



Rural City of
Wangaratta

Minutes

For the Scheduled Council Meeting
Council Chambers, Municipal Offices
62-68 Ovens Street, Wangaratta
3:00 PM 16 December 2025

Contents

1.	Acknowledgement to Country.....	4
2.	Opening Prayer	4
3.	Present	4
4.	Absent.....	5
5.	Acceptance of Apologies & Granting of Leave of Absence	5
	Order of Business	5
6.	Citizen Ceremony.....	5
7.	Confirmation of Minutes	5
8.	Conflict of Interest Disclosure.....	5
9.	Reception of Petitions	7
9.1	Petition - Reconciliation Action Plan (5:09).....	7
10.	Hearing of Deputations.....	9
	Presentation of Reports	9
11.	Councillor Reports (8:08)	9
	Officers' Reports	11
12.	Executive Services.....	11
12.1	2026 Council Meeting Dates and Locations (7:13)	11
13.	Corporate and Leisure.....	14
13.1	Annual Audit & Risk Committee Performance Self Assessment (14:05)	14
13.2	Procurement Policy (16:18)	16
13.3	C23111 - Core Business System - Contract Extension (21:50)	21
14.	Community and Infrastructure	24
14.1	Community Asset Committee Nominations (23:10)	24
14.2	Panel Contract C16519 – Supply of Clothing and PPE (27:00)	28
14.3	Panel Contract C17697 – Drainage Services (28:28)	31
14.4	Sport and Recreation Advisory Committee Nominations (29:46)	34
15.	Sustainability and Culture.....	37
15.1	Youth Council Advisory Committee 2026 (35:06)	37
15.2	Tourism Events Funding Program 2026 (40:02)	41

15.3	Level Up Youth - Youth Strategy (45:05)	46
15.4	Draft Reconciliation Action Plan (59:00)	53
15.5	Planning Application No. 25/078 - 15A Bruck Court, Wangaratta - Demolition of an Existing Caretakers Residence, Construction of Seven Townhouses, Reduction of Car Parking Requirements and 2-lot Subdivision (1:09:48)	59
15.6	CBD Paid Parking (1:26:06)	64
16.	Special Committee Reports	71
17.	Advisory Committee Reports	71
18.	Minutes of Advisory Committee Meetings	72
18.1	Minutes of Advisory Committee Meetings (1:50:32)	72
19.	Notices of Motion	73
20.	Urgent Business	73
21.	Public Question Time (1:51:22)	73
22.	Confidential Business	74
23.	Closure of Meeting	74
Appendix 1		75
Appendix 2		80

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.

Mayor’s Message

The Rural City of Wangaratta Council strongly condemns the horrific terrorist attack which targeted the Jewish community in Bondi on December 14. This act of violence is an affront to everything we value as a peaceful and inclusive country. We stand in solidarity with all those affected and we confirm our commitment to unity, peace and safety in our community and across Australia. Our thoughts and deepest sympathies are with the victims, their families and everyone who has been impacted by this senseless tragedy.

1. Acknowledgement to Country

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the lands, on which the Rural City of Wangaratta communities reside.

We pay our respect to their Elders past, present and emerging, and celebrate and respect their continuing cultures.

We are committed to walking beside all traditional owners as we move toward reconciliation.

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**

7. **Confirmation of Minutes**

Resolution:

(Moved: Councillor D Fuller/Councillor H Benton)

That Council read and confirm the Minutes of the Scheduled Meeting of 25 November 2025 and the Unscheduled Meeting of 1 December 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.

Cr Allison Winters declared a General Conflict of Interest on the basis that in another role they deliver an event that is mentioned in the implementation plans in Item 15.3.

Unconfirmed

9. Reception of Petitions

9.1 Petition - Reconciliation Action Plan (5:09)

Meeting Type:	Scheduled Council Meeting
Date of Meeting:	16 December 2025
Author:	Executive Services Coordinator
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

Two petitions have been received by Council;

A petition containing 63 signatures from Galen Catholic College has been received (**Attachment 1**).

The petition asks for Council to take strong and immediate action by:

1. Developing and endorsing a Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) through Reconciliation Australia, to guide genuine engagement, accountability, and respect within our local community; and
2. Protecting and caring for Aboriginal cultural sites in partnership with Traditional Owners and Aboriginal community organisations.

A petition containing 69 wet signatures and 241 digital signatures from Amanda Hogan has been received (**Attachment 2**).

The petition calls on the council of the Rural City of Wangaratta to:

1. Take urgent action to progress, endorse and adopt a 'Reconciliation Action Plan in partnership with our Indigenous Community' as a matter of high priority in the 2025-29 Council Plan.

Both petitions will be considered as required by Council's Governance rules.

Resolution:

(Moved: Councillor D Fuller/Councillor A Winters)

1. That the petitions regarding a Reconciliation Action Plan be received.
2. That the petitions be considered in conjunction with the separate agenda item relating to the Reconciliation Action Plan (Item 15.4)

Carried

Conclusion

Clause 14 of the Rural City of Wangaratta Governance Rules, provides that the only motions that may be considered on any petition are:

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

This petition relates to the Reconciliation Action Plan which is the subject of a separate item on the agenda for the December 2025 Council meeting, and it is therefore appropriate to consider the petition in conjunction with that agenda item.

Attachments

- 1 Petition - RAP - Galen Catholic College - Confidential
- 2 Petition - RAP - Hogan - Confidential

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 (8:08)

Councillor Tania Maxwell

Councillor report – Victorian Tourism awards – November 2025

On the 27th of November I attended the Victorian Tourism Awards held at the beautiful Centrepiece building in the Rod Laver precinct in Melbourne.

I was honoured to attend the evening as a part of my Tourism portfolio.

The black-tie affair was spectacular, not just the entertainment, the sumptuous meal, the magnificent gowns and the suits worn, which went from 007 style to the outlandish, but because our very own Ned Kelly Discovery Hub took away the Silver Award not once but twice.

They had success in two categories 'Tourist Attraction' and 'Cultural Tourism' defeated by Animal Land -Children's Farm, 30 minutes from Melbourne, and the Shrine of Remembrance for Cultural Tourism. You can see there is some strong competition for these awards.

I would like to convey my gratitude to the visitor services team leader - Manda Stevens, who spent an enormous amount of time completing the application. To Skye Taylor for her enthusiasm in promoting the Hub and her dedication to supporting tourism in the region. Both are incredible woman who represented council on the evening.

Of course, a shout out to their manager from the economic development, environment and compliance team - Celeste Brockwell.

My colleague Cr Winters also joined us for an evening of entertainment and opportunities to congratulate other winners and finalists in our region.

Valley View Caravan Park in Whitfield, also received a Silver Award in the Caravan and Holiday Parks category.

The Awards event showcases some of the best that Victoria has to offer, and the Northeast was well represented in many categories.

I also had the opportunity to meet with Minister for Tourism Steve Dimopoulos, and I raised the Wangaratta Whitfield Road. Expressing councils' gratitude for previous funding and the governments interest in highlighting and support the King Valley.

I did use this opportunity to convey my concern about promoting the region knowing the road had deteriorated into disrepair and that safety for anyone travelling on that road was of great concern.

Minister Dimopoulos conveyed that he would speak with Minister Horne, to discuss this matter further.

Once again, I would like to congratulate the staff at the Ned Kelly Discovery Hub and I hope there will be an announcement of who the 1000th person is who visited the centre.

Resolution:

(Moved: Councillor D Fuller/Councillor A Fitzpatrick)

Councillor D Fuller moved a motion:

That Cr Maxwell's report be noted in the Minutes.

Carried

Officers' Reports

12. Executive Services

12.1 2026 Council Meeting Dates and Locations (7:13)

Meeting Type:	Scheduled Council Meeting
Date of Meeting:	16 December 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

This report is presented to Council for consideration of the dates and venues for Council meetings in 2026.

Resolution:

(Moved: Councillor A Fitzpatrick/Councillor H Bussell)

That Council endorses the following schedule of council meeting dates, times, and locations for 2026:

<i>Tuesday 24 February 2026</i>	<i>6:00pm Wangaratta</i>
<i>Tuesday 24 March 2026</i>	<i>6:00pm Springhurst</i>
<i>Tuesday 28 April 2026</i>	<i>6:00pm Milawa</i>
<i>Tuesday 26 May 2026</i>	<i>3:00pm Wangaratta</i>
<i>Tuesday 23 June 2026</i>	<i>3:00pm Wangaratta</i>
<i>Tuesday 28 July 2026</i>	<i>3:00pm Wangaratta</i>
<i>Tuesday 25 August 2026</i>	<i>3:00pm Wangaratta</i>
<i>Tuesday 22 September 2026</i>	<i>6:00pm Everton</i>
<i>Tuesday 27 October 2026</i>	<i>6:00pm Edi</i>
<i>Tuesday 24 November 2026</i>	<i>6:00pm Wangaratta</i>
<i>Tuesday 15 December 2026</i>	<i>3:00pm Wangaratta</i>

Carried

Background

Council's Governance Rules require that at or before the last scheduled council meeting each calendar year, Council must fix the date, time, and place of all scheduled council meetings for the following calendar year.

Council has maintained a custom of conducting four council meetings annually in rural townships since 1997.

A summary of the council meeting locations and the number of meetings previously held at each location between 1997-2025 is outlined below.

LOCATION	No. Meetings
Boorhaman	5
Bowmans/Murmungee	5
Carboor	5
Cheshunt	4
Edi Upper	4
Eldorado	5
Everton	4
Glenrowan	5
Greta/Hansonville	5
Milawa	5
Moyhu	5
Myrree	4
Oxley	5
Peechelba	5
South Wangaratta	5
Springhurst	5
Tarrawingee	5
Whitfield	5
Whorouly	5

Council must establish its schedule of council meeting dates and venues for 2026 to allow for notice to be given to the public and for internal planning.

The 2026 council meeting dates and locations schedule has been developed to achieve a geographical spread of rural meetings throughout the year.

Implications

Policy Considerations

Council's Governance Rules specify how council meetings must be scheduled and conducted. This report follows the approach specified in those rules.

Social

Conducting council meetings in rural townships promotes closer interaction with all areas of the municipality.

Consultation/Communication

Council's 2026 meeting dates and venues will be confirmed publicly prior to each meeting.

Conclusion

Council must determine a meeting schedule for the coming year to provide advance notice to the community regarding the proposed time and location of council meetings.

Attachments

Nil

13. Corporate and Leisure

13.1 Annual Audit & Risk Committee Performance Self Assessment (14:05)

Meeting Type:	Scheduled Council Meeting
Date of Meeting:	16 December 2025
Category:	Operational
Author:	Governance & Reporting Advisor
Approver:	Governance Manager

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 survey of the annual Audit and Risk Committee Self-Assessment.

Section 54(4)(a) of the *Local Government Act 2020* (Vic) (the Act) requires that the Audit and Risk Committee undertake an annual assessment of its performance against the Committee's Charter. This assessment was conducted by a survey which was circulated to members of the Committee separately.

Resolution:

(Moved: Councillor H Benton/Councillor T Maxwell)

That Council notes this report.

Carried

Background

A survey was prepared for the Committee's consideration and completion in accordance with section 54(4)(a) of the *Local Government Act* and undertaken in September 2025.

This report details the Committee's responses on how they feel they have performed against the Audit and Risk Committee Charter.

Some specific feedback was provided by members in the survey, to be considered and actions determined with the full Committee at the upcoming December meeting, specifically:

1. An annual review item be scheduled for the Audit and Risk Committee to review Council's Risk profile and risk appetite and to make it more visible (refer comment under question 3 of Attachment 1).

2. Additional committee meeting to present finalised Management Letter, ensuring full oversight of items and accountability of the year end external audit by the Committee, if required (refer comment under question 9 of Attachment 1).
3. A list of items required to be discussed by the Committee at each meeting and an annual report to the committee demonstrating what items were covered in the year (refer comment under question 12 of Attachment 1).

Positive feedback was also provided acknowledging the exceptional relationship with internal and external auditors, the Committee and Council Management, enabling the Committee to carry out its function effectively.

It should be noted that there were a limited number of responses to the survey, we will address participation rates at the next Audit and Risk Committee meeting.

Attachments

- 1 ARC Self Assessment Survey 2025 

13.2 Procurement Policy (16:18)

Meeting Type:	Scheduled Council Meeting
Date of Meeting:	16 December 2025
Category:	Strategic
Author:	Executive Assistant Corporate & Leisure
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 consider adopting the updated Procurement Policy 2025 (Attachment 1).

Resolution:

(Moved: Councillor D Fuller/Councillor A Fitzpatrick)

That Council:

1. Adopts the Procurement Policy 2025.

Carried

Background

Council is required under Sections 108 and 109 of the *Local Government Act 2020 (Vic)* to prepare, adopt, and comply by having an appropriate Procurement Policy in place. The current Procurement Policy 2022 (Attachment 2) was adopted in September 2022. A review has been undertaken, and the Procurement Policy 2025 ('the Policy') has been prepared using the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) template to align with sector best practice and legislative requirements.

The summary of broader proposed changes included in the updated Policy are as follows:

Strategic Framework

Difference: Broader principles introduced, including transparency, probity, accountability, and Quadruple Bottom Line considerations.

Purpose: To align procurement with Council's strategic objectives and ensure decisions deliver economic, environmental, social, and ethical benefits.

Sustainability and Social Procurement

Difference: Greater emphasis on sustainability and social impact integrated throughout procurement processes.

Purpose: To encourage procurement outcomes that deliver community benefits, including support for social enterprises, First Nations businesses, and inclusive suppliers.

Governance and Risk Management

Difference: Detailed risk mitigation strategies added, including mandatory contract execution before commencement and enhanced compliance monitoring.

Purpose: To reduce financial, legal, and reputational risks and strengthen governance.

Procurement Methods and Controls

Difference: Similar thresholds retained but stricter controls introduced, such as “No PO or Claim, No Payment” and engagement of a probity advisor for procurements over \$10M.

Purpose: To improve financial control, transparency, and compliance with legislative requirements.

Evaluation and Negotiation

Difference: Pre-approved evaluation criteria and weightings required before tender release; Best and Final Offer process formalised.

Purpose: To ensure fairness, defensibility, and transparency in decision-making.

Collaborative Procurement

Difference: Collaboration consideration strengthened for all procurements, with Council reports required to justify decisions.

Purpose: To achieve economies of scale and better value for money through shared procurement opportunities.

Exemptions and Sole Sourcing

Difference: Expanded exemption categories with mandatory documentation and alignment to financial delegations.

Purpose: To maintain probity and transparency in exceptional circumstances.

Financial Delegations

Difference: Clear delegation table introduced (Manager up to \$60K, Director up to \$150K, CEO up to \$500K, Council unlimited).

Purpose: To clarify authority levels and improve accountability.

Monitoring and Compliance

Difference: Structured reporting and escalation of serious breaches to Audit & Risk Committee introduced.

Purpose: To ensure continuous improvement and integrity in procurement practices

Supplier Code of Conduct

The Policy introduces an enhanced ethical governance framework, which includes a requirement for suppliers to adhere to Council's standards of integrity, fairness, and accountability. To support this, a **Supplier Code of Conduct** (Attachment 3) has been developed.

The Supplier Code of Conduct sets clear expectations for ethical behaviour, compliance with legislation, and alignment with Council's values in areas such as workplace safety, environmental responsibility, and fair labour practices. It ensures that all suppliers engaged by Council operate to the same high standards of probity and integrity.

Implications

Policy Considerations

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

Financial/Economic Implications

The proposed policy sets out the principles, processes and procedures that will apply to all purchases of goods, services and works made by Council. The proposed policy aims to achieve value for money, through open and fair competition and continuous improvement in the provision of services for the community.

Legal/Statutory

The Local Government Act 2020 ('the Act') requires Council to prepare and adopt a procurement policy and that it be reviewed every four years at a minimum.

Social and Diversity

The policy includes our commitment to the strategic use of local suppliers to encourage economic development where such purchases are justified on value for money grounds, while remaining compliant with the Competition and Consumer Act 2010 and other fair trading legislation requirements.

Equity Impact Assessment (EIA)

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

Environmental/Sustainability Impacts

The policy encourages the sourcing of environmentally sustainable goods, services and works.

Strategic Links

This item is a legislative requirement under the Local Government Act 2020.

Risk ManagementRisk Management Framework

Risks	Likelihood	Consequence	Rating	Mitigation Action
Failure of having an up to date Procurement Policy risks lack of compliance with the Act and undertaking procurement activities that fail to deliver optimal value for council and ratepayers.	3 – Possible	2- Minor	5 – Medium	Undertake scheduled reviews of the Procurement Policy. Application of MAV best practice guidelines in updating the Policy.

Consultation/Communication

Level of public participation	Promises to the public/stakeholders	Tools/Techniques
Inform	Community	Adopted Policy to be published on council's website. Copies to be made available via Council's Customer Service counter/via email upon request.

The revised Policy is based on a policy originally developed in collaboration with the sector by the Municipal Association of Victoria. Consultation has also been undertaken with key employees who undertake the majority of council's procurement activities along with Councillors and the Corporate Management Team.

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

Options for Consideration

Councillors can either adopt the Policy in its presented form today (recommended) or request further work be undertaken on the Policy to be presented at a later date if they would like changes to be made.

Conclusion

The Procurement Policy 2025 has been reviewed to ensure that it remains current and operationally viable and is being presented for councillor consideration today.

Attachments

- 1 Procurement Policy 2025 
- 2 Procurement Policy 2022 
- 3 Draft Supplier Code of Conduct 

Public Questions (17:17)

Cassandra Pollock submitted the following question:

The proposed procurement policy has a greater emphasis on social impact to be integrated throughout procurement processes. Is it a legal requirement that council adopt this change, stipulated by Victorian Government legislation, or is this something our council is voluntarily adopting?

Are local governments bound by law to adhere to the Victorian Social Procurement Framework?

Director Sarah Brindley responded:

Whilst Victorian legislation doesn't mandate exactly how social benefits should be considered in local government procurement, the proposed Policy updates reflect a combination of overarching legislative obligations and sector best practice expectations.

Under our Local Government Act 2020, councils are legally required to:

- 1. Adopt and comply with a procurement policy that ensures value for money, open and fair competition, and accountability, and,*
- 2. Consider opportunities for collaborative procurement and broader community benefits.*

Other legislation also applies such as the Gender Equality Act 2020, the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006, and the Modern Slavery Act 2018. Council has also referenced the Victorian Best Practice Procurement Guidelines (2024).

The former policy addressed social procurement objectives in Section 6.

This is now in Section 3 of the revised policy. The focus is on the concept of 'Quadruple Bottom Line', and the policy inclusions are intended to guide procurement processes in ways that promote equity, inclusion, and ethical governance. This includes support for local businesses, First Nations enterprises, social benefit suppliers, and workforce participation.

So in summary, whilst not a direct statutory requirement to adopt all proposed social procurement measures, Council is recommended to strengthen its policy to reflect best practice, legislative intent, and its strategic commitment to delivering positive community impact through its procurement.

13.3 C23111 - Core Business System - Contract Extension (21:50)

Meeting Type:	Scheduled Council Meeting
Date of Meeting:	16 December 2025
Category:	Strategic
Author:	Manager Customer, Digital & Transformation Services
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 approve a one (1) year extension of contract C23111 – Core Business System, to continue provision of Council's core Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) software under the existing agreed terms and conditions.

Resolution:

(Moved: Councillor D Fuller/Councillor H Benton)

That Council:

1. Approves a one (1) year extension of contract C23111 Core Business System with a total contract amount of \$644,706, excluding GST.
2. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to sign a one (1) year extension for contract C23111 Core Business System.

Carried

Background

The original 'C23111 – Core Business System' contract was awarded to TechnologyOne Ltd. Council is recommended to extend this contract for a further year under the existing terms and conditions.

The contract conditions contain an initial five-year term, now nearing completion, followed by the ability for Council to extend the contract for up to five years on a year-by-year basis. This will be the first contract extension to occur.

Due to the CEO's financial expenditure delegation limits, Council approval is necessary before proceeding. This authorisation enables continuation of services under agreed terms and conditions, ensuring operational continuity and strategic flexibility.

Implications

Policy Considerations

Council's Procurement Policy outlines the approved methods and processes for procurement, including this extension. As this contract was originally awarded under Council resolution, an extension must be approved by the Council.

Financial/Economic Implications

There are no financial or economic implications identified for the subject of this report. The cost of the contract is allowed for within council's Annual Budget and Long Term Financial Plan. The total cost of the annual licence fee is \$644,706 excluding GST and including an increase of 3% for CPI per the contract terms.

Legal/Statutory

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

Social and Diversity

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

Equity Impact Assessment (EIA)

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

Environmental/Sustainability Impacts

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

Strategic Links

The provision and upgrade of Council's core business system is an essential element of delivering Council's ICT Strategy.

Risk Management

Risk Management Framework:

Risks	Likelihood	Consequence	Rating	Mitigation Action
Disruption to core business services due to failure to authorise the extension.	Likely	Major	High	Authorisation enables continuation of services under agreed terms and conditions, ensuring operational continuity and strategic flexibility.

Consultation/Communication

Consultation was carried out with key internal stakeholders, whose feedback informed both the decision-making process and the resulting recommendation.

Options for Consideration

1. Award a one-year extension to contract C23111 Core Business System to TechnologyOne Ltd (recommended).
2. Not award an extension to contract C23111, and retender publicly as per Council's procurement policy (not recommended as this will introduce major business continuity disruption).

Conclusion

Council's authorisation is sought to authorise the CEO to execute a one-year extension to contract C23111 – Core Business System, following the satisfactory performance of the supplier, TechnologyOne Ltd. This authorisation enables continuation of services under agreed terms and conditions, ensuring operational continuity and strategic flexibility.

Attachments

- 1 Contract C23111 - Core Business System - Confidential

14. Community and Infrastructure

14.1 Community Asset Committee Nominations (23:10)

Meeting Type:	Scheduled Council Meeting
Date of Meeting:	16 December 2025
Category:	Strategic
Author:	Community Group Officer
Approver:	Director Community and Infrastructure

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

Executive Summary

This report is presented to Council to endorse the nominations of volunteers to committees of management (COM) under the Community Asset Committee Instrument of Delegation. These are additional community members who have requested spots on their local committees of management, and Council officers are in support:

1. Carboor Memorial Hall and Recreation Reserve
2. Everton Hall & Sports Complex
3. Oxley Shire Hall
4. Myrree Soldiers Memorial Hall
5. Whorouly Public Hall Library
6. Whorouly Memorial Park

The nominations are for a period of three years. A list of nominated members is attached.

Resolution:

(Moved: Councillor H Bussell/Councillor H Benton)

That Council:

- 1) Endorses the nominations in the confidential attachment to the Community Asset Committees.
- 2) Discloses the nominations in the confidential attachment.

Carried

The endorsed nominees were announced by Councillor Harry Bussell

Allan Roman	Carboor Memorial Hall and Recreation Reserve
Bruce Fletcher	Carboor Memorial Hall and Recreation Reserve

Dale Mitchell	Carboor Memorial Hall and Recreation Reserve
Kylie Bright	Carboor Memorial Hall and Recreation Reserve
Jan Mitchel	Carboor Memorial Hall and Recreation Reserve
Noel Keebone	Everton Hall & Sports Complex
Kate Owen	Everton Hall & Sports Complex
Kara Davies	Everton Hall & Sports Complex
Libby Heard	Everton Hall & Sports Complex
Sharon Jarrott	Myrree Soldiers Memorial Hall
Paula McGavin	Oxley Shire Hall
Glenn Allan	Oxley Shire Hall
Rajanna Costenaro	Whorouly Memorial Park
Ruth Costenaro	Whorouly Memorial Park
John Matheson	Whorouly Memorial Park
Pam Matheson	Whorouly Memorial Park
Pauline McPherson	Whorouly Memorial Park
Eleisha Fraser	Whorouly Memorial Park
Luisa Licciardello	Whorouly Memorial Park
Edie Costenaro	Whorouly Memorial Park
Marion Walker	Whorouly Memorial Park
Trent Newton	Whorouly Memorial Park
Greg Griffiths	Whorouly Memorial Park
Elise Pethybridge	Whorouly Memorial Park
Robyn Hajek	Whorouly Public Hall Library

Background

All appointments to Community Asset Committees are made in line with Council's policy governing appointments to Council Committees.

The Instrument of Sub-Delegation details in section 3.1(8) that all appointments to the committees will be made by Council in accordance with the Council policy governing appointments to Council Committees.

Implications

Policy Considerations

The Community Asset Committee Instrument of Delegation and the Appointment to Council Committees Policy apply to these nominations.

Financial/Economic Implications

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

Legal/Statutory

The requirement for nominations is made in accordance with the Local Government Act

Social and Diversity

The Community Asset Committees provide an important service to their communities, providing a gathering place and social centre for their rural communities. A strong and vibrant committee will benefit the community, and close links between the committee and Council will create greater awareness of needs in that community.

Equity Impact Assessment (EIA)

An EIA has been considered and there is no equity impacts identified for the subject of this report.

Environmental/Sustainability Impacts

COM's are responsible for the management of any environmental issues relating to the land upon which their facilities are situated.

Strategic Links

Council Plan 2025 – 2029

This report supports the 2025-2029 Council Plan through the following objectives and actions:

1. Community Wellbeing

- Provide access to services and programs that enable people to live healthy, active, and insured lives
- Ensure services and spaces are safe, accessible, inclusive and welcoming in our community

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.*

Risk Management

Risk Management Framework

Risks	Likelihood	Consequence	Rating	Mitigation Action
Governance risk associated with the sub-delegation of powers from the CEO to Community Asset Committees	3 - Possible	3 - Moderate	6 - Medium	The appointment of members by a formal resolution of Council reduces governance risk by ensuring that all members appointed to a committee are covered by Council's public liability insurance.

Consultation/Communication

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

Options for Consideration

- i. That Council endorses the nominations to the Community Asset Committees
- ii. That Council does not endorse the nominations to the Community Asset Committees.
- iii. That's Council request further engagement with the Community Asset Committees.

Conclusion

Council officers have assessed the nominations and recommend their endorsement to the relevant Community Asset Committees. These committees will be delegated responsibility for the control, management, and maintenance of Council-owned community assets, ensuring compliance with the requirements of the Local Government Act.

Attachments

- 1 Community Asset Committee Nominations - Confidential

14.2 Panel Contract C16519 – Supply of Clothing and PPE (27:00)

Meeting Type:	Scheduled Council Meeting
Date of Meeting:	16 December 2025
Category:	Strategic
Author:	Field Services Manager
Approver:	Director Community and Infrastructure

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

Executive Summary

This report is presented to Council to Award Panel Contract C16519 – Supply of Clothing and PPE.

The Rural City of Wangaratta has invited tenders for the supply of Council Clothing and Personal Protective Equipment. This Panel Tender is primarily for the clothing & personal protective equipment for outdoor staff; however, it may also be used for other uniform requirements across Council.

Resolution:

(Moved: Councillor H Bussell/Councillor T Maxwell)

That Council:

1. Awards Panel Contract C16519 – Supply of Clothing and PPE to:
 1. All Makes Pty Ltd T/A Brandworx
 2. Southland (The Adaptive Trust)
 3. Blackwood & Sons
2. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to sign and seal all the relevant contract documents (including any extensions) when available, including possible extensions.

Carried

Background

Council Officers explored opportunities for collaboration with other councils and public bodies but were unable to identify any suitable for this project.

The tender process was conducted via eProcure, open to all registered contractors. Twelve companies submitted tenders to the process, providing a highly competitive process. All three that are recommended to the Panel provide the full suite of services that were requested in the tender.

The contract term is set for an initial two (2) years, with the option of three (3) additional extensions of one (1) year each, up to a maximum total period of five (5) years. The decision to exercise these optional extensions lies at the sole discretion of the CEO and will depend on satisfactory performance during the initial contract period.

Implications

Policy Considerations

Procurement Policy

Financial/Economic Implications

The estimated spend with these suppliers is captured within existing operating budgets.

Legal/Statutory

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

Social and Diversity

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

Equity Impact Assessment (EIA)

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

Environmental/Sustainability Impacts

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

Strategic Links

Council Plan 2025 – 2029

This report supports the 2021-2025 Council Plan through the following strategic theme:

1. Infrastructure and Place

We are developing places that connect people, businesses, and neighbourhoods. Our focus is on maintaining and improving what we already have, while delivering new infrastructure to meet community needs.

- Ensure Assets are financially sustainable and fit for purpose.
- Explore additional efficiencies in the maintenance and repair of Council Infrastructure and assets.

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.

Risk Management

Risk Management Framework

Risks	Likelihood	Consequence	Rating	Mitigation Action
Inability to provide Council with value for money	Possible (3)	Moderate (3)	Medium (9)	Council may seek multiple quotes from the panel to ensure value for money
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 and no community consultation was required. Officers believe that appropriate consultation has occurred and the matter is now ready for Council consideration.

Options for Consideration

- I. Award C16519 – Supply of Clothing and PPE to All Makes Pty Ltd T/A Brandworx, Southland (The Adaptive Trust), and Blackwood & Sons as outlined in the evaluation report.
- II. Not award contract C16519 – Supply of Clothing and PPE in accordance with approved evaluation report and retender publicly as per Council's procurement policy.

Conclusion

Following an internal evaluation against pre-determined evaluation criteria and weightings, contract contract Panel Contract C16519 – Supply of Clothing and PPE is recommended to be awarded to All Makes Pty Ltd T/A Brandworx, Southland (The Adaptive Trust), and Blackwood & Sons in accordance with attached evaluation report.

Attachments

- 1 Evaluation Report and Award Recommendation - Clothing and PPE - Confidential

14.3 Panel Contract C17697 – Drainage Services (28:28)

Meeting Type:	Scheduled Council Meeting
Date of Meeting:	16 December 2025
Category:	Strategic
Author:	Field Services Manager
Approver:	Director Community and Infrastructure

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

Executive Summary

This report is presented to Council to Award Panel Contract C17697 – Drainage Services.

The Rural City of Wangaratta has invited tenders for the supply of Drainage Services for Council's urban drainage infrastructure. These services are primarily used by Field Services and Infrastructure Delivery.

Resolution:

(Moved: Councillor D Fuller/Councillor H Bussell)

That Council:

1. Awards Panel Contract C17697 – Drainage Services to:
 1. Rostem;
 2. Total Drain Cleaning; and
 3. Environmental Facility
2. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to sign and seal all the relevant contract documents (including any extensions) when available, including possible extensions.

Carried

Background

Council seeks to establish a panel of suppliers for drainage services.

Council Officers reviewed the opportunities for collaboration with other Councils or public bodies but couldn't find any suitable for this service, which is reliant on local suppliers.

The term of the contract is for two years with three additional one year extensions up to a maximum total period of five years. Exercising the optional extension period(s) shall be at the sole discretion of the CEO and subject to the satisfactory performance during the initial contract period.

Implications

Policy Considerations

Procurement Policy

Financial/Economic Implications

The estimated spend with these suppliers is captured within existing operating budgets.

Legal/Statutory

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

Social and Diversity

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

Equity Impact Assessment (EIA)

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

Environmental/Sustainability Impacts

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

Strategic Links

Council Plan 2025 – 2029

This report supports the 2021-2025 Council Plan through the following strategic theme:

1. Infrastructure and Place

We are developing places that connect people, businesses, and neighbourhoods. Our focus is on maintaining and improving what we already have, while delivering new infrastructure to meet community needs.

- Ensure Assets are financially sustainable and fit for purpose.
- Explore additional efficiencies in the maintenance and repair of Council Infrastructure and assets.

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.

Risk Management

Risk Management Framework

Risks	Likelihood	Consequence	Rating	Mitigation Action
Inability to provide Council with value for money	Possible (3)	Moderate (3)	Medium (9)	Council may seek multiple quotes from the panel to ensure value for money
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 and no community consultation was required. Officers believe that appropriate consultation has occurred and the matter is now ready for Council consideration.

Options for Consideration

- i. Award C17697 – Drainage Services to Rostem, Total Drain Cleaning, and Environmental Facility as outlined in the evaluation report.
- ii. Not award contract C17697 – Drainage Services in accordance with approved evaluation report and retender publicly as per Council's procurement policy.

Conclusion

Following an internal evaluation against pre-determined evaluation criteria and weightings, contract contract Contract C17697 – Drainage Services to Rostem, Total Drain Cleaning, and Environmental Facility as outlined in the evaluation report in accordance with attached evaluation report.

Attachments

- 1 Evaluation Report and Award Recommendation Drainage Services Panel - Confidential

14.4 Sport and Recreation Advisory Committee Nominations (29:46)

Meeting Type:	Scheduled Council Meeting
Date of Meeting:	16 December 2025
Category:	Strategic
Author:	Manager - Community Services
Approver:	Director Community and Infrastructure

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

Executive Summary

This report is presented to Council to seek endorsement for the nominations of community members to represent the Sport and Recreation Advisory Committee where representatives are new or renominating upon expiry of their term on the committee.

The Sport and Recreation Advisory Committee provides advice to Council on matters pertaining to strategic planning, support, and advice, together with the management of sport and recreation opportunities in the Rural City of Wangaratta.

Resolution:

(Moved: Councillor T Maxwell/Councillor H Benton)

That Council:

1. Endorses the nominations in the confidential attachment as representatives on the Sport and Recreation Advisory Committee for a term of three years ending November 2028.
2. Advises all applicants of Council's decision.

Carried

The representatives were announced by Cr Harvey Benton

Representative	Sporting Organisation
Tim Oliver	NE Tracks LLEN
Brett Aggenbach	Wangaratta City FC
Rodney Dean	Wangaratta Netball Assoc
Daniel Warner	Wangaratta Hockey

Background

The terms of reference for the Sport and Recreation Advisory Committee allow for up to 9 community members to hold positions. With three members completing their terms and a pre-existing vacancy, there are up to four positions available.

Nominations received for the Sport and Recreation Advisory Committee are assessed against a skills matrix. The skills matrix is based on existing involvement in sporting groups/organisations, interest in the Sport and Recreation Advisory Committee, local sport and recreation knowledge and interest in sport and recreation activities. The panel convened to assess the nominations and unanimously agreed on the recommended successful applicants.

Implications

Policy Considerations

Council's policy 'Appointment to Council Committees' applies to this matter.

Financial/Economic Implications

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

Legal/Statutory

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

Social and Diversity

The responsibilities delegated to the Sport and Recreation Advisory Committee promote the exchange of information between the committee and Council, which includes the promotion of sport and recreation within the Rural City of Wangaratta. The committee members represent various sporting organisations and interests from across the Rural City of Wangaratta and are asked to represent their opinions to the committee.

The nomination form invites applicants to share their experiences in diverse communities.

Equity Impact Assessment (EIA)

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

Environmental/Sustainability Impacts

The Sport and Recreation Advisory Committee take into consideration environment and sustainability impacts relating to the strategic planning and management of sport and recreation opportunities in the Rural City of Wangaratta.

Strategic Links

Council Plan 2025 – 2029

This report supports the 2025-2029 Council Plan through the following objectives and actions:

1. Community Wellbeing

- Provide access to services and programs that enable people to live healthy, active, and insured lives
- Ensure services and spaces are safe, accessible, inclusive and welcoming in our community

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.

Risk Management

Risk Management Framework

Governance risk associated with the delegation of Council powers to a committee	Possible	Moderate	Medium	The appointment of members by a formal resolution of the Council reduces governance risks by ensuring members appointed to a committee are covered by Council's public liability insurance
---	----------	----------	--------	--

Consultation/Communication

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

Options for Consideration

- i. Council endorses the sport and recreation nominees as recommended and listed in the confidential attachment.
- ii. Council does not endorse the recommended nominees and seeks further nominations from the community.

Conclusion

Council officers have reviewed the application and recommendations are now ready for Council endorsement of appointments to the Sport and Recreation Advisory Committee.

Attachments

- 1 The nominations for Sport and Recreation Advisory Committee for the period November 2025 - Confidential

15. Sustainability and Culture

15.1 Youth Council Advisory Committee 2026 (35:06)

Meeting Type: Scheduled Council Meeting
 Date of Meeting: 16 December 2025
 Author: Youth Development Officer
 Approver: Stephen Swart – Director Sustainability & 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 seek endorsement of applications recently received for membership of the 2026 Rural City of Wangaratta Youth Council Advisory Committee (Youth Council).

Nominations were sought from –

- secondary schools,
- alternative education institutions, and
- local youth service providers.

In total 9 applications were received with representation across secondary schools.

Resolution:

(Moved: Councillor A Fitzpatrick/Councillor T Maxwell)

That Council appoints the individuals listed in **Attachment 1** to represent their peers in the 2026 Rural City of Wangaratta Youth Council Advisory Committee.

Carried

The Youth Council for 2026 was announced by Cr Ashlee Fitzpatrick

Name	School
Sam Allen	Galen College
Emily Anglim	Galen College
Edward Browne *	Cathedral College
Lanie Evans*	Wangaratta High School
Emmy Hansted*	Wangaratta High School
Emma Jose*	Galen College
Maddison Kelly	Wangaratta High School/ GOTafe
Stephanie Parsons	Cathedral College
Luna Vogels*	Cathedral College

* From the 2025 Youth Council

Background

The Rural City of Wangaratta's Youth Council provides a voice for young people to engage with Council and the community. Many activities and events undertaken by the Youth Council connect young people who otherwise may not have the opportunity to do so.

Consultation has occurred with educational institutions and youth service providers. Applicants were required to submit an application and attend an interview. At each interview the candidate was asked a series of set questions to determine their suitability.

Consideration was given to a candidate's suitability, team fit, and ability to represent their peers as well as their lived experiences and circumstances.

Applications for the Youth Council Advisory Committee were advertised in –

- the Wangaratta Chronicle;
- through social media including Facebook & Instagram;
- posters;
- through the Rural City of Wangaratta website; and
- through existing school networks, youth service providers and newsletters.

Implications

Policy Considerations

Council's Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy applies to this item.

The Youth Council Advisory Committee will operate in accordance with the Youth Council Advisory Committee Charter.

Financial/Economic Implications

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

Legal/Statutory

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

Social

The Youth Council Advisory Committee brings together young people who have an interest in the wellbeing of the young people in our community and advocates for them. The program provides a voice for young people to engage with Council and the community. Many activities and events undertaken by the Youth Council connect with young people who otherwise may not have the opportunity to do so.

Environmental/Sustainability Impacts

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

Strategic Links

Council Plan

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

1. Community Wellbeing

- 1.1 Provide access to services and programs that enable people to live healthy, active, and inspired lives.
- 1.2 People feel connected and included in the community.

Community Vision 2045

Rural City of Wangaratta 2045 Community Vision

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.

Risk Management

Risks	Likelihood	Consequence	Rating	Mitigation Action
Limited youth involvement in Council	Likely	Minor	Medium	Maintain Youth Council Advisory Committee Program and commitment to Youth engagement.

Consultation/Communication

Level of public participation	Promises to the public/stakeholders	Tools/Techniques
Inform	Youth Advisory nominees	Correspondence
Consult	Youth Advisory providers & Education providers.	Correspondence; meetings
Involve	Councillors, Operational staff & external stakeholders.	Correspondence; meetings
Collaborate	External providers of youth services, & education providers.	Correspondence; meetings, communication platforms including online & social media.
Empower	Youth Advisory nominees	Support and guidance from council officers, regular meetings & correspondence.

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

Options for Consideration

1. Council appoints the applicants as recommended and listed in the recommendation to the Rural City of Wangaratta Youth Council Advisory Committee.
2. Council does not endorse the recommended applicants and seeks further nominations from the community.

Conclusion

The Rural City of Wangaratta's Youth Council is an Advisory Committee of Council, established to provide a voice for young people to engage with Council and the community.

Through the Youth Council Advisory Program, young people are given opportunities to –

- represent their peers;
- become involved in community activities;
- gain a wider understanding of community issues;
- advocate for youth projects and programs; and
- enhance their leadership skills.

The nomination process for the Youth Council has followed procedures outlined in Section 5 of the Youth Council Advisory Committee Charter.

The recommended members of the Youth Council Advisory Committee represent a diverse group of students united by a shared commitment to advocate for their peers. Through their roles, the nominees aim to foster positivity by promoting community engagement and organising events. They are interested in developing their leadership and advocacy skills while building confidence in their abilities.

Attachments

- 1 Recommended Youth Council members 2026 - Confidential

15.2 Tourism Events Funding Program 2026 (40:02)

Meeting Type:	Scheduled Council Meeting
Date of Meeting:	16 December 2025
Category:	Strategic
Author:	Economic Development & Tourism 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 obtain approval for the recommended events under the Tourism Events Funding Program 2026. The funding program is for events taking place between January and December 2026, and the allocated budget for this round of the program is \$40,000, which is divided into two streams:

- Annual grants stream;
- Three-year sponsorship stream.

Council received ten applications under the grant stream and five applications under the sponsorship stream with a total funding request of \$47,500. Of the \$40,000 allocated under this program, \$15,500 is already committed from successful sponsorship applications in previous years.

An assessment process has been undertaken of all applications, with a recommendation that events be funded as follows under each stream:

- Grants stream: \$20,000
- Sponsorship stream (per year over three-year): \$4,500 (plus \$15,500 already committed as above). Total sponsorships of \$20,000 per annum.

Resolution:

(Moved: Councillor T Maxwell/Councillor A Winters)

That Council:

1. Approves the recommended applicants for the 2026 Tourism Events Funding Program as per the confidential attachments.
2. Once approved discloses the successful applications.
3. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to utilise any unspent or returned funds, after consulting with the Councillors, to support any other tourism events taking place between January and December 2026, and align with Council's tourism strategies.

Carried

The successful applicants were disclosed by Cr Tania Maxwell (Appendix 1 and Appendix 2)

Background

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

The objectives of the Tourism Events Funding Program are to;

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

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

The total amount requested for this round was \$47,500 with an estimated economic value add to the local economy of \$3.7 million (*REMPPLAN*).

Applications were assessed against the program criteria including:

- Ability to attract visitation to the region;
- Potential to develop into a key tourism and/or visitor attraction event in the foreseeable future;
- Well-researched marketing plan targeting areas beyond the immediate municipality and other relevant criteria.

Following this assessment, one event is recommended to receive funding through a three-year Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) under the sponsorship stream and nine events are recommended to receive funding under the grant stream.

Four events were not recommended for funding as they did not; meet program criteria to attract visitation from outside of the region, develop into a key tourism event, maximise economic and community benefits to the municipality, or failure to meet obligations from previous grant funding.

One event was not recommended for funding, however it meets guidelines to be funded under the Event Attraction budget, administered by Council's Events Team.

Implications

Policy Considerations

Councils Grants and Sponsorship Policy was applied to the program guidelines and assessment process.

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

Financial/Economic Implications

Council has an allocation of \$40,000 to fund this program for 1 January to 31 December 2026. The recommendation on the current round under review is to allocate a total of \$24,500 to the successful applicants. Previous rounds of the sponsorship program allocated \$15,500 in 2024 and 2025 for a 3-year period.

Legal/Statutory

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

Social and Diversity

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

Equity Impact Assessment (EIA)

An Equity Impact Assessment was included as an assessment criterion for the grants and sponsorships applications. The aim is to increase events participation and awareness of cultural and gender diversity, accessibility and social inclusion when organising, promoting and running events.

Environmental/Sustainability Impacts

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

Strategic Links**Council Plan 2025 – 2029**

This report supports the Council Plan which includes the following strategic themes:

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

Rural City of Wangaratta 2033 Community Vision

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

This report supports the Economic Development and Tourism Strategy 2024-2029.

Risk Management

Risk Management Framework

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

Consultation/Communication

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

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

Options for Consideration

Option 1: (Recommended)

Council approves the allocation of a total of \$24,500 to fund the recommended ten events as part of the Tourism Events Funding Program for 2026 as listed in the attachments, plus the five existing sponsorships, totalling \$40,000. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to utilise any unspent or returned funding after consulting with Councillors, to support any other tourism future events taking place between January and December 2026 that align with Council's tourism strategies and funding guidelines.

Option 2: (Not Recommended)

Council rejects or amends the allocation of a total of \$40,000 to fund the recommended ten events, and five existing sponsorship as part of the Tourism Events Funding Program for 2026 and does not proceed with the program as per council officers' recommendations.

Conclusion

Following a detailed assessment, fifteen applications across both programs were reviewed and ten were recommended for funding. They are listed in attachments to this report, and it is requested that Council approves the recommended allocation to fund these events.

Attachments

- 1 Tourism Event Funding Recommendations - Grant - Confidential
- 2 Tourism Event Funding Recommendations - Sponsorship - Confidential

Public Questions (41:58)

Matthew Barry

I just wanted to clarify where the money comes from. This \$47,500, is that money from the Council towards these tourism events, correct? It's money from Council coffers to whatever these events are?

Mayor Irene Grant responded:

Yes, and some of it though, is supported by grants.

15.3 Level Up Youth - Youth Strategy (45:05)

Meeting Type:	Scheduled Council Meeting
Date of Meeting:	16 December 2025
Category:	Strategic
Author:	Youth Development 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.

Cr Allison Winters declared a General Conflict of Interest on the basis that in another role they deliver an event that is mentioned in the implementation plans.

Allison Winters left the meeting at 03:44 pm.

Executive Summary

This report is presented to Council to adopt the Level Up - Youth Strategy 2026-2030. Following the September Council meeting 2025, the draft was released for and community consultation.

Details about the community feedback received and how it has been considered are included in the Level Up Youth Strategy Consultation Evaluation Report (**Attachment 1**)

In response to the feedback received, Officers recommend minor changes to some of the actions included in the Implementation Plan. These changes have no impact on the Strategy's key pillars or priorities. The final draft of the strategy is included as (**Attachment 2**).

Resolution:

(Moved: Councillor A Fitzpatrick/Councillor T Maxwell)

That Council:

1. Considers the feedback received during the exhibition period for the draft Level Up - Youth Strategy 2026-2030
2. Adopts the Level Up - Youth Strategy 2026-2030.

Carried

Background

The draft Youth Strategy was shaped through broad consultation, of which we received 874 responses to reflect diverse voices. The Strategy provides clear direction for Council services and staff to respond to the priorities of young people aged 12–25 in the region. It aims to foster a safe, inclusive, and supportive environment that meets their social, recreational, artistic, and educational needs.

Guided by the principles of equity, accessibility, and inclusivity, the Strategy outlines a five-year action plan shaped by:

- The 2025 'What YOUTH Want' Census
- Input from the Co-Design youth representative group
- Expertise from Youth Gurus consultant & Council staff

The Strategy is built around **three key pillars**:

- Engage – Strengthen youth participation and connection
- Elevate – Support youth development and leadership
- Empower – Provide tools and opportunities for success

The Strategy identifies, **five priority areas**:

- Safety and Belonging
- Health and Wellbeing
- Youth Voices and Leadership
- Places and Spaces
- Participation in Education, Training and Work

During the public exhibition period of 30 days the draft was downloaded 69 times and received feedback from 24 individuals, reflecting strong community interest and engagement.

This phase was designed to invite community feedback and validate the insights gathered from the recent Youth Census. Specifically, we asked the community to help us determine whether the data accurately reflected their lived experiences and to identify which of the following priority areas should be addressed first. When participants were asked to identify which, single theme should be the focus for next year. Health and Wellbeing emerged as the most popular choice, closely followed by Places and Spaces.

The majority of people were happy with our shared vision for the strategy: *"Every young person in Wangaratta is supported to grow, lead, and shape their future, and our community, in a way that reflects their hopes, strengths, and potential."*

Feedback indicated that events were the most frequently mentioned theme, with clear differences in preferences across age groups. The feedback also highlighted the importance of Council not duplicating the role of educational institutions and service providers. In response, the language in the strategy has been revised to reflect a commitment to partnering with and supporting schools and organisations that deliver services to young people.

The Strategy will be reviewed annually in collaboration with Youth Council members, relevant stakeholders and service providers to ensure it remains responsive and relevant to our young people.

Implications

Policy Considerations

This Strategy is directly linked to the following policies or plans:

- Rural City of Wangaratta Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan (within the Rural City of Wangaratta Council Plan)

Financial/Economic Implications

The Strategy recommends and prioritise actions for Council to deliver. Cost associated with these actions will be reflected in project bids, through grants and operational budgets.

Legal/Statutory

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

Social and Diversity

The strategy promotes the wellbeing, safety, and social connection of young people by creating supportive environments and encouraging community participation. It empowers young people through leadership opportunities and involvement in decision-making processes. It also enhances access to education, training, and employment. The Strategy help to ensure that services are inclusive and equitable for all young people, regardless of background or identity. It incorporates diverse voices through co-design and consultation, ensuring that the needs of marginalised groups are addressed. The Strategy supports culturally safe and accessible spaces.

Equity Impact Assessment (EIA)

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

Environmental/Sustainability Impacts

The Youth Strategy recognises the importance of climate change and environmental sustainability to young people. As such, all environmental and sustainability impacts will be carefully taken into consideration during the delivery of the Implementation Plan.

Council Plan 2025 – 2029**Communiy Wellbeing**

1.1. Provide access to services and programs that enable people to live healthy, active, and inspired lives

1.2. People feel connected and included in the community

1.3. Ensure services and spaces are safe, accessible, inclusive and welcoming to everyone in our community

Economy and Tourism

3.2. Ensure residents can access local education and employment opportunities

Infrastructure and Place

4.2. Advocate, maintain and develop infrastructure that supports and enables our participation in the economy and community life

Rural City of Wangaratta 2045 Community Vision:

This report supports the 2045 Community Vision through the following objectives:

The Youth Strategy supports the objective of being a welcoming, connected, and caring for community by fostering inclusion, safety, and belonging for young people. It encourages strong social connections and engagement in our community.

It aligns with the goal of valuing our urban and rural communities by addressing the needs across diverse settings and promoting equitable access to services and opportunities.

The Strategy also supports the protection of our natural environment, recognising its importance to young people's wellbeing and cultural identity.

The Strategy contributes to building resilience and participation by empowering young people through programs, events, leadership and co-design, ensuring young people have a voice in shaping their future.

Other strategic links:

Mission Australia annual Survey Data [Youth Survey](#) | [Mission Australia](#)

ABS Census data 2021 [Snapshot of Australia, 2021](#) | [Australian Bureau of Statistics](#)

Risk Management

Risk Management Framework

Risks	Likelihood	Consequence	Rating	Mitigation Action
The youth strategy does not align with current trends of young people	3	moderate	5- medium	Feedback forms at events. Online polls. Live document. Annual review of Implementation Plan.
Services not partnering or supporting	2	minor	4- low	Engagement through Implementation Plan workshops and consultation, responding to services preferred method of meeting and working together.
Schools not partnering or supporting	2	minor	4- minor	Engagement through Implementation Plan workshops and consultation, responding to schools preferred method of meeting and working together.
Lack of resources to deliver the Implementation plan	3	moderate	6- medium	Resources for the delivery of the Strategy will be considered as part of regular budget process.

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, youth groups, services and individuals.
Consult	Yes	Consult with schools and community targeting a youth audience.

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 has occurred and the matter is now ready for Council consideration.

Options for Consideration

1. That Council adopts the draft Level Up - Youth Strategy 2026-2030 (**recommended**).
2. That Council does not adopt the draft Level – Up Youth Strategy 2026-2030 and further changes are considered (**not recommended**).

Conclusion

Submissions regarding the Youth Strategy have been considered and minor changes have been made to the Strategy in response. The Youth Strategy is ready for Council adoption.

Attachments

- 1 Level Up Youth Strategy Evaluation Report 
- 2 RCoW Level Up Youth Strategy 2026-2030 

Public Questions (46:13)

Clare Russell

I don't understand why there are things still in here that are covered by the Victorian Curriculum by all secondary schools and primary schools, and why Council would have their staff working on these items. One of these is the eSafety online program that schools have been covering extensively for 15 years. The other one is Mental Health Awareness Programs. Every kid in the state gets, from Foundation to Year 10, significant mental health programs. So I don't understand why Council thinks that's their business to be doing that when the Victorian Government funds significant amounts in secondary and primary schools in this area?

Mayor Irene Grant responded:

Part of it is about making that connection because I think there has been a bit of a gap between with what with our youth in practical terms, and what programs and services are actually delivered. And it's Council's intention to try and bring that together. I think, we don't actually want to do that work, because it is not our core business, and it is not our work to do, but I think part of the process is to actually encourage and strengthen the connection that perhaps has not been as strong as it could be

Cr Tania Maxwell added:

This was an opportunity for Cr Fitzpatrick and myself to have the information in that document so that we can also go into schools as Councillors to see how these programs are going for our young people and compare that to what our young people are telling us. It provides opportunities for us to then come back to Council and to liaise with schools and say this is what our young people are telling us about these programs.

Clare Russell:

But you do not have any influence on the Victorian Curriculum though, and that's decided in Melbourne and I'm backing the judgement of the Victorian Education Department and the Curriculum development authorities on that. Research shows that all that teaching around mental health, drug education, sex education, it is best delivered by the teacher in the classroom who students know and not disparate groups if you like and I know there are lots of them out there. I'm passionate about kids getting the right information in a classroom setting with their teacher and that's where that should come from.

Cr Tania Maxwell responded:

And I appreciate that Clare, and you're right. I think one thing that will come from this is that we as Councillors, can advocate to State Government in regard to some of their educational outcomes, outputs. We see a lot of contentious issues raised within social media within our news, about what is happening in schools, and we are certainly not there to dictate to the school and the education department, our role is to be there to listen to the young people and to get their thoughts on what they're being taught.

Cassandra Pollock:

My question is in relation to some terminology in Youth Strategy, and in the section at the end, where the action points are itemised, there's a section headed 'education and training', and there's a column where it lists who's responsible for delivering the action point and there's a description in there I don't know if I've seen before in a Council document. So one of the areas responsible for delivering the actions is the Youth Services area, I understand that responsibility, but there's a term 'Learning and Development'. So that's an area within Council. Could somebody explain what this area actually is? Where does it actually sit within Council? And what staff positions are involved in that 'Learning and Development' section in Council?

CEO Brendan McGrath responded:

The 'Learning and Development' team are part of a broader team which we call 'People and Culture'. Once upon a time people would have referred to them as Human Resources. These days, their roles are a little bit more diverse perhaps than they were in the past. We have one and a little bit people who are within that team who are responsible for delivering training courses across our organisation. They try to do that in a number of different ways to be more efficient. We use a number of online training programs which people can do in-house at their desk rather than travelling to another place offsite to join an external course. So that Learning and Development team is really responsible for understanding what the training needs across the organisation are, trying to prioritise the more important training opportunities, and try and find ways to deliver that efficiently within the organisation and avoid spending with outside organisations offsite like the way they used to be traditionally in the past.

Cassandra:

Would it be true to say this particular area in Council is largely focused on internal training, within the organisation of the Council, and this Youth Strategy document is bringing in a different chapter for Wangaratta where this team will be going out to the community and offering training to outside organisations?

CEO Brendan McGrath responded:

Yes, they are focussed on training our employees primarily. We don't have any intent to go out and start to deliver mainstream training to the broader community. It may be that with groups like our Youth Council, and people that are involved with the Youth Hub, and activities that are directly related to Council that they might be able to provide assistance in delivering training opportunities to those people, but it would certainly not be our intent to go out and start to compete with other external providers in the wider market. can benefit from training. Not intended for going out into the community to use the training.

Director Stephen Swart added:

Just to add, that section mainly talks about opportunities at the Rural City of Wangaratta for the most part. So things like work experience, also traineeships that we offer in some of our teams, and it also talks about something else that we have been doing which is offering a career day which is at one of the local schools. So those are the main things that it focuses on.

Allison Winters returned to the meeting at 3:55 pm.

15.4 Draft Reconciliation Action Plan (59:00)

Meeting Type:	Scheduled Council Meeting
Date of Meeting:	16 December 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

Council continues to be committed to reconciliation and the development of a Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP). This report to Council is to present the draft RAP, also referred to as 'Reflect' (**Attachment 1**) for the purposes of consultation.

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.

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 consultation.

If endorsed by Council, the draft RAP will be presented for community consultation and feedback to then be followed by submission for review by Reconciliation Australia. The process of consultation is unique to the RAP 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.

Resolution:

(Moved: Councillor H Benton/Councillor D Fuller)

That Council:

1. Considers the petition received from students and teachers of Galen Catholic College about Council's Reconciliation Action Plan, and;
2. Considers the petition received from Amanda Hogan about Council's Reconciliation Action Plan, and;
3. Endorses the draft Reconciliation Action Plan for the purposes of consultation, and;
4. Notes the First Nations Engagement Framework that will guide the local community consultation on the draft Reconciliation Action Plan.

Carried

Background

Council is committed to meaningful acts of reconciliation with and for our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. These acts include promoting and celebrating the heritage and cultural diversity of our community, including our First Nations history and culture, as expressed in the Council Plan.

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.

A draft RAP was presented to the August 2025 Council meeting and Council resolved to defer it to a future Council meeting no later than December 2025. Since then, officers have provided Councillors with an itemised list (**Attachment 3**) of the 13 actions, covering details of:

- what actions are already being delivered and what is new.
- what actions will be of additional cost to Council.

In response to Councillor feedback the following amendments have been made to the draft RAP:

- Wording adjustments to actions 5, 8 and 9 to replace the term '*develop a business case*' to '*research and obtain approval for costs associated with*'.
- Reference to the identifying Bpangerang names of our local towns and villages has been extended and highlighted under the heading of 'Our Business'.

A petition from students and teachers of Galen Catholic College and a second petition from Amanda Hogan has been received calling for Council to develop and endorse a Reconciliation Action Plan. The petitions are considered as part of this item.

Implications

Policy Considerations

Council's Community Engagement Policy applies to this report.

Financial/Economic Implications

A commitment to both the actions in the draft RAP and Engagement Strategy will incur operational budget requirements. A detailed audit of the 13 actions and the associated costs have been completed (see **Attachment 3**).

The approved 25/25FY budget for in the Reconciliation Project is \$10,000. Items proposed to be implemented from this budget will have a total cost of \$8200, they are:

- Guest speaker / educational costs NAIDOC Week - \$500
- First Nations Working Group Representation - \$1500
- Reconciliation Australia annual membership - \$2500
- Conduct a review of HR policies and procedures to identify existing anti-discrimination provisions - \$200
- Investigate Supply Nation membership. Annual Membership \$3500

The remaining actions are either ongoing, already being delivered or new with no associated costs.

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 2025-2029**

This report supports the 2025-2029 Council Plan through the following objectives and actions:

Community Wellbeing

- 1.1. Provide access to services and programs that enable people to live healthy, active, and inspired lives
- 1.2. People feel connected and included in the community
- 1.3. Ensure services and spaces are safe, accessible, inclusive and welcoming to everyone in our community
- 1.2.3 Promote and celebrate the heritage and cultural diversity of our community, including our First Nations history and culture via events, storytelling, exhibitions and programming.

Economy and Tourism

- 3.2. Ensure residents can access local education and employment opportunities

3.3.4 Create unique opportunities for cultural experiences, including partnerships with our First Nations community.

Infrastructure and Place

4.2. Advocate, maintain and develop infrastructure that supports and enables our participation in the economy and community life.

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

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.

Since 2021, internal consultation with Council staff has been ongoing, utilising resources from Reconciliation Australia and during significant dates like Reconciliation Week and NAIDOC Week. In late 2024, Council engaged a culturally neutral First Nations consultant to guide the process. This consultant facilitated early engagement with Aboriginal community members, helping to build the First Nations Engagement Framework."

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 consultation period will include:

- Community consultation in accordance with the Engagement Framework and Council's Community engagement Policy, such as,
 - Regular outreach visits to each stakeholder group, including local Aboriginal Corporations, Traditional Owners, Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCO's), education providers and community networks.
 - Hosting "Yarning Circles" to create an open, safe space for dialogue.
 - Establishing Cultural Ambassadors within each stakeholder group to act as liaison contacts.
- Submitting the draft RAP to Reconciliation Australia for feedback and review.

A petition containing 63 signatures from students and teachers of Galen Catholic College has been received. This petition asks for Council to take strong and immediate action by:

1. Developing and endorsing a Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) through Reconciliation Australia, to guide genuine engagement, accountability, and respect within our local community; and
2. Protecting and caring for Aboriginal cultural sites in partnership with Traditional Owners and Aboriginal community organisations.

A petition containing 69 wet signatures and 241 digital signatures from Amanda Hogan has been received. This petition calls on the Council of the Rural City of Wangaratta to:

1. Take urgent action to progress, endorse and adopt a 'Reconciliation Action Plan in partnership with our Indigenous Community' as a matter of high priority in the 2025-29 Council Plan.

This report also considers the petitions and responds by recommending that Council endorse the draft RAP for consultation. If endorsed the consultation process will provide further opportunities for community discussions about relevant key issues.

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 RCoW Reconciliation Action Plan - Reflect 
- 2 Draft First Nations Engagement Strategy 
- 3 Reconciliation Action Plan - Actions Audit 

15.5 Planning Application No. 25/078 - 15A Bruck Court, Wangaratta - Demolition of an Existing Caretakers Residence, Construction of Seven Townhouses, Reduction of Car Parking Requirements and 2-lot Subdivision (1:09:48)

Meeting Type:	Scheduled Council Meeting
Date of Meeting:	16 December 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 demolition of an existing dwelling (caretaker's residence), buildings and works for the construction of seven dwellings, reduction of car parking requirements and subdivision of land into two lots at 15A Bruck Court Wangaratta.

The subject site is located within the General Residential Zone – Schedule 1 and is affected by the Heritage Overlay (HO2).

A total of 18 objections were received to the application.

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 subject to conditions.

The copy of the application material is also included at **Attachment 2**.

A copy of the heritage citation for the HO2 is included at **Attachment 3**.

Resolution:

(Moved: Councillor I Grant/Councillor H Benton)

That Council:

1. Issue a Notice of Decision to Grant a Planning Permit for the demolition of an existing dwelling (caretaker's residence), buildings and works for the construction of seven dwellings, reduction of car parking requirements and subdivision of land into two lots at 15A Bruck Court Wangaratta, subject to the conditions outlined at **Attachment 1**.

Carried

Background

This report is presented to Council to determine Planning Application PInApp25/078 as the application received 18 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:

- Heritage significance
- Dwelling supply
- Traffic and parking
- Residential amenity

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**.

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 2025 - 2029

This report supports the Council Plan which includes the following strategic themes:

1. Community Wellbeing
2. Natural Environment

3. Economy and Tourism
4. Infrastructure and Place

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 site notice was placed on the land. To date, 18 objections have been received. Submissions have been considered as part of the assessment process.

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 PInApp25/078 subject to conditions (recommended);
- OR
2. Council issues a Notice of Refusal for Planning Application PInApp25/078.

Conclusion

The proposal is considered to represent an orderly planning outcome to support housing supply goals whilst providing a development that is sympathetic to the heritage significance of the site and surrounds. Therefore, it is recommended that the application is supported.

Attachments

- 1 Officers assessment 
- 2 Application material 
- 3 Heritage citation 

Public Questions (1:11:00)

Anne Shaw submitted the following questions for Item 15.5:

Question 1 - The main criteria used by both council and the applicant for the granting of this application is to 'support housing supply goals'. The applicant for 15A Bruck Court also has a pending application 25/021 for a 33 lot industrial subdivision at 19-81 Sisely Avenue (right next to Bruck Court). There is potential for 25/021 to be rezoned from industrial to residential which would significantly address the need for housing. I would like to propose that the decision on the application for 15A Bruck Court be held over until the application for the 33 lot subdivision has been considered. Could councillors please respond to this proposal?

Mayor Irene Grant responded:

Council has an obligation under the Planning and Environment Act to decide applications submitted to it on their own merits. In this case Council received an application for the demolition of an existing building and the construction of 7 new dwellings at 15A Bruck Court, Wangaratta. Council also has a separate application for an industrial subdivision at 19-81 Sisely Avenue. It would not be appropriate to delay making a decision on the application in front of Council to consider a theoretical rezoning of adjacent land. The application must be decided based on the current planning provisions.

Question 2 - Eighteen very comprehensive and detailed objections were submitted by community members and significant organisations opposing this application. These objections have since been supported by media articles and strong community interest. The Bruck Court precinct, in its entirety, has national heritage and cultural significance. I would like to ask councillors if they are meeting community expectations and concerns, and also adherence to their own heritage overlay, in their consideration of this application?

Mayor Irene Grant responded:

We recognise the strong community interest in this planning permit application. All objections have been considered as part of the officer's assessment of the application and heritage significance of the building and area has been part of the assessment. Officers have also considered all other matters required by the Planning and Environment Act and the Wangaratta Planning Scheme and on balance recommend that Council support the application subject to conditions. Both objectors and the applicant may challenge Council's decision through the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal.

Clare Russell

Can someone explain to me why Council has a Heritage overlay?

Reference to clause 02.03-5 Built Form and Heritage - Council seeks to encourage the restoration and reconstruction of heritage places in the heritage overlay. Encourage a built form that is proportionate in scale and respects places of identified heritage value.

The why would there be a recommendation to demolish that house and build 2 apartment blocks. I don't understand what the heritage overlay is there for.

Director Stephen Swart

The Heritage Overlay is part of a quite comprehensive Planning Scheme. It's one of the things we have to consider. The overlay functions as a permit trigger. So what it really says is that if you get an application on this land, with this overlay, you need to pay specific attention to this aspect. It doesn't rule out development as a starting point. It triggers a need for a permit. So when we get an application, we then know we need to look at this aspect, but we also have to look at a number of other aspects, including things like the zoning of the land, any other overlay. So in this case there's no other overlays, but sometimes we have multiple overlays on land, and then there's multiple other clauses within the scheme that we have to consider. So things like housing, car parking, design access, and so on and so forth. Our officers are then asked to look at all that information together, and make a recommendation on balance of all that information.

15.6 CBD Paid Parking (1:26:06)

Meeting Type:	Scheduled Council Meeting
Date of Meeting:	16 December 2025
Category:	Operational
Author:	Manager - Economic Development, Environment & Compliance
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

At the February 2025 Council meeting Council resolved to:

- Endorse the replacement the parking payment system in the Wangaratta CBD with the EasyPark App as the only payment method;
- Put appropriate and proactive arrangements in place to assist uptake by new users of the app;
- Request officers to consider and implement simple alternative payment or permit system for community members that do not have an appropriate device to use EasyPark or unable to use the app;
- Receive quarterly updates on how this system was progressing and a review report being submitted to Council in June 2026.

As part of the ongoing review process and to recognise public feedback about the available payment options (including a petition received in November), this report is presented to consider the installation of 10 car parking payment machines to the Wangaratta CBD to supplement the EasyPark app as the payment method for parking.

Resolution:

(Moved: Councillor H Bussell/Councillor H Benton)

That Council:

1. Considers the petition received in November and resolves to continue with paid parking in the Wangaratta CBD and amend the parking payment system as per point 2 below.
2. Endorses the procurement and installation of 10 car parking payment machines to be installed in selected locations around the high trafficked CBD areas.
3. Approves a budget variation for \$74,200.000 to purchase and install 10 car parking payment machines and the associated locational signage.

Carried

Background

Wangaratta CBD has had paid parking for many years. Prior to the February council decision to move to EasyPark App as the only payment method for parking, 72 car parking payment

machines that had reached their end of life were present in the CBD. Since the February Council decision, these machines have been removed.

Council also implemented a CBD Parking Voucher to assist those community members who could not use the app or their mobile phones did not support it. These vouchers are available as follows: Monthly, 6 Monthly and yearly and have provided an alternative payment system.

The EasyPark app has more than 4 million users in Australia and is available in many public and private parking areas across the ACT, New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania, Western Australia and Victoria.

After a period of assisting users with the payment system and implementing required signage and other associated information, the new payment system became fully operational in July. Usage of the app compared to last year is shown in the table below:

	No. of EasyPark app transactions	
	2024	2025
July	8280	14074
August	7857	13611
September	7131	14211
October	7807	15408
November	6732	13508
	37807	70812

Between July and the end of November 2025, a total of 6492 users completed their first parking session with EasyPark in the Wangaratta CBD.

In addition to the EasyPark app transactions, a total 256 parking vouchers have also been purchased to date.

Due to further community and visitor feedback, it has been noted that the vouchers are not suitable for those who infrequently visit or are vesting and passing through our CBD.

Council also received a petition in November containing 2212 signatures, requesting that Council “revert to a free, timed parking arrangement”. A letter from the lead petitioner calls for the current App only system to be supplemented by physical infrastructure such as parking meters.

In response to public feedback, it is proposed to install 10 car parking payment machines strategically located in high trafficked locations within the CBD. Proposed machine locations for further consideration are shown in **Attachment 1**.

It is proposed that the machines will operate using registration plate numbers and will not need printed tickets to be displayed in vehicles. This means any machine can be used and it eliminates the need to return to the parked vehicle. The proposed machines will not have a cash payment option.

Implications

Policy Considerations

No policies apply to this report.

Financial/Economic Implications

	Approved Budget for this proposal	This Proposal	Variance to Approved Budget	Comments
Expense – Meters	\$0	\$68,000	\$68,000	10 x Parking Meters (\$6,800 per machine)
Expense – Installation	\$0	\$5,000	\$5,000	Installation – footings
Expense – Location Signage	\$0	\$1,200	\$1,200	Meter Location Signage
Net Result ex GST	\$0	\$74,200	\$74,200	Budget Variation request FY25/26

Legal/Statutory

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

Social and Diversity

Provisions for payment types for car parking within the CBD area will offer a consistent and reliable approach for all members of the public.

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 2025 – 2029

This report supports the Council Plan which includes the following strategic themes:

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

Rural City of Wangaratta 2033 Community Vision

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

Risk Management Framework

Risks	Likelihood	Consequence	Rating	Mitigation Action
Community opposition to App only payment option	High	Moderate	High	Implementation of paid parking meters in select locations in major traffic areas of CBD
Removal of payment systems	Moderate	High	High	Maintain CBD car parking payment

Consultation/Communication

This report relates to community feedback on the current paid parking system and aims to address issues that have been raised by community members and visitors to the CBD area where accessing EasyPark App has not been possible nor purchasing of CBD parking vouchers practical.

This report also responds to a petition received by Council in November. The petition containing 2212 signatures, requested that Council reassess the parking within the Wangaratta CBD and “revert to a free, timed parking arrangement”. The petition was also accompanied by a separate letter from the lead petitioner asking for the current App only system for paid parking to be supplemented by physical infrastructure such as parking meters.

Options for Consideration

Council endorses the procurement and installation of 10 car parking payment machines to be installed in high trafficked areas of the CBD to supplement current available parking payment options.

Council does not endorse the procurement and installation of 10 car parking payment machines and continue with current available parking payment options only.

Option 3 (Not Recommended)

Council determines that a smaller number of machines be installed in the first instance, and this number could be further supplemented at a future point in time if required.

Option 4 (Not Recommended)

Removal of car parking payments from CBD area, time restrictions remain in place. This option will lead to loss of income and negative long term financial impacts. It will also reduce Council’s ability to provide and maintain car parking in the CBD, as well as maintaining the appearance of the CBD which is currently at a very high standard of presentation.

Conclusion

After review of the impacts of having EasyPark app and CBD voucher system in place for the past 5 months it is recommended that Council endorses the procurement and installation of 10 strategically placed car parking payment machines.

The proposed machines will provide an additional payment option for parking within the CBD and will help to address the issue of community members and visitors to the CBD not being able to access or use the EasyPark App or where the voucher system is not practical.

Paid car parking in the CBD helps ensure Council can provide and maintain car parking in the CBD at current standards and continues a 'user pays' approach.

Attachments

- 1 Proposed CBD - Parking Map x10 meters 

Public Questions (1:26:54)

Adrian Fox submitted the following questions:

Could council please consider introducing a \$2 weekly parking vouchers.

The current monthly parking voucher can be purchased in multiples 1, 6, and 12 months and is annotated with a VALID TO date calculated at the time of purchase.

I suggest that the \$2 weekly voucher be purchasable in ANY multiple and be similarly annotated with a calculated VALID TO DATE. The cost being simply \$2 times the number of weeks purchased and the VALID TO date, which is already calculated using the number of months, can be so calculated using the number of weeks.

The \$2 weekly voucher would give greater flexibility to the consumer, and would fit everyone's budget, especially those 'cash paying' parkers who used to pay with a few coins in the meter but are now challenged by the upfront cost of the monthly vouchers.

Please introduce \$2 weekly parking vouchers.

Mayor Irene Grant responded:

We do not support introducing weekly vouchers at this time as the recommended introduction of parking machines to supplement the current payment system will provide sufficient payment options for users of paid parking areas.

Current payment options available include the EasyPark App and voucher options for those not using the app. Introducing machines in the CBD will provide a further convenient payment option for those not using the app.

Weekly vouchers would increase the administrative burden and operational costs without delivering long term benefits.

Free parking options remain available in specific locations in the CBD.

Matthew Barry submitted the following questions:

I have noted within the agenda for tomorrow's council meeting the proposed solution to the issue of paid parking within the CBD appears to be the provision of 10 physical parking meters. I have also

noted the locations in which these meters are proposed to be installed and can see that it appears to be entirely inadequate.

For example the main shopping precinct on Reid Street running from Murphy St to Ovens St includes the provision of one single meter to service the entire street. There is also only 1 meter per side of the street on Murphy St on each side of the main intersection. The distance served by each of these meters is far too great and I would suggest that this number needs to be increased substantially.

In addition to this the petition was submitted on the basis that the people of the town wanted 'Free Timed Parking' which has not been adequately addressed in this solution.

The people of the town & greater region have stated clearly that they are unhappy with the Easy Park system and have done so in great numbers hence the 2212 strong petition that was submitted. I firmly believe that this proposal does not go anywhere near far enough in alleviating the problem with the current system as implemented.

As I see it there is no mention of providing more meters in the future, nor is there any mention of working towards Free Parking which is the point of the exercise.

How do we progress from here??

Mayor Irene Grant responded:

Public feedback has been considered as part of this item. The petition referred to expressed dissatisfaction with the app only payment system and called for free, timed parking. The petition was also accompanied by a letter from the lead petitioner asking for the current payment system to be supplemented by physical infrastructure such as parking meters.

The first part of the officer's recommendation is focused specifically on the petition and the consideration of paid parking in the CBD. It recommends that Council continues with paid parking, but amend the payment system by installing 10 payment machines.

The machines will work using registration numbers and users will be able to use any of the machines as they will cover the entire CBD.

This recommendation intends to provide adequate payment options for those that choose to use paid parking areas.

In addition to the paid parking sufficient free parking options remain available in the CBD.

Lorraine Monshing

If there is only one meter here and there, how do I walk all that way to the meter and back when I am physically restricted? Why don't you double or triple the number of meters to reduce distance for those physically impaired.

CEO Brendan McGrath responded:

Firstly, I don't know if you qualify for a disability parking permit. Otherwise there are a number of options:

- *Convenience of the app*
- *Parking vouchers also available*
- *Park in a location that's not paid parking*

The very high cost of meters is the reason for removing them from every single bay.

Lorraine

Is there any possibility of more meters?

Mayor Irene Grant responded:

Maybe.

Trudi Weary

Compared to last year at this time, not including the free period, is there a significant change in the money collected? Have you lost money?

Director Stephen Swart responded:

I don't have the dollar figures, but I do have the number of transactions that we've had on the EasyPark app compared to last year.

37807 transactions Jul-Nov last year

70812 this year

You would then have to add the other options available, so the voucher system, we would have sold a number of vouchers there, and that would come with some income as well.

plus vouchers

The reality is that at this time last year we were probably at the end of life of our meters and we probably didn't get a lot of coins.

Trudi

On this app now where you've got to put your credit card details in, who is liable if my bank gets hacked?

Mayor Irene Grant responded

Council is not liable.

CEO Brendan McGrath responded:

There's a process you go through with your bank in that situation. There's a process that all banks follow when things have been charged incorrectly, you challenge those with the banks, and the banks, in my experience, are very diligent about stopping those payments and following them up.

:

16. Special Committee Reports

Nil

17. Advisory Committee Reports

Nil

Unconfirmed

18. Minutes of Advisory Committee Meetings

18.1 Minutes of Advisory Committee Meetings (1:50:32)

Meeting Type: Scheduled Council Meeting
Date of Meeting: 16 December 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
6 October 2025	Arts and Culture Advisory Committee	Attachment
10 November 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 ACAC Minutes - October 2025 
- 2 ACAC Minutes - November 2025 

19. Notices of Motion

Nil

20. Urgent Business

21. Public Question Time (1:51:22)

<p>21.1 (1:51:36)</p>	<p>Karen Deans asked a question at the November Scheduled Council Meeting which was taken on notice.</p> <p>So my second part of that question would then be considering that the Council does have the budget, that the vision and scope is quite clear for Council, from Council's perspective of their communities, that the green wheelie bins have been available as a resident of Wangaratta when I lived in town for over 10 years, and yet elderly residents, well over their 80s and 90s, do not have that facility available to them out of town and they've been rate payers for 40-50 years in Wangaratta.</p> <p><i>Regarding the question taken on notice at the November meeting about the cost of waste services, how they are paid for, and Council's current position on service delivery, particularly concerning green waste services for out-of-town residents like those in Tarrowingee, I would like to clarify the following:</i></p> <p><i>Waste services operate on a user-pays system, meaning residents only pay for the services they receive. It is a common misconception that payment of rates automatically entitles one to waste services. Waste charges are separate service charges, and detailed information about these charges can be found on the Council's website.</i></p> <p><i>As for the rollout of further waste services, including green waste services, the Council's position is to await further direction from the state government. This approach is to ensure that we understand the required services for smaller communities such as Tarrowingee. Once we have clear guidance, the Council is prepared to take the necessary steps to implement these services.</i></p> <p><i>All residents in the municipality have access to tip vouchers and a free green waste moth to assist with the cleanup.</i></p>
<p>21.2 (1:53:46)</p>	<p>Joan McKenzie</p> <p>Wangaratta Planning Scheme Amendment C86 which was in The Chronicle on December 10, 2025.</p> <p>What amendment was passed by the Victorian Planning Committee?</p>

	<p><i>Director Stephen Swart responded:</i></p> <p><i>Wangaratta Planning Scheme Amendment C86 is a combined planning scheme application and rezoning of land in Clarkes Lane. It's a residential subdivision, so that's the planning permit side. But to do that, they need to rezone the land that the subdivision is on, and that we call a combined process.</i></p> <p><i>That process is a lengthy process with a number of steps and that also includes a process where we give notice to the community and ask for feedback. And what you are talking about there is the very last step in the process. So it would have gone through a process of exhibition asking for community feedback, it would have come to this Council for a decision at some point, it would have gone through a planning panel which is an independent panel that looks at all the issues surrounding that proposal, and the very last step is that we submit it to state government for final approval. And what you are referring to is that step, where the Minister for Planning approved that proposal recently.</i></p>
21.3 (2:00:00)	<p>Anne Dunstan</p> <p>Through the chair, Director Goonan, when we get to the point where rural towns are being reviewed for waste management, can we please make sure that involves the whole community of Tarrawingee, rather than just one Tarrawingee resident that believes the whole of Tarrawingee needs a service?</p> <p><i>Director Marcus Goonan responded:</i> <i>Unfortunately probably what will happen is that the State Government will tell us what we need to do, and we will implement that because that will be the requirement under the Act.</i></p> <p>My second question to the chair, is that the map that the parking meters was attached to, how often is that reviewed? I can tell you that you have 2 accessibility car parks in the wrong position.</p> <p><i>Mayor Irene Grant responded:</i> <i>Thank you Anne, much appreciated.</i></p>

22. Confidential Business

Nil

23. Closure of Meeting

The Meeting closed at 5:02pm.



Appendix 1

Recommendations for Tourism Event Funding Program 2026 - Grants

Event Organiser	Event and Details	Panel Recommendations	Funding
Wangaratta Lawn Tennis, Croquet & Pickleball Club Inc	<p>100th Australia Day Tournament – 23-25 January – <i>Requested \$5,000</i></p> <p>2026 marks the holding of Wangaratta Lawn Tennis Club's 100th Australia Day Tournament. This prestigious event is a major fixture in the Victoria Tennis calendar, but in 2026 they will be celebrating 100 years of the event.</p> <p>The tournament has a huge following in the Victorian Tennis community, and it is hoped it will receive record entries for the 100th edition.</p>	<p>Milestone event</p> <p>Club does a lot on their own regarding holding events throughout the year that attract people from afar, and work closely with larger bodies such as Tennis Victoria, without reaching out for assistance from council.</p>	\$3000
Wangaratta Stingrays Swim Club	<p>2026 Short Course Twilight Meet – 11 April - <i>Requested \$2000</i></p> <p>This is a new event for 2026, as a gap was identified. There are only a few Short Course meets, which are held after a break in training: reducing the opportunity to gain qualifying times while in peak fitness. A twilight meet adds excitement of swimming under lights.</p> <p>Event style inclusions- music, prizes, raffles and food trucks</p>	<p>Aligns with RCOW's Event and Attraction Strategy.</p> <p>Activates WSAC- in particular the outdoor pool.</p> <p>New concept of food trucks and musicians, creating an event feel.</p> <p>Identified a gap in the swim meet calendar.</p>	\$2000



Milawa Cheese Company	<p>Cheese Ball- 22 August - Requested \$2000</p> <p>A Black Tie featuring 5 courses matched to Brown Brothers Wines and catered by AVA. Showcasing Milawa Cheeses.</p> <p>Held at the historic Milawa Butter Factory, home to Milawa Cheese Company.</p>	<p>High spending visitor</p> <p>Aligns with RCOW and TNE pillars: unique food experience, overnight stays and highlighting the gourmet region.</p> <p>Marketing potential is exceptional</p>	\$1500
Wangaratta Festival of Jazz & Blues	<p>Wangaratta Festival of Jazz & Blues 2026 – 30 Oct-2 Nov – Requested \$5000</p> <p>The Wangaratta Festival of Jazz & Blues is one of Australia's premier regional music festivals, held annually over three days in Wangaratta and King Valley.</p> <p>The Festival presents a dynamic program of jazz and blues performances, featuring acclaimed national and international artists alongside new talent.</p>	<p>New committee is working extremely hard to bring this festival back to what it was known and loved for and are proactively applying for grants and philanthropic funding to support their event.</p> <p>They are also working hard to find a sustainable model to run the event well into the future.</p>	\$5000
Triumph of Good Incorporated	<p>Latin Night – 25 September - Requested \$2000</p> <p>Latin Night at Henley's Wine Bar & Kitchen in Milawa. The event will feature the internationally acclaimed Latin band Vatos Locos, delivering a high-energy evening concert paired with the region's renowned food and wine.</p> <p>To maximise accessibility and inclusion, the program will also include a free community workshop at 1:00pm, where participants can experience Latin rhythms, dance, and music in an interactive setting.</p>	<p>New event</p> <p>Aligns with councils Events and Attractions Strategy to increase diversity of events and inclusivity.</p> <p>Niche community will travel afar for a cultural event, yet welcoming and exciting event for the local community.</p>	\$2000
Wangaratta Rod & Custom Club	<p>Wangaratta Rod & Custom Club Rod Run – 6-9 March – Requested \$2000</p> <p>A weekend gathering of car devotees to Wangaratta and district touring and displaying their pride and joy.</p>	<p>Bringing atmosphere to the streets also entices visitors and locals alike to explore the CBD at night, increasing the nighttime economy and filling restaurants and bars.</p>	\$2000



Wangaratta Festival of Jazz & Blues	<p>Wangaratta Festival of Jazz & Blues 2026 – 30 Oct-2 Nov – <i>Requested \$5000</i></p> <p>The Wangaratta Festival of Jazz & Blues is one of Australia's premier regional music festivals, held annually over three days in Wangaratta and King Valley.</p> <p>The Festival presents a dynamic program of jazz and blues performances, featuring acclaimed national and international artists alongside new talent.</p>	<p>New committee is working extremely hard to bring this festival back to what it was known and loved for and are proactively applying for grants and philanthropic funding to support their event.</p> <p>They are also working hard to find a sustainable model to run the event well into the future.</p>	\$5000
Triumph of Good Incorporated	<p>Latin Night – 25 September - <i>Requested \$2000</i></p> <p>Latin Night at Henley's Wine Bar & Kitchen in Milawa. The event will feature the internationally acclaimed Latin band Vatos Locos, delivering a high-energy evening concert paired with the region's renowned food and wine.</p> <p>To maximise accessibility and inclusion, the program will also include a free community workshop at 1:00pm, where participants can experience Latin rhythms, dance, and music in an interactive setting.</p>	<p>New event</p> <p>Aligns with councils Events and Attractions Strategy to increase diversity of events and inclusivity.</p> <p>Niche community will travel afar for a cultural event, yet welcoming and exciting event for the local community.</p>	\$2000
Wangaratta Rod & Custom Club	<p>Wangaratta Rod & Custom Club Rod Run – 6-9 March – <i>Requested \$2000</i></p> <p>A weekend gathering of car devotees to Wangaratta and district touring and displaying their pride and joy.</p>	<p>Bringing atmosphere to the streets also entices visitors and locals alike to explore the CBD at night, increasing the nighttime economy and filling restaurants and bars.</p>	\$2000



Da Vinci Social Club	<p>3 Day Rock and Roll Festival – 24-26 July - Requested \$2000</p> <p>3 day and night rock and roll dancing with live music. This will be the 3rd time DVSC will hold this event.</p> <p>Held annually in July so that it fits in with the rest of the Australia wide rock and roll festival calendar.</p>	<p>Applied for Sponsorship- Grant recommended.</p> <p>Up and coming event, that is gaining momentum on the Rock and Roll circuit. Enthusiasts travel from further afield in past years.</p> <p>Great to support for growth.</p>	\$1000
Red Feet Wines	<p>Heart of the King Valley: King Valley Winemakers Dinner – 27 July – Requested \$2000</p> <p>An intimate winter wine dinner showcasing Red Feet Wines, La Cantina, and King River Estate, hosted at Hobbldehoy with a six-course entrée-sized menu paired with six wines.</p> <p>Each winemaker introduces their wine, creating storytelling and authenticity. Dinner by wood fire enhances the winter escape atmosphere.</p>	<p>Smaller niche event. Meets tourism pillars. New event, collaboration between small scale wineries. Potential for people to see the advertising in places that we usually do not promote our region in. Luxury market, who will stay in region and spend extra money.</p> <p>This type of event that is not highly addressed by councils events team, however it has been highlighted as a type of event that would be appealing to the community and beyond.</p>	\$1500



Brookfield Maze	<p>Makietie at the Maze –25-27 September - Requested \$5000</p> <p>Makietie at the Maze is designed to bring South African families together to celebrate their rich culture through food and community.</p> <p>We aim to develop the event into one of the most prominent multi-day South African festival in Australia, where our people all over Australia will come together to celebrate their heritage and connect with our nationwide community.</p>	<p>Applied for Sponsorship- Grant recommended.</p> <p>Aligns with councils Events and Attractions Strategy to increase diversity of events and inclusivity.</p> <p>Niche community will travel afar for a cultural event, yet welcoming and exciting event for the local community.</p>	\$2000
TOTAL		RECOMMENDED FUNDING	\$20 000



Appendix 2

Recommendations for Tourism Event Funding Program 2026-2028 - Sponsorship

Event Organiser	Event and Details	Panel Recommendations	Funding
Oxley Shire Hall Community Asset Committee	<p>Oxley Bush Market - 7 November– Requested \$4500</p> <p>The Oxley Bush Market is an annual market that is hosted on the Saturday of the November long weekend.</p> <p>The event supports local producers and makers from North East Victoria, with gourmet food and drink options, entertainment and a beautiful country town vibe. Now in it's 44th year, it has become a staple for many visitors to the area for the Jazz Festival weekend.</p> <p>The market is run by an army of local Oxley volunteers, who plan throughout the year for a seamless market day and are proud to showcase their town and local region to visitors.</p>	<p>Long running event, historically self-sufficient, however running costs and regulations have increased considerably- such as traffic management.</p> <p>Great compliment to jazz festival, encouraging jazz attendees to explore our smaller towns, including the Milawa Gourmet Region and King Valley.</p> <p>Highly sought market for stall holders. The marketing potential exceeds the market organisers and jazz festival, with each of the 130+ stall holders likely to do their own advertng of the event as well.</p>	\$4500
TOTAL		RECOMMENDED FUNDING	\$4500



Committed Sponsorship from previous Tourism Event Funding Program Rounds

Event Organiser	Event and Details	Sponsorship Period	Funding p/a
Wines of the King Valley	La Dolce Vita	2024-2026	\$5000
Vigor Coaching	King Valley Challenge	2024-2026	\$2500
North East Sports	Wangaratta Marathon	2025-2027	\$5000
Wangaratta Rod & Custom Club	Wangaratta Swap Meet	2025-2027	\$3000
Wangaratta Historic Motor Show & Fly In Committee	Wangaratta Historic Motor Show and Fly In – Bi-annual 2025 & 2027	2025-2027	\$0 in 2026 \$5000 in 2027
TOTAL		COMMITTED FUNDING 2026	\$15 500
		TOTAL SPONSORSHIP	\$20 000