



Rural City of
Wangaratta

Minutes

For the Scheduled Council Meeting
1114 Great Alpine Road
Tarrawingee
6:00 PM 28 October 2025

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Rural City of Wangaratta – Video and Audio Recordings

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. 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.

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; Sarah Brindley, Director Corporate and Leisure; Marcus Goonan, Director Community and Infrastructure; Stephen Swart, Director Sustainability and Culture

Administration:

Executive Services Coordinator; Councillor and Executive Services Support Officer

4. Absent

5. Acceptance of Apologies & Granting of Leave of Absence

Order of Business

6. Citizen Ceremony

Nil

7. Confirmation of Minutes

Resolution:

(Moved: Councillor H Benton/Councillor T Maxwell)

That Council read and confirm the Minutes of the Scheduled Meeting of 23 September 2025 and the Unscheduled Meeting of 6 October 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

9.1 Petition - Curtis Lane upgrade

Meeting Type:	Scheduled Council Meeting
Date of Meeting:	28 October 2025
Author:	Director Community and Infrastructure
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

A petition containing 12 signatures has been received.

The petition urges Council to consider upgrading Curtis Laneway as a priority before a tripping injury or car damage occurs.

It states that the laneway has fallen into disrepair and there have been a lot of elderly customers that frequently use the laneway from the carpark to the Reid Street businesses that have complained about the condition of the laneway.

A copy of the letter has been provided to Councillors under separate cover.

Resolution:

(Moved: Councillor D Fuller/Councillor A Fitzpatrick)

That Council:

Receives the petition and refers it to the Chief Executive Officer for consideration and response.

Carried

Conclusion

Clause 13 of the Rural City of Wangaratta Governance Rules, provides that a petition presented to the Council, may be dealt with in any of the following ways. The petition may:

- be received
- where the petition relates to an item listed on the agenda, be considered in conjunction with that agenda item.
- be referred to the Chief Executive Officer for consideration and response.
- be referred to the Chief Executive Officer for a report to a future Council meeting.

Where the petition relates to an operational matter, Council must refer it to the Chief Executive Officer for consideration.

Attachments

- 1 Petition - Curtis Lane - Confidential

Unconfirmed

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

Mayor Irene Grant (05:21)

Deputy mayor Cr Harvey Benton and I last week visited a number of businesses in the CBD in response to their concerns about the Easy Park parking system. The discussions centred around use of the new system, the impact of paid parking on business, what other issues impact on business, and how the new system could be improved.

Council made the decision in February this year to move from the physical infrastructure that is expensive to maintain and replace to a more flexible and responsive EasyPark app – there was also provision made for vouchers, monthly and annually for users unable to access the new system.

While paid parking is not new to Wangaratta, and the Easy Park system in place since 2019, there are concerns the system is not user friendly in particular with people who don't have smart phones or are unable to use this technology.

It needs to be acknowledged that a user-pays parking system, which has been in place in Wangaratta for several decades, helps to cover some of the costs associated with the provision of parking and amenity around the CBD.

It is important to know that our current paid parking arrangements are tied to the contract of the multi-deck car park in Ovens street. This contract which was signed in 2012 and was aimed at responding to future parking needs in the CBD. The contract will run until 2034.

Council has provided direct assistance to users to help with the use of the payment system. Council has, and is, responding proactively to feedback to help improve the systems accessibility. All councillors have been involved in consultation and discussion with the community.

It is interesting to know that during September 2025 there were more than 14,000 transactions using the app. The system offering a quicker more flexible way to manage parking, and users only pay for the time they actually use. In September 2024 there were 7000 users.

The community should also be aware there is also free, timed parking around the CBD, Big W, behind the post office and Performing Arts Centre – council is currently is working to improve on-line and physical signage.

While CBD wide free parking may seem appealing, it is important to consider the broader impact. Without this revenue we would be forced to consider other options to fill this income gap. Either

with increased rates, reduction of services or the introduction of levies across the CBD. Some cities have even introduced a municipal wide special charge. Each community is different and some form of paid parking a universal issue.

Constructive feedback helps us continue to refine and improve the service to meet community needs.

Resolution:

(Moved: Councillor H Benton/Councillor D Fuller)

Councillor H Benton moved a motion:

That Mayor Irene Grant's Councillor Report be included in the Minutes.

Carried

Officers' Reports

12. Executive Services

Nil

13. Corporate and Leisure

13.1 Annual Report 2024-25 (12:16)

Meeting Type:	Scheduled Council Meeting
Date of Meeting:	28 October 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 for Council's consideration of the Annual Report 2024-25 (Attachment 1).

Resolution:

(Moved: Councillor D Fuller/Councillor A Fitzpatrick)

1. That Council adopts the Annual Report for the financial year 2024-25, as prepared in accordance with the Local Government Act 2020 and the Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020

Carried

Background

Section 98 of the *Local Government Act 2020* requires all councils to prepare, and meet to consider, an Annual Report for the preceding financial year.

The 2024-25 Financial Statements, the 2024-25 Performance Statement and the 2024-25 Governance and Management Checklist required to be included in the Annual Report were adopted in-principle by Council on 6th October 2025, subject to final VAGO approval.

The Financial Statements and Performance Statements included in the Annual Report have been audited by Crowe Australia on behalf of the Victorian Auditor-General's Office (VAGO) and have subsequently been submitted to VAGO where they received final approval on 10th October 2025.

No changes have been made to the Financial Statements (Income Statement, Balance Sheet, Statement of Cashflows, and Statement of Changes in Equity) as a result of VAGO's final review.

During the 2024/25 audit it was identified that certain contributed infrastructure assets from developers had not been recognised in the 2023/24 financial year due to delays in processing Work In Progress capitalisations. Therefore, Council has restated the 2023/24 comparative

figures to include a total \$3.373 million of non-monetary contributions. This adjustment increased the reported surplus and asset balances for 2023/24.

All councils are required to report performance results as part of their annual report in accordance with the *Local Government (Performance and Reporting) Regulations 2020* (Vic). The framework was introduced to ensure all councils measure and report on their performance in a consistent way. The Annual Report also follows the State Government's Model Report of Operations for producing the report of operations.

Implications

Policy Considerations

The Annual Report considers Council's delivery of the strategic objectives, major initiatives and strategic indicators set out in the Council Plan for the 2023-24 financial year.

Financial/Economic Implications

The Annual Report includes the Financial Statements, Performance Statement, and Report of Operations, to provide transparency on the deployment of council funds over the past year, and the resulting delivery of services, infrastructure and initiatives.

Legal/Statutory

The Annual Report has been prepared in accordance with the Act and the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020* (Vic).

Social and Diversity

The Annual Report demonstrates progress on delivering the Council Plan 2021-25 strategic objectives of 'Nurturing our Wellbeing' and 'Enhancing our Lifestyle', including numerous social, recreational, cultural, health and wellbeing outcomes.

Environmental/Sustainability Impacts

The Annual Report demonstrates progress on delivering the Council Plan strategic objective of 'Valuing our Environment' including planting of native plants, diverting waste from landfill, production of compost from organic waste, and the use of renewable energy sources.

Strategic Links

Council Plan

The subject of this report supports achievement of the Council Plan strategic objective of strengthening Council's leadership through an engaged and connected community by providing open and transparent communication to the community to build trust, respect and understanding.

Consultation/Communication

In accordance with the Act, the Mayor must report on the implementation of the Council Plan by presenting the Annual Report at a council meeting open to the public.

The Financial Statements, Performance Statement and Governance Checklist have been reviewed independently by external auditors Crowe Australia, by Council's Audit & Risk Committee who endorsed the draft statements in principle on Thursday 25 September 2025, and by VAGO.

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

Options for Consideration

The Annual Report process is a legislated process and therefore no alternative options exist.

Conclusion

In accordance with the requirements of the Act, the Wangaratta Rural City Council has prepared an Annual Report for the financial year 2024-25 and believes that it is now appropriate for Council to adopt the Annual Report.

Attachments

- 1 Annual Report 2024-25 

13.2 Council Plan 2025-2029 including the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan (14:20)

Meeting Type:	Scheduled Council Meeting
Date of Meeting:	28 October 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

At its August 2025 Council meeting, Council endorsed the Draft Council Plan 2025-2029 including the Municipal Public Health & Wellbeing Plan to be published for community review for a period of 28 days. Following that period this report is presented to Council to adopt an updated 2025-2029 Council Plan and Municipal Public Health & Wellbeing Plan (Attachment 1), which incorporates recommended amendments in response to this community engagement.

Resolution:

(Moved: Councillor H Benton/Councillor A Winters)

That Council:

1. Having considered the submissions, adopts the Council Plan 2025-2029 including the Municipal Public Health & Wellbeing Plan attached to this report, for the purpose of section 90 of the Local Government Act 2020.

Carried

Background

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

The Rural City of Wangaratta 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 by 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 the 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 Council Plan 2025-29 including the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing

Plan (hereafter referred to as the 'Council Plan'), Council undertook a range of general and deliberative engagement processes, all aligned to Council's Community Engagement Policy.

Since November, Council has been obtaining input from the community. A draft Council Plan was first developed following analysis of feedback from many community members through surveys, workshops, targeted engagement, and pop-up events that ran between December 2024 and March 2025.

The development of the draft Council Plan was 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 survey responses
- 118 community members participating 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.

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

Community feedback and changes to the draft Council Plan

At the August Scheduled Council meeting, Councillors endorsed the draft Council Plan to be published for community review. 55 submissions were received (Confidential Attachment 3), comprising:

- 48 online surveys completed by both organisations and private individuals via Connect Wangaratta
- 5 submissions made via email
- Summarised feedback of 94 interactions across 3 pop up face-to-face consultation events at the Kiosk, Library and WSAC
- Summarised feedback received on behalf of the Wangaratta Health and Wellbeing Partnership

Furthermore, there has been:

- 694 visits to the Connect Wangaratta Council Plan page
- 168 downloads of the Draft Council Plan
- Internal feedback and review by Council Officers

All submissions have been carefully reviewed and considered. A summary of each community submission is attached (Attachment 2), including Officer recommendations against each submission which have been incorporated into the Council Plan where indicated.

The following provides key themes raised in the feedback and summarises any changes made to the Council Plan as a result:

Creative Precinct

We heard feedback about the importance of the Creative Precinct to community connection, culture and wellbeing, and a desire for this to initiative to receive a commitment for delivery within a shorter timeframe (18 submissions).

Council appreciates the strong support shown through this community feedback in relation to this initiative. Council continues to be committed to the Creative Precinct and associated cultural outcomes and benefits relating to community wellbeing and connection. In order for this upgrade to occur and given Council's existing financial adjusted underlying deficit position, investment is

required for both the construction and for the increased costs of running the operations. Council will continue to advocate for this project and must secure external funding to be able to progress this initiative whilst being fiscally responsible.

As such, no change has been recommended to this Initiative in the Council Plan, which demonstrates Council's commitment to continued advocacy for funding.

Rail Trail

We heard feedback regarding the desire for the continued construction and connection of the Rail Trail, in particular from Oxley and Edi Cutting to Cheshunt (9 submissions).

This feedback is aligned to Initiative 4.2.3 in the Council Plan which has been updated to include advocacy, specifically: 'Advocate for, maintain and develop the walking and cycling networks, connecting communities to services, recreation, and tourism opportunities', and Council's role has been updated to include both 'Advocate' as well as 'Deliver'.

This reflects that Council must advocate for funding to further extend the Rail Trail. Once the Council Plan is finalised, Council's Advocacy Priorities document will also be updated to reflect this priority.

King Valley focus

5 submissions were received advocating for further support and development for the King Valley in light of the significant economic and tourism role it plays in the Rural City of Wangaratta. Suggestions ranged from supporting different types of tourism, to events, transport links, marketing, road upgrades, and visitor infrastructure (signage, rest areas, digital connectivity).

Council recognises the importance of the King Valley (and other parts of the Rural City of Wangaratta) to the continuing economic and tourism development of the municipality. Council Plan Strategy 3.1 outlines the support council will provide to local businesses to locate, invest and create jobs in the municipality, and 3.3 sets out actions to support and promote the growth of local tourism businesses, experiences and events.

Further actions are set out in the Economic Development & Tourism Strategy - including Investment Attraction, Infrastructure, Tourism Development and Township Activation - which is listed in the Plans & Strategies section of the Council Plan. Again, once the Council Plan is finalised, Council's Advocacy Priorities document will also be updated to reflect this priority, in particular relating to funding advocacy for upgrading the Wangaratta-Whitfield Road.

Big Brothers, Big Sisters

9 submissions were received seeking Council support for the Big Brothers, Big Sisters organisation, to continue the great benefits it provides to young people through mentorship and other avenues.

Council provides support across the broad range of highly valuable community services and user groups. This support is captured in Initiative 1.2.1. 'Support community-led initiatives, social activities and services that connect people, especially those experiencing loneliness or isolation'. The Council Plan has not been updated as this initiative represents the broad support provided across the municipality, rather than naming individual organisations.

Other Changes to the Council Plan

Some further updates have been made to the Council Plan in response to community feedback. These can be identified in Attachment 2 where 'Change Made' has been indicated. Other select changes have been made from internal review. These changes have included, for example:

- Updating certain data points/presentation in response to feedback
- Reflecting Council's commitment to working in partnership with other key agencies for affordable housing
- Responding to feedback relating to Traditional Owner and First Nations engagement
- Updating some strategic indicators to better reflect likely outcomes
- More clearly distinguishing between Council's and State/Federal roles in funding, maintaining and upgrading our respectively-owned infrastructure.
- Adding the draft Youth Strategy to the list of Council Plans & Strategies
- Minor grammatical/typography corrections.

Council Officers now believe that substantial community consultation has occurred and the Council Plan is now ready for Council consideration.

Implications

Policy Considerations

The Council Plan 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 Council Plan will be funded and resourced through council's successive Annual Budgets. The Council Plan indicates certain Initiatives where advocacy is needed to secure grant funding for them to be implemented.

Certain strategies and actions contained in the 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 Council Plan, in particular under the Strategic Theme of '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 Council Plan.

Environmental/Sustainability Impacts

Certain strategies and actions contained in the Council Plan, in particular under the Strategic 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 strategies and initiatives proposed for council to deliver 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 Strategic Themes proposed in this new Council Plan are:

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

Risk Management

Key risks relating to the development of the Council Plan are:

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	3 Possible	3 Moderate	9	A Project Control Group with key staff was established to oversee timely delivery and RCoW procured external

statutory deadline.				consultants to support the engagement and writing processes.
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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 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 Council Plan, that appropriate updates have been recommended in response to that feedback, and the matter is now ready for Council consideration to adopt.

Options for Consideration

1. Adopt the Council Plan in full as attached to the report incorporating the recommended changes from the recent community engagement process.
2. Adopt the Council Plan without the recommended changes following the recent community engagement process.

Conclusion

The 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 Council Plan 2025-29 including Municipal Public Health & Wellbeing Plan 
- 2 Community Engagement Feedback Summary - Council Plan 2025-29 including Municipal Public Health & Wellbeing Plan 
- 3 Community Submissions - Draft Council Plan 2025-29 including Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan - Confidential

Public Questions (15:36):

Anne Dunstan

Previous document referred to a Gender Equality Impact Assessment, but this document refers to an Equity Impact Assessment. What is the difference and why the change?

Director Sarah Brindley responded:

Under the Gender Equality Act, all Councils and similar organisations are to undertake Gender Equity Impact Assessments, which is what you'll be familiar with. Ourselves, and some other Councils, have expanded that to be broader Equity Impact Assessments. The reason being, under the Gender Equity Act, you actually have to include something called Gender Intersectionality. That means looking at other diversity factors like age, ability, and so on. So essentially, we already had to do those under the Act, so we just formally included that within the assessment template and named it as such. If you read the Act, it actually requires you to consider all those things.

Mayor Irene Grant added:

I think it's fair to say that there's a need for a greater understanding of all that terminology and Council is actually working through that at this particular point.

13.3 Financial Plan 2025 - 2035 (21:14)

Meeting Type:	Scheduled Council Meeting
Date of Meeting:	28 October 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

At its August 2025 Council meeting, Council endorsed the 2025-2035 Draft Financial Plan to be published for community review for a period of 28 days. Following that period this report is presented to Council to adopt an updated 2025-2035 Financial Plan (Attachment 1), which incorporates recommended amendments in response to this community engagement.

Resolution:

(Moved: Councillor D Fuller/Councillor H Benton)

That Council:

1. Having considered the submissions, adopts the 2025-2035 Financial Plan attached to this report, for the purpose of section 91 of the Local Government Act 2020.

Carried

Background

Section 91 of the Local Government Act 2020 (the Act) requires that Council must prepare and adopt a Financial Plan for a period of at least the next ten financial years following a general election, and in accordance with its deliberative engagement practices.

The 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 Council's plans for rates and borrowings, key capital works projects and the assumptions made that will have the biggest impact over the next 10 years. It identifies the financial risks being managed and sensitivity to changes in 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. Council has 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 annual deficits remain 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 general 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.

Community feedback and changes to Draft Financial Plan

Two community members completed the Financial Plan survey (refer Attachment 2) throughout the community review period. Feedback was also provided at the community engagement Pop-up sessions. More details of the feedback shared in the Pop-Up sessions can be found in the Council Plan agenda item.

Changes have been made to the draft Financial Plan as a result of the feedback received:

Creative Precinct

We heard feedback about the importance of the Creative Precinct and a desire for this to be included in the 10 Year Financial Plan. Advocating to secure funding for the Wangaratta Creative Precinct remains a key initiative in the Council Plan 2025 – 2029.

Council's Financial Sustainability program aims to reduce the size of the deficit over the life of the Financial Plan. Council officers will continue to explore possible funding avenues for the construction and operating costs of the Creative Precinct. If successful, these will help Council manage the higher operating costs of an upgraded Creative Precinct and open up opportunities for the project to proceed.

Art collection acquisition

The Financial Plan projects \$3 million of Council expenditure on new assets each year. The draft Financial Plan has been amended to show that \$15,000 of the \$3 million annual allocation is earmarked to acquire items for Council's art collection at the Wangaratta Art Gallery.

This annual funding commitment will be valuable in the context of working with Creative Victoria, State and Federal funding agencies and philanthropic bodies for the capital and operating costs associated with the Creative Precinct.

This change does not change Council's projected cash balances or adjusted underlying deficit position, rather it has just made this existing funding allocation visible within the Financial Plan for transparency.

Other amendments

A number of clerical corrections have been made to the draft Financial Plan to improve the readability of the document.

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 Council Plan.

Equity Impact Assessment (EIA)

An EIA was completed for the production of the Community Vision 2045 and Council Plan 2025-2029 which underpins the development of the 10 Year Financial Plan.

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 initiatives in the Draft Council Plan 2025-29 will be funded through the Financial Plan and future Annual Budgets. These initiatives sit under the four following Strategic Themes:

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 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.

The development of the Council Plan, Community Vision and 10 Year Financial 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 survey responses
- 118 community members participating 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

Since adopting the draft version of the Financial Plan in August 2025, there have been more than:

- 85 visits to Financial Plan Connect Wangaratta page
- 3 pop up face-to-face consultation events at the Kiosk, Library and WSAC
- 28 downloads of the Financial Plan
- Two survey responses received from community members
- Internal feedback and review by Council officers

In addition to the Financial Plan feedback there has been a range of interactions for the Draft Council Plan and Municipal Health & Wellbeing Plan 2025-2029. The feedback shared with respect to the Draft Council Plan and Municipal Health & Wellbeing Plan 2025-2029 has also been considered in amendments made to the Financial Plan. More details of the feedback and our response for the Council Plan can be found in that agenda item.

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

Options for Consideration

1. Adopt the 2025-2035 Financial Plan in full as attached to the report incorporating the recommended changes from the recent community engagement process.
2. Adopt the 2025-2035 Financial Plan without the recommended changes following the recent community engagement process.

Conclusion

The 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 2025–2035 Financial Plan be adopted.

Attachments

- 1 Financial Plan 2025-2035 
- 2 Community Engagement Feedback Summary - Financial Plan 2025-2035 
- 3 Community Submissions - Draft Financial Plan 2025-35 - Confidential

13.4 Sunset of Major Council Policy Consultation Local Law 4 (28:20)

Meeting Type:	Scheduled Council Meeting
Date of Meeting:	28 October 2025
Category:	Strategic
Author:	Governance & Reporting Advisor
Approver:	Director Corporate and Leisure

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

Executive Summary

This report is presented to Council to note the sunsetting of Major Council Policy Consultation Local Law 4 (Attachment 1).

Resolution:

(Moved: Councillor A Fitzpatrick/Councillor T Maxwell)

That Council:

1. Notes the sunset of Major Council Policy Consultation Local Law 4 and confirms the intent to allow it to expire.

Carried

Background

This local law established the process for the creation and maintenance of 'Major Council Policies' – these policies were to go through public exhibition to be introduced, amended or revoked. The Local Law was introduced during a time when Council was seeking to provide clarity and transparency to the community on the process for changing major policies.

Section 84 of the *Local Government Act 2020* (Vic) provides that a local law is automatically revoked 10 years after it comes into effect (i.e. there is no requirement for a council resolution 'revoking' a local law). The local law came into effect once it was published in the Victorian Gazette on 29 October 2015 and thus sunsets on 29 October 2025.

Additionally, Council's recently adopted Community Engagement Policy 2025 now provides the framework for how strategic Council documents will undergo community consultation prior to formal Council endorsement and the requirements of this local law are now captured by the *Local Government Act 2020* (Vic), which provides that a council must have regard to public transparency principles and community engagement principles before endorsing strategic documents.

Implications

Policy Considerations

Council's Community Engagement Policy 2025 provides the appropriate levels of consultation required for changes to significant policies.

Financial/Economic Implications

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

Legal/Statutory

The *Local Government Act 2020* (Vic) applies to the sunseting of any council local law across Victoria.

Social and Diversity

The council of the Rural City of Wangaratta has been stable since the 2016 municipal elections meaning the original reasons for introducing this Local Law are no longer current.

Equity Impact Assessment (EIA)

There are no equity impacts identified for the subject of this report as any impacts have been captured by Council's Community Engagement Policy 2025.

Environmental/Sustainability Impacts

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

Strategic Links**Council Plan 2021 – 2025**

This report relates to 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.
- 1.1.2.2 Commit to the continual review and improvement of Council's Community Engagement Policy. This will include the review of Council's deliberative engagement process and role of the Shape Wangaratta Community Panel.

Risk Management

Risks	Likelihood	Consequence	Rating	Mitigation Action
Failure to formally inform the sunseting of this local law may result in an inconsistent engagement approach being taken regarding policies of significance to the community.	Likely	Minor	6 – Medium	Sunseting the local law and informing all impacted stakeholders of this sunset and its effects.

Consultation/Communication

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

Options for Consideration

Councillors can either formally note the sunseting of this local law (recommended) or request a review be undertaken to ensure currency (not recommended).

Conclusion

Councillors are requested to formally note the sunseting of Major Council Policy Consultation Local Law 4.

Attachments

- 1 Major Council Policy Consultation Local Law 4 

14. Community and Infrastructure

14.1 Community Sponsorship Grants (29:50)

Meeting Type:	Scheduled Council Meeting
Date of Meeting:	28 October 2025
Category:	Strategic
Author:	Community Group Officer
Approver:	Director Community and Infrastructure

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

Officers: Hannah Clancy – has disclosed a conflict of interest due to a family connection—her mother is Chair of the CAV Board. Hannah was not involved in panel assessments and was excluded from all discussions regarding the CAV submission.

Executive Summary

This report is presented to Council to provide recommendations for the 2025/2026 Community Sponsorship Grants Program.

Following a comprehensive assessment process, the Community Sponsorship Assessment Panel recommends funding for 12 projects—six located in urban Wangaratta and six in rural areas. The total funding allocation for the program is \$56,774.

The 2025/2026 Community Sponsorship Grants Program is for one year and in 2026/27 will return to a three year funding program.

Resolution:

(Moved: Councillor A Winters/Councillor A Fitzpatrick)

That Council:

1. Approves the recommended applicants for the 2025/2026 Community Sponsorship Grants Program as per the confidential attachment.
2. Once approved Council will disclose the successful applicants.

Carried

Councillor Allison Winters disclosed the successful applicants:

*Wangaratta Symphony Orchestra Inc.
Centre Against Violence
North East Multicultural Association
Gateway Health*

*Free Spirits Farm Sanctuary
Open Door Neighbourhood House
Upper King Valley Community Centre Incorporated
Ovens & King Football Netball League
King River and District Fishing Club
King Valley CWA of Victoria Branch
Oxley Shire Hall Committee (Community Asset Committee)
Whitfield Recreation Reserve Asset Committee*

Background

The Community Sponsorship Grants Program supports community-led initiatives that enhance the social, cultural, and environmental experience of residents across the municipality.

The 2025/2026 program was open for applications from Thursday 31 July to Monday 1 September 2025 and was promoted through Rural City Connections, Council social media, the Council website, and direct email newsletters to community groups and organisations. Council's Community and Recreation team facilitated drop-in sessions at the Wangaratta Council Offices and held individual conversations and meetings with applicants to support the development of their submissions.

Applications were assessed through a two-stage process:

Stage 1 – Eligibility: All applications were reviewed by the Community Groups Officer and Manager of Community Services against the criteria outlined in the Community Sponsorship Grants Guidelines. One application was deemed ineligible, and three others were redirected to the Community Grants Program as they were more appropriately aligned.

Stage 2 – Assessment Panel: A total of 26 eligible applications were assessed by a panel of four Council staff members who self-nominated and declared no conflicts of interest. Panel members represented a cross-section of Council directorates and brought diverse expertise to the process.

Upon Council endorsement, successful and unsuccessful applicants will be notified via email. Details of successful projects will be published on Council's website, social media, and through a media release.

Implications

Policy Considerations

The Community Sponsorship Grants Program is informed by Council's Community Sponsorship Grants Program Policy and Procedure (2022) and incorporates recommendations from the 2019 Audit report on Grants and Sponsorships.

Financial/Economic Implications

A total of \$88,200 was budget for the Community Sponsorship Grants Program. Not all funding has been awarded officers recommend returning the remaining budget to the Councils general funds.

Legal/Statutory

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

Social and Diversity

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

Equity Impact Assessment (EIA)

There are a number of projects under the sponsorship grants that are likely to have different impacts for different groups of people. These will be assessed by individual groups/ organisations while delivering their projects.

Environmental/Sustainability Impacts

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

Strategic Links

Community Vision 2045

The content of this report supports 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

This initiative in the Draft Council Plan 2025-29 sits under the following strategic themes:

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

Risk Management

Risk Management Framework

Risks	Likelihood	Consequence	Rating	Mitigation Action
Disappointed applicants – due to the competitive nature of the Community Sponsorship Grants Program, the number of	Possible	Minor	Medium	Council officers to provide feedback to unsuccessful applicants when requested, and provide information about alternative funding

applications lacking suitable details and supporting documentation.				opportunities.
Successful applicants may be unable to deliver	Possible	Minor	Medium	Projects and Recreation team will monitor projects throughout delivery period to stay on top of issues as they arise.
Increasing scope of Community Sponsorship Grants program to include specific focus on accessibility and inclusion (2021) and Mental Health (2022 as per council plan) without any funding increase can lead to further over-subscription of the grant program.	Probably	Minor	Medium	Consider the budget allocation for Community Sponsorship Grants, as well as development of targeted promotions of these targets.

Consultation/Communication

The 2025/2026 program was open for applications from Thursday 31 August to Monday 1 September 2025 and was promoted through Rural City Connections, Council social media, the Council website, and direct email newsletters to community groups and organisations. Council's Community and Recreation team facilitated drop-in sessions at the Wangaratta Council Offices and held individual conversations and meetings with applicants.

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

Upon Council endorsement, successful and unsuccessful applicants will be notified via email. Details of successful projects will be published on Council's website, social media, and through a media release.

Options for Consideration

1. That Council endorse the Community Sponsorship Grants Assessment Panel's recommendation to commit \$56,774, towards 12 projects.
2. Council defers endorsement of the recommended projects to allow time for additional consultation.

Conclusion

The 2025/2026 Community Sponsorship Grants Program reflects Council's commitment to supporting community-led initiatives across both urban and rural areas. The recommended funding allocation of \$56,774 enables delivery of diverse projects that enhance social, cultural and environmental outcomes. The transparent assessment process and balanced distribution of funds ensure fairness and alignment with Council's strategic objectives.

Attachments

- 1 Community Sponsorship Grants Program - Recommendations - Council meeting 2025-2026 - Confidential

Public Questions (31:44)**Claire Russell**

Why are community grants awarded to organisations that have federal and state funding. Why would we not be spreading our community money to really local? For example, CAV, receive significant funding, and we have such a small amount of money. Even schools, they receive State Government funding, I don't understand that. I question the eligibility criteria.

Mayor Irene Grant responded:

I think in the case of the school receiving funding, they actually did a very much community focussed activity and that was the reason why they received funding.

Director Goonan responded:

Eligibility criteria is quite clearly set out, and regardless of the organisation, and I won't speak specifics, but it needs to be a program that goes to support the community, so it needs to be something that they weren't going to do as part of their usual business.

Probably the most disappointing piece about the sponsorships that we have in front of us at the moment is we actually had more money to give, but unfortunately the response, and sponsorships that came in even, didn't meet the criteria or were not particularly well put together, and therefore we ended up awarding less money than what we actually had, and so, I know that doesn't answer your question, but it does go some way in pointing out that we would like to continue working with the community to make sure that some of these other submissions can get up to that standard and are eligible then we can support them moving forward.

I would like Council to award our money to some of our smaller organisations.

Director Goonan responded:

We are bringing the Sponsorships and Grants Policy back to Council in the next 6 months so there will certainly be an opportunity to review those and provide feedback.

Brian Fox

Council needs to cut back on Community Grants. Go back to the old way and have a raffle.

Mayor Irene Grant responded:

The Rotary Club of Appin Park run that raffle and Council support that.

15. Sustainability and Culture

Nil

16. Special Committee Reports

Nil

17. Advisory Committee Reports

Nil

Unconfirmed

18. Minutes of Advisory Committee Meetings

18.1 Minutes of Advisory Committee Meetings (40:22)

Meeting Type: Scheduled Council Meeting
Date of Meeting: 28 October 2025
Author: Councillor and Executive Services Support Officer
Approver: Executive Services Coordinator

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

Executive Summary

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

Date	Meeting details	Refer
19 August 2025	Audit and Risk Committee	Attachment
2 April 2025	Arts and Culture Advisory Committee	Attachment
6 August 2025	Arts and Culture Advisory Committee	Attachment

Resolution:

(Moved: Councillor D Fuller/Councillor A Fitzpatrick)

That Council notes the minutes of these Advisory Committees.

Carried

Attachments

- 1 19 August 2025 Audit and Risk Committee Minutes 
- 2 2 April 2025 ACAC Committee Meeting Minutes 
- 3 6 August 2025 ACAC Committee Meeting Minutes 

19. Notices of Motion

Nil

20. Urgent Business

21. Public Question Time (41:32)

21.1	Barbara Griffiths submitted the following question online: Will Council reconsider reinstating timed parking meters as small traders are missing out on customer income. We would have gone to the Murphy Street jewellers recently but without the app realised we would be in Myrtleford the following day so went to the jewellers there. A P.R. disaster for the town. <i>Mayor Grant responded: Well, I'm not sure I agree.</i> <i>In February this year Council decided to move from using a combination of parking machines and the EasyPark app as the car parking payment system in the Wangaratta CBD, to a payment system where the app is the primary method for payment. It was something that Council considered, to actually replace timed parking meters was going to cost Council a considerable amount of money, and we were moving into technology that was already, in many ways, obsolete.</i> <i>A voucher system has also been implemented for those that don't use the app.</i> <i>This amended payment system has been fully in place since July, after a period of informing and assisting users.</i> <i>Since July there has been a significant uptake in the use of EasyPark to pay for parking, with over 14,000 transactions in September 2025 compared to just over 7,000 in September 2024. A significant number of vouchers have also been issued.</i> <i>There is ample unpaid parking options, and unpaid timed options, that remain available throughout the CBD for those who prefer not to pay. Maps identifying these areas are available at the Council offices or on Council's website.</i> <i>Council continues to monitor how the parking payment system functions and will consider feedback and ways to improve the payment system.</i>
21.2	Charlotte Byrne Just a question on the back of that question, is there any option to review the contract with the CoStore carpark before it's end in 2034?

	<i>Mayor Grant responded:</i> Council has had discussions with the contract holders and there is limited options to review that, so paid parking is very much a reality for the Rural City of Wangaratta in the CBD. We are looking at ways that we can make that more user friendly and we're currently going through that process.
21.3	John Griffiths Question 1: Cat curfew – half of Victorian Councils have a cat curfew in place – where does RCoW stand with that? <i>Director Stephen Swart responded:</i> Council is currently going through a process of developing a new Domestic Animal Management Plan and that's been out for public consultation recently. As part of that plan, there is an action identified that we will look at a Cat Containment Policy and the idea is that we will develop that policy over the coming months and years and implement that in our community, on the back of engagement with our community. So there'll be a conversation as a community first before we implement something. Question 2: Rollout of purple bins for glass – I believe this is a band-aided policy from Victorian Government – why wasn't the rural landowners getting a purple bin – why did some of us miss out? <i>Director Goonan responded:</i> You're right John, in general it is going to be all councils and all households. There are some exceptions or exemptions for it, and as we get closer to the 2027 date when they must be done, we will publish them on the website. Realistically, how it will work, is it will mainly focus on the township areas, so the rural areas, as a general rule, will miss out, but that doesn't mean some of them can't get them at a later stage. We will put some more communication out as that comes. There's obviously further rollouts still to come for both purple and green bins. We are just waiting, as per the Council Meeting when that was adopted, for the State Government to release their final white paper that will tell Council's what's excluded and what's included. I'm not sure when that'll be, it was meant to be 2 and a half years ago at this point, so, yeah.
21.4	David Lloyd I've been living in Hansen Street for the last 8 years and I've asked Council and ARTC about cleaning up the side of the railway line. Over the last 8 years. Last Thursday I had a snake in my garage. My partner is disabled and can't outrun a snake. I need it done. It stinks, it's a fire hazard now over summer, with the storm we had on Sunday, the water just sits there. Council and ARTC need to get together and clean it up. We'd like to sit out the back, have a BBQ and have family over, and now we get eaten alive by mosquitoes. <i>Mayor Irene Grant responded:</i> We understand what your concern is and I understand that is an ARTC issue.

21.5	Brian Fox Will you agree to get rid of those parking meters ASAP? <i>Mayor Irene Grant responded:</i> No We have 2 large blocks of land – 1 is where the Caltex service station was, and 1 is now where the Mazda dealership was. It would really be a crying shame if both of those blocks of land were fenced off and unused during the Christmas period when they could be profitably used for parking. Will you go to the movers and shakers of those pieces of land and rent them for the Christmas period. <i>CEO Brendan McGrath responded:</i> In relation to those parcels of land, I actually think it's worth a conversation with the owners to see whether there is anything possible there. There's a couple of other commercial sites in town that we have approached others about before with not much success, but if we don't ask, we don't get, so happy to have those conversations.
21.6	Trevor Weary Down near the stock yards, along Greta Road near the Freeway, on the side road. Why are there no standing signs there? <i>CEO Brendan McGrath responded:</i> If I'm thinking about the same road, we've had some issues with complaints about casual parking of trucks and semi-trailers in that lane which are causing some access issues for locals and some safety issues around movement, so we've done a couple of things, we've spoken to the transport operator, we've also spoken to local people about potential solutions, and one of the solutions was to put in place the planting of some trees, and some signage to indicate that it's not a parking area for trucks and we're just keeping an eye on how that's going.

22. Confidential Business (56:30)

Resolution:

(Moved: Councillor D Fuller/Councillor A Fitzpatrick)

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

22.1 Support at Home Pricing Review

Item 22.1 is Confidential under the Local Government Act 2020 as it contains information relating to : (a) Council business information, being information

that would prejudice the Council's position in commercial negotiations if prematurely released..

22.2 Land Development Matter

Item 22.2 is Confidential under the Local Government Act 2020 as it contains information relating to : (g) Private Commercial Information.

Carried

Allison Winters left the meeting at 06:58 pm.
Tania Maxwell left the meeting at 06:58 pm.
Irene Grant left the meeting at 06:58 pm.
David Fuller left the meeting at 06:58 pm.
Ashlee Fitzpatrick left the meeting at 06:58 pm.
Harry Bussell left the meeting at 06:58 pm.
Harvey Benton left the meeting at 06:58 pm.

Allison Winters returned to the meeting at 07:03 pm.
Tania Maxwell returned to the meeting at 07:03 pm.
Irene Grant returned to the meeting at 07:03 pm.
David Fuller returned to the meeting at 07:03 pm.
Ashlee Fitzpatrick returned to the meeting at 07:03 pm.
Harry Bussell returned to the meeting at 07:03 pm.
Harvey Benton returned to the meeting at 07:03 pm.

Resolution:

(Moved: Councillor D Fuller/Councillor H Bussell)

That the Meeting be resumed.

Carried

23. Closure of Meeting

The Meeting closed at 7:04pm.