



Rural City of
Wangaratta

Minutes

For the Scheduled Council Meeting
Council Chambers, Municipal Offices
62-68 Ovens Street, Wangaratta
3:00 PM 26 August 2025

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Rural City of Wangaratta Live Stream

Clause 25 of the Governance Rules provides the following:

"This public meeting is being recorded to improve access to the meeting for our community. The recording will be published and will be retained by Council in accordance with Council's legal obligations. As a visitor in the public gallery, your presence may be recorded."

Security Presence

I would like to acknowledge that tonight we have a security presence in the chamber. Our security officers are here to ensure the safety of all those in attendance, the Public, Councillors, and Council Officers.

By way of background, Council is responding to an increasing number of disrupted Council Meetings across the state where bad behaviour of a small minority in the gallery has impacted the conduct of Council Meetings.

I appreciate your understanding.

1. Acknowledgement to Country

It is my privilege to respectfully acknowledge the traditional custodians of our wonderful country. We give our thanks to our ancestors whose vision, determination, innovation and resilience built our prosperous inclusive and democratic country. We acknowledge that we are the proud inheritors of this legacy, and we accept the challenge to continue to nourish and nurture our communities and we pledge to work to implement and enhance opportunities for the benefit of future generations, our children and their children into the future.

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, Harry Bussell, Harvey Benton, Ashlee Fitzpatrick, Allison Winters, Tania Maxwell

Officers:

Brendan McGrath, Chief Executive Officer; Ben Thomas, Acting Director Community and Infrastructure; Sarah Brindley, Director Corporate and Leisure; Stephen Swart, Director Sustainability and Culture

Administration:

Executive Services Coordinator; Councillor and Executive Services Support Officer

4. Absent

Officers:

Marcus Goonan, Director Community and Infrastructure

5. Acceptance of Apologies & Granting of Leave of Absence

Unconfirmed

Order of Business

6. Citizen Ceremony

Nil

7. Confirmation of Minutes

Resolution:

(Moved: Councillor H Benton/Councillor T Maxwell)

That Council read and confirm the Minutes of the Scheduled Meeting of 22 July 2025, Unscheduled Meeting of 28 July 2025, and the Confidential Minutes of the Unscheduled Meeting of 28 July 2025 as a true and accurate record of the proceedings of the meetings.

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.

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

Councillor Allison Winters (03:00)

Housing Workshop Reflection

In July, I had the opportunity to attend a housing and planning workshop with the Municipal Association of Victoria, which began with a two-hour online introduction and then continued with a full-day session at the Mitchell Shire Council offices in Broadford. It was attended by Councillors from Alpine, Mitchell, Wangaratta, and Murrindindi Local Council Areas.

The workshop focused on governance, leadership, and communication skills that councillors need in order to fulfil our responsibilities in housing and planning. It challenged us to think about how we represent diverse, and sometimes divided, communities, how we navigate difficult conversations, and how we can lead with clarity, courage, and care. At its heart, it was about understanding our role in shaping housing outcomes and making decisions that will impact generations to come.

One of the striking things I took away were the projections from MAV. By 2036, the population of our municipality is expected to reach just over 32,000 people. About 34% of households will be lone-person households, and around 30% will be couples with no children. That means only one-third of households will be couples with children or one-parent families. These statistics tell a very clear story: our housing needs are changing, and our planning decisions must reflect that change.

As a new councillor, just nine months into my first term, I see this as a critical time to expand my knowledge in areas that aren't yet in my toolkit. Planning and housing sit right at the top of that list. I've already been involved in several planning applications, and I now know how important it is to maintain clarity about our roles at every stage of the process. That clarity safeguards integrity, ensures transparency, and builds trust with the community.

One of the most important lessons I took from the workshop was the need to adopt a truly human-centred approach to housing. Affordable housing isn't just "for others." It's for the people who keep our communities running. It's for essential workers. It's for older women (the fastest-growing group experiencing homelessness). It's for young people leaving care, people with disabilities, those going through crises, and survivors of family and domestic violence. Many of these people are not strangers, they are long-term residents, caregivers, parents, neighbours. People who have given so much to their communities, but who now face barriers to secure housing.

The truth is, housing stress and homelessness are often invisible. The faces of housing insecurity don't match outdated stereotypes. That's why recognising lived experience behind the statistics is so important, because it grounds our policies in compassion and fairness.

The workshop also reinforced a powerful message: planning decisions are public health decisions. For example, long commutes are linked with higher risks of heart disease and

obesity. Housing isn't just about bricks and mortar; it directly shapes health, wellbeing, and social connection.

So, what does all this mean for Council? For me, it means we should regularly review our planning scheme to ensure it meets today's challenges: addressing housing need, supporting economic development, protecting environmental assets, and responding to climate change. But more than that, we need to remember that housing is about dignity, security, and belonging. Behind every planning proposal are real people whose lives are shaped by the choices we make. If we lead with empathy, integrity, and evidence, we can influence not just the built form of our towns, but also the sense of fairness and inclusion that holds our communities together.

This workshop reminded me that our responsibility is not only to make planning decisions but to help shape a housing future that reflects who we are as a community, and who we want to be.

Resolution:

(Moved: Councillor D Fuller/Councillor A Fitzpatrick)

Councillor D Fuller moved a motion:

That Councillor Winters' report be Minuted..

Carried

Officers' Reports

12. Executive Services

Nil

13. Corporate and Leisure

(07:14)

Resolution:

(Moved: Councillor H Bussell/Councillor T Maxwell)

Councillor H Bussell moved a motion:

That Item 13.4 be brought forward before Item 13.1.

Carried

13.4 Draft Council Plan 2025-2029 including the Draft Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan (07:53)

Meeting Type:	Scheduled Council Meeting
Date of Meeting:	26 August 2025
Category:	Strategic
Author:	Governance Manager
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 the Draft Council Plan 2025-2029 including the draft Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan (Attachment 1), to be published for the purpose of community engagement in accordance with its deliberative engagement practices. Council wishes to provide the opportunity for the community to have input into the final document by providing feedback on this draft.

Resolution:

(Moved: Councillor H Bussell/Councillor T Maxwell)

That Council:

1. Endorses the Draft Council Plan 2025-2029 including the Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan for community engagement.
2. Invites community submissions for 28 days from 29 August to 26 September 2025.
3. Reviews and adopts the Council Plan 2025-2029 including the Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan at a future Scheduled Council Meeting, with or without amendment, taking into consideration any submissions made.
4. If no submissions requesting changes are received, adopts the draft Council Plan 2025-2029 including the Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan without further resolution of Council.

Carried

Background

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

The Draft Council Plan also incorporates the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan that is required under section 26 of the Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008, and as allowed for under section 27 of that Act. The inclusion of the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan has been approved by the Department of Health.

Under the Act a Council Plan must include:

- Strategic objectives
- Strategies for achieving those objectives over the next four years
- Strategic indicators for monitoring the achievement of objectives

In developing the Draft Council Plan 2025-29 including the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan (hereafter referred to as the 'Draft Council Plan'), Council undertook a range of general and deliberative engagement processes, all aligned to Council's Community Engagement Policy.

Since November, Council has obtained feedback from the community. The proposed Draft Council Plan has been developed following analysis of feedback from many community members through surveys, workshops, targeted engagement, and pop-up events between December 2024 and March 2025.

The development of the Draft Council Plan has been a highly collaborative process, informed by over 2,000 people, and with 3,200 ideas from the community and service providers working in the municipality being captured.

This engagement included:

- 529 surveys
- 118 community participants across 3 deliberative workshops
- Over 340 quick poll votes across 8 community pop ups
- 116 children's worksheets
- 10 conversation kits
- 60+ targeted engagements
- 100+ council staff engaged

The top 10 priorities identified by the community through these engagement activities were:

1. The Rural City of Wangaratta, a place for everyone
2. Community health and wellbeing
3. Places and spaces for community connection and culture
4. Transport, roads and infrastructure
5. Care for nature and the environment
6. Cost of living and affordability
7. Community safety
8. Family violence and harm from drug and alcohol usage
9. Local economy and development
10. Communication, accountability and transparency.

This Draft Council Plan can clearly demonstrate a connection between the feedback received and the themes, strategies and initiatives outlined in the plan. It is based around four themes informed by this engagement. These themes are:

1. Community Wellbeing
2. Natural Environment
3. Economy and Tourism
4. Infrastructure and Place

The Council Plan also includes the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan ('MPHWP'), which guides Council to place health and wellbeing at the heart of everything we do.

Our community and local health and wellbeing partners participated in the community engagement, and they outlined five key priorities:

1. Improving mental health and wellbeing
2. Improving food security and healthy eating
3. Reducing harm from alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs
4. Preventing family violence
5. Improving access to affordable housing and easing cost of living pressures

No one organisation can address these health and wellbeing concerns alone. By partnering with local agencies and organisations, we can collectively advocate on behalf of the community to more effectively secure access to the things that support wellbeing for the community.

Initiatives that directly support health and wellbeing priorities are identified within the Council Plan by an asterisk (*), signposting actions under the MPHWP.

The five overarching Draft Council Plan priorities are also aligned to the focus areas within the State Government's Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2023–2027.

Implications

Policy Considerations

Various Council policies may be impacted by the outcome of the development to the Draft Council Plan.

The Draft Council Plan 2025-2029 has been prepared in accordance with Council's deliberative engagement practices set out in the Community Engagement Policy.

Financial/Economic Implications

Funding was allocated to support development of the Council Plan in the 2024/25 Annual Budget. This project is anticipated to complete below budget.

The strategies and initiatives identified in the Draft Council Plan will be funded and resourced through council's successive Annual Budgets.

Certain strategies and actions contained in the Draft Council Plan under the theme 'Economy and Tourism' are designed to provide continued support to the economic growth of the municipality.

Legal/Statutory

Development of the Draft Council Plan has been consistent with Section 90 of the Local Government Act 2020.

The Council Plan incorporates the Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan that is required under section 26 of the Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008 and as allowed for under section 27 of that Act.

Council has applied for and been granted an exemption from providing a standalone MPHWP under Section 27(3) of the *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008*.

Social and Diversity

Certain strategies and actions contained in the Draft Council Plan, in particular under the theme 'Community Wellbeing' are intended to provide positive social outcomes for the community. Designed into the engagement process was improved representation of traditionally under-represented groups (e.g. CALD communities, people with disabilities, and First Nations peoples).

Equity Impact Assessment (EIA)

An EIA has been completed for the development of the Draft Council Plan.

Environmental/Sustainability Impacts

Certain strategies and actions contained in the Draft Council Plan, in particular under the theme 'Natural Environment' are intended to enhance environmental sustainability and provide positive environmental outcomes for the community.

Strategic Links**Community Vision 2045**

The Draft Council Plan sets out the actions proposed for council to undertake over the next four years to support delivery of the new Community Vision:

The Rural City of Wangaratta is a place for everyone.

We are a welcoming, connected, and caring community.

We value our urban and rural communities, ensuring shared opportunity and quality of life.

Our natural environment supports our wellbeing and forms a strong part of our cultural identity.

Our strength is our resilience and active participation in shaping a future for everyone to thrive.

Council Plan

The 4 themes proposed in the Draft Council Plan are:

1. Community Wellbeing
2. Natural Environment
3. Economy and Tourism
4. Infrastructure and Place

Risk Management

All risks related to the delivery of the Council Plan were identified and managed through the Council Plan Project PR0611. Key risks were:

Risks	Likelihood	Consequence	Rating	Mitigation Action
Insufficient Community Engagement leading to a Plan not fit for purpose	3 Possible	4 Major	12	Detailed community engagement strategy planned and executed.
Lack of staff capacity leading to an inability to meet the statutory deadline.	3 Possible	3 Moderate	9	A Project Control Group with key staff was established to oversee timely delivery and RCoW procured external consultants to support the engagement and writing processes.

Consultation/Communication

Deliberative engagement practices employed to develop the Draft Council Plan as well as the Community Vision and 10 Year Financial Plan are described in the Engagement Summary Report which was formally noted by Councillors at the 27 May 2025 council meeting. These and further engagement activities are summarised as:

Level of public participation	Promises to the public/stakeholders	Tools/Techniques
Inform	Community informed of each step of the process and of resulting documents	Informed through Social Media, Press Releases, Digital and Print Media.
Consult	All community members were provided with an opportunity to engage	Undertaken through online platforms and community events. Draft Council Plan to be published on council's website and available in hard copy from the Customer Service desk for further community engagement feedback, and publicised through social media and local media channels
Collaborate	Community collaboration through deliberative engagement practices	Undertaken through surveys, workshops, targeted engagement, and pop-up events

Officers believe that considerable consultation has occurred in developing the Draft Council Plan and the matter is now ready for Council consideration to give the community the opportunity to further comment on the draft document.

Options for Consideration

Options for consideration are:

1. Council endorses the Draft Council Plan for community engagement – recommended.
2. Council requests changes to the Draft Council Plan prior to publishing for community engagement.
3. Council elects to not endorse the Draft Council Plan, and to continue consultation and revision prior to adopting a final document at the September or October Council meeting – not recommended as this doesn't allow the community the opportunity to review and comment on the draft document.

Conclusion

The Draft Council Plan 2025-2029 including the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan has been developed in accordance with Council's deliberative engagement practices and has been informed by considerable direct input from the community. This document will continue to guide the direction of Council projects, services and resource allocation to our community over a four-year period.

Attachments

- 1 Draft Council Plan 2025-2029 including Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 

13.1 Draft 2025-2035 Financial Plan (13:09)

Meeting Type:	Scheduled Council Meeting
Date of Meeting:	26 August 2025
Category:	Strategic
Author:	Service Development Manager
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

Council is required under the Local Government Act 2020 to develop a Financial Plan every four years after a general election. The Draft Financial Plan 2025-2035 (Attachment 1) has been developed and is proposed to be published for community engagement, prior to finalisation and adoption.

Resolution:

(Moved: Councillor H Bussell/Councillor T Maxwell)

That Council:

1. Endorses the Draft 2025-2035 Financial Plan for community engagement.
2. Invites community submissions for 28 days from 29 August to 26 September 2025.
3. Reviews and adopts the 2025-35 Financial Plan at a future Scheduled Council Meeting, with or without amendment, taking into consideration any submissions made.
4. If no submissions requesting changes are received, adopts the 2025-2035 Financial Plan without further resolution of Council.

Carried

Background

The Draft Financial Plan 2025-35 (the 'Financial Plan') contains a range of information about our financial position and the expected changes over the next 10 years. It highlights our plans for rates and borrowings, key capital works projects and the assumptions we are making that will have the biggest impact over the next 10 years. We identify the financial risks we are managing and the sensitivity we have to changes in our key assumptions.

The Financial Plan defines the policy statements, and associated measures, that demonstrate Council's financial sustainability to fund the aspirations of the Community Vision and the Council Plan.

Like any plan, it is based on certain assumptions and if any assumptions are changed, then the plan outcomes change. The intention of the plan is to give general direction to the community and government about our future from a strategic resource perspective as well as to provide general direction to staff on future budget parameters.

The Financial Plan includes a cumulative adjusted underlying deficit of \$30.3 million over the next 10 years. We will have a focus on achieving ongoing efficiencies and cost savings to address the deficit along with other strategic levers such as careful management and prioritisation of expenditure, setting fair and appropriate user fees and charges, and improved asset management planning.

Importantly, the ongoing rate capping deficit remains a key long-term financial challenge as highlighted in the Financial Plan. Key challenges include:

- Persistently high inflation which has significantly increased the cost of delivering core Council services. This has been exacerbated by the rate cap being set consistently below inflation for the prior four years. Council has absorbed the difference between inflation and the rate cap since rate capping was introduced.
- External and uncontrollable cost pressures including an increase in the Superannuation Guarantee Charge to 12 per cent from 11.5 per cent (in addition to the 2.0 per cent increase over the prior four years), increases significantly above inflation to WorkCover and insurance premiums and significant increases to the State Government landfill levy.
- Increases in depreciation expense of almost 50% from 2016/17 to 2025/26 (budgeted). Council will perform a review of the asset registers and depreciation calculations. This will provide assurance on the increased depreciation expense and will, together with condition data, guide future decisions as to how Council continues to invest in renewing and upgrading its assets in future years.

Implications

Policy Considerations

The Financial Plan has been prepared in accordance with Council's deliberative engagement practices set out in the Community Engagement Policy. This deliberative engagement process has also included the Community Vision and Council Plan.

Legal/Statutory

Development of the Financial Plan has been consistent with Section 91 of the Local Government Act 2020.

Social and Diversity

The Financial Plan provides resources for the implementation of various strategies, plans, works and the delivery of services required to achieve the objectives of the Community Vision and the Draft Council Plan, including a connected and thriving community.

Equity Impact Assessment (EIA)

An EIA has been completed for the production of the Council Plan which underpins the development of the 10 Year Financial Plan. EIAs are required for new or revised services, strategies or policies that significantly impact the public, and which would be funded through the 10 Year Financial Plan and Annual Budgets. Separate EIAs will be undertaken for such changes as appropriate.

Environmental/Sustainability Impacts

There are no environmental/ sustainability impacts identified for the subject of this report. These will be captured more specifically in the Council Plan 2025-2029.

Strategic Links

Community Vision 2045

The Financial Plan allocates revenue and funding for the actions proposed for council to undertake over the next ten years to support delivery of the new Community Vision:

The Rural City of Wangaratta is a place for everyone.

We are a welcoming, connected, and caring community.

We value our urban and rural communities, ensuring shared opportunity and quality of life.

Our natural environment supports our wellbeing and forms a strong part of our cultural identity.

Our strength is our resilience and active participation in shaping a future for everyone to thrive.

Council Plan

The four proposed themes of the Draft Council Plan 2025-29 are:

1. Community Wellbeing
2. Natural Environment
3. Economy and Tourism
4. Infrastructure and Place

Risk Management

A well-planned Financial Plan will reduce the risk that Council will not be able to provide the services expected and required by the community in the years to come.

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

A summary of the risks we are specifically managing from a financial management perspective can be found in the Financial Plan.

Consultation/Communication

Deliberative engagement practices employed to develop the Community Vision, Council Plan and Financial Plan are described in the Engagement Summary Report which was formally noted by Councillors at the 27 May 2025 council meeting. These and further engagement activities are summarised as:

Level of public participation	Promises to the public/stakeholders	Tools/Techniques
Inform	Community informed of each step of the process and of resulting documents	Informed through Social Media, Press Releases, Digital and Print Media.
Consult	All community members were provided with an opportunity to engage	Undertaken through online platforms and community events. Draft Financial Plan to be published on council's website and available in hard copy from the Customer Service desk for further community engagement feedback, and publicised through social media and local media channels
Collaborate	Community collaboration through deliberative engagement practices	Undertaken through surveys, workshops, targeted engagement, and pop-up events

Officers believe that considerable consultation has occurred in developing these strategic council documents, and the matter is now ready for Council consideration to give the community the opportunity to further comment on the draft document.

Options for Consideration

Council must prepare a Financial Plan to comply with the Local Government Act 2020.

Options for consideration are that:

1. Council endorses the Draft 2025-2035 Financial Plan in its current state (refer to Attachment) to be published for the purpose of community engagement – recommended.
2. Council requests changes to the Draft 2025-2035 Financial Plan prior to publishing for community engagement.
3. Council elects to not endorse the Draft 2025-2035 Financial Plan, and to continue consultation and revision prior to adopting a final document at the September or October Council meeting – not recommended as this doesn't allow the community the opportunity to review and comment on the draft document.

Conclusion

The Draft 2025-2035 Financial Plan has been developed in accordance with Council's deliberative engagement practices and has been informed by considerable direct input from the

community. The Financial Plan will guide the funding, resourcing and prioritisation of future Council projects, services and infrastructure. It is recommended that the Draft 2025–2035 Financial Plan be published for community engagement, informing its finalisation prior to adoption.

Attachments

- 1 Draft Financial Plan 2025-35 

Unconfirmed

13.2 Biannual Audit and Risk Report (16:59)

Meeting Type:	Scheduled Council Meeting
Date of Meeting:	26 August 2025
Category:	Operational
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 note the Audit and Risk Committee's Biannual Audit and Risk Report. This report was prepared by Council's Governance and Reporting Advisor to outline the activities of the Audit and Risk Committee between January – June 2025 and was endorsed by the Audit & Risk Committee on 19 August 2025. This report is a requirement of the *Local Government Act 2020* (Vic) and this report is for Councillors to note only.

Resolution:

(Moved: Councillor H Benton/Councillor H Bussell)

That Council notes the Biannual Audit and Risk Report attached to this report.

Carried

Background

Biannual Audit and Risk Report

Section 54(5) of the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act) requires that the Audit and Risk Committee (the committee) prepare a biannual audit and risk report that describes the activities of the committee and includes its findings and recommendations.

To comply with this requirement, a biannual audit and risk report was produced for the period 1 January 2024 – 30 June 2025.

The attached biannual audit and risk report (**Attachment 1**) was also presented at the 19 August 2025 Audit and Risk Committee meeting for endorsement. It is now presented to Council for noting.

Implications

Policy Considerations

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

Financial/Economic Implications

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

Legal/Statutory

Section 54(5) of the Act requires the Audit and Risk Committee to prepare a biannual audit and risk report and provide a copy of the biannual audit and risk report to the Chief Executive Officer for tabling at the next Council meeting.

The Act requires that the Chief Executive Officer must table the biannual audit and risk report at the next Council meeting.

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.

Conclusion

The completion and tabling of the Audit and Risk Committee Biannual Audit ensures that the committee complies with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020* and that the committee's activities can be monitored by Council.

Attachments

- 1 Biannual Audit and Risk Report Jan-Jun 2025 

13.3 Council Plan 2021-25 - Performance Results (19:21)

Meeting Type:	Scheduled Council Meeting
Date of Meeting:	26 August 2025
Category:	Operational
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 note the results of the Wangaratta Rural City Council Council Plan 2021-25 performance. Council committed to a range of measures ahead of the adoption of this Council Plan and the current Plan ended on 30 June 2025.

Resolution:

(Moved: Councillor D Fuller/Councillor A Winters)

That Council:

1. Notes the Council Plan 2021-25 performance results for the Strategic indicators and Actions as contained in the attached reports.

Carried

Background

Council's Council Plan 2021-25 ended on 30 June 2025. This Plan had 182 actions for completion and 41 Strategic Indicators that could be measured across the 2024/25 financial year; there were an additional 70 actions that were closed off prior to this 2024/25 reporting period. The purpose of this item is to inform councillors on Council's performance against the Council Plan 2021-2025.

Throughout the life of the Council Plan 2021-25, Council delivered the following key actions (this list is non-exhaustive):

Strengthening Our Leadership

1. Revised its Community Engagement Policy, including the refreshing of Council's approach to deliberative engagement with the community on key Council documents;
2. Developed the Customer Experience Strategy;
3. Supported the delivery of the Rural Placemaking Plans developed in partnership with our rural communities;
4. Provided leadership to the community on Environmental Sustainability;

Nurturing Our Wellbeing

5. Delivered the Grit and Resilience program across the municipality;
6. Delivered the Community Grants Program;
7. Delivered Unconscious Bias Training and Cultural Sensitivity Training to Council staff and councillors;
8. Facilitated and enhanced the services and programs at the Wangaratta Sports and Aquatic Centre to provide a premier experience for our community and visitors;
9. Enhanced the Wangaratta Sports and Events Precinct;
10. Prepared a Gender Equity Action Plan;
11. Prepared and endorsed a new Wangaratta Municipal Emergency Plan to manage risks related to flood, fire and other natural disasters;

Valuing our Environment

12. Reviewed and implemented a Roadside Conservation Management Plan;
13. Developed a new Waste Strategy and ensure service delivery in accordance with Recycle Victoria Policy;
14. Developed and adopted a Climate Change Adaptation Policy;
15. Successfully increased the proportion of electricity consumed by Council from renewable sources to at least 50%;

Expanding our Economy

16. Successfully developed the Ned Kelly Glenrowan Project;
17. Established a Regional Universities Centre in Wangaratta;
18. Supported GO TAFE, North East TRACKS Local Learning and Employment Network and other education providers to address the skills and education needs within the region;

Enhancing our Lifestyle

19. Showcased inspiring and thought-provoking visual art exhibitions at the Wangaratta Art Gallery;
20. Delivered significant play space destinations that cater for all abilities, including Apex Park and King Valley playgrounds.
21. Recognised and celebrated our local volunteers through National Volunteer Week

Growing with Integrity

22. Worked with the State Government and social housing providers to facilitate social housing projects;
23. Continued to develop and promote the Live Wangaratta website.

Actions

Of the 182 actions scheduled for completion, 176 were Complete (**Attachment 1**).

The 6 actions reported as Ongoing (**Attachment 2**) or On Hold/Off Track (**Attachment 3**) are:

- 1.2.2.1 – Deliver Council's Information and Communications Technology Strategy (**Ongoing**);
- 1.3.1.2 – Advocate for the community by participating on the Regional Mental Health and Wellbeing Boards (**Cancelled**);
- 2.2.1.1 – Delivery of the Community Access and Inclusion Plan (**On Hold**);
- 2.2.2.4 – Develop, endorse and implement an Age Friendly Strategy (**On Hold**);

2.2.4.4 – Finalise the Municipal Early Years Plan **(On Hold)**;

5.2.1.5 – Develop a Reconciliation Action Plan in partnership with our indigenous communities **(Ongoing)**

Strategic Indicators

Of the 41 Strategic Indicators (**Attachment 3**), 18 were not within 5% of the target, a further 6 were within 5% of the target, and the remaining 17 met or exceeded the annual target. The 18 Indicators beyond 5% were:

- 1.0.1 Survey – Informing the Community **(Target 63 – Result 53)**
- 1.0.2 Survey – Consultation and Engagement **(Target 60 – Result 49)**
- 1.0.4 Survey – Decision Making in Interest of the Community **(Target 58 – Result 50)**
- 1.0.5 Survey – Lobbying on Behalf of the Community **(Target 59 – Result 52)**
- 2.0.1 Survey – Performance of recreation facilities **(Target 76 – Result 70)**
- 2.0.3 Domestic Animals Registration **(Target 100 – Result 80)**
- 3.0.1 Survey – Performance on Environment Sustainability **(Target 67 – Result 60)**
- 3.0.2 Kerbside collection waste diverted from landfill **(Target 65% – 59.25%)**
- 4.0.5 Survey – Performance on business, community development and tourism **(Target 68 – Result 58)**
- 5.0.1 Survey – Performance on the condition of sealed roads **(Target 64 – Result 42)**
- 5.0.2 Survey – Performance on the condition of unsealed roads **(Target 55 – Result 36)**
- 5.0.4 Sealed local roads maintained to condition standards **(Target 97 – Result 90)**
- 5.0.7 Active library borrowers within the municipality **(Target 14% - Result 8.02%)**
- 5.0.8 Survey – Council performance on community and cultural activities **(Target 72 – Result 66)**
- 5.0.9 Survey – Council performance on appearance of public open spaces **(Target 80 – Result 71)**
- 6.0.1 Annual number of building permits issued for new dwellings **(Target 150 – Result 109)**
- 6.0.3 Planning applications made within required timeframes **(Target 82% – Result 69.5%)**
- 6.0.4 Planning application processing days **(Target 55 – Result 63.83)**

Note: Many of the above measures are captured through Council's 2025 Community Satisfaction Survey results. Whilst there is a very slight overall decline from 2024, Wangaratta continues to outperform both statewide and regional council averages in many categories.

Key areas identified for ongoing improvement include:

- Informing the community: Council will introduce a quarterly community email newsletter and maintain its regular digital and media communications.
- Community Consultation and Engagement: Council has updated its Engagement Toolkit and expanded its online Connect Wangaratta platform.
- Condition of Sealed Roads: Repairs being undertaken on Swan Street, one of the most cited roads in the survey, and council is also rolling out a campaign dedicated to providing more detailed information on road management.

Implications

Policy Considerations

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

Financial/Economic Implications

There are no financial or economic implications identified for the subject of this report. Funding to deliver the actions in the Council Plan has been allocated via council's Annual Budget.

Legal/Statutory

The obligation to report on progress of delivery of the actions and priorities set out in the Council Plan actions is prescribed by the *Local Government Act 2020*.

Social and Diversity

The intended social benefits from delivering these actions are outlined in the Council Plan 2021-25.

Equity Impact Assessment (EIA)

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

Environmental/Sustainability Impacts

The intended environmental/sustainability benefits from delivering these actions are also outlined in the Council Plan 2021-25.

Strategic Links**Council Plan 2021 – 2025**

This report supports the 2021-2025 Council Plan by providing an update on the organisation's progress in implementing its actions.

Risk Management

Council risks a reputational failure by failing to adequately monitor and deliver its key objectives. By the regular reporting of its Strategic Indicators and Actions, Council can ensure the appropriate level of monitoring and transparency occurs to mitigate this risk.

Risk Management Framework

Risks	Likelihood	Consequence	Rating	Mitigation Action
Failure to proactively monitor Council's progress against it's Council Plan	2 – Unlikely	Moderate	5 – Medium	Schedule a standing bi-annual Council Meeting report.

Consultation/Communication

Council Plan actions are being progressively implemented by the appropriate officers across the organisation. The status of Council Plan actions and strategic indicators are reported to the executive management team and Audit & Risk Committee on a quarterly basis alongside other regular updates.

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





Options for Consideration

There are no options for consideration.

Conclusion

The attached reports provide the community with an appropriate level of transparency on the progress of council's delivery against the actions and commitments set out in the Council Plan 2021-25.

Attachments

- 1 Actions Complete 
- 2 Actions Ongoing 
- 3 Actions Cancelled 
- 4 Strategic Indicators 

13.5 Updated Instruments of Delegation (20:44)

Meeting Type:	Scheduled Council Meeting
Date of Meeting:	26 August 2025
Category:	Operational
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 authorise the following Instruments of Delegation and Instrument of Appointment and Authorisations. This will ensure the delegations and powers held across the organisation appropriately updated and maintained.

Resolution:

(Moved: Councillor D Fuller/Councillor A Fitzpatrick)

That Council:

1. Authorises the S5 Instrument of Delegation from Council to the CEO, S6 Instrument of Delegation from Council to Other Members of Council Staff and the S11 Instrument of Appointment and Authorisations as detailed below:

Resolution

S5 Instrument of Delegation from Council to the CEO

That:

1. Council delegates to the person holding the position, or acting in or performing the duties, of Chief Executive Officer the powers, duties and functions set out in the attached *Instrument of Delegation to the Chief Executive Officer*, subject to the conditions and limitations specified in that Instrument;
2. The instrument comes into force immediately upon this resolution being made and is to be signed by the Council's Chief Executive Officer and the Mayor;
3. On the coming into force of the instrument, all previous changed delegations to the Chief Executive Officer under this Instrument are revoked; and
4. The duties and functions set out in the instrument must be performed, and the powers set out in the instruments must be executed, in accordance with any guidelines or policies of Council that it may from time to time adopt.

Resolution

S6 Instrument of Delegation from Council to other members of Council staff

That:

1. There be delegated to the members of Council staff holding, acting in or performing the duties of the offices or positions referred to in the attached *Instrument of Delegation to members of Council staff*, the powers, duties and functions set out in that instrument, subject to the conditions and limitations specified in that Instrument;
2. The instrument comes into force immediately upon this resolution being made and is to be signed by the Council's Chief Executive Officer and the Mayor.
3. On the coming into force of this Instrument, all previous changed S6 Instrument of Delegations from Council to other members of Council staff (other than the Chief Executive Officer) are revoked.
4. The duties and functions set out in the instrument must be performed, and the powers set out in the instruments must be executed, in accordance with any guidelines or policies of Council that it may from time to time adopt.

Resolution**S11 Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation****That:**

1. The members of Council staff referred to in the Instrument of Authorised Officers in the Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund Act be appointed and authorised as set out in the Instrument;
2. The instrument comes into force immediately the common seal of Council is affixed to the instrument, and remains in force until Council determines to vary or revoke it;
3. The instrument be sealed.

Carried**Background**

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

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

Changes to S5

The S5 Instrument may be executed with the signature of the CEO and Mayor, or by application of the Council seal (previously could only be executed by application of the Council seal).

The instrument has been updated, substituting reference to 'fire services property levy' with 'emergency services and volunteers funding levy'.

Changes to S6

There have been some changes to legislation (specifically changing the *Cemeteries and Crematoria Regulations 2012* to *Cemeteries and Crematoria Regulations 2025*) and although these changes are reflected in the attached document, the provisions themselves remain unchanged and these powers remain with Director Community and Infrastructure, Manager Field Services and/or Supervisor Cemetery.

Additional powers have been added, implied from the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* that are not derived from any specific provisions under that Act, including – Powers given to Director Sustainability and Culture, Manager Statutory Services, Planning Coordinator, Senior Planner and Strategy Planner:

- Power to decide, in relation to any planning scheme or permit, that a specified thing may be altered or modified with Council's consent;
- Power to decide, in relation to any planning scheme or permit, that a specified thing may be done subject to Council's prior consent or must not be done without Council's prior consent;
- Power to decide, in relation to any planning scheme or permit, that a specified thing is required to be approved and or endorsed by Council.

Changes to S11

Updated to again substitute 'Fire Services Property Levy Act 2012' to 'Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund Act 2012' following the commencement of the 'Fire Services Property Amendment (Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund) Act 2025'.

Implications

Policy Considerations

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

Financial/Economic Implications

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

Legal/Statutory

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

Social 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

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

Risk Management

Risks	Likelihood	Consequence	Rating	Mitigation Action
Inaccurate Instrument of Delegations allowing for insufficient coverage of legislative obligations	3 – Possible	Moderate	6 – Medium	Reviewing Council's various Instruments of Delegation regularly ensures that council officers are suitably delegated provisions in which they have a responsibility.

Consultation/Communication

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

Options for Consideration

There are no alternative options available. Failure to adopt the updated Instrument of Delegation will result in Council officers being unable to formally undertake key aspects of their role.

Conclusion

Council's S5 Instrument of Delegation from Council to the CEO, S6 Instrument of Delegation – Council to other council staff and S11 Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation under the Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund Act have been updated, provisions have been assigned to the relevant council staff and the Instruments are presented for formal council adoption today.

Attachments

- 1 S5 Instrument of Delegation from Council to the CEO 
- 2 S6 Instrument of Delegation from Council to other members of Council staff 
- 3 S11 Authorised Officers under the Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund Act 

Unconfirmed

13.6 2024/25 Carry Over Projects (23:33)

Meeting Type:	Scheduled Council Meeting
Date of Meeting:	26 August 2025
Category:	Operational
Author:	Management Reporting Coordinator
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 outline the financial adjustments required for the 2025/26 financial year, covering the carry over of unspent funds from the 2024/25 financial year and the addition of two required projects that weren't included in the 2025/26 Adopted (Revised) Budget.

Resolution:

(Moved: Councillor D Fuller/Councillor T Maxwell)

That Council approves the following adjustments to the 2025/26 Adopted Budget:

1. Increases capital works expenditure by \$2.30m, bringing the total 2025/26 capital works expenditure to \$25.93m, to account for the carry over of capital projects from the 2024/25 financial year.
2. Increases capital works income by \$1.28m, bringing the total 2025/26 capital works income to \$14.68m, to account for the carry over of over unspent capital grants funding from the 2024/25 financial year.
3. Increases operational expenditure by \$888k to account for the carry over of operational projects from 2024/25.
4. Increases operating grant income by \$126k to account for the carry over of unspent operating grants from 2024/25.
5. Includes additional funding for two projects totalling \$70k in the 2025/26 Budget through a formal adjustment:
 - Economic Development & Tourism Strategy Implementation - \$50k
 - Wangaratta Livestock Exchange Masterplan - \$20k

Carried

Background

A review of the 2024/25 capital and operational project budgets has identified several projects that remained incomplete as of 30 June 2025. These projects are either multi-year in scope or have experienced delays due to multiple factors.

To ensure their completion, a total of \$3.19m in unspent expenditure and \$1.40m in associated income will be carried forward into the 2025/26 budget. This is composed of:

- Capital works expenditure carry over: \$2.30m
- Capital works income carry over: \$1.28m
- Operational expenditure carry over: \$888k
- Operational income carry over: \$126k

Furthermore, additional funding of \$70k is requested to be allocated for two projects not included in the original Adopted Budget.

All items have been reviewed for alignment with Council's strategic objectives and confirmed funding availability.

Implications

Financial/Economic Implications

Capital Works Projects

Below is a complete list of capital works and capital grant funding carry overs to be brought forward to the 2025/26 financial year.

The total capital works expense carry overs amount to a net \$2.30 million, and the capital income carry overs total \$1.28m. Major expense items include the Myrree-Whitlands Road Bridge Replacement, and the Rowan Street Overpass Shared Path projects. Some projects, like the Wangaratta Flood Mitigation Strategy, show significant income (grant) carry overs.

Projects with a negative expense carry over indicate recurring projects which had over delivery and/or overspends in the 2024/25 year – these carry overs (shown in red below) mean a downward adjustment to the 2025/26 Budget for those corresponding amounts.

Funding for the Bullawah Trail Wayfinding Project was originally received in 2023/24, however due to cultural complexities was put on hold and not included in the 2024/25 Budget.

Project	Expense Carry-over	Income Carry-overs
Myrree-Whitlands Road (Cryer's) bridge replacement	669,947	-
Design & Construction of Rowan Street Overpass Shared Path	368,909	368,909
Wangaratta Flood Mitigation Strategy and Design - Areas Prot	319,418	524,602
Carboor and Whorouly South Rd Intersection Construction	199,925	-
Levee Pump Renewal Program	186,117	-
Road Street reconstruction	117,686	-
Wangaratta Netball Facility Upgrade	108,630	119,436
Plant Replacement	107,877	-
Bullawah Trail Wayfinding Project	100,000	100,000
Wangaratta Aerodrome - Runway - Design and Construct Plan	80,000	-
Wareena Park Oval Upgrade	65,146	60,000
South Wangaratta Industrial Estate (Gibson Street)	63,796	-
Replacement of Christmas Decorations	46,264	-
Energy Efficiency Projects	44,362	-
Merriwa Park Masterplan - Road & Pedestrian Access Upgrade	43,850	-
Apex Park - Changing Places	25,046	-
Implementation of Marketing & Branding Strategy	20,466	-
WSAC Masterplan	15,000	-
Drainage Design	10,570	-
Redcamps Bridge	-	104,000
Annual Reseal Program	(21,624)	-
Township Infrastructure Improvements	(55,690)	-
LRCI Gravel Resheeting Program	(217,092)	-
	2,298,603	1,276,947

Operating Projects

Following is a complete list of operating projects and corresponding grant funding carry overs to be brought forward to the 2025/26 financial year.

The total operating expense carry overs for various operational projects amount to \$888k, while the operating grant carry overs total \$126k. Major expense items include the Social Inclusion Action Group \$195k, Kerbside Glass Bins \$173k, and Theatre & Production Asset Renewal \$127k. Some projects, such as the Kerbside Reform Support Fund and Glenrowan - Tiny Town Fund, show matching or significant income carry-overs, supporting continued delivery into 2025/26.

Project	Expense Carry-over	Income Carry-overs
Social Inclusion Action Group	195,703	-
Kerbside Glass Bins	173,677	30,674
Theatre & Production Asset Renewal & Replacement	126,858	-
Free From Violence - LGA	88,212	29,500
VicHealth LG Partnership	73,593	10,000
New Council Plan	35,000	-
Structure Planning-Low Density & Rural Residential Strategy	32,568	-
Glenrowan - Tiny Town Fund	25,000	25,000
Kerbside Reform Support Fund - DELWP	24,097	27,713
Kerbside Transition Community Education Program Grant (VIC)	20,497	-
Environmental Sustainability Strategy - Action Plan Implemen	17,160	-
Waterwatch coordination	14,555	-
Seniors Festival	14,050	-
Financial Sustainability	11,366	-
Commercial Cafe Lease Consultancy	8,670	-
Wheeled Activity Strategy	8,610	3,000
Winter Events Program	8,032	-
Firewood Project	5,130	-
EBA Implementation Work (WSAC and RCoW)	5,120	-
	887,898	125,887

Additional Projects for inclusion in the 2025/26 Budget

Two additional projects totalling \$70k are requested to be added to the 2025/26 Adopted Budget through a formal budget adjustment:

- Economic Development & Tourism Strategy Implementation: \$50k
- WLE Masterplan: \$20k

These projects are considered essential to the strategic objectives of Council and their inclusion will ensure continued progress in economic development and long-term planning.

Summary Position

The following table summarises the updated 2025/26 Budget position including carry overs:

Rural City of Wangaratta	FY25/26 Adopted Budget	FY24/25 Carry Overs	FY 25/26 Omitted Projects	FY25/26 Updated Full Year Forecast Inc Carry over
Adopted Budget	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Income	99,702	1,402		101,104
Income - Capital	13,405	1,276		14,681
Income - Operating	86,297	126		86,423
Expenses	86,240	888	70	87,198
Accounting Surplus/Deficit	13,462	514	(70)	13,906
				-
Capital Works Expenditure	23,633	2,299	-	25,932

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 a report to Council. Identifying and incorporating these adjustments proactively allows for more accurate quarterly reporting.

Social and Diversity

Social benefits from the delivery of Council services and projects are outlined in the 2025/26 Adopted Budget and in the Council Plan 2021-25.

Environmental/Sustainability Impacts

Environmental and sustainability benefits from the delivery of council services and projects are outlined in the 2025/26 Adopted Budget and in the Council Plan 2021-25.

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

Risks	Likelihood	Consequence	Rating	Mitigation Action
Poor performance against budget	Medium	Medium	Medium	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 adopts the proposed carry overs and budget adjustments – recommended.
2. That Council advises of any changes to the proposed carry overs and budget adjustments or proposes an alternative recommendation for changes to the 2025/26 Budget.

Conclusion

The proposed carry overs and budget adjustments for the 2025/26 financial year ensure accurate financial reporting and continued delivery of strategic projects. By incorporating carry-over funds from 2024/25 and including the proposed budget adjustments, Council maintains alignment with its strategic objectives and legislative requirements. These adjustments support transparency, sound financial management, and the effective allocation of resources to meet community needs.

Attachments

Nil.

14. Community and Infrastructure

14.1 Property Maintenance Panel Tender 2025 (26:40)

Meeting Type:	Scheduled Council Meeting
Date of Meeting:	26 August 2025
Category:	Strategic
Author:	Packaged Care Team Leader
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 recommends awarding Tender T17238 – Property Maintenance Panel for one year, with two possible one-year extensions.

The Rural City of Wangaratta aims to form a panel of qualified, experienced, and cost-effective contractors to provide property maintenance and home modification services. These services will support Commonwealth Home Support Programme (CHSP) clients to live safely and independently in the community.

Resolution:

(Moved: Councillor H Benton/Councillor A Fitzpatrick)

That Council:

1. Awards Tender – T17238 - Property Maintenance Panel Tender to deliver basic property maintenance and home modifications the following contractor based on submitted schedule of rates:
 1. MBS FM Pty Ltd
 2. Christopher Calvene
 3. Villa Maria Catholic Homes
 4. Maintain North East
 5. DJ & S Bell as Bells Home Maintenance
 6. The Handy Gardener
 7. Weekly Property Services
2. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to sign and seal all the relevant contract documents when available, (including any extensions) for tender T17238 Property Maintenance Panel

Carried

Background

The Rural City of Wangaratta provides essential support services through the Commonwealth Home Support Programme (CHSP), helping older residents live independently at home. Council offers basic property maintenance and home modifications for eligible clients.

This panel arrangement aims to boost service efficiency, speed up response times, and maintain compliance with standards and funding requirements while supporting the independence and wellbeing of older community members.

Implications

Policy Considerations

Councils Procurement Policy

Financial/Economic Implications

The number of suppliers will secure value for money and reliability for council to deliver the service. Supply will be undertaken within the existing grant funding from the Department of Health and Aged Care – Agreement 4-KTQVOAB.

Legal/Statutory

The recommended panel of suppliers meets the legal and statutory obligations and supports Council's strategic objectives in service delivery and community support.

Social and Diversity

The implementation of Tender T17238 – Property Maintenance Panel is expected to deliver positive social outcomes by supporting vulnerable members of the community, particularly older residents who rely on the Commonwealth Home Support Programme (CHSP) to maintain safe and independent living arrangements.

Equity Impact Assessment (EIA)

By engaging a diverse and qualified panel of contractors, Council aims to ensure equitable access to property maintenance and home modification services for all eligible clients, regardless of geographic location, cultural background, or socio-economic status.

Environmental/Sustainability Impacts

Contractors engaged through this panel will be encouraged to adopt environmentally sustainable practices, including the use of eco-friendly materials, minimisation of waste, and energy-efficient methods in the provision of property maintenance and home modification services.

Strategic Links

Council Plan 2021 – 2025

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

1. Strengthening our Leadership

1.1 - *An engaged and connected community*

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

1.2 - An efficient and effective Council

1.2.1 - Ensure Council's financial sustainability through transparent and accountable financial management.

2. Nurturing our Wellbeing

2.2 Accessible and equitable services, spaces, and facilities

2.2.1 Strengthen Council's approach to designing and supporting inclusive and liveable communities.

2.2.2.5 Continue to provide quality Aged and Community Care Services to our community to support their health and wellbeing.

Risk Management

Risk Management Framework

Risks	Likelihood	Consequence	Rating	Mitigation Action
Availability of quality trade services	Unlikely (2)	Moderate (3)	Medium (6)	Council evaluates all submissions to ensure quality of service

Consultation/Communication

This was a public Tender process. This tender was advertised on eProcure and was also advertised in the Wangaratta Chronicle in accordance with the procurement policy.

Options for Consideration

1. Awards T17238 - Property Maintenance
2. Does not award T17238 - Property Maintenance and re-tenders work

Conclusion

Following an internal evaluation against pre-determined evaluation criteria and weighting, Tender T17238 – Property Maintenance Panel Tender is recommended to be awarded to:

1. MBS FM Pty Ltd
2. Christopher Calvene
3. Villa Maria Catholic Homes
4. Maintain North East
5. DJ & S Bell as Bells Home Maintenance
6. The Handy Gardener
7. Weekly Property Services

Attachments

- 1 Council Evaluation Report and Award Recommendation Over \$500K - Confidential

Unconfirmed

14.2 Asset Plan (28.32)

Meeting Type:	Scheduled Council Meeting
Date of Meeting:	26 August 2025
Category:	Strategic
Author:	Manager Infrastructure Planning and Delivery
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 seek endorsement to proceed with placing the draft Asset Plan on public exhibition in accordance with the requirements of Council's Community Engagement Policy.

The existing plan was adopted in 2022 and serves to define, document and present a framework of asset management best practice for the Rural City of Wangaratta that guides decision making, in an informed and financially responsible way.

Council officers are now seeking to place the draft Asset plan on public exhibition for a period of 28 days.

Resolution:

(Moved: Councillor H Bussell/Councillor A Winters)

That Council:

1. Endorses the draft Asset Plan 2025-35 for community engagement.
2. Invites community submissions on the draft Asset Plan 2025-25 for 28 days from 29 August 2025 to 29 September 2025.
3. Reviews and considers all submissions made to the draft Asset Plan 2025-35 at a future Scheduled Council Meeting.
4. If no submissions requesting changes to the Plan are received, adopts the draft Asset Plan 2025-35 without further resolution of Council.

Carried

Background

Section 92 of the Local Government Act sets out a number of requirements councils must meet regarding management of their assets and infrastructure. The Act states that councils must develop, adopt and keep in force an Asset Plan that:

- Covers a planning horizon of at least the next 10 financial years
- Includes information about maintenance, renewal, acquisition, expansion, upgrade, disposal and decommissioning in relation to each class of infrastructure asset under the control of the council
- Addresses any other matters (relevant to the asset class) prescribed by the regulations

Council's Asset Plan sits as a strategic document, providing the framework for how council provides best management asset management.

The Asset Plan overarches individual asset plans for the asset groups of transport, stormwater, buildings and open space.

These individual plans provide a detailed approach of how each of these asset groups are to be managed over the life of the Asset Plan to achieve the objectives of the Asset Plan.

Council last adopted an Asset plan in 2022. This Asset Plan has been reviewed and updated with the following considerations:

- Council's updated asset register, incorporating assets that have been created since the last Asset Plan through subdivision development, council projects and gifted assets.
- Updated valuations of council's assets that cover the roads, drainage & flood mitigation, bridges, footpaths, buildings and open space facilities that council maintains.
- Feedback received during the recent development of the Council Plan, Financial Plan and Community Vision. This feedback told us that infrastructure needs to be fit for purpose and financially sustainable.

Implications

Policy Considerations

The Asset Plan is an integral part of the legislated Integrated Strategic Planning and Reporting Framework introduced with the *Local Government Act 2020*.

Financial/Economic Implications

The Asset Plan sets out actions to enhance how council manage assets to achieve better value for money across renewal, new and upgrade capital expenditure.

Legal/Statutory

The *Local Government Act 2020* requires that Council undertakes a review of its Asset Plan every four years.

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:

5. Enhancing our Lifestyle

5.1 Accessible and sustainable transport management

Risk Management

Risks	Likelihood	Consequence	Rating	Mitigation Action
Council's asset renewal program doesn't provide for sufficient funding to maintain levels of service for council infrastructure, or over invests in particular asset classes for the level of service required.	3 - Moderate	3 – Moderate	9 – Medium	Actions within the draft Asset Plan are completed to optimise the appropriate investment across council's asset programs, with individual asset plans reviewed and developed to ensure that the renewal expenditure for each asset type is appropriate for the level of service required.

Consultation/Communication

Following endorsement of this draft Asset plan by council, the draft Asset plan will be placed on public exhibition for a period of 28 days.

Two drop-in sessions will be held over this public exhibition period, together with opportunity provided to book a time to talk with council officers.

Options for Consideration

1. Endorses the draft Asset Plan 2025-35 for community engagement.
2. Council does not endorse the draft Asset Plan 2025-35 for community engagement and requests further changes.

Conclusion

Council officers believe that the draft Asset Plan is ready to be placed on public exhibition.

Attachments

- 1 Draft Asset Plan 

Unconfirmed

14.3 Award of contract 92524 Ivones Lane Bridge Replacement – Milawa (31:58)

Meeting Type:	Scheduled Council Meeting
Date of Meeting:	26 August 2025
Category:	Strategic
Author:	Delivery & Contracts Project 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 of contract 92524 Ivones Lane Bridge Replacement – Milawa.

Resolution:

(Moved: Councillor H Bussell/Councillor H Benton)

That Council:

1. Awards contract 92524 Ivones Lane Bridge Replacement – Milawa to Waratah Construction Pty Ltd.
2. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to sign and seal all the relevant contract documents for contract 92524 Ivones Lane Bridge Replacement – Milawa.
3. Discloses the contract price of the contract 92524 Ivones Lane Bridge Replacement Ivones Lane – Milawa

Carried

Acting Director Ben Thomas disclosed the contract price as \$580,597.73 (excluding GST)

Background

The Rural City of Wangaratta has an annual budget for maintenance and replacement of bridge and associated infrastructure. As part of 2025/2026 budget, replacement of Ivones Lane Bridge has been prioritised due to the deteriorated existing condition.

Ivones Lane Bridge is located on Ivones Lane Milawa; the site is located 900 metres East of the Markwood -Tarrawingee Road and is approximately 15 kilometres Southeast of Wangaratta.

This procurement will appoint a suitably qualified contractor to undertake the supply, fabrication and installation of a single span, concrete plank and concrete reinforced deck bridge. The work will also include the supply and installation of rock beaching and erosion protection.

Implications

Policy Considerations

Asset Management Plan
Procurement Policy

Financial/Economic Implications

The Council's 2025/2026 capital works budget allocates \$700,000 for the delivery of Ivones Lane Bridge Replacement Ivones Lane - Milawa.

Legal/Statutory

Local Government Act 2020

Social and Diversity

The bridge upgrade will allow safe access for all users

Equity Impact Assessment (EIA).

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

Environmental/Sustainability Impacts

A works on Waterways consent has been approved by the North East Catchment Management Authority

Strategic Links

Council Plan 2021 – 2025

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

Strengthening our Leadership

1.1 - An engaged and connected community

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

1.2 - An efficient and effective Council

1.2.1 - Ensure Council's financial sustainability through transparent and accountable financial management.

Risk Management

Risk Management Framework

Risks	Likelihood	Consequence	Rating	Mitigation Action
Residents unable to access their property	Possible(3)	Minor(2)	Medium(6)	Project Manager to monitor & advise residents
Delay due to Inclement Weather	Possible (3)	Moderate(3)	Medium(6)	Project Manager to monitor

Conditions				
Unsatisfactory Quality of Works	Possible(3)	Moderate(3)	Medium(6)	Project Manager to monitor

Consultation/Communication

This was a public Tender process. This tender was advertised on eProcure and was also advertised in the Wangaratta Chronicle in accordance with the procurement policy.

Options for Consideration

1. Award Contract 92524 – Ivones Lane Bridge Replacement – Ivones Lane Milawa to Waratah Construction Benalla.
2. No publicly awarded contracts and retenders as per the Council's procurement policy.

Conclusion

Following a comprehensive evaluation against the pre-determined evaluation criteria and weightings, contract 92524 – Ivones Lane Bridge Replacement Ivones Lane - Milawa is recommended to be awarded to Waratah Constructions.

Attachments

- 1 Ivones Lane Bridge Milawa - Swan Street Reconstruction 
- 2 Evaluation Report and Award Recommendation Ivones Lane - Tender No (92524) - Confidential

15. Sustainability and Culture

15.1 Planning Permit Application 23/209 - 197 Murdoch Road, Wangaratta - Staged Multi-lot Subdivision, Removal of Native Vegetation & Creation of Access to a Transport Zone 2 (34:20)

Meeting Type:	Scheduled Council Meeting
Date of Meeting:	26 August 2025
Category:	Strategic
Author:	Planning 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 make a determination of whether to grant a planning permit for the staged multi-lot subdivision, removal of native vegetation and creation of access to a road in a Transport Zone 2 at 197 Murdoch Road, Wangaratta.

The subject site is located within the General Residential Zone – Schedule 1 and the Farming Zone and is affected by the Design and Development Overlay – Schedule 6, Floodway Overlay and Land Subject to Inundation Overlay.

A total of eight objections were received to the application. Grounds of objections relate to traffic, amenity, neighbourhood character, open space, services and flood risk.

A detailed officer's assessment of the application is included at **Attachment 1**.

Based on the attached officer's assessment it is recommended that a Notice of Decision to Grant a Planning Permit be issued, as the proposal represents an orderly planning outcome that is consistent with the objectives and strategies of the relevant planning policy for residential infill development.

As referenced in the officer's report (**Attachment 1**), the following additional attachments are included:

- Proposed layout plan – **Attachment 2**
- Ecologist assessment – **Attachment 3**

Resolution:

(Moved: Councillor H Benton/Councillor H Bussell)

That Council:

1. Issues a Notice of Decision to Grant a Planning Permit with respect to the staged multi-lot subdivision, removal of native vegetation and creation of access to a road in a

Transport Zone 2 at 197 Murdoch Road Wangaratta, subject to the conditions outlined at **Attachment 1**.

Carried

Background

This report is presented to Council to make a determination on Planning Application PlnApp23/209 as the application received eight objections. The grounds of objection, and the officer's consideration of these are discussed in detail in the report at **Attachment 1**.

The key issues discussed later in this report and as part of the officer's assessment report include:

- Traffic management to Murdoch Road
- Traffic management within the local road network
- Location of the open space and provision of playground equipment
- Additional residents putting extra burden of health services, reticulated services and education facilities
- Loss of native vegetation and biodiversity
- Solar access for lots
- Lot size
- Social housing
- Drainage
- Flood risk

A detailed assessment of the application against the relevant policies and provisions of the Wangaratta Planning Scheme (the Scheme) and the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* (the Act) is included at **Attachment 1**. The following table shows the policies and provisions that have been considered.

Planning Policy Framework, Zoning, Overlays, and Particular and General Provisions

Section	Clause	Provision
Planning policy Framework and Municipal Planning Strategy	02.03-1	Settlement
	02.03-2	Environmental and landscape values
	12.01-1S	Protection of biodiversity
	12.01-1L	Protection of biodiversity
	12.01-2S	Native vegetation management
	12.01-2L	Native vegetation management
	12.03-1S	River and riparian corridors, waterways, lakes, wetlands and billabongs
	12.03-1L	River corridors, waterways, lakes and wetlands
	13.03-1S	Floodplain management
	13.03-1L	Floodplain management
	15.01-3S	Subdivision design
	16.01-1S	Housing supply
	16.01-1L	Housing supply
	16.01-2S	Housing affordability
	18.02-4S	Roads

	19.03-2L	Infrastructure design and provision
Zone	32.08 35.07	General Residential Zone Farming Zone
Overlays	43.02 44.03 44.04	Design and Development Overlay – Schedule 6(A3) Floodway Overlay Land Subject to Inundation Overlay
Provision	52.17 52.29	Native Vegetation Land Adjacent to the Principal Road Network
Decision Guidelines	65.01	Decision Guidelines – Approval of an Application or Plan

Implications

Policy Considerations

Council's local planning policies (given effect by the Wangaratta Planning Scheme) are of relevance to this report. These policies are considered and addressed within this report and in the Officer's Assessment Report at **Attachment 1**.

Financial/Economic Implications

There are no specific financial implications to Council arising from this report although there may be potential costs should this matter proceed to the Victorian Civil Administrative Tribunal (VCAT).

Legal/Statutory

All procedures associated with the lodgement and assessment of this application have been 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)

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

Environmental/Sustainability Impacts

Environmental/ sustainability impacts have been considered by the application and as part of the officer's assessment.

Strategic Links

Council Plan 2021 – 2025

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

- 6.2.2.2 – Provide an efficient and effective permit system that facilitates appropriate growth.

Rural City of Wangaratta Community Vision 2045

This report supports the 2045 Community Vision –

The Rural City of Wangaratta is a place for everyone

We are a welcoming, connected, and caring community.

We value our urban and rural communities, ensuring shared opportunity and quality of life.

Our natural environment supports our wellbeing and forms a strong part of our cultural identity.

Our strength is our resilience and active participation in shaping a future for everyone to thrive.

Risk Management

It is not considered that there are any relevant risks to Council beyond those associated with standard statutory process (such as any decision being appealed at VCAT).

Risk Management Framework

Risks	Likelihood	Consequence	Rating	Mitigation Action
Appeal of decision at VCAT	Possible	Minor	Low	Appropriate representation of Council at VCAT.

Consultation/Communication

Notice of the application was given to adjoining and surrounding landowners and occupiers, and a notice was included in the Wangaratta Chronicle. To date, eight objections have been received.

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

Options for Consideration

1. Council issues a Notice of Decision to Grant a Planning Permit for Application PInApp23/209 subject to conditions (recommended);




OR

2. Council issues a Notice of Refusal for Planning Application PInApp23/209.

Conclusion

The proposed subdivision is considered to represent an appropriate planning outcome for the logical continuation of the residential neighbourhood. The lot layout is consistent with the surrounding character and the provision of open space will provide an important recreational area for the immediate and wider community. Therefore, it is recommended that the application is supported.

Attachments

- 1 Officer's Report 
- 2 Proposed layout plan 
- 3 Ecologist assessment 

15.2 Draft Reconciliation Action Plan (37:37)

Meeting Type:	Scheduled Council Meeting
Date of Meeting:	26 August 2025
Category:	Strategic
Author:	Manager Arts, Culture and Events
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 to Council is to present the Draft Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP), also referred to as 'Reflect' (**Attachment 1**) for the purposes of consultation.

Guided by the framework and registration process of Reconciliation Australia, and assisted by an external First Nations consultant, this report intends to present the draft Reflect RAP to begin the process of community awareness and consultation.

If endorsed by Council, the draft RAP will be presented to our community and the registration body, Reconciliation Australia, for feedback. The process of consultation is unique to the RAP framework which is guided by Reconciliation Australia and the First Nations Engagement Framework as contained in **Attachment 2**. Once feedback received about the draft RAP has been considered, the intention is to present the plan to Council for formal adoption.

Recommendation:

That Council:

1. Endorses the draft Reconciliation Action Plan for the purposes of consultation.
2. Supports undertaking consultation by submitting the draft Reconciliation Action Plan to Reconciliation Australia for feedback and engaging with the community.
3. Notes the First Nations Engagement Framework that will guide consultation on the draft Reconciliation Action Plan.

Resolution:

(Moved: Councillor H Benton/Councillor H Bussell)

Councillor H Benton moved a motion:

That this Item be deferred to no later than the December 2025 Council Meeting.

Carried

Background

Council is committed to meaningful acts of reconciliation with and for our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. These acts include acknowledging and celebrating our First Nations people, groups and local communities. This commitment was clearly captured as an action in the 2021-2025 Council Plan to develop a RAP.

According to Reconciliation Australia, the peak National body for Reconciliation Action Plans, a RAP will help organisations to engage with staff and leaders in understanding the importance of reconciliation. The RAP framework and action plan is based on relationships, respect, and opportunities which enable organisations to turn their good intentions into action and support the national reconciliation movement.

In 2021 Council registered with Reconciliation Australia to begin drafting the first Reflect RAP. Staff participated in workshops and guided sessions facilitated by Reconciliation Australia, and internal communication and engagement were initiated. This included the delivery of Cultural Awareness training and the formation of an internal RAP Working Group.

As the organisation's understanding deepened, the importance of taking time to honour the complexity of local context - including contested land, Traditional Owner status, and diverse community perspectives - was more clearly recognised. Council chose to pause and prioritise meaningful community engagement. This allowed time to invest in genuine listening, relationship-building, and laying the foundations for reconciliation actions that are grounded in respect and shared understanding. In addition to this, Council invested in expert external advice, which has resulted in the current draft Reflect RAP and First Nations Engagement Framework.

Implications

Policy Considerations

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

Financial/Economic Implications

A commitment to both the actions in the draft RAP and Engagement Strategy will incur operational budget requirements. For 2025/26 this will involve:

- Annual fees to Reconciliation Australia \$1500
- Costs associated with community meetings and staff training \$3500
- Program and event support and promotion of Reconciliation Week and NAIDOC Week \$5000

Legal/Statutory

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

Social and Diversity

The draft RAP and Engagement Strategy will allow the opportunity for 2-way engagement between Council and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community members and Traditional Owners. Council welcomes and encourages diverse representation from the community on through this consultative process.

Equity Impact Assessment (EIA)

Equity impacts have been considered, and an assessment has been completed.

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**2. Nurturing our Wellbeing**

2.3 Increased sense of inclusivity and connectedness

2.3.1. Build an increased understanding and acceptance of diversity within the community

2.3.1.1 Deliver annual events and initiatives that focus on celebrating diversity, connection and belonging for everyone within our community.

2.3.1.4 Deliver Cultural Sensitivity Training to all RCoW Staff and Councillors.

3. Valuing our Environment**4. Expanding our Economy****5. Enhancing our Lifestyle****5.2 Cultural Heritage that is recognised and celebrated**

5.2.1 We celebrate our diverse cultural heritage, and the history of our place and people.

- 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.
- 5.2.1.3 - Develop a program that acknowledges the traditional names of local places, people, and landmarks.
- 5.2.1.5 - Develop and implement a Reconciliation Action Plan in partnership with our Indigenous community.

5.2.2 Recognise and celebrate our social and cultural diversity

- 5.2.2.3 - Continue to promote, recognise and celebrate NAIDOC week within our community.

Rural City of Wangaratta Community Vision 2045

This report supports the 2045 Community Vision –

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We value our urban and rural communities, ensuring shared opportunity and quality of life.

Our natural environment supports our wellbeing and forms a strong part of our cultural identity.

Our strength is our resilience and active participation in shaping a future for everyone to thrive.

Other strategic links

This report supports Councils commitment to leading strategies, plans and legislation from all tiers of Federal and State Government which sets best practices in pathways to stronger and respectful relationships with our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community, including:

- Federal Government National Agreement on Closing the Gap 2020
- Victorian Aboriginal & Local Government Strategy (VALGS) 2021-2026
- The Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006

Risk Management

Risks	Likelihood	Consequence	Rating	Mitigation Action
Draft RAP is not endorsed for consultation.	2	Minor	5	Further consultation with Councillors and community to determine the next steps.
Community opposition to the draft RAP	2	Minor	5	Seek support form Reconciliation Australia and continue community consultation

Consultation/Communication

Level of public participation	Promises to the public/stakeholders	Tools/Techniques
Inform	Yes	Communicate via media online and local. Correspond directly with local community groups and individuals.
Consult	Yes	Deliver community meetings during consultation period.
Involve	Yes	Ask community members for feedback and needs.
Collaborate	Yes	Respond to community feedback and requests.
Empower	Yes	Act on community feedback and requests.

Officers believe that appropriate consultation will occur throughout the consultation period as outlined in the Engagement Framework. This framework provides specific guidance on best practice, inclusive consultation for Traditional Owner and Aboriginal Communities.

The matter is now ready for Council consideration. Consultation will include:

- Submitting the draft RAP to Reconciliation Australia for feedback.
- Community consultation in accordance with the Engagement Framework, such as,
 - Regular outreach visits to each stakeholder group.
 - Hosting "Yarning Circles" to create an open, safe space for dialogue.
 - Establishing Cultural Ambassadors within each group to act as liaison contacts.

Options for Consideration

1. That Council endorses the draft RAP for the purposes of consultation, as recommended.

OR

2. That Council does not endorse the draft RAP for the purposes of consultation and maintains the current approach of delivering projects that achieve positive outcomes of reconciliation but are not formally captured in any framework (not recommended).

Conclusion

Officers recommend the endorsement of the draft RAP for consultation purposes.

The RAP assists organisations such as Council to set realistic and defined goals and take responsibility for implementation of actions identified. It will help Council to have a meaningful opportunity to advance reconciliation and will create a clear plan to deliver meaningful actions.

A Reflect RAP is a public commitment which outlines Council's intention to develop ongoing relationships, celebrations of significant dates and ongoing intentions of honouring our First Nations community through the functions of Council.

Attachments

- 1 Draft Reconciliation Action Plan - Reflect 
- 2 Draft First Nations Engagement Strategy 

15.3 Wangaratta Planning Scheme Amendment C83 - Low Density & Rural Residential Strategy (Rural Component) (42:52)

Meeting Type:	Scheduled Council Meeting
Date of Meeting:	26 August 2025
Category:	Strategic
Author:	Strategic Planning Officer
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 consider the next step in the Planning Scheme Amendment process (in accordance with the *Planning and Environment Act, 1987*) for Planning Scheme Amendment C83.

The Wangaratta Low Density and Rural Residential Strategy 2021 was undertaken to understand and respond to the demand for low density and rural living zoned land across the municipality. It was adopted in part. Amendment C83 proposes changes to local policy, zoning and overlays in the Wangaratta Planning Scheme to implement the recommendation of the partly adopted strategy which applies to areas outside urban Wangaratta.

There were 16 submissions to the amendment, 6 of which objected to the amendment. Submissions were presented to Council in February 2025 and Council resolved to formally request a Planning Panel to independently review the amendment. A Panel Hearing was held on 30 April 2025.

The Panel has recommended the amendment be adopted as exhibited with minor changes, contained in the Panel Report Appendix C (**Attachment 1**). Officers recommend the amendment be adopted and forwarded to the Minister for Planning for approval.

Resolution:

(Moved: Councillor H Benton/Councillor H Bussell)

That Council:

1. Considers Wangaratta Planning Scheme Amendment C83 Panel Report and the recommendations of this report in accordance with Section 27 of the Planning and Environment Act, 1987 (the Act);
2. Adopts Wangaratta Planning Scheme Amendment C83 with minor changes as recommended in the Panel Report in accordance with Section 29 of the Act;
3. Submits Amendment C83 to the Minister for Planning, pursuant to Section 31 of the Act for approval in accordance with Section 35 of the Act;

4. Delegates the Director of Sustainability & Culture authority to make any changes to the adopted documents and planning scheme amendment as required by the Department of Transport and Planning or otherwise identified by in the preparation of the planning scheme amendment material.
5. Advise all submitters of this outcome.

Carried

Background

The Wangaratta Low Density and Rural Residential Strategy 2021 was undertaken to understand and respond to the need for low density and rural residential zoned land in the municipality as part of an overall response to provision of housing and responding to population growth.

The Strategy was adopted in part by Council in December 2021. The part adopted related to recommendations to all areas except for urban Wangaratta, (where Council resolved to undertake additional investigations). The additional investigations were undertaken and are the subject of a separate report adopted by Council in September 2024. The Low Density and Rural Residential Strategy, 2021 (Rural Component) provides the basis for changes proposed as part of Wangaratta Planning Scheme Amendment C83.

What Amendment C83 Proposes

- Amend local Settlement Policy (at Clause 11.01-1L-01,02 and 03) to avoid future subdivision in the Northern Foothills of Glenrowan (this also requires the deletion of the Development Plan Overlay Map from this precinct) and change the direction of future subdivision and development to the east of the existing township Oxley and Milawa to better address bushfire risks (noting currently the growth front is directed north in Oxley and west in Milawa).
- Amend local subdivision design policy in Low Density Residential and Rural Living Zones (at Clause 15.01-3L) to ensure subdivision design responds to amenity, safety (particularly in the context of bushfire risk), diversity and sustainability principles.
- Amends Schedules 1 and 2 to Clause 32.03 Low Density Residential Zones to set out minimum subdivision size that responds to preferred built form outcomes.
- Introduce Schedules 8 and 9 to Clause 43.02 Design and Development Overlay articulate sustainability, character, safety (particularly bushfire design) and infrastructure requirements that make a positive contribution to the built environment in areas impacted by rezoning in Oxley and Milawa.
- Rezones land in Precinct E (b) of the Milawa Township Development Plan from Farming Zone to Low Density Residential Zone (with an indicative lot capacity of 50 lots in the short term).
- Rezones land in Precinct H of the Oxley TDP from Farming Zone to Rural Living Zone Schedule 2 to reflect the scale of development and remove the administrative burden of planning permits for activities that align with rural residential living. This will not result in additional subdivision.

- Rezones land in Precinct F (b) of the Oxley Township Development Plan from Farming Zone to Low Density Residential Zone (with an indicative capacity of 78 lots in the short to medium term)
- Makes other administrative changes to the Wangaratta Planning Scheme (at Clauses 72.03, 72.08 and 74.02) planning maps and overlay maps to facilitate these changes.

Public Exhibition of Amendment C83

Amendment C83 was publicly exhibited formally between 22 August – 30 September 2024.

Public notification of the amendment included:

- Direct notification to prescribed Ministers, government departments and statutory authorities.
- Direct notification to approximately 4000 property owners and occupiers impacted by the proposed changes.
- Display of amendment exhibition material and mapping at Council Offices.
- Display of amendment exhibition material and mapping online.
- Public notices published in the Wangaratta Chronicle on 16th August 2024, and in the Government Gazette on 22 August 2024

Submissions to Amendment C83

Council received 16 submissions to the amendment. They consisted of:

- 8 received from authorities and 8 were from landowners and community members
- 10 supporting the amendment/raising no objection to the amendment
- 2 objected to the amendment or part of it
- 4 partly supported and partly objecting to the amendment
- 8 requested changes to the exhibited documents

Key Issues raised in submissions were:

- Policy relating to battleaxe lots
- Servicing and access requirements for Milawa Triangle
- Walking track in Oxley
- Deletion of Schedule 7 Development Plan Overlay from 246 Old Hume Highway Glenrowan

- Update the Low Density & Rural Residential Strategy to allow the rezoning of 246 Old Hume Highway Glenrowan
- Bushfire Risk and Safety
- The ability to continue to farm the land and continue to access the land

Panel Hearing

A Planning Panel was convened and a directions hearing was held (online) 27 March 2025. A Panel Hearing was held in person at the Council Chambers on 30 April 2025.

At the hearing the Panel heard from:

- Council, who provided the background context to the amendment. Council called on one expert witness regarding bushfire planning.
- Other parties who were present and submitted at the Panel included the CFA and three community members.

The Panel considered all written submissions made in response to the exhibition of the Amendment, observations from site visits and submissions, evidence and other material presented to it during the hearing. All submissions and materials have been considered by the Panel in reaching its conclusions.

Overall the Panel concludes the amendment:

- Is supported by, and implements, the relevant sections of the Planning Policy Framework.
- Is consistent with the relevant Ministerial Directions and Practice Notes.
- Is well founded and strategically justified.
- No changes are required further to the version of the Amendment documentation presented to the Panel.

Based on the reasons set out in the Panel Report, the Panel recommends that Council adopts the amendment as exhibited with minor changes.

To progress the matter Council is required to make a decision about the next step in the amendment process (shown in the figure below). The amendment is at stage 4 (adoption). It is recommended that Council adopt the amendment and submit the adopted amendment to the Minister for Planning for approval.



Implications

Policy Considerations

Other relevant Council policies considered in the development of this amendment include consideration of key actions from the:

Walking and Cycling Strategy:

Which identifies recreational and offroad cycling and walking networks to improve non-vehicular transport opportunities for shorter trips in Oxley and Milawa.

Environmental Sustainability Strategy:

In planning for growth and particularly subdivision that reduces greenhouse gas emissions, protects the natural environment and makes efficient use of existing resources.

Roadside Conservation Management Plan:

The Vegetation Protection Overlay covers the Oxley Meadow Creek Road adjacent to the area for proposed rezoning to low density residential. The plan includes relevant management strategies that protect significant flora and fauna which must be considered and adhered to.

Financial/Economic Implications

Financial costs associated with the amendment include statutory fees and panel costs (including administrative fees and required technical expert witness) are covered by Council's operational budget.

The addition of residential housing could be considered to benefit small businesses operating in the townships of Oxley and Milawa.

Legal/Statutory

Amendment C83 complies with the requirements of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and other relevant legal/statutory processes.

The *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, requires Council to make a decision about the next steps in the amendment process.

Social and Diversity

The Amendment is expected to have positive social outcomes. The amendment will encourage residential development in locations of Milawa and Oxley.

Equity Impact Assessment (EIA)

The Planning Scheme Amendment implements a strategy already adopted by Council into the Planning Scheme and is not considered to be a policy program or service. Therefore a Gender Impact Assessment was not undertaken.

Environmental/Sustainability Impacts

Sustainability impacts have been considered throughout the development of the Low Density and Rural Residential Strategy and policy implemented into the Wangaratta Planning Scheme has an obligation to consider and attempt to minimise risk to the natural environment.

Specific areas that have been considered and addressed include bushfire, by planning for settlements that avoid locating new development in areas assessed as high risk at the landscape scale.

Strategic Links

Council Plan 2021 – 2025

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

1. Valuing our Environment

3.1.2 Facilitate design and development that creates environmentally supportive impacts.

3.1.2.3 Identify and promote opportunities to use ESD in residential, industrial and commercial developments

3.4.2 Look after our rivers and waterways

3.4.2.2 Work in partnership with our community to preserve and improve our waterways

3.4.2.3 Work to ensure that access and use of our waterways balances water preservation and health

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

2. Growing with Integrity

6.1.1 Facilitate attractive long term residential growth opportunities

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

6.1.2.2 Encourage a variety of lot sizes in new residential estates

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

Rural City of Wangaratta Community Vision 2045

This report supports the 2045 Community Vision –

The Rural City of Wangaratta is a place for everyone

We are a welcoming, connected, and caring community.

We value our urban and rural communities, ensuring shared opportunity and quality of life.

Our natural environment supports our wellbeing and forms a strong part of our cultural identity.

Our strength is our resilience and active participation in shaping a future for everyone to thrive.

Other strategic links

Plan for Victoria, 2025

The State Government's Plan for Victoria specifies residential housing targets to be met by 2051. The Rural City of Wangaratta has been given a housing target of 6000 new dwellings.

Population and Housing Strategy 2013

This strategy underpins the development of the Low Density and Rural Residential Strategy.

Risk Management

Keys risks as identified:

- Should the emendment not be adopted in the recommended form, it increases the risk of not having sufficient residential land supply in appropriate locations and could have a negative impact on meeting the housing target.
- This report is the result of extensive strategic planning work over a significant period of time, requiring substantial financial and human resources, including those associated with the Panel process. If the amendment is not adopted as recommended by the Panel and abandoned, this work and resources would be wasted.

Consultation/Communication

Level of public participation	Promises to the public/stakeholders	Tools/Techniques
Inform	To provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problem, alternatives and or solutions.	Public notification advising public on the specifics of the proposal and how to participate in the amendment process.
Consult	We will keep you informed, listen and acknowledge your concerns and provide feedback on how public input can be made throughout the process.	Public notification, direct notification and acknowledging feedback provided throughout the amendment process.
Involve	We will work with you to ensure that your concerns and issues are directly reflected in the alternatives developed and provide feedback on how the public influences the decision.	Publicly and directly advising of how feedback will be used to impact the outcomes, particularly through the panel process.

Planning Scheme Amendments have a prescribed public consultation process set out in the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*. Officers believe that appropriate consultation has occurred and the matter is now ready for Council consideration.

Options for Consideration

Option 1: Recommended Option

Adopt the Amendment subject to minor changes.

This progresses the amendment in accordance with the Panel's recommendations and implements minor changes (as shown in appendix C of the Panel Report) that officers support to ensure matters raised in authority submissions and other administrative errors are addressed.

Option 2: Not recommended

Approval subject to significant changes to the amendment.

This is not recommended as some changes requested by submitters go against the direction of the recommendations of the underpinning technical assessments.

Option 3: Not recommended

Abandon the amendment.

This is not recommended as it will not fulfill Council's previous directions to implement the recommendations of the Low Density and Rural Residential Strategy (Rural Component). It would reduce diversity in future housing stock and does not represent value in the way Council's resources are used. Abandoning the amendment would effectively end the process.

Conclusion

Wangaratta Planning Scheme Amendment C83 proposes to implement the recommendations of the Low Density and Rural Residential Strategy (Rural Component).

A Panel was convened to independently review the amendment. The Panel recommends that Council adopt the amendment as exhibited with minor changes and officers support his recommendation.

Attachments

- 1 Planning Panels Victoria - Panel Report 

Public Questions (44:15):

Richard Hughes submitted the following questions online:

Question 1 – Was the sole purpose for the creation of DDO7 (Design Development Overlay Seven) by Wangaratta Council to improve the Bushfire Protection for the Township (residents & school children)?

Question 2 - Did the CFA approve DDO7?

Question 3 - Are the construction works required as part of DDO7 now 50% completed?

Question 4 - Does the CFA approve 'dead-end' roads for residents living within high bushfire threat areas?

Director Swart responded:

Just to provide a bit of context to those questions, those questions all relate to land at Glenrowan where the Planning Scheme Amendment is proposing to change provisions in two ways.

The first way is to remove the designation of the land, of the specific piece of land, in the Planning Policy from something that's identified for future investigation for rural living purposes, and no longer have that designation in the scheme, and subsequently also remove part of a development land overlay that applies to that land which would have managed future development which no longer is appropriate.

Answer 1 – The Development Plan Overlay – Schedule 7 (DPO 7) was applied to provide certainty about the nature of development that may be allowed on the land in future, after further investigation.

Answer 2 – No, it's not the role of the CFA to approve planning controls, the Minister for Planning approved amendment C66 Part 2 (under delegation, which included the application of the DPO7) in August 2017.

Answer 3 – The DPO7 does not require construction works but requires a plan outlining the form of development that is to occur. Council approved a Development Plan for adjacent land in 2019 and 2020. No development plan is approved for the subject land as the land remains in the Farming Zone.

Answer 4 – The CFA provides advice to council on a site-by-site basis based on Design Guidelines. This includes providing conditions for planning permits where development is considered appropriate.

Debra Conroy (and on behalf of husband Alan Conroy) (47:35)

Our property, a 68.8ha parcel of farmland, has approximately 45.4ha proposed for rezoning to low density rural residential. Our concerns are our right to farm, and increased rates. We have made enquiries to the Rural City of Wangaratta how our rates would be affected if this was approved but getting no clear answers.

If the rezoning happens for part of our land, does that lead to 2 separate Rates Notices?

Director Stephen Swart responded:

Unfortunately, I won't be able to give you a specific answer about your property, so maybe I'll just talk broadly about how rates would work when land is rezoned. Typically, rates are based on the valuation of land and rezoning of this type. I think we would all argue that this would add value to the land. The rates are based on the valuation that happens every so often, I'm not actually sure, [Director] Sarah [Brindley] can help me with that, and that will then determine how your rates are applied to this land.

Unfortunately, it is a bit of a wait and see situation because we need to, first of all, see if the land's going to be rezoned. You'll recall that I said in a previous answer that even if Council adopts the Planning Scheme Amendment today, it will still have to go to the Minister for Planning for final approval. So, we don't know for sure what the outcome of this is going to be. And if that rezoning does go through then obviously the valuation of land comes into play for rates.

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>Cassandra Pollock – submitted online</p> <p>Questions relate to upgraded Council Website</p> <p>Question 1 – There is a "QUICK LINKS" section which provides a fast route to information about the Wangaratta Art Gallery and the Sports Centre.... Could we also have a quick link at that same location to an online information page about the Wangaratta Library?</p> <p><i>Mayor Irene Grant responded:</i> <i>The website has been designed to feature our top ten most searched-for/visited services, followed by our top eight locations. Within the locations section, the Library is featured on the homepage:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>On desktop devices, it appears in the first row of locations.</i>• <i>On mobile, it is the third option in the location list.</i> <p>Question 2 - What are some of the key "functionality" improvements of this new website from the point of view of HOW Wangaratta citizens will now be able to interact with their local council services?</p>
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	<p>Mayor Irene Grant responded:</p> <p>The main focus was to enhance the mobile experience and assist visitors in navigating popular pages, as nearly 50% of our traffic comes from mobile devices.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The page was built using mobile-first principles including new types of menus that occupy less screen space and make it easier for users to access the menu. • A data-based approach was used to determine pages featured on the homepage to reduce the need for searching. • New sections were added to the homepage, including: Our Community Engagement Projects and a slider panel to promote key Council programs and updates. • Several pages have been refreshed with new content, and site metadata has been improved to enhance search results.
21.2	<p>Adrian Fox – submitted online</p> <p>Question 1 – of the 45% [of people] that are non-EasyPark [users], do you have a feel for how many</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • converted, • free park, • Use vouchers • run the gauntlet risking infringement saying why park 10 minutes away when I'll be in the shop for only 2 minutes, • just avoid the CBD • Use other transport • Are travellers that don't stop just keep driving out of town • Visitors who avoid the CBD because they had heard & already know the parking is not to their liking <p>Question 2 – Could you please advise approximately how many issues and foibles have been identified by council, and what progress has been made to rectify them.</p> <p>Mayor Irene Grant responded:</p> <p>In February this year Council resolved to replace the parking payment system in the Wangaratta CBD with the EasyPark app and a simple alternative payment system. This payment system is now in place. Council also resolved that it receives regular updates about how the system is functioning and that a review report be prepared for a future Council meeting. This review work is ongoing, including considering feedback from businesses and the wider community. Actions taken so far in response to feedback include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing direct assistance with the use of the App • Improving information available about the App and other parking related matters such as the availability of free parking areas in the CBD • Providing more options for the purchase of parking vouchers. • Reviewing signage.
21.3	<p>Ben Ruscoe Chair of Beyond Housing – submitted online</p> <p>Question 1 – Provide clarity on the decision to apply a rates concession to the former Ovens College development site but not to other social housing in Wangaratta.</p> <p>Question 2 - Outline the principles that determine which developments receive</p>

	<p>rates exemptions or reductions in Wangaratta.</p> <p>Question 3 - Apply the same concession to the 48 social housing dwellings Beyond Housing will deliver in Wangaratta by 2027.</p> <p><i>Chief Executive Officer Brendan McGrath responded:</i> <i>We certainly acknowledge the challenges that housing is providing across regional and rural areas at the moment right across Victoria and Councillor Winters alluded to some of those in their earlier report. We also acknowledge and respect the work that Beyond Housing does in providing vital housing, both within our township and a range of other townships across the region.</i></p> <p><i>In relation to the Ovens College site specifically, our agreement with the developers there, Nestd, is a confidential one, so I won't go into any detail about what specifically that agreement is, but, suffice to say, that site is a key strategic site, was purchased by former Councils 12 or 13 years ago and retained to ensure it was used for a beneficial community use, rather than just being a stock standard development of some sort. So, this Council, and Councils before it, have worked hard to identify appropriate uses for that site. Our development partner there, Nestd, is just progressing a development which is in excess of \$100M. It proposes to develop just under 200 dwellings and a range of supporting community and commercial facilities to sit alongside that.</i></p> <p><i>The concession that they have been offered is a concession, it's not a rate waiver, so you can take from that they are still paying rates, and it's time limited and only applies to a very small number of the dwellings on that site, not the whole site.</i></p> <p><i>In terms of ongoing support around rate relief for social housing, that's not something the Council's contemplating. We see the funding of social housing being the domain of the state and federal government, not local government. Our role is about supporting those agencies that provide housing. We can have influence on the design of developments, and we have some controls available to us through the Planning Scheme to influence development outcomes for housing, and those are the areas we primarily see our role being in. We've also got a recently adopted Housing and Homelessness Strategy. Much of that work, led by Ben Thomas who's with us this afternoon, and part of what we do there, is look at what projects we can do and implement to support housing projects, and also to work very closely with the various housing agencies that are involved in the provision of social and affordable housing specifically.</i></p>
21.4	<p>Anne Dunstan (1:13:32)</p> <p>Congratulations to the Economic Development team for sending emails almost monthly around projects and things that are happening. My only feedback on that is that it was the first time that I saw the infrastructure project for the wombat crossings that are now going to be installed, 2 in Ford Street, and 1 in Faithful Street, and we're going to be having a pedestrian crossing in Reid Street. The email went out today at 1:30pm. The consultation or information drop-in sessions were actually closed at 1:00pm today. So, there was a drop-in session last Thursday, and one today, so the emails were received after those drop-in sessions. The timing of that was a little bit off, so if that could be taken into consideration when those emails are being circulated, that would be great.</p>

	<p>In relation to the wombat crossings, are they going to be considered how you're going to install them? For instance, the ones outside the CoStore are a lot smoother and less aggressive compared to the ones outside Safeway [Woolworths] carpark.</p> <p><i>Acting Director Ben Thomas responded:</i> <i>I just want to apologise for that communication issue. If you do want to meet with us individually, I'm more than happy to meet to discuss. I'm happy to give you my details afterwards and we can catch up.</i></p> <p><i>The wombat crossings will be a 75mm high one, which will be similar to the ones at the CoStore, so the same sort of more gentle approach to those crossings.</i></p> <p>So that takes into consideration all school busses that use that and emergency services, etc?</p> <p><i>Acting Director Ben Thomas responded:</i> <i>Correct. It's definitely a low profile which allows those large vehicles to get through.</i></p> <p>In relation to the parking vouchers, love it, but can we make them smaller because they're actually quite obstructive on your windscreens?</p> <p>And my final question for today, if possible, is through the Chair to Councillor Winters. The meeting was closed last meeting before I was able to ask the question. We had the Community Grant programs released at last meeting which was [Item] 14.5 and you made a comment to say that you can't support the distribution of Council funds because you felt that it was inequitable. What were your reasonings behind that?</p> <p><i>Mayor Grant asked Councillor Winters if they would like the question to be taken on notice.</i></p> <p><i>Councillor Winters responded:</i> <i>I'm happy to take that question on notice, Anne, thank you.</i></p>
21.5	<p>Kate Burns (1:16:16)</p> <p>[Regarding Item 15.2 and Council Meeting processes,] I'm looking at it and thinking a draft plan is simply a plan. It's something that is a working document that allows for amendment, changes, and input from people. It is not something that the Council is committing to adopting. It's just allowing that draft to have some additional inputs and things like that. I probably didn't realise the format of how things would work.</p> <p>My question is, how does Council determine when an item or report should go out for public consultation? It seems the perfect time to go out for consultation, when Council is still trying to fine tune that document. Why not include public feedback when making amendments?</p> <p><i>Mayor Irene Grant responded:</i> <i>Council needs to be comfortable with the content and Council needs to be able to stand</i></p>

	<i>behind the content before it goes out, and this was just one of those that we felt we would like to have more information on, and it wasn't something that had to be urgently decided. There's already a huge amount of work that's been done in that space, so we felt there were a few things that needed clarification before going to the community for feedback.</i>
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22. Confidential Business

Nil

23. Closure of Meeting

The Meeting closed at 4:20pm.