



STRATHBOGIE SHIRE COUNCIL

Notice is hereby given that a Special Meeting of the Strathbogie Shire Council will be held on Tuesday 14 May 2019 at the Euroa Community Conference Centre commencing at 5.00 p.m.

Chair:	Amanda McClaren (Mayor)	(Lake Nagambie Ward)
Councillors:	Debra Bower	(Lake Nagambie Ward)
	Malcolm Little	(Hughes Creek Ward)
	John Mason	(Seven Creeks Ward)
	Kate Stothers	(Honeysuckle Creek Ward)
	Alistair Thomson	(Mount Wombat Ward)
	Graeme (Mick) Williams	(Seven Creeks Ward)
Officers:	Phil Howard - Acting Chief Executive Officer / Director, Innovation and Performance (DIP)	
	David Roff - Group Manager, Corporate and Community (GMCC)	
	Jeff Saker - Group Manager, Community Assets (GMCA)	

BUSINESS

1. Welcome
2. Acknowledgement of Traditional Land Owners
*'I acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land on which we are meeting.
I pay my respects to their Elders, past and present'*
3. Apologies

Steve Crawcour - Chief Executive Officer (CEO)
4. Disclosure of Interests
5. Petitions
6. Reports of Council Officers
 - 6.1 Climate Change
 - 6.2 Infrastructure
 - 6.3 Private Enterprise
 - 6.4 Public Institutions
 - 6.5 Housing and Recreation
 - 6.6 Tourism
 - 6.7 Organisation
7. Urgent Business

8. Closure of Meeting to the Public to consider matters listed for consideration in accordance with Section 89(2) of the Local Government Act 1989
9. Confirmation of 'Closed Portion' Decision/s

Phil Howard
ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

10 May 2019

An audio recording of this meeting is being made for the purpose of verifying the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting, as per Local Law No. 1 - Meeting Procedure (2014) or as updated from time to time through Council Resolution

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6. REPORTS

6.7 ORGANISATION

6.7.1 Draft Sustainable Strathbogie 2030 Strategy - Receiving / Hearing of Submissions

Author & Department

Team Leader Climate Change and Environment / Community Assets Department

Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest in relation to advice provided in this report

The author of this report and officers/contractors providing advice in relation to this report do not have a direct or indirect interest, as provided in accordance with the Local Government Act 1989.

Summary

The draft Sustainable Strathbogie 2030 strategy was presented to Council at its Ordinary Council meeting held on 19 March 2019 and formally endorsed for presentation to the community in order to receive feedback.

Submissions closed on Friday 3 May 2019. Eighteen submissions to the draft Strategy were received, with four submitters requesting to be heard by Council in support of their submissions. Details of all submissions have been provided to Councillors for their information.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That Council resolves to -

- 1. Receive and note the submissions received in response to the public advertisement of the draft Sustainable Strathbogie 2030 Strategy.**
- 2. Hear those who wish to be heard in support of their written submissions.**
- 3. Formally consider all received submissions and the adoption of the Sustainable Strathbogie 2030 Strategy at the Ordinary Meeting of Strathbogie Shire Council to be held on Tuesday 18 June 2019.**

Background

Community Consultation for the draft Sustainable Strathbogie 2030 Strategy was undertaken during April and May. Council utilised its 'Your Say' online platform with a community forum, survey and digital copies of the Strategy available for use.

Submissions from Statutory Authorities, community members, and local groups were received during the consultation period for the draft Sustainable Strathbogie 2030 Strategy.

6.7.1 Draft Sustainable Strathbogie 2030 Strategy
- Receiving / Hearing of Submissions (cont.)

The Team Leader Climate Change and Environment coordinated five Drop In Sessions at Euroa, Avenel, Nagambie, Violet Town and Strathbogie.

Our survey engaged 61 participants from all walks of life. Participants overwhelmingly felt climate change and the environment was an important issue for them, as many had experienced extreme weather and climate events which has impacted their family, health, livelihood and wellbeing.

Alternative options

All options are considered and recommended to Council.

Risk Management

The author of this report considers that there are no significant Risk Management factors relating to the report and recommendations.

Strategic links - policy implications and relevance to Council Plan

The author of this report considers that the report is consistent with Council Policies, key strategic documents, including the draft Sustainable Strathbogie 2030 Strategy.

Best Value / National Competition Policy (NCP) / Competition and Consumer Act 2010 (CCA) implications

The author of this report considers that the report is consistent with Best Value, National Competition Policy and competition and consumer Act requirements have been considered and applied in development of the report and recommendations.

Financial/Budgetary implications

The author of this report considers that the recommendations have no capital or recurrent budget considerations.

Economic implications

The recommendations lead to positive economic outcomes for Council and the broader community.

Environmental/Amenity implications

The recommendations lead to positive environmental and amenity outcomes for Council and the broader community.

Community implications

The recommendations lead to more equitable engagement outcomes for Council and the broader community.

Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006

The author considers that the recommendations do not limit, rather they extend, human rights under the Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006.

Legal/Statutory implications

The author of this report considers that the recommendations have no legal or statutory implications which require the consideration of Council.

6.7.1 Draft Sustainable Strathbogie 2030 Strategy
- Receiving / Hearing of Submissions (cont.)

Consultation

The Sustainable Strathbogie 2030 community and broader consultation was undertaken within the guidelines of Strathbogie Shire Council and the Local Government Act 1989.

Attachments

- Details of Submissions

SUBMISSIONS
DRAFT SUSTAINABLE STRATHBOGIE 2030 STRATEGY

No.	Date	Comments
1	14/04/2019	<p>I request that the Strathbogie Shire Council adopts the Climate Emergency Plan. Even though our Federal parliament is falling WAY behind on climate action, I am confident that if all councils act, we really can make a significant impact in halting temperature rise, CO2 emissions and the life ending impacts of inaction on climate change</p> <p>More information here: http://www.caceonline.org/a-guide-for-councils.html and here: https://climateemergencydeclaration.org/climate-emergency-declarations-cover-15-million-citizens/</p>
2	2/05/2019	<p>Waste Education Communicate the Shire's achievements better Grants for sustainable programs by the Shire</p>
3	25/03/2019	<p>Comments regarding connections to GBCMA, linking at a Catchment and expanding mention of our partnership with the Goulburn Broken Greenhouse Alliance and other partners. Also mentions of potential project partnerships, both new and existing that may emerge from the SS2030 Strategy.</p>
4	30/04/2019	<p>Impressed with the Sustainable Strathbogie 2030 Strategy.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reduce the 'Maccas Pollution Syndrome' at the Euroa Highway Service Centre and other fast food outlets through out the Shire. All packaging, including drink bottles, must be recyclable. Relevant bins must be fitted , checked and sorted by the outlets. Food waste must go into composting bins. 2. Shire to produce compost and make it available to ratepayers. 3. Introduce 'shopping busses' to Benalla / Shepparton. They should have a fare structure affordable by pensioners. Timetables must be well advertised. 4. Trees on farms. The resulting carbon sink \$-value can be purchased back by the Shire as part of their 'Carbon off set'. 5. Declare farmers / rural land owners as curators rather than land users. Assist them through rate reductions etc with waterways- / dam- fencing, afforestation and erosion stopping. 6. Install a sense of 'Taking responsibility for' into the Shire's rate payers / population.
5	15/04/2019	<p>We need to do far more to establish vegetation in our towns- the moderating effect of trees is well known, and larger (farms)landowners need to plant at least 30% of their land in trees and understory plants.</p>

6	28/04/2019	<p>Encourage all property owners to plant locally indigenous drought tolerant trees to increase canopy cover, create cooling and shade for people and animals and habitat for wildlife.</p> <p>Encourage grey water use, encourage all commercial business to minimise packaging, especially non-compostable packaging.</p> <p>Encourage the local sale of local produce to support local producers and minimise the carbon footprint. Encourage landholders (and tenants) to avoid excess packaging of goods and compost or recycle green waste.</p> <p>Create real incentives to preserve natural vegetation on private land and massively increase fines and policing of illegal clearing of natural vegetation (including firewood collection on protected roadsides).</p>
7	30/04/2019	<p>I'd love to see many more waste-free events. It would also be great to establish community stashes of crockery, cutlery, glasses and bunting or decorations that can be used at these events and also to be available for people to host their own waste free gatherings. Sourced from op shops, garage sales or businesses who have closed down.</p> <p>I'd like to see our waste transfer stations transformed into centres for recycling, repairing and reselling. Much like what is already happening at Eaglehawk http://www.eaglehawkrecycleshop.com/eg:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Waste sorted into goods suitable for resale at the on site shops - Waste further sorted into goods to be repaired onsite by volunteers for resale - Goods such as washing machines, bikes, gazebo parts stored and used for repairs & sales - Establishing a 'Repair Cafe' on site with volunteers to help people repair their broken goods <ul style="list-style-type: none"> with materials available from the transfer station. - Collect, recycle and resell packing polystyrene (as Eaglehawk does now) - Have a hard plastic shredding machine to provide materials for a 3D printer that could be <ul style="list-style-type: none"> available for schools, community groups and small business start ups - Have more onsite recycling programs available eg Redcycle for soft plastics, terracycle programs https://www.terracycle.com

8	28/04/2019	Free mulch for the passionate gardeners of Euroa. More indigenous plantings in public areas. A place to recycle building waste/furniture etc. at the waste transfer depot.
9	17/04/2019	We are extremely happy with our Bogie Bulk Buy solar system and would encourage the Council to use this model in other ways to save energy and water.
10	15/04/2019	We have booked in with the Strathbogie bulk buy and very much looking forward to the installation of our system later this year.
11	8/04/2019	Our home was built in 1998. It has a large exposed area virtually the length of the house to the North East. We retro fitted double glazing over the last 12 months. Our home was never uncomfortably hot during this last summer. In addition the use of the water cooled ducted system was significantly reduced. There is plenty of information out there about keeping your home both cooler in summer and warmer in winter. Workshops are unnecessary. Cost of retro fitting is the real issue.
12	8/04/2019	Roads and access to properties. Clear signage. Signage for business clearly and non intrusive
13	17/04/2019	An important and effective climate change amelioration action (with additional benefits) is to maintain and increase the area and health of both native vegetation in the Shire and shade trees in urban areas of the Shire. Native vegetation will come under increased stress as temps are projected to increase and rainfall decrease. Instruments include: Roadside management plan. Rate relief for permanently protected, high quality habitat. Partnerships with community conservation groups and Agencies. 'Urban forest' concept. Value of the services urban shade trees provide to local economies and community health.
14	21/04/2019	I believe the Shire has a great opportunity to develop the potential of our local pools - as a place of refuge, but also as an area that provides a social hub in summer months. The Shires pools provide relief in times of extreme heat, high fire risk and give the community a place to cool off in safety. It is especially important for disadvantaged members of the community who may not have effective air conditioning. As our climate gets hotter, our pools become more important. Our pools are currently neglected and require funding so they can be more attractive and inviting, provide more shade and be a place that families and community members can spend more time at.

<p>15</p>	<p>23/04/2019</p>	<p>It is critical that all governments (including local govts) plan and ACT urgently on the Climate Change. We are in a Climate Emergency - and we must adopt appropriate measures NOW to deal with these challenges. We just endured the hottest summer on record. In Port Augusta the thermometer hit 49.5 degrees. Across the country more than 200 temperature records were broken. Nine of the 10 warmest years in Australia's records have occurred since 2005. Communities have no water. Flying foxes are dropping dead from the trees. Up to a million fish have died in the parched Murray-Darling an ongoing environmental, social and economic catastrophe. We have been warned that without urgent action, the Darling will die. The bushfire season is starting earlier and different kinds of forests are burning, one in Tasmania stands over 1,000 years old. Flooding is more frequent and rainfall patterns are changing. Our ecosystems are being driven to collapse. The north has flooded, the south is parched by drought. Rivers are dying and forests are burning. We are living the reality of climate change. We must stop time-wasting and start changing the way we farm, the way we eat, the way we travel, the way we do everything !! Strathbogie Shire Council (SSC) could start by signing up to the Climate Emergency Plan. SSC could allocate substantial budget funds to ensuring environmental initiatives are not just flagged, but implemented. Water use, land use, waste treatments, building codes, energy production, etc. etc. are just some of the issues requiring urgent attention - time is short, we need to get serious.</p>
<p>16</p>	<p>28/04/2019</p>	<p>Love the Idea of Action Plan Item 6.08 (I think that's the number!) dealing with engagement with Traditional Elders and others in creating an Indigenous Living History Park in town. I'd love to see: (1) a "Living History Park" established in Seven Creeks Park (eg close to existing Rotunda and BBQs perhaps?) with signage reminding visitors that this was originally Taungurung country (and mentioning any other traditional owners from other groups if relevant); (2) a section of the Euroa Arboretum designated an Indigenous Garden (similar to the one beside Benalla Lake, perhaps?) featuring and identifying traditional / Indigenous uses for some of the plants in the region; (3) Information made available to those living in the Shire as to possible plants for their gardens that have both an Indigenous 'history' and are also water friendly / native wildlife friendly and also possibly useful in the home (eg herbs, edible plants, medicinal plants etc). But no matter what the form, some sort of permanent, easily accessible acknowledgement is well overdue.</p>

17	2/05/2019	<p>The projections are, that in 2050, Strathbogie Shire will experience average temperatures 3.2 degrees higher than current. This will have a large impact on the liveability of the town and also on the health of our residents Recent research from US showed that tree canopy cover of greater than 40% had the effect, in urban environments, of reducing temperatures by 3 per cent. (Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences if the USA. https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.1817561116). Note that the reduction in temperature was not proportional to tree cover and really only kicked in once canopy cover reached 40%.</p> <p>Google Earth images suggest that Euroa probably has a canopy cover of maybe 10% with the more affluent areas being slightly better. We would like to recommend that the Shire adopt a long term strategy to mitigate the effect of increased temperatures by embarking on a street planning program of appropriate species and a campaign to encourage/support and holders in the Shire townships to plant trees on their properties to achieve greater than 40% canopy cover. As well as the impact on reducing temperatures, it would make the township much more attractive (eg compare Euroa with Bright). This decision requires a vision about what the town and its environment will look like in 30 years - it is not a quick fix.</p>
18	2/05/2019	<p>The need for urgent action on climate change is my major concern. It would be heartening to see our local government, the Shire of Strathbogie, taking a strong and united stand against the use of fossil fuels by sending an urgent message to declare a 'climate emergency' to both State and Federal Governments on behalf of our community. Strathbogie Shire is recognised for its progressive initiatives such as the solar panel bulk buy scheme and the development of the business micro-grid. These should be publicised with pride, as should support groups within the community who are working to protect and enhance our local environment and lifestyle. These include the Arboretum, the Friends of the Sevens Creek, the Save our Strathbogie Forest Group, the Euroa Environment Group, Violet Town HREP and Strathbogie Ranges CMN.</p>
19	19/04/19	<p>Various suggestions regarding acknowledgement of Traditional Owners in townships and in planning discussions.</p> <p>Urban Forest Strategy required</p> <p>Sustainable public transport options for commuting between towns.</p>

6.7.2 Draft Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy 2019-2024 - Receiving / Hearing of Submissions

Author and Department

Group Manager, Community Assets / Community Assets Department

Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest in relation to advice provided in this report

The author of this report and officers/contractors providing advice in relation to this report do not have a direct or indirect interest, as provided in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1989*.

Summary

At the Ordinary Council meeting on 18 December 2018 Council resolved to undertake a section 223 submissions process calling for submissions in relation to the Draft Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy.

Submissions closed on Friday 3 May 2019. One submission to the draft Strategy was received (refer Attached).

RECOMMENDATIONS

That Council resolves to -

- 1. Receive and note the submissions received in response to the public advertising of the draft Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy 2019-2024.**
- 2. Hear those who wish to be heard in support of their written submissions.**
- 3. Formally consider all received submissions and the adoption of the Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy 2019-2024 at the Ordinary Meeting of Strathbogie Shire Council to be held on Tuesday 18 June 2019.**

Background

A draft Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy 2019–2024 (WRRS) has been developed by Council, and has been designed using a format used by other Councils within the Goulburn Valley Region in an endeavour to provide consistency across the region. It has been developed in line with relevant federal, state and local government legislation, strategies and policies.

Alternative Options

The author and other officers providing advice in relation to this report have considered potential alternative courses of action. No feasible alternatives have been identified.

6.7.2 Draft Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy 2019-2024
- Receiving / Hearing of Submissions (cont.)

Risk Management

The author of this report considers that there are no significant Risk Management factors relating to the report and recommendation.

Strategic Links – policy implications and relevance to Council Plan

The author of this report considers that the report is consistent with Council Policies, key strategic documents and the Council Plan.

Best Value / National Competition Policy (NCP) / Competition and Consumer Act 2010 (CCA) implications

The author of this report considers that the report is consistent with Best Value, National Competition Policy and Competition and Consumer Act requirements.

Financial / Budgetary Implications

The author of this report considers that the recommendation has no capital or recurrent budget considerations.

Economic Implications

The author of this report considers that the recommendation has no significant economic implications for Council or the broader community.

Environmental / Amenity Implications

The author of this report considers that the recommendation has no significant environmental or amenity implications for Council or the broader community.

Community Implications

The author of this report considers that the recommendation has no significant community or social implications for Council or the broader community.

Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006

The author of this report considers that the recommendation does not limit any human rights under the Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006.

Legal / Statutory Implications

The author of this report considers that the recommendation has no legal or statutory implications which require the consideration of Council.

Consultation

The proposed Section 223 process has provided an opportunity for the community to consider the matter and respond to Council.

Attachments

- Submission (Point 2)

Submission from Strathbogie Tableland Action Group (Point 2)

Dear Mr Crawcour,

In the absence of our Secretary, I have been asked to make two submissions to Council on behalf of Strathbogie Tableland Action Group (STAG).

~~1. That STAG request inclusion in the Council budget 2019-20, funding for a footpath from Main Street, Strathbogie to the Strathbogie Recreation Reserve. Increased use of the Recreation Reserve for community functions and weekly seasonal gatherings, plans for pavilion and facilities improvement, fuel supply and relocation of the CFA shed demonstrate the need for pedestrian access. Safe walking along Spring Creek Road cannot be assured where the bitumen roadway is the only route. It has little shoulder, blind curves and no lighting. Encouraging walking as a healthy lifestyle choice is part of the Strathbogie Liveability Plan.~~

2. STAG submits to Council that the Council Waste and Water Recovery Strategy 2019-24, under section 223, should bring forward the plan for Tableland wide kerbside waste collection from 2020/21. Many Strathbogie Tableland residents are required to take waste long distances for disposal. Roadside, waterway and public space dumping, toxic materials burying and incineration are consequences, as is the frequent inappropriate and expensive use of the Council supplied Recreation Ground recycling bins.

We would appreciate Council taking our submissions into consideration.

Regards,

6.7.3 Australian Rail Track Corporation (ARTC) Inland Rail Project for Euroa

Author & Department

Policy Research and Councillor Support Officer / Innovation and Performance Department

Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest in relation to advice provided in this report

The author of this report and officers/contractors providing advice in relation to this report do not have a direct or indirect interest, as provided in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1989*.

Summary

Council has requested an Officer's report be heard before them to allow Council to make a formal resolution in regard to their position for the benefit of representing their community on the Inland Rail project for Euroa.

At Assembly of Council on Tuesday 23rd April 2019 the Policy Research and Councillor Support Officer presented an ARTC advocacy report to inform Council of recent activity and obtain direction for a response to ARTC.

Items discussed at Assembly of Council included, but was not limited to:

- Overview of Council meeting with the Hon. Michael McCormack, MP Deputy Prime Minister
- Letter of response from Council to ARTC
- Thank you letter to the Hon. Michael McCormack, Deputy Prime Minister
- Follow-up meeting with ARTC Chair the Hon. Warren Truss AC and
- CEO John Fullerton
- Follow-up meeting with ARTC Ed Walker, General Manager Victorian Projects
- Council release of the ARTC letter dated 11 April 2019 to the community

It was agreed by Councillors, that the contents of the letter of response to ARTC needed to be escalated to a Council Meeting for decision-making to occur formally.

On Wednesday 24th April 2019 on page 4 of The Euroa Gazette, ARTC advertised a message to the community advising that they are in the process of conducting market research to '*unpack community thinking*.'

On Monday 6th May 2019, ARTC wrote to Council's Communications Coordinator and Manager of Planning and Investment to advise of scheduled advertisements in The Euroa Gazette outlining invitations for Expressions of Interest (EOI) for a working group in Euroa. Published on Wednesday 8th May 2019, and scheduled again for Wednesday 15th May 2019. This action has seized Council's decision-making process on the governance of the working group, and presents new considerations on the formation and nomination process instead.

On Wednesday 8th May 2019 Council's Policy Research and Councillor Support Officer sought advice from ARTC regarding community engagement sessions at a local business in Euroa, which was confirmed to be a focus group conducted by a market research firm on behalf of ARTC, which aligned to the advertisement in The Euroa Gazette on Wednesday 24th April 2019.

6.7.3 Australian Rail Track Corporation (ARTC) Inland Rail Project for Euroa (cont.)

On Friday 10th May 2019, Council received a letter of response from the Department of Infrastructure, Regional Development and Cities, Executive Director of the Inland Rail and Rail Policy Division, Philip Smith dated 30th April 2019 on behalf of to the Hon. Michael McCormack MP, Deputy Prime Minister advising that due to caretaker period, decisions are not made and advice is not given, and that the matters Council raised in the meeting with the Deputy Prime Minister have been noted. Council will need to wait until the 18th May 2019 to ascertain the outcome of the Federal Government Election.

This report aims to provide recommendations for Council to action with ARTC, and items to include in a letter of response on behalf of the community. As per feedback from Councillors as at 23rd April 2019, the following recommendations are made:

RECOMMENDATION

That Council formally responds to ARTC's letter dated 11th April 2019 with the following recommendations:

1.1 Acknowledge receipt of the ARTC letter dated 11th April 2019.

**1.2 Acknowledge ARTC Working Group EOI community advertisement in The Euroa Gazette, in accordance with the following statement:
That ARTC forms and governs the Euroa Inland Rail Project Working Group engaging all relevant stakeholders including representatives from ARTC, V/Line, VicTrack and VicRoads, the community and Council and commits to attendance by senior and appropriately qualified staff at meetings to ensure the working group is kept informed and briefed adequately, and ensure that questions raised by the group are appropriately addressed.**

**1.3 Advise ARTC of nomination of:
Cr and Cr as members of the Euroa Working Group.**

1.4 That the ARTC working group explore values and opportunities under (but not limited to) the following principles:

- *Functionality* of the area around Railway, Binney and Anderson Streets**
- *Connectivity*- what would good connectivity mean for Euroa in this area?**
- *Visual amenity*- what does this involve?**
- *Accessibility*- what are the requirements here?**
- *Safety*- how can this be improved for pedestrians, cyclists and vehicles?**
- *Location*- investigating the viability of other geographical locations**

6.7.3 Australian Rail Track Corporation (ARTC) Inland Rail Project for Euroa (cont.)

RECOMMENDATION (cont.)

1.5 That ARTC incorporate holistic urban design principles, Council strategies and plans including: *The Euroa Structure Plan, Euroa Neighbourhood Character Study* and *Urban Design Framework*, as well as consultation from urban design specialists and feedback from the Office of Victorian Government Architects to create design options for the Inland Rail Project for Euroa.

1.6 That ARTC undertake broader community consultation once Working Group options for the project are drafted, and that the project design is finalised with broad community consultation.

ADVOCACY RECOMMENDATIONS

That Council formally agrees to:

2.1 Schedule and attend an advocacy meeting with ARTC Chairman the Hon. Warren Truss AC and CEO John Fullerton to discuss desired outcomes for the Euroa Inland Rail Project and dissatisfaction with ARTC's engagement and Anderson Street Bridge designs to date.

2.2 Schedule and attend an advocacy meeting with ARTC General Manager Victorian Projects Ed Walker to discuss desired outcomes for the Euroa Inland Rail Project, on behalf of the community.

2.3 Continue to work with ARTC and the community to deliver the best design outcome for Euroa.

Background

As representatives and advocates for our community, Council made a submission to ARTC by formal resolution in a letter dated 3rd April 2019 addressed to ARTC officers, and copied to the Hon. Michael McCormack, MP Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Infrastructure. As moved by Council, this letter was published in The Euroa Gazette in the Letters to the Editor section for community information on Wednesday 16th April 2019 on page 6.

ARTC provided a response letter to Council on Thursday 11th April 2019 addressed to Mayor Amanda McClaren, addressing each of the six resolutions including, but not limited to: the formation of the working group, broader community consultation, incorporating holistic urban design principles, urban design specialist consultation, Council strategies and plans, and feedback from the Office of the Victorian Architects.

6.7.3 Australian Rail Track Corporation (ARTC) Inland Rail Project for Euroa (cont.)

The response and content of that letter was reviewed for discussion at Assembly of Councillors on Tuesday 23rd April, when Councillors agreed for a Council officer submission to The Euroa Gazette for public information on Friday 26th April 2019, which was carried out in consultation with ARTC as a courtesy. The letter was published in the Letters to the Editor section of The Euroa Gazette on Wednesday 8th May 2019 on page 6.

On Friday 12th April 2019, Mayor Amanda McClaren, Acting CEO Phil Howard, DESIGNeuroa advocate Edwina Thompson and Policy Research and Councillor Support Officer Katherine Crosbie attended an advocacy meeting in Wodonga, Victoria to discuss the ARTC Inland Rail Project for Euroa with the Hon. Michael McCormack, MP Deputy Prime Minister; whom prior to caretaker period (Election announced 11-04-19) was the Minister for Infrastructure who oversaw ARTC as a Government owned Statutory Corporation. The Hon. Michael McCormack, Deputy Prime Minister acknowledged Council's concerns, cited Council's formal submission and ARTC's letter of response; and suggested that Council meet with the ARTC CEO John Fullerton and Board Chair the Hon. Warren Truss AC.

Prior community consultation and feedback

ARTC provided Council officers with technical engineering drawings for comment to ARTC in December 2018. A 10 day turn around to make a technical submission was provided by ARTC to which Council officers requested an extension of time due to the Christmas closure period for all authorities.

The information provided by ARTC was purely to comment within the scope of works at that stage of their project. Therefore, Council officers were limited by the parameters of the technical work of ARTC; however, the officers knew, in their professional opinion having regard to previous strategic documents that the scope needed to be broader with consideration of urban design, visual amenity, connectivity etc.

Council staff met with relevant representative groups to inform them of the scope provided to officers and that our technical submission needed to be in-line with our community's thoughts.

Council officers had 3 plans put together to assist in discussions with the community. The first plan depicted the works of ARTC, the second plan highlight potential issues and finally the third plan for discussion reflected the issues removed from plan 2 and expanded the precinct area of ARTC's scope. All discussion and consultation was within the confines of ARTC's suggested preferred solution. No discussion outside this scope was facilitated.

Over 3 evenings, Council representatives (Councillors and staff) were present to listen to the community and hear their thoughts; in addition we provided clear direction that the community as individuals needed to make a submission direct to ARTC to ensure they were heard. As Council officers, our technical submission with covering letter reflected the important components/modifications we heard from the community. For example:

- 'Openness' no divide between both sides of the track
- Green open space for public purpose

6.7.3 Australian Rail Track Corporation (ARTC) Inland Rail Project for Euroa (cont.)

- Pedestrian connections from both sides to ensure access for all abilities and most importantly reflect our aged demographic.
- Emergency Services access to the platform
- Make use of the disused VicTrack land (Old goods shed)
- Connection to the main street
- Improve the visual appearance of the area.

Council officers made their technical submission which we believe reflected what we heard but within the scope as required by ARTC.

Council heard our community speak at Officers consultation, ARTC's consultation sessions and Council Meetings. Council has made the following observations:

- That ARTC's initial project approach does not seem to have started by exploring current functionality of the existing overpass and surrounding precinct and desired outcomes for the same by the community. Perhaps understandably ARTC's initial response does not sufficiently address legacy issues created by the current overpass and the consequences on the surrounding precinct.
- That ARTC's approach to our community has not been satisfactory, and therefore, Council will be asking for more in depth consultation from ARTC to inform ARTC's design.
- That ARTC need to consider the precinct as a whole not just the area of their scope of works.
- That Council need to be strong and clear in what they want for the community.
- That further consideration of technical work needs to be completed to demonstrate that other options i.e. tunnel, can or can't be ruled out.
- That VicRoads provide Council with clear direction on their requirements to assist Council in weighing up options for ARTC's project.
- That the Officers modifications to ARTC's overpass plan was seen as a significant improvement by the majority of those whom viewed it recognizing that obviously there will be some amendments required.
- That upon a design being available that it be submitted to the Office of Victorian Government Architects for comment (OVGA) jointly from ARTC and Council.

Alternative Options

No feasible alternative options have been put forward.

Risk Management

The report is about advocacy and community engagement, therefore there is no liability or financial risks as such. Council needs to carefully consider the next steps in the process to ensure the community's and Council's concerns are addressed by ARTC; or Council risks a poor infrastructure and urban design outcome and community dissatisfaction with community advocacy.

6.7.3 Australian Rail Track Corporation (ARTC) Inland Rail Project for Euroa (cont.)

Strategic Links – policy implications and relevance to Council Plan

The following Strategic documents are of relevance for the ARTC Inland Rail Project. These documents highlight previous community consultation and views captured at the time of consultation. Upon review, these documents are still relevant as captured below.

The **Euroa Structure Plan, Final Report 2010, Planisphere**, Urban Strategy Planners, is a reference document within the Strathbogie Planning Scheme. Page 6 within the section of *What we've heard*, and additionally again on page 14 under the heading of *Issues*, states that there were; *poor quality connections across the railway line*. Page 24, of the ESP supports *higher density residential in close proximity to the Euroa Railway Station*, further emphasising the importance of this connection. Page 28 continues to highlight that the *Railway Street – train precinct to be made into garden reserve*.

There is a strong strategic link to this document and the proposed project by ARTC. Within the Appendix to the ESP, 2010 consultation highlighted the following;

The railway underpasses and overpasses create a real and perceived barrier between the western and eastern and western sections of the town, potentially limiting the accessibility of existing basic and higher order services and facilities to the community west of the railway station.

The **Euroa Neighbourhood Character Study**, 2008, Planisphere, Urban Strategy Planners, listed as a reference document within the Strathbogie Planning Scheme, highlights that; *views to the railway overpass were frequently emphasized as a negative feature of the character of some parts of the township*. Furthermore the community views were captured and this highlighted what was important to them, one item was *Proximity to shops, parks and the railway station*.

The **Urban Design Framework**, Connell Wagner, July 2003 listed as a reference document within the Strathbogie Planning Scheme. Page 10, quote the following;

On the north western corner of the Euroa town centre, the overpass which leads The Shepparton-Mansfield Road over the North Easter Railway has created two Hazardous intersections. The intersections occur near the top of the overpass Where ramps from Railway Street and a railway station service road intersect With the Shepparton-Mansfield Road. The hazard is due to short sight distances Onto a climbing and curving road. The ramp which connects Railway Street with The overpass could be eliminated with negligible effect on traffic movement in the Area. Removal of the ramp would remove a constraint on development and Improvement of the western end of Railway Street and create the opportunity for parking improvements and a town edge small park.

Best Value / National Competition Policy (NCP) / Competition and Consumer Act 2010 (CCA) implications

The author of this report considers that the report is consistent with Best Value, National Competition Policy and Competition and Consumer Act requirements.

6.7.3 Australian Rail Track Corporation (ARTC) Inland Rail Project for Euroa (cont.)

Financial / Budgetary Implications

The author of this report considers there are no capital or recurrent budget considerations. However, should Council decide to engage external expertise, this will need to be costed and reported appropriately.

Economic Implications

The Inland Rail Project with the re configuration of the Anderson Street overpass has the potential to create significant economic enhancements for Euroa if considered carefully. These works have potential to place the township of Euroa in a far greater position to capture people passing the town via road or train to stay or visit Euroa as a destination of choice by enhancing a railway precinct to bring greater community economic benefit.

Environmental / Amenity Implications

The Inland Rail project (Anderson Street overpass) has an opportunity to clean up an unsightly piece of land i.e. VicTrack land with old goods shed. This precinct has the opportunity to be created into a useable space for potential car parking, community hub, arts and cultural precinct as reflected in several strategic studies.

Conversely, should the ARTC project be delivered poorly this would result in adverse amenity impacts.

Community Implications

The author of this report considers that the recommendation has significant community implications for Council and the broader community. Council's decision to act is in the best interest of the community to achieve an acceptable outcome to a Federal Government project is of utmost importance.

Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006

The author of this report considers that the recommendation does not limit any human rights under the Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006.

Legal / Statutory Implications

The author of this report considers that the recommendation has no legal or statutory implications which require the consideration of Council.

Consultation

The author of this report considers that the matter under consideration warrants significant community consultation. As highlighted within the Strategic Links section of the report. The community's views have not altered in relation to the railway station precinct. Therefore, it is important that Council continue to advocate strongly representing their community's views.

6.7.3 Australian Rail Track Corporation (ARTC) Inland Rail Project for Euroa (cont.)

Attachments

- Strathbogie Shire Council's formal submission to ARTC dated 3rd April 2019 by Mayor Amanda McClaren
- ARTC Inland Rail Project response letter to Council dated 11th April 2019
- The Euroa Gazette publication of Council's formal submission to ARTC featured in the Letters to the Editor Section on Wednesday 17th April 2019
- The Euroa Gazette publication of ARTC's advertisement dated Wednesday 24th April 2019
- The Euroa Gazette publication of ARTC's response letter to Council featured in the Letters to the Editor Section on Wednesday 8th May 2019
- The Euroa Gazette publication of ARTC's advertisement dated Wednesday 8th May 2019
- ARTC Inland Rail Project for Euroa EOI advertisement emailed to Council Monday 6th May 2019
- The Euroa Gazette publication of ARTC's EOI advertisement dated Wednesday 8th May 2019
- Letter to Council dated 30th April 2019 by Philip Smith, Executive Director of Inland Rail and Rail Policy at the Department of Infrastructure, Regional Development and Cities.



1800 065 993
109a Binney Street, Euroa VIC 3666
PO Box 177, Euroa VIC 3666
info@strathbogrie.vic.gov.au
www.strathbogrie.vic.gov.au

3 April 2019

ARTC
Inland Rail Project

ARTC
Inland Rail Project

Dear

Re: Strathbogrie Shire Council's Submission to Inland Rail Project

As a result of recent ARTC consultation, in relation to the Inland rail project for the Anderson Street, Euroa section, Council have heard significant concerns from the community.

At a recent Special Council Meeting (minutes attached and can be found at https://www.strathbogrie.vic.gov.au/images/Council_Minutes_and_Agendas/20190326_Minutes-Special%20Council%20Meeting.pdf), Council resolved unanimously:

That Council formally submits to ARTC and seeks a formal response and commitment to the following recommendations:

1. That ARTC start from the beginning with a process that includes the ability for all stakeholders – community, Shire, ARTC, V-Line, VicTrack and VicRoads, etc – to form a Working Group responsible for the scope and design of options for this project.

2. That the first step with the Working Group is to explore values and opportunities under (but not limited to) the following principles:

- **Functionality of the area around Railway, Binney and Anderson Streets**
- **Connectivity – what would good connectivity mean for Euroa in this area?**
- **Visual amenity – what does this involve?**
- **Accessibility – what are the requirements here?**
- **Safety – how can this be improved for pedestrians, cyclists, vehicles?**
- **Location – investigating the viability of other geographical solutions**





1800 065 993

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3. That ARTC call for an Expression of Interest from members of our community to form a working group. The formation of the group should represent members of the community including businesses, residents of Euroa and people who hold specialist qualifications of relevance to the project. This working group is to be approved by Council.

4. Undertake a process that centres around holistic urban design principles where engineering solutions are just one component, and relevant Council strategies and plans are incorporated.

5. Seek feedback through a referral to the Office of Victorian Government Architects at an appropriate stage.

6. Undertake broader community consultation once Working Group options for the project are drafted.

7. Final design is confirmed with broader community and Working Group endorsement

The above resolution of Council is our formal position and forms our submission to ARTC.

As per the above resolution, we await a formal written response from ARTC to enable Council to communicate ARTC's position in relation to our submission to our community.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Amanda McClaren", with a flourish at the end.

Mayor Amanda McClaren
Strathbogie Shire Council

CC: Deputy Prime Minister Michael McCormack MP





11 April 2019

Reference: 2-I001-200-PCS-00-LT-0039

Amanda McClaren
Mayor
Strathbogie Shire Council
109a Binney Street
PO Box 117, Euroa
VIC, 3666

Email: amanda.mcclaren@strathbogie.vic.gov.au

Dear Amanda

RE: STRATHBOGIE SHIRE COUNCIL SUBMISSION TO INLAND RAIL PROJECT

Thank you for your letter of 3 April 2019 providing the formal resolution of Council following a recent Special Council Meeting. As requested, ARTC is writing to provide a formal response to the matters raised.

We wish firstly to acknowledge there are a number of questions about this project and its impacts which the community feels have not been adequately addressed to date and we are working towards providing the answers and better explaining our engineering solutions and process.

In response to point 1: That ARTC start from the beginning with a process that includes the ability for all stakeholders – community, Shire, ARTC, V-Line, VicTrack and VicRoads, etc – to form a Working Group responsible for the scope and design of options for this project.

Community consultation is the cornerstone of Inland Rail and we support the establishment of a Working Group as a mechanism for providing input into the project to complement the feedback we receive from the community generally.

At the same time, broader community viewpoints remain critical to our consultation process and we will continue to engage, listen to, and understand feedback from the wider community as the design is progressively developed, evolved and refined.

There have also been 18 months of work invested in the engineering elements of the project in consultation with state agencies (VicRoads, Public Transport Victoria, V/Line and VicTrack), the council and community. This included work to explore available options with state agencies and we don't believe there is merit in starting that process again.

That said, we acknowledge, while an overview of this has been publicly shared, that more conversations around options and how the project has reached this point would be of value to the community.

In response to point 2: That the first step with the Working Group is to explore values and opportunities under (but not limited to) the following principles:

Inland Rail

Australian Rail Track
Corporation Ltd
ACN 081 455 754
ABN 75 081 455 754

97 - 99 Bakehouse Road
Kensington VIC 3031
PO Box 1391
Kensington VIC 3031

1800 732 761
inlandrailvic@artc.com.au
inlandrail.com.au



The Australian Government is delivering
Inland Rail through the Australian
Rail Track Corporation (ARTC) in
partnership with the private sector.



- *Functionality of the area around Railway, Binney and Anderson Streets*
- *Connectivity – what would good connectivity mean for Euroa in this area?*
- *Visual amenity – what does this involve?*
- *Accessibility – what are the requirements here?*
- *Safety – how can this be improved for pedestrians, cyclists, vehicles?*
- *Location – investigating the viability of other geographical locations*

On the back of recent conversations, including discussions with council, we have also commissioned market research to further unpack community concerns and thinking around functionality, connectivity, visual amenity, accessibility, and safety. As such ARTC supports these principles outlined for the Working Group. We are open to discussing further principles around location.

In response to point 3: That ARTC call for an Expression of Interest from members of our community to form a working group. The formation of the group should represent members of the community including businesses, residents of Euroa and people who hold specialist qualification of relevance to the project. This working group is to be approved by Council.

ARTC supports the establishment of a Working Group that will:

- Provide direction in relation to community views around the project
- Advocate to ARTC on behalf of the community

ARTC would be happy to establish and run the working group and commit to attendance by senior and appropriately qualified staff at meetings to ensure the working group is kept informed and briefed adequately and questions raised by the group are appropriately addressed.

Alternatively, ARTC would support the establishment of a Council Working Group. This would include appropriate funding. This could include secretariat services, advertising and venue costs for example, as agreed with Council. This would provide for Council to approve membership of the group.

In relation to point 4 and 5: Undertake a process that centres around holistic urban design principles where engineering solutions are just one component, and relevant Council strategies and plans are incorporated; and Seek feedback through a referral to the Office of Victorian Government Architects at an appropriate stage.

ARTC also commits to undertaking a process that centres around holistic urban design principles where engineering solutions are just one component, and relevant Council strategies and plans are incorporated. We have already engaged urban design specialists to support us to deliver on this commitment. Feedback from the Office of the Victorian Architects will be a part of this work.

In reference to points 6 and 7: Undertake broader community consultation once Working Group options for the project are drafted; and final design is confirmed with broader community and Working Group endorsement.

ARTC completely and unreservedly commits to continuing to undertake broader community consultation noting that this will be on ARTC options with input from the Working Group.

We thank you again for providing your position to us in writing and look forward to working together to support community outcomes.

Sincerely,

Page 6 The Euroa Gazette, Wednesday, April 17, 2019

eurogazette.com.au

YOUR SAY

WE welcome your letters to the editor. They must be signed with the full name, address and contact telephone number of the author provided. Letters of 200 words or less are preferred and the editor reserves the right to edit letters to fit in with space requirements. Non de plumes will only be published at the editor's discretion. Opinions expressed are not necessarily shared by this newspaper.

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GAZETTE Letters to the Editor

Council puts community concerns to the ARTC

STRATHBOGRIE Shire Council felt given the level of community interest, we would share the letter we recently sent to Australian Rail Track Corporation in relation to the Inland Rail Freight Project.

Please see the letter below, with a copy also sent to Deputy Prime Minister Michael McCormack MP.

Dear ARTC,
Re: Strathbogrie Shire Council's Submission to Inland Rail Project

As a result of recent ARTC consultation, in relation to the Inland rail project for the Anderson Street, Euroa section, Council have heard significant concerns from the community.

At a recent Special Council Meeting (minutes attached and can be found at https://www.strathbogrie.vic.gov.au/images/Council_Minutes_and_Agendas/20190326_Minutes-Special%20Council%20Meeting.pdf), council resolved unanimously:

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3. That ARTC call for an Expression of Interest from members of our community to form a working group. The formation of

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The above resolution of Council is our formal position and forms our submission to ARTC.

As per the above resolution, we await a formal written response from ARTC to enable council to communicate ARTC's position in relation to our submission to our community.

Yours sincerely,
Mayor Amanda McClaren,
Strathbogrie Shire Council

Euroa Third Age Club

By JOAN OSBOURNE

FELDENKRAIS classes will be resuming on Thursday May 2.

Please note that there will be no activities at the club during the week after Easter April 23 to 26.

Because Anzac Day is on the Thursday, our April monthly club meeting which would normally be held has been transferred to Thursday May 2 at 1.30pm - all are welcome to attend.

Greg Dudley's next 'Sund'y By The Sevens' concert will be held at the club on Sunday, May 5 commencing at 1.30pm.

Come and enjoy Greg's music for the afternoon - free entry and refreshments are available for \$5.

The next Monthly Seniors Lunch will be held at the Euroa Hotel on Thursday, May 9 at 12 noon. This is a two course lunch for \$16.50 and all seniors are welcome and you do not have to be a member of the club.

Please contact Carmel Simmons on 0419 349702 for further details and to book - please place your lunch order by Monday, May 6.

The Third Age Club hall is available for hire at any time for parties, reunions or any other gatherings when no other activity is being undertaken.

Charges are extremely reasonable at \$50 for a daytime function and \$100 for the evening. If you have never seen inside the hall, call in when it is open for activities to check it out.

The kitchen is fully accredited and has excellent cooling and heating to suit any time of year.

Anyone interested in hiring the hall, please contact Pam or Joan.

For more information on any of the above please contact Carmel Simmons on 0419 349702.



ONGOING SUPPORT: Tony Dawson is extremely grateful for the recognition given to him by Beyond Blue for his years of service supporting others suffering from mental health issues.

Beyond Blue awards Tony life membership

STRATHBOGRIE resident Tony Dawson was recently awarded a life membership from Beyond Blue.

Tony has been an online advisor for the organisation for several years in a role that includes supporting those with mental health and those who suffer relationship struggles.

"I particularly have an interest in males with suicidal thoughts as we have a deplorable record of around 3000 men taking their lives annually in this country," Tony said.

"Men and women and a growing number of teenagers are developing mental illness more and more and frankly, there is a lot of stigma attached to mental health issues. People turn the other cheek with de-

pression, bipolar, ADHD, anxiety and BPD and many other illnesses that isn't the fault of the sufferer.

"So they come to forums like Beyond Blue for support, often as a last resort."

"I attempted suicide in 1996, my brother and uncle passed away that way, so I know what they are enduring. I can happen to anyone of us at any-time."

Tony has written over 300 articles for Beyond Blue over the last five years. "I try to get the reader to open up anonymously, comfort them by informing them they are not alone and point them in the right direction," he said.

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Killeen Stables Sunday lunch, a great success

SUNDAY lunch at Killeen Stables held recently is being hailed as a huge success by organisers and guests alike.

The Rotary Club of Euroa staged the event to raise funds for a new initiative to improve the mental and physical health of Euroa's children through the Happy Healthy Kids program.

The weather provided a most pleasing day to sit outside in the outstanding surrounds of the Fowles' Family property, Killeen, and enjoy an outstanding lunch and wines provided by their Avenel Winery.

A plentiful auction, generously supported by the guests, added to the coffers, as did an impromptu hat collection to hear owner, Joan Fowles, an opera singer, perform an aria from Carmen.

The day was pleasing on two counts, raising in the order of \$12,000 for the program and it provided a wonderful autumn outing enjoyed by many.

Rotary president Bernice O'Dea said the club's next event will be Ride the Rangies, a bike ride with three different courses and distances, to be held this Sunday.



WHAT A DAY: Killeen Stables provided an excellent backdrop for Sunday lunch on a beautiful day.



ENTERTAINER: Joan Fowles entertains with Sicca's aria from Carmen, Habanera, playing up to Rotary Club member and friend, Neil Tubbs.

which will also be raising funds for Happy Healthy Kids Euroa.

Bernice told the Gazette that the program is a great

cause, which the club is happy to support.

The club thanks Fowles and the other sponsors who contributed to the day.



CHARGE UP: President of the Tesla Owners' Club Australia Mark Tipping (left), pictured with Andrew Chapman, stopped by Euroa to charge up his vehicle for what he says is about his 20th visit to the town.

Charging sites gain traction

By GRACE EVANS

WITH recent commentary around electric vehicles and their future within Australian society, Euroa's electric car charging stations have remained positive.

Euroa is home to two charging stations, one "ultra-rapid" site at the Shell Service Centre and a Tesla vehicle station within the town's centre.

President of the Tesla Owners' Club Mark Tipping stopped by Euroa to charge his car last week on the way home from a long haul drive and said he has utilised the station over 20 times.

"It's in a great location just off the freeway with amenities all around you," Mr Tipping said.

"We will always just leave the cars as they charge and go and spend some money at the local cafes or pubs."

Mr Tipping believes that we won't be buying petrol cars five years from now and said he used to be a platinum frequent flyer but now he has been degraded, as he

much prefers to drive across Australia.

"Euroa is very fortunate that they have this facility here," he said.

"Although our charging only takes 20 minutes we will always be here longer just looking around."

"I would assume that this site here will grow in the future when the newer cars begin to roll out."

Being a prime location between Melbourne and Albury on the Melbourne to Sydney route, mayor Amanda McClaren said it is no surprise Euroa has been a popular choice for electric vehicle (EV) charging stations.

The rapid charging station at Euroa's Shell service centre is capable of fully charging an electric vehicle in under 15 minutes, sourced from 100 per cent renewable energy.

"Electric vehicles are the future and council is pleased to see Euroa leading the way with this infrastructure, which is great for our environment and our local economy," mayor McClaren said.

"The rise of EV infrastructure locally is just one example of the great environmental projects and initiatives that are happening across the Strathbogie Shire."

Chargefox are the brains behind the ultra-rapid charging site and a spokesperson has said since the site opened back in October there have been almost 100 charging sessions, totalling 47 hours of charging, which provides enough energy to power the average home for 35 days (using all renewable energy).

"The location was chosen based on proximity to the highway, 24/7 access, good facilities, and is safe and secure," they said.

Chargefox chief executive officer Marty Andrews said opening the Euroa charging station was a significant milestone in enabling electric vehicle drivers to travel with peace of mind that they don't need to endure long charging stops.

"One of the great pleasures of this project has been working with local suppliers," Mr Andrews said.



Rotary

Sunday Lunch at Killeen Stables Thank You

The Rotary Club of Euroa thanks the following generous sponsors, supporting the Happy Healthy Kids Euroa Project:

Fowles Wines Lindsay Park Racing Brae Restaurant, Birregarra Calendar Cheese Co, Melbourne Sun-World Adora Grapes, Australia Leigh Egan Cycles Euroa Butter Factory Diane Mackrell, Strathbogie	Purdeys Jewellers, Shepparton Waverley Woolen Mills, Tasmania Cellar 47, Shepparton Ros & Geoff Allen, Water Cartage Peter Kuegler, Firewood Euroa Bus Lines Euroa Men's Shed Bim's Blins
--	--

The Happy Healthy Kids Euroa program aims to meet the huge need for services for young people in this community and the club thanks those who attended the lunch, as well, for supporting this worthwhile project.

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GAZETTE Letters to the Editor

Wonderful portrayal of a classic musical

MY husband John and I had the great pleasure of seeing "Jesus Christ Superstar" the favourite Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice rock musical concerning the last week of Jesus Christ's life.

The Shepparton Theatre Arts Groups (STAG) production team are to be congratulated in bringing alive this popular Biblical based rock opera once again - 1988 and 1998.

The 2019 cast gave a stunning performance at Westside in Mooropna last week.

The simple scaffolding props, colourful costumes and lighting and vibrant music enhanced the brilliant singing by the artists.

Hats off to Brandon Armstrong as Jesus, Jayden Yosh as Judas, Drew Walker as Mary Magdalene, Aaron Palmer as Herod and Troy McKinley as Caiaphas chief priest, all experienced actors, singers or dancers.

But it was to support Robert Kemp (Pontius Pilate) Kathy Daly (Simon) both from Avenel and then that I went, then I found that Sean O'Brien (priest) formerly of Avenel was in it too.

John and I were not disappointed. Robert in his role as Pilate was so dramatically impressive and he showed off his multi-talents in this role.

Kathy took on the part of Simon and performed that role with passion.

Sean as one of the priests that persecuted Jesus and dealt with Judas betrayal, stood out also.

Congratulations to our local artists for expanding their amateur theatrical career in the STAG production.

Those who saw it (5th time for me) were left very impressed with the new style, that kept the essence of the original show but also made it unforgettable for those who saw it.

Diane Grant, Nagambie

ARTC working towards providing answers

STRATHBOGRIE Shire Council has received a response letter from the Australian Rail Track Corporation (ARTC).

A submission was made to the group, following a formal resolution from a special council meeting in March, which saw council's commitment to the formation of a community working group.

The response comes after the sent letter from council was published in the April 17 edition of the Gazette.

The letter reads:
 "Dear Amanda,
 RE: STRATHBOGRIE SHIRE COUNCIL SUBMISSION TO INLAND RAIL PROJECT

Thank you for your letter of 3 April 2019 providing the formal resolution of Council following a recent Special Council Meeting.

As requested, ARTC is writing to provide a formal response to the matters raised.

We wish firstly to acknowledge there are a number of questions about this project and its impacts which the community feels have not been adequately addressed to date and we are working towards providing the answers and better explaining our engineering solutions and process.

In response to point 1: That ARTC start from the beginning with a process that includes the ability for all stakeholders - community, Shire, ARTC, V-Line, VicTrack and VicRoads, etc - to form a Working Group responsible for the scope and design of options for this project.

Community consultation is the cornerstone of Inland Rail and we support the establishment of a Working Group as a mechanism for providing input into the project to complement the feedback we receive from the community generally.

At the same time, broader community viewpoints remain critical to our consultation process and we will continue to engage, listen to, and understand feedback from the wider community as the design is progressively developed, evolved and refined.

There have also been 18 months of work invested in the engineering elements of the project in consultation with state agencies (VicRoads, Public Transport Victoria, V-Line and VicTrack), the council and community.

This included work to explore available options with state agencies and we don't believe there is merit in starting that process again.

That said, we acknowledge, while an overview of this has been publicly shared, that more conversations around options and how the project has reached this point would be of value to the community.

In response to point 2: That the first step with the Working Group is to explore values and opportunities under (but not limited to) the following principles:

- Functionality of the area around Railway, Binney and Anderson Streets
- Connectivity - what would good connectivity mean for Euroa in this area?
- Visual amenity - what does this involve?
- Accessibility - what are the

requirements here?
 Safety - how can this be improved for pedestrians, cyclists, vehicles?
 Location - investigating the viability of other geographical locations

On the back of recent conversations, including discussions with council, we have also commissioned market research to further unpack community concerns and thinking around functionality, connectivity, visual amenity, accessibility, and safety. As such ARTC supports these principles outlined for the Working Group.

We are open to discussing further principles around location.

In response to point 3: That ARTC call for an Expression of Interest from members of our community to form a working group.

The formation of the group should represent members of the community including businesses, residents of Euroa and people who hold specialist qualification of relevance to the project.

This working group is to be approved by Council.

ARTC supports the establishment of a Working Group that will:

Provide direction in relation to community views around the project

Advocate to ARTC on behalf of the community

ARTC would be happy to establish and run the working group and commit to attendance by senior and appropriately qualified staff at meetings to ensure the working group is kept informed and briefed adequately and questions raised by the group are appropriately answered.

Alternatively, ARTC would support the establishment of a Council Working Group.

This would include appropriate funding.

This could include secretarial services, advertising and venue costs for example, as agreed with Council.

This would provide for Council to approve membership of the group.

In relation to point 4 and 5: Undertake a process that centres around holistic urban design principles where engineering solutions are just one component, and relevant Council strategies and plans are incorporated; and Seek feedback through a referral to the Office of Victorian Government Architects at an appropriate stage.

ARTC also commits to undertaking a process that centres around holistic urban design principles where engineering solutions are just one component, and relevant Council strategies and plans are incorporated.

We have already engaged urban design specialists to support us to deliver on this commitment. Feedback from the Office of the Victorian Architects will be a part of this work.

In reference to points and 7: Undertake broader community consultation once Working Group options for the project are drafted; and final design is confirmed with broader community and Working Group endorsement.

ARTC completely and unreservedly commits to continuing to undertake broader community consultation noting that this will be on ARTC options with input from the Working Group.

We thank you again for providing your position to us in writing and look forward to working together to support community outcomes.

Australian Rail Track Corporation

More drug tests, more places, more often.



TOWARDS ZERO  

I play for Colin, Longwood, Ruffly and Euroa

By CHARLES CAMERON

THE photo, up high in Granddad's study, drew me in every time I visited.

It looked right through me, and beyond the large bay window, down the valley, to the hills of Belmont far beyond.

Far more than just a photo, this portrait told a story. A story for the proud and upstanding.

Who is that Granddad?

"That's Colin...killed by a machine gun in Turkey".

That.

His answer disempowered me every time, because it was so raw and emotional, so different to any other answer I drew from him...and that's why I kept asking.

I would ask him again today, if I could.

I wouldn't describe Granddad as patient, nor emotional, but he always had time to answer this question.

For a young boy growing up in the seclusion of Ruffly Colin's fate was confronting, on one hand, and quite unfathomable on the other.

Colin Henry Cameron was a farmer in Kilmore when he enlisted in the Light Horse.

He was 23 years of age and the decision was, no doubt, an easy one as he was, at the time, a long-standing member of the militia and the cadets at Scotch



THE PLAYING: Charles Cameron proudly played the last post at several services around the Strathbogie Shire on Anzac Day

College before that.

He had five brothers of which Malcolm, my Grandfather, was the youngest.

Malcolm was ten years his junior.

In 1981 the movie Gallipoli was released and my father told me of how Granddad cried when he saw it.

The idea of my Grandfather crying was impossible to comprehend and, at that stage, I had no idea that he had, in effect, seen on screen the re-enactment of Colin's fate.

When I was twelve years old, a couple of years after Gallipoli was released, I worked out that Colin was a member of the 8th Light Horse Regiment and was killed leading the first wave of the Light Horsemen in the charge at The Nek, the infamous charge depicted in that movie.

Colin was the Sergeant Major of B Troop and, as Granddad said, he was mown down with a hundred other troopers.

The history books say he was 'sober' before going over the top.

Leslie Mayger VC was a hero of the 8th Light Horse and I often wonder if Colin met the Victoria Cross winner in the militia or upon joining the 8th.

Something tells me he did.

The year was 1908 and some six years later he would be joining Alex Burton and Leslie Mayger as they travelled to join the war to end all wars.

By that stage of my life I had been a member of the Euroa Citizens Band for around three years.

I played the trumpet and was never prouder than

when we led the diggers up Binney Street each year before waiting to hear Roy Meade sound The Last Post from the overpass, which haunted me and inspired me.

The marching made me proud and, in some small way, I could better understand the lure of the military way that Colin had clearly been drawn to seventy years earlier.

Only recently Jeff Stanley informed me that Alex Burton VC was a member of the Euroa Citizens Band and had also played his euphonium for the Army Band.

It was Colin and Granddad that inspired my respect for ANZAC day but it was my time with the Euroa Citizens Band that entrenched my love of Euroa.

Bill Scott, Ivie Ellis, Ford McKernan and the rest of the band taught me that our music had a purpose.

Whilst I live in Melbourne now I cherish the opportunity to return home every ANZAC day to emulate the haunting tone of Roy Meade by playing The Last Post from the bridge across the Sevenz Creek.

And, whilst I play for Colin, Les, Fred, Alex and all that served I ultimately play for Longwood, Ruffly and Euroa.

I cherish the people, the spirit and the laughter. I play for life, as I'm sure Alex Burton did on his euphonium.



HAVING A CUPPA: Euroa Constable Keri Price is encouraging all community members to get along to the coffee with a cop session, from left (Keri Price and Katherine Stevens).

A cuppa with a cop

By GRACE EVANS

AS part of Law Week, Euroa Library is giving community members the chance to take part in a Q&A session with local police officers.

The opportunity allows locals to ask questions or voice a concern in a relaxed, informal environment.

Whilst meeting the men and women who enforce the law within the community, locals will be able to enjoy a coffee and some morning tea.

The day will be held Friday, May 17 from

10.30 to 11.30am at the Euroa Library in Binney Street, which is free of charge, but bookings are recommended and can be made via the library's front desk.

Euroa Library Branch Officer Cathy Artridge hope the session with the police would bridge the gap and provide an informal environment for people to talk to their law enforcers.

"It's a great place to not be afraid to ask some questions and to be able to do it in our space is really good," Ms Artridge said. With aim to highlight

law week, Richard Johnson from Tahan George and Co, will also be holding a session on Thursday May 16 at 11am, looking at wills, power of attorney and estate planning.

Ms Artridge said people should bring along some questions, with a chance to be enlightened on several topics surrounding the law.

"The session with Richard will be quite practical and really help you to understand what you can do, particular with new information now out on power of attorney," Ms Artridge said.

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INLAND RAIL

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The Australian Government is delivering Inland Rail through the Australian Rail Track Corporation (ARTC), in partnership with the private sector.



Expressions of interest are being sought to recruit membership of a Working Group for Euroa. This Working Group will play a critical role in offering a local perspective to support delivery of required enhancements at Euroa to support the running of double stacked freight trains from Melbourne to Brisbane.

It will:

- ▶ Be a forum for ideas and discussion
- ▶ Be a conduit for information into the community
- ▶ Be a conduit for community views to ARTC
- ▶ Represent the community's diverse views

The Working Group will be expected to meet monthly for the first 12 months. After that, the Group will be reviewed and renewed for its continuing role through to early construction.

The EOI process begins **Wednesday, May 8th 2019** and will close on **Friday, May 24th 2019** with the Working Group holding its inaugural meeting **Thursday, June 13th 2019** to elect a chair and agree procedures and establish a meeting schedule going forward.

The Working Group is expected to understand the views of the community and provide advice to the Project; monitor emerging issues, concerns, opportunity and priorities of the community relating to the design development; and facilitate communication between the broader community and project to support the delivery of Inland Rail through Euroa.

To express your Interest please contact
Inland Rail with the email subject line
'Euroa Working Group' to
inlandrailvic@artc.com.au

If you have any questions please call
1800 732 761

The logo for the Australian Rail Track Corporation (ARTC), consisting of the letters 'ARTC' in a bold, white, sans-serif font. The letter 'A' has a horizontal bar extending to the left, and the letter 'C' has a horizontal bar extending to the right.

The Australian Government is
delivering Inland Rail through the
Australian Rail Track Corporation
(ARTC), in partnership with the
private sector.

Community comes together at Moglonemby

WHILE drought has been on the minds of many farmers across much of South Eastern Australia over recent months, it is becoming an issue for many local land holders across the Strathbogie and surrounding shires. So much so that a community barbeque and get together was held on Saturday, April 27 at the Moglonemby Hall to raise awareness of some of the current issues facing our rural communities.

The initiative came about when concerns were raised by local landholders and CIA members at meetings held a few weeks ago. With dry conditions prevalent, an unprecedented heat wave in January, and stock and domestic water at critically low levels, representatives from a number of services were on hand on the night for concerned landholders to talk to.

Moglonemby Community Hall Committee President – Stuart Belcher welcomed the Honourable State Member of Parliament for the Seat of Euroa, Steph Ryan, Strathbogie Shire Councilors: Graeme "Mick" Williams and John Mason, Benalla Health's Rural Outreach Worker Ivan Lister, Primary Care Connect's counsellor Tony Col-



GATHERING SUPPORT: Local farmers and supporters gathered at Moglonemby Hall last week to raise awareness of some of the current issues facing our rural communities.

mer, and from Rural Finance Counselling Service – Carl Fraser.

It was wonderful to see almost sixty attend the night from many areas across the shire. Most were happy to have a bite to eat, catch up with neighbours and friends or meet new people; and to just have services on hand with whom they could discuss some of their frustrations regarding the seemingly lack of acknowledgement of the current conditions.

Many printed resources were on hand also and it is hoped that everyone left on the night feeling that someone was listening and that



LENDING A HAND: Moglonemby Community Hall Committee president – Stuart Belcher welcomed Steph Ryan.

there was an increased awareness by all who attended. Hopefully rain will have fallen by the time this article goes to print but unless there is a significant run-off event

in the next couple of months, many farmers will be forced to sell livestock as caring water for many is not a viable option. Let's hope it doesn't get to this.

Women of Euroa to meet again

THE next "Women of Euroa" dinner meeting will be held on Thursday May 16, where we welcome Amanda Elliott as our guest speaker.

In 2017 Amanda Elliott was elected the first female Chairman of the Victoria Racing Club.

Amanda was Chairman of the Club Stand Working Group, which officially opened on AAMI Victoria Derby day.

She has also played an integral role on the club's masterplan to enhance the race day experience at Flemington for members and the public.

Travelling extensively as the Director and Ambassador representing the Victoria Racing Club, she has been on the Lexus Melbourne Club Tour both nationally and internationally.

A passionate racehorse owner, Amanda is also actively involved in the sport of racing both in Australia and overseas. She is delighted to be



returning to her home area, growing up in Chatsworth in Tablik.

Bookings can be made for the night via DPR Insurance at 56 Binney Street, Euroa or via Euroa Health on 5795 0200, by Monday May 13.

Tickets are \$30, which includes a two course dinner.

"Women of Euroa" is generously supported by Euroa Health Inc, so come along and meet new friends and catch up with old ones.

Got News?
Let us know about it!
Contact The Euroa Gazette on (03) 5795 2041
or e-mail editor@euroa-gazette.com.au

Euroa

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+ YOU'RE INVITED

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To express your interest please contact Inland Rail with the email subject line "Euroa Working Group" to inlandrail@artc.com.au

If you have any questions please call **1800732761**

The Australian Government is undertaking major rail infrastructure investment via the Victorian Government ARTC. In partnership with private sector.



Australian Government

Department of Infrastructure, Regional Development and Cities

PDR ID: MC19-001849

Cr Amanda McClaren
Mayor
Strathbogie Shire Council
PO Box 177
EUROA VIC 3666

SHIRE OF STRATHBOGIE	
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Dear Mayor

Thank you for your email and accompanying letter dated 12 April 2019 to the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development, the Hon Michael McCormack MP about the issues the Council and the Euroa community have encountered with the Inland Rail Project. The Deputy Prime Minister has asked me to reply on his behalf.

With the announcement by the Prime Minister, the Hon Scott Morrison MP, of the forthcoming election, the Australian Government has assumed a 'caretaker role' and by convention, decisions are not taken or advice given that is likely to commit an incoming Government.

Accordingly, while the matters you have raised have been noted, it is not possible to provide a more substantive response and you may wish to raise the issue with the incoming Government.

Yours sincerely

Philip Smith
Executive Director
Inland Rail and Rail Policy Division

30 April 2019

- 7. URGENT BUSINESS**
- 8. CLOSURE OF MEETING TO THE PUBLIC TO CONSIDER MATTERS LISTED FOR CONSIDERATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 89(2) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1989**
- 9. CONFIRMATION OF 'CLOSED PORTION' DECISION/S**

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, THE MEETING CLOSED AT P.M.