connect Wangaratta, which is put forward as a conversation, where someone can put in an opinion and there can be information back and forward as you would think with a conversation. I put a submission in and have heard nothing about it until Attachment 2 came out. Attachment 2 summarises people's submissions and has responses to those submissions. It would be really nice if all of the people that put submissions in actually received that Attachment 2 back and said these are the submissions, a generalisation, and these are the thoughts that go with that. And to let people know that it is coming before Council on a certain date. Is that something that can be considered?

*Mayor Dean Rees responded:
Certainly.*

Question 1 – Part 2

The Creative Precinct Plan includes plans for a Visitor Information Centre, which will be many years and many millions of dollars away. In the interim, can we possibly consider an Information Kiosk possibly on the corner of Apex Park, where people can see it, and RVs can actually park, and the precedent to that is the coffee kiosk at Café PreVue.

*Mayor Dean Rees responded:
We actually do have an information kiosk in 2 locations, 1 already in our Performing Arts area which is manned by a person to talk to people that come in, we also have one at Glenrowan up in our Visitor Information Centre with areas for caravans to park up there as well.*

I'm talking about one that people can actually find. As the old signs are still up saying that information is in 1km, but these signs haven't been taken down since the Visitor Information Centre moved out of Murphy Street.

*Mayor Dean Rees responded:
We'll have a look at that for sure.*

Question 2

Where is the RV dump point in Whorouly?

Cr Bussell responded:

That'll be a misprint – they are in Moyhu, Oxley, and Wangaratta. Not Whorouly.

And in the carpark area of Brown Brothers in Milawa.

Unconfirmed

15.2 Low Density & Rural Residential Strategy (Wangaratta) (1:04:28)

Meeting Type:	Scheduled Council Meeting
Date of Meeting:	16 September 2024
Category:	Strategic
Author:	Manager Statutory Services
Approver:	Director Sustainability and Culture

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.

CEO Brendan McGrath left the meeting at 07:06 pm having previously declared a Conflict of Interest.

Cr Irene Grant left the meeting at 07:06 pm having previously declared a Conflict of Interest.

Cr Ashlee Fitzpatrick left the meeting at 07:06 pm having previously declared a Conflict of Interest.

CEO Brendan McGrath returned to the meeting at 07:22 pm.

Cr Irene Grant returned to the meeting at 07:22 pm.

Cr Ashlee Fitzpatrick returned to the meeting at 07:22 pm.

Executive Summary

The Low Density & Rural Residential Strategy (LDRRS) was partially adopted by Council in December 2021. Council resolved to adopt the rural elements of the strategy related to townships such as Oxley, Milawa and Glenrowan. It also approved the preparation of a planning scheme amendment to implement the strategic directions related to the rural component. This amendment is currently out on public exhibition.

The Wangaratta component of the LDRRS was the subject of further investigation to consider other areas for potential rezoning to Low Density Residential and Rural Living zones. This investigation was documented in a draft Additional Investigations Report which was publicly exhibited, and submission were received.

This report is presented to Council to –

- report on submissions received as part of consultation undertaken on the Additional Investigations Report;
- consider proposed changes to the draft report arising out of receipt of submissions; and
- resolve to prepare a planning scheme amendment to implement some of the strategic directions arising from the Additional Investigations Report.

Resolution:

(Moved: Councillor H Bussell/Councillor H Benton)

That Council:

1. Notes all the submissions to the Additional Investigations Report;

2. Adopts the Additional Investigations Report with changes (see **Attachment 1**);
3. Advises submitters of Council's decision;
4. Prepares documentation and seeks authorisation to exhibit an amendment to the Wangaratta Planning Scheme to implement the relevant recommendations of the Low Density Rural & Residential Strategy and the Additional Investigations Report; and
5. Delegates to the Director of Sustainability and Culture the responsibility to make any changes to the adopted documents and planning scheme amendments as required by the Department of Transport and Planning or identified by Council officers in the preparation of the planning scheme amendment material.

For: Councillor H Benton, Councillor H Bussell, Councillor D Fuller, Councillor J Herry and Councillor D Rees

Against: Nil

Carried

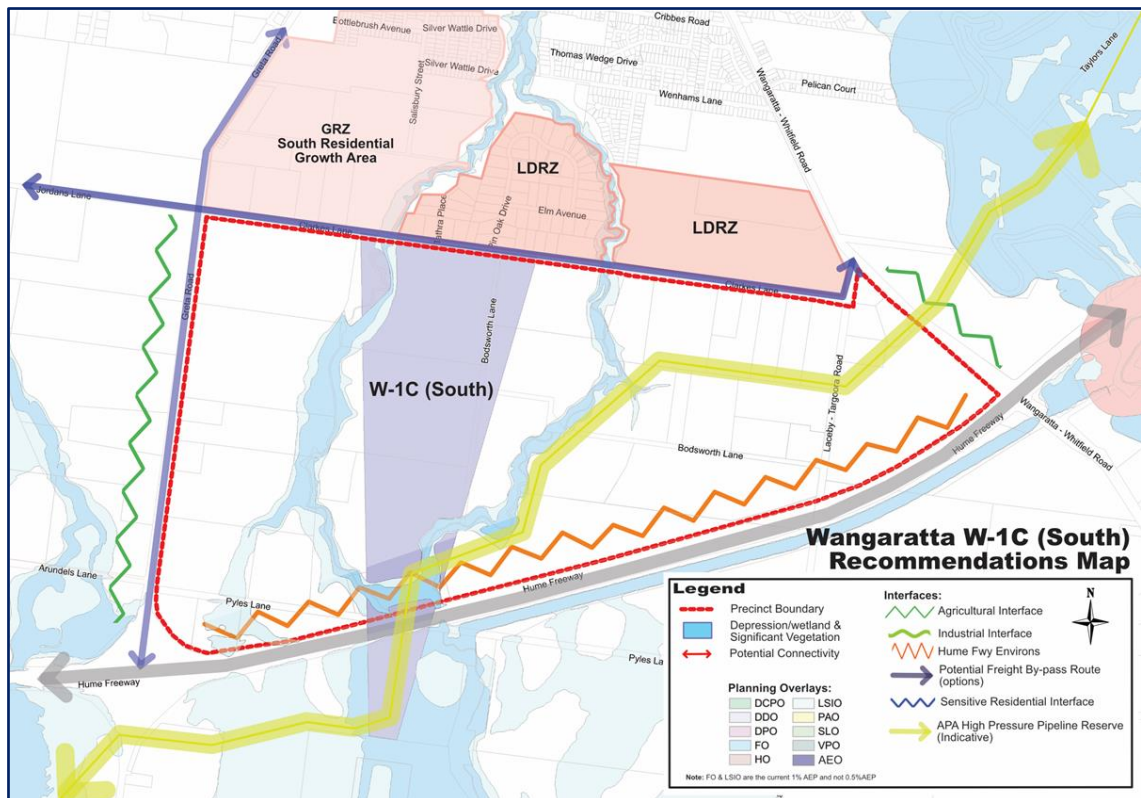
Background

Following the Council meeting in December 2021 where Council resolved to partially adopt the LDRRS and seek authorisation for an amendment to the Wangaratta Planning Scheme to implement the adopted rural component of the LDRRS; Council also approved to undertake further investigations into other potential sites that could be rezoned within the township of Wangaratta.

This further investigation was undertaken and documented in an Additional Investigations Report and considered a range of factors including bushfire and flood risk as well as other constraints such as the location of key infrastructure. The report also considered a Buffer Area Overlay within 1000m of the McKay Casings site and 500m of the Wangaratta Saleyards. This is to protect the function of these sites by ensuring that any new sensitive uses such as dwellings within the buffer area, are considered carefully. This is a translation of current policy in the Wangaratta Planning Scheme into a newly available Overlay within the Scheme.

Three sites were identified in the Additional Investigations Report, two of which had been considered in the LDRRS. The three sites, Buffer Area Overlay and the associated recommendations from the Additional Investigations Report (see **Attachment 1**) are described below:

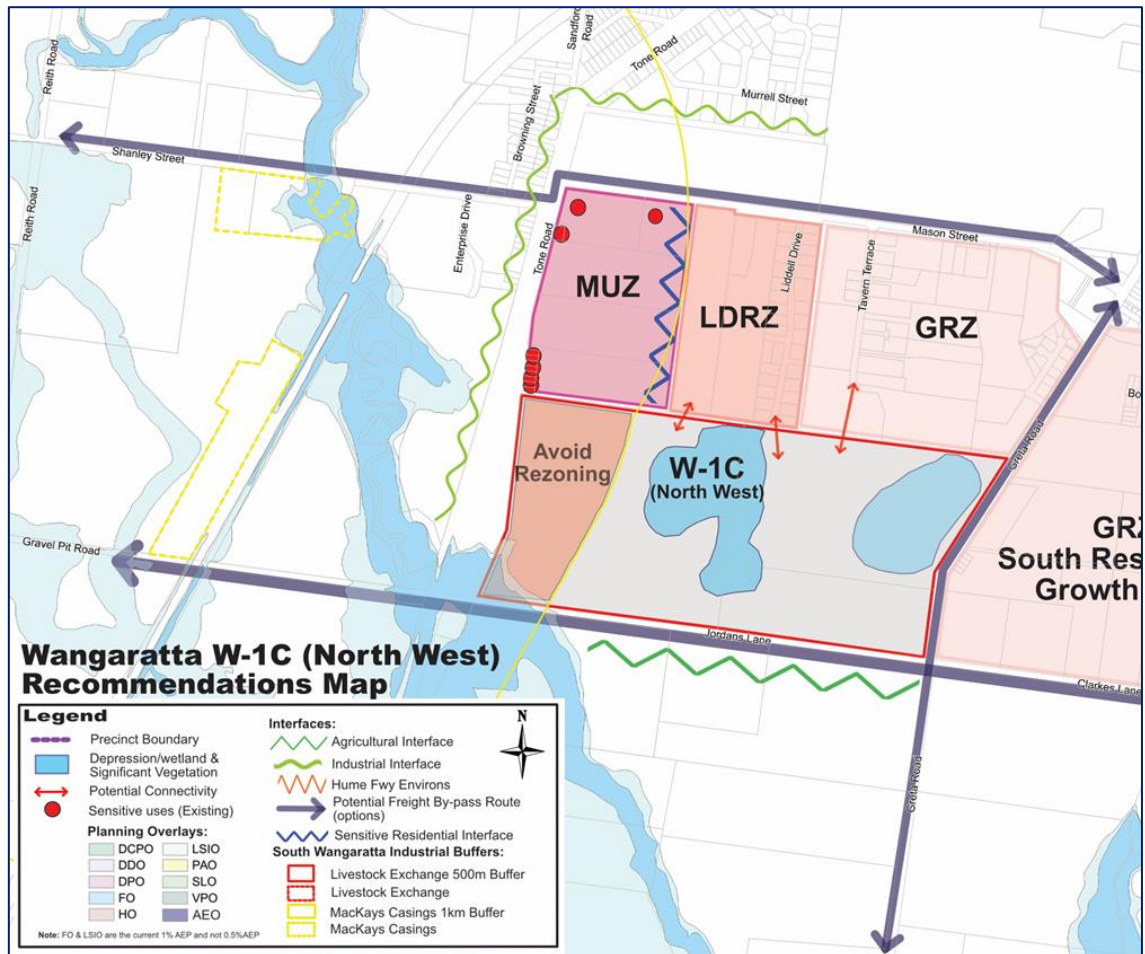
Site 1 – Wangaratta W1-C (South)



This site has the most constraints. The LDRRS identified that it could provide up to 70 new Rural Living and Low Density Residential lots, although a more detailed assessment of the constraints could reduce this. A precinct structure plan is needed to ensure that any proposed low density residential and rural living lots take account of the constraints which includes the Hume freeway environs, high pressure gas main, land subject to flooding and inundation.

Recommendation: It is recommended that a precinct structure plan is developed for this area before rezoning is considered further.

Site 2 – Wangaratta W1-C (North West)



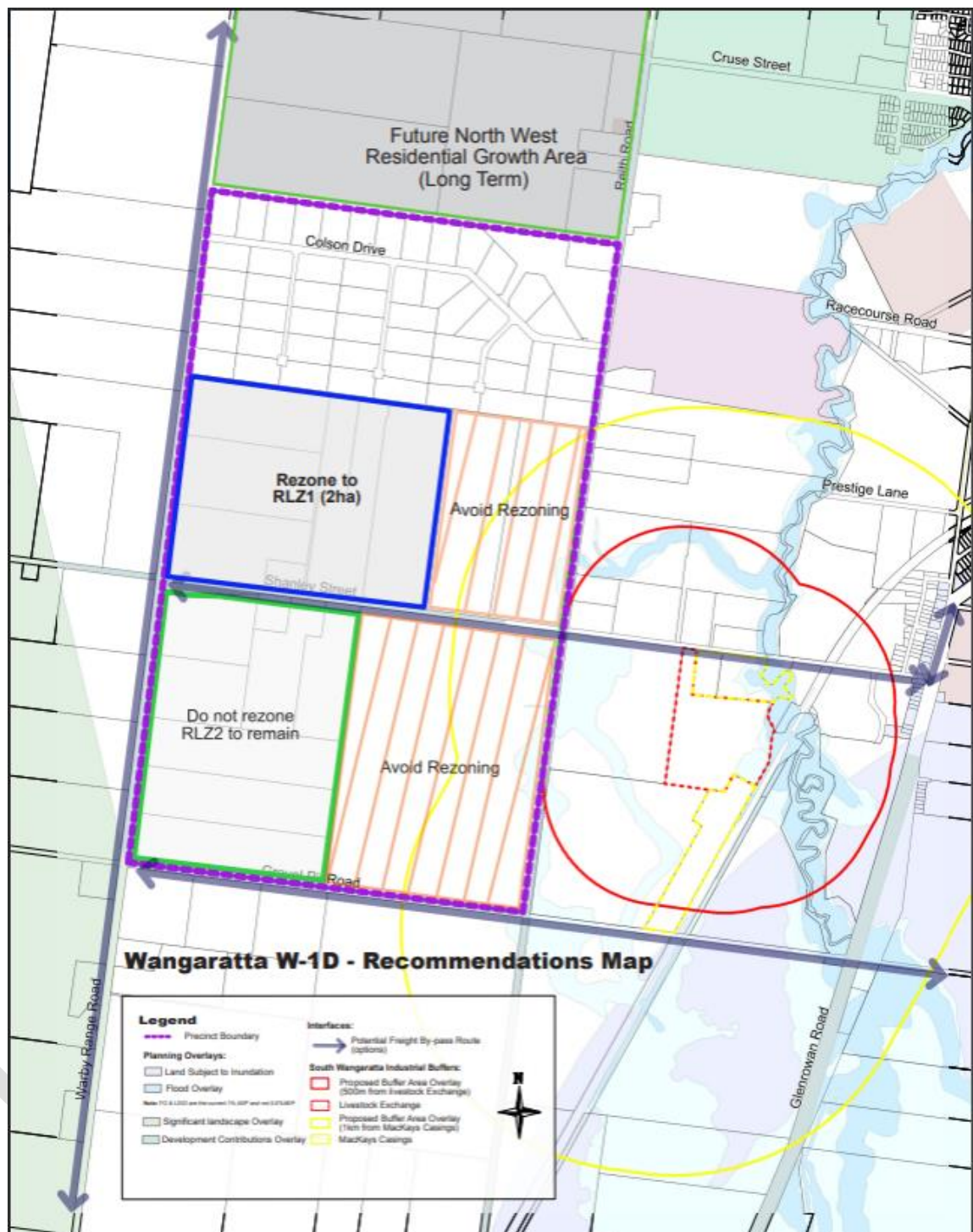
The draft Additional Investigations Report proposed to re-zone the Mixed Use Zone (MUZ) are shown above to the Industrial 3 Zone. This will not be taken forward as neighbouring industrial development is to the west of Tone Road with Tone Road providing a buffer to the mix of uses in the Mixed Use Zone. To the east of the Mixed Use Zone is residential development. The Mixed Use Zone itself already contains a mix of uses including industrial, a motel and residential development. A vacant parcel of land within this area has a current planning permit for residential subdivision that has not been acted upon. A re-zoning to the Industrial 3 Zone may cause conflict with the existing uses that are already in that area. The Mixed Use Zone would also be covered by the proposed Buffer Area Overlay which will trigger the need for a planning permit for new sensitive uses such as dwellings.

The land to the south identified as W-1C (with wetland areas) are recommended to be rezoned and could potentially yield 195 lots as detailed in the LDRRS. However a precinct structure plan would be needed to ensure that the constraints of the site are considered prior to rezoning allowing for new lots to be created.

Recommendation: that the Mixed Use Zone remains and that a precinct structure plan is commissioned to provide guidance for future development.

Unconfirmed

Site 3 – W-1D –(Alternative area considered)



This site was the focus of further investigations as documented in the Additional Investigations Report. For Site 3 it is proposed to change the Schedule from Rural Living Zone 2 to Rural Living Zone 1 which allows for smaller lots to be created in this area. The area highlighted in green was identified in the draft Additional Investigations Report as 'do not rezone' as it was considered an oversupply of rural living lots. However as the other areas (sites 1 and 2) require precinct structure plans prior to considering rezoning, the availability of land in the short term has been reduced. Equally sites 1 and 2 may not yield the lots anticipated due to constraints. It is considered that this area should be part of the first tranche of zoning changes along with the proposed area highlighted in blue above.

It should be noted that the potential connectivity link in the Colson Drive and Pindari Road area identified in the draft Additional Investigations Report publicly exhibited has been deleted in response to the submissions received.

Recommendation: that zoning of the areas highlighted in blue and green be changed from Rural Living Zone Schedule 2 to Rural Living Zone Schedule 1 the potential connectivity link in the Colson Drive and Pindari Road area be deleted.

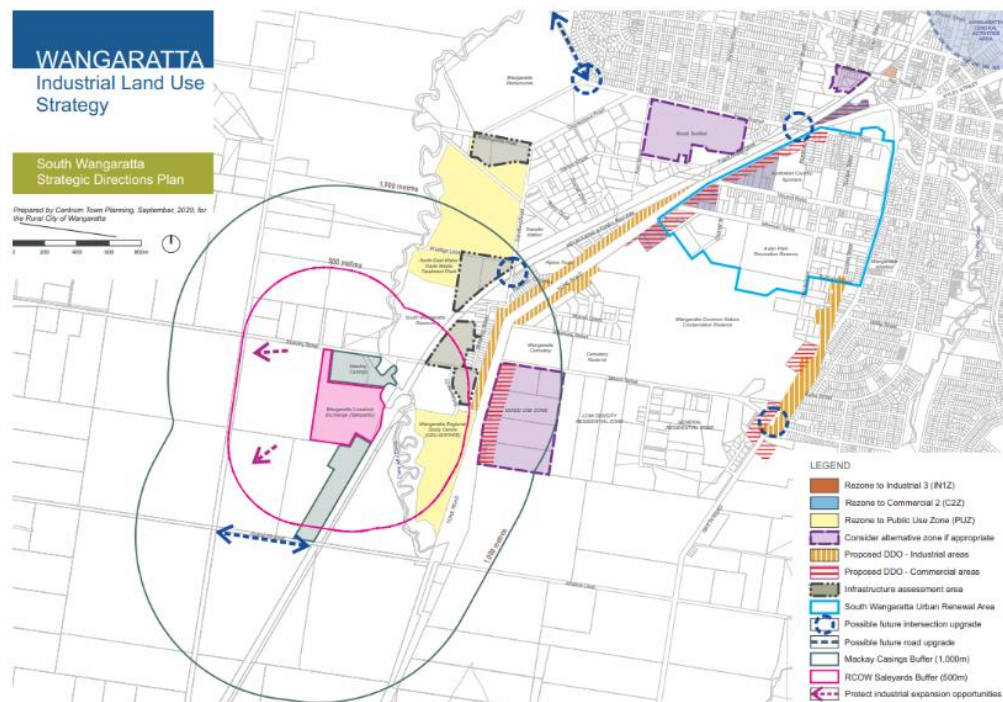
Buffer Area Overlay

One of the key aspects of the draft Additional Investigations Report was the application of the Buffer Area Overlay. This is a translation of existing policy in the Wangaratta Planning Scheme into an Overlay to ensure continued functionality of the McKay Casings (Van Hessen) site and Wangaratta Saleyards by managing potential conflicts with other land uses.

Currently the policy related to the buffer area is in the Wangaratta Planning Scheme found under Clause 11.03-6L-02. It states:

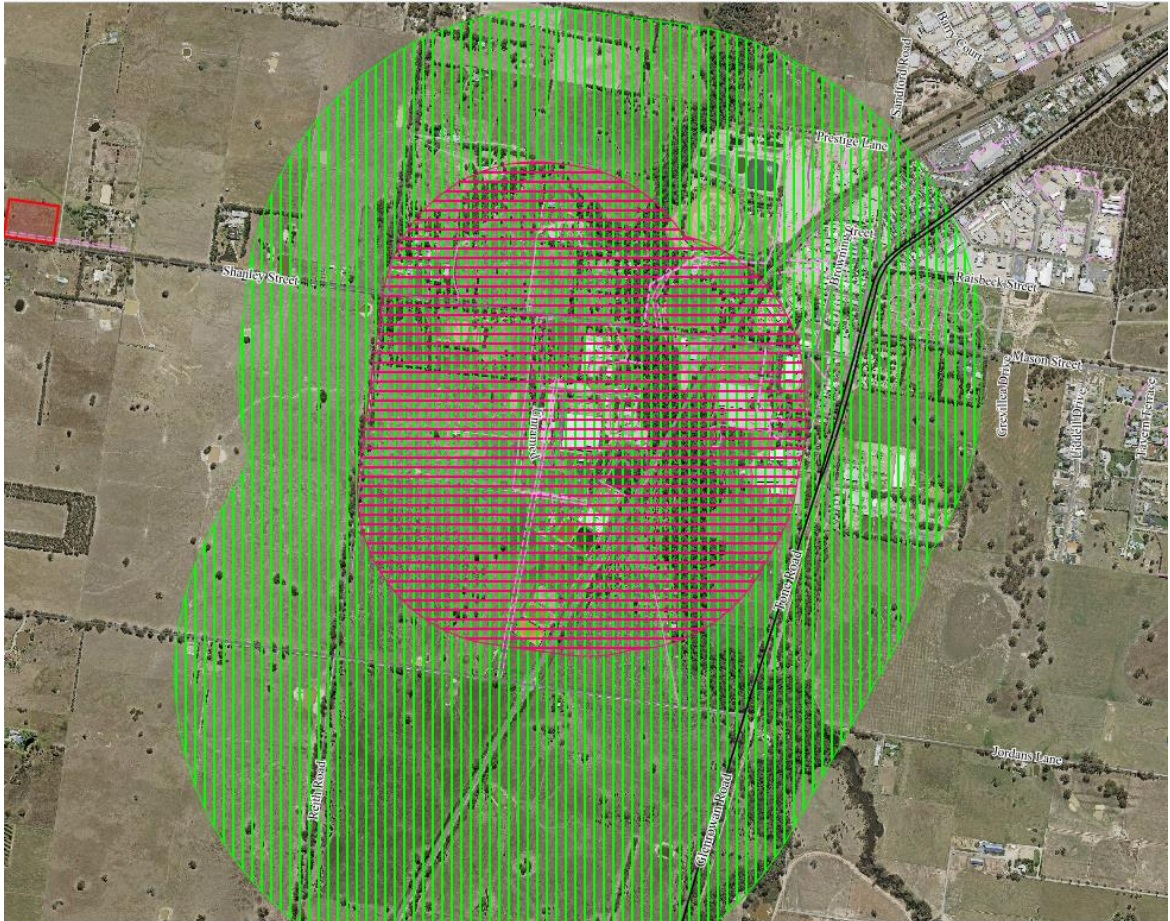
... Protect the operation of McKay Casings and the Wangaratta Saleyards by ensuring that a permit application or scheme amendment proposing to introduce or intensify a sensitive use on land within a strategic buffer identified below in the Strategic Directions Plan include an odour assessment which demonstrates the buffer can be satisfactorily reduced...

South Wangaratta Industrial Area - Strategic Directions Plan



The Buffer Area Overlay is a new planning tool and was introduced into the Victorian Planning Provisions in 2021. The Buffer Area Overlay will be a permit trigger and will enable the public to clearly see that a buffer applies over certain areas. The Buffer Area Overlay will provide a tool to help ensure that odour from activity sites is not likely to cause issues to human health and other amenity impacts due to land use conflicts.

During community consultation on the draft Additional Investigations Report the EPA supported the translation of the strategic buffer policy guidance in the Wangaratta Planning Scheme into an Overlay (Buffer Area Overlay). Moreover the EPA confirmed that a 1000m buffer was appropriate as was the Wangaratta Saleyards buffer of 500m. See plan below.



If applied, the Buffer Area Overlay would also encompass North East Water's facilities in the Prestige Lane area. North East Water have expressed a requirement for their facilities to have protection within the Wangaratta Planning Scheme and this Overlay is an appropriate tool to do this.

Recommendation: that the Buffer Area Overlay is applied with the same policy context as is currently in the planning scheme.

A summary of the changes made to the Additional Investigations Report can be found in **Attachment 2**.

Submissions

Public consultation on the draft Additional Investigations Report took place between 3 November 2023 and 1 December 2023. A total of 34 submissions were received: 30 community submissions and 4 agency submissions.

The public submissions fell into these categories:

Issue raised by submitter	Council response
Support for more Rural Living Zone land	Council has proposed zoning changes as identified in this report.
Concerns over rezoning the Mixed Use Zone and impact on development	This has been deleted from the proposal.
Concerns over the potential connectivity link around Pindari Drive area	This has been deleted from the proposal.
Support for further work on precinct structure plans	Council will undertake this process and will consult with the community as part of the structure planning process.
Request to consider other parcels of land for rezoning	The LDRRS and Additional Investigations Report documents how the recommended areas for potential future development have been identified.
Concern over the impact of the Buffer Area Overlay and the ability to develop within that area.	The Buffer Area Overlay is a translation of existing policy into an overlay. It will trigger the need for permits and make the requirement more obvious.
Concerns over other identified constraints or risks such as flood and fire risk and the data used to support the information presented.	Council worked with the CFA and NECMA on the proposals in the Additional Investigations Report.
Concerns over access, road safety and other amenity concerns with increased housing.	Structure planning and the planning permit process can assist in assessing and reducing these impacts as well as providing an opportunity for further community consultation.
Concerns over the windfall gains tax.	The proposed changes to the Schedule of the Rural Living Zone do not qualify for windfall gains tax as the zoning remains the same. Future changes of the zoning of land will trigger this tax.
Agency Submission	Council response
DEECA	Supports recommendations and actions of LDRRS – Draft Additional Investigations report.
DTP (Transport)	Supports findings of Additional Investigations report notes that further work needed so that development does not impinge on arterial network (noise related to Hume Freeway).
GWM	Notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lots not in water catchment area • Lots sizes need to reflect wastewater requirements.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30m buffer along waterways including Ovens River needed. • Need to consider supply and access to water. • Further referral needed when amendment is put on exhibition.
EPA	<p>Notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consideration needed of contaminated land (in relation to landfill buffers). • Consider any landfill gas issues. • Requirement of separation distances e.g. McKay Casings. • Supports application of Buffer Area Overlay around McKay Casings and saleyards. • Note interface to existing land uses and potential conflicts • Noise concerns related to Hume Freeway environs. • Supports buffer for high pressure gas maintain. • Further referral needed when amendment is put on exhibition.

Other matters raised in the Additional Investigations Report

The draft Additional Investigations Report exhibited raises the following additional matters not directly related to recommended changes to relevant zones:

- Out buildings
- Environmentally sustainable design
- Contaminated land and closed landfill buffers
- Climate change and resulting additional flood risk
- Hume Freeway impacts on surrounding land uses
- Protection of high pressure gas mains
- Review of the Vegetation Protection Overlay

These matters have been removed from the Additional Investigations Report at **Attachment 1** as they can be considered as part of:

- State Government initiatives, or
- As part of the Wangaratta Planning Scheme review process, or
- separate planning scheme amendments.

Implications

Policy Considerations

- Low Density Rural & Residential Strategy
- Wangaratta Planning Scheme

Financial/Economic Implications

There will be financial implications related to taking forward a planning scheme amendment and completing structure planning for identified sites. This will be considered as part of Council's budget processes.

Legal/Statutory

Planning Scheme Amendments would be carried out in accordance with the Planning and Environment Act 1987.

Social and Diversity

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

Equity Impact Assessment (EIA)

This is not considered to be a policy, program or service and therefore an EIA is not required.

Environmental/Sustainability Impacts

The LDRRS, Additional Investigations Report and Wangaratta Planning Scheme acknowledge that there are key environmental assets and incorporate these into future development.

Strategic Links

Council Plan 2021 – 2025

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

1. Valuing our Environment

3.1.3.2 – Protect and increase native vegetation corridors in our natural reserves and waterways.

2. Growing with Integrity

6.1.1.2 – Identify opportunities for residential land supply to accommodate future population growth.

6.1.2.1 – Ensure sufficient land supply is available to accommodate a range of housing needs.

6.3.1.1 – Ensure best practice biodiversity conservation in planning, project design and works.

6.3.1.2 – Ensure future settlements are designed and located to consider the risks of climate change including fire, floods and other natural hazards.

Risk Management

Risk Management Framework

Risks	Likelihood	Consequence	Rating	Mitigation Action
Lack of low density residential and rural living land supply	2	Minor	4- medium	Increase land supply options by rezoning land

Consultation/Communication

Community views were sought on the LDRRS and draft Additional Investigations report. Officers believe that appropriate consultation has occurred and the matter is now ready for Council consideration.

Future planning scheme amendments to implement the recommendation will be the subject of further community engagement.

Options for Consideration

Option 1 (recommended)

Approve the recommendations as provided.

Option 2 (Not recommended)

Do not approve the suggested recommendations. This will mean the way forward with this work would need to be reconsidered.

Conclusion

The Wangaratta component of the LDRRS was the subject of an Additional Investigations Report to consider other areas for potential rezoning to Low Density Residential and Rural Living zones.

The report considered 3 sites, 2 of which had been considered in the LDRRS. A draft report was publicly exhibited. The submissions received have now been considered and changes have been made to the report as described above and reflected in **Attachment 1**.

The amended Additional Investigations report is now ready for adoption. Once adopted, implementation of the report will take place through a planning scheme amendment and further structure planning work.

Attachments

- 1 Additional Investigations Report 
- 2 Summary of changes to the Additional Investigations Report 

Public Question: (1:06:34)**Greg Wheeler****Question 1**

There are numerous references to "Precinct Structure Plans". Can you please provide a brief explanation of what these entail?

Director Stephen Swart responded:

The Additional Investigations Report identified two areas within Wangaratta that should be considered for future rezoning subject to Precinct Structure Planning being completed first. Structure Planning will deliver the next level of detail beyond the high-level analysis already completed. It will include more detailed consideration of constraints and opportunities as they apply to the specific areas such as:

- Environmental considerations including existing vegetation and wetland areas*
- Bushfire design requirements*
- Protection of infrastructure like the gas pipeline, freeway, aerodrome*
- Storm water drainage management*
- Design*
- Lot layout and sizes*
- Road access*

Michael Porter**Question 1**

Can the Councillors explain why after more than 4 years (early 2020) working on the LDRR Strategy there is still currently no proposal for rezoning/planning scheme amendment any land to LDRZ within Wangaratta? In particular the same areas Wangaratta W1-C (South) and Wangaratta W1-C (North West) in the October 2023 version of the Report said "Prepare a planning scheme amendment following completion of the Precinct Development Plan to commence a rezoning process to LDRZ". This should be the recommendation and what Councillors should adopt now based on the rising demand for LDRZ and the lack of supply rather than to seek only a Precinct Development Plan that was recommended years ago.

Director Stephen Swart responded:

With the document that's in front of Council this evening, the recommendation for that area that's described there is for Precinct Structure planning to be completed first, which aligns with what Michael said there. One of the things that's changed is that we don't recommend to go for the Low Density Residential Zone, but we are saying that the Precinct Structure planning process should determine the future zoning of the land. Just because of the size of that land, and some of the constraints that apply to that land, that's probably a better process than just saying it's going to go to the Low Density Residential Zone. That Precinct Structure planning process will consider, as I said before, a long list of different constraints and opportunities, but it will also consider things like Lot layout and Lot sizes. Lot layouts and Lot sizes, especially Lot sizes, are mostly determined by zoning and that's why that's the right time to then determine what the zoning is. So the Recommendation has changed slightly, but we are still recommending those areas for future structure planning.

Question 2

In regards to area W-1D (Alternative area), the October 2023 version of the report recommended to not change the land to the South of Shanley Street from RLZ2 to RLZ1. This is now proposed to be included based on "further research" which seems questionable, based on the landholders in that

area. Can the Councillors explain why the sole focus of the LDRR strategy is to now prepare a planning scheme amendment to change land from RLZ2 to RLZ1 and not support any planning scheme amendment for LDRZ land?

Director Stephen Swart responded:

I'm not entirely sure whether the sole focus of the report is just focussed on that Shanley Street area, that is a part of it, and Michael's quite right in saying that the report recommends that that area be changed from the rural living zone in one Schedule, I think it's in Schedule 2 at the moment, to change that to the rural living zone, but Schedule 1. What that effectively means is that it will remain in the same zone, but if that change goes through, people in that area would be able to subdivide down to smaller lot sizes than they can at the moment.

Mayor Dean Rees asked:

And with a Schedule change, that means it's not a Planning Scheme amendment as such?

Director Stephen Swart responded:

It's still a Planning Scheme amendment, we still go through exactly the same process every time we want to change the Planning Scheme, it's exactly the same process.

Mayor Dean Rees clarified:

But a Schedule change won't apply for the windfall gains tax

Director Stephen Swart responded:

Yes.

So the other areas that Michael talks about, they are very different from these areas because the proposal there would be to go from the current farming zone into another zone, so that's a complete zone change, plus there's all of those constraints that I spoke about, and the need for Structure Plans arise out of those. The document says that we should still pursue that, so it doesn't, it's not saying we shouldn't be doing that, it basically says we need to do a little bit more work on those areas, and then in the shorter term we can make this change of Schedule for the Shanley Street area. One of the other reasons why we went to propose the land south of Shanley Street is if you consider the fact that Council will have to complete the Precinct Structure Plan process for the other areas, there will be time taken up to do that, and in the shorter term we wanted to put some land supply into the market, so is a stepping stone to get out further down the track

Mayor Dean Rees confirmed:

So in short, adopting Structure Plans, or doing this and having Structure Plans will help us to determine what the best zoning for us to rezone this land should be.

Director Stephen Swart responded:

Yes

Councillor Jack Herry asked:

In that planning process, is there opportunity for interrogation, or is the annual exceedance potential like flooding, and the probabilities around flooding, is that further examined and interrogated, I guess with a view to ensuring the most significant, the largest buffers against those events are maintained?

Director Stephen Swart responded:

That basically illustrates the point of doing, increasing Structure Plans, it means that we are able to interrogate some of the constraints a little bit further, especially constraints like that where there is a measure of uncertainty about where we might end up with Climate Change impact. So yes is the answer it will give us the opportunity to further explore those things. I should just caution that at the time when we do

that, we will tend to use the system that is in place at that time, so we depend on the Catchment Management Authority to help us with flood management and determine where flood overlays are supposed to be applied, and that is what we will be doing at that point in time.

Councillor Jack Herry asked:

The flood overlays currently in place, typical one is annual exceedance probability 0.5% recommended going forward, so that's 1 in 200 year event is a lay way of communicating that. Perhaps I could get a response to that?

Director Stephen Swart responded:

At the moment in the planning system we still use the 1%, but there has been talk of bringing in the 0.5%. I haven't seen that done formally yet.

Councillor Jack Herry asked:

Is Council able to disregard those, the 1% that's currently in the Planning Scheme, and go and disregard it and build in places exposed to that, and equally, on the flip side of that, is Council able to disregard it and say no, we're going to opt for a 0.5% ahead of it being formally committed to the Planning Scheme, or 0.1% or whatever it may be?

Director Stephen Swart responded:

Council can't disregard the 1% because that's what current flood overlays are based on and they are embedded into our Planning Scheme. The Planning Scheme is subordinate legislation so it can't be ignored. I think at the same time when you look at Precinct Structure planning, there is opportunity to consider things beyond what's in the Planning Scheme so you might make decisions about the protection of vegetation, just to use another example, that goes beyond what the Planning scheme says. That's a decision to be made during the Structure Planning process.

16. Special Committee Reports

Nil

17. Advisory Committee Reports

Nil

18. Minutes of Advisory Committee Meetings

Nil

19. Notices of Motion

Nil

20. Urgent Business

21. Public Question Time

21.1	<p>Allison Winters (1:23:24)</p> <p>Question 1 At the Council Meeting in Oxley on 27 August 2024, Council deferred the Recommendation for Item 14.5 Community Grant Recommendations until this September Council Meeting. Can Councillors, or Executive staff please provide an explanation as to why this decision was deferred?</p> <p><i>Mayor Rees responded:</i> <i>There were a number of instances in the Recommendation coming forward where staff hadn't reviewed the Policy, and there was some money to be given out to organisations that did not fit the Policy. Part of the Policy was that we are not supposed to give money to the same thing twice in 2 years, or the same event, or same situation. That is the main reason, that we saw some flaws in it, we wanted to review it to make sure that we got it right, we didn't want to come back to the public and say you haven't adhered to the Policy, and that's the reason why we deferred it.</i></p>
	<p>Scott McGuinness (1:24:55)</p> <p>Question 1 Last year I raised a concern regarding the Road Verge spraying. It seems every year the contractor that Council engages comes out, sprays at any time of day, whenever they want, whatever the conditions, and just uses straight glyphosate, maybe some additive, which doesn't work against resistant Rye grass. When I made the complaint last year I was told Council or contractors would come back and do it again and use something different but it hasn't changed. What is Council going to do about it going forward? And if they're not going to do it properly, then just don't do it so that it doesn't affect neighbouring paddocks and crops.</p> <p><i>CEO McGrath responded:</i> <i>Not sure but will talk to Field Services team and follow up and get back to you.</i></p>

22. Confidential Business (1:27:00)

Harvey Benton left the meeting at 07:29 pm.
 Harry Bussell left the meeting at 07:29 pm.
 Ashlee Fitzpatrick left the meeting at 07:29 pm.
 David Fuller left the meeting at 07:29 pm.
 Irene Grant left the meeting at 07:29 pm.
 Jack Herry left the meeting at 07:29 pm.
 Dean Rees left the meeting at 07:29 pm.

Resolution:**(Moved: Councillor D Fuller/Councillor A Fitzpatrick)**

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:

1.1 Chief Executive Officer Annual Appraisal 2024

Item 1.1 is Confidential under the Local Government Act 2020 as it contains information relating to : (f) Personal Information.

Carried

Harvey Benton returned to the meeting at 07:34 pm.
Harry Bussell returned to the meeting at 07:34 pm.
Ashlee Fitzpatrick returned to the meeting at 07:34 pm.
David Fuller returned to the meeting at 07:34 pm.
Irene Grant returned to the meeting at 07:34 pm.
Jack Herry returned to the meeting at 07:34 pm.
Dean Rees returned to the meeting at 07:34 pm.

Resolution:**(Moved: Councillor D Fuller/Councillor A Fitzpatrick)**

That Standing Orders be resumed.

Carried**23. Closure of Meeting**

The Meeting closed at 7:37pm.