



STRATHBOGIE SHIRE COUNCIL

Notice is hereby given that the Ordinary Meeting of the Strathbogie Shire Council will be held, virtually, on Tuesday 15 September 2020, commencing at 6.00 p.m.

Chair:	Amanda McClaren (Mayor)	<i>(Lake Nagambie Ward)</i>
Councillors:	Robert Gardner	<i>(Lake Nagambie Ward)</i>
	Malcolm Little	<i>(Hughes Creek Ward)</i>
	John Mason	<i>(Seven Creeks Ward)</i>
	Chris Raeburn	<i>(Honeysuckle Creek Ward)</i>
	Alistair Thomson	<i>(Mount Wombat Ward)</i>
	Graeme Williams OAM	<i>(Seven Creeks Ward)</i>
Officers:	Julie Salomon	Chief Executive Officer <i>(CEO)</i>
	David Roff	Director, Corporate Operations <i>(DCO)</i>
	Dawn Bray	Executive Manager, Governance and Customer Service <i>(EMGCS)</i>
	Kristin Favaloro	Executive Manager, Communications and Engagement <i>(EMCE)</i>
	Emma Kubeil	Acting Director, Community and Planning <i>(ADCP)</i>
	Melissa Crane	Acting Manager, Planning and Investment <i>(AMPI)</i>
	Trish Hall	Town Planner <i>(TP)</i>

Until further notice, all meetings conducted by Strathbogie Shire Council will be virtually, and live streamed on our website at www.strathbogie.vic.gov.au. This ensures we are meeting the Victorian Government's social distancing requirements to slow the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) and help keep our communities safe

We encourage all community members to watch the meeting online, given we have had to close the public gallery until further notice following legal advice around how to comply with COVID-19 social distancing rules.

Questions for the Ordinary Council Meeting can still be submitted, and will be read out by the Mayor during the Public Question Time component of the meeting and responded to in the usual way by Councillors and/or Officers. A modified version of the question form will be displayed on the screen during the virtual meeting. **Questions must be submitted by 12 noon on Tuesday 15 September 2020** by emailing info@strathbogie.vic.gov.au

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 / Leave of Absence

Phil Howard Director, Community and Planning (DCP)
4. Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest
5. Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meetings
 - Ordinary Meeting of Council held on Tuesday 18 August 2020 and Special Meetings of Council held on Tuesday 25 August 2020 and Tuesday 8 September 2020
 - Planning Committee meeting held on Tuesday 18 August 2020
6. Petitions
7. Reports of Mayor and Councillors and Delegates
8. Public Question Time

Public Question Time will be conducted as per Rule 31 of Strathbogie Shire Council's Governance Rules. A copy of the required form for completion and lodgment, and associated Procedural Guidelines, are attached for information.

As the questions are a permanent public record and to meet the requirements of the Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014, only the initials of the person asking the question will be used together with a Council reference number.

Response/s to Public Questions raised and responded to at the Ordinary Council meeting held on Tuesday 18 August 2020 were documented in the Minutes of that meeting.

9. Officer Reports
10. Notices of Motion
11. Notices of Rescission
12. Urgent Business
13. Confidential Business

Julie Salomon
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
11 September 2020

Council does not generally permit individuals to make audio recordings of meetings. Individuals are required to make a written request addressed to the Council (Director, Corporate Operations) should they seek to obtain permission to do so.

NEXT MEETING

The final Ordinary Meeting of the Strathbogie Shire Council for this current term of Council is scheduled to be held, virtually, on Tuesday 20 October 2020, commencing at 6.00 p.m.



Council Ref. / 2020

Public Question Time Form Ordinary Council Meeting

Strathbogie Shire Council has allocated a time for the public to ask questions in the business of an Ordinary Meeting of the Council.

How to ask a question:

Questions submitted to Council must be:

- (a) in writing, state the name, address and telephone number of the person submitting the question and generally be on this form, approved by Council; and
- (b) submitted to Council in person or electronically.

The Chair may refrain from reading a question or having a question read if the person who submitted the question is not present in the gallery at the time when the question is due to be read. Please refer to the back of this form for procedural guidelines.

Question/s: (please print clearly with a maximum of 25 words)

1.....
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.....

2.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

Name:

Address:

Telephone Number:

Signature: (signature not required if submitted by email)

Date of Ordinary Council Meeting:

Privacy Declaration: Personal information is collected on this form to allow Council to undertake follow-up / response and to confirm identity for future reference where necessary. The questioner's initials only, together with a question reference number, will be included in Council's Minutes. Council Minutes are a public document which will be published on Council's Website and are available for public scrutiny at any time. Other personal details included on this form will not be included in the Minutes and will be kept for Council reference only, unless disclosure is required for law enforcement purposes or under any other statutory requirement.

Public Question Time - Procedural Guidelines

Question Time

- (1) There must be a public question time at every Ordinary meeting to enable members of the public to submit questions to Council.
- (2) Sub-clause (1) does not apply during any period when a meeting is closed to members of the public in accordance with section 89(2) of the Local Government Act 1989 (the Act).
- (3) Public question time will not exceed in duration any time limit imposed by the Chairperson, in the Chairperson's discretion in order to ensure that Council has sufficient time in which to transact Council business.
- (4) Questions submitted to Council must be:
 - a) in writing, state the name and address of the person submitting the question and generally be in a form approved or permitted by Council; and
 - b) submitted to Council in person or electronically.
- (5) No person may submit more than 2 questions at any 1 meeting.
- (6) If a person has submitted 2 questions to a meeting, the second question:
 - a) may, at the discretion of the Chair, be deferred until all other persons who have asked a question have had their questions asked and answered; or
 - b) may not be asked if the time allotted for public question has expired.
- (7) The Chair, a Councillor or a member of Council staff nominated by the Chair may read to those present at the meeting a question which has been submitted in accordance with this clause.
- (8) Notwithstanding sub-clause (6), the Chair may refrain from reading a question or having a question read if the person who submitted the question is not present in the gallery at the time when the question is due to be read.
- (9) A question may be disallowed by the Chair if the Chair determines that it:
 - a) relates to a matter outside the duties, functions and powers of Council;
 - b) is defamatory, indecent, abusive, offensive, irrelevant, trivial or objectionable in language or substance;
 - c) deals with a subject matter already answered;
 - d) is aimed at embarrassing a Councillor or a member of Council staff;
 - e) relates to personnel matters;
 - f) relates to the personal hardship of any resident or ratepayer;
 - g) relates to industrial matters;
 - h) relates to contractual matters that are commercial in confidence;
 - i) relates to proposed developments;
 - j) relates to legal advice;
 - k) relates to matters affecting the security of Council property; or
 - l) relates to any other matter which Council considers would prejudice Council or any person.
- (10) Any question which has been disallowed by the Chair must be made available to any other Councillor upon request.
- (11) All questions and answers must be as brief as possible, and no discussion may be allowed other than by Councillors for the purposes of clarification.
- (12) Like questions may be grouped together and a single answer provided.
- (13) The Chair may nominate a Councillor or the Chief Executive Officer to respond to a question.
- (14) A Councillor or the Chief Executive Officer may require a question to be put on notice. If a question is put on notice, a written copy of the answer will be sent within 14 days to the person who asked the question.
- (15) A Councillor or the Chief Executive Officer may advise Council that it is his or her opinion that the reply to a question should be given in a meeting closed to members of the public. The Councillor or Chief Executive Officer (as the case may be) must state briefly the reason why the reply should be so given and, unless Council resolves to the contrary, the reply to such question must be so given.

REPORTS INDEX

		Page No.
9.	REPORTS	
9.1	Planning Permit Application No. P2018-148 - Use and development of land for 4 glamping huts and 6 tents (defined as caravan and camping park as per Clause 73.03 land use terms) ~ 204 Goulburn Weir-Murchison Road, Goulburn Weir	1
9.2	Combined Planning Scheme Amendment and Planning Permit Application - 401 High Street, Nagambie (C080 and P2019-096)	29
9.3	Planning Permit Applications - 29 July to 25 August 2020	51
9.4	Tender for Contract Number 20/21-12: Environmental Monitoring at the Violet Town Landfill	55
9.5	Tender for Contract Number 20/21-10: Supply and Installation of Public Amenities Violet Town	60
9.6	Tender for Contract Number 20/21-08: Supply and Install of Water Tanks – Various Locations (Avenel, Creighton’s Creek, Euroa, Gooram, Ruffy, Strathbogie and Violet Town)	65
9.7	Tender for Contract Number 20/21-23: Ranger and Local Laws Enforcement Services	71
9.8	Tender for Contract Number 20/21-22: Provision of Boating Safety Operations	76
9.9	Tender for Contract Number 20/21-20: Operation and Management of Municipal Swimming Pools	81
9.10	‘Recycling Victoria’ – Household Recycling Reform Transition Planning	85
9.11	Waste Wise Events Guide	91
9.12	Finalisation of Victorian Auditor General's Office (VAGO) Fraud and Corruption Control Action Plan	111
9.13	Instruments of Appointment and Authorisation Update	127
9.14	Coronavirus (COVID-19) Management Policy	141
9.15	Strathbogie Shire Economic Profile	149
9.16	Sale of Land - 7 Industrial Crescent, Nagambie	194
9.17	Community Funding Programs – RE3 COVID-19 Response	201
9.18	Nagambie Aging Hub	215
9.19	Visit Victoria Tourism Review	226
9.20	Australian Rail Track Corporation (ARTC)	235
9.21	Strathbogie Shire Council RE3 – Reset, Reboot, Revitalise – Community Recovery Plan	244
9.22	Strathbogie Shire Submission to a Joint Standing Committee Inquiry into the business case for the NBN and experiences of small businesses	267
9.23	Strathbogie Shire Council Community Local Law No. 2 of 2020	309
9.24	Business Management System	358

10.	NOTICES OF MOTION	378
10.1	Notice of Motion – Lodged by Councillors Amanda McClaren, Robert Gardner, Malcolm Little, John Mason, Chris Raeburn, Alistair Thomson and Graeme Williams (Ref. No. 6/2020) - West Gate Tunnel Project	378
11.	NOTICES OF RESCISSION	380
11.1	Notice of Rescission Motion – Item 9.7.9 from Council Meeting 18 August 2020 ~ Proposed Memorandum of Understanding with the Taungurung Land & Waters Council (Ref. Nos. 04/2020 and 05/2020)	380
12.	URGENT BUSINESS	386
13.	CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS	386
	<i>TO CONSIDER MATTERS LISTED FOR CONSIDERATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 66(2)(A) AND PART 1, CLAUSE 3 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2020 –</i> <i>(f) personal information, being information which if released would result in the unreasonable disclosure of information about any person or their personal affairs</i>	
	C.P. 1 Chief Executive Officer Performance Appraisal	

	CONFIDENTIAL APPENDICES	
	<i>APPENDICES DEEMED CONFIDENTIAL IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 66(2)(A) AND PART 1, CLAUSE 3 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2020</i> <i>(g) private commercial information, being information provided by a business, commercial or financial undertaking that—</i> <i>(i) relates to trade secrets; or</i> <i>(ii) if released, would unreasonably expose the business, commercial or financial undertaking to disadvantage</i>	
Appendix 1:	Tender for Contract Number 20/21-12: Environmental Monitoring at the Violet Town Landfill	
Appendix 2:	Tender for Contract Number 20/21-10: Supply and Installation of Public Amenities Violet Town	
Appendix 3:	Tender for Contract Number 20/21-08: Supply and Install of Water Tanks – Various Locations (Avenel, Creighton’s Creek, Euroa, Gooram, Ruffy, Strathbogie and Violet Town)	
Appendix 4:	Tender for Contract Number 20/21-23: Ranger and Local Laws Enforcement Services	
Appendix 5:	Tender for Contract Number 20/21-22: Provision of Boating Safety Operations	
Appendix 6:	Tender for Contract Number 20/21-20: Operation and Management of Municipal Swimming Pools	

9. OFFICER REPORTS

9.1 Planning Permit Application No. P2018-148 - Use and Development of Land for 4 Glamping Huts and 6 Tents (defined as Caravan and Camping Park as per Clause 73.03 Land Use Terms) ~ 204 Goulburn Weir-Murchison Road, Goulburn Weir

Author: Principal Planner

Responsible Director: Director Community and Planning (Acting)

Executive Summary

- This application was heard by Council in June 2019 and was deferred to allow the applicant further time to address the concerns of council officers.
- The application has since been amended and now proposes the use and development of land at 204 Goulburn Weir-Murchison Road, Goulburn Weir for camping and glamping only.
- The proposal is to have 4 glamping huts and 6 tent sites available for short term accommodation on the site, with the ability to provide accommodation for up to 20 people within these two areas.
- The application was advertised, and 2 objections were received. The objections raise a number of issues mainly relating to impacts on amenity.
- The application has been assessed within the 60 day statutory timeframe.
- The application is being heard before Planning Committee due to the 2 unresolved objections.
- The proposal meets the objectives of the Planning Policy Framework, Local Planning Policy Framework and the Farming Zone.
- It is recommended that Council resolve to issue a Notice of Decision to grant a permit in accordance with the Officer's recommendation.

Application Details:

Application is for:	Use and development of land for 4 glamping huts and 6 tents (defined as caravan and camping park as per Clause 73.03 land use terms)
Applicant's/Owner's Name:	HAMMOND, Anthony James
Date Received:	22 October 2018 Amended application received 21 July 2020
Statutory Days:	30
Application Number:	P2018-148
Planner: Name, title & department	Melissa Crane Principal Planner Planning and Investment Department

9.1 Planning Permit Application No. P2018-148
- Use and Development of Land for 4 Glamping Huts and 6 Tents (defined as Caravan and Camping Park as per Clause 73.03 Land Use Terms) ~ 204 Goulburn Weir-Murchison Road, Goulburn Weir (cont.)

Land/Address:	Lot 2 Plan of Subdivision 624203 204 Goulburn Weir-Murchison Road, Goulburn Weir VIC 3608
Zoning:	Farming Zone
Overlays:	Floodway Overlay, Land Subject to Inundation Overlay
Is a CHMP required?	In Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Sensitivity Area, but no significant ground disturbance
Is it within an Open Potable Catchment Area?	No, not in an open potable catchment area.
Under what clause(s) is a permit required? (include description)	Clause 35.07, Farming Zone – planning permit required for the use and development of land for a caravan and camping park.
Restrictive covenants on the title?	None that affect this proposal
Current use and development:	Residential/accommodation

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

All officers, and/or contractors, involved in the preparation of this report have signed a written declaration that they do not have a conflict of interest in the subject matter of this report.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council

- ***having caused notice of Planning Application No. P2018-148 to be given under Section 52 of the Planning and Environment Act 1987 and or the planning scheme; and***
- ***having considered all the matters required under Section 60 of the Planning and Environment Act 1987 decides to Issue a Notice of Decision to grant a permit under the provisions of Clause 35.07 Farming Zone of the Strathbogrie Planning Scheme in respect of the land known as Lot 2 Plan of Subdivision 624203, 204 Goulburn Weir-Murchison Road, Goulburn Weir VIC 3608, for the use and development of land for caravan and camping park (4 glamping huts and 6 tents) , in accordance with endorsed plans, subject to the following conditions:***

- 9.1 Planning Permit Application No. P2018-148
- Use and Development of Land for 4 Glamping Huts and 6 Tents (defined as Caravan and Camping Park as per Clause 73.03 Land Use Terms) ~ 204 Goulburn Weir-Murchison Road, Goulburn Weir (cont.)

Endorsed Plans

1. ***Prior to the commencement of use and development, amended plans must be submitted to and approved by the Responsible Authority. When approved, the plans will be endorsed and will then form part of the permit. The plans must be drawn to scale with dimensions and a minimum of three copies must be provided. Such plans must be generally in accordance with the plan submitted but modified to show:***
 - (a) ***Location and number of car spaces to support the glamping and camping approved on this permit.***

2. ***The camping and caravan park (glamping and camping) must operate within the following limitations:***
 - (a) ***Maximum number of patrons using the accommodation within this area at any one time is 20.***
 - (b) ***No more than 4 glamping huts are to be on site at any one time.***
 - (c) ***No more than 6 tents are to be on site at any one time.***
 - (d) ***When the tents are not in use, they must be taken down and packed away.***

Environmental Health:

3. ***All sewage and sullage waters shall be treated in accordance with the requirements of the Environment Protection Act 1970 and the Guidelines for Environmental Management: Code of Practice – Onsite Wastewater Management 891. 4 (2016) and the Responsible Authority. All wastewater shall be disposed of within the curtilage of the land and sufficient area shall be kept available for the purpose of wastewater disposal to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority. No wastewater shall drain directly or indirectly onto an adjoining property, street or any watercourse or drain to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.***

4. ***All wastewater and liquid are to be contained and treated on site by an approved septic tank system or equivalent. The system must be at least 300 metres from potable water supply. The system must be at least 60 metres from any watercourse and/or dam (non-potable water supply) for primary sewage and 30 metres for secondary sewage, on the subject or neighbouring properties, and must meet the Guidelines for Environmental Management: Code of Practice – Onsite Wastewater Management 891. 4 (2016).***

5. ***No buildings or works shall occur over any part of the approved waste disposal system including the septic tank in accordance with the requirements of the Environment Protection Act 1970, the Guidelines for Environmental Management: Code of Practice – Onsite Wastewater Management 891. 4 (2016).***

- 9.1 Planning Permit Application No. P2018-148
- Use and Development of Land for 4 Glamping Huts and 6 Tents (defined as Caravan and Camping Park as per Clause 73.03 Land Use Terms) ~ 204 Goulburn Weir-Murchison Road, Goulburn Weir (cont.)

Engineering

6. ***Prior to the commencement of the use all car parking areas and internal access roads must be constructed, formed and drained to avoid erosion and to minimise disturbance to natural topography of the land to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority. Internal access, including the turn-around areas for emergency vehicles, must be all weather construction with a minimum trafficable width of 4m.***
7. ***All stormwater and surface water discharging from the site, buildings and works must be conveyed to the legal point of discharge drains to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority/Goulburn Murray Water or dissipated within the site boundaries. No effluent or polluted water of any type may be allowed to enter the stormwater drainage system.***
8. ***Appropriate steps must be taken to retain all silt and sediment on site during the construction phase to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority, in accordance with the sediment control principles outlined in Construction Techniques for Sediment Pollution Control (EPA, 1991) and to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.***

Muted tones

9. ***The external cladding of the proposed buildings, including the roof, must be constructed of new materials of muted colours to enhance the aesthetic amenity of the area. Material having a highly reflective surface must not be used.***

Amenity

10. ***The amenity of the area must not be detrimentally affected by the use, through the:***
 - (a) ***Appearance of any building, works or materials;***
 - (b) ***Transport of materials, goods or commodities to or from the land;***
 - (c) ***Emission of noise, artificial light, vibration, smell, fumes, smoke, vapour, steam, soot, ash, dust, wastewater, waste products, grit or oil;***
 - (d) ***Presence of vermin, and;***
 - (e) ***Others as appropriate.***
11. ***All refuse and rubbish associated with the use allowed must be removed from the area at least once weekly, and more often if required by the Responsible Authority.***
12. ***The subject land must be kept neat and tidy at all times and its appearance must not, in the opinion of the Responsible Authority, adversely affect the amenity of the locality.***

- 9.1 Planning Permit Application No. P2018-148
- Use and Development of Land for 4 Glamping Huts and 6 Tents (defined as Caravan and Camping Park as per Clause 73.03 Land Use Terms) ~ 204 Goulburn Weir-Murchison Road, Goulburn Weir (cont.)

13. Outdoor lighting must be designed, baffled and located to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority such that no direct light is emitted outside the boundaries of the subject land.

Goulburn Murray Water

- 14. All construction and ongoing activities must be in accordance with sediment control principles outlined in EPA Publication 275, Construction Techniques for Sediment Pollution Control (May 1991).**
- 15. No buildings or works may be erected or carried out within 50 metres of the Goulburn River.**
- 16. The wastewater management system must be appropriately designed to manage the potential volume of wastewater generated under full occupancy (based on a minimum of 20 guests), including an appropriately sized disposal area based on a full water balance specific to the proposal and subject land. The wastewater management system must be appropriately designed to manage peak and intermittent flows from the accommodation, to the satisfaction of council's environmental health department.**
- 17. The wastewater disposal area must be located a minimum setback distance of 100 metres from the Goulburn River.**
- 18. All wastewater requiring disposal to land must be treated to a standard of at least 20mg/L BOD and 30mg/L suspended solids using a package treatment plant or equivalent. The system must be an EPA approved system, installed, operated and maintained in accordance with the relevant EPA Code of Practice and Certificate of Conformity.**
- 19. All wastewater must be applied to land via pressure-compensating sub-surface irrigation installed along the contour.**
- 20. The proposed accommodation and onsite wastewater management system must not encroach on the existing wastewater treatment system or disposal area or breach the minimum setback distances specified in the relevant EPA Code of Practice – Onsite Wastewater Management.**
- 21. The wastewater disposal area must be kept free of stock, buildings, driveways and service trenching and must be planted with appropriate vegetation to maximise its performance. Stormwater must be diverted away. A reserve wastewater disposal field of equivalent size to the primary disposal field must be provided for use in the event that the primary field requires resting or has failed.**

- 9.1 Planning Permit Application No. P2018-148
- Use and Development of Land for 4 Glamping Huts and 6 Tents (defined as Caravan and Camping Park as per Clause 73.03 Land Use Terms) ~ 204 Goulburn Weir-Murchison Road, Goulburn Weir (cont.)

22. Stormwater run-off from the carpark must be dissipated as normal unconcentrated overland flow or directed to a storage tank or dam.

23. Prior to the issue of a building permit, the applicant must enter into a Commercial Occupation Licence with GMW for the boat shed located on GMW foreshore land adjacent to the property.

Country Fire Authority

24. Prior to the commencement of use, a Bushfire Emergency Plan (BEP) must be submitted to and approved by the responsible authority. The BEP must clearly describe the proposed emergency management arrangements and should address the following matters:

(a) Premises details

- i. Describe property and business details.**
- ii. Identify the purpose of the BEP stating that the plan outlines procedures for:**
 - 1. Closure of premises on any day with a Fire Danger Rating of Code Red.**
 - 2. Evacuation (evacuation from the site to a designated safer off-site location).**
 - 3. Shelter-in-place (remaining on-site in a designated building).**

(b) Review of the BEP

- i. Outline that the plan must be reviewed and updated annually prior to the commencement of the declared Fire Danger Period.**
- ii. Include a Version Control Table.**

(c) Roles & Responsibilities

- i. Detail the staff responsibilities for implementing the emergency procedures in the event of a bushfire.**

(d) Emergency contact details

- i. Outline organisation/position/contact details for emergency services personnel**

(e) Bushfire monitoring procedures

- i. Details the use of radio, internet and social networks that will assist in monitoring potential threats during the bushfire danger period.**
- ii. Describe and show (include a map) the area to be monitored for potential bushfire activity.**
- iii. Utilisation of the Vic Emergency App as a warning tool for fires in the surrounding landscape.**
 - 1. Establishment of a "Watchzone" in the Vic Emergency App.**

- 9.1 Planning Permit Application No. P2018-148
- Use and Development of Land for 4 Glamping Huts and 6 Tents (defined as Caravan and Camping Park as per Clause 73.03 Land Use Terms) ~ 204 Goulburn Weir-Murchison Road, Goulburn Weir (cont.)

- (f) Action Statements – trigger points for action**
- i. Prior to the Fire Danger Period**
 - 1. Describe on-site training sessions and fire equipment checks.
 - 2. Identify maintenance of bushfire protection measures such as vegetation management.
 - ii. Closure of premise during forecast Fire Danger Rating of Code Red days**
 - 1. Outline guest notification procedures and details of premises closure (including timing of closure).
 - iii. Evacuation**
 - 1. Identify triggers for evacuation from site. For example, when evacuation is recommended by emergency services.
 - 2. Details of the location/s of the offsite emergency assembly location.
 - 3. Transport arrangements for staff and guests including details such as:
 - a. Number of vehicles required
 - b. Name of company providing transportation
 - c. Contact phone number for transport company
 - d. Time required before transportation is likely to be available
 - e. Estimated travelling time to destination
 - 4. Actions after the bushfire emergency event.
- (g) Shelter-in-place**
- i. Show the location and describe the type of shelter-in-place.**
 - ii. Triggers for commencing the shelter-in-place option.**
 - iii. Procedures for emergency assembly in the shelter-in-place building.**

Expiry

25. This permit will expire if one of the following circumstances applies:
- (a) The development is not started within two (2) years of the date of this Permit,**
 - (b) The development is not completed within four (4) years of the date of this Permit.**
 - (c) The use has not commenced within two (2) years of the completion of the development.**

- 9.1 Planning Permit Application No. P2018-148
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The Responsible Authority may extend the periods referred to if a request is made in writing:

- ***before the permit expires; or***
- ***within six months afterwards if the use or development has not yet started; or***
- ***within 12 months after the permit expiry date, where the development allowed by the permit has lawfully started before the permit expires.***

Planning Notes:

- ***This Permit does not authorise the commencement of any building construction works. Before any such development may commence, the Applicant must apply for and obtain appropriate Building approval.***

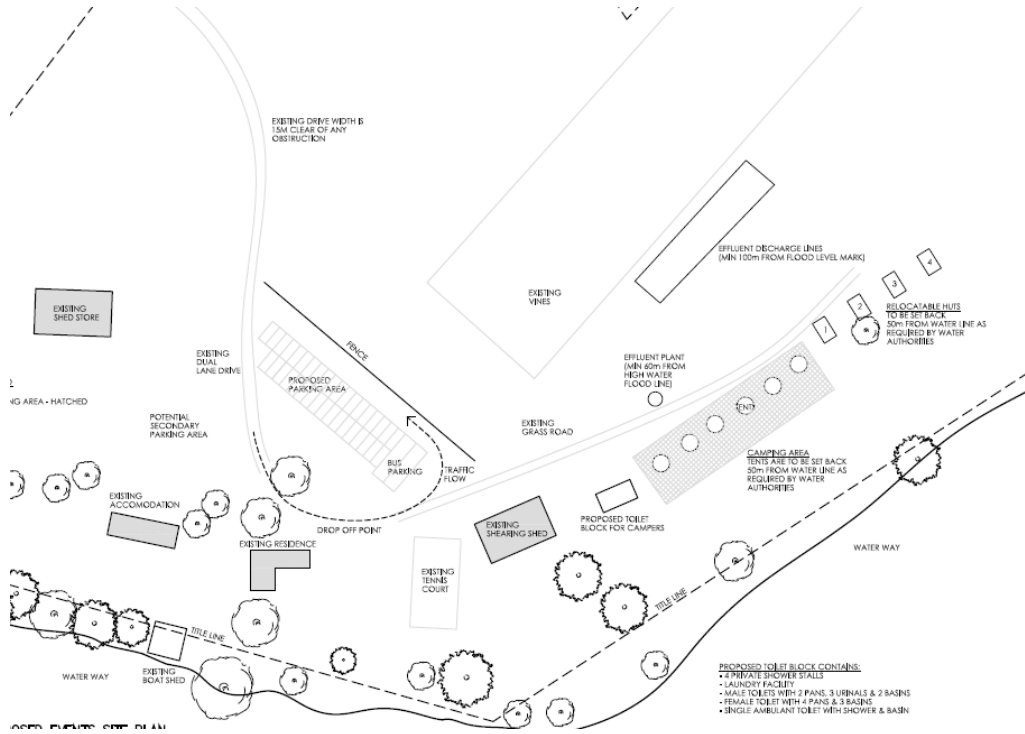
This Permit does not authorise the removal of any native vegetation including for access. Before any such works may commence, the Applicant must apply for and obtain appropriate Planning approval.

Proposal

The application was originally for the use and development of land at 204 Goulburn Weir-Murchison Road for a function centre and group accommodation in association with the existing winery (Vines) and group accommodation at the site.

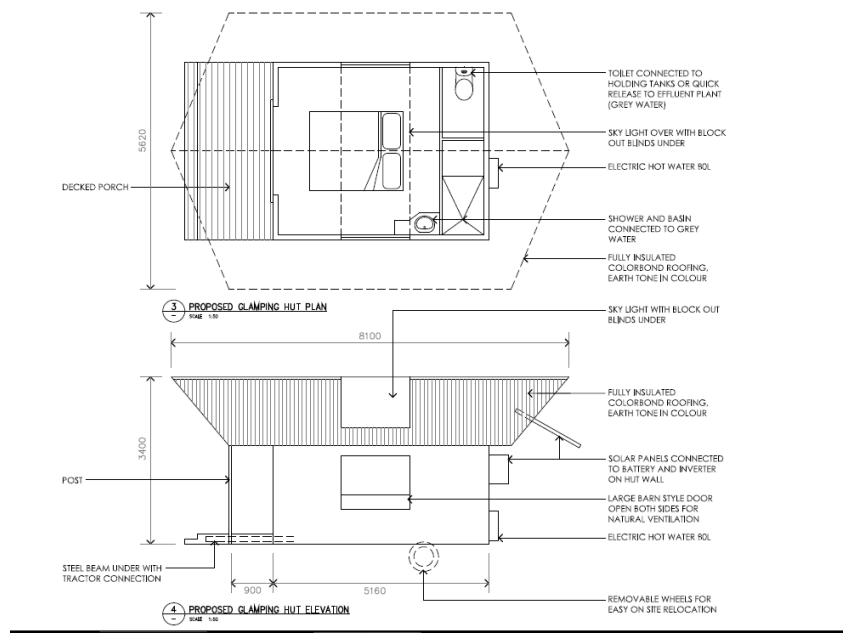
On 21 July 2020, the application was amended to be for a camping area to be located on the site, with “high end” tent style accommodation in structures which will be retained on site, in an area designated as a “camping area” located 50m from the top of the bank of the waterway. This area will allow for 6 tents to be erected as needed. Provision for four glamping huts is also made, to the east of the proposed tent sites. Toilet and bathroom facilities are being provided to support the proposal. Additional parking is proposed to ensure all vehicles are parked on site in a safe manner. All buildings will be located east of the existing dwelling and group accommodation building. The proposed site layout is as follows:

9.1 **Planning Permit Application No. P2018-148**
- Use and Development of Land for 4 Glamping Huts and 6 Tents (defined as Caravan and Camping Park as per Clause 73.03 Land Use Terms) ~ 204 Goulburn Weir-Murchison Road, Goulburn Weir (cont.)



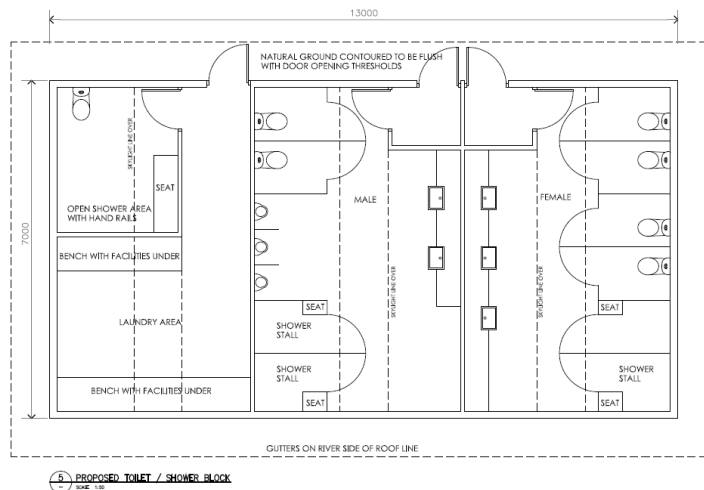
The proposed structures include:

Glamping huts (four of):



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- Use and Development of Land for 4 Glamping Huts and 6 Tents (defined as Caravan and Camping Park as per Clause 73.03 Land Use Terms) ~ 204 Goulburn Weir-Murchison Road, Goulburn Weir (cont.)

Toilet and shower block (1 of):



Subject site & locality

The subject site is located at 204 Goulburn Weir-Murchison Road, Goulburn Weir or Hide and Seek Wines, formally known as Lot 2 on Plan of Subdivision 624203, with access to the site through Lot 1 on Plan of Subdivision 624203. The lot contains a powerline easement running through the western side of the lot. The site is accessed via a carriageway easement through the lot to the west (Lot 1 on Plan of Subdivision 624203) off Goulburn-Weir Murchison Road. Goulburn Weir-Murchison Road is a sealed road.

The subject site is irregular in shape and has an area of 16.19 hectares. The site is cleared and low-lying with minimal native vegetation which is located around the property boundaries and along the Goulburn River. The subject site currently contains a dwelling, associated shedding, second dwelling used for group accommodation, boat ramp and shed, tennis court and vineyard.

The site is located approximately 1.8 kilometres southwest of the Goulburn Weir and 5.5 kilometres north of Nagambie. The site is bound by:

- the Goulburn River to the south,
- vacant land known as Lot 1 on Plan of Subdivision 624203 developed with the site's access way to the west,
- Goulburn-Weir Murchison Road to the north
- Public land which is vacant with a large dam to the east.

Within the surrounding area there are approximately 3 dwellings in separate ownership within 500 metres of the site and significant bushland and river environs to the south and east of the site.

9.1 Planning Permit Application No. P2018-148
- Use and Development of Land for 4 Glamping Huts and 6 Tents (defined as Caravan and Camping Park as per Clause 73.03 Land Use Terms) ~ 204 Goulburn Weir-Murchison Road, Goulburn Weir (cont.)

Permit/Site History

A search of Council's electronic records results in the following planning permit history:

- P53/98 – Two lot subdivision by boundary realignment
- P149/99 – Construction of a Boat Ramp and Shed on Lake Nagambie Weir Pool
- P157/2002 – Boundary Realignment – application complete
- P2006/099 – Use & Development of Land for a Caretaker's Dwelling
- P2007/030 – Re-Subdivision & Dwelling Use – withdrawn
- P2008/020 – Re-subdivision of Existing Two (2) Titles to create Two (2) Parcels
- P2008/114 – Extension to an Existing Dwelling – application complete
- P2008/136 – Use of Land for a Music Festival (Place of Assembly) – Refused
- P2010/049 – Use and Development of Land for a dwelling
- P2012/042a – Use and development of land for group accommodation
- P2017-088 – Development of land for an extension to a dwelling and second storey addition

Public Notification

The original application has been advertised pursuant to Section 52 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, by

- Sending letters to adjoining landowners
- Placing (a) sign on site

The notification has been carried out correctly. Council has received 1 objection to date.

The key issues raised in the objection are:

- Generation of traffic, noise, dust and light emissions.
- Impact on land capability, surrounding agricultural uses, the environment and the Goulburn River.
- Proximity to existing dwellings.
- Impact on farming operations.

The amended application was notified to all objectors to the original application, and no objections were withdrawn. The key issues that continue to be of concern are as follows:

- Generation of traffic, noise, dust and light emissions
- The Land Capability is not sufficient
- Will be a proliferation of dwellings
- Not in accordance with the Farming Zone
- Current and ongoing illegal use of the land
- Inability to ensure compliance with any conditions

9.1 Planning Permit Application No. P2018-148
- Use and Development of Land for 4 Glamping Huts and 6 Tents (defined as Caravan and Camping Park as per Clause 73.03 Land Use Terms) ~ 204 Goulburn Weir-Murchison Road, Goulburn Weir (cont.)

Consultation

Consultation has been undertaken with the objectors. The issues raised were not resolved.

An officer assessment of the grounds of objection has been undertaken, as follows:

1. Traffic, noise, dust and light emissions
Goulburn Weir-Murchison Road is a sealed road and is of a standard to be able to accommodate the additional traffic that would be expected for the 4 glamping pods and 6 tents to be allowed as part of this permit. The nearest dwelling is approximately 260m from the existing group accommodation, with the camping and glamping to be located east of this area and will be more than 500m from the neighbour to the west. The neighbouring dwelling to the south is over 400m from the existing group accommodation, with the proposed accommodation to be a similar setback but further to the east from the dwelling.

The site contains an existing car parking area that is currently used to support the group accommodation and winery, and there is sufficient room on the site to accommodate the extra parking required as part of this proposal. Conditions have been recommended on the permit to ensure that outdoor lighting is baffled and that the use must not impact adjoining amenity. As the application has been amended to no longer include any events, the use for accommodation is generally considered in accordance with the existing approved use of the land.
2. Land Capability
The application has been supported by a Land Capability Assessment and is large enough to be able to treat and dispose of wastewater in accordance with the Septic Tank Code of Practice and the *Environment Protection Act 1970*.
3. Proliferation of dwellings
The application does not include any additional dwellings, only glamping pods and camping tents, that will be used in association with the existing use of the land.
4. Farming Zone
How this application is considered in relation to the zone is discussed in detail, below.
5. Illegal use of land
An application for a permit cannot be used to address non-compliance issues for other uses. The application is for glamping and camping on site. Any compliance matters will need to be addressed separately by Council's Compliance Unit. It is noted that previous complaints have revolved around the use of the land for events, and this application no longer includes events as part of the proposal.

9.1 Planning Permit Application No. P2018-148
- Use and Development of Land for 4 Glamping Huts and 6 Tents (defined as Caravan and Camping Park as per Clause 73.03 Land Use Terms) ~ 204 Goulburn Weir-Murchison Road, Goulburn Weir (cont.)

6. Compliance of permit conditions

Any permit issued will include conditions that will need to be complied with. As the site will predominantly be used for the winery, with associated accommodation options, it is considered that the permit applicant will be able to comply with the relevant conditions.

Referrals

External Referrals/Notices required by the Planning Scheme:

Referrals/Notice	Advice/Response/Conditions
Section 55 Referrals	None
Section 52 Notices	Ausnet – No objection, no conditions. CFA – No objection, subject to conditions. GBCMA – No objection, no conditions. GMW – No objection, subject to conditions.

Internal Council Referrals	Advice/Response/Conditions
Environmental Health	No objection, subject to conditions and LCA approval

Assessment

The zoning of the land and any relevant overlay provisions

Farming Zone

Purpose:

- *To implement the State Planning Policy Framework and the Local Planning Policy Framework, including the Municipal Strategic Statement and local planning policies.*
- *To provide for the use of land for agriculture.*
- *To encourage the retention of productive agricultural land.*
- *To ensure that non-agricultural uses, including dwellings, do not adversely affect the use of land for agriculture.*
- *To encourage the retention of employment and population to support rural communities.*
- *To encourage use and development of land based on comprehensive and sustainable land management practices and infrastructure provision.*

Officer comment:

A planning permit is required for the use of the land for a caravan and camping park in the zone. The property has one dwelling and one building used for group accommodation on the site. Permit P2012-042a was issued for the group accommodation and does not specify a maximum of people to be accommodated within that building.

9.1 Planning Permit Application No. P2018-148
- Use and Development of Land for 4 Glamping Huts and 6 Tents (defined as Caravan and Camping Park as per Clause 73.03 Land Use Terms) ~ 204 Goulburn Weir-Murchison Road, Goulburn Weir (cont.)

The proposal will allow up to 20 additional people on site, with 8 in the glamping huts and 12 in the tent area. This will be placed into a condition on the permit.

When considering the types of accommodation on site, the following is noted in relation to the different types of accommodation:

Accommodation Type	Definition	Existing or proposed?
Accommodation	Land used to accommodate persons	All types of accommodation fall under this broader definition
Dwelling	A building used as self-contained residence, which must include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A kitchen sink • Food preparation facilities • A bath or shower • A toilet and wash basin It includes outbuildings and works normal to a dwelling	Existing
Group Accommodation	Land, in one ownership, containing a number of dwellings used to accommodate persons away from their normal place of residence.	Existing
Camping and Caravan Park	Land used to allow accommodation in caravans, cabins, tents or the like.	Proposed

The current proposal is to allow the camping and glamping and is considered a form of short term accommodation on the site, similar in use but different in structure to the Group Accommodation. When considering the proposal, how the land is used is most important when considering the purpose of the Farming Zone. The structures involved with the use, being the toilet/shower block and the glamping pods, must be considered in relation to how they will interact with the broader environment, such as setbacks from the waterway and how effluent will be managed.

9.1 Planning Permit Application No. P2018-148
- Use and Development of Land for 4 Glamping Huts and 6 Tents (defined as Caravan and Camping Park as per Clause 73.03 Land Use Terms) ~ 204 Goulburn Weir-Murchison Road, Goulburn Weir (cont.)

The proposal has been assessed against the decision guidelines of the zone as follows:

Decision Guidelines	Officer Comments	Complies?
General Issues		
The Municipal Planning Strategy and the Planning Policy Framework.	Refer below.	✓ Yes
Any Regional Catchment Strategy and associated plan applying to the land	The regional catchment strategy will not have an impact on the proposal.	✓ Yes
The capability of the land to accommodate the proposed use or development, including the disposal of effluent.	A Land Capability Assessment was submitted with the application prepared by Eco Vision Australia (Reference no. 106LO18). The LCA was prepared for up to 16 people and recommended that a secondary treatment system will be appropriate for the site. While the proposal is for up to 20 people, with the site being 15.7 ha in size, it is considered that there will be sufficient land available to dispose of effluent appropriately. Using the calculations in the report, which provided for 100L/D for the camping, the wastewater would be increased by a maximum of 800 L/D for 20 people and would be a total increase for the site of 3500 litres per week. The recommendations included advice to use a buffer/sludge tank for additional storage capacity when needed. The specifics of the system will be assessed by Council's Environmental Health Officer when issuing the Septic Tank Permit in accordance with the <i>Environment Protection Act 1970</i> .	✓ Yes
How the use or development relates to sustainable land management	The site is currently being used for a winery and accommodation (in the broader sense), in the form of a residential dwelling and group accommodation. The additional use of the land for camping and glamping is within the existing considerations for	✓ Yes

Decision Guidelines	Officer Comments	Complies?
	<p>the land is considered an appropriate extension of the existing use.</p> <p>The proposal to include a different form of accommodation will not change how the broader land is used for the winery and will not have a negative impact on the overall management of the land.</p>	
<p>Whether the site is suitable for the use or development and whether the proposal is compatible with adjoining and nearby land uses.</p>	<p>The proposed use is similar in nature to the existing accommodation provided on site. The objections raised concerns with amenity impacts, and this has been discussed above in the consultation section of this report.</p>	
<p>How the use and development makes use of existing infrastructure and services.</p>	<p>The proposed accommodation is located within an existing cleared area of the property, will 16rganiz the car parking areas already constructed and will require the provision of a toilet and shower facility to support the camping.</p>	<p>✓ Yes</p>
<p>Agricultural issues and the impacts from non-agricultural uses</p>		
<p>Whether the use or development will support and enhance agricultural production</p>	<p>The proposed use will not change the agricultural use of the land, which is currently being used for a winery.</p>	<p>✓ Yes</p>
<p>Whether the use or development will adversely affect soil quality or permanently remove land from agricultural production.</p>	<p>The area proposed for the accommodation is not being used for vines, and the movable nature of the structures ensures that the land will not be permanently removed from productive purposes.</p>	<p>✓ Yes</p>
<p>The potential for the use or development to limit the operation and expansion of adjoining and nearby agricultural uses.</p>	<p>The concerns raised by the objections relate to amenity issues, not potential impact on farming practices. The use of the land for accommodation is existing, and it is considered that this has already placed a limitation on nearby agriculture that will not be exacerbated by this proposal.</p>	<p>✓ Yes</p>
<p>The capacity of the site to sustain the agricultural use</p>	<p>The proposed use will not change the agricultural use of the land, which is currently being used for a winery.</p>	<p>✓ Yes</p>
<p>The agricultural qualities of the land, such as soil quality, access to water and access to rural infrastructure.</p>	<p>The proposed use will not change the agricultural qualities land, which is currently being used for a winery. The disposal of effluent will be managed in accordance with the Septic Tank Code of Practice and no impact on the waterway.</p>	<p>✓ Yes</p>

Decision Guidelines	Officer Comments	Complies?
Any integrated land management plan prepared for the site.	No land management plan has been prepared as part of this application.	Not applicable
Dwelling issues		
Whether the dwelling will result in the loss or fragmentation of productive agricultural land	No dwelling is proposed as part of this proposal.	Not applicable
Whether the dwelling will be adversely affected by agricultural activities on adjacent and nearby land due to dust, noise, odour, use of chemicals and farm machinery, traffic and hours of operation.	No dwelling is proposed as part of this proposal.	Not applicable
Whether the dwelling will adversely affect the operation and expansion of adjoining and nearby agricultural uses.	No dwelling is proposed as part of this proposal.	Not applicable
The potential for the proposal to lead to a concentration or proliferation of dwellings in the area and the impact of this on the use of the land for agriculture.	No dwelling is proposed as part of this proposal.	Not applicable
Environmental Issues		
The impact of the proposal on the natural physical features and resources of the area, in particular on soil and water quality.	The glamping and camping areas are set back at least 50m from the high water point for the Goulburn, with effluent disposal to be 100m away. No native vegetation will be impacted by the proposal.	✓ Yes
The impact of the use or development on the flora and fauna on the site and its surrounds.	No native vegetation will be impacted by this proposal.	✓ Yes
The need to protect and enhance the biodiversity of the area, including the retention of vegetation and faunal habitat and the need to revegetate land including riparian buffers along waterways, gullies, ridgelines, property boundaries and saline discharge and recharge area.	The proposal is set back from the riparian zone in accordance with the requirements of Goulburn Murray Water and the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority.	✓ Yes
The location of on-site effluent disposal areas to minimize the impact of nutrient loads on	All effluent disposal will be located at least 100 metres away from the water way in accordance with the	✓ Yes

Decision Guidelines	Officer Comments	Complies?
waterways and native vegetation.	requirements of Goulburn Murray Water.	
Design and siting issues		
The need to locate buildings in one area to avoid any adverse impacts on surrounding agricultural uses and to 18rganiza the loss of productive agricultural land.	The structures are located along the southern portion of the property, and will not impact on the broader agricultural use of the land.	✓ Yes
The impact of the siting, design, height, bulk, colours and materials to be used, on the natural environment, major roads, vistas and water features and the measures to be undertaken to 18rganiza any adverse impacts.	The proposed structures are small in nature and will have a requirement on the recommendation to be in muted tones in accordance with council's policy.	✓ Yes
The impact on the character and appearance of the area or features of architectural, historic or scientific significance or of natural scenic beauty or importance.	There are no features of significance that will be impacted by the proposal.	✓ Yes
The location and design of existing and proposed infrastructure including roads, gas, water, drainage, telecommunications and sewerage facilities	The only infrastructure to be constructed will be the wastewater management system, which will be located in an appropriate place on the site.	✓ Yes
Whether the use and development will require traffic management measures.	With access from a sealed council road, no traffic measures are required to support the development.	✓ Yes

Floodway Overlay

Purpose:

- *To implement the State Planning Policy Framework and the Local Planning Policy Framework, including the Municipal Strategic Statement and local planning policies.*
- *To identify land in a flood storage or flood fringe area affected by the 1 in 100 year flood or any other area determined by the floodplain management authority.*
- *To ensure that development maintains the free passage and temporary storage of floodwaters, minimises flood damage, is compatible with the flood hazard and local drainage conditions and will not cause any significant rise in flood level or flow velocity.*
- *To reflect any declaration under Division 4 of Part 10 of the Water Act, 1989 where a declaration has been made.*

9.1 Planning Permit Application No. P2018-148
- Use and Development of Land for 4 Glamping Huts and 6 Tents (defined as Caravan and Camping Park as per Clause 73.03 Land Use Terms) ~ 204 Goulburn Weir-Murchison Road, Goulburn Weir (cont.)

- *To protect water quality in accordance with the provisions of relevant State Environment*
- *Protection Policies, particularly in accordance with Clauses 33 and 35 of the State Environment Protection Policy (Waters of Victoria).*
- *To ensure that development maintains or improves river and wetland health, waterway protection and flood plain health.*

Officer Comment:

While a small section of the property is in the overlay, the proposed use is located outside of this area, and is not a trigger for this permit.

Land Subject to Inundation Overlay

Purpose:

- *To implement the State Planning Policy Framework and the Local Planning Policy Framework, including the Municipal Strategic Statement and local planning policies.*
- *To identify land in a flood storage or flood fringe area affected by the 1 in 100 year flood or any other area determined by the floodplain management authority.*
- *To ensure that development maintains the free passage and temporary storage of floodwaters, minimises flood damage, is compatible with the flood hazard and local drainage conditions and will not cause any significant rise in flood level or flow velocity.*
- *To reflect any declaration under Division 4 of Part 10 of the Water Act, 1989 where a declaration has been made.*
- *To protect water quality in accordance with the provisions of relevant State Environment*
- *Protection Policies, particularly in accordance with Clauses 33 and 35 of the State Environment Protection Policy (Waters of Victoria).*
- *To ensure that development maintains or improves river and wetland health, waterway protection and flood plain health.*

Officer Comment:

While a small section of the property is in the overlay, the proposed use is located outside of this area, and is not a trigger for this permit.

The Planning Policy Framework (PPF)

Clause 12.03-1S *River corridors, waterways, lakes and wetlands*

Objective

- *To protect and enhance river corridors, waterways, lakes and wetlands.*

9.1 Planning Permit Application No. P2018-148
- Use and Development of Land for 4 Glamping Huts and 6 Tents (defined as Caravan and Camping Park as per Clause 73.03 Land Use Terms) ~ 204 Goulburn Weir-Murchison Road, Goulburn Weir (cont.)

Officer comment:

The subject site is directly adjacent to the Goulburn River and associated environs and public land. The application would see the use of land for a caravan and camping park, with all buildings and works located at least 50 metres from the Goulburn River, and wastewater disposal area at least 100 metres from the waterway. The amended proposal is considered in accordance with this provision.

Clause 13.05-1S *Bushfire planning*

Objective

- *To strengthen the resilience of settlements and communities to bushfire through risk-based planning that prioritises the protection of human life.*

Officer comment:

The site is within a designated bushfire prone area and the application involves the use of land for a form of accommodation. The proposal was referred to the CFA who offered no objection, subject to conditions. Considering the nature of the land use, it is considered that a Bushfire Emergency Management Plan would be required for this site.

Clause 13.03-1S *Floodplain Management*

Objective

- *To assist the protection of:*
 - *Life, property and community infrastructure from flood hazard.*
 - *The natural flood carrying capacity of rivers, streams and floodways.*
 - *The flood storage function of floodplains and waterways.*
 - *Floodplain areas of environmental significance or of importance to river health.*

Officer comment:

The application was referred to the GBCMA who did not object to the application and were satisfied with the buildings and works located 50 metres from the top bank of the Goulburn River.

Clause 14.01-1S *Protection of agricultural land*

Objective

- *To protect the state's agricultural base by preserving productive farmland.*

Clause 14.01-2S *Sustainable Agricultural land use*

Objective

- *To encourage sustainable agricultural land use.*

Officer comment:

The site is already being used for a form of accommodation, being group accommodation, and the additional accommodation in the form of tents and huts is considered an appropriate extension to the offering on the site.

9.1 Planning Permit Application No. P2018-148
- Use and Development of Land for 4 Glamping Huts and 6 Tents (defined as Caravan and Camping Park as per Clause 73.03 Land Use Terms) ~ 204 Goulburn Weir-Murchison Road, Goulburn Weir (cont.)

Clause 14.02-1S Catchment planning and management

Objective

- *To assist the protection and, where possible, restoration of catchments, waterways, water bodies, groundwater, and the marine environment.*

Clause 14.02-2S Water Quality

Objective

- *To protect water quality.*

Officer comment:

The proposed use of land for a camping and caravan park (glamping and camping) has been located in a manner to ensure it does not impact upon the catchment and water quality of the Goulburn River environs. As the land use will be temporary and occasional, and the effluent disposal will be located more than 100m away from the waterway, there will be no negative impact on water quality.

Clause 15.01-6S Design for rural areas

Objective

- *To ensure development respects valued areas of rural character.*

Officer comment:

The design of the glamping huts is considered appropriate within the rural and natural environmental context of the site through the utilisation of appropriate materials such as timber and colourbond roofing in an earthy tone with a shape and design which is similar in shape and roof form to other buildings at the site and in the surrounding area. Services to the hut are neatly and appropriately positioned on the building.

Clause 17.01-1S Diversified economy

Objective

- *To strengthen and diversify the economy.*

Clause 17.04-1S Facilitating tourism

Objective

- *To encourage tourism development to maximise the economic, social and cultural benefits of developing the state as a competitive domestic and international tourist destination.*

Clause 17.04-1R Tourism – Hume

Strategies

- *Support opportunities for nature-based tourism throughout the region, including in wetlands of national and regional significance, such as the Winton Wetlands, the Barmah Forest and the lower Ovens River.*
- *Support large commercial tourism uses in urban locations or rural areas of lower agricultural value and away from areas identified as strategic agricultural land.*
- *Facilitate rural tourism activities that support agricultural enterprises such as cellar door and farm gate sales and accommodation in appropriate locations.*
- *Support the region's network of tracks and trails and activities that complement and extend their use.*

9.1 Planning Permit Application No. P2018-148
- Use and Development of Land for 4 Glamping Huts and 6 Tents (defined as Caravan and Camping Park as per Clause 73.03 Land Use Terms) ~ 204 Goulburn Weir-Murchison Road, Goulburn Weir (cont.)

Officer comment:

The proposal will contribute to the region's economy and tourism industry through strengthening and expanding the operation of an existing successful tourism business. The location of the site is appropriate with regard to proximity to other tourism activity however the proposed siting and intensity of the proposal is not appropriate for the environmental sensitivities at this site.

Clause 18.02-4S *Car parking*

Objective

- *To ensure an adequate supply of car parking that is appropriately designed and located.*

Officer comment:

The site provides for 36 car parking spaces and 2 bus parking spaces which are appropriately located within the site, which is more than required for the glamping and camping proposed. In accordance with Clause 52.06 the car parking provided is adequate for the proposal.

The Local Planning Policy Framework (LPPF) – including the Municipal Strategic Statement (MSS) and local planning policies

Clause 21.02-6 *Building Material – Muted Tones*

Overview

- *The Shire has significant natural landscapes and views which provide an important asset, and opportunity for tourism and economic development. Buildings can be intrusive in this type of environment if constructed of materials which are not sympathetic to the surrounding environment.*

Objective

- *To ensure that all structures blend in with the surrounding environment and that the aesthetic amenity of the area is preserved and/or enhanced.*

Officer comment:

The building materials used as part of the built features of this proposal are considered to be appropriate within the area, and a condition will be placed in the recommendation to ensure that this part of the permit.

Clause 21.02-4 *Rural Zones*

Objective

- *To protect and maintain established farming areas.*
- *To ensure suitable land is available to provide for emerging rural enterprises, e.g. intensive animal husbandry, horticulture and equine industry.*

Officer comment:

The proposal will provide economic support for the operation of exiting viticulture at the site, and will be used in conjunction with an existing accommodation use on the site, it is considered that the proposal supports an emerging rural enterprise, being the winery with onsite accommodation. The different types of accommodation on site will allow for a range of choices for patrons.

9.1 Planning Permit Application No. P2018-148
- Use and Development of Land for 4 Glamping Huts and 6 Tents (defined as Caravan and Camping Park as per Clause 73.03 Land Use Terms) ~ 204 Goulburn Weir-Murchison Road, Goulburn Weir (cont.)

Clause 21.04-6 Flooding

Objective

- *To protect and manage floodplains.*

Strategies

- *Discourage development and subdivision of land subject to significant flooding.*
- *Ensure all new development maintains the free passage and temporary storage of floodwater, minimises flood damage, is compatible with flood hazard and local drainage conditions, and minimises soil erosion, sedimentation and silting.*
- *Ensure the Local Floodplain Development Plans are current and development proposals are consistent with these plans.*

Officer comment:

The proposal will not significantly impact upon the flooding risk at the site. Proposed development is located outside of flooding overlays and will not impact the areas prone to inundation and flooding.

Clause 21.04-7 *Bushfire*

Overview

- *Areas of the Shire are identified as being prone to bushfires, particularly the Strathbogie Ranges.*
- *The impacts of a bushfire on life and property are influenced by factors including the subdivision pattern, availability of reticulated water, proximity to vegetation and community capacity.*

Objective

- *To minimise the risk to life, property and the environment from bushfire.*

Officer comment:

Bushfire risk is relatively low in comparison with other areas of the Shire. The application was referred to CFA who did not object to the application, subject to the preparation of a Bushfire Emergency Plan for the site, required by way of permit conditions.

Clause 21.06-3 *Tourism*

Objective

- *To promote the Shire as a tourism destination.*

Strategies

- *Encourage tourism related development that supports towns, promotes employment and recreational opportunities.*
- *Support new and existing tourism developments that promote key attributes of the Shire such as the natural environment, heritage, town character and niche/boutique industries.*
- *Support the strengthening of tourism links with surrounding municipalities.*
- *Recognise the benefits of Lake Nagambie and Goulburn River for tourism opportunities.*
- *Encourage tourism developments associated with rural pursuits.*
- *Encourage the Regatta Centre in Nagambie as a water sports centre.*

9.1 Planning Permit Application No. P2018-148
- Use and Development of Land for 4 Glamping Huts and 6 Tents (defined as Caravan and Camping Park as per Clause 73.03 Land Use Terms) ~ 204 Goulburn Weir-Murchison Road, Goulburn Weir (cont.)

Officer comment:

The application would see the expansion of an established and successful tourism business which involves key assets of the region; the Goulburn River and associated recreational opportunities. The application would also support and encourage other tourism destinations in the region.

Clause 21.06-2 *Adapting and diversifying agriculture*

Objective

- *To support and encourage the retention and diversification of agriculture.*

Officer comment:

The application does not propose any changes to agriculture at the site and would not further limit the potential for the future use of land for other forms or expansion of agriculture.

Relevant Particular Provisions

Clause 52.06 *Car parking*

Purpose

- *To ensure that car parking is provided in accordance with the Municipal Planning Strategy and the Planning Policy Framework.*
- *To ensure the provision of an appropriate number of car parking spaces having regard to the demand likely to be generated, the activities on the land and the nature of the locality.*
- *To support sustainable transport alternatives to the motor car.*
- *To promote the efficient use of car parking spaces through the consolidation of car parking facilities.*
- *To ensure that car parking does not adversely affect the amenity of the locality.*
- *To ensure that the design and location of car parking is of a high standard, creates a safe environment for users and enables easy and efficient use.*

Officer comment:

This clause applies where there is a new use. The application must supply the number of car parking spaces required under the Table at Clause 52.06-5.

The number of spaces required is not specified for a caravan and camping park or accommodation, therefore the number of spaces required is at the discretion of the responsible authority. Considering the proposed accommodation at the site will be used in association with the existing winery and group accommodation, no additional car parking spaces are required to be provided.

The site plan provided with the application provides 36 car parking spaces and 2 bus parking spaces at the site, and was developed when the application provided for events as well. A condition will be placed on the recommendation requiring an amended site plan with car parking to be provided for the glamping and camping only.

9.1 Planning Permit Application No. P2018-148
- Use and Development of Land for 4 Glamping Huts and 6 Tents (defined as Caravan and Camping Park as per Clause 73.03 Land Use Terms) ~ 204 Goulburn Weir-Murchison Road, Goulburn Weir (cont.)

The decision guidelines of Clause 65

Clause 65.01, *Approval of an application or plan*, states that; *before deciding on an application or approval of a plan, the responsible authority must consider, as appropriate:*

- *The matters set out in Section 60 of the Act.*
- *The State Planning Policy Framework and the Local Planning Policy Framework, including the Municipal Strategic Statement and local planning policies.*
- *The purpose of the zone, overlay or other provision.*
- *Any matter required to be considered in the zone, overlay or other provision.*
- *The orderly planning of the area.*
- *The effect on the amenity of the area.*
- *The proximity of the land to any public land.*
- *Factors likely to cause or contribute to land degradation, salinity or reduce water quality.*
- *Whether the proposed development is designed to maintain or improve the quality of stormwater within and exiting the site.*
- *The extent and character of native vegetation and the likelihood of its destruction.*
- *Whether native vegetation is to be or can be protected, planted or allowed to regenerate.*
- *The degree of flood, erosion or fire hazard associated with the location of the land and the use, development or management of the land so as to 25rganiza any such hazard.*

Other relevant adopted State policies/strategies – (e.g. Melbourne 2030.)

There are no relevant adopted State policies.

Relevant incorporated, reference or adopted documents

There are no relevant incorporated, reference or adopted documents.

Relevant Planning Scheme amendments

There are no relevant planning scheme amendments.

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.

- 9.1 Planning Permit Application No. P2018-148
- Use and Development of Land for 4 Glamping Huts and 6 Tents (defined as Caravan and Camping Park as per Clause 73.03 Land Use Terms) ~ 204 Goulburn Weir-Murchison Road, Goulburn Weir (cont.)

Summary of Key Issues

With regard to the Farming Zone: The use of the land for a camping and caravan parking, being for camping and glamping only, in association with the existing use of the land for group accommodation and a winery, is considered to be a reasonable extension of the existing use of the land and can be supported.

In summary, the proposal meets the objectives of the Planning Policy Framework, Local Planning Policy Framework and Farming Zone.

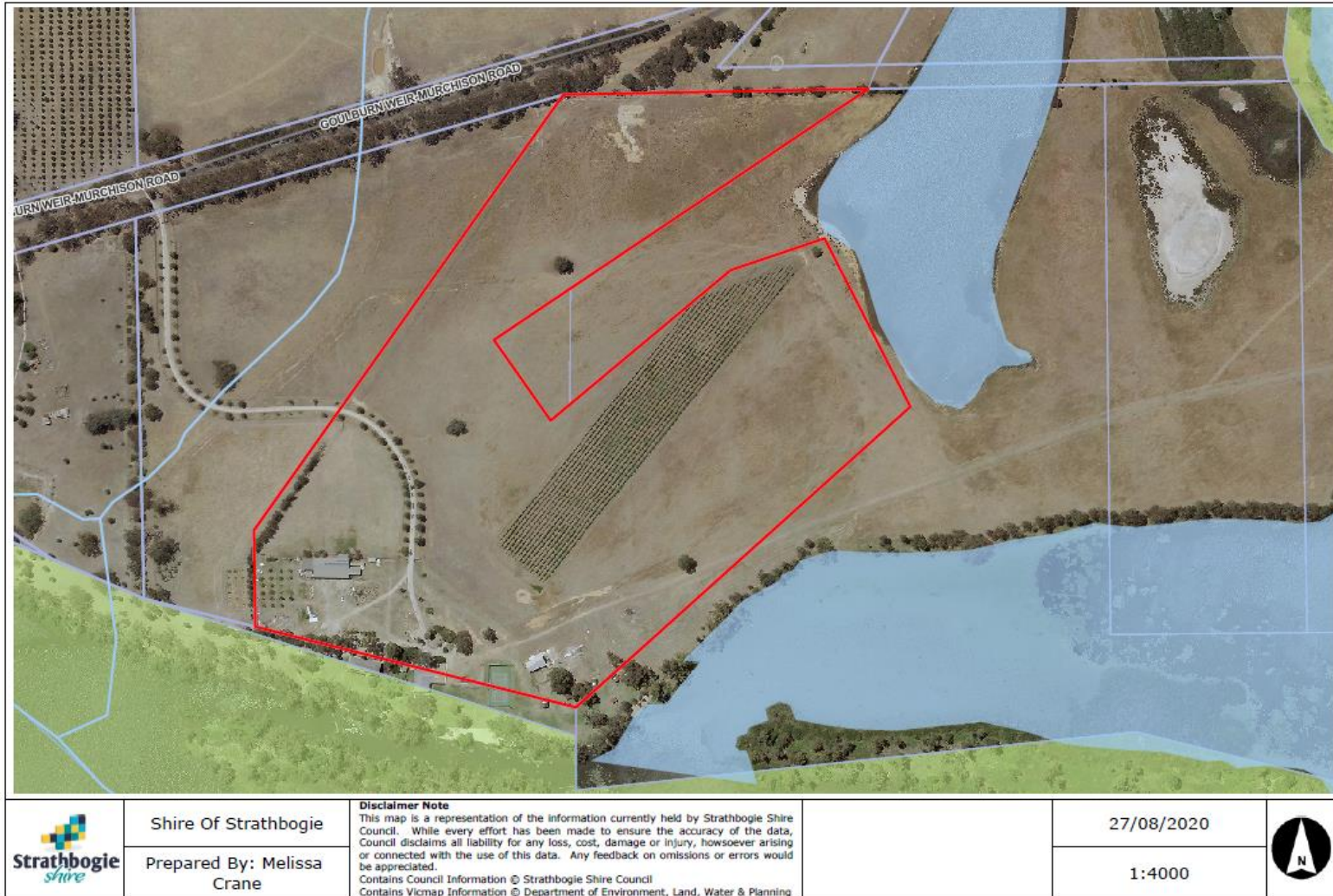
Conclusion

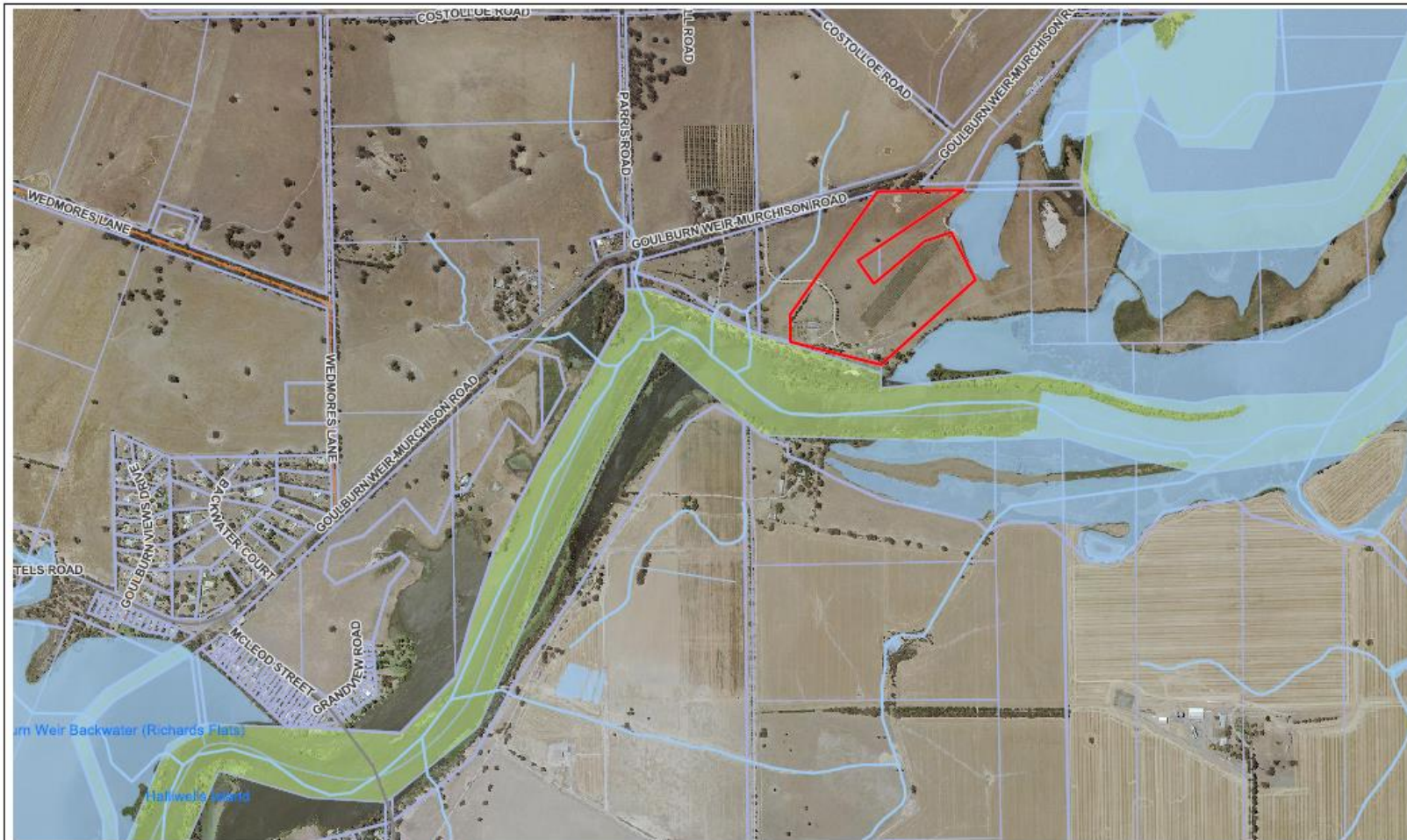
After due assessment of all the relevant factors, it is considered appropriate to issue a Notice of Decision to grant a planning permit, in accordance with the officers recommendation.



Attachments

Attachment 1: Site plan and locality plan.

ATTACHMENT 1:





	Shire Of Strathbogie	Disclaimer Note This map is a representation of the information currently held by Strathbogie Shire Council. While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the data, Council disclaims all liability for any loss, cost, damage or injury, howsoever arising or connected with the use of this data. Any feedback on omissions or errors would be appreciated. Contains Council Information © Strathbogie Shire Council Contains Vicmap Information © Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning	27/08/2020	
	Prepared By: Melissa Crane		1:15000	

9.2 Combined Planning Scheme Amendment and Planning Permit Application – 401 High Street, Nagambie (C080 and P2019-096)

Author: Manager Planning and Investment (Acting)

Responsible Director: Director Community and Planning (Acting)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is for Council to consider a request to be made to the Minister for Planning to authorise the preparation and exhibition of a proposed amendment to the Strathbogie Planning Scheme. Proposed Planning Scheme Amendment C080 has been prepared by the proponent to change the zoning and overlays that apply to the land known as 401 High Street and 19 Lobbs Lane, Nagambie.

The amendment includes rezoning of the subject land from Farming Zone to General Residential Zone and proposes changes to the Floodway Overlay. The Amendment seeks to amend Planning Scheme Zoning Maps 10 and 22 and Overlay Maps 10FO and 22FO. The application also seeks planning approval for the subdivision of the land into 250 allotments, the creation/alteration of access to the Road Zone Category 1 (High Street), the removal of native vegetation and associated earthworks.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

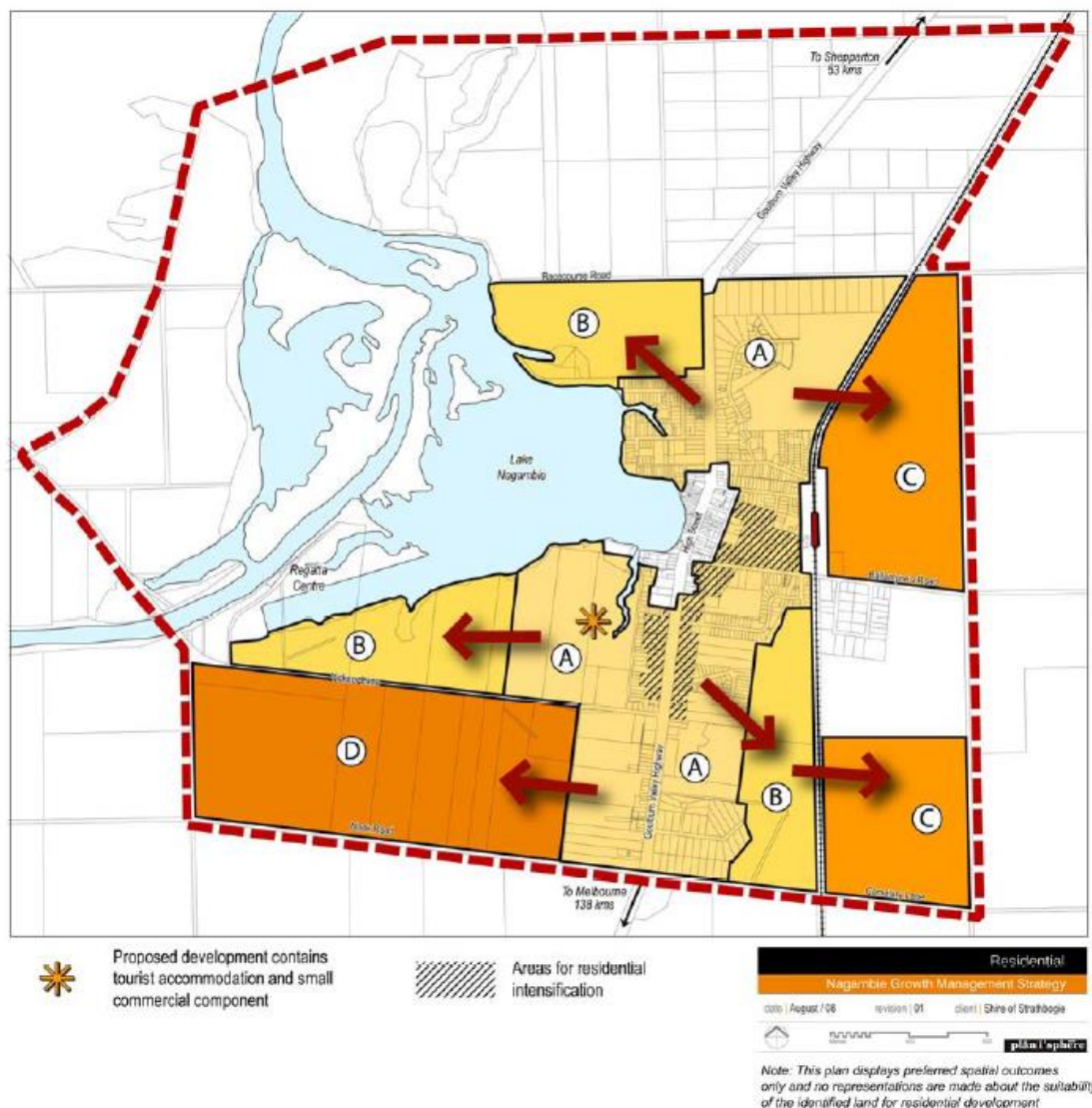
- 1. Requests under section 8A (2) and (3) of the Planning and Environment Act 1987 that the Minister for Planning authorise Strathbogie Shire Council to prepare amendment C080 to the Strathbogie Planning Scheme as a combined permit and amendment under Section 96A of the Planning and Environment Act 1987;***
- 2. Notify the Minister for Planning that when it exhibits Amendment C080 and the proposed planning permit, Strathbogie Shire Council intends to give full notification of the amendment under Section 96C of the Planning and Environment Act 19987 for the minimum statutory exhibition period of one month; and***
- 3. When authorised by the Minister for Planning, exhibit Amendment C080 and proposed planning permit to the Strathbogie Planning Scheme under Section 96C of the Planning and Environment Act 1987.***

9.2 Combined Planning Scheme Amendment and Planning Permit Application – 401 High Street, Nagambie (C080 and P2019-096) (cont.)

PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND

A proposal has been received for a combined amendment to the Strathbogie Planning Scheme and a planning permit to facilitate the residential subdivision into 250 allotments on the land known as 401 High Street, Nagambie.

The land, being approximately 48 hectares in size, is located to the north of the Nagambie town centre, next to Lake Nagambie. The lot fronts High Street on the eastern boundary, Lobbs Lane on the northern boundary, houses fronting River Street on the southern boundary and Lake Nagambie on the western boundary. All lots are proposed to be accessed from a road to be constructed from High Street. This area of land was identified in the *Nagambie Growth Management Strategy 2008*, where the strategy delineated this parcel as a “B” area, which was not currently zoned residential, but well located and adjacent to current residentially zoned land. In relation to the existing residential land, it is important to note that the property identified to the east of the subject site as “A” has permits issued for subdivision of the bulk of this area.



9.2 Combined Planning Scheme Amendment and Planning Permit Application – 401 High Street, Nagambie (C080 and P2019-096) (cont.)

Section 96A of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* (The Act) provides an opportunity for a combined application to be made for both a planning scheme amendment and a planning permit. The intent of this combined permit/amendment process is to provide an integrated approach to both amending the scheme and approving a specific proposal, providing only one exhibition process and review opportunity. The combined procedure follows the planning scheme amendment process, not the application for planning permit process. The proposal is therefore exhibited as an amendment, with the review process for hearing unresolved submissions being a planning panel, not VCAT.

The concept plan of the development is as follows:



There are a number of decision points for council in the amendment process, which is discussed in detail below in the Legal Considerations section of this report, and this report is for the first two of these points – to allow for both the preparation and the exhibition of an amendment.

ISSUES, OPTIONS AND DISCUSSION

One of the overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that Priority is to be given to achieving the best outcomes for the municipal community, including future generations.

The *Nagambie Growth Management Strategy* and the *Nagambie Structure Plan* both identified this land for residential development and provides for the continuation of the urban growth of the township of Nagambie. Policy considerations for the proposal are discussed in detail in the Planning Report submitted with the application.

9.2 Combined Planning Scheme Amendment and Planning Permit Application – 401 High Street, Nagambie (C080 and P2019-096) (cont.)

Potential alternative courses of action which Council might consider:

Option 1: That Council pursues the proposed amendment and supports the request to be made to the Minister for Planning to authorize the preparation and exhibition of the amendment to the Strathbogie Planning Scheme.

The amendment has been prepared to rezone the parcel of land known as 401 High Street, Nagambie, and to approve a planning permit. It is recommended of this report that Council undertaken Option 1.

Option 2: That Council does not support the request to be made to the Minister for Planning, to authorize the preparation and exhibition of the amendment to the Strathbogie Planning Scheme and therefore abandons the amendment.

This would mean that no amendment would be undertaken. In this instance, if Council do not proceed with the amendment, the land will remain in the Farming Zone and will not be further developed for residential use.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

One of the overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that the municipal community is to be engaged in strategic planning and strategic decision making.

The strategic planning documents that support this proposal, being the *Nagambie Growth Management Strategy* and the *Nagambie Structure Plan* were both extensively consulted on with the local community and both have been adopted by Council and included within the Strathbogie Planning Scheme.

This site-specific amendment is subject to the prescribed process in accordance with the public notice and consultation requirements of Section 19 of the Act. This will include advertising in the government gazette and local newspapers as well as written notification to landowners and occupiers that may be materially affected by the amendment following authorisation of the amendment. All statutory and servicing authorities likely to be materially affected will also be notified of the proposed amendment. The exhibition period of the amendment will be for a minimum of four weeks.

Under Section 19 of the Act the following notice must be undertaken:

- Notice to every Minister, public authority and municipal council that may be materially affected.
- To the owners and occupiers of land that may be materially affected.
- To any Minister, public authority, municipal council or person that is specifically prescribed.

Council officers will also give notice of the amendment in the following ways:

- Notice of amendment into the local papers
- Notice of amendment into the Government Gazette

9.2 Combined Planning Scheme Amendment and Planning Permit Application – 401 High Street, Nagambie (C080 and P2019-096) (cont.)

The relevant amendment documents are attached to this report, and the exhibition will include the following supporting documents:

- Permit Application – Permit Application Form
- Permit Application – Title and Title Plans
- Permit Application – Planning Report
- Permit Application – Overall Development Plan
- Permit Application – Proposed plan of subdivision
- Permit Application – Clause 56 Assessment
- Permit Application – Biodiversity report and addendum
- Permit Application – Bushfire Assessment Report
- Permit Application – Flood Level Plan
- Permit Application – Overall Drainage Plan
- Permit Application – Preliminary Site Investigation for Contamination
- Permit Application – Road Sections
- Permit Application – Servicing Strategy
- Permit Application – Traffic Impact Assessment
- Permit Application – Draft Planning Permit
- Draft Pre Development agreement

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

Council Plans and Policies

This application has been assessed against the *Nagambie Growth Management Strategy 2008* and is considered to be in accordance with the future land use and development identified within that strategy.

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies

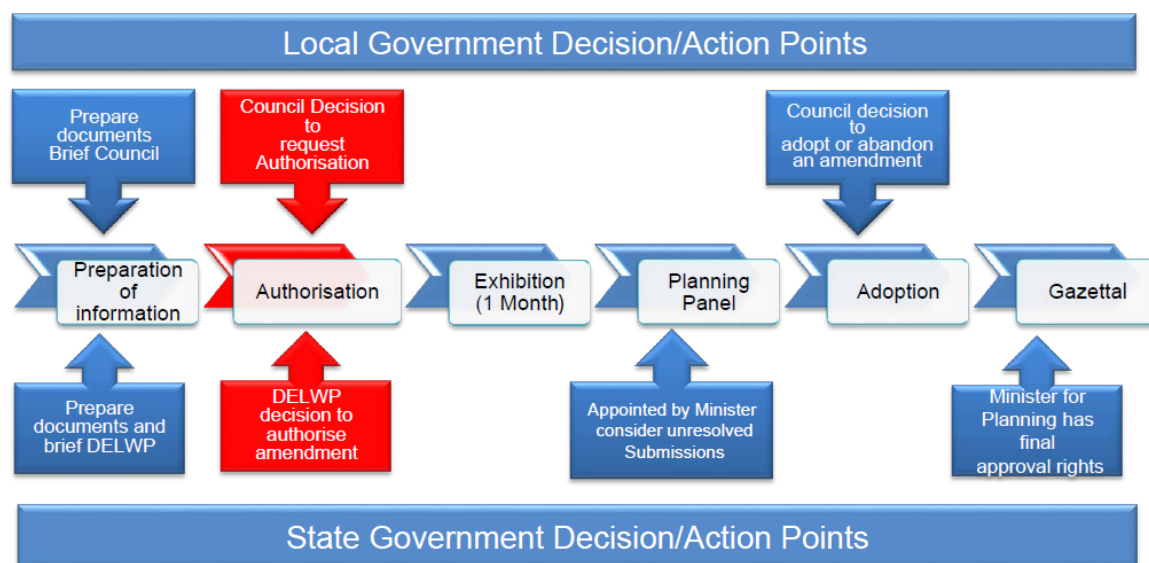
One of the Overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that regional, state and national plans and policies are to be taken into account in strategic planning and decision-making. The application has been considered in accordance with the principles of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, the *Strathbogie Planning Scheme* and all relevant reference material within those documents.

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

One of the Overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that Council decisions are to be made and actions taken in accordance with the relevant law.

The planning scheme amendment process is shown in the figure below, currently the application is in the second phase at Council Decision to request authorization.

9.2 Combined Planning Scheme Amendment and Planning Permit Application – 401 High Street, Nagambie (C080 and P2019-096) (cont.)



In accordance with Section 9 of the Act, the Minister for Planning may authorise a municipal council to prepare an amendment to State and local standard provisions of a planning scheme in force in its municipal district.

Municipal councils, as the planning authority, have a number of duties and powers. These duties and powers are listed at Section 12 of the Act. Under Section 12 a planning authority must have regard to (inter alia):

- *The objectives of planning in Victoria;*
- *The Minister's directions;*
- *The Victoria Planning Provisions;*
- *The Strathbogrie Planning Scheme;*
- *Any significant effects which it considers a planning scheme amendment might have on the environment or which it considers the environment might have on any use or development envisaged by the amendment.*

This Amendment proposal has had regard to Section 12 of the Act and is consistent with the requirements of Section 12.

In addition, each amendment must address the Department of Environment Land and Planning (DELWP) publication *Strategic Assessment Guidelines for Planning Scheme Amendments*. A response to these guidelines is outlined in the attached Explanatory Report, (see Attachment 1).

The proposal is consistent with the State Planning Policy Framework and the Municipal Strategic Statement (MSS). This is explained in the attached Explanatory Report, (see Attachment 1).

9.2 Combined Planning Scheme Amendment and Planning Permit Application – 401 High Street, Nagambie (C080 and P2019-096) (cont.)

Conflict of Interest Declaration

All officers, and/or contractors, involved in the preparation of this report have signed a written declaration that they do not have a conflict of interest in the subject matter of this report.

Transparency

One of the overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that the transparency of Council decisions, actions and information is to be ensured.

In order to ensure transparency of process, this application is being heard at a council meeting that is open to the public. The documents associated with the proposal will be available for consideration in both a physical and an online format in accordance with the provisions of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

One of the Overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that the ongoing financial viability of the Council is to be ensured.

Costs associated with a combined permit/amendment process are borne by the developer, and the consideration of this matter has no financial implications for Council.

SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

One of the Overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that the economic, social and environmental sustainability of the municipal district, including mitigation and planning for climate change risks, is to be promoted.

Economic

The author of this report considers that the recommendation will provide for an additional 250 residential allotments in Nagambie and will have a positive impact on the rates revenue raised from this property.

Social

The proposed development provides for public open space, walking tracks and access to the lake throughout and adjacent to the development site. Consideration for linkages to the north of the development site has been made, with three open space linkages along the northern boundary of the development site. These will provide for a connected community both for the residents of the new development and for the broader area.

9.2 Combined Planning Scheme Amendment and Planning Permit Application – 401 High Street, Nagambie (C080 and P2019-096) (cont.)

The following open spaces are being created as part of this development, at the cost of the developer:

- Open Space 1 – Main recreation area/wetland. This area includes:
 - Sheltered seating area
 - Seating walls
 - Sports court
 - Playground equipment
 - Landscaped and grassed areas
 - Footpaths connecting the park to the broader area
 - Lighting

- Open Space 2 – Internal Park, adjacent lots 231 to 236. This area includes:
 - Sheltered seating area
 - Playground equipment
 - Landscaped and grassed areas
 - Lighting

- Open Space 3 – Northern Reserve. This area includes:
 - Landscaped and grassed areas
 - Footpaths connecting the park to the broader area
 - Lighting

- Open Space 4 – Foreshore Park This area includes:
 - Landscaped and grassed areas
 - Footpaths connecting the park to the broader area
 - Lighting

- Open Space 5 – Northern pedestrian link. This area includes:
 - Landscaped and grassed areas
 - Footpaths connecting the park to the broader area

It is also proposed to put outdoor exercise equipment throughout the wetland along the shared path throughout the wetland area. The development also provides for pedestrian access to the south, directly to River Street, for residents to move both to and from the River Street public park in this area.

The development also provides for the construction of a shared path along the waterfrontage of the development. This will provide for direct access to the waterfront for the whole community. The provision of footpaths throughout the development and the open spaces will create a safe environment for pedestrians separate from trafficable roads.

It is considered that this provides for a positive outcome for the broader community, particularly in relation to access to the lake and public spaces, which is a net community benefit in the provision of a safe and pleasant environment.

9.2 Combined Planning Scheme Amendment and Planning Permit Application – 401 High Street, Nagambie (C080 and P2019-096) (cont.)



The community will also have an opportunity to make submissions regarding any implications during the formal exhibition of the amendment.

Environmental

The author of this report considers that the recommendation has no significant environmental or amenity implications for Council or the broader community. There will be some vegetation removal undertaken as part of the subdivision, which will require assessment and offsetting under the *Guidelines for the Removal, Destruction or Lopping of Native Vegetation*, prepared by DELWP, December 2017

Climate change

The proposed development must address the requirements of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and the *Strathbogie Planning Scheme*. Both of these have requirements that climate change be given due consideration. The application has provided for offsetting of any native vegetation likely to be impacted the development of the land, and all infrastructure provision will be in accordance with the *Infrastructure Design Manual* and implement appropriate water sensitive urban design principles.

INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

One of the Overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is the pursuit of innovation and continuous improvement.

9.2 Combined Planning Scheme Amendment and Planning Permit Application – 401 High Street, Nagambie (C080 and P2019-096) (cont.)

The proposed amendment and permit application are to be exhibited in a public forum, with any interested party able to make a submission to the proposal. Any submissions that are unable to be resolved by Council officers will be referred to an independent panel, appointed by the Minister for Planning, for due consideration.

COLLABORATION

One of the Overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that collaboration with other councils, levels of government and statutory bodies is to be sought.

The proposed development has been considered by all government departments and statutory bodies in preparation of the draft permit and will also be provided with notification of the amendment as part of the exhibition process.

HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS

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. In particular, the applicant has prepared and had approved a Cultural Heritage Management Plan for the site in accordance with the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*.

CONCLUSION

This is a proponent driven planning scheme amendment/planning permit process, for the rezoning and development of land in High Street Nagambie. The current recommendation is to seek approval to prepare and exhibit the amendment, which will allow the community to have due input into the proposal. The rezoning of this land has been previously identified as an appropriate extension of the residential area of Nagambie and is supported by Council officers.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Amendment Document – Explanatory Report

Attachment 2: Amendment Document –Instruction Sheet

Attachment 3: Amendment Document –Map Sheets

ATTACHMENT 1:

Planning and Environment Act 1987

**STRATHBOGIE PLANNING SCHEME
AMENDMENT C80
PLANNING PERMIT APPLICATION P2019-096
EXPLANATORY REPORT**

Who is the planning authority?

This Amendment has been prepared by the Strathbogie Shire Council, which is the planning authority for this Amendment.

The Amendment has been made at the request of Spiire on behalf of CRC Constructions.

Land affected by the Amendment

The Amendment applies to land known as 19 Lobbs Lane and 401 High Street, Nagambie, formally known as:

- Lot 1 PS823639 & Lot 2 PS823639;
- Lot 1 TP602418 & Lot 2 TP602418;
- Lot 1 TP546538.

The Amendment is a combined planning permit application and planning scheme amendment under section 96A of the Act. The planning permit application applies to all parcels listed above.

Planning Permit 2018-083 approved the subdivision of the subject land for the creation of a lot in the south-east of the site. Planning Permit 2018-170 approved the use and development of land for a cabin village at this new lot. The amendment will apply to this new lot, despite not being included as part of the associated planning permit application for residential subdivision.

This land comprises approximately 48 hectares in the north of Nagambie, refer to Figure 1.

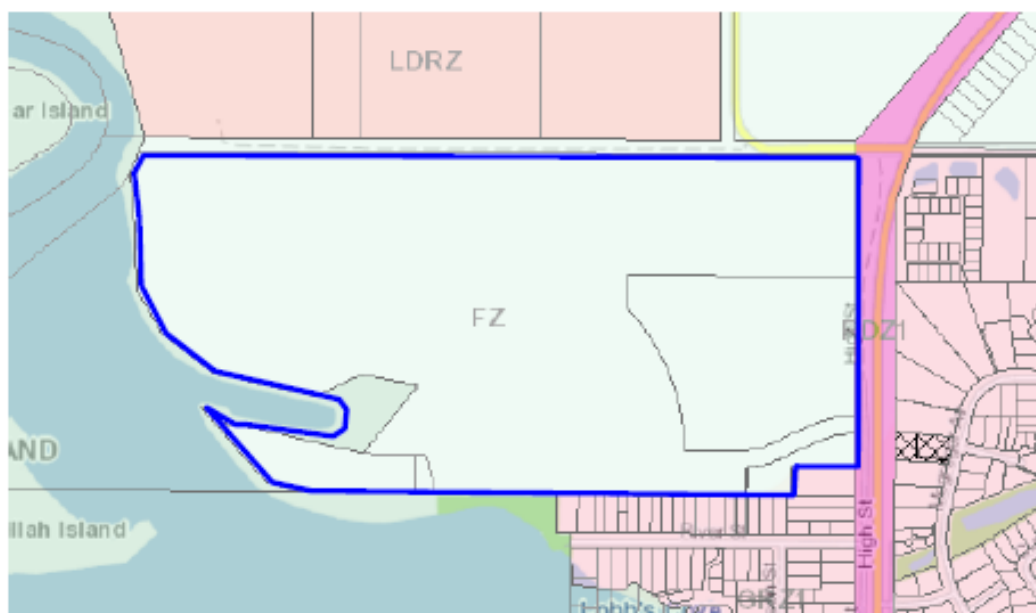


Figure 1: Land included in the Amendment

What the Amendment does

The Amendment proposes to make the following changes to the Strathbogie Planning Scheme:

- Rezone 19 Lobbs Lane and 401 High Street, Nagambie from the Farming Zone to the General Residential Zone - Schedule 1 by amending Planning Scheme Map No. 10 and No. 22 of the Strathbogie Planning Scheme.
- Amend the Floodway Overlay Maps No. 10 LSIO-FO and Map No. 22 LSIO-FO to remove the Floodway Overlay from the southern peninsular of the land.

A mapping reference table is attached at Attachment A to this Explanatory Report.

A concurrent planning application forms part of the amendment which seeks approval to:

- Subdivide land in General Residential Zone-Schedule 1 (Clause 32.08-3);
- Subdivide land in Floodway Overlay (Clause 44.03-1);
- Subdivide land adjacent to a road in a Road Zone, Category 1 (Clause 52.29);
- Create or alter access to a road in a Road Zone, Category 1 (Clause 52.29); and
- Remove native vegetation (Clause 52.17).

The planning permit application is submitted with this Explanatory Report.

Strategic assessment of the Amendment

Why is the Amendment required?

The Amendment is required to facilitate the proposed residential development of the land at 19 Lobbs Lane and 401 High Street, Nagambie.

The subject land is identified as within Area B for Future Residential Growth in the Nagambie Structure Plan, which is based on the Nagambie Growth Management Strategy (Refer to Figure 2). Given the Strategy is nearing 9 years old and much of the land in Area A has been developed or is planned/ approved for development, it is now considered necessary to release land in Area B.

The Nagambie Structure Plan and Nagambie Growth Management Strategy identify the land as a desired location for residential development. The land's close proximity to the High Street retail area, Lake Nagambie and land with current development proposals, along with its accessibility to services and transport, presents it as an ideal location for the continuation of urban growth in Nagambie in accordance with the Strategy.

In addition to Nagambie's current growth trend, a large manufacturing facility proposed for newly rezoned land at 357 Habel Road will contribute a significant boost to employment opportunities and economic growth for Nagambie, which in turn will increase housing demand in the area.

The Amendment will realign the Floodway Overlay mapping to more accurately reflect the land features and flooding levels of the land, to facilitate the residential development of the peninsula (south-east of the site).

The Amendment will facilitate an opportunity to increase housing choice and diversity in Nagambie through allowing the development of diversity of lots and neighbourhoods as well as a lifestyle village, which will service the increasing aged population of the region.

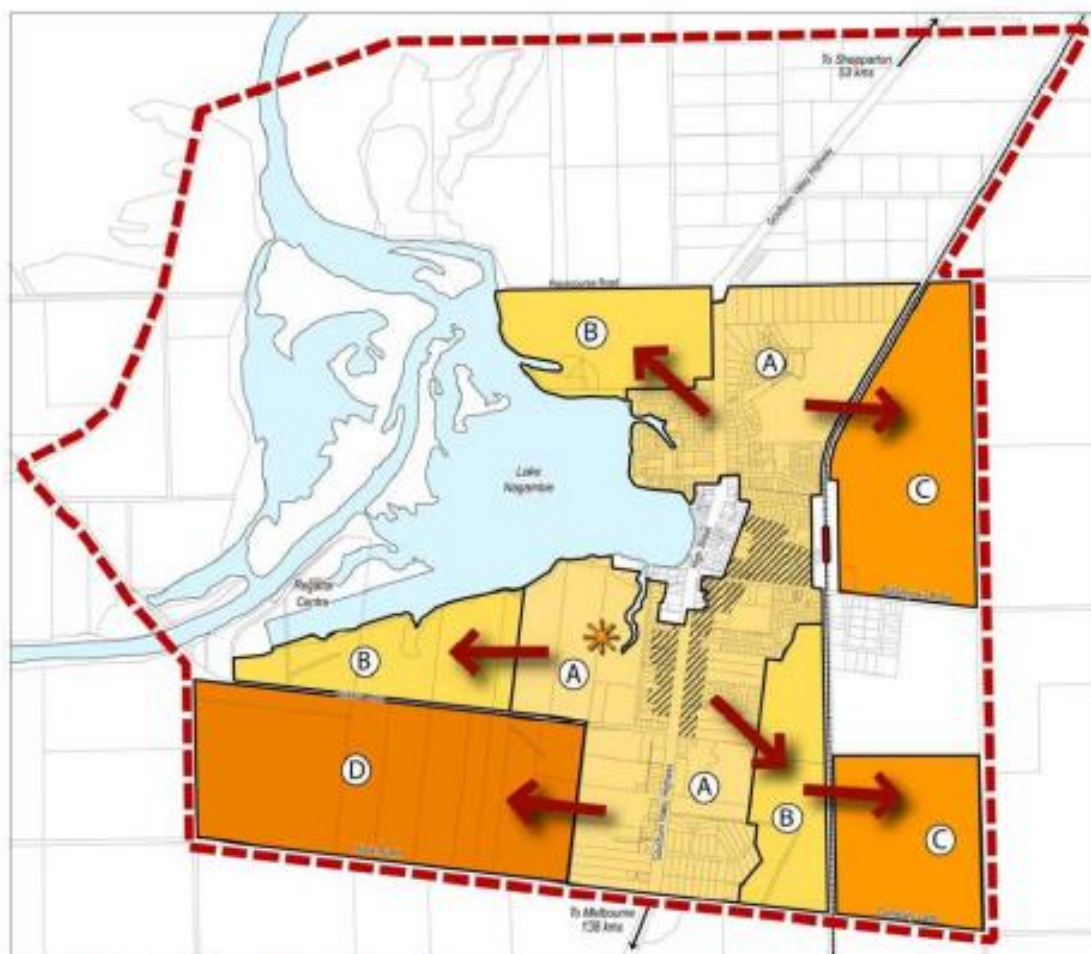


Figure 2: Nagambie Structure Plan

How does the Amendment implement the objectives of planning in Victoria?

Section 4(1) of the Planning and Environment Act 1987 states the relevant objectives of planning in Victoria. The Amendment implements these objectives as follows:

(a) to provide for the fair, orderly, economic and sustainable use, and development of land; the rezoning of the land will facilitate its residential development in accordance with the Nagambie Growth Management Strategy and the Strathbogie Planning Scheme.

(b) to provide for the protection of natural and man-made resources and the maintenance of ecological processes and genetic diversity; the Nagambie Growth Management Strategy has considered natural and manmade resources, and responded appropriately, including setbacks to Lake Nagambie.

(c) to secure a pleasant, efficient and safe working, living and recreational environment for all Victorians and visitors to Victoria; the additional residential and recreational land will provide a pleasant, efficient and safe living environment for future residents of the area and the wider community.

(d) to conserve and enhance those buildings, areas or other places which are of scientific, aesthetic, architectural or historical interest, or otherwise of special cultural value; the proposal will allow the protection and enhancement of the Lake Nagambie waterfront environs through the creation of a large open space area.

(e) to protect public utilities and other assets and enable the orderly provision and co-ordination of public utilities and other facilities for the benefit of the community; the rezoning will ensure residential development is appropriately serviced and open space is provided for.

(f) to facilitate development in accordance with the objectives set out in paragraphs (a), (b), (c), (d) and (e); as stated above.

(g) to balance the present and future interests of all Victorians; the rezoning will facilitate development in a designated residential growth area.

How does the Amendment address any environmental, social and economic effects?

Environmental

Rezoning the subject land to the General Residential Zone will facilitate its residential development. This will achieve an appropriate outcome for land that has been subject to significant environmental change and agricultural use in the past.

The land is contained within Nagambie's settlement boundary and is not considered to be of high agricultural quality, so the Amendment will not significantly detract from agricultural land supply in the area.

The rezoning of land to the General Residential Zone will allow a higher density of development so as to make more efficient use of strategically important residential land supply, which can be fully serviced and is in proximity to existing development and a variety of services.

The Amendment will realign the Floodway Overlay mapping to more accurately reflect the land features and flooding levels of the land. Furthermore the development will set aside large areas adjacent to Lake Nagambie for open space and to enhance environmental and landscape values of this land.

Social

The Amendment will result in a net community benefit by providing a pleasant and safe environment on appropriately located and unconstrained land. The amendment will allow the provision of additional housing choice for the municipality. The land is in proximity to a number of community facilities including sports grounds, Nagambie Medical Centre and two primary schools.

In addition to contributing to good street design and residential development opportunities, the Amendment will provide land for public recreational use, adjacent to Lake Nagambie, and provide additional recreation opportunities for the wider community. There are no significant adverse social implications associated with this Amendment.

Economic

The Amendment will have a positive economic effect as it provides land which can be readily serviced and developed for residential development.

New housing to be provided on the site will facilitate economic growth within the municipality by providing housing opportunities to cater for the growing population. A variety of household types can be accommodated on the site.

There are no significant adverse economic impacts associated with this Amendment.

Does the Amendment address relevant bushfire risk?

The land is not affected by the Bushfire Management Overlay, however, it is within a Bushfire Prone Area.

The bushfire risk has been assessed and it has been determined the risk is low and can be adequately managed on site to an acceptable level. There are no local policies for bushfire risk management required as part of this Amendment.

Does the Amendment comply with the requirements of any Minister's Direction applicable to the amendment?

The Amendment is consistent with the Ministerial Direction on the *Form and Content of Planning Schemes* under Section 7(5) of the Planning and Environment Act 1987 (the Act).

The Amendment is consistent with Ministerial Direction No. 1 *Potentially Contaminated Land*. A Preliminary Soil Investigation for Contamination Report concluded that the site is suitable for residential development.

The proposed Amendment is consistent and complies with Ministerial Direction No. 11 *Strategic Assessment of Amendments*.

How does the Amendment support or implement the State Planning Policy Framework and any adopted State policy?

The Amendment is consistent with the Planning Policy Framework (PPF) as outlined below:

Clause 11.01-1S Settlement & Clause 11.01-1R Settlement - Hume

The objective of this clause is *"to promote the sustainable growth and development of Victoria and deliver choice and opportunity for all Victorians through a network of settlements."* Nagambie has been identified as an urban location and lifestyle opportunity in which growth should be supported in the Hume Regional Growth Plan. The Amendment will enable residential and lifestyle growth in Nagambie, providing 243 residential lots.

Clause 11.02-1S Supply of urban land

The objective of this clause is *"to ensure a sufficient supply of land is available for residential, commercial, retail, industrial, recreational, institutional and other community uses"*. The Amendment will provide residential land to the Strathbogie Shire to meet the growing demand for lifestyle development, diverse housing and public open space.

Clause 12.03-1S River corridors, waterways, lakes and wetlands

The objective of this clause is *"to protect and enhance river corridors, waterways, lakes and wetlands."* The creation of an open space areas adjacent to the waterfront will ensure the conservation and protection of the Lake Nagambie landscape and associated environs.

Clause 13.02-1S Bushfire Planning

The objective of this clause is *"to strengthen the resilience of settlements and communities to bushfire through risk-based planning that prioritises the protection of human life."*

Whilst the subject site is contained within a Bushfire Prone Area, a Bushfire Assessment determined the site to be low risk and the risk can be appropriately managed on site.

Clause 13.03-1S Floodplain management

The objective of this clause is *"to assist the protection of; life, property and community infrastructure from flood hazard, the natural flood carrying capacity of rivers, streams and floodways, the flood storage function of floodplains and waterways and floodplain areas of environmental significance or of importance to river health."* The land contained within the Floodway Overlay will be become open space and will not be developed for residential purposes.

Clause 15.01-3S Subdivision design

The objective of this clause is *"to ensure the design of subdivisions achieves attractive, safe, accessible, diverse and sustainable neighbourhoods."* The rezoning of the land will ensure future neighbourhoods include appropriate mobility and design features through the application of the GRZ1.

Clause 16.01-1S Integrated housing

The objective of this clause is *"to promote a housing market that meets community needs"*. The Amendment will release land to add to opportunities for residential development in a growing centre.

Clause 16.01-2S Location of residential development

The objective of this clause is *"to locate new housing in designated locations that offer good access to jobs, services and transport."* The Amendment will release land designated for residential growth in close proximity to existing facilities and services.

Clause 16.01-3S Housing diversity

The objective of this clause is *"to provide for a range of housing types to meet increasingly diverse needs."* The application of the GRZ1 will allow for an array of housing types as the proposed subdivision contains a range of lot sizes.

Clause 19.02-6S Open space

The objective of this clause is *"to establish, manage and improve a diverse and integrated network of public open space that meets the needs of the community."* The Amendment will allow the establishment of additional public open space which contributes to development of the Lakeside open space network in Nagambie.

How does the Amendment support or implement the Local Planning Policy Framework, and specifically the Municipal Strategic Statement?

The proposed Amendment is consistent with the Local Planning Policy Framework and the Municipal Strategic Statement.

Clause 21.02-1 Whole Municipality

The objective of this clause is *"to have consistent planning across the Municipality that individually represents and respects the natural and built environment."* The Amendment will ensure the most recent flood information is included in the Strathbogie Planning Scheme and provide additional land adjacent to Lake Nagambie for open space.

Clause 21.03-4 Nagambie

The objective of this clause is *"to grow Nagambie as an agricultural service centre as well as a visitor, lifestyle and retirement centre."* The Amendment will facilitate the development of the site for lifestyle, residential, retirement and recreational purposes.

Clause 21.04-6 Flooding

The objective of this clause is *"to protect and manage floodplains."* The Amendment will ensure flood function is accurately mapped and the land can be developed safely.

Clause 21.04-7 Bushfire

The objective of this clause is *"to minimise the risk to life, property and the environment from bushfire."* The bushfire risk is relatively low and can be appropriately managed onsite.

Does the Amendment make proper use of the Victoria Planning Provisions?

The Amendment makes proper use of the Victorian Planning Provisions. It is proposed to rezone the subject land to the General Residential Zone – Schedule 1 which will allow the residential development of the land. The existing Floodway Overlay mapping will be revised to reflect the correct flood levels on the land.

How does the Amendment address the views of any relevant agency?

Whilst consultation has occurred with the relevant authorities, referral authorities will also be provided with the opportunity to comment during the formal Amendment exhibition process.

Does the Amendment address relevant requirements of the Transport Integration Act 2010?

The purpose of the Transport Integration Act 2010 is to create a new framework for the provision of an integrated and sustainable transport system in Victoria.

The vision statement recognises the aspirations of Victorians for an integrated and sustainable transport system that contributes to an inclusive, prosperous and environmentally responsible state.

The objectives of the Transport Integration Act relate to social and economic inclusion, economic prosperity, environmental sustainability, integration of transport and land use, efficiency, coordination and reliability, and safety and health and wellbeing.

This Amendment does not conflict with the purpose, objectives or requirements of the Transport Integration Act 2010. Any changes in traffic generation or management resulting from this proposed Amendment will not have an adverse impact on the requirements of the Transport Integration Act 2010.

Resource and administrative costs

- **What impact will the new planning provisions have on the resource and administrative costs of the responsible authority?**

Any costs associated with the planning scheme Amendment process, including the costs of an Independent Planning Panel if required, will be met by the proponent of this Amendment.

The new planning provisions will not have a detrimental effect on the resource and administrative costs of the Council.

Where you may inspect this Amendment

The Amendment is available for public inspection, free of charge, during office hours at the **Strathbogie Shire Council offices at 109A Binney Street, Euroa.**

The Amendment can also be inspected free of charge at the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning website at www.delwp.vic.gov.au/public-inspection.

Submissions

Any person who may be affected by the Amendment [and/or planning permit] may make a submission to the planning authority. Submissions about the Amendment [and/or planning permit] must be received by **[insert submissions due date]**.

A submission must be sent to:

Strathbogie Shire Council
PO Box 177,
Euroa VIC 3666.

Panel hearing dates

In accordance with clause 4(2) of Ministerial Direction No.15 the following panel hearing dates have been set for this Amendment:

- directions hearing: **[insert directions hearing date]**
 - panel hearing: **[insert panel hearing date]**
-

ATTACHMENT A - Mapping reference table

Location	Land /Area Affected	Mapping Reference
Nagambie	19 Lobbs Lane, Nagambie	Strathbogie C80 10ZN ZONES
Nagambie	19 Lobbs Lane & 401 High Street, Nagambie	Strathbogie C80 22ZN ZONES
Nagambie	19 Lobbs Lane, Nagambie	Strathbogie C80 10LSIO-FO
Nagambie	19 Lobbs Lane & 401 High Street, Nagambie	Strathbogie C80 22LSIO-FO

ATTACHMENT 2:

Planning and Environment Act 1987

STRATHBOGIE PLANNING SCHEME

AMENDMENT C80strb

INSTRUCTION SHEET

The planning authority for this amendment is the Strathbogie Shire Council.

The Strathbogie Planning Scheme is amended as follows:

Zone Maps

1. Amend Planning Scheme Map Nos. 10ZN ZONES and 22ZN ZONES in the manner shown on the attached Amendment Map Sheets.

Overlay Maps

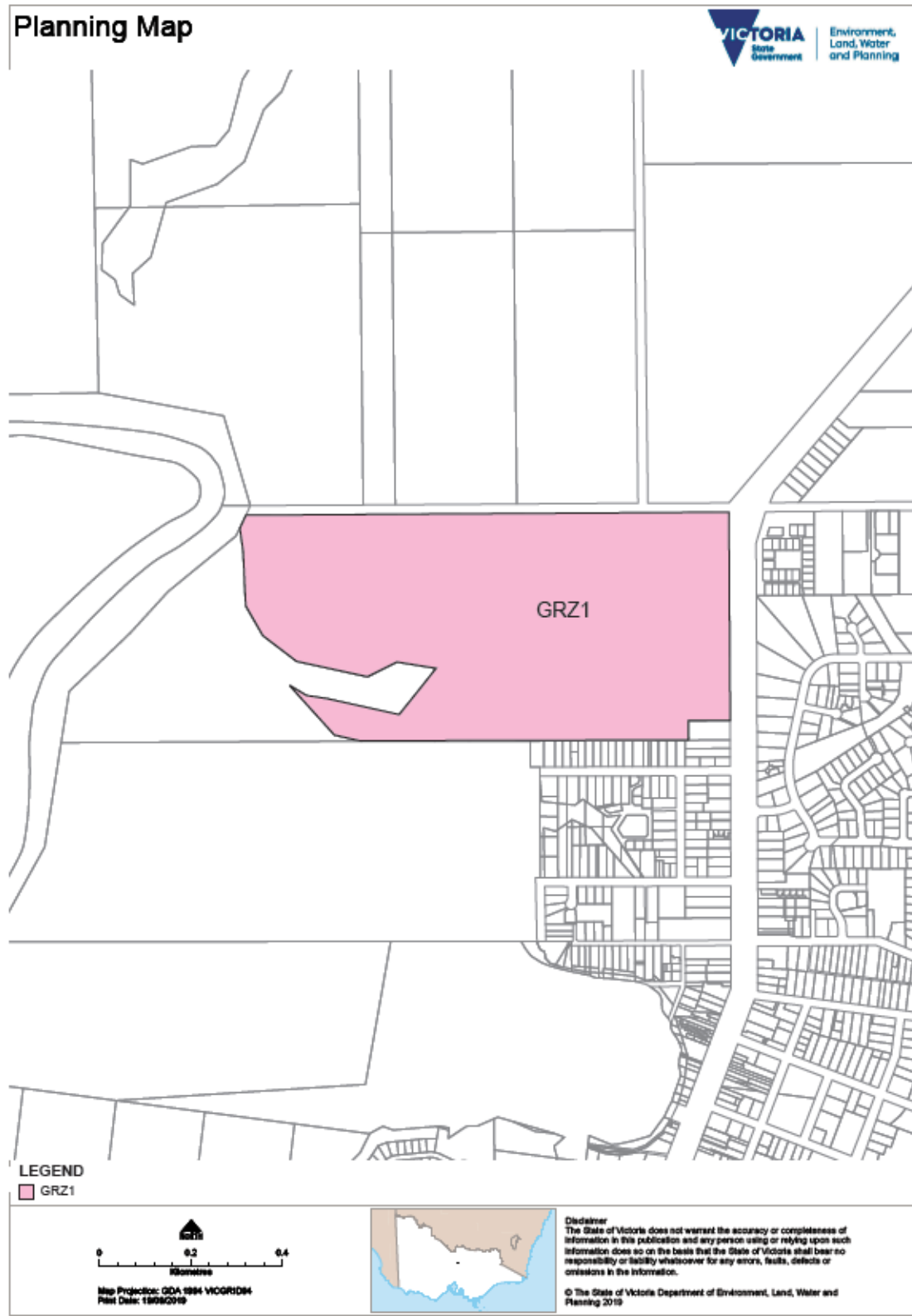
2. Amend Planning Scheme Map Nos. 10LSIO-FO and 22LSIO-FO in the manner shown on the attached Amendment Map Sheets.

Planning Scheme Ordinance

No amendments to the Planning Scheme Ordinance.

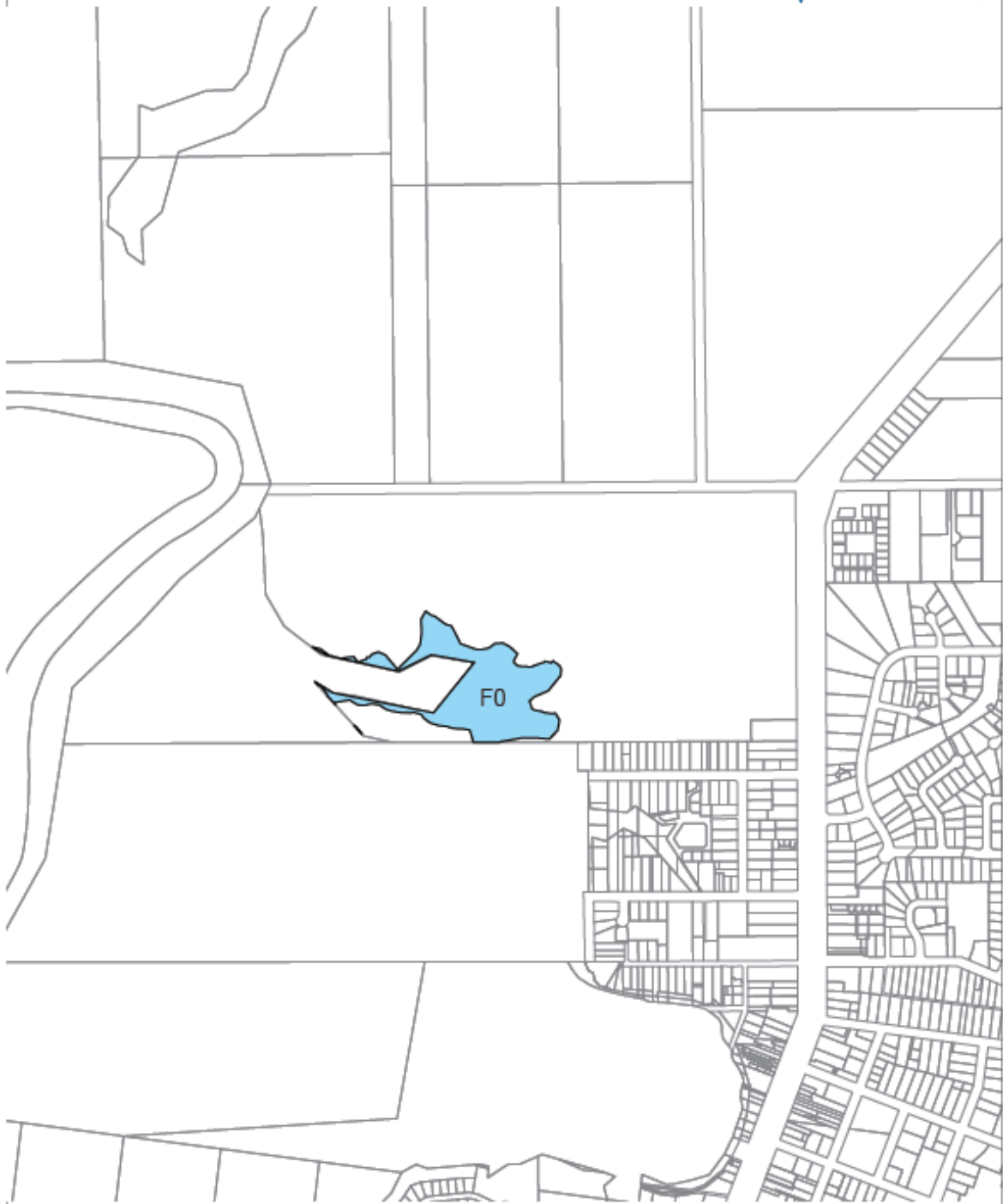
End of document

ATTACHMENT 3:





Planning Map



LEGEND

 F0



Map Projection: GDA 1994 VICGRID94
First Date: 1998/07/19



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9.3 Planning Applications Received
- 29 July to 25 August 2020

Responsible Officer: Manager Planning and Investment (Acting)

Following are listings of Planning Applications Received for the period 29 July to 25 August 2020.

RECOMMENDATION

That the report be noted.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

Wednesday, 29 July 2020

Site Address	Application Number Display	Application Description	Applicant Name	Cost Of Works
51 Cowslip Street, Violet Town VIC 3669	P2020-090	Replacement of balcony	Paul Bourinaris	\$84,000.00

Thursday, 30 July 2020

Site Address	Application Number Display	Application Description	Applicant Name	Cost Of Works
Sugarloaf Road, Kithbrook VIC 3666	P2020-091	Development of land for farm shed/ hay store	Lachlan MnKinnon	\$30,000.00

Friday, 31 July 2020

Site Address	Application Number Display	Application Description	Applicant Name	Cost Of Works
254 Wood Road, Euroa VIC 3666	P2020-094	Use & development of land for a dwelling	Troy Spencer	\$367,000.00
73-103 Kirkland Avenue, Euroa VIC 3666	P2020-092	Native vegetation removal; one large tree	Mr Daniel Haysom	\$4,000.00

Monday, 3 August 2020

Site Address	Application Number Display	Application Description	Applicant Name	Cost Of Works
199 Odwyer Road, Tabilk VIC 3607	P2020-095	Development of land for a shed (pump shed)	Tayla Tenace	\$14,116.00

Thursday, 6 August 2020

Site Address	Application Number Display	Application Description	Applicant Name	Cost Of Works
1878 Northwood Road, Mitchellstown VIC 3608	P2020-097	Use and development for construction of a floating timber jetty	Mrs Georgina Nikakis	\$15,000.00
207 Goulburn Weir Road, Goulburn Weir VIC 3608	P2020-096	Construction of a boat ramp and jetty	Mr John Yeomans	\$12,500.00
632 Ponkeen Creek Road, Tarcombe VIC 3666	P2020-100	Two (2) Lot Subdivision	Stacey Cole	\$0.00
Mitchellstown Road, Mitchellstown VIC 3608	P2020-098	Use of land for a camping and caravan park (private caravans only).	CRC Constructions C/- Spiire Australia PTY LTD	\$0.00

Friday, 7 August 2020

Site Address	Application Number Display	Application Description	Applicant Name	Cost Of Works
80-82 Kennedy Street, Euroa VIC 3666	P2020-093	Two (2) Lot Subdivision	Mr Troy Spencer	\$0.00

Monday, 10 August 2020

Site Address	Application Number Display	Application Description	Applicant Name	Cost Of Works
37-41 Clifton Street, Euroa VIC 3666	P2020-099	Development of land for a sandbagging shed	Planography Pty Ltd	\$0.00

Tuesday, 11 August 2020

Site Address	Application Number Display	Application Description	Applicant Name	Cost Of Works
52 Kirkland Avenue, Euroa VIC 3666	P2020-103	Development of land for an extension to a dwelling	Kara Penhale	\$250,000.00

Friday, 14 August 2020

Site Address	Application Number Display	Application Description	Applicant Name	Cost Of Works
1209 Euroa-Strathbogie Road, Kelvin View VIC 3666	P2020-105	Use and development of land for a dwelling	TALLIS, John george	\$550,000.00
42 McLeod Street, Kirwans Bridge VIC 3608	P2020-102	Extension to a dwelling	Shane DeAraugo	\$75,000.00
735 Upton Road, Avenel VIC 3664	P2020-101	Construction of a hay barn and equipment skillion	Ray Cronin	\$25,000.00

Monday, 17 August 2020

Site Address	Application Number Display	Application Description	Applicant Name	Cost Of Works
687 Goulburn Weir-Murchison Road, Whroo VIC 3612	P2020-104	Development of land for shed	Tayla Tenace	\$21,448.00

Tuesday, 25 August 2020

Site Address	Application Number Display	Application Description	Applicant Name	Cost Of Works
254 Fernhills Road, Sheans Creek VIC 3666	P2020-106	Use and development of land for one new dwelling	Planography Pty Ltd	\$120,000.00

9.4 Tender for Contract Number 20/21-12: Environmental Monitoring at the Violet Town Landfill

Author: Environment and Waste Coordinator

Responsible Director: Director Corporate Operations

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Strathbogie Shire Council is required to undertake quarterly monitoring at the Violet Town Landfill as per our Environmental Protection Authority Victoria Post Closure Pollution Abatement Notice. To ensure value for money Council released a tender for a suitable environmental consultant to undertake the monitoring for the next 3 years with a possible extension of 2 years at the discretion of Council.

Council went to public tender for Contract 20/21-12 Environmental Monitoring Violet Town Landfill on 5 June 2020.

At tender closing 8 July 2020 twelve (12) tenders were received. The tender submissions were assessed and evaluated with the results showing SMEC Australia Pty Ltd as the preferred tenderer.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 1. Receives and notes the outcome of the tender assessment process for Contract 20/21-12 Environmental Monitoring at the Violet Town Landfill, as set out in the confidential appendices attached to this report;***
- 2. Awards the tender for Environmental Monitoring at the Violet Town Landfill to SMEC Australia Pty Ltd for a lump sum price of \$86,100.00 (excluding GST) for 3 years (\$23,232 per annum) with a possible extension of 2 years at the discretion of Council;***
- 3. Authorises officers to advise the unsuccessful tenders; and***
- 4. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to execute the Contract by signing and affixing with the Common Seal of Strathbogie Shire Council.***

PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND

As part of Councils Environmental Protection Authority Victoria (EPA) Post Closure Pollution Abatement Notice (PC PAN) at the Violet Town Landfill Council is required to undertake quarterly environmental monitoring in February, May, August and November. This includes the monitoring of groundwater, surface water, leachate and landfill gas and the generation of a report for the works completed in the monitoring rounds. After the May round each year the consultant is required to provide an annual report outlining all results and any other pertinent information.

9.4 Tender for Contract Number 20/21-12: Environmental Monitoring at the Violet Town Landfill (cont.)

This work was previously undertaken by Meinhardt but there was no formal contract in place. Due to the value of the works it was determined that a Request for Tender process be undertaken to ensure value for money for Council. The contract term is for three years, with rise and fall provisions, and a possible extension of two years at the sole discretion of Council.

DISCUSSION

One of the Overarching governance principles in section 9 of the Local Government Act 2020 is that Priority is to be given to achieving the best outcomes for the municipal community, including future generations. To ensure that Council continues to meet its environmental monitoring obligations at the Violet Town Landfill a qualified environmental consultant is required to undertake monitoring onsite.

TENDER PROCESS:

Tenders were invited by advertising on “Tendersearch” via the Council website on the 5 June 2020 and were advertised statewide in The Age newspaper on 6 June 2020, with local advertising occurring during the opening week in the Benalla Ensign, Euroa Gazette and Shepparton News. By close of tenders at 4.00pm on 8 July 2020, twelve (12) tenders had been received, all from reputable companies within the environmental monitoring sphere.

All tenders were assessed for their compliance including the contractual terms and conditions and requirements of the response schedules. Table 1 below lists the tenders were received at close of the advertised tender period.

Table 1: Tenders Received

<i>Tender Submissions Received at Close of Tender Period (in Alphabetical Order)</i>
Environmental Earth Sciences VIC
EP Risk Management Pty Ltd
GHD
Golder Associates Pty Ltd
Kleinfielder Australia Pty Ltd
LR Pardo & Associates
Meinhardt Australia Pty Ltd
Resolve Environmental Pty Ltd
SMEC Australia Pty Ltd
Tonkin & Taylor Pty Ltd
Ventia Utility Service Pty Ltd
White Environmental Services
Environmental Earth Sciences VIC

9.4 Tender for Contract Number 20/21-12: Environmental Monitoring at the Violet Town Landfill (cont.)

Table B below lists the tender offers (excluding GST) at the close of the advertised tender period.

Table 2: Tenders Offers Received

<i>Tender Offers Received at Close of Tender Period (excl. GST) (in lowest to highest order)</i>
\$75,900
\$86,100
\$92,910
\$107,160
\$114,180
\$141,000
\$144,243
\$149,954
\$166,926
\$182,474.16
\$205,050
\$251,320

In accordance with Council’s Procurement Policy, the evaluation panel and evaluation criteria weightings were nominated prior to opening. The panel signed ‘Conflict of interest’ and ‘Confidentiality’ statements prior to the evaluation panel viewing the submitted tender. The tender evaluation panel consisted of the following Strathbogie Shire Council staff members:

- Environment and Waste Coordinator
- Director Corporate Operations
- Records Coordinator.

The panel assessed each of the submissions in line with the selection criteria and best value for money principals as detailed in Table 3 below.

TABLE 3: Selection Criteria

Criteria	Weighting %
Price	60
Qualification/Skills and Experience	5
Compliance with specification	10
Project Methodology	5
Management Schedules	5
Local Content	10
Environmental Benefit	5
Total	100

Evaluation Moderation Process

The purpose of the moderation meeting is to discuss and moderate scoring discrepancies larger than three points and to raise any concerns / queries that may need to put to the tenders prior to recommending the preferred Tenderer.

9.4 Tender for Contract Number 20/21-12: Environmental Monitoring at the Violet Town Landfill (cont.)

The Tender Evaluation Panel individually reviewed all tender submissions in detail and assessed tenderers submitted schedules and attachments against the evaluation criteria. The Moderator (Procurement and Tender Officer) averaged the scores and highlighted scoring discrepancies larger than three (3) points. On Friday 14 August 2020 the Panel and the Moderator met for the tender moderation meeting.

PANEL ASSESSMENT SUMMARY

The evaluation panel was satisfied with the outcome of the evaluation process which resulted in SMEC Australia Pty Ltd being the recommended tenderer. SMEC Australia Pty Ltd submitted a high quality tender and were overall best value for Council for delivering the services as required under the contract.

A confidential tender evaluation matrix has been supplied under the confidential section of this agenda for Councillor information (Appendix 1 – Confidential Business).

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

One of the Overarching governance principles in section 9 of the Local Government Act 2020 is that the municipal community is to be engaged in strategic planning and strategic decision making. As this work is essential to ensure that Council remains compliant with its PC PAN at the Violet Town landfill the author of this report considers that the matter under considerations did not warrant any further community engagement.

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

Council Plans and Policies

This monitoring is not mentioned in any Council plans or policies but is a requirement by the EPA for the management of the site.

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies

One of the Overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that regional, state and national plans and policies are to be taken into account in strategic planning and decision-making. This monitoring is important to ensure that Council is compliant with the PC PAN on the landfill site.

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

One of the Overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that Council decisions are to be made and actions taken in accordance with the relevant law. The tender and tender evaluation was undertaken in accordance with Council's Procurement Policy.

Conflict of Interest Declaration

All officers, and/or contractors, involved in the preparation of this report have signed a written declaration that they do not have a conflict of interest in the subject matter of this report.

9.4 Tender for Contract Number 20/21-12: Environmental Monitoring at the Violet Town Landfill (cont.)

Transparency

One of the Overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that the transparency of Council decisions, actions and information is to be ensured.

It is considered by the author of this report that all steps have been taken in line with Council's Procurement Policy which ensures transparency in the process.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

One of the Overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that the ongoing financial viability of the Council is to be ensured. This expenditure is budgeted from Councils operating funds. There will be savings of approximately \$15,000 per annum on the current contract.

SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

One of the Overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that the economic, social and environmental sustainability of the municipal district, including mitigation and planning for climate change risks, is to be promoted. The correct monitoring and reporting of the landfill gas, groundwater and leachate at the Violet Town landfill will mitigate the impacts to human health and ensure that Council maintains compliance with our PC PAN.

Economic

The ongoing monitoring at Councils sites will mean that if there are impacts from legacy landfilling then they will be identified earlier and addressed. This will minimise the cost to ratepayers if there is an environmental risk.

Environmental

Continual monitoring of the Violet Town landfill will ensure that Council is compliant with all its environmental monitoring requirements for the site.

Climate change

There are no impacts on climate change.

HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS

This report considers that the recommendation does not limit any human rights under the Victoria Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006.

CONCLUSION

This report outlines the tender process that was undertaken to appoint a suitably qualified environmental consultant to undertake the monitoring at the Violet Town landfill. This will be a 3-year contract with a possible extension, at the sole discretion of Council for another 2 years.

The tender process concluded that SMEC Australia PTY LTD provided the best value for money to Council and recommends that they are appointed as the preferred supplier.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Tender Evaluation for Contract Number 20/21-12: Environmental Monitoring at the Violet Town Landfill – CONFIDENTIAL

9.5 Tender for Contract Number 20/21-10: Supply and Installation of Public Amenities Violet Town

Authors: Procurement and Tender Officer & Project Manager

Responsible Director: Director Community & Planning (Acting)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As part of the Strathbogie Shire Council's approved budget, the existing amenity facilities at the Violet Town Recreation Reserve is to be replaced and upgraded to align with community expectations, event demands and current standards. Tender documentation was prepared for the design, manufacturing and installation of new amenities unit and associated works.

Council went to public tender for Contract 20/21-10 Supply and Installation of Public Amenities Violet Town on 12 June 2020.

At tender closing 8 July 2020 four (4) tenders were received, with one (1) submission deemed non confirming. The tender submissions were assessed and evaluated by Council Officers, with the results showing GR Design and Construct Pty Ltd as the preferred Tenderer.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 1. Receives and notes the outcome of the tender assessment process for Contract 20/21-10 Supply and Installation of Public Amenities, Violet Town as set out in the confidential appendices attached to this report;***
- 2. Awards the tender to GR Design and Construct Pty Ltd for Contract 20/21-10 – Supply and Installation of Public Amenities Violet Town for a total amount of \$169,133.04 (excluding GST);***
- 3. Authorises officers to advise the unsuccessful tenders;***
- 4. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to execute the Contract by signing and affixing with the Common Seal of Strathbogie Shire Council; and***
- 5. Notes that the contract will commence on 28 September 2020 and the expected completion date is 20 November 2020.***

BACKGROUND

The current toilet block located within the Violet Town Recreation Reserve is unsightly, generally unserviceable and does not meet Australian Standards for public amenities. In 2016, Council resolved to replace the current toilet block and create a community-based design group.

9.5 Tender for Contract Number 20/21-10: Supply and Installation of Public Amenities Violet Town (cont.)

Works will include the supply and installation of a prefabricated toilet block and associated service connection works.

A community initiative to dress the building with a locally produced glazed brick façade was agreed to by Officers. The concrete footing for the proposed brick wall will be included as part of the tender works.

DISCUSSION

One of the overarching governance principles in Section 9 of the Local Government Act 2020 is that priority is to be given to achieving the best outcomes for the municipal community, including future generations. Considering this, to ensure services are provided to the community in a timely and acceptable manner, Council committed to build a new public amenities block at the Violet Town Recreation Reserve.

Tender specifications were prepared by Council officers to seek suitably qualified and experience Tenderers to supply and install a new amenities block, satisfying the requirements to the brief and specifications.

As per the specifications of representatives from the Violet Town Recreation Reserve, the amenities unit and overall layout design was to include the following:

- A total of seven (7) unisex individually doored cubicles that includes two (2) ambulant cubicles and one (1) all access use cubicle with baby change facilities;
- A urinal;
- Internal hand basins;
- Concrete slab / floor;
- Foundations for external brickwork wall;
- All doors to be lockable from the outside (by Council);
- Shelter to extend beyond amenities extents to provide cover for waiting patrons;
- External tap and water bubbler / drinking fountain; and
- Electrical and plumbing.

TENDER PROCESS

Tenders were invited by advertising on “Tendersearch” via the Council website on the 12 June 2020 and were advertised in the The Age newspaper on 13 June 2020, with local advertising occurring during the opening week in the Benalla Ensign, Euroa Gazette and Shepparton News. By close of tenders at 4.00pm on 8 July 2020, four (4) tenders had been received.

All tenders were accessed for their compliance including the contractual terms and conditions and the requirements of the response schedules. Three of the four tender submissions were deemed conforming. The non-conforming tender was not assessed. Table 1 below lists the three conforming tenders received at close of the advertised tender period.

9.5 Tender for Contract Number 20/21-10: Supply and Installation of Public Amenities Violet Town (cont.)

Table 1: Conforming Tenders Received

<i>Tender Submissions Received at Close of Tender Period (in Alphabetical Order)</i>
ASCO Group (Aust) Pty Ltd
Envirodomes Pty Ltd
GR Design and Construct Pty Ltd

Table 2 below lists the tender offers (excluding GST) at the close of the advertised tender period.

Table 2: Tenders Offers Received

<i>Tender Offers Received at Close of Tender Period (excl. GST) (in lowest to highest order)</i>
\$169,133.04
\$193,377.80
\$195,000.00

In accordance with Council's Procurement Policy, the evaluation panel and evaluation criteria weightings were determined prior to release of the Tender documentation. The evaluation panel members were nominated prior to release of the tender submissions for evaluation. The panel signed 'Conflict of Interest' statements prior to the evaluation panel viewing the submitted tenders.

The Tender Evaluation Panel members were made up of the following Strathbogie Shire Council staff members:

1. Project Manager;
2. Assets Technical Officer; and
3. Corporate Risk Officer.

The panel assessed each of the submissions in line with the selection criteria and best value for money principals as detailed in Table 3 below.

TABLE 3: Selection Criteria

Criteria	Weighting (%)
Price	60
Capacity to complete the Contract (including timeliness)	10
Relevant Experience	5
Occupational Health & Safety System	5
Environmental Management	5
Regional Benefit	15
Total	100

9.5 Tender for Contract Number 20/21-10: Supply and Installation of Public Amenities Violet Town (cont.)

Evaluation Moderation Process

The Tender Evaluation Panel individually reviewed all tender submissions in detail and assessed tenderers submitted schedules and attachments against the evaluation criteria. The Moderator (Procurement and Tender Officer) averaged the scores and highlighted scoring discrepancies larger than three (3) points. On Friday 7 August 2020 the Panel and the Moderator met for the tender moderation meeting. The purpose of the moderation meeting is to discuss and moderate scoring discrepancies larger than three points and to raise any concerns and/or queries that may need to put to the tenders prior to recommending the preferred Tenderer.

The outcome of the moderation meeting based on price and non-financial criteria had GR Design and Construct ranked as highest. Post tender communication was undertaken with GR Design and Construct as the Panel were concerned the submission did not fully meet the specification requirement. GR Design and Construct confirmed they could provide the structure as per the Tender Specifications for the tendered amount of \$169,133.04 ex GST.

Post tender communication was undertaken with the conforming Tenderers requesting further information relating to their COVID-19 pandemic contingency plans. The Tender Evaluation Panel are satisfied GR Design and Construct has provided adequate documentation to fulfil the requirements of the Contract during the COVID-19 pandemic emergency and the variable stage restrictions and hard border lock downs.

GR Design and Construct confirmed that they will supply the requirements of the contract to that which is specified in the tender documents, and their pandemic contingency plans will both be added to the Contract documentation.

PANEL ASSESSMENT SUMMARY

GR Design and Construct obtained the highest score in the qualitative assessments criteria of Relevant Experience (5% weighting), Environmental systems (5%), equal highest in OH&S (5%), and were the lowest priced submission (price 60% weighting). The total of their qualitative scoring and lowest price put GR Design and Construct at the head of the tenderer scoring table. The Tender Evaluation Panel endorsed this tender evaluation scoring by recommending GR Design and Construct to be awarded this tender.

The evaluation panel was satisfied with the outcome of the evaluation process which resulted in GR Design and Construct being the recommended tender. GR Design and Construct submitted a good quality tender and represented best overall value for Council for delivering the Violet Town Amenities as required under the contract.

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

The tender and tender evaluation was undertaken in accordance with Council's Procurement Policy.

9.5 Tender for Contract Number 20/21-10: Supply and Installation of Public Amenities Violet Town (cont.)

Conflict of Interest Declaration

All officers, and / or contractors, involved in the preparation of this report have signed a written declaration that they do not have a conflict of interest in the subject matter of this report.

Transparency

One of the Overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that the transparency of Council decisions, actions and information is to be ensured.

It is considered by the author of this report that all steps have been taken in line with Council's Procurement Policy which ensures transparency in the process.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

The combined lump sum purchase costs are within the overall budget allowances in the Capital Budget.

SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

This recommendation ensures that Council has efficient fleet to ensure that work are undertaken to support the needs of the community and maintain Councils infrastructure.

INNOVATION & CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

The installation of the new amenities unit will be to the latest standards and provide improved facilities for users. The new look amenities will improve on the current appearance and provide additional facilities to cater for increased demands, as experienced during the Violet Town market. The inclusion of individually doored unisex cubicles allows Council to control what is open for use demanding on the expected demand. By organising the access to facilities when the Recreation Reserve is not in use (ie. Low demand), decreases the time need by Council staff to maintain and clean the facilities. The inclusion of urinal facilities will assist decrease waiting periods during times of high demand.

HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS

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

CONCLUSION

Council invited tenders for the supply and installation of new amenity facilities in the Violet Town Recreation Reserve. The submitted tenders were sought and evaluated strictly in accordance with the Council's Procurement Policy and against the provided brief and specifications. It is proposed that Council endorses the recommended prefabrication of the upgraded amenities to be supplied and installation at the Violet Town Recreation Reserve.

APPENDICES:

Appendix 2: Tender Evaluation for Contract Number 20/21-10: Supply and Installation of Public Amenities Violet Town - CONFIDENTIAL

9.6 Tender for Contract Number 20/21-08: Supply and Install of Water Tanks – Various Locations (Avenel, Creighton’s Creek, Euroa, Gooram, Ruffy, Strathbogie and Violet Town)

Authors: Procurement and Tender Officer & Project Manager

Responsible Director: Director Community & Planning (Acting)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

These works relate to Council’s drought recovery initiatives funded through the Australian Government’s Drought Communities Program. Tender documentation was prepared for the supply, installation and commissioning of water tanks including construction of tank foundations pads, CFA requirements, three (3) generators and any associated civil, servicing and other necessary works. The sites nominated are located in Avenel, Creighton’s Creek, Euroa, Gooram, Ruffy, Strathbogie and Violet Town.

Council went to public tender for Contract 20/21-08 Supply and Install of Water Tanks – Various Locations on 11 July 2020.

At tender closing 5 August 2020, eight (8) tenders were received with the results showing Think Melbourne Water as the preferred tenderer.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 1. Receives and notes the outcome of the tender assessment process for Contract 20/21-08 Supply and Installation of Water Tanks – Various Locations (Avenel, Creighton’s Creek, Euroa, Gooram, Ruffy, Strathbogie and Violet Town) as set out in the confidential appendices attached to this report;***
- 2. Awards the tender to Think Melbourne Water Pty Ltd for Contract 20/21-08 – 20/21-08 Supply and Installation of Water Tanks – Various Locations (Avenel, Creighton’s Creek, Euroa, Gooram, Ruffy, Strathbogie and Violet Town) \$350,411.50 excluding GST;***
- 3. Authorises officers to advise the unsuccessful tenders; and***
- 4. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to execute the Contract by signing and affixing with the Common Seal of Strathbogie Shire Council; and***
- 5. Notes that the contract will commence on 28 September 2020 and the expected completion date is 18 December 2020.***

9.6 Tender for Contract Number 20/21-08: Supply and Install of Water Tanks – Various Locations (Avenel, Creighton’s Creek, Euroa, Gooram, Ruffy, Strathbogrie and Violet Town) (cont.)

BACKGROUND

These works relate to Council’s drought recovery initiatives funded through the Australian Government’s Drought Communities Program. The funding is targeted to stimulate local community spending, use local resources, businesses and suppliers and provide long lasting benefit to communities.

The works are for the supply, installation and commissioning of water tanks including construction of tank foundations pads, CFA requirements, three (3) generators and any associated civil, servicing and other necessary works, at various sites around the Strathbogrie Shire Council. The sites nominated are located in Avenel, Creighton’s Creek, Euroa, Gooram, Ruffy, Strathbogrie and Violet Town. All sites have been nominated to assist with water storage for CFA or irrigation purposes. The sites vary from recreation reserves where connection is to existing pumps to remote locations where there are no connections to a water source and the tanks will be used as a water storage for firefighting purposes, filled by water tanks.

The purchase of three (3) generators to be installed has been completed and are currently stored at Brady & Kibble Transport in Euroa. These are to be loaded and delivered to the designated sites for installation.

DISCUSSION

One of the overarching governance principles in Section 9 of the Local Government Act 2020 is that priority is to be given to achieving the best outcomes for the municipal community, including future generations. Considering this, to ensure services are provided to the community in a timely and acceptable manner, Council committed to facilitate the implementation of increased tank water storages to assist communities for fighting purposes and irrigation. These works will be completed from funding secured as part of the drought assistance.

Tender specifications were prepared by Council officers to seek suitably qualified and experience Tenderers to supply and install water tanks and associated infrastructure, satisfying the requirements to the brief and specifications.

TENDER PROCESS

Tenders were invited by advertising on “Tendersearch” via the Council website on the 10 July 2020 and were advertised in the The Age newspaper (statewide reach) on 11 July 2020, with local advertising occurring during the opening week in the Benalla Ensign, Euroa Gazette and Shepparton News. By close of tenders at 4.00pm on 5 August 2020, eight (8) tenders had been received.

9.6 Tender for Contract Number 20/21-08: Supply and Install of Water Tanks – Various Locations (Avenel, Creighton’s Creek, Euroa, Gooram, Ruffy, Strathbogie and Violet Town) (cont.)

All tenders were accessed for their compliance including the contractual terms and conditions and the requirements of the response schedules. Table 1 below lists the tenders were received at close of the advertised tender period.

Table 1: Tenders Received

<i>Tender Submissions Received at Close of Tender Period (in Alphabetical Order)</i>
Blueys Plumbing & Diggin Pty Ltd
Colbrico Pty Ltd
JNR Civil Pty Ltd
Melbourne Irrigation Pty Ltd
Scaffidi Contractors Pty Ltd
Seven Creeks Excavations Pty Ltd
Think Water Melbourne
Total Eden Pty Ltd

Table 2 below lists the tender offers (excluding GST) at the close of the advertised tender period.

Table 2: Tenders Offers Received

<i>Tender Offers Received at Close of Tender Period (excl. GST) (in lowest to highest order)</i>
\$350,411.50
\$376,395.00
\$398,424.95
\$475,198.00
\$496,466.85
\$535,714.90
\$555,258.60
\$778,355.08

PANEL ASSESSMENT SUMMARY

In accordance with Council’s Procurement Policy, the evaluation panel and evaluation criteria weightings were determined prior to release of the Tender documentation. The evaluation panel members were nominated prior to release of the tender submissions for evaluation. The panel signed ‘Conflict of Interest’ statements prior to the evaluation panel viewing the submitted tenders.

The Tender Evaluation Panel members were made up of the following Strathbogie Shire Council staff members:

1. Project Manager;
2. Manager Project Delivery; and
3. Corporate Risk Officer.

9.6 Tender for Contract Number 20/21-08: Supply and Install of Water Tanks – Various Locations (Avenel, Creighton’s Creek, Euroa, Gooram, Ruffy, Strathbogie and Violet Town) (cont.)

The panel assessed each of the submissions in line with the selection criteria and best value for money principals as detailed in Table 3 below.

TABLE 3: Selection Criteria

Criteria	Weighting (%)
Price	60
Capacity to complete the Contract (including timeliness)	10
Relevant Experience	5
Occupational Health & Safety System	5
Environmental Management	5
Quality Management / System	5
Regional Benefit	10

Evaluation Moderation Process

The Tender Evaluation Panel individually reviewed all tender submissions in detail and assessed tenderers submitted schedules and attachments against the evaluation criteria. The Moderator (Procurement and Tender Officer) averaged the scores and highlighted scoring discrepancies larger than three (3) points. On Friday 28 August 2020 the Panel and the Moderator met for the tender moderation meeting. The purpose of the moderation meeting is to discuss and moderate scoring discrepancies larger than three points and to raise any concerns / queries that may need to put to the tenders prior to recommending the preferred Tenderer.

The outcome of the moderation meeting had Think Water Melbourne ranked as highest based on price and non-financial criteria. Post tender communication was undertaken with the conforming Tenderers requesting further information relating to their COVID-19 pandemic contingency plans. The Tender Evaluation Panel are satisfied Think Water Melbourne has provided adequate documentation to fulfil the requirements of the Contract during the COVID-19 pandemic emergency and the variable stage restrictions and hard border lock downs.

Think Water Melbourne’s confirmation that they will supply the requirements of the contract to that which is specified in the tender documents, and their pandemic contingency plans will both be added to the Contract documentation.

PANEL ASSESSMENT SUMMARY

Think Melbourne Water obtained the highest score in the qualitative assessments criteria of Relevant Experience (5% weighting) and were the lowest priced submission (price 60% weighting). The total of their qualitative scoring and lowest price placed Think Melbourne Water as the preferred tenderer.

9.6 Tender for Contract Number 20/21-08: Supply and Install of Water Tanks – Various Locations (Avenel, Creighton’s Creek, Euroa, Gooram, Ruffy, Strathbogrie and Violet Town) (cont.)

The evaluation panel was satisfied with the outcome of the evaluation process which resulted in Think Water Melbourne being the recommended tender. Think Water Melbourne submitted a quality tender and were overall significantly best value for Council for delivering the services as required under the contract.

A confidential tender evaluation matrix is attached to this report for Councillor information (refer Appendix 3 – Confidential Business).

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

The tender and tender evaluation was undertaken in accordance with Council’s Procurement Policy.

Conflict of Interest Declaration

All officers, and / or contractors, involved in the preparation of this report have signed a written declaration that they do not have a conflict of interest in the subject matter of this report.

Transparency

One of the Overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that the transparency of Council decisions, actions and information is to be ensured.

It is considered by the author of this report that all steps have been taken in line with Council’s Procurement Policy which ensures transparency in the process.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

The combined lump sum purchase costs are within the overall budget allowances in the Capital Budget.

SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

This recommendation ensures that Council has efficient fleet to ensure that work are undertaken to support the needs of the community and maintain Councils infrastructure.

INNOVATION & CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

The installation of new water infrastructure around to the municipality will provide new or add to existing water storages to assist in firefighting efforts and irrigation, predominantly during the drier periods. Tanks will also have the capacity to harvest water from its top, which will limit the reliability to be filled from an external source. The inclusion of generators at three (3) sites was identified to increased power reliability at sites that experience regular electrical failures during times of need.

HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS

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

- 9.6 Tender for Contract Number 20/21-08: Supply and Install of Water Tanks – Various Locations (Avenel, Creighton’s Creek, Euroa, Gooram, Ruffy, Strathbogie and Violet Town) (cont.)

CONCLUSION

Council invited tenders for the supply and installation of water tanks in Avenel, Creighton’s Creek, Euroa, Gooram, Ruffy, Strathbogie and Violet Town. The submitted tenders were sought and evaluated strictly in accordance with the Council’s Procurement Policy and against the provided brief and specifications. It is proposed that Council endorses the recommended supply and installed water infrastructure works around the municipality.

APPENDICES

Appendix 3: Tender for Contract Number 20/21-08: Supply and Install of Water Tanks – Various Locations (Avenel, Creighton’s Creek, Euroa, Gooram, Ruffy, Strathbogie and Violet Town) - CONFIDENTIAL

9.7 Tender for Contract Number 20/21-23: Ranger and Local Laws Enforcement Services

Authors: Team Leader Compliance and Procurement and Tenders Officer

Responsible Director: Director Corporate Operations

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The current contract 17/18-01 for Ranger and Local Laws Enforcement Services will end on 24 October 2020. To ensure best value for money, Council went to public tender for Contract 20/21-23 Ranger and Local Laws Enforcement Services on 10 July 2020.

Council's Ranger and Local Law Enforcement Services provide for the enforcement of Council's Local Law, Operation of the municipal pound, animal control matters such as dog attacks and stock on roads. The service providers are authorised officers and are responsible for providing timely responses and advice to our community.

At tender closing 5 August 2020, one tender was received. The tender submission was assessed and evaluated with the results showing 4Site Australia Pty Ltd as the preferred tenderer.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 1. Receives and notes the outcome of the tender assessment process for Contract 20/21-23 Ranger and Local Laws Enforcement Services, as set out in the confidential appendices attached to this report;***
- 2. Awards the tender received from 4Site Australia Pty Ltd for Ranger and Local Laws Enforcement for a total cost of \$630,000 (excl GST) over the three-year contract term, commencing on 25 October 2020 completion date 24 October 2023;***
- 3. Authorises officers to advise the unsuccessful tenders; and***
- 4. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to execute the Contract by signing and affixing with the Common Seal of Strathbogie Shire Council.***

PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND

The current contract 17/18-1 will complete on 24 October 2020.

Council sought submissions from suitably qualified and experienced tenderers to fulfil the organisation's requirement for Ranger and Local Laws Enforcement Service for a three year Contract term.

9.7 Tender for Contract Number 20/21-23: Ranger and Local Laws Enforcement Services (cont.)

Council has used contractors for the delivery of its Ranger and Local Law Enforcement Services for 10 years. The service is currently provided by 4Site. The use of contractors to provide this service ensures the continued supply of staff both during and outside of business hours.

Council's Ranger and Local Law Enforcement Services provide for the enforcement of Council's Local Law, operation of the municipal pound, animal control matters such as dog attacks and stock on roads. The service providers are authorised officers and are responsible for providing timely responses and advice to our community.

As the current contract is about to expire, with no option for extension, officers have sought submissions via Tendersearch for an entity to ensure the continuity of this essential Council service.

DISCUSSION

One of the Overarching governance principles in section 9 of the Local Government Act 2020 is that Priority is to be given to achieving the best outcomes for the municipal community, including future generations. In light of this to ensure Local Law Enforcement and Ranger services are provided to the community officers have concluded that this is best provided through a contract service at this time.

The contractor is responsible for providing all equipment, such as vehicle, technology, uniform etc as part of the service as well as ongoing maintenance costs for Council.

The use of contractors also places human resource responsibilities on to the contractor rather than Council which results in continuity of the service.

The use of a contracted service to provide Council's Ranger and Local Law Enforcement service ensures a greater level of continuity in the availability of human resources in this area which can be difficult to staff. This is primarily due to the fact that this is a 24 hour service.

TENDER PROCESS

Tenders were invited by advertising on "Tendersearch" via the Council website on the 10 July 2020. Council also advertised in Saturday's The Age newspaper (statewide reach) on 11 July 2020, with local advertising occurring during the opening week in the Benalla Ensign, Euroa Gazette and Shepparton News. By close of tenders at 4.00pm on 5 August 2020, one tender had been received from 4Site Australia Pty Ltd.

The tender was assessed for compliance including the contractual terms and conditions and requirements of the response schedules and was deemed conforming. In accordance with the Procurement Policy, the evaluation panel and evaluation criteria weightings were nominated prior to opening. The panel signed 'Conflict of interest' statements prior to the evaluation panel viewing the submitted tender.

9.7 Tender for Contract Number 20/21-23: Ranger and Local Laws Enforcement Services (cont.)

Tender Evaluation Panel members were:

- Director Corporate Operations
- Team Leader Compliance
- Executive Manager Communication and Engagement

The Panel assessed the response considering the selection criteria and best value for money principles as detailed in Table 2 below.

TABLE 1: Selection Criteria

Criteria	Weighting %
Price	60
Relevant Experience	10
Capacity to Complete/Timeframe	10
OH&S	10
Regional Benefit/Local Content	10

Evaluation Moderation Process

The purpose of the moderation meeting is to discuss and moderate scoring discrepancies larger than three points and to raise any concerns and/or queries that may need to put to the tenders prior to recommending the preferred Tenderer.

In line with tender evaluation best practice, tender submissions were evaluated individually. Due to a single tenderer only a consensus scoring occurred via email; no tender evaluation moderation meeting was required.

A confidential tender evaluation matrix is attached to this report for Councillor information (refer Appendix 4 – Confidential Business).

PANEL ASSESSMENT SUMMARY

The Tender Evaluation Panel were satisfied that 4Site Australia Pty Ltd had provided satisfactory evidence they could undertake the contract services required in CN 20/21-23 – Ranger and Local Laws Enforcement Services for the contract term of three years.

While only one tender submission was received, the Tender Evaluation Panel considered that this provides good value for money having consideration for the budgeted amounts available as well as comparing the tendered price to previous years.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

One of the Overarching governance principles in section 9 of the Local Government Act 2020 is that the municipal community is to be engaged in strategic planning and strategic decision making.

As an essential service of Council, it is considered by the author of this report that the matter did not warrant community engagement.

9.7 Tender for Contract Number 20/21-23: Ranger and Local Laws Enforcement Services (cont.)

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

Council Plans and Policies

It is considered by the author of this report that the recommendation is consistent with Council's Procurement Policy.

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

One of the Overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that Council decisions are to be made and actions taken in accordance with the relevant law. The tender and tender evaluation was undertaken in accordance with Council's Procurement Policy.

Conflict of Interest Declaration

All officers, and/or contractors, involved in the preparation of this report have signed a written declaration that they do not have a conflict of interest in the subject matter of this report.

Transparency

One of the Overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that the transparency of Council decisions, actions and information is to be ensured.

It is considered by the author of this report that all steps have been taken in line with Council's Procurement Policy which ensures transparency in the process.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

One of the Overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that the ongoing financial viability of the Council is to be ensured

The tendered price is within the Budget allowance of \$223,000 + GST for this service.

SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

One of the Overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that the economic, social and environmental sustainability of the municipal district, including mitigation and planning for climate change risks, is to be promoted.

Economic

The author of this report considers that the recommendation has no significant economic implications for Council or the broader community. The cost of this essential service has been included in the 2020/2021 Council Budget.

Social

The role of Local Laws and Ranger services support the safety and wellbeing of our community. This includes through the provision of animal management services including the municipal pound, stock on roads and dog attacks as well as the compliance and enforcement activities required under the local law.

9.7 Tender for Contract Number 20/21-23: Ranger and Local Laws Enforcement Services (cont.)

HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS

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

CONCLUSION

As part of Council's obligation to deliver Ranger and Local Law Enforcement services, Council has invited tenders for the provision of this service. The submitted tender was sought and evaluated strictly in accordance with Council's Procurement Policy. It is proposed that Council endorses the recommendation to enter into contract with the preferred tenderer.

APPENDICES:

Appendix 4: Tender for Contract Number 20/21-23: Ranger and Local Laws Enforcement Services - CONFIDENTIAL

9.8 Tender for Contract Number 20/21-22: Provision of Boating Safety Operations

Authors: Team Leader Compliance and Procurement & Tenders Officer

Responsible Director: Director Corporate Operations

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council is responsible for waterways management on Lake Nagambie and along the Goulburn River between the Hughes Creek and Goulburn Weir. The current contract 15/16-02 Boating Safety Operations will end 30 September 2020. Council went to public tender for Contract 20/21-22 Provision of Boating Safety Operations on 3 July 2020 to ensure ongoing service provision.

Contractors have been used in the past to patrol the lake and river during the boating season which generally runs between October and April. The use of contractors to provide this specialised service ensures the continued supply of staff both during the limited season in which the staff are required

At tender closing 29 July 2020, one tender was received. The tender submissions were assessed and evaluated with the results showing 4Site Australia Pty Ltd as the preferred tenderer.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 1. Receives and notes the outcome of the tender assessment process for Contract 20/21-22 Provision of Boating Safety, as set out in the confidential appendices attached to this report;***
- 2. Awards the tender Provision of Boating Safety at Lake Nagambie to 4Site Australia Pty Ltd for a lump sum price of \$230,181.82 (excluding GST) for 3 years (\$76,727.27 per annum);***
- 3. Authorises officers to advise the unsuccessful tenders; and***
- 4. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to execute the Contract by signing and affixing with the Common Seal of Strathbogie Shire Council.***

PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND

Council is responsible for waterways management on Lake Nagambie and along the Goulburn River between the Hughes Creek and Goulburn Weir.

The current contract 15/16-02 initially expired September 2018 and was extended by Council resolution in May 2018 for a further two years, and the new completion date is September 2020.

9.8 Tender for Contract Number 20/21-22: Provision of Boating Safety Operations (cont.)

Council sought submissions from suitably qualified and experienced tenderers to fulfil the organisations requirement for Provision of Boating Safety Operations for a three year Contract term.

Council has used contractors for the delivery of its Provision of Boating Safety Operations for 10 years. The service is currently provided by 4Site. Council is responsible for waterways management on Lake Nagambie and along the Goulburn River between the Hughes Creek and Goulburn Weir.

Contractors have been used in the past to patrol the lake and river during the boating season which generally runs between October and April. The use of contractors to provide this specialised service ensures the continued supply of staff both during the limited season in which the staff are required.

As the current contract is about to expire (30 September 2020), officers have sought submissions via Tendersearch for an entity to ensure the continuity of this Council service.

DISCUSSION

One of the Overarching governance principles in section 9 of the Local Government Act 2020 is that Priority is to be given to achieving the best outcomes for the municipal community, including future generations. In light of this, to ensure Boating Safety services are provided to the community officers have concluded that this is best provided through a contract service at this time.

The contractor is responsible for providing all equipment, such as vehicle, boat, technology, uniform etc as part of the service which minimises upfront costs as well as ongoing maintenance costs for Council.

The use of contractors also places human resource responsibilities on to the contractor rather than Council which results in continuity of the service.

The use of a contracted service to provide Council's Boating Safety services ensures a greater level of continuity in the availability of human resources in this area which can be difficult to staff. The use of contract services provides for a known cost to Council and avoids budgetary uncertainty. The delivery of the service through a contracted provider has worked well for Council in the past through the use of reputable contractors.

TENDER PROCESS

Tenders were invited by advertising on "Tendersearch" via the Council website on the 10 July 2020. Council also advertised in Saturday's The Age newspaper (statewide reach) on 11 July 2020, with local advertising occurring during the opening week in the Benalla Ensign, Euroa Gazette and Shepparton News. By close of tenders at 4.00pm on 5 August 2020, one tender had been received from 4Site Australia Pty Ltd.

9.8 Tender for Contract Number 20/21-22: Provision of Boating Safety Operations (cont.)

The tender was assessed for compliance including the contractual terms and conditions and requirements of the response schedules and was deemed as conforming. In accordance with the Procurement Policy, the evaluation panel and evaluation criteria weightings were nominated prior to opening. The panel signed 'Conflict of interest' statements prior to the evaluation panel viewing the submitted tender.

Tender Evaluation Panel members were:

- Director Corporate Operations
- Manager Tourism Arts and Culture
- Team Leader Compliance.

Tender co-ordination and the evaluation moderation process was undertaken by Council's Procurement and Tender Officer.

The panel assessed each of the submissions in line with the selection criteria and best value for money principals as detailed in Table 1 below.

TABLE 1: Selection Criteria

Criteria	Weighting %
Price	60
Relevant Experience	10
Capacity to Complete/Timeframe	10
OH&S	10
Regional Benefit/Local Content	10

Evaluation Moderation Process

The purpose of the moderation meeting is to discuss and moderate scoring discrepancies larger than three points and to raise any concerns / queries that may need to put to the tenders prior to recommending the preferred Tenderer.

The Tender Evaluation Panel individually reviewed all tender submissions in detail and assessed tenderers submitted schedules and attachments against the evaluation criteria.

Company Name	Qualitative Score(%)	Moderated Total Price	Quantitative Score(%)	Total Score
4SITE Australia	27.54%	\$230,181.82	60.00%	87.54%

PANEL ASSESSMENT SUMMARY

The evaluation panel was satisfied with the outcome of the evaluation process which resulted in 4Site Australia Pty Ltd being the recommended tenderer. 4Site Australia Pty Ltd submitted a high quality tender and were overall best value for Council for delivering the services as required under the contract.

9.8 Tender for Contract Number 20/21-22: Provision of Boating Safety Operations (cont.)

A confidential tender evaluation matrix is attached to this report for Councillor information (refer Appendix 5 – Confidential Business).

While only one tender submission was received, the Tender Evaluation Panel considered that this provides good value for money having consideration for the budgeted amounts available as well as comparing the tendered price to previous years.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

One of the Overarching governance principles in section 9 of the Local Government Act 2020 is that the municipal community is to be engaged in strategic planning and strategic decision making.

It is considered by the author of this report that the matter did not warrant community engagement.

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

Council Plans and Policies

It is considered by the author of this report that the recommendation is consistent with Council's Procurement Policy.

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

One of the Overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that Council decisions are to be made and actions taken in accordance with the relevant law.

There are no other legal implications associated with the recommendation of this report.

Conflict of Interest Declaration

All officers, and/or contractors, involved in the preparation of this report have signed a written declaration that they do not have a conflict of interest in the subject matter of this report.

Transparency

One of the Overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that the transparency of Council decisions, actions and information is to be ensured.

It is considered that all steps have been taken in line with Council's Procurement Policy which ensures transparency in the process.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

One of the Overarching governance principles in section 9 of the Local Government Act 2020 is that the ongoing financial viability of the Council is to be ensured

The tendered price is within the Budget allowance of \$86,000 + GST for this service. Subsequent years are below budget projection.

9.8 Tender for Contract Number 20/21-22: Provision of Boating Safety Operations (cont.)

SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

One of the Overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that the economic, social and environmental sustainability of the municipal district, including mitigation and planning for climate change risks, is to be promoted.

Economic

The recommendation has no significant economic implications for Council or the broader community. The cost of this service has been included in the 2020/2021 Council Budget.

Social

The role of Boating Safety services support the safety and wellbeing of our community. This includes through the provision of waterway patrols and management on the Goulburn River and Lake Nagambie to ensure the safety of waterway users which includes the Strathbogie community as well as tourists.

HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS

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

CONCLUSION

As part of Council's requirements as waterway manager for Lake Nagambie and the Goulburn River between the Hughes Creek and Goulburn Weir, Council has invited tenders for the provision of this service. The submitted tender was sought and evaluated strictly in accordance with Council's Procurement Policy. It is proposed that Council endorses the recommendation to enter into contract with the preferred tenderer.

APPENDICES

Appendix 5: Tender for Contract Number 20/21-22: Provision of Boating Safety Operations - CONFIDENTIAL

9.9 Tender for Contract Number 20/21-20: Operation and Management of Municipal Swimming Pools

Author: Manager Community Wellbeing and Procurement & Tenders Officer

Responsible Director: A/Director Community and Planning

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council went to public open tender for Contract Number 20/21- Operation and Management of Municipal Swimming Pools on 10 July 2020.

The tender offered a three (3) year term for the operation and management of the Euroa, Violet Town, Avenel and Nagambie Pools. At tender closing on 5 August 2020 two (2) tender submissions were received, which contained no offer or schedules, and were therefore determined to be non-conforming.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 1. Receives and notes the outcome of the tender assessment process for Contract 20/21-20 Management and Operation of Municipal Pools, as set out in the confidential appendices attached to this report;***
- 2. Formally abandon the public tender for Contract Number 20/21- Operation and Management of Municipal Swimming Pools as no conforming tenders were received***
- 3. Authorises officers to advise the unsuccessful tenders;***
- 4. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to seek further submissions to approve a lump sum contract to an experienced aquatic company for the operation and management of the municipal pools for the 20/21 season. The approved contract must be no more than a 5% variance of the current approved budget allocation;***
- 5. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to advertise the successful contractor for the season within respective media for each community;***
- 6. Authorise officers to immediately commence the process to form an Aquatic Facilities Reference Group through an Expression of interest process to coincide with the opening of the 20/21 summer season; and***
- 7. Receives a further report detailing options for inhouse and outsourced arrangements and financial implications for the operation and management of the Strathbogie Shire Municipal Swimming Pools for the February 2021 Council meeting cycle.***

9.9 Tender for Contract Number 20/21-20: Operation and Management of Municipal Swimming Pools (cont.)

PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND

At the 15 May 2020 meeting Council endorsed that officers prepare tender documentation for management and operation of Council's Aquatic Facilities during the pool opening seasons for three (3) years commencing for the 2020/21 pool season. Officers were to commence the process to form an Aquatic Facilities Reference Group, with representation from relevant stakeholders, to assist Council in implementing the Strathbogie Community Pools Strategy 2019-2029 and improving facilities and activities for the users and provide a further report on the outcomes of the public open tender. It is proposed that this process commence on 16 September 2020 through an open Expression of Interest process. Former members of the previous Aquatic Facilities Reference Group will be advised of the process.

DISCUSSION

One of the overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that priority is to be given to achieving the best outcomes for the municipal community, including future generations. Establishing a best practice operation model for municipal pools operations is required and engagement of a contractor will support Council to deliver this.

The tender document was prepared collaboratively during June 2020 by the Procurement and Tender Officer, Facilities and Recreation Officer, Manager Community Wellbeing, and Director Community and Planning. Prior to release of the tender the document was reviewed and updated by probity advisor from Dench Maclean Carlson. The tender documentation detailed the summer pool season as operational from 1st December 2020 through to 8th March 2021 (Monday of the Labour Day Weekend).

TENDER PROCESS

The Tender for the Contract Number 20/21-20 Operation and Management of Municipal Swimming Pools was released for submission on 9am Friday 10th July 2020, via TenderSearch, with listing on the Strathbogie Shire website. State-wide advertising was provided in the Public Notices of The Age, Saturday 11th July 2020, and advertising provided in the following local newspapers, Euroa Gazette, Shepparton News Classifieds, Benalla Ensign, Violet Town Village Voice, and Nagambie Community Voice throughout the following week/fortnight depending on print date.

A second round of advertising was also provided in the public notices in The Age on Saturday 18th July 2020. It should be noted that the second round of advertising was provided in order to better reach the niche skillset of the services required.

The Procurement and Tender officer invited the specialist suppliers to participate in the tender process via TenderSearch.

9.9 Tender for Contract Number 20/21-20: Operation and Management of Municipal Swimming Pools (cont.)

By close of tender at 4pm on Wednesday 29 July 2020 two (2) submitted documents were received. Table 1 below lists the organisations that submitted documents at close of the advertised tender period.

Table 1: Tenders Received

<i>Tender Submissions Received at Close of Tender Period (in Alphabetical Order)</i>
BlueFit Pty Ltd
Unified Community Sports and Leisure

At the close of the tender period the two (2) tenders did not meet the requirements of the tender and as such deemed non-conforming. The non-conformances were related to the uncertainty in the marketplace and operational risks and constraints associated with COVID-19 restrictions.

In accordance with the Procurement Policy, the evaluation panel and evaluation criteria weightings were nominated prior to opening. The panel signed 'Conflict of interest' and 'Confidentiality' statements prior to the evaluation panel viewing the submitted tender. The tender evaluation panel consisted of the following Strathbogie Shire Council staff members:

- Manager, Community Wellbeing
- Leisure and Recruitment Officer
- Facilities Maintenance Officer

Evaluation Moderation Process

The Tender Evaluation Panel individually reviewed and the submitted documents in detail and determined as they did not contain offers or schedules as per the tender specifications, they were not able to be evaluated.

Post Tender Options

Due to the timing of this process and the requirement to commence operations of Councils pools by 1 December 2020, the panel have commenced a preliminary negotiation with two experienced aquatic providers. These early negotiations look favourable that operation and management of the 2020/21 summer pool season is within Council budgeted allocation within a 5% variation. It is proposed that officers continue to seek firm quotations for the operation of the Municipal Swimming pools for this coming season through an invitation to quote process. If submission are within the allocated budget with a 5% variation, authorise the Chief Executive Officer to enter into a one year contract with the preferred experienced third party provider.

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

The tender Operation and Management of Municipal Swimming Pools aligns with the intent and recommendations of the Strathbogie Community Pools Strategy 2019-2029.

9.9 Tender for Contract Number 20/21-20: Operation and Management of Municipal Swimming Pools (cont.)

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

The tender evaluation has been undertaken in accordance with Councils procurement policy.

Conflict of Interest Declaration

All officers, and/or contractors, involved in the preparation of this report have signed a written declaration that they do not have a conflict of interest in the subject matter of this report.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

With no conforming tenders received, it is proposed that officers seek submissions for the operation and management of the Municipal Swimming Pools for the 2020/21 summer season outside of a formal tender process, these require further review to ensure that the services offered align with the requirements of our communities and provide the same level of service within the 2020/21 budget allocation and allowing for a 5% variation.

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies

One of the Overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that regional, state and national plans and policies are to be taken into account in strategic planning and decision-making.

SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

Social

The health benefits of a local pool are well documented in research. The benefits include improved opportunities for social contact, increased physical activity and stress reduction. Access to local pools also result in increased social capital

HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS

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

CONCLUSION

With no conforming tenders received, it is proposed that Council formally abandon the public tender for Contract Number 20/21- Operation and Management of Municipal Swimming Pools and authorise officers to seek submissions for the operation and management of the Municipal Swimming Pools for the 2020/21 summer season outside of a formal tender process. Further, it is sought that Council authorise the Chief Executive Officer review the submissions and appoint a suitably qualified contractor in line with the adopted budget allocation and inclusive of a 5% variance of the budget allocation.

9.10 **'Recycling Victoria' – Household Recycling Reform Transition Planning**

Author: Environment & Waste Coordinator

Responsible Director: Director Corporate Operations

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

'Recycling Victoria' is the Victorian Government's 10-year policy and action plan, aimed at fundamentally transforming our recycling sector, reducing waste, creating thousands of jobs, and positioning Victoria for a more sustainable future. As part of Recycling Victoria, the Victorian Government has committed \$129 million over the next four years to assist Councils to reform household waste and recycling services to ensure Victoria is well placed to transition to a circular economy.

The reforms will initially require councils to complete a transition planning process, outlining the proposed implementation of a service model to incorporate:

- The separate collection of glass, either via a kerbside service (bin with purple lid), drop-off facilities or a combination of both by 2027;
- The continuation of a commingled recycling service for paper, plastic and metals, (bin with yellow lid);
- The separate collection of Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO), either via a kerbside service (bin with light green lid), drop off facilities or a combination of both by 2030; and
- The continuation of residual garbage collection, (bin with a red lid).

This report will provide background for Councillors on what steps have been taken and will be taken as staff prepare the draft transition plan for submittal to the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) by 30 September 2020.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council notes the report.

PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND

In February 2020 the State Government released its *Recycling Victoria – a new economy* document and a commitment to a \$300 million investment into recycling collection, processing and reuse in Victoria to address the urgent challenges that caused significant disruption to Victoria's recycling services and to make fundamental changes to help prevent these issues from reoccurring.

9.10 'Recycling Victoria' – Household Recycling Reform Transition Planning (cont.)

As part of this plan the government is proposing that all 79 Councils in Victoria move to a 4 bin system. These 4 bins will be:

- The separate collection of glass, either via a kerbside service (bin with purple lid), drop-off facilities or a combination of both by 2027;
- The continuation of a commingled recycling service for paper, plastic and metals, (bin with yellow lid);
- The separate collection of Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO), either via a kerbside service (bin with light green lid), drop off facilities or a combination of both by 2030; and
- The continuation of residual garbage collection, (bin with a red lid).

As part of this work, and to inform the State Government on the levels of funding that are required for local government to successfully roll out the additional bins in their municipalities Council have been required to submit a Registration of Intent (30 July 2020) and a draft Transition Plan (30 September 2020). Staff submitted the Registration of Intent by the due date and are currently awaiting the funding agreement from DELWP for signing. Please see the below timeline for further information.

Date	Transition Planning Action
30 July 2020	Councils to submit Registration of Intent document to DELWP.
August 2020	Councils enter into an agreement with DELWP to receive funding to support the development of their Draft Transition Plan.
30 Sept 2020	Councils to submit a Draft Transition Plan to DELWP.
Oct-Nov 2020	DELWP to determine allocation of funding to support the implementation of the new service models. Funding agreements will vary in line with the detail in draft transition plans. Councils must submit a Communications Plan prior to commencing any community engagement
Dec 2020-2026	Implementation of new service models in line with strategic procurement. Councils to submit Final Transition Plans 6 months in advance of commencement of service changes.
Other key dates	
By 2023	Container Deposit Scheme (CDS) commencement
By 2027	Separate glass collection service to be implemented
By 2030	FOGO collection service to be implemented

This program has been pushed out very quickly from the State Government and the timelines are not ideal with the upcoming Local Government elections, the forthcoming Caretaker period and COVID-19 meaning that meaningful communications with Councillors and the community will be non-existent. Staff will be required to submit the draft transition plans based on what they think is the best option and then a final plan is to be submitted to DEWLP 6 months before the new service is introduced. As Strathbogie Shire Council already has a three bin system, this will occur in the lead up to the end of the 2024/25 financial year when our current waste contracts expire.

9.10 'Recycling Victoria' – Household Recycling Reform Transition Planning (cont.)

The Draft Transition Plans seek information on current services and charges as well as the proposed approach to implementing the new service model. DELWP will organise the information within these plans to assist in developing a strategic, state-wide implementation plan for the orderly and timely transition to new service arrangements and to inform the most fair and equitable funding model to achieve this.

Approval by the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) or authorized representative is required for the Draft Transition Plan. Concerns have been raised with DELWP around authorised Council delegates committing to a plan with little to no time for consultation with Council and community. DELWP has provided verbal assurance that they do not expect Councils to have obtained full Council or community endorsement for their Draft Transition Plans and that Councils will have the flexibility to make changes to their models between the Draft Transition Plan and Final Transition Plan phases in response to their consultation processes.

To meet the State Government requirements staff are considering a mixture of kerbside glass bins and transfer station drop off points to suit our rural population and organisational needs.

ISSUES, OPTIONS AND DISCUSSION

Staff are supportive of the proposed funding and more alignment between different shires collection processes but as outlined above the close timing between submitting of the draft Transition Plan and Council elections means there is little time to do any meaningful communication with the community.

One of the Overarching governance principles in section 9 of the Local Government Act 2020 is that Priority is to be given to achieving the best outcomes for the municipal community, including future generations. Once the draft Transition Plan has been submitted there will be an opportunity to do meaningful engagement and communications with the community to tailor the final Transition Plan to what will align best with community expectations.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

One of the Overarching governance principles in section 9 of the Local Government Act 2020 is that the municipal community is to be engaged in strategic planning and strategic decision making. At this stage no community engagement activities have been undertaken and the draft Transition plan will be submitted without any engagement activities being undertaken.

Early next year Council staff will engage with the community on the proposed action and as part of the submission of the final Transition Plan, Council is required to submit a stakeholder engagement plan which will further outline our engagement activities.

9.10 'Recycling Victoria' – Household Recycling Reform Transition Planning (cont.)

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

Council Plans and Policies

Council actively tracks and monitors its contamination levels and tonnages diverted from landfill. The introduction of a kerbside glass bin will only further increase our diversions from landfill and will make our recycling stream cleaner and more able to be recycled and reprocessed.

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies

One of the Overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that regional, state and national plans and policies are to be taken into account in strategic planning and decision-making. The *Recycling Victoria* program is being driven by the State government.

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

One of the Overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that Council decisions are to be made and actions taken in accordance with the relevant law. Council is complying with a State government directive on what our waste services should look like and what our levels of service to our community should be.

Conflict of Interest Declaration

All officers, and/or contractors, involved in the preparation of this report have signed a written declaration that they do not have a conflict of interest in the subject matter of this report.

Transparency

One of the Overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that the transparency of Council decisions, actions and information is to be ensured. This matter is being discussed in an open Council meeting. At this stage Council is unable to fully engage with the community to ensure that this service is best fit for them.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

One of the Overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that the ongoing financial viability of the Council is to be ensured. Funding of up to approximately \$10,000 for each council is available to support development of draft Transition Plans. This funding is accessed by submitting the Registration of Intent document by 3pm 30 July 2020 and then entering into a funding agreement with DELWP in August.

Funding to support Councils to implement their new service models will be calculated based on information provided in their draft Transition Plan. DELWP are working with Local Government Victoria (LGV) to build a formula to ensure the equitable distribution of funds amongst councils.

9.10 'Recycling Victoria' – Household Recycling Reform Transition Planning (cont.)

This funding will be provided to assist with the costs for

- provision of kerbside bins or drop-off infrastructure for glass and food and garden organics;
- retrofitting of all existing kerbside bin lids to meet state-wide colour standards;
- minor works to reconfigure rural/regional transfer stations to accommodate the new collection services; and
- implementation of local education programs to support the new services.

It is important to note that DELWP has been clear that the funding provided for the implementation of services is unlikely to cover the full costs associated with the transformation to new service models.

SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

One of the Overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that the economic, social and environmental sustainability of the municipal district, including mitigation and planning for climate change risks, is to be promoted.

Economic

The synchronisation of all bin services across Victoria will lead to better economic certainty for both councils and re-processors. Council will also continue to jointly procure with our partner Councils to ensure best value for money for our residents.

Social

The introduction of a fourth bin will impact our residents as they will be required to relearn what goes in which bin, but they have shown their resilience in this area by adopting the green bin in 2015 with gusto.

Environmental

The introduction of a fourth bin and the other proposals recommended as part of *Recycling Victoria* will reduce our Shire's impact on our environment.

Climate change

By introducing a cleaning recycling stream this will make it easier for processors to reuse this product which means that less virgin material will be required to be used and this will generate less emissions.

INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

One of the Overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is the pursuit of innovation and continuous improvement.

This is an important change in how Victorians deal with their waste and Council's previous work around the introduction of a third green bin has put us in good stead for the roll out of a fourth bin under this program.

9.10 'Recycling Victoria' – Household Recycling Reform Transition Planning (cont.)

COLLABORATION

One of the Overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that collaboration with other councils, levels of government and statutory bodies is to be sought. A Transition Planning Working Group has been formed from representatives of the Goulburn Valley Technical Advisory Reference Group. This working group meets on a weekly basis to enable Councils to receive regular, up to date information (such as the earliest information possible on the proposed CDS, likely impacts or information from early adopters etc). It also provides a platform for the Goulburn Valley Waste and Resource Recovery Group (GVWRRG) to better understand how they can support councils in the development of their transition plans.

It is anticipated that a coordinated approach towards transition planning can be achieved to ensure consistency, where practical, across all Councils and to provide economies of scale in the planning process. A collaborative approach will also enhance future regional collaborative procurement opportunities. At the request of the working group, the GVWRRG will complete a scope for service planning and financial modelling to engage a shared consultant between Councils. Staff will continue to work closely without partner Councils to ensure the best outcomes for our residents.

HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS

There are no human rights considerations arising from the issues discussed in this report.

CONCLUSION

This report discusses the steps that have been undertaken by staff as part of the *Recycling Victoria* transition planning and will continue to take over the next six months.

9.11 **Waste Wise Events Guide**

Author: Environment & Waste Coordinator

Responsible Director: Director Corporate Operations

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council currently offers best practice waste management to its residents, which allows our residents to divert up to 70% of their waste away from landfill. This report recommends the endorsement of the Waste Wise Events Policy and Guide to ensure that the many events that happen in our Shire are able to access resources to ensure that waste is managed well and to minimise the impact on our environment.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 1. Adopt the Waste Wise Events Policy; and***
- 2. Support the publication and encourage the use of the 'Waste Wise Events Guide' and supporting materials.***

PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND

Waste is a big part of any event and typically comes from construction activity, promotional materials and food and drinks. As part of discussions between the Events and Waste teams ways to support local events in managing and reducing waste were considered. It was agreed that the best way to encourage waste minimisation at events across the shire is to encourage and support events to be Waste Wise.

This has led to the development of a Waste Wise Events Policy (refer Attachment 1) to require adherence to the Policy requiring single use plastics, waste and litter at events that are directly managed by Council or are on Council managed or owned land.

This policy has been developed in conjunction with a Waste Wise Events Guide to help event organisers understand how they can comply with the policy.

A Waste Wise event is any event where the organiser/s have identified what kinds of waste there will be and how much waste the event will generate, as well as creating a plan to avoid, minimise, collect and remove that waste. Event organisers in Strathbogie will be encouraged and supported by Council to create a Waste Wise event plan. Council will provide bins, stickers and a Waste Wise guide (attached) to ensure that messaging is consistent and easy to understand. This guide outlines how events can create a Waste Wise plan for their event, tips and tricks to reduce waste and it also allows events to access bin stickers and posters, free of charge, to assist with signage.

9.11 Waste Wise Events Guide (cont.)

ISSUES, OPTIONS AND DISCUSSION

What is a waste Wise event?

A Waste Wise event is any event where the organizer/s have identified what kinds of waste there will be and how much waste the event will generate, as well as creating a plan to avoid, minimise, collect and remove that waste.

Why are the benefits of Waste Wise events?

One of the Overarching governance principles in section 9 of the Local Government Act 2020 is that Priority is to be given to achieving the best outcomes for the municipal community, including future generations. Encouraging events across the shire to be Waste Wise will reduce the amount of waste being sent to landfill, creating environmental benefits as well as social benefits for community members engaging with Waste Wise events offering waste education to event patrons.

How will Council support the use of the Waste Wise events guide?

Event organisers who choose to manage events in the Strathbogie Shire will be able to access the following materials and services;

- The Waste Wise events guide (attached)
- Educational bin stickers and posters (as seen in attached guide)
- Editable versions of the Waste Wise Checklist and Template letter (as seen in attached guide)
- Council will arrange for the provision and collection bins (waste, recycling and organics) (via Councils Collection Contractor)
- Access to a portable hydration station for outdoor events (via the Events Team)
- Online information about Waste Wise events on Council's website
- Support from the Regional Waste and Resource Recovery Education Officer to prepare and check a Waste Wise event plan.

Who will use this guide?

This guide has been designed to be used by anybody. However, Strathbogie Shire Council requires that all event organisers, vendors, stall holders, council staff and venue owners to use this guide if they hold events or markets in Strathbogie Shire Council owned or managed venues or land this may include;

- Council organised events
- Markets
- Charity events
- Sporting events
- Council meetings.

How will residents know about Waste Wise events?

Event organisers (including council officers) will be encouraged to publicly make a statement of commitment using the Waste Wise event logo. This helps get everyone on board and provides a clear message to event stakeholders and event attendees.

By creating a Waste Wise Plan and completing the Waste Wise Checklist (within the guide attached) event organisers will be provided with the logo jpg to use on event promotional material.

There will also be page dedicated to Waste Wise events on the Council website.

9.11 Waste Wise Events Guide (cont.)

Transitional Arrangements

Waste prevention must always be considered alongside waste management, as by avoiding and reducing waste, there is less waste to manage and less of an impact on the environment. In this context, it is important to note that upon endorsement of this policy, there will be a transition period of twelve (12) months from the date of policy adoption. This will allow time for event organisers, stall holders, food and beverage vendors, event entertainment providers as well as Council staff to adjust to the new requirements and fully comply with the policy.

During this transition period, Council officers will be available to provide assistance with the planning of events to meet the requirements of this policy. Staff will also generate a *Waste Wise Events Guide* to assist event organisers to meet their obligations.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

One of the Overarching governance principles in section 9 of the Local Government Act 2020 is that the municipal community is to be engaged in strategic planning and strategic decision making.

The support for Waste Wise events is a specific action from the Council Plan, The Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy (2019-2024) and The Southern Goulburn Valley Waste and Resource Recovery Education Strategy (2019-2021). All of these documents were developed and informed by a formal community engagement phase.

Additionally, State and Federal community engagement regarding waste management at events has also been undertaken. Research from NSW EPA shows that 87% of event attendees want the event they are attending to be clean and free of litter, and support Waste Wise practices.

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

Council Plans and Policies

- The Council Plan has the following action:
Action 2.1.02 'Pursue "Zero" waste events across the Shire through use of Shire Event Policy and Approval process'.
- The Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy (2019 – 2024) has the following action:
Action 13 'Improve councils internal events process – Event organisers encouraged to implement higher standards for waste avoidance and recovery'
- The Southern Goulburn Valley Waste and Resource Recovery Education Strategy (2019-2021) has the following strategic direction and action:
Strategic Direction 1: Increase community and local business awareness of the impact of waste and support and encourage waste avoidance initiatives.

Action 1.1d Work with local business to incorporate waste avoidance initiatives into their waste management.

9.11 Waste Wise Events Guide (cont.)

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies

One of the Overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that regional, state and national plans and policies are to be taken into account in strategic planning and decision-making.

- Goulburn Valley Waste and Resource Recovery Group Regional Education Strategy

Action 6: Guide the adoption of better waste management practices during events

Other State or National policies and strategies which directed the design of the Waste Wise guide include;

- Recycling Victoria: a new economy 2020
- Victorian Organics Resource Recovery Strategy 2015
- Victorian Waste Education Strategy 2016
- National Waste Policy 2018

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

One of the Overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that Council decisions are to be made and actions taken in accordance with the relevant law. No specific legislative matters apply to the voluntary uptake of the Waste Wise Events Guide.

Conflict of Interest Declaration

All officers, and/or contractors, involved in the preparation of this report have signed a written declaration that they do not have a conflict of interest in the subject matter of this report.

Transparency

One of the Overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that the transparency of Council decisions, actions and information is to be ensured. This matter is being discussed in an open Council meeting.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

One of the Overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that the ongoing financial viability of the Council is to be ensured.

The development of the Waste Wise guide and associated support material (bin stickers, posters) was paid for through the waste budget and is considered an operational expense. The event bins and associated waste collection service is funded from the waste budget and the loan of a Waste Wise Hydration Station is co-ordinated by the Events team.

SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

One of the Overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that the economic, social and environmental sustainability of the municipal district, including mitigation and planning for climate change risks, is to be promoted.

9.11 Waste Wise Events Guide (cont.)

The promotion and support for Waste Wise events will help local event organisers manage and minimise waste to decrease the amount of waste material being sent to landfill and increase the amount of materials recovered as recyclables and organics.

Economic

Reducing waste to landfill can reduce costs for event organisers by reducing reliance on single use items. The use of the Waste Wise logo may also help the event boost the brand and community recognition of the event.

Additionally, reduced waste to landfill has long term economic benefits, with reduced landfill management cost and recovered materials becoming part of the circular economy.

Social

The promotion and support for Waste Wise events will help event organisers, but also event attendees, learn more about waste management from participating in waste minimisation activities such as the use of a reusable coffee cup or a volunteer dishwashing station to learning about the impact of plastic water bottles from our new portable hydration stations.

The use of the Waste Wise event logo will help to create a sense of community pride knowing Council supports Waste Wise events.

The materials and services used to support Waste Wise events such as providing bins and waste collections for events with Waste Wise stickers is a service improvement that will benefit event organisers and also event attendees.

Waste wise events will improve public facilities, reducing litter and contaminated public bins.

Environmental

Waste wise events encourage event organisers to shift from disposal of waste to re-use, recycle and overall reduction of waste. This reflects the waste hierarchy which states that these waste management practices (re-use, recycle, reduce) the environmental impact of waste.

Climate change

By promoting and supporting Waste Wise events Council supports local events to reduce their waste going to landfill. Landfill is a significant contributor towards greenhouse gas emissions. Therefore the use of the Waste Wise events guide and supporting services will reduce the greenhouse gas emissions of an event.

INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

One of the Overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is the pursuit of innovation and continuous improvement.

The Waste Wise events guide encourages continuous improvement, it has been designed to help event organisers get started and consider best practice waste management. The guide also includes some ideas for “going above and beyond” Waste Wise and beginning to think about zero waste events.

9.11 Waste Wise Events Guide (cont.)

COLLABORATION

One of the Overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that collaboration with other councils, levels of government and statutory bodies is to be sought.

Strathbogie Shire Council's 'Waste Wise events guide' was developed to align with the Goulburn Valley Waste and Resource Recovery Group's (GVWRRG) Regional Waste Education Strategy. The guide was designed with guidance from GVWRRG and collaboration between GVWRRGs member councils.

Other GVWRRG Councils with existing Waste Wise guides, or which are in the process of adopting the use of a similar guide include; Campaspe, Mitchell and Murrindindi Shire Councils.

HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS

There are no human rights considerations arising from the issues discussed in this report. The use of this guide is encouraged but not mandatory.

CONCLUSION

This report outlines the benefits of promoting and supporting Waste Wise events in the Strathbogie region.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Waste Wise Events Policy

Attachment 2: Waste Wise Events Guide

ATTACHMENT 1:



WASTE WISE EVENTS POLICY

COUNCIL POLICY	
Document ID:	
Effective Date:	
Last Review:	
Current Review:	
Adopted by Council:	
Next Review Date:	
Responsible Officer/s:	Environment and Waste Coordinator

1. PURPOSE

Events can generate large amounts of waste, with an abundance of disposable items and packaging distributed, some of which becomes litter. The general public expect the event environment to be free from litter so that it can be enjoyed by all. Litter left behind is unsightly, can pollute our streets and waterways and poses a risk to wildlife.

In addition, there is a growing awareness of the importance of avoiding and reducing waste, as this reduces the amount of waste that needs to be managed and lowers our impact on the environment. The community has come to expect effective waste management, such as through the provision of recycling and organics options.

This policy has been developed to raise the minimum standards for reducing and managing waste at events and stipulates Council's requirements to help achieve this. It targets items that are a significant risk to the environment and are easily avoidable/replaceable, whilst introducing additional requirements to improve waste management.

2. SCOPE

This policy applies to:

- All Council Events, including internal and external events
- Commercial, community and not-for-profit events that are held on land owned/managed by Council and that require a Council event application form
- Events that receive sponsorship assistance from Council

Examples of events include (but are not limited to) festivals, ceremonies, exhibitions, parties, functions and recreational activities.

This policy does not apply to items that are necessary to meet health and safety requirements and that have no practical alternative available.

3. OBJECTIVES

The objective of this policy is to minimise the impact of events on our natural environment, by banning the use of single use plastic items to ensure that the best practice waste management that we practice in our homes is carried over and into the public space.

4. POLICY STATEMENT

Strathbogie Shire Council is committed to ensuring that waste is minimised and effectively managed at Council events, as well as at events that are held on land owned or managed by Council.

Council will educate event organisers to support the minimisation of waste at public events and to reduce the amount of waste to landfill.

All public events and functions held on Council owned or managed property must adhere to this policy.

5. PRINCIPLES

Waste prevention must always be considered alongside waste management, as by avoiding and reducing waste, there is less waste to manage and less of an impact on the environment.

For all events where this policy applies, the following requirements must be met:

5.1 Waste Management

- The number, size and locations of waste, recycling and organics bins must be sufficient for the expected number of event attendees
- Recycling and organics bins must be paired with rubbish bins and be clearly identifiable
- A waste management plan must be provided for all major events

5.2 Cleanliness of Site

- The event site must be left free of litter at the completion of the event

5.3 Prohibited Items

The use and distribution of the following items is not permitted

- Balloons at outdoor events
- Plastic shopping bags (including lightweight and heavyweight)
- Polystyrene food or beverage packing

- Single use plastic straws
- Single use plastic water bottles
- Plastic cling wrap

These items often become litter and can be easily avoided or replaced.

5.4 Packaging

- Any packaging distributed at the event should be recyclable via the waste collection service organised for the event

6. TRANSITION PERIOD

This policy will be effective immediately following Council adoption. There will be a transition period of 12 months from the date of policy adoption. This will allow time for event organisers, stall holders, food and beverage vendors, event entertainment providers as well as Council staff to adjust to the new requirements and fully comply with the policy.

During this transition period, Council officers will be available to provide assistance with the planning of events to meet the requirements of this policy. Staff will also generate a *Waste Wise Events Guide* to assist event organisers to meet their obligations.

7. DEFINITIONS

Balloons: Balloons and their attachments (string, ribbon or stick), regardless of what they are made from

Council: Strathbogie Shire Council

Council Event: Any internal or external event organised or run by Strathbogie Shire Council

Council owned/managed land: Any public land or road that is owned or managed by Strathbogie Shire Council

Event: an organised occurrence held within the Strathbogie Shire Council where people assemble at a given time and location for the purpose of entertainment, recreation, community, ceremonial, or promotional purposes, either for free or for the payment of a fee, and includes but is not limited to:

- Festivals, fairs and markets
- Concerts, shows, film screening and exhibitions
- One-off sporting events
- Civic, cultural or commemorative ceremonies or celebrations

This is inclusive of Council run events that are organised by Strathbogie Shire Council for members of the public or internally for Councillors and staff, Council supported events that are organised by local community groups but have either staff involvement or Council funding; and all public events and functions, markets, organised sporting and recreational activities held on land, in buildings or roads owned or managed by Strathbogie Shire Council.

Plastic Shopping Bags: Any plastic shopping bag that is designed to only be used for a short amount of time before being discarded. This includes:

- Lightweight (single use) plastic shopping bags

- Heavyweight plastic shopping bags
- Degradable, biodegradable or compostable plastic shopping bags

8. RELATED LEGISLATION AND DOCUMENTS

- Environment Protection Act 1970
- Strathbogie Shire Council – Event Application Forms
- Strathbogie Shire Council – Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy 2019 2024
- Strathbogie Shire Council – Sustainable Strathbogie 2030
- Strathbogie Shire Council - Waste Wise Event Guide
- Victorian Government's Plastic Bag Ban

9. CHARTER OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES ACT 2006 AND THE EQUAL OPPORTUNITY ACT 2010

Council acknowledges the legal responsibility to comply with the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006 and the Equal Opportunity Act 2010. The Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006 is designed to protect the fundamental rights and freedoms of citizens. The Charter gives legal protection to 20 fundamental human rights under four key values that include freedom, respect, equality and dignity.

ATTACHMENT 2:



Sustainable Events Waste Wise Event Guide

Contents

What is a Waste Wise event?	3
Who should use this guide?	3
How do I create a Waste Wise Plan?	4
Why you should make a Waste Wise commitment	5
Appendix 1: Waste Wise Checklist	6
Appendix 2: Planning the number and placement of bins	7
How do I order bins?	8
How do I get signs for my bins?	9
Appendix 3: Alternatives to Single use plastic	9
Appendix 4: Template letter for Stallholder, Caterer, Venue Staff	10

What is a Waste Wise event?

Waste is a big part of any event and typically comes from construction activity, promotional materials, and food and drinks. You can organise your event to minimise and avoid the waste you create by thinking about what you buy and where it will go.

A Waste Wise event is any event where the organiser/s have identified what kinds of waste there will be and how much waste the event will generate, as well as creating a plan to avoid, minimise, collect and remove that waste.

This guide will outline how you can create a Waste Wise plan for your event, working with event partners, stall holders, caterers and contractors to minimise waste before, during and after your event.

Who should use this guide?

This guide has been designed to be used by anybody. However, Strathbogie Shire Council encourage all event organisers, vendors, stall holders, council staff and venue owners to use this guide if they hold events or markets in Strathbogie Shire Council owned or managed venues or land, this includes;

- > Council organised events
- > Markets
- > Charity events
- > Sporting events
- > Council meetings



Did you know?

Australian waste is growing at double the rate of our population.



How do I create a Waste Wise Plan?

A good event waste management plan is a Waste Wise Plan. It will identify the kinds of waste expected, and amount of waste the event will generate. For the plan you will need to calculate how many and where waste bins are required and include purchasing and packaging policies, a waste collection plan, waste education information, and clean-up practices that aim to reduce the amount of waste being sent to landfill. See steps 1-7 opposite.

Your Waste Wise Plan will be as complex or simple as you would like and should reflect the complexity of the event. It could be a multiple page published document that you make publicly available or it could be a 'plan on a page' with bullet points, hand drawn event map and rough estimates.

If the event is ongoing or regular it should be flexible to change over time.

Suggested elements of a Waste Wise Plan:

- 1**
Identify the kinds of waste expected
(organic waste, recycling, general waste)
- 2**
Estimate the amount of waste the event will generate and calculate how many bins are needed
(Complete the Waste Wise Checklist (Appendix 1))
- 3**
Map where bins should be placed during event
(Calculate the number and placement of bins (Appendix 2))
- 4**
Waste collection plan
- 5**
Waste education plan
(signage, bin monitors, event promotion)
- 6**
Purchasing and packaging policies
(internal, contractor or stallholder agreement)
- 7**
Outline clean-up practices



Did you know?

Australia is ranked fifth highest for generating municipal waste in the world!



Why you should make a Waste Wise commitment

Publicly making a statement of commitment helps get everyone on board and provides a clear message to your stakeholders about what you stand for. It also helps set expectations for people you work with.

By creating a Waste Wise Plan and completing our Waste Wise Checklist (where applicable) you will be provided with a logo jpg you can use on your event promotional material.



Send your plan and checklist to us as a document, image or even a simple email to:

info@strathbogie.vic.gov.au
Attention: Events Team

STRATHBOGIE SHIRE COUNCIL

recognise this event as



Did you know?

87% of event attendees want the event they are attending to be clean and free of litter, and support Waste Wise practices



Appendix 1: Waste Wise Checklist

Here are some things to think about when planning your event

- Provide waste, recycling and organic waste collection bins. Numbers and placement of bins should be calculated and planned using the guidelines in Appendix 1.
Appendix 1 is a guide to calculate and order the correct number and type of bins
- If you rely on your stallholders, caterers, contractors or staff to reduce waste then let them know before the event about Waste Wise events and your expectations from them.
Appendix 2 is a template letter to let stall holders, caterers or contractors know about your Waste Wise event requests
- All single use plastics are banned at events that occur on Council land. This includes:
 - plastic straws
 - plastic water bottles
 - plastic bags, cutlery and food packaging
 - balloons
 - plastic cling wrap
 - merchandise or giveaways that you know won't be used beyond the event.*Appendix 3 lists alternatives for single use plastic*
- Reward attendees for bringing their reusable cups, bags and bottles with discounts to encourage reusable items. For example, make coffees or meals 50c less in reusable cups/cutlery. *If this is something you need to ask of your stall holders, caterer, contractors or staff see Appendix 2*
- Consider how you can avoid food waste, try not to over cater, encourage participants to take home leftovers or even partner with an organisation or community group that collect leftover food and redistributes it to people in need.
- Designate a staff member or volunteer to check for litter during the event and after the event.
- Educate patrons, staff and other attendees about waste. Provide them with appropriate information, signage, and importantly – make it easy with good access to bins in the right places. *Appendix 4 provides links to download bin signage (bins provided by council will have these stickers on them)*
- Reduce the need for plastic water bottles by providing access to tap water. Have a sufficient supply of freely available potable water for staff and patrons. For outdoor events portable 'Hydration Stations' are available for loan from the Strathbogie Events Team
- Include the Strathbogie Waste Wise event logo on promotion and publicity materials. This is a public statement of commitment that your event will be Waste Wise.

A Microsoft Word version of the checklist is available online at:

<https://www.strathbogie.vic.gov.au/tourism/about-events/hold-an-event/waste-wise-events>

Appendix 2: Planning the number and placement of bins

In general, expect a minimum of one litre of waste per person per meal. However, this may vary depending on catering, alcohol availability, number of profile of attendees as well as the waste management minimisation strategies utilised.

As an example: You are holding an event that 1,000 people are expected to attend from 8AM to 1PM. The event will generate food waste, recycling and general waste.

1,000 people
x 2 meal times
= **2,000 litres of estimated waste**



Divide 2,000
by 240 litres
(a standard bin)
= **8 bins**



Consider which bins you need
(1 general waste, 1 recycle and 1 organic bin at each bin station)
= **9 bins arranged in 3 bin stations**

Bins should all be placed next to each other in a row, not back to back or apart. Bins should include information about what goes in each bin that is visible and understandable. This will allow patrons to easily see each of the bins available and choose the appropriate bin.

Bin stations should be placed in accessible points that coincide with movement of people and catch their attention.

Bin stations should be placed where rubbish accumulates. For example, near where people are eating food.

Less bin stations may be utilised if bins are emptied often, especially those bins near food and beverages.

More bin stations may be needed if the venue is large. Research suggested the best distance between bins is is between 3 to 14 metres depending on visibility and natural environment (people are more likely to seek out a bin outside rather than inside).



Sustainable Events Waste Wise Event Guide

How do I order bins?

Bins can be ordered through Strathbogrie Shire Council.

Visit our website for application information at:

<https://www.strathbogrie.vic.gov.au/tourism/about-events/hold-an-event/waste-wise-events>

Alternatively, you may choose to use a private contractor to supply bins. Please ensure that these bins will be placed appropriately with signage and information for patrons.

How do I get signs for my bins?

These educational posters will be affixed to event bins ordered via council. If you require extra signage for indoor bins, stallholder or patron information these can be downloaded as PDFs.

<https://www.strathbogrie.vic.gov.au/tourism/about-events/hold-an-event/waste-wise-events>

Please note that these should not be altered in anyway and should only be used in Strathbogrie Shire as rules and regulations for what can go in each bin is different for different council areas.



 **Did you know?**
An event with too many bins, not enough visible bins or confusing signage will cause more people to litter.



Appendix 3: Alternatives to Single use plastic

Present item	Action	Option 1	Option 2
Plastic plates	Eliminate	Use washable and reusable plates eg Wash Against Waste services	Paper plates or compostable options*
Plastic cutlery	Eliminate	Use washable and reusable cutlery	Replace with natural fibres such as bamboo
Polystyrene cups and takeaway packaging	Eliminate	Use washable and reusable cups, glassware and plates	Replace with natural fibre products, paper bags, cardboard boxes or other compostable options*
Wax lined coffee cups	Eliminate	Encourage patrons to bring their own reusable mug	Use washable and reusable mugs
Stirring stick plastic	Eliminate	Provide several teaspoons which can be washed and reused	Wooden sticks
Coffee cup lids	Eliminate	Use only when requested	
Plastic straws	Eliminate	Do not offer straws	Replace with paper straws
Single serve condiments (tomato sauce etc.)	Eliminate	Replace with bulk dispensers	
Plastic carrier bags	Eliminate	Encourage patrons to bring a bag	Ask vendors to supply paper bags
Wax cardboard boxes	Eliminate	Non-waxed boxes	
Balloons	Eliminate	Flags, bubbles or reusable decorations	
Plastic water bottles	Eliminate	Provide cups, jugs of water or access to tap water.	For outdoor events portable 'Hydration Stations' are available for loan from the Strathbogie Events Team; Encourage patrons to bring their own reusable bottles



*Please note that compostable food packaging needs to be compostable to the Australian Standard 4736-2008 to be acceptable in our green bins. This information should be visible on the packaging.



Did you know?

Setting up a dishwashing station and using washable and reusable items at your event is a great alternative to single use crockery. A dishwashing station reduces waste, is easy to use, hygienic and saves money.

Appendix 4: Template letter for Stallholder, Caterer, Venue Staff

Dear Stallholder/Caterer/Venue Staff

I would like to take this opportunity to let you know that the _____ event will incorporate Waste Wise considerations into every aspect of the event, as such we are asking event contributors to consider their waste outputs during the event and make changes where practicable.

We are asking all Stallholders/Caterers/Venue Staff to address the following requests:

- Stallholder/Caterer/Venue Staff are required to separate their own waste, generated during the event into landfill, recycling and organic waste bins provided.
- All single use plastics are banned at events that occur on Council land. This includes:
 - ◊ plastic straws
 - ◊ plastic water bottles
 - ◊ plastic bags, cutlery and food packaging
 - ◊ balloons
 - ◊ plastic cling wrap

A list of alternatives can be supplied if requested.

- Giveaways should be kept to a minimum, also avoiding single-use items. Acceptable giveaways might be plants, seeds, fridge magnets, recycled paper flyers, stationary, reusable bags
- Reward attendees for bringing their reusable cups, bags and bottles with discounts to encourage reusable items. For example, make coffees or meals 50c less in reusable cups/cutlery

We are committing to be a Waste Wise event and will ensure appropriate bins are available, accessible and well signposted. We have also committed to a number of other Waste Wise initiatives. For more information about Waste Wise events in Strathbogrie Shire Council please visit <https://www.strathbogrie.vic.gov.au/tourism/about-events/hold-an-event/waste-wise-events>

We would love to hear about any other ways in which you will aim to reduce your impact on the natural environment during the event.

Regards,

_____ Event Team

A Microsoft Word version of this template is available online at:

<https://www.strathbogrie.vic.gov.au/tourism/about-events/hold-an-event/waste-wise-events>

9.12 Finalisation of Victorian Auditor General's Office (VAGO) Fraud and Corruption Control Action Plan

Author: Executive Manager, Governance & Customer Service

Responsible Director: Chief Executive Officer

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In June 2019 the Victorian Auditor General's Office (VAGO) released its report on Fraud and Corruption Control – Local Government. Strathbogie Shire was one of four councils reviewed in depth by VAGO in relation to:

- councillor and senior staff credit card and fuel card use and reimbursements
- identifying and managing conflicts of interest
- responding to suspected incidents of fraud and corruption.

VAGO did not find any instances of fraud and corruption at Strathbogie Shire. However, they did identify deficiencies in policy, procedures and monitoring of compliance.

In response to the VAGO report, Council and the Audit Committee passed a number of resolutions to ensure a comprehensive response was adopted by the organisation to address the areas of deficiency identified in the report.

An Action Plan was developed to address these resolutions and to directly address the recommendations made in the VAGO report.

Numerous updates have been provided to the community through updated Action Plans being published on Council's website under a dedicated VAGO Action Plan button on the home page. Communication with VAGO has also been ongoing over the past 12 months.

While most of the work required under the Action Plan had been completed by January 2020, the final action was to meet with VAGO representatives 12 months after the release of the report to reflect on our progress and learnings.

VAGO representatives commented that they were comfortable with our approach to the issues raised in their audit and the decision making/consultation processes around the adoption of new policies and procedures.

This report requests Council to note the completion of the VAGO Action Plan.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council note the completion of the Victorian Auditor General's Office Fraud and Corruption Control – Local Government Action Plan.

9.12 Finalisation of Victorian Auditor General's Office (VAGO) Fraud and Corruption Control Action Plan (cont.)

PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND

This report has been prepared in recognition of the completion of the body of work arising from the VAGO Fraud and Corruption Control – Local Government report.

Strathbogie Shire was one of four councils reviewed in depth by VAGO in relation to councillor and senior staff credit card and fuel card use and reimbursements, identifying and managing conflicts of interest and responding to suspected incidents of fraud and corruption.

VAGO did not find any instances of fraud and corruption, however they did identify deficiencies in policy, procedure and monitoring of compliance particularly around credit card/fuel card use and reimbursements.

In response, Council and the Audit Committee passed a number of resolutions to ensure a comprehensive response was implemented by the organisation to address the areas of deficiency identified in the report. An Action Plan was developed to address these resolutions and to directly address the recommendations made in the VAGO report and for ease of reporting to the community around what the organisation's response was in terms of improving our culture, policies and processes.

ISSUES, OPTIONS AND DISCUSSION

One of the Overarching governance principles in section 9 of the Local Government Act 2020 is that Priority is to be given to achieving the best outcomes for the municipal community, including future generations.

There were 21 actions listed in the VAGO Fraud and Corruption Action Plan. A number related to improvements in policy and process. Council and the Audit Committee required the adoption of a 'best practice' approach to address the issues of concern identified by VAGO and so a range of policies and processes, including those from State Government, were reviewed to develop a robust fraud and corruption control framework.

Regular updates and correspondence have been provided to VAGO to inform them of our progress around the Action Plan's implementation and to identify what they considered to be best practice examples.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

One of the Overarching governance principles in section 9 of the Local Government Act 2020 is that the municipal community is to be engaged in strategic planning and strategic decision making.

A community engagement strategy was developed for Council's response to the VAGO report to ensure absolute transparency and accountability. A dedicated VAGO Action Plan button was created on the homepage of Council's website for ease of access by the community to the VAGO report and information around the work being undertaken by the organisation.

9.12 Finalisation of Victorian Auditor General's Office (VAGO) Fraud and Corruption Control Action Plan (cont.)

Regular updates tracking the completion of actions were posted during the course of the project and the final version of the Action Plan, noting its completion, was created and made publicly available in early August 2020.

While most of the work required under the Action Plan had been completed by January 2020, the final action was to meet with VAGO representatives 12 months after the release of the report to reflect on our progress and learnings.

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

Council Plans and Policies

The improvement of cultural awareness around fraud and corruption control, as well as strengthening our policy and procedure framework is consistent with the Council Plan Goal 'To be a high performing Shire'.

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies

One of the Overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that regional, state and national plans and policies are to be taken into account in strategic planning and decision-making.

The development of fraud and corruption controls is consistent with the Local Government Act 2020 and a raft of State and Federal policies around the effective, efficient and transparent use of public money. Several previous reports prepared by VAGO, the Local Government Inspectorate and the Independent Broad-based Anti-Corruption Commission (IBAC) were also reviewed in developing the organisation's response to the issues raised by the audit.

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

One of the Overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that Council decisions are to be made and actions taken in accordance with the relevant law.

The development of policies and procedures in response to the VAGO audit ensure legal compliance with a range of legislation, particularly the Local Government Acts of 1989 and 2020.

As requested by Council and the Audit Committee, a best practice approach has been adopted to the new policy framework.

Conflict of Interest Declaration

All officers, and/or contractors, involved in the preparation of this report have signed a written declaration that they do not have a conflict of interest in the subject matter of this report.

Transparency

One of the Overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that the transparency of Council decisions, actions and information is to be ensured.

9.12 Finalisation of Victorian Auditor General's Office (VAGO) Fraud and Corruption Control Action Plan (cont.)

The work undertaken in response to the VAGO audit has improved our transparency and accountability framework through:

- the adoption of comprehensive 'best practice' policies
- creation of robust procedures, supported by new forms and approval processes
- public reporting of Councillor expenses and Chief Executive Officer purchasing card transactions through Council's website and Audit Committee minutes.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

One of the Overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that the ongoing financial viability of the Council is to be ensured.

While there are no significant financial impacts arising from the completion of the VAGO Action Plan, collectively the work completed means that we have a comprehensive framework in place to ensure public money is expended in accordance with the law and community expectations.

INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

One of the Overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is the pursuit of innovation and continuous improvement.

As previously mentioned, the policies and procedures now in place following the completion of the Action Plan has resulted in significant improvements to our fraud and corruption controls and cultural awareness across Council and the organisation.

COLLABORATION

One of the Overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that collaboration with other councils, levels of government and statutory bodies is to be sought.

Regular communication has been had with VAGO around the development and implementation of the Action Plan, with assistance being provided in relation to best practice examples and approval of the process used to calculate Councillor expenses following the absence of guidance from Local Government Victoria.

It is noted that Council wrote to Local Government Victoria soon after the VAGO report was released seeking the provision of sector wide advice around the calculation and reporting of Council expenses given each council had a different approach. No advice was received in response and so Council had to seek further advice from VAGO on this matter.

HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS

The matters discussed in this report do not give rise to any human rights considerations.

9.12 Finalisation of Victorian Auditor General's Office (VAGO) Fraud and Corruption Control Action Plan (cont.)

CONCLUSION

The work around implementing the VAGO Action Plan has been completed. Work continues on ensuring compliance with our fraud and corruption control framework and public reporting of expenses as per Council policy.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: 3 August 2020 Action Plan Update – Response to Victorian Auditor General's Office (VAGO) Fraud & Corruption Audit 2019

ATTACHMENT 1:



3 AUGUST 2020 ACTION PLAN UPDATE – RESPONSE TO VICTORIAN AUDITOR GENERAL'S OFFICE (VAGO) FRAUD & CORRUPTION AUDIT 2019

Questions?

If you would like to ask questions about the VAGO report and this action plan, or meet with Officers working on the actions please contact Council on 1800 065 993.

The following plan combines the actions from:

1. the Victorian Auditor General's Report 'Fraud and Corruption Control - Local Government, June 2019'
2. Council resolutions at its Special Meeting of 2 July 2019
3. Council's Audit Committee recommendations from its 5 July 2019 meeting
4. Input from the internal working group formed to implement this plan.

VAGO RECOMMENDATION	WHAT WE WILL DO	TIMELINE	CURRENT STATUS	PROOF WE HAVE DONE THE WORK
1. Require councillors to certify that their expense claims are incurred in the context of relevant legislative provisions. Councils must require councillors to provide stronger evidence to support their claims, in particular for mileage reimbursements, including records pertaining to the claim and details of the business reason and who benefited from the expense.	Revise the Councillor Expenditure Policy.		Completed New Councillor Support, Resources, Expenditure and Reimbursement Policy 2019 adopted by Council 15 October 2019. Both policies require strong evidence to support claims and new forms are attached to the policies. The Audit Committee received the first quarterly report of Councillor expenses at its 20 December 2019 meeting.	Audit Committee minutes from 12 September 2019 Council minutes for 15 October 2019 Audit Committee minutes from 20 December 2019

VAGO RECOMMENDATION	WHAT WE WILL DO	TIMELINE	CURRENT STATUS	PROOF WE HAVE DONE THE WORK
2. Review credit card policies and improve controls to ensure only allocated cardholders use their cards and there is appropriate segregation of duties over expenditure approvals.	Review the Purchasing Card policy for review by the Audit Committee and adoption by Council.	Purchasing Card Policy 2019 adopted by Council at its 15 October 2019 meeting. Financial delegations reviewed to reduce the number of corporate purchasing cards by 8.	Completed	Audit Committee minutes from 12 September 2019 Council Minutes 15 October 2019
3. Document and develop formalised reporting over credit and fuel card use and incorporate, where appropriate, data analytics to identify anomalies.	Include details of reporting and auditing processes in all reviewed policies.		Completed The Councillor Support, Resources, Reimbursement and Reporting of Expenses Policy 2019 and Purchasing Card Policy 2019 were adopted by Council on 15 October 2019. Both include a section on monthly random audits and quarterly reports to the Audit Committee. The Motor Vehicle CEO Directive was approved on 7 February 2020 and includes a new section around the use and auditing of fuel cards. The Audit Committee received the first quarterly report of CEO purchasing card transactions at its 20 December 2019 meeting.	Audit Committee meeting minutes from 12 September 2019 Council Minutes 15 October 2019 Audit Committee minutes 20 December 2019

VAGO RECOMMENDATION	WHAT WE WILL DO	TIMELINE	CURRENT STATUS	PROOF WE HAVE DONE THE WORK
<p>4. Improve the Fleet Policy's fuel card controls by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • requiring staff to confirm they understand the terms of use and consequences of misuse • assigning each fuel card to a specific vehicle or equipment • maintaining accurate motor vehicle and fuel card listings • updating cardholder names with fuel suppliers when the council reassigns a vehicle and fuel card to another employee • collecting fuel transaction data as accurately as possible, including odometer readings • having regular, routine processes to monitor fuel card use • conducting data analytics over fuel card transactions • conducting periodic internal audits on fuel cards as a fraud and corruption control. <p>Also review the Policy's requirements for staff contributions towards private use of vehicles and to ensure equity and consistency.</p>	<p>Revise the Fleet Management Policy and its fuel card provisions for review by the Audit Committee and adoption by Council.</p>		<p>Completed</p> <p>The new Motor Vehicle CEO Directive was approved on 7 February 2020.</p> <p>A new section on fuel card use has been inserted to clearly identify roles and responsibilities.</p> <p>The Directive also includes new systems for the monthly auditing of fuel card use.</p> <p>Staff contributions have also been reviewed to ensure equity and consistency, while being benchmarked against other like Councils.</p>	

VAGO RECOMMENDATION	WHAT WE WILL DO	TIMELINE	CURRENT STATUS	PROOF WE HAVE DONE THE WORK
5. Review and, as necessary, revise council policies on the purchase and reimbursement of meals and alcohol considering community perceptions, and require, for transaction approval, clear evidence of the community benefit from this expenditure and appropriate supporting documentation.	The Discretionary Expenditure Guide has been amended in response to this recommendation. Staff alcohol expenses are not to be reimbursed under any circumstances.		Completed The adopted Councillor Expenditure Policy 2019 and Purchasing Card Policy 2019 prohibit the purchase of alcohol and limit the purchase of meals. A revised CEO Directive for Cash Handling and Receipting prohibits the reimbursement of expenses related to the purchase of alcohol and states meals cannot be reimbursed through this means.	Revised Discretionary Expenditure Guide published February 2019 Doc 395119 Audit Committee meeting minutes from 12 September 2019 Council Minutes 15 October 2019
6. Ensure that annual reports accurately capture expenses relating to senior management remuneration packages including vehicle contribution amounts.	Expenses have been calculated and presented for the 2016-17 and 2017-18 Annual Reports as specified by the Local Government Act (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014. Calculations will be posted on the website once independently and approved by the Audit Committee.		Completed The Annual Report 2018-19 was adopted by Council at its 15 October 2019 meeting and provides a detailed breakdown of councillor expenses and incorporates the required notation relating to vehicle contributions by senior management remuneration packages.	Calculations signed off by AFS and Associates, Council's internal auditors, on 26 August 2019. Council Minutes 15 October 2019

VAGO RECOMMENDATION	WHAT WE WILL DO	TIMELINE	CURRENT STATUS	PROOF WE HAVE DONE THE WORK
7. Ensure all council staff and councillors receive fraud and corruption awareness training at least every two years.	Diarise training for all staff and Councillors. Ensure fraud and corruption training is part of the Councillor Induction process following elections and for staff when they commence employment with the Shire.		Completed	Training diarised through the online education portal for staff through the Human Resources database.
8. Develop or maintain fraud and corruption incident registers to accurately record suspected incidents, their handling, and all relevant supporting documentation.	Develop a register and procedures as to how this is to be managed, which may require amendments to Council's Fraud Policy.		Completed Register created. Template for the register reviewed and noted by the Audit Committee on 12 September 2019.	Register created in Infowise 8 May 2019 - folder 31935 and document 588435 Audit Committee Minutes 12 September 2019
9. Publish councillor expenses for the 2017–18 year on their websites immediately and ensure their 2018–19 annual reports comply with Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014.	Expenses will be calculated and presented for the 2016-17 and 2017-18 Annual Reports as specified by the Local Government Act (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014. Calculations will be posted on the website once independently and approved by the Audit Committee. In future summaries of Councillor expenses will be reviewed and authorised by Audit Committee in accordance with policy.		Completed The Audit Committee reviewed and recommended the publication of Councillor expenses for 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19 at its extra ordinary meeting on 22 November 2019. The Audit Committee received and reviewed the first quarterly report of Councillor expenses at its 20 December 2019 meeting.	Calculations signed off by AFS and Associates, Council's internal auditors, on 26 August 2019. Calculation methodology referred to VAGO in a letter dated 17 October 2019 for their review and comment. Audit Committee Minutes for 22 November 2019 and 20 December 2019 meetings.

ADDITIONAL COUNCIL AND AUDIT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS				
RECOMMENDATION	WHAT WE WILL DO	TIMELINE	CURRENT STATUS	PROOF WE HAVE DONE THE WORK
10. Cease all sales and the provision of vehicles to council staff as part of exit packages.	Immediately cease this practice.		Completed	Management Team directed by CEO to prohibit practice June 2019.
11. Letter and copy of the plan to be sent to Auditor General once the Audit Committee and Council has considered, and agreed to, the Action Plan.			Completed Letter sent 21 October 2019.	Draft action plan considered by the Audit Committee 12 September 2019 and approved for distribution to the Auditor General. Council endorsed the Audit Committee recommendations at its 15 October 2019 meeting. Council Minutes 15 October 2019.
12. Draft a communications plan once the Council policies have been reviewed to adopt best practice in the provision of information and community engagement.	Create a VAGO Action Plan link on Council's website. Provide regular updates on progress of this Action Plan and links to relevant Council policies and procedures as they are adopted.		Completed Link to VAGO Action Plan created and action plan updates to be provided as work is completed.	

ADDITIONAL COUNCIL AND AUDIT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS				
RECOMMENDATION	WHAT WE WILL DO	TIMELINE	CURRENT STATUS	PROOF WE HAVE DONE THE WORK
13. Audit Committee to review whether the number of independent members be increased from 3 to 4 at its September meeting.			Completed The Audit Committee's recommendations that Council increase the number of independent representatives from three to four and the number of Councillor representatives from one to two formed the basis of a resolution by Council on 15 October 2019.	Audit Committee Meeting Minutes 12 September 2019 Council Minutes 15 October 2019
14. Internal audit implications: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ensure there is an annual credit card audit • AFS to employ data analytics in forthcoming audits • VAGO actions to be added to audit status report • undertake a fleet management audit as a priority • review audit budget and program. 			Completed An annual purchasing card audit has been placed on the internal audit program for the next three years. AFS to use data analytics in forthcoming fleet management and purchasing card audits in 2019-20. Fleet management policy scheduled for 19-20 February 2020. The audit program for the next three years was endorsed by the Audit Committee at its 20 December 2019 meeting.	Audit Committee minutes 20 December 2019

ADDITIONAL COUNCIL AND AUDIT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS				
RECOMMENDATION	WHAT WE WILL DO	TIMELINE	CURRENT STATUS	PROOF WE HAVE DONE THE WORK
15. Reimbursement of senior executive rental costs referred to the Auditor General and investigated by the internal auditors, AFS.			Completed	Council Minutes 15 October 2019 (Confidential Item) The rental costs have been repaid and recovered in full.
16. Arrange meeting with Audit Committee following the Special Meeting of the Audit Committee on 4 July 2019 to discuss any other recommendations and to review the Committee's Charter.	Review Audit Committee Charter to include new responsibilities around review and authorisation of CEO, Mayor and Councillor expenses.	Meeting held 12 September 2019	Completed	Audit Committee Minutes 12 September 2019 Council Minutes 15 October 2019
17. Meeting with VAGO on actions taken in response to audit by 1 July 2020.		3 August 2020	Completed	Virtual meeting held with three VAGO representatives 3 August 2020
18. Refer former senior executive's rent reimbursement to AFS (Council's internal auditor) for investigation and report back to Council.		Advice received from AFS and Associates 19 July. Matter considered through a confidential item to Council on 15 October 2019.	Completed	Council Minutes 15 October 2019 (confidential item)

ADDITIONAL COUNCIL AND AUDIT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS				
RECOMMENDATION	WHAT WE WILL DO	TIMELINE	CURRENT STATUS	PROOF WE HAVE DONE THE WORK
19. Review Petty Cash Spend CEO Directive	Reinforce amendments to the Discretionary Expenditure Policy prohibiting purchase of alcohol and around the reimbursement of meals.		<p>Completed</p> <p>The revised CEO Directive for Cash Handling and Receipting was approved on 3 October 2019 after being endorsed by the Executive Management Team on 28 August 2019 and noted by the Audit Committee on 12 September 2019.</p> <p>The Directive prohibits the reimbursement of expenses related to the purchase of alcohol and states meals cannot be reimbursed through this means.</p>	Audit Committee Minutes 12 September 2019

ADDITIONAL COUNCIL AND AUDIT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS				
RECOMMENDATION	WHAT WE WILL DO	TIMELINE	CURRENT STATUS	PROOF WE HAVE DONE THE WORK
20. Review disposal of Council Property Policy	Review policy to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> prohibit 'gifting' or selling of Council property (eg cars, IT equipment) to staff or Councillors avoid Council being a part of the transaction to dispose property. 		Completed The new Disposal of Council Assets Policy was approved by the Audit Committee at its meeting of 22 November 2019 and adopted by Council at its 17 December 2019 meeting. The policy includes a clause specifically around gifting or selling of cars to staff, Councillors or contractors unless the item is to be sold via public auction undertaken by an independent third party (eg an auctioneer).	Audit Committee Minutes for the 22 November 2019 meeting and minutes for the 17 December 2019 Council meeting.
21. Review Gifts Policy	Broaden policy to explicitly prohibit the purchase of gifts by Shire staff or Councillors for suppliers (such as meals and hospitality).	Draft policy to be submitted to Council for consideration in December 2019.	Completed A new Gifts, Benefits and Hospitality Policy 2019 was approved by the Audit Committee at its meeting of 22 November 2019 and adopted by Council at its 17 December 2019 meeting. The new policy includes provisions around supplier and public tender / expression of interest processes, linking the prohibition of gifts/hospitality to and from suppliers to staff or Councillors.	Audit Committee Minutes for the 22 November 2019 meeting and minutes for the 17 December 2019 Council meeting.

SUMMARY OF PROGRESS

Actions completed	21
Actions underway	-

9.13 Instruments of Appointment and Authorisation Update

Author: Executive Manager Governance and Customer Service

Responsible Director: Chief Executive Officer

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Following recent changes to the organisational structure, officers who hold various positions and changes in position title names, several changes are required to be made to the following instruments:

- S11 Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation,
- S11A Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation (*Planning and Environment Act 1997*)

The amended authorisations, once approved by Council, will remain in force until the next Delegations and Authorisations update is prepared or following staff position title change/s, and / or staff changes.

RECOMMENDATION

That, In the exercise of the powers conferred by section 224 of the Local Government Act 1989 (the Act) and the other legislation referred to in the attached instrument of appointment and authorisation (S11) and instrument of appointment and authorization (Planning and Environment Act 1997) (the instrument), Strathbogie Shire Council (Council) resolves that –

- 1. The members of Council staff referred to in the instruments be appointed and authorised as set out in the instruments.***
- 2. The instruments come into force immediately the common seal of Council is affixed to the instruments and remains in force until Council determines to vary or revoke it.***
- 3. The instruments be sealed.***

PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND

There is a basic distinction between a delegation and an appointment to authorize an officer. A delegate acts on behalf of the council, exercising the council's powers. A person who is appointed to a position has the authority to exercise the powers of that position.

Appointments identify the office to which the person is being authorised to exercise the powers legislation provides to it.

9.13 Instruments of Appointment and Authorisation Update (cont.)

Authorisations also allow the relevant officers of Council to generally institute proceedings for offences against Acts and regulations as Authorised Officers under the various Act/s.

ISSUES, OPTIONS AND DISCUSSION

One of the Overarching governance principles in section 9 of the Local Government Act 2020 is that Priority is to be given to achieving the best outcomes for the municipal community, including future generations.

Council is required to appoint staff to the positions which are the subject of this report.

Some important roles include:

- The Municipal Emergency Response Officer (MERO), who is responsible for the coordination of council resources to enable emergency response and recovery
- The Municipal Fire Prevention Officer (MFPO), who has the responsibility for ensuring that Councils fire prevention activities are carried out in accordance with the relevant plans, including the issuing of notices to landowners requiring cleaning up of properties prior to each fire season
- The Principal Conduct Officer (PCO), who oversees the implementation of the Councillor Code of Conduct.

It is vital that the Instruments be updated to reflect the names and position titles of the officers that are to hold authority under a range of legislation.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

One of the Overarching governance principles in section 9 of the Local Government Act 2020 is that the municipal community is to be engaged in strategic planning and strategic decision making. Given that the instruments of authorisation are internal documents responding to a legislative requirement community engagement is not considered necessary.

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

Council Plans and Policies

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

- To enhance community health and wellbeing
- To sustainably manage our natural and built environment.

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies

One of the Overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that regional, state and national plans and policies are to be taken into account in strategic planning and decision-making.

This report responds to the requirements of regional State plans that deal with Emergency Management in particular and ensures that Council has given power to various officers to administer and enforce legislation.

9.13 Instruments of Appointment and Authorisation Update (cont.)

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

One of the Overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that Council decisions are to be made and actions taken in accordance with the relevant law.

Under the Country Fire Authority Act, each municipal Council must appoint a Municipal Fire Prevention Officer (MFPO) and may appoint Assistant Fire Prevention Officers (AFPOs)

The MERO position, required by the Emergency Management Act 1986, is responsible for the coordination of council resources to enable emergency response and recovery.

Failure to keep the authorisation instruments up to date can potentially impact on the enforcement of legislation and jeopardises Council's compliance with its legal obligations.

Conflict of Interest Declaration

All officers, and/or contractors, involved in the preparation of this report have signed a written declaration that they do not have a conflict of interest in the subject matter of this report.

Transparency

One of the Overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that the transparency of Council decisions, actions and information is to be ensured.

By considering this report the community becomes aware of some structures that Council has in place to manage public safety and authorised officers capable of administering various pieces of legislation.

COLLABORATION

One of the Overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that collaboration with other councils, levels of government and statutory bodies is to be sought.

Emergency management requires collaboration between Council, usually represented by the MERO, and a range of agencies including Emergency Management Victoria, Victoria Police and Country Fire Authority and neighbouring Councils.

HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS

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.

9.13 Instruments of Appointment and Authorisation Update (cont.)

CONCLUSION

The endorsement and sealing of instruments of authorisation enables Council to fulfil its obligations in relation to a number of public safety matters and the enforcement of various pieces of legislation.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: S11 – Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation

Attachment 2: S11A Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation (*Planning and Environment Act 1997*)

ATTACHMENT 1:

S11 Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation



Strathbogie Shire Council

Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation

Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation

In this Instrument 'officer' means –

Michael Harvey	Building Surveyor [BS]
Anthony Bell	Deputy Municipal Building Surveyor [DMBS]
Alex Cooper	Deputy Municipal Building Surveyor [DMBS]
David Roff	Director Corporate Operations [DCO] Deputy Municipal Emergency Response Officer [DMERO] Assistant Municipal Fire Prevention Officer [AMFPO]
Phil Howard	Director Community & Planning [DCP]
Daniel Haysom	Manager Operations [MO] Deputy Municipal Emergency Response Officer [DMERO] Municipal Fire Prevention Officer [MFPO]
Vin Edwards	Facilities Maintenance Officer [FMO] Municipal Emergency Response Officer [MERO]
Mark Leitinger	Contractor [C] Assistant Municipal Fire Prevention Officer [AMFPO]
E'vette Burrows	Technical Officer Operations [TOP] Municipal Recovery Manager [MRM]
Barbara Bielecki	Senior Environmental Health Officer [SEHO] Deputy Municipal Recovery Manager [DMRM]
Emma Kubeil	Manager Planning & Investment [MPI] Director Community & Planning [DCP] (temporary appointment)
Melissa Crane	Principal Planner [PP] Manager Planning & Investment [MPI] (temporary appointment)
Norm Hussell	Local Laws Officer [LLO]
Mark Morey	Local Laws Officer [LLO]
Terry Baker	Municipal Building Surveyor [MBS]
Upul Sathurusinghe	Finance Manager [FM]
Uwe Paffrath	Manager Infrastructure [MI]
Leanne Waters	Revenue Coordinator [RVC]
Ben Griffith	Special Building Surveyor [SBS]
Cameron Fraser	Team Leader Compliance [TLC]
Trish Hall	Town Planner [TP]
Daniel Moloney	Town Planner [TP]
Marcus Hann	Valuations Officer [VO]
David Robertson	Valuations Officer [VO]
James Breen	Valuations Officer [VO]
Inece Bray	Valuations Officer [VO]
Molly Odgers	Environment & Waste Coordinator [EWC]
Dawn Bray	Executive Manager Governance & Customer Service [EMGCS] Principal Conduct Officer [PCO]
Kristen Chasemore	Procurement & Tenders Officer [PTO]
Sagara Gunasekara	Senior Finance Officer [SFO]
David Andrews	School Crossing Supervisor [SCS]
Jennifer Buerckner	School Crossing Supervisor [SCS]
Samantha Evans	School Crossing Supervisor [SCS]
Alan Gray	School Crossing Supervisor [SCS]
Marcus Mooney	School Crossing Supervisor [SCS]
Carolyn Steers	School Crossing Supervisor [SCS]
Marc Stevens	School Crossing Supervisor [SCS]
Rita Vandembroucke	School Crossing Supervisor [SCS]

By this Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation Strathbogie Shire Council–

PART A

1. under s 224 of the *Local Government Act 1989* – appoints the officers to be authorised officers for the administration and enforcement of –
- the *Building Act 1993* [MBS, DMBS, SBS, BS, TLC, SEHO]
the *Country Fire Authority Act 1958*
[SEHO, TLC, FMO (MERO), MO (MFPO), DCO/MO (DMERO), DCO/C (AMFPO),
TOP (MRM), SEHO (DMRM)]
the *Domestic Animals Act 1994* [TLC, SEHO, LLO]
the *Emergency Management Act 1986*¹
[SEHO, TLC, LLO, FMO (MERO), DCO/MO (DMERO), MO (MFPO), DCO/C (AMFPO),
TOP (MRM), SEHO (DMRM)]
the *Environment Protection Act 1970* [SEHO, MPI, PP, TP, TLC, EWC, LLO, DCP]
the *Fire Rescue Victoria Act 1958* formerly known as the *Metropolitan Fire Brigades Act 1958*
[SEHO, TLC, FMO (MERO), DCO/MO (DMERO), MO (MFPO), DCO/C (AMFPO)]
the *Fire Services Property Levy Act 2012* [DCO, RVC, VO, FM, SFO]
the *Food Act 1984* [TLC, SEHO]
the *Graffiti Prevention Act 2007* [MBS, DMBS, SEHO, TLC, LLO]
the *Housing Act 1983* [SEHO, TLC, MBS, DMBS, SBS, BS]
the *Impounding of Livestock Act 1994* [TLC, LLO]
the *Land Act 1958* [MBS, DMBS, TLC, MI, MO, DCP, DCO]
the *Local Government Act 1989* [EMGCS, DCP, DCO, SEHO, TLC, MBS, DMBS, LLO,
MO, MI, VO, RVC, FM, SFO, PP, TP, PTO, MPI, SBS]
the *Local Government Act 2020* [EMGCS, DCP, DCO, SEHO, TLC, MBS, DMBS, LLO,
MO, MI, VO, RVC, FM, SFO, PP, TP, MPI, SBS]
the *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008*² [SEHO, TLC]
Part 14 of the *Residential Tenancies Act 1997* [MBS, DMBS, TLC, SEHO]
the *Road Management Act 2004* [TLC, LLO, MO, MI]
the *Road Safety Act 1986* [TLC, LLO, MO, MI]
the *Sex Work Act 1994* [PP, TP, MPI, DCP]
the *Summary Offences Act 1966* [SEHO, TLC, LLO]
the *Tobacco Act 1987*³ [SEHO, TLC]

¹ On 1 December 2020 (unless proclaimed earlier), reference to this Act is to be replaced by the *Emergency Management Act 2013* (Vic).

² Council only to appoint a person suitably qualified or trained under s 31(2) of the Act.

³ This Act provides for the CEO of a Council to nominate a person to be an inspector for the purposes of the Act and the Secretary may then appoint them to be an inspector (see s 36). An EHO appointed under the Act is also regarded as an inspector under the Act.

the *Valuation of Land Act 1960* [DCO, FM, SFO, RVC, VO]
the Regulations made under each of those Acts
the local laws made under the *Local Government Act 1989* or the *Local Government Act 2020*
and any other Act, Regulation or local law which relates to the functions and powers of the Council;

PART B

2. under s 3 of the *Building Act 1993* – appoints the officer to be Municipal Building Surveyor for the purposes of the *Building Act 1993*. [MBS]

3. under s 96A(1)(a) of the *Country Fire Authority Act 1958* – appoints the officer to be the fire prevention officer. [MO (MFPO)]

4. under s 96A(1)(b) of the *Country Fire Authority Act 1958* – appoints the officers to be assistant fire prevention officers. [DCO/C (AMFPO)]

5. under s 72 of the *Domestic Animals Act 1994* – appoints the officer to be a Council authorised officer for the purposes of the *Domestic Animals Act 1994*. [TLC]

6. under s 72A(1) of the *Domestic Animals Act 1994* – appoints the officers to be Council contracted authorised officers for the purposes of the *Domestic Animals Act 1994* and such appointment is for a period of 12 months from the date of issue of this instrument.⁴ [LLO]

7. under s 21 of the *Emergency Management Act 1986* – appoints the officers to be Municipal Emergency Resource Officers.⁵ [FMO (MERO), DCO/MO (DMERO)]

7.1 under s 4(1) of the *Environment Protection Act 1970* – appoints the officers to be litter enforcement officers for the purposes of the *Environment Protection Act 1970*. [SEHO, TLC, LLO, EWC]

AND

8. under s 48A of the *Environment Protection Act 1970* – appoints the officers to be authorised officers for the purposes of s 48A of the *Environment Protection Act 1970*. [SEHO, TLC, LLO]

⁴ Council may appoint a person who is not an employee of the Council if the person has the qualifications or experience prescribed by the Secretary.

⁵ On 1 December 2020 (unless proclaimed earlier), this is to be replaced by the following:

- under s 59G(1) of the *Emergency Management Act 2013* – appoints the officers to be municipal emergency management officers.
- under s 59H(1) of the *Emergency Management Act 2013* – appoints the officers to be municipal recovery managers.

-
9. under s 5A(1)(a) of the *Fire Rescue Victoria Act 1958* formerly known as the *Metropolitan Fire Brigades Act 1958* – appoints the officer to be the fire prevention officer for the purposes of the *Fire Rescue Victoria Act 1958*. [MO (MFPO)]
10. under s 5A(1)(b) of the *Fire Rescue Victoria Act 1958* formerly known as the *Metropolitan Fire Brigades Act 1958* – appoints the officers to be assistant fire prevention officer for the purposes of the *Fire Rescue Victoria Act 1958*. [DCO/C (AMFPO)]
-
11. under s 23 of the *Fire Services Property Levy Act 2012* – appoints the officer to be authorised officers for the purposes of the *Fire Services Property Levy Act 2012*.⁶ [RVO, VO, DCO, FM]
-
12. for the purposes of s 20 of the *Food Act 1984* – appoints the officer to be an authorised officer for the purposes of the *Food Act 1984*.⁷ [SEHO]
-
13. under s 19(1) of the *Graffiti Prevention Act 2007* – appoints the officers to be authorised persons for the purposes of carrying out Council's functions under s 18 of the, *Graffiti Prevention Act 2007* for a term of.⁸ [LLO, TLC]
-
14. under s 71(1) of the *Housing Act 1983* – appoints the officer to be an authorised person for the purposes of entering a house or building and conducting an inspection under s 71 of the *Housing Act 1983*. [DMBS, MBS, SBS, BS, SEHO]
-
15. under s 3 of the *Infringements Act 2006* – appoints the officer to be an issuing officer for the purposes of the *Infringements Act 2006*.
[LLO, TLC, SEHO, EMGCS, MO, MI, PP, TP, MPI, MO (MFPO), DCO/C (AMFPO)]
-
16. under s 190 of the *Land Act 1958* – authorises the officers for the purposes of s 190 of that Act.¹⁰ [LLO, TLC, MO, MI, DCO, DCP]
-
17. under s 81Y of the *Local Government Act 1989* – appoints the officer to be the Principal Conduct Officer.¹¹ [EMGCS(PCO)]

⁶ Persons appointed or authorised officers under the *Local Government Act 1989* are taken to be authorised officers for the purposes of the *Fire Services Property Levy Act 2012* (except in Part 4 of that Act).

⁷ Council must be satisfied that the person appointed is suitably qualified or trained to be an authorised officer.

⁸ EHOs appointed under s 29 of the *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008* are regarded as an authorised officer for the purposes of the *Food Act 1984*.

⁹ Authorised person must agree in writing to exercise functions and powers of an authorised person under Part 4 of the Act and in accordance with any performance criteria determined by Council (see s 19(2)).

¹⁰ Authorisation requires the consent of the Minister (see s 190 of the Act).

-
18. under s 29 of the *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008* – appoints the officer to be an Environmental Health Officer¹² for the purposes of enforcing the *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008* and the *Food Act 1984*. [SEHO]
-
19. under s 525(2) of the *Residential Tenancies Act 1997* – appoints the officers to exercise the powers set out in s 526 of the *Residential Tenancies Act 1997*. [SEHO, MBS, DMBS]
-
20. under s 71(3) of the *Road Management Act 2004* – appoints the officers to be authorised officer for the purposes of the *Road Management Act 2004*. [LLO, TLC, MI, MO, DCO, DCP]
-
21. under s 59(1)(a)(ii) of the *Road Safety Act 1986* – authorises the officers to exercise the powers under s 59(1)(a) of that Act. [TLC, LLO]
- AND
22. under s 59(1)(d) of the *Road Safety Act 1986* – authorises the officers to exercise the powers under s 59(1)(d) of the *Road Safety Act 1986*. [TLC, LLO]
- AND
23. under s 87(1A) of the *Road Safety Act 1986* – authorises the officer to exercise the power in s 87(1A) of the *Road Safety Act 1986*.¹³ [TLC, LLO]
- AND
24. under s 87(1B)(c) of the *Road Safety Act 1986* – authorises the officer to exercise the power in s 87(1B)(c) of the *Road Safety Act 1986*. [TLC, LLO]
- AND
25. under s 87(8) of the *Road Safety Act 1986* – authorises the persons who are not a member of Council's staff for the purposes of s 87 of the *Road Safety Act 1986*. [LLO]
-
26. under r 5 of the *Road Safety (Traffic Management) Regulations 2019* – authorises the officers for the purposes of r 14 of the *Road Safety (Traffic Management) Regulations 2019*. [LLO, SCS]
-
27. under s 3(1) of the *Sex Work Act 1994* – appoints the officer to be an authorised officer of the responsible authority for the purposes of enforcing Parts 4 and 5 of the *Sex Work Act 1994*. [DCP, MPI, PP, TP]

¹¹ Only an 'eligible person' may be appointed (see the requirements in s 81Y of the Act). Section 81Y is to be repealed on 24 October 2020 and replaced with s 150 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, which deals with the appointment of the Councillor Conduct Officer.

¹² Council must be sure that the EHO is suitably trained or qualified under s 31(2) of the *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008*.

¹³ Council must ensure that a person appointed under s 87 is competent, of good repute and character and has agreed in writing to exercise the functions conferred on an authorised person (see s 87(1C) of the Act).

-
28. under s 13DA(1) of the *Valuation of Land Act 1960* – appoints the person who is not a member of Council's staff for the purposes of s 13DA of the *Valuation of Land Act 1960*.¹⁴ [VO]
- AND
29. under s 13J of the *Valuation of Land Act 1960* – appoints the person for the purposes of s 13J of the *Valuation of Land Act 1960*.¹⁵ [VO]
-

PART C

30. under –
- s 313 of the *Local Government Act 2020*¹⁶
 - s 527 of the *Residential Tenancies Act 1997*
 - s 77(2)(b) of the *Road Safety Act 1986*¹⁷
 - s 77(4) of the *Road Safety Act 1986*
 - ss 48A(9)(c) and 59(3) of the *Environment Protection Act 1970*
 - s 241 of the *Building Act 1993*
 - s 92 of the *Domestic Animals Act 1994*¹⁸
 - s 96 of the *Road Management Act 2004*
 - s 33A of the *Impounding of Livestock Act 1994*
 - s 10(4) of the *Graffiti Prevention Act 2007*
 - s 219 of the *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008*
 - s 45AC of the *Food Act 1984*

authorises the officers generally to institute proceedings and represent Council in proceedings for offences against the Acts, Regulations and local laws described in this instrument.

¹⁴ Council must ensure that the person appointed holds the qualifications or experience specified from time to time by the Minister by notice published in the Government Gazette.

¹⁵ Council must ensure that the person appointed holds the qualifications or experience specified from time to time by the Minister by notice published in the Government Gazette.

¹⁶ A person authorised under s 313 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is also authorised to bring proceedings under the *Fire Services Property Levy Act 2012* (see s 22 of the *Fire Services Property Levy Act 2012*).

¹⁷ A person authorised under ss 77(2)(b) and/or 77(4) of the *Road Safety Act 1986* is also an authorised officer for the purposes of rr 203 and 307 of the *Road Safety Road Rules 2017*.

¹⁸ Council may only appoint an authorised officer who is also appointed under s 72 of the Act.

It is declared that this Instrument -

- comes into force immediately upon its execution;
- remains in force until varied or revoked.

This Instrument is authorised by a resolution of the Strathbogie Shire Council made on 15th September 2020.

The Common Seal of the)Councillor
Shire of Strathbogie)Councillor
was hereunto affixed)Chief Executive Officer
on the of September 2020

ATTACHMENT 2:

*S11A Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation
(Planning and Environment Act 1987)*



Strathbogie Shire Council

**Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation
(*Planning and Environment Act 1987* only)**

Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation (*Planning and Environment Act 1987*)

In this instrument "**officer**" means –

Patricia Hall Town	Planner [TP]
Daniel Moloney	Town Planner [TP]
Melissa Crane	Principal Planner [PP] and Manager Planning & Investment (temporary appointment) [MPI]
Emma Kubeil	Manager Planning & Investment [MPI] and Director Community & Planning (temporary appointment) [DCP]
Phillip Howard	Director Community & Planning [DCP]
Barbara Bielecki	Senior Environmental Health Officer [SEHO]
Cameron Fraser	Team Leader Compliance [TLC]

By this instrument of appointment and authorisation Strathbogie Shire Council –

4. under s 147(4) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* – appoints the officers to be authorised officer for the purposes of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and the regulations made under that Act; and [TP, PP, MPI, DCP, TLC, SEHO]
5. under s 313 of the *Local Government Act 2020* authorises the officers either generally or in a particular case to institute proceedings for offences against the Acts and regulations described in this instrument.

It is declared that this instrument –

- comes into force immediately upon its execution;
- remains in force until varied or revoked.

This instrument is authorised by a resolution of the Strathbogie Shire Council on 15 September 2020

The Common Seal of the)Councillor
Shire of Strathbogie)Councillor
was hereunto affixed)Chief Executive Officer
on the of September 2020

9.14 Coronavirus (COVID-19) Management Policy

Author: Policy, Research and Councillor Support Officer

Responsible Director: Chief Executive Officer

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council has developed a Coronavirus (COVID-19) Management Policy to support the requirements passed by Federal, State, Local and associated Government Departments relating to COVID-19 and implement these practices across its business operations. This policy is the overarching document for the procedures that have been documented and enacted for some months.

Council will continue to work closely with our stakeholders, staff and volunteers to communicate and implement the necessary recommended practices to prevent the spread of COVID-19, while continuing to operate services and programs that are permitted to do so either as essential services or as part of the permitted programs/activities issued by Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS).

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 1. Notes and endorses the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Management Policy; and***
- 2. Makes the adopted policy available on Council's website and internal intranet site.***

PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND

Strathbogie Shire Council aims to minimise the risk and exposure of our Staff and Families, Councillors, Contractors and Volunteers to COVID-19 by adhering to all recommended guidelines from the Victorian State Government and DHHS) Council will review and implement practices that help reduce the transmission of the virus and provide tools to support our services and staff through this global pandemic.

COVID-19 is a new strain of coronavirus that was originally identified in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China in December 2019. The World Health Organization (WHO), has declared that COVID-19 outbreak as a 'pandemic'- a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (effective 11 March 2020). This is mainly due to the speed and scale of transmission of the virus in countries around the world, including Australia.

ISSUES, OPTIONS AND DISCUSSION

One of the Overarching governance principles in section 9 of the Local Government Act 2020 is that Priority is to be given to achieving the best outcomes for the municipal community, including future generations.

9.14 Coronavirus (COVID-19) Management Policy (cont.)

Council has implemented a wide range of measure to respond to the evolving and changing COVID-19 pandemic. Failure to implement a workable policy relating to COVID-19 management may result in Council not being able to protect Council employees and internal and external stakeholders and ensure continuity of essential services.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

One of the Overarching governance principles in section 9 of the Local Government Act 2020 is that the municipal community is to be engaged in strategic planning and strategic decision making.

No community engagement was undertaken in drafting this policy however it was developed from the comprehensive advice and directives received from Victorian Government Department of Health and Human Services relating to Council being able to protect its staff, communities and ensure continuity of essential services.

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

Council Plans and Policies

This policy supports Council's strategic goals to enhance community health and wellbeing and support and drive economic development. By ensuring Council's workforce is well supported and cared for, our community will benefit as essential services continue to be maintained in a pandemic environment.

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies

One of the Overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that regional, state and national plans and policies are taken into account in strategic planning and decision-making.

This policy is in line with and supports the directives of the State Government Department of Health and Human Services.

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

One of the Overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that Council decisions are to be made and actions taken in accordance with the relevant law.

Conflict of Interest Declaration

All officers, and/or contractors, involved in the preparation of this report declare that they do not have a conflict of interest in the subject matter of this report.

Transparency

One of the Overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that the transparency of Council decisions, actions and information is to be ensured.

9.14 Coronavirus (COVID-19) Management Policy (cont.)

This is an important policy that determines what measures Council will take to ensure the sustainability of its staff and communities. Although it is an internal directive, the policy has been presented to Council for discussion in a meeting open to the public. The policy will be available on Council's website and intranet site to support other relevant information relating to COVID-19.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

One of the Overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that the ongoing financial viability of the Council is to be ensured.

Continuity of essential services is paramount to the economic and financial sustainability of Council and the communities it supports. Developing policies that protect the Council's workforce and internal and external stakeholders ensures "business as usual" is maintained, albeit in modified circumstances.

INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

One of the Overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is the pursuit of innovation and continuous improvement.

The draft Coronavirus (COVID-19) Management Policy aims to clarify and improve the way in which Council provides information and direction to management and staff, councilors, volunteers and contractors during a pandemic episode. It provides the overarching framework for the procedures that have been developed and implemented.

COLLABORATION

One of the overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that collaboration with other councils, levels of government and statutory bodies is to be sought.

Input was received from Council's Business Continuity Plan (BCP) and Crisis Management Team, which is the lead group for operational decisions in any pandemic responses.

HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS

This policy has been reviewed against and complies with section 13 of the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006 and aligns with and provides for the protection of an individual's right not to have their privacy unlawfully or arbitrarily interfered with. It is also in line with section 18 which recognises a person's right to participate in the conduct of public life.

CONCLUSION

The Coronavirus (COVID-19) Management Policy has been developed to ensure Council has appropriate directives in place to enable continuity of essential services by staff and councillors for the communities it supports.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Coronavirus (COVID-19) Management Policy

ATTACHMENT 1:



**Coronavirus (COVID-19) Management
POLICY**

COUNCIL POLICY	
Document ID:	
Effective Date:	April 2020
Last Review:	New Policy
Current Review:	August 2020
Adopted by Council:	
Next Review Date:	August 2021
Responsible Officer/s:	Chief Executive Officer

1. Purpose

Strathbogrie Shire Council aims to minimise the risk and exposure of our Staff and Families, Councillors, Contractors and Volunteers to COVID-19 by adhering to all recommended guidelines from the Victorian State Government and Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). Council will review and implement practices that help reduce the transmission of the virus and provide tools to support our services and staff through this global pandemic.

COVID-19 is a new strain of coronavirus that was originally identified in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China in December 2019. The World Health Organization (WHO), has declared that COVID-19 outbreak as a 'pandemic'- a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (effective 11 March 2020). This is mainly due to the speed and scale of transmission of the virus in countries around the world, including Australia.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all Council employees, councillors, contractors and volunteers and can be shared externally to give guidance to Council contractors and local community groups.

This policy will be updated regularly as circumstances evolve or change.

3. Policy

Council will follow the requirements passed by Federal, State, Local and associated Government Departments relating to COVID-19 and implement these practices across its business operations.

Council will work closely with our stakeholders, staff and volunteers to communicate and implement the necessary recommended practices to prevent the spread of COVID-19, while continuing to operate services and programs that are permitted to do so either as essential services or as part of the permitted programs/activities issued by DHHS.

4. Definitions

Term	Definition
BCP	Business Continuity Plan
COVID-19	A strain of coronavirus that is transmitted from someone who is infected with the virus to others in close contact through contaminated droplets spread by coughing and/ or sneezing or by contact with contaminated hands or surfaces.
Council	Strathbogie Shire Council
DHHS	Department of Health and Human Services
Pandemic	A pandemic is the worldwide spread of a new disease

5. Roles and Responsibilities

Role/Department	Responsibility
CEO and BCP Crisis Management Team	Responsible for approving, reviewing and updating the policy, procedure and supporting resources. Responsible for providing advice in the application of this Policy in accordance with government requirements
Executive Leadership Team and Managers	Responsible for addressing any instance of non-compliance with this Policy and implementing strategies to help prevent non-compliance with this Policy. Responsible for implementing the processes outlined in this Policy and associated procedure, in accordance with this Policy, as required.
All Employees and Volunteers (including Managers and Supervisors)	Responsible for meeting the requirements outlined in this Policy and associated procedure. Responsible for raising concerns or complaints in accordance with this policy.

6. Procedure

Council has implemented a wide range of measures to respond to the evolving and changing COVID-19 pandemic. These measures are intended to protect Council employees and internal and external stakeholders, and to ensure continuity of essential services.

6.1 Council Services

- 6.1.1 An up-to-date list of Council service changes is to be available on Council's website www.strathogie.vic.gov.au

6.2 Council events/functions/consultations/meetings

- 6.2.1 Employees are not to attend external work-related gatherings unless business-critical. This includes events such as training, conferences or meetings and attendance would be subject to the most current DHHS social distancing requirements.
- 6.2.2 Social distancing guidelines of one person per every four square metres must be adhered to at all times.
- 6.2.3 A maximum of two Council employees can travel in a Council vehicle at any one time.
- 6.2.4 Council operated external events or public meetings will be postponed or cancelled.

6.3 Staff leave

As we work through the Coronavirus Pandemic, Council's primary concern is the health and wellbeing of our employees. Council understands that many of our employees will be impacted at some stage by the Coronavirus Pandemic.

Staff health and wellbeing is important to us, therefore, if you are sick stay at home. Ample leave opportunities are available to ensure you are well supported to take sick leave when you need it. We do not want sick employees coming to work.

- 6.3.1 **Personal Leave:** Personal Leave can be used when you are unwell, or when you are caring for a member of your immediate family or household when they are ill or suffering from a serious injury. For each period of personal leave exceeding seven calendar days, a medical certificate is required.
- 6.3.2 **Annual Leave:** Annual Leave can be taken at any time that is mutually agreed between an employee and their supervisor/manager and it can be taken at half or full pay.
- 6.3.3 **Long Service Leave (LSL):** Employees can access LSL after five years of service at any time that is mutually agreed between an employee and their supervisor/manager and it can be taken at half or full pay.
- 6.3.4 **Family Leave:** Employees are entitled to three days of paid leave to provide care and support for children, frail or aged dependents or family members or significant other persons whom they have responsibility for providing care and support.

- 6.3.5 **Leave Without Pay:** Employees can apply for Leave Without Pay if their other leave entitlements have been exhausted, however this will need to be authorised in accordance with the EBA.
- 6.3.5 **Rostered Day Off (RDO):** Banded employees who work full time are entitled to an RDO.

6.4 Workplace Virus Prevention

- 6.4.1 Council will implement a rotational staff rostering method. Team One and Team Two will attend on site at Council premises on alternative weeks and each team will only be permitted to attend on site on their designated week. If you can, you must work from home.
- 6.4.2 Everyone must adhere to good hygiene practises such as regularly washing hands, using sanitiser, covering their nose and mouth when sneezing or coughing and social distancing. Masks must be worn if mandated.
- 6.4.3 Flu vaccinations have been made available for all Council staff.
- 6.4.4 Additional sanitising products and personal protective equipment (PPE) are available to Council employees, with priority given to frontline staff in direct contact with members of the public.
- 6.4.5 Commercial-grade sanitising wipes are provided for surface cleaning and disinfection of reception desks, office hot desks and pool cars. For shared desk areas keyboards, mouse, telephones, counter space and other hard surfaces that are shared should be regularly wiped down. In pool vehicles, steering wheels and other shared surfaces should be wiped down after each use.
- 6.4.6 Social distancing must be exercised. Staff should avoid being within 1.5 metres of each other, and refrain from hand shaking. When indoors, limits on people must be capped at one person for every four square metres of floor area.

6.5 Response Coordination

- 6.5.1 Council Business Continuity Plan (BCP) Crisis Management Team is the lead group for operational decisions in the response. Meetings will be scheduled daily or as required. The Crisis Management team comprises:

Phil Howard	Director Community Planning - BCP Team Leader
Chris Dube	Executive Manager People and Culture - BCP Coordinator
Julie Salomon	CEO
David Roff	Director Corporate Operations
Dawn Bray	Executive Manager Governance and Customer Service
Vin Edward	Facilities Maintenance Officer
Daniel Haysom	Manager Operations
Greg Underhill	Manager Digital Innovation and Technology
Barb Bielecki	Senior Environmental Health Officer

Hannah Sharp	Corporate Risk Officer
Kerry Lynch	Policy Research and Councillor Support Officer
Merrill Boyd	Communications Officer
Alana Morrison	Minutes and Administration

- 6.5.2 Any internal and external communications regarding Council's COVID-19 response must come from the BCP Crisis Management Team or the CEO.

7. Supporting Documents

- *Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004*
- *Communications and Engagement Policy*
- *Flexible Working Arrangements CEO Directive*
- *Managing a Suspected or Confirmed Case of COVID-19 in the Workplace*
- *Risk Management Policy*
- *Staff Code of Conduct CEO Directive*
- *Staff Health and Wellbeing CEO Directive*
- *Work from Home CEO Directive*
- *DHHS Chief Health Officer's Restricted Activity Directions*

8. *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006 and the Equal Opportunity Act 2010*

Council acknowledges the legal responsibility to comply with the *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006* and the *Equal Opportunity Act 2010*. The *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006* is designed to protect the fundamental rights and freedoms of citizens. The Charter gives legal protection to 20 fundamental human rights under four key values that include freedom, respect, equality and dignity.

9.15 **Strathbogie Shire Economic Profile**

Author: Economic Development and Projects Coordinator

Responsible Director: Director Community and Planning

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council recently commissioned Urban Enterprise to develop an Economic Profile of Strathbogie Shire across the key four strategic sectors in terms of economic output and employment. The sectors include:

- Primary industries & trade
- Tourism reliant industries
- Knowledge and public sector
- Population driven industries.

This Strathbogie Shire Economic Profile report provides a summary of demographic and economic data for the Strathbogie Local Government Area (LGA), as well as key considerations for economic development. Furthermore, the profile provides a baseline profile of Strathbogie's economy for use by Council, industry, investors and residents. The report draws on a range of datasets including ABS Census data, REMPLAN, Profile and Economy ID, and Building Industry data.

This will provide Council with data and identified opportunities to enhance and drive economic development across the shire and to engage and work in partnership with local business to collaboratively develop an economic development strategy and strategic advocacy agenda.

A key action for Council is to develop a Strategic Action Plan to support business and economic recovery in response to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. It is proposed that to provide coverage and assistance to all business in the shire, a sum of \$30,000 to Go Nagambie and the Euroa Chamber of Business be allocated to provide for the provision of a one-off free 12 months membership and recovery support programs.

It is important to note that the Economic Profile use standard industry definitions and data is sourced from Government agencies such *Victoria in the Future*. Government data particularly in the prediction of future growth in residents and property investment may differ from predictions based on local planning information. As such, updated predictions sourced from Councils Planning department based on building and planning permit data form an addendum to this Strathbogie Shire Economic Profile document.

9.15 Strathbogie Shire Economic Profile (cont.)

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 1. Adopt the Strathbogie Shire Economic Profile and the supplementary Strathbogie Shire Planning departmental data to inform the future development of an Economic Development Strategy;***
- 2. Authorise officers to make the Profile and supplementary data available to all businesses and on Council website: and***
- 3. Endorse the allocation of \$60,000.00 of unspent funds from the 2019/2020 Economic Development budget allocation to Go Nagambie (\$30,000) and the Euroa Chamber of Business and Commerce (\$30,000) to fund a one off Shire wide free membership of a businesses and mentoring / assistance programs subject to the signing of grant agreements by each organisation.***

BACKGROUND

The COVID-19 Pandemic has had significant impact on the shires economy with some business sectors such as Tourism and Hospitality severely impacted.

It is recognised that there is a need to support the business community through the recovery process and the use of Local Business Representative groups is views and the best means of utilising local expertise and networking to support those in need.

In 2013, Council adopted the *Strathbogie Shire Council Economic Development Master Plan 2013-2017* in recognition of the need to consolidate and integrate its economic development plans and efforts. The purpose of the Master Plan was to contribute to the development of a vibrant community and improved quality of life by stimulating economic activity through:

- Increasing employment opportunities;
- Attracting investment in projects, infrastructure and new businesses;
- Encouraging more people to live in Strathbogie for lifestyle and work opportunities; and
- Encouraging more people to visit and spend money in Strathbogie on tourism and recreation.

In recognition of the need to renew and reinvigorate our approach to further supporting the stimulation and strengthening of the local economy through the promotion of local and regional initiatives to support investment in growth, Council engaged Urban Enterprise to undertake an Economic Profile of our Shire across all key strategic sectors in terms of economic output and employment. The sectors include:

- Primary industries and trade;
- Tourism reliant industries;
- Knowledge and public sector; and
- Population driven industries.

9.15 Strathbogie Shire Economic Profile (cont.)

DISCUSSION

This Strathbogie Shire Economic Profile report provides a summary of demographic and economic data for the Strathbogie Local Government Area (LGA), as well as key considerations for economic development. Furthermore, the profile provides a baseline profile of Strathbogie's economy for use by Council, industry, investors and residents. The report draws on a range of datasets including ABS Census data, REMPLAN, Profile and Economy ID, and Building Industry data.

The report includes comprehensive information on the Shires demographics and economic structure. Of particular note are the following economic statics:

Population

- 10,781 residents in Strathbogie Shire in 2019
- +1,272 additional residents between 2006-2019
- Projected growth of +1,228 residents (0.6% per annum) between 2019-2036.

To supplement the statewide data used to inform the Urban Enterprise Economic Profile report, Councils Planning data (refer Attachment 2) highlights:

- 10,984 residents in Strathbogie Shire as of 2019
- Projected total population of Strathbogie Shire in 2036 - 15,058
- Projected growth of + 4,074 residents between 2019-2036
- Dwellings projected to increase by + 1,852 between 2019-2036.

Note that these projections forecasts an increase in the Shire's population of 37.09% or 2.31 % per annum to 2036 with 81% of this growth occurring in Nagambie followed by 9 % in Euroa 8% in Avenel and 2% in Violet Town.

Economy

- Total economic output of \$ 1.1 billion, a regional export value of \$458 million and a total value add of \$521 million
- Agriculture, forestry and fishing sector generates 31% of total output, 59% of exports and 32% of value add
- the agricultural sector is driven by the subsections of sheep grains, beef and dairy cattle and poultry and other livestock.

Business

- 1,402 businesses in Strathbogie Shire 2019
- 68% of these businesses are non-employing
- 46% of businesses are in the agriculture sector.

Employment

- 3590 three jobs in Strathbogie Shire 2019 [representing growth of 187 jobs or 5%]
- 27% of jobs attributed to the agriculture sector
- 10% of jobs attributed to health care and social assistance
- between 2011 dash 2019 the largest growing employment sectors are education and training [plus 55 jobs] and accommodation and food services [plus 53 jobs]
- 78% job containment rate full Strathbogie Shire working residents in 2016.

9.15 Strathbogrie Shire Economic Profile (cont.)

Tourism

- Average of 344,114 visitors p.a to Strathbogrie Shire between 2015 – 2019
- Represents average growth of + 45,225 visitors per annum from 2010 - 2014
- 60% are day trip visitors followed by domestic overnight visitors[40%]
- 56 point \$4,000,000 per annum in direct visitor expenditure in Strathbogrie Shire [2015 -2019 average].

The document also contains figures on the economic impacts of the Coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic on our Shires businesses. It should be noted that these figures are based on surveys carried out prior to the imposition most recent round of stage 3 and 4 restrictions and do not cover the full impacts of the pandemic, however, in this context our Shire has experienced a:

- 11% decrease in economic output
- 7% decrease in employment
- 25% of businesses applying for JobSeeker payments
- 43% decrease in visitation and visitor expenditure.

Recent work completed by Urban Enterprise identified three distinct phases of recovery, including:

- Continuation of Supporting Businesses through Restrictions
- Returning Business Performance to Pre-COVID
- A New Normal (reinstating a growth economy).

As an important economic driver for the Shire, Urban Enterprise has highlighted that it is critical that for the Shire to maintain growth in tourism – particularly domestic tourism following COVID and bushfire impacts – with investment in key products and experiences that meets contemporary visitor needs.

A key action for Council is to develop a Strategic Action Plan to support business and economic recovery in response to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Council will continue to play a leading role, through understanding the key issues of the business community and identifying best practice responses delivered in other regions. Recovery planning is currently underway utilising additional the skills and resources through the State Governments Working for Victoria initiative. It is anticipated that a draft Strategic Action Plan for economic recovery will be available for council consideration in November 2020.

Next Steps:

Development of the Strathbogrie Shire Economic Development Strategy

It is intended to use the final report as a basis for consultation with the business community, Regional Development Victoria as well as other government bodies to assist in formulating future economic development strategies.

9.15 Strathbogie Shire Economic Profile (cont.)

Key strategic considerations for Council are as follows:

- Importance of population attraction and retention strategies, particularly young families, to support employment growth and provide a more sustainable community. The recent impact of COVID-19 presents the opportunity to attract remote workers to the Shire, due to significant changes in workforce patterns. More specifically, the pandemic has led to a higher prevalence of working from home and, therefore, more flexibility for employees in choosing a place of residence.
- Focus on growth and emerging industries, particularly growth opportunities for agriculture, including the sub-sectors of Sheep, Grains, Beef & Dairy Cattle and Poultry & Other Livestock, to drive economic and employment growth.
- Provide meaningful business support, through Council support and provision of appropriate infrastructure, to grow the business base and develop employment opportunities.
- Maintain growth in the tourism industry, by leveraging the Shire's competitive advantages, including Lake Nagambie, the Goulburn River, wineries and Strathbogie Ranges. Attracting investment in these key products and experiences will help drive visitation, diversify the economy and create more employment opportunities.
- Leveraging the region's road and rail transport infrastructure to support population attraction, employment and economic growth.
- It is recommended that council use the attached Economic Profile as a basis for consultation with the business community and state government to develop a comprehensive business recovery plan. This consultation will initially take the form of business forums with our two business representative groups and a survey through our business email network followed by discussion with the relevant state government agencies such as Regional Development Victoria and Visit Victoria. We have commenced discussions with the business groups and we are in the process of preparing a survey for circulation to the Strathbogie business community through our business email network.
- The business consultation process will be greatly enhanced by the funding of membership and mentoring support for all businesses in the Shire with the emphasis on using local expertise to assist and mentor those in need.

It is proposed that the commencement of the consultation process with businesses commence in mid-September with a Business Forum scheduled for November 2020 with the new Council.

Recovery Initiatives

In May 2020 it was proposed to council that officers hold discussions with local Business representative groups regarding the concept of council funding of free membership and the provision of recovery support programs to business through these organisations. A provisional figure of \$60 - \$70,000.00 was proposed. The proposal to consult with the business groups on the concept was agreed to and at that time it was thought that there may be a need to provide funding to up to 4 Business representative groups.

9.15 Strathbogie Shire Economic Profile (cont.)

We have now discussed this concept with the business community. It has been accepted that Go Nagambie and the Euroa Chamber of Business and Commerce have the capacity to provide coverage and assistance to all business in the shire and that the sum of \$30,000 to each organisation would be adequate for the provision of free 12 months membership and recovery support programs. There are currently 1402 listed businesses in the shire. It is expected that some business may chose not to take advantage of the free membership and assistance package however the total expenditure of this program equates to \$42.80 per listed business and this concept is considered to be a very cost effective means of using the Business communities own expertise and local networking to support the recovery process.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

It is proposed that the release of the Strathbogie Shire Economic Profile Document will form the basis of community consultation regarding a business recovery plan and future economic development projects in the Strathbogie Shire. It is proposed that consultation commence with the release of the document in mid-September.

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

Council Plans and Policies

The report is consistent with Council Policies, key strategic documents and the Council Plan – Section 4 to support and drive Economic Development.

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

One of the Overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that Council decisions are to be made and actions taken in accordance with the relevant law. The recommendation has no legal or statutory implications which require the consideration of Council.

Conflict of Interest Declaration

All officers, and/or contractors, involved in the preparation of this report have signed a written declaration that they do not have a conflict of interest in the subject matter of this report.

Transparency

The matters discussed achieve public transparency goals – including that the matter is being discussed in a Council meeting open to the public.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

One of the Overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that the ongoing financial viability of the Council is to be ensured.

Costs of \$60,000 for grant funding to local business representative groups are within the budget allocation subject to rolling over unspent economic development funding from the 2019/2020 budget.

9.15 Strathbogie Shire Economic Profile (cont.)

ECONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS

The author of this report considers that the recommendation will assist in the formulation of future Economic development policy and plans

Social Considerations

The recommendation has significant social implications for Council or the broader community. It is widely recognised that there are many social benefits derived from a strong local economy.

Environmental Considerations

The author of this report considers that the recommendation has no significant environmental implications for Council or the broader community. However, initiatives that support the circular economy will be featured within the Economic Development Strategy.

HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS

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

CONCLUSION

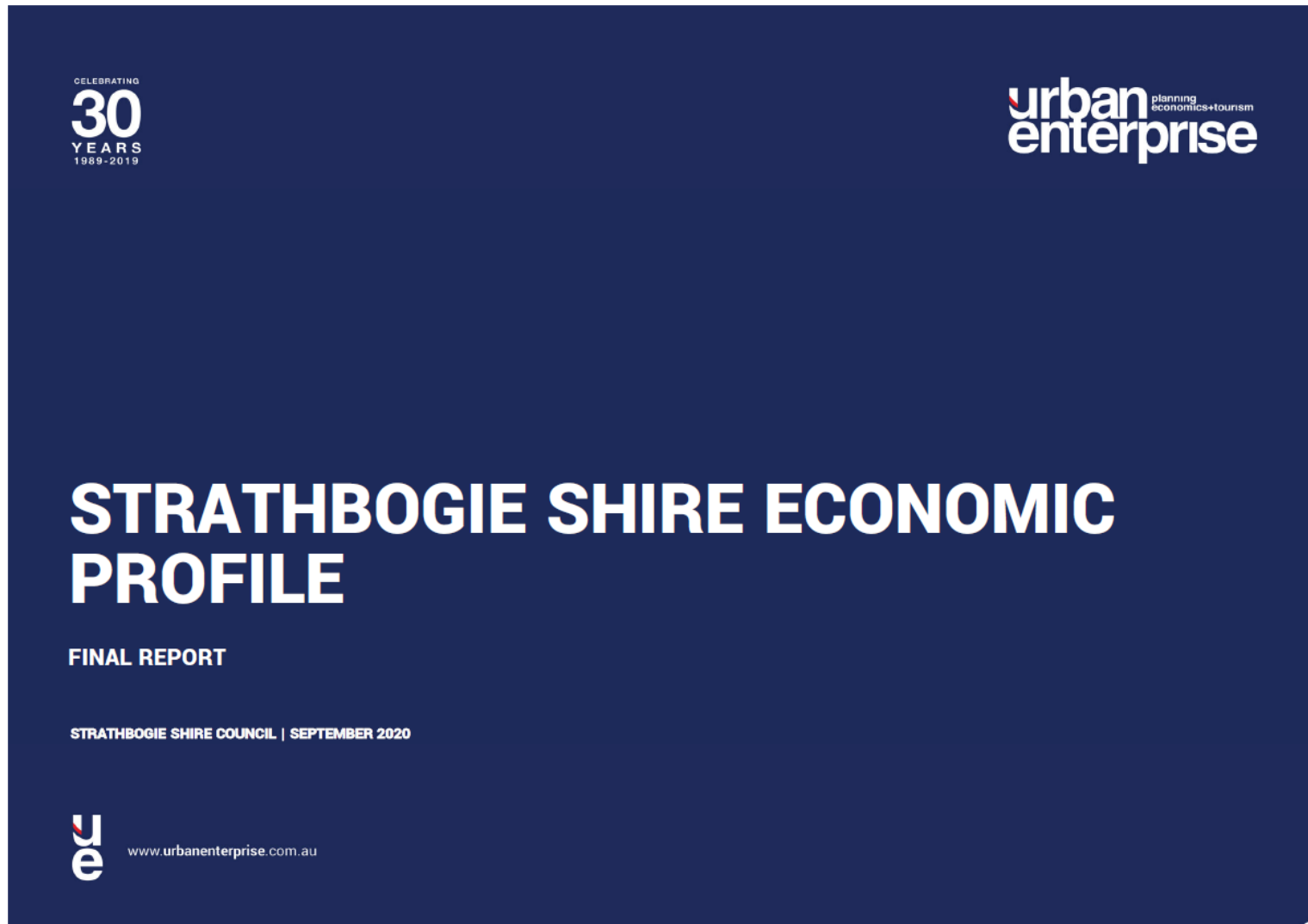
Economic prosperity is important on a local scale, enabling communities to improve their economic future. Strathbogie Shire Council plays an important role in facilitating better conditions for economic development. The development of the Strathbogie Shire Economic Profile is the first step in the development of long-term economic stimulus and strengthening strategies and identifying and creating suitable conditions for economic development in collaboration with business operators, interested community members and other key stakeholders including State and Federal Government.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Strathbogie Shire Economic Profile Document

Attachment 2: Addendum - Strathbogie Shire Council Planning departmental data

ATTACHMENT 1:



AUTHORS

Mike Ruzzene Jonathan Rochwerger Madeleine Hornsby

FILE

Strathbogie Shire Economic Profile_Final Report V2

DISCLAIMER

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CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	1	4.6. TOURISM INDUSTRY	32
1. INTRODUCTION	4	4.7. COVID RECOVERY AND SUPPORT	32
1.1. OVERVIEW	4		
1.2. ABOUT STRATHBOGIE SHIRE	4		
1.3. METHODOLOGY	5		
2. DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE	6		
2.1. INTRODUCTION	6		
2.2. POPULATION GROWTH	7		
2.3. AGE PROFILE	9		
2.4. MIGRATION TRENDS	9		
2.5. HOUSING & DWELLING PROFILE	11		
2.6. SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROFILE	14		
3. ECONOMIC PROFILE	17		
3.1. INTRODUCTION	17		
3.2. ECONOMIC PROFILE BY INDUSTRY	18		
3.3. EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY	20		
3.4. BUSINESS PROFILE	22		
3.5. VISITOR ECONOMY PROFILE	24		
3.6. ECONOMIC IMPACT OF COVID-19	26		
4. STRATEGIC CONSIDERATIONS	30		
4.1. INTRODUCTION	30		
4.2. POPULATION ATTRACTION AND RETENTION	30		
4.3. A PRODUCTIVE & SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY	30		
4.4. BUSINESS SUPPORT AND INVESTMENT	31		
4.5. MANGALORE AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT	32		

FIGURES

F1. STRATHBOGIE INDUSTRY COMPOSITION	1
F2. STRATHBOGIE SHIRE REGIONAL CONTEXT	5
F3. STRATHBOGIE SHIRE DEMOGRAPHIC SNAPSHOT	6
F4. LOCALISED HISTORIC POPULATION GROWTH 2012-2019	8
F5. LOCALISED POPULATION PROJECTIONS 2019-2036	8
F6. STRATHBOGIE HISTORICAL AND FORECAST AGE PROFILE 2011-2036	9
F7. HOUSEHOLD TYPE 2011 AND 2016	12
F8. STRATHBOGIE DWELLING STRUCTURE 2011 AND 2016	13
F9. NUMBER OF PROPERTY SALES STRATHBOGIE 2010-2018	13
F10. EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS 2011 AND 2016	14
F11. UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	15
F12. OCCUPATION TYPE 2011 AND 2016	16
F13. STRATHBOGIE SHIRE ECONOMIC SNAPSHOT	17
F14. STRATHBOGIE VISITATION GROWTH 2010-19	24
F15. PURPOSE OF VISIT, 5 YEAR AVE 2015-19	25

TABLES

T1. STRATHBOGIE SHIRE POPULATION 2012-2036	7
T2. COUNTRY OF BIRTH	10
T3. PLACE OF USUAL RESIDENCE	10

T4. PRIVATE DWELLINGS, STRATHBOGIE SHIRE 2016-2036	11
T5. HISTORIC RESIDENTIAL BUILDING APPROVALS	11
T6. PRIVATE DWELLINGS BY SA2, 2016-2036	12
T7. MEDIAN PROPERTY PRICES 2009-2018	13
T8. SEIFA RANKING 2011 AND 2016	14
T9. MEDIAN WEEKLY HOUSEHOLD INCOME 2011 AND 2016	15
T10. JOBSEEKER AND YOUTH ALLOWANCE RECIPIENTS	15
T11. IN-COMMUTING & OUT-COMMUTING 2016	16
T12. STRATHBOGIE INDUSTRY SECTOR SUMMARY 2019	18
T13. INDUSTRY SUB-SECTOR ECONOMIC PROFILE 2019	19
T14. STRATHBOGIE EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY 2011 AND 2019	20
T15. INDUSTRY SUB-SECTOR EMPLOYMENT PROFILE 2019	21
T16. STRATHBOGIE NUMBER OF REGISTERED BUSINESSES BY EMPLOYEE SIZE 2019	22
T17. STRATHBOGIE NUMBER OF REGISTERED BUSINESSES BY TURNOVER 2019	23
T18. STRATHBOGIE VISITOR EXPENDITURE, 5-YEAR AVERAGE 2015-19	25
T19. IMPACT ON ECONOMIC OUTPUT	26
T20. IMPACT ON EMPLOYMENT	27
T21. IMPACT ON BUSINESS TURNOVER	28
T22. IMPACT ON VISITATION	29
T23. IMPACT ON EXPENDITURE	29

NOTES ON KEY INFORMATION SOURCES:

**Australian Bureau of
Statistics (ABS)**

ABS Census data is Australia's largest statistical collection, which helps estimate Australia's population, dwellings and demographic characteristics. It is based on responses received from private dwellings and individuals. The Census, which is conducted every five years (the most recent in 2016), provides information for the entire country, including small geographic areas and small population groups.

Profile ID

Profile ID analyses and converts raw ABS Census data into a demographic profile to inform council, community groups, investors, business, students and the general public. The Profile ID data for Strathbogie Shire provides a demographic analysis based on results from the 2016, 2011, 2006, 2001, 1996 and 1991 Censuses of Population and Housing. The profile is updated with population estimates when the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) releases new figures.

Victoria in Future (VIF)

Victoria in Future is the official state government projection of population and households. Projections are based on trends and assumptions for births, life expectancy, migration, and living arrangements across all of Victoria. This report is released annually, with government agencies, planners and demographers using the adopted growth rates to forecast population and housing growth. VIF provides information for the state, municipal areas and smaller statistical areas.

**REMPAN Economy
Profile**

REMPAN Economy provides data into the performance of key sectors of the economy, which is provided by state, region and municipal areas. This is underpinned by the latest data from the ABS and includes estimates of employment, output, wages & salaries, imports, exports and gross regional product for 114 industries. The information is drawn from numerous ABS sources, including Census data, National Input Output Tables and Gross State Product.

**Tourism Research
Australia (TRA)**

TRA provides statistics and research on both international and domestic tourism within Australia, including the value of tourism. This is based on two major surveys – for domestic and international visitors – that measures the contribution of tourism and provides input into visitor spend for Australia's regions and smaller statistical areas.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

OVERVIEW

This *Strathbogrie Shire Economic Profile* report provides a summary of demographic and economic data for the Strathbogrie Local Government Area (LGA), as well as key considerations for economic development.

This project was commissioned by Strathbogrie Shire Council (Council), with the aim of providing a baseline profile of Strathbogrie's economy for use by Council, industry, investors and residents. The report draws on a range of datasets including ABS data, REMPLAN, Profile ID, Tourism Research Australia and Building Industry data.

ABOUT STRATHBOGRIE SHIRE

Strathbogrie Shire covers around 3,300 square kilometres and is located some 125 kilometres to the north of Melbourne CBD.

Strathbogrie is positioned toward the centre of the state and is proximate to the key regional centres of Bendigo, Shepparton and Wangaratta. These centres, as well as Melbourne, are accessible to Strathbogrie via major transport routes, including the Hume and Goulburn Valley Freeways and V/line train services connecting the Shire to surrounding towns and urban centres.¹

The Shire currently attracts a large number of older age cohorts, including retirees, seeking a lifestyle change. This has contributed to an ongoing ageing of the population, which will have implications for aged care, health and social assistance. In addition, the Shire has experienced growth in household income, educational qualifications and employment, which has improved its socio-economic status. The continuation of this growth will be crucial in supporting sustainable economic development.

¹ In addition, there is an inland freight line (Melbourne-Tocumwal) that stops in Nagambie.

Leveraging off the region's natural landscapes and locational context, the economy – in terms of output and employment – is driven by four key areas, including:

- Primary Industries & Trade;
- Tourism-Reliant industries;
- Knowledge & Public Sector; and
- Population Driven industries.

F1. STRATHBOGRIE INDUSTRY COMPOSITION



Source: Urban Enterprise, 2020

The agricultural sector, specifically livestock and grain productions, is a key driver of output and employment. Supporting these key industries should, therefore, be the focus for recovery efforts to help overcome the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

STRATHBOGRIE SHIRE IN NUMBERS

Population

- **10,781 residents** in Strathbogrie Shire in 2019
- **+1,037 additional residents** between 2012-2019
- Projected growth of **+1,357 residents** (0.7% per annum) between 2019-2036

Demographics

- Median age of **52** (compared to Victorian average of 38)
- Residents aged **over 70 years** projected to **increase by +1,235 by 2036**
- Dwellings projected to **increase by +1,137** (0.9% p.a.) between 2016-2036.
- The largest household type is **adult couples without children** (31%)

Socio-Economic

- **SEIFA ranking of 26** (out of 79 LGAs)
- **43% of residents have a higher education qualification** in 2016
- **Growth in household income of 14%** between 2011-2016
- **Unemployment rate 3.6%** (March 2020), decreasing from 4.5% in March 2017

Economy

- Total economic output of **\$1.1 billion**, a regional export value of **\$458 million** and total value-add of **\$521 million**.
- **Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing sector** generates 31% of total output, 59% of exports and 32% of value-add
- The agricultural sector is driven by the sub-sectors of **Sheep, Grains, Beef & Dairy Cattle and Poultry & Other Livestock**

Business

- **1,402 businesses** in Strathbogrie Shire 2019
- 68% of these businesses are **non-employing**
- 46% of businesses are in the **agriculture sector**

Employment

- **3,593 jobs** in Strathbogrie Shire 2019 (representing growth of 187 jobs, or 5%)
- 27% of jobs attributed to the **agriculture sector**
- 10% of jobs attributed to **Health Care & Social Assistance**
- Between 2011-2019, the largest growing employment sectors are **Education & Training** (+55 jobs) and **Accommodation & Food Services** (+53 jobs)
- **78% job containment rate** for Strathbogrie Shire working residents in 2016

Tourism

- Average of **344,114 visitors p.a.** to Strathbogrie Shire between 2015-2019
- Represents average **growth of +45,225** visitors per annum from 2010-2014
- 60% are **daytrip** visitors, followed by **domestic overnight** visitors (40%)
- **\$56.4 million per annum** in direct visitor expenditure in Strathbogrie Shire (2015-2019 average)

Estimated COVID-19 Impacts

- 11% decrease in **economic output**
- 7% decrease in **employment**
- 25% of businesses applying for **JobSeeker payments**
- 43% decrease in **visitation** and **visitor expenditure**

STRATEGIC CONSIDERATIONS

The following summarises some of the high-level strategic considerations for economic development in Strathbogrie, given the current economic profile as well as the recent impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

- Importance of **population attraction and retention strategies**, particularly young families, to support employment growth and provide a more sustainable community. The recent impact of COVID-19 presents the opportunity to attract remote workers to the Shire, due to significant changes in workforce patterns. More specifically, the pandemic has led to a higher prevalence of working from home and, therefore, more flexibility for employees in choosing a place of residence.
- Focus on **growth and emerging industries**, particularly growth opportunities for agriculture, including the sub-sectors of *Sheep, Grains, Beef & Dairy Cattle* and *Poultry & Other Livestock*, to drive economic and employment growth.
- Provide **meaningful business support**, through Council support and provision of appropriate infrastructure, to grow the business base and develop employment opportunities.
- Maintain **growth in the tourism industry**, by leveraging the Shire's competitive advantages, including Lake Nagambie, the Goulburn River, wineries and Strathbogrie Ranges. Attracting investment in these key products and experiences will help drive visitation, diversify the economy and create more employment opportunities.
- Leveraging the region's road and rail **transport infrastructure** to support population attraction, employment and economic growth.
- Develop a **Strategic Action Plan** to support business and economic recovery in response to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Council should play a leading role, through understanding the key issues of the business community and identifying best practice responses delivered in other regions.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. OVERVIEW

This *Strathbogie Shire Economic Profile* report provides a summary of demographic and economic data for the Strathbogie Local Government Area (LGA), as well as key considerations for economic development.

This project was commissioned by Strathbogie Shire Council (Council), with the aim of providing a baseline profile of Strathbogie's economy for use by Council, industry, investors and residents.

The report draws on a range of datasets including ABS Census data, REMPLAN, Profile and Economy ID, and Building Industry data.

The data collected in this report was researched and analysed during the COVID-19 pandemic. While it is difficult to determine the long-term impacts on the Shire's economy, the short-term impacts are likely to be significant, with business closures, reduction in economic output, decreases in visitation and loss of jobs.

Where possible, the short-term impacts have been identified, however, it will be important to monitor the impact of COVID-19 at the end of 2020 to understand the level and focus for re-establishing the economy.

1.2. ABOUT STRATHBOGIE SHIRE

Strathbogie Shire covers around 3,300 square kilometres and is located some 125 kilometres to the north of Melbourne CBD. It is a diverse geographical region, bordered to the east by the Strathbogie Ranges and to the west by the lakes district, which includes significant natural assets such as the Goulburn River and Lake Nagambie.

Strathbogie is positioned toward the centre of the state and is proximate to the key regional centres of Bendigo, Shepparton and Wangaratta. These centres, as well as Melbourne, are accessible via major transport routes, including the Hume Freeway and Goulburn Valley Freeway. The Shire also includes Mangalore Airport, to the south-west, which has an aviation-training centre and pilot academy.

There are several key towns within the region that drive residential, employment and economic growth, including Euroa (administrative centre), Nagambie and Violet Town (service centres), as well as Avenel, Longwood and the winery region around Mitchellstown.

The regional and local context of the Shire is illustrated in Figure F2 (overleaf).

F2. STRATHBOGRIE SHIRE REGIONAL CONTEXT



Source: Urban Enterprise, 2020

1.3. METHODOLOGY

The following methodology was undertaken in the delivery of this report:

- Profile Strathbogrie's demographics, identifying historical and forecast trends that may impact the local economy.
- Profile Strathbogrie's economy using a range of economic indicators (e.g. growth in output, employment, business), identifying historical and forecast trends that may have implications on the local economy.
- Provide an overview of the visitor economy and the growing role of tourism and related activities.
- Identify some of the short-term impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic to the economy and economic growth.
- Discuss the key considerations to be addressed in future economic development studies, including areas of focus and potential actions/strategies to be considered.

Where relevant, data is benchmarked against the Regional Victoria average to provide context and identify areas of competitive advantages.

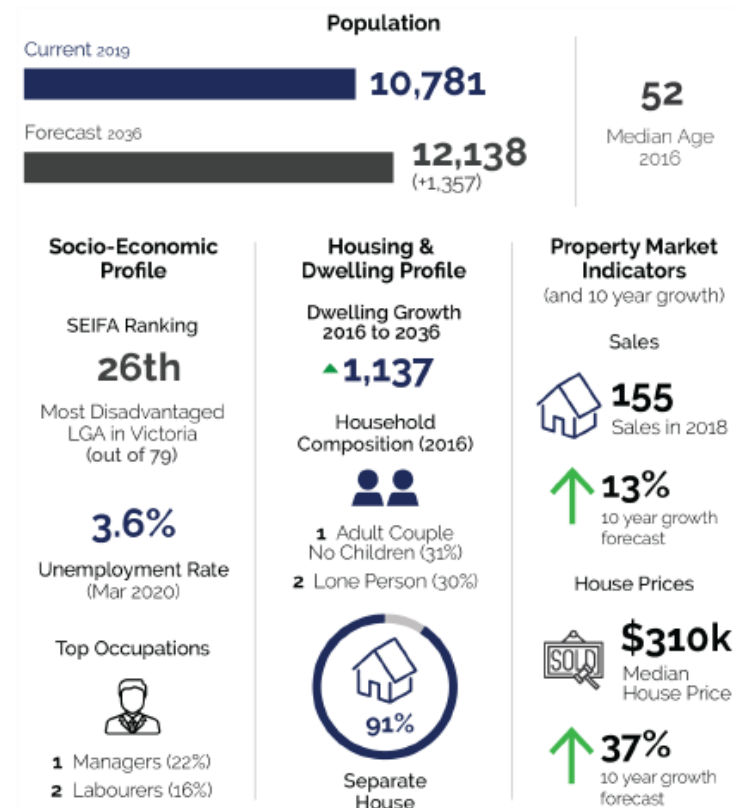
2. DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

2.1. INTRODUCTION

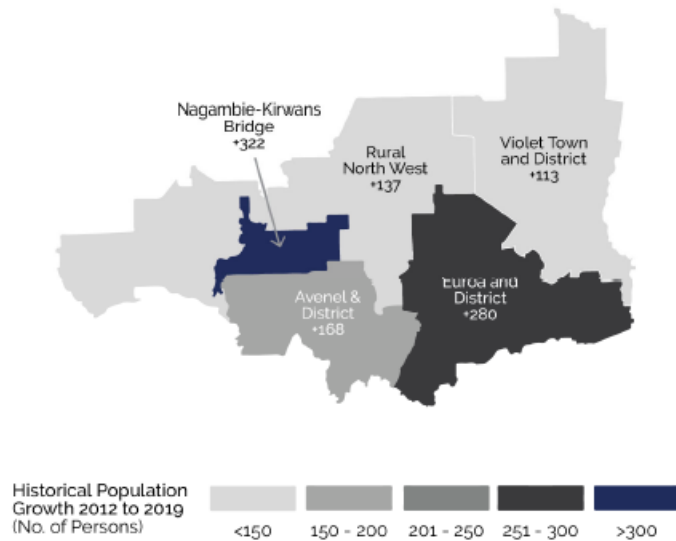
The following provides an overview of the demographic characteristics and trends of Strathbogrie residents. This includes key demographic indicators such as population profile, housing profile and relevant socio-economic trends, which has implications for future economic development.

A high-level snapshot of the Shire's demographic profile is illustrated in Figure F3.

F3. STRATHBOGRIE SHIRE DEMOGRAPHIC SNAPSHOT



F4. LOCALISED HISTORIC POPULATION GROWTH 2012-2019



Source: Profile id, 2020; Victoria in Future, 2019, derived by Urban Enterprise; Note: the aggregate of the localised growth does not equal total LGA growth, as these smaller geographies are subject to a greater level of revision.

* This data applies the adopted VIF growth rates to the SA2 areas, which is based on 2019 ERP figures provided by the ABS. The 2019 figure is used for this analysis as it provides the most recent population estimates for the SA2s.

2.2.3. LOCALISED PROJECTED POPULATION GROWTH

Localised population projections to 2036 are provided at an SA2 level by VIF, which includes Nagambie and Euroa SA2s. As shown in Figure F5, demand is concentrated in the Nagambie SA2 (+960 or 1.2% per annum), driven by growth in the Nagambie and Avenel growth areas. This represents around 74% of total projected growth for the Shire.

Conversely, demand is projected to be stagnant in the Euroa SA2 (+340 or 0.3% per annum), which is again consistent with the relatively slow rate of historical growth across the Euroa and Violet town areas.

F5. LOCALISED POPULATION PROJECTIONS 2019-2036*



Source: ABS Regional Population Growth, 2019; Victoria in Future, 2019, derived by Urban Enterprise; Note: the aggregate of the localised growth does not equal total LGA growth, as these smaller geographies are subject to a greater level of revision.

Strategies should be developed to manage areas of expected growth (e.g. housing supply, services, etc.), and to facilitate population attraction in areas of low growth, to provide a more sustainable community in localised areas.

This could include localised strategies across the Shire, similar to the *Nagambie Growth Management Strategy* (currently being prepared by Council), to provide guidance for managing future growth. These strategies can include aspirational growth targets based on the circumstances of local areas, including land supply, building approvals, etc. These localised strategies will help inform future planning and development in Strathbogrie.³

2.3. AGE PROFILE

Strathbogrie's population is relatively old, with a median age of 52, compared to the Victorian average of 38. This suggests both an inflow of retiree lifestyle residents the Shire and general ageing of the population.

Figure F6 shows the most recent and forecast age profile of Strathbogrie residents (from the 2016 census to 2036 VIF projections). As of 2016, residents aged over 55 years comprised almost half of the entire population, with the largest cohort of residents aged between 60 and 69 years, (18% or 1,853 residents).

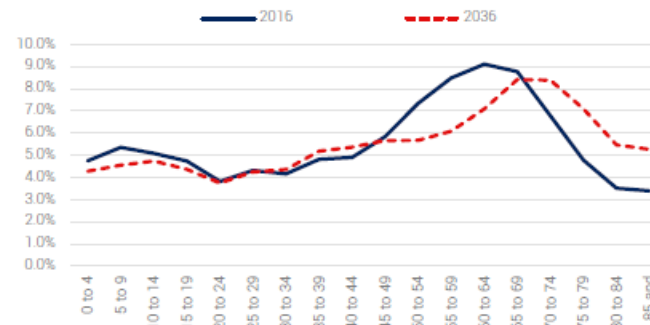
From 2016, the population is expected to age, with significant increases in residents aged 70 years and over (+1,235 residents), which will comprise over one-quarter of the total population (compared to 18% in 2016).

Conversely, younger age cohorts are expected to either experience proportional decreases (despite absolute growth), such as residents aged 0 to 19 years (2% decrease) or stagnate over time.

These trends could have implications for service provision within the Shire, with the increase in older aged cohorts likely to put pressure on aged care, health and social assistance.

³ The Nagambie Growth Management Strategy provides an aspirational growth target, based on increased dwelling capacity, of approximately 4,000 residents by 2036.

F6. STRATHBOGRIE HISTORICAL AND FORECAST AGE PROFILE 2011-2036



Source: ABS Census 2016, Victoria in Future, 2019

2.4. MIGRATION TRENDS

The following demonstrates the migratory trends of the Strathbogrie population, including country of birth and previous place of residence. This indicates the ability of the LGA to attract new residents and retain its existing population base.

2.4.1. COUNTRY OF BIRTH

Table T2 details the number of migrant residents living within the Shire, compared to Australian-born residents. The data shows that both the Australian born (+250 or 3%) and overseas born (+53 or 6%) residents increased between 2011 and 2016, consistent with overall population growth. However, in proportional terms the number of overseas born residents remained constant at 9% of total population, while Australian-born residents decreased to 81%.

These proportions are broadly consistent with the Regional Victorian averages, which suggests that if Strathbogie is to attract more overseas migrants, it needs to consider population attraction measures (e.g. housing, employment, lifestyle strategies, etc.).

It is important to note that 10% of respondents did *not state* place of birth in the 2016 census, likely distorting this data.

T2. COUNTRY OF BIRTH

Country	2011		2016		Growth	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Australia	8,093	85%	8,343	81%	+250	+3%
Overseas Born	866	9%	919	9%	+53	+6%
Not Stated	527	6%	1010	10%	+483	+92%
Total	9,486	100%	10,272	100%	+786	+8%

Source, ABS Census, 2011 and 2016. Note: Overseas born residents excludes countries of birth with fewer than 10 people.

2.4.2. PREVIOUS PLACE OF RESIDENCE

Table T3 depicts the top eleven LGAs where current Strathbogie Shire residents lived – according to the 2016 ABS Census – in 2011 and 2015. This measures the rate of migration and population movements.

Between 2011 and 2015, the largest proportion of new residents originated from surrounding regional centres including Mitchell Shire and Greater Shepparton. In addition, a relatively large number of residents migrated from eastern Metropolitan Melbourne areas (e.g. Whittlesea, Casey)

A deeper analysis of the data indicates that migrating residents are equally sourced from both Metropolitan Melbourne and Regional Victoria (including per-urban areas). This influx of Melbourne residents suggests that Strathbogie is attracting people for lifestyle reasons (e.g. tree-change, retirees).

As such, Strathbogie must ensure there is an appropriate supply of housing to maintain growth from the Melbourne market.

It is also likely that many of the new residents have had a previous connection with Strathbogie through holidaying at Lake Nagambie, visiting a winery, or through family connections. Therefore, achieving growth in resident attraction could be targeted to specific markets (i.e. retirees) or locations (i.e. eastern Melbourne). This also highlights the importance of tourism to expose potential residents to the lifestyle attributes of the Shire.

There is also an opportunity to attract remote workers (working from home), as workforce patterns change, following COVID, and there is more flexibility in choosing a place of residence.

T3. PLACE OF USUAL RESIDENCE

LGA	Previous Place of Residence (2011)	LGA	Previous Place of Residence (2015)
Strathbogie	6,873	Strathbogie	8,561
Mitchell	195	Mitchell	70
Greater Shepparton	155	Greater Shepparton	62
Yarra Ranges	71	Benalla	25
Benalla	58	Yarra Ranges	22
Whittlesea	50	Moonee Valley	18
Casey	45	Whittlesea	17
Wyndham	44	Casey	15
Campaspe	39	Wyndham	14
Hume	38	Greater Geelong	12
Macedon Ranges	33	Mornington Peninsula	11
Metropolitan Melbourne	734	Metropolitan Melbourne	216
Regional Victoria	698	Regional Victoria	293

Source: ABS Census, 2016

2.5. HOUSING & DWELLING PROFILE

2.5.1. DWELLING GROWTH BY LGA

Between 2011 and 2016, the total number of private dwellings in Strathbogrie grew by 637 (or 2.4% per annum)⁶. As shown in Table T4, VIF estimates private dwelling growth to continue to 2036, albeit at a lower rate of 0.9% per annum (which is lower than the Regional Victoria average of 1.5% per annum).

There is expected to be consistent growth in occupied private dwellings, increasing to a total of 6,823 (+1,137) by 2036, with occupancy rates remaining constant at around 84% (which is lower than the Regional Victoria average of around 89%).

T4. PRIVATE DWELLINGS, STRATHBOGRIE SHIRE 2016-2036

Dwelling Type	2016	2036	Growth (2016 to 2036)	AAGR (%)
Occupied private dwellings	4,797	5,743	+946	0.9%
Unoccupied private dwellings	889	1,080	+191	1.0%
Total private dwellings	5,686	6,823	+1,137	0.9%
Occupied dwellings (%)	84.4%	84.2%	-	-

Source: Victoria in Future, 2019

This growth in dwellings is consistent with the forecast rate of population growth (Section 2.2) and has contributed to recent growth in residential building approvals. As shown in the table below, Strathbogrie has recorded over 340 new residential building approvals between 2015-16 and 2018-19 (average 85 per annum).

T5. HISTORIC RESIDENTIAL BUILDING APPROVALS

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	Total	Average
New houses	76	65	101	99	341	85

Source: Profile id, 2020

⁶ ABS Census, 2011 and 2016

This growth in dwellings and subsequent growth in housing development is important for the strength of the local economy as this sector supports a large number of local builders, tradespeople and suppliers.

In addition, the dwelling data (and forecasted growth) can be used to assess the capacity for future population growth, based on supply-side data.⁷

2.5.2. LOCALISED DWELLING GROWTH

Localised private dwelling projections, by SA2 areas, is detailed in Table T6. This demonstrates that there is a significantly higher rate of dwelling growth expected in the Nagambie SA2 by 2036 (+726 or 1.4% per annum) compared to Euroa (+442 or 0.6% per annum).

These projections align with the rate of population growth for the SA2s (see Section 2.2.3), with Nagambie contributing to the majority of new dwellings to accommodate the larger increase in residents.

In addition, Nagambie is expected to continue having lower occupancy rates than Euroa, reflecting a higher prevalence of holiday homes, particularly for new developments proximate to Lake Nagambie.

Maintaining future growth in dwellings is important for future planning and economic development. Crucial to this is ensuring the adequate supply of residential land, particularly in growth areas, to support a range of housing typologies suited to market expectations. This will in-turn ensure that the jobs associated with the construction industry are also maintained.

⁷ This is used for identifying population targets, however, standard industry practice does not use new dwelling data for population projections (see Section 2.2). This is because the dwelling data ignores many demand factors (e.g. migration, changes to household size, etc).

T6. PRIVATE DWELLINGS BY SA2, 2016-2036

Dwelling Type	2016	2036	Growth (2016 to 2036)	AAGR (%)
NAGAMBIE SA2				
Occupied private dwellings	1,817	2,384	+567	1.4%
Unoccupied private dwellings	424	556	+132	1.4%
Total private dwellings	2,214	2,940	+726	1.4%
Occupied dwellings (%)	81.1%	81.1%	-	-
EUROA SA2				
Occupied private dwellings	2,983	3,365	+382	0.6%
Unoccupied private dwellings	467	527	+60	0.6%
Total private dwellings	3,450	3,892	+442	0.6%
Occupied dwellings (%)	86.5%	86.5%	-	-

Source: Victoria in Future, 2019, Note: the aggregate of the localised growth does not equal total LGA growth, as these smaller geographies are subject to a greater level of revision.

2.5.3. HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION

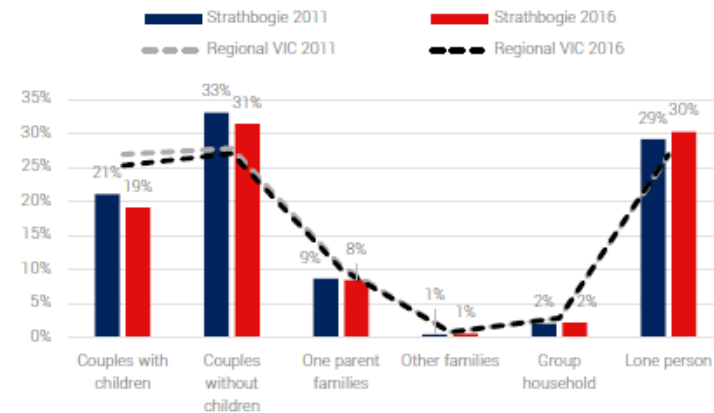
Figure F7 summarises the composition of Strathbogrie households between 2011 and 2016, benchmarked against the Regional Victorian average.

Strathbogrie has a relatively high proportion of non-family households, including couples without children (31% in 2016) lone person households (30% in 2016). This is consistent with the older age profile of residents and the 'tree change' market migrating from other locations.

Conversely, Strathbogrie has a relatively low proportion of family-type households, which is lower than the Regional Victorian average.

The types of households residing in Strathbogrie will impact the demand for certain housing typologies, as well as the demand for services catering to an older population.

F7. HOUSEHOLD TYPE 2011 AND 2016

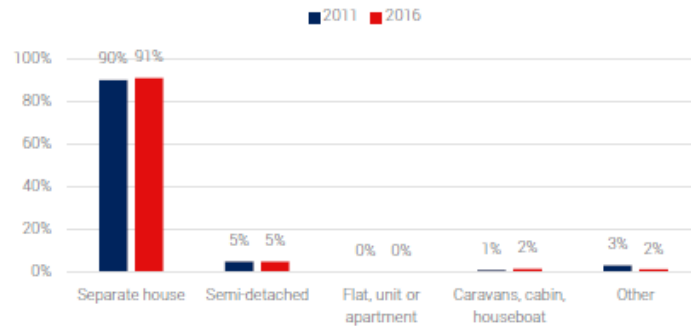


Source: Profile id, 2020

2.5.4. DWELLING STRUCTURE

The dwelling stock in Strathbogrie is almost solely separate houses (91%), while the stock of high-density dwellings is relatively small (see Figure F8). **Therefore, Strathbogrie housing can be characterised as low-density in nature, which is typically a lifestyle attractor for many retirees from urban areas.**

F8. STRATHBOGRIE DWELLING STRUCTURE 2011 AND 2016



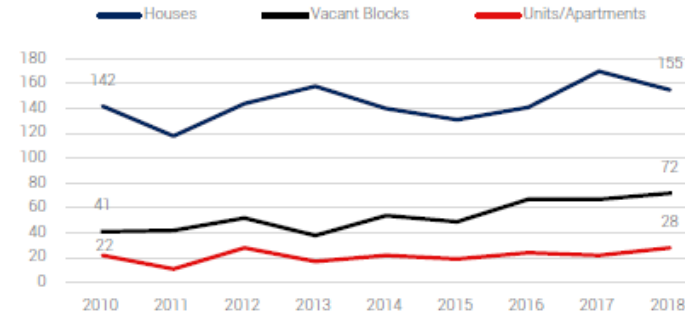
Source: Profile id, 2020

2.5.5. PROPERTY MARKET INDICATORS

As shown in Figure F9, demand for low-density housing is greater than high-density apartments, which is consistent with household and dwelling types (see above). Between 2010 and 2018, there was overall growth in annual housing sales, which increased to 155 (13% growth), while the largest growth was for vacant house blocks (+31 or 76%), which represents increased demand for housing.

However, there was marginal growth in units/apartments, which represents low demand for medium-high density housing.

F9. NUMBER OF PROPERTY SALES STRATHBOGRIE 2010-2018



Source: A Guide to Property Values, Victorian Valuer-General, 2019

As shown in the table below, there has been stronger than average growth in median prices for houses and vacant block, reflecting demand for low-density housing. However, despite this growth, the median property prices for Strathbogrie are more affordable – across all typologies – compared to the Regional Victoria average.

This demonstrates a relatively higher level of housing affordability for Strathbogrie, which should be leveraged to attract population growth.

T7. MEDIAN PROPERTY PRICES 2009-2018

	2010	2018	Growth (\$)	Growth (%)
MEDIAN HOUSE PRICE				
Strathbogrie	\$226,000	\$310,000	\$84,000	37%
Regional Victoria	\$270,000	\$365,000	\$95,000	35%
MEDIAN UNIT/APARTMENT PRICE				
Strathbogrie	\$247,000	\$257,000	\$10,000	4%
Regional Victoria	\$236,500	\$283,000	\$46,500	20%
VACANT HOUSE BLOCKS				
Strathbogrie	\$77,000	\$115,000	\$38,000	76%
Regional Victoria	\$122,500	\$157,000	\$34,500	28%

Source: A Guide to Property Values, Victorian Valuer-General, 2019

2.6. SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROFILE

The following information details the socio-economic characteristics of Strathbogrie, which is a combination of education, income and employment. The purpose of this is to highlight the relative economic and social position of individuals and households within the Shire, identifying opportunities for improvement.

2.6.1. SEIFA

The Socio-Economic Index for Areas (SEIFA) Index measures the relative level of socio-economic disadvantage based on a range of Census characteristics. The index is derived from attributes that reflect disadvantage such as low income, low educational attainment, high unemployment, and jobs in relatively unskilled occupations. A higher score on the index – and higher ranking – is desirable, as this represents a lower level of disadvantage (or higher level of advantage).

The national average index score is 1,000, with a score below 1,000 on the index indicating that an area has a higher level of disadvantage relative to the national average (and vice versa).

As shown in Table T8, between 2011 and 2016 Strathbogrie improved slightly, increasing by one index point and achieving a higher ranking of 26 (compared to 23). However, this ranking still represents the lowest third of disadvantaged LGAs, indicating areas for improvement in income, education and employment.

T8. SEIFA RANKING 2011 AND 2016

LGA	2011		2016	
	Ranking within VIC (79 LGAs)	SEIFA Index	Ranking within VIC (79 LGAs)	SEIFA Index
Central Goldfields	1	888	1	870
Strathbogrie	23	956	26	957
Boroondara	79	1,114	79	1,128

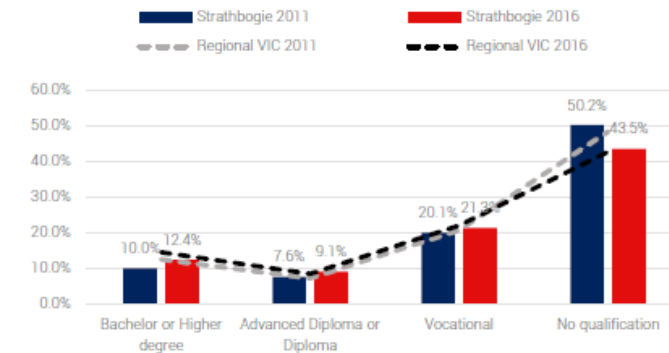
Source: Australia Bureau of Statistics, SEIFA Index, 2011 & 2016.

2.6.2. EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

As shown in Figure F10, there was a significant improvement in the number of Strathbogrie residents with a higher education qualification. Between 2011 and 2016, the proportion of residents with a bachelor’s degree, diploma or vocational qualification *increased* by 5% (+726), while the proportion of residents with no qualification *decreased* by 7% (-208).

These improvements have increased the Shire’s level of qualifications closer to the Regional Victoria average, and will play an important role in improving other socio-economic variables such as income and employment.

F10. EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS 2011 AND 2016



Source: Profile id, 2020

2.6.3. HOUSEHOLD INCOME

Median weekly household income in Strathbogie experienced an increase of \$119, or 14% growth, between 2011 and 2016. Over this period, average income levels across Regional Victoria have remained higher, with the disparity increasing over time.

This is reflected in the SEIFA ranking for Strathbogie, with the slower growth in income impacted by a combination of the high proportion of retirees, the Shire's unemployment rate and occupation type (see Section 2.6.4).

T9. MEDIAN WEEKLY HOUSEHOLD INCOME 2011 AND 2016

	2011	2016	Change (\$)	Change (%)
Strathbogie	\$843	\$962	\$119	14.1%
Regional Victoria	\$945	\$1,124	\$179	18.9%

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2011 and 2016.

2.6.4. EMPLOYMENT

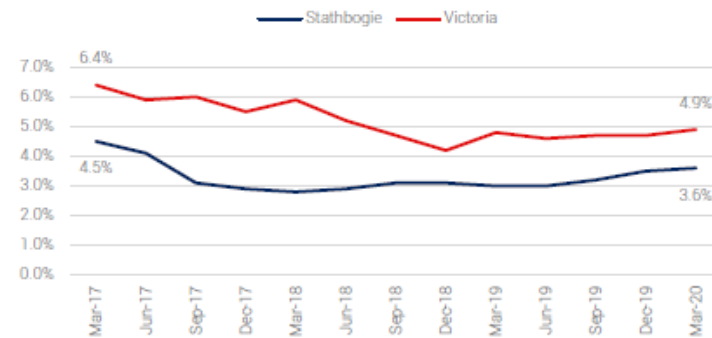
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

As shown in Figure F11, as of March 2020 the unemployment rate in Strathbogie was 3.6%, which represents an overall decline of 0.9 percentage points since March 2017. However, unemployment has been steadily rising from December 2019, which is likely to reflect the recent impact of the bushfires.

When compared to the Victorian state average, Strathbogie has a lower unemployment rate. However, this data is likely to be skewed by the relatively low participation rate (attributed to the high number of retirees), with fewer residents actively looking for full or part-time work.

* Represents proportion of population aged 15-64 years

F11. UNEMPLOYMENT RATE



Source: REMPLAN, 2020, Data from March 2019 onwards is from the National Skills Commission

However, the unemployment data shown above is likely to significantly increase in the short to medium term as a direct result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Recent data for the recipients of federal unemployment benefits – including JobSeeker and Youth Allowance – shows a significant increase over the past year.

As detailed in Table T10, between June 2019 and June 2020 the number of recipients within Strathbogie is expected to significantly increase by 315 (or 93%). At these levels, it is estimated that over 10% of residents will require some form of unemployment benefit. **As such, stimulus and employment strategies will need to be considered to assist recovery in the Shire.**

T10. JOBSEEKER AND YOUTH ALLOWANCE RECIPIENTS

	June 2019		June 2020		Change	
	Recipients	%*	Recipients	%	No.	%
Strathbogie	339	5.6%	654	10.8%	315	93%
Regional Victoria	55,953	6.1%	100,520	11%	44,567	80%

Source: Profile id, 2020

OCCUPATION

Between 2011 and 2016, employment in Strathbogie Shire grew in all occupations except for machinery operators and drivers. As shown in Figure F12, 'managers' is the largest occupation of residents (967), followed by labourers (685). Overall, the labour force is relatively evenly spread between 'white collar' (e.g. managers, professionals, etc.) and 'blue collar' (e.g. labourers, technicians & trade workers, etc.) professions. This represents a diverse set of labour skills and wide range of employment opportunities provided in Strathbogie.

F12. OCCUPATION TYPE 2011 AND 2016



Source: Profile id, 2020

JOURNEY TO WORK

The following data shows where Strathbogie's workers come from and also where Strathbogie residents travel to for work. This shows the degree to which the local economy draws on the wider region for labour supply (in-commuting); as well as the extent to which Strathbogie supplies employment to the wider region (out-commuting). This data, taken from the 2016 census, is demonstrated in Table T11, which shows that:

- 78% of the people who work in Strathbogie also live within the LGA, with the remaining 22% commuting to the area from other regions; and
- Around one-third of Strathbogie's working residents work outside the LGA, with the largest location of employment outside the Shire being the regional centres of Shepparton (519) and Mitchell (390).

T11. IN-COMMUTING & OUT-COMMUTING 2016

LGA of Usual Residence	Work in Strathbogie (in-commuting)	% ⁹	Live in Strathbogie (out-commuting)	%
Strathbogie	2,732	78.0%	2,732	63.1%
Shepparton	159	4.5%	519	12.0%
Mitchell	243	6.9%	390	9.0%
Other	271	7.7%	578	13.3%

Source: Profile id, 2020

This data shows relatively high instances of residents travelling for work outside Strathbogie, with the Shire supplying a significant amount of labour (32% or 1,487 employees) to outside areas. This is due to the greater number of employment opportunities in nearby areas, including Shepparton and Mitchell. This has implications for future strategies to grow local employment, attract employees from other areas, as well as improve access to regional employment 'hubs' for residents.

⁹ May not equal to 100% as some employees have no fixed place of work

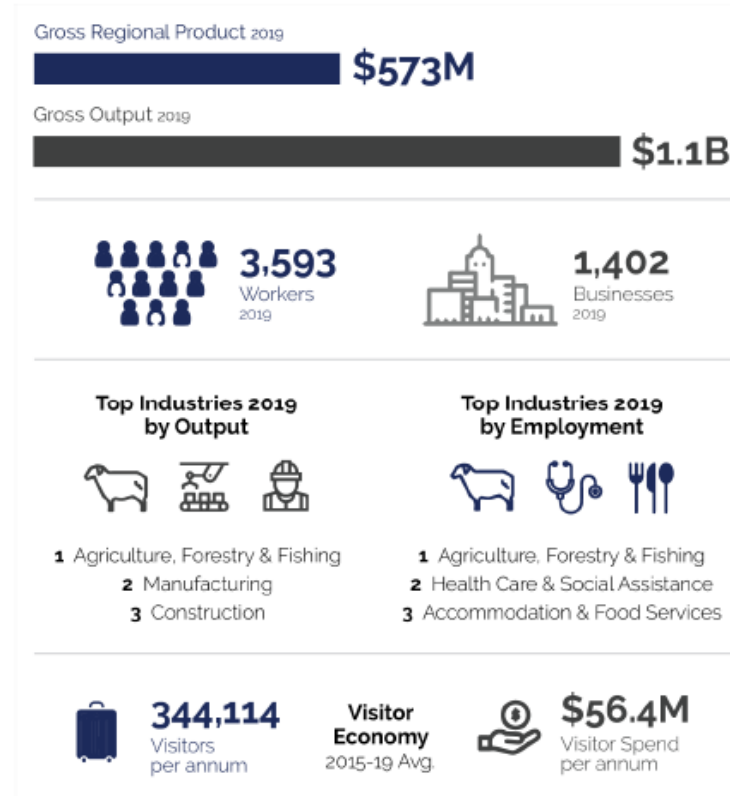
3. ECONOMIC PROFILE

3.1. INTRODUCTION

This section details the economic profile for Strathbogie, including the economic strengths, weaknesses and growth opportunities. Where possible, the data includes high-level and preliminary impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, including potential mitigation strategies and identified areas of need.

A high-level snapshot of the Shire’s economic profile is illustrated in Figure F13.

F13. STRATHBOGIE SHIRE ECONOMIC SNAPSHOT



3.2. ECONOMIC PROFILE BY INDUSTRY

Table T12 provides a summary of industry sectors in Strathbogrie, having regard to key economic indicators including output, regional export value, and value-add. In 2019, Strathbogrie generated a total economic output of \$1.1 billion, a regional export value of \$458 million and total value-add of \$521 million.

Strathbogrie's economy is mostly driven by the *Agricultural, Forestry and Fishing* industry sector, followed by *Manufacturing, Construction* and *Rental, Hiring and Real Estate Services*.

Key points to note include:

- The **Agricultural** sector contributes around one-third of total output and value-add, while it generates almost 60% of total exports;
- **Manufacturing** contributes 13% of output and 22% of regional exports;
- **Construction** contributes 11% of total economic output; and
- **Real estate services** contributes 10% of output and 15% of value-added.

T12. STRATHBOGRIE INDUSTRY SECTOR SUMMARY 2019

Industry Sector	Output		Regional Exports		Value-Added	
	\$M	%	\$M	%	\$M	%
Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing	\$333	31%	\$271	59%	\$169	32%
Manufacturing	\$142	13%	\$99	22%	\$29	5%
Construction	\$124	11%	\$8	2%	\$39	7%
Rental, Hiring & Real Estate Services	\$107	10%	\$2	0.4%	\$78	15%
Health Care & Social Assistance	\$47	4%	\$1	0.1%	\$33	6%
Public Administration & Safety	\$46	4%	\$13	3%	\$28	5%
Accommodation & Food Services	\$45	4%	\$10	2%	\$19	4%
Transport, Postal & Warehousing	\$44	4%	\$16	3%	\$16	3%
Professional, Scientific & Technical Services	\$35	3%	\$1	0.3%	\$17	3%
Education & Training	\$32	3%	\$4	1%	\$23	4%
Retail Trade	\$30	3%	\$2	0%	\$18	4%
Arts & Recreation Services	\$20	2%	\$10	2%	\$7	1%
Wholesale Trade	\$18	2%	\$3	1%	\$9	2%
Administrative & Support Services	\$17	2%	\$5	1%	\$9	2%
Other Services	\$14	1%	\$1	0.2%	\$7	1%
Financial & Insurance Services	\$14	1%	\$2	0.3%	\$9	2%
Mining ¹⁰	\$11	1%	\$10	2%	\$5	1%
Electricity, Gas, Water & Waste Services	\$7	1%	\$1	0.1%	\$4	1%
Information Media & Telecommunications	\$5	0.5%	\$2	0.4%	\$2	0.4%
Total	\$1,091	100%	\$458	100%	\$521	100%

Source: REMPLAN, 2020; Note: these industries refer to broad industry divisions using the *Australia and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC)* system. More detailed information on industry sub-sectors, and what is driving growth in these industry divisions, is included throughout this section. For example, The Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing industry for Strathbogrie is driven by 'agricultural' sub-sectors, while 'forestry' and 'fishing' sub-sectors generate minimal economic contribution for the Shire.

¹⁰ Driven by 'non-metallic mineral mining', which can include Gravel and Sand Quarrying, Other Construction Material Mining or Other Non-Metallic Mineral Mining and Quarrying

3.2.1. INDUSTRY SUB-SECTOR PROFILE

The following summarises the top ten sub-sectors, according to level of economic output, driving growth in key industries. As shown in Table T13, the *Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing* sector is driven by the **livestock and grains sub-sectors**, including Sheep, Grains, Beef & Dairy Cattle¹¹ (\$163 million) and Poultry & Other Livestock¹² (\$106 million). Other key points to note include:

- Manufacturing is driven by **Wine, Spirits & Tobacco** (\$74 million), driven by the winery industry around Mitchellstown¹³;
- Construction is driven by **Construction Services** (\$68 million) and **Residential Building Construction** (\$27 million); and
- **Ownership of dwellings** (\$93 million) drives growth in real estate services;

T13. INDUSTRY SUB-SECTOR ECONOMIC PROFILE 2019

Industry	Sub-sector	Output (\$M)	%
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing	Sheep, Grains, Beef & Dairy Cattle	\$163	15%
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing	Poultry & Other Livestock	\$106	10%
Rental, Hiring & Real Estate Services	Ownership of Dwellings	\$93	9%
Manufacturing	Wine, Spirits & Tobacco	\$74	7%
Construction	Construction Services	\$68	6%
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing	Other Agriculture	\$54	5%
Accommodation & Food Services	Food & Beverage Services	\$32	3%
Professional, Scientific & Technical Services	Professional, Scientific & Technical Services	\$32	3%
Retail Trade	Retail Trade	\$30	3%
Construction	Residential Building Construction	\$27	3%

Source: REMPLAN, 2020. Note: data is not provided for specific industries lower than the 'sub-sector' level.

¹¹ Dairy Cattle Farming is included within this sub-sector, per the ANZSIC classifications. We note that this sub-sector is driven by Sheep, Beef Cattle and Grains (and not Dairy). However, specific figures are not published at this level.

¹² Horse Farming is included within this sub-sector and contributes to economic output (however, specific figures relating to horse farming are not published at this level)

This data identifies growth and emerging sub-sector activities and specialisation within the Shire, which should be leveraged and promoted to generate growth in economic output.

Importantly, this shows the economic importance of the livestock and grain sub-sectors, which is a competitive strength for the Shire and, therefore, would benefit from continued support.

¹³ Data specific to the wine industry is not published at this level

3.3. EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

Table T14 summarises employment growth by industry for jobs within Strathbogie between 2011 and 2019. A high level of employment – and employment growth – typically indicates an area of industry strength.

In 2019, Strathbogie supported 3,593 local jobs, representing relatively small growth of 187 workers (or 5%) since 2011 across all sectors. This is likely to be attributed to the relatively high proportion of non-employing businesses in the Shire (see Section 3.4).

As of 2019, the level of employment in Strathbogie is driven by the *Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing, Health Care & Social Assistance, Accommodation & Food Services* and *Manufacturing* sectors.

Industry sectors that have experienced the largest increases since 2011 are Education and Training (+55), Accommodation & Food Services (+53), Agriculture (+52) and Health Care and Social Assistance (+52).

Conversely, the manufacturing (-51), construction (-18) and retail (-24) sectors – all of which are within the top six employing industries – experienced decreases in employment.

T14. STRATHBOGIE EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY 2011 AND 2019

Industry Sector	2011		2019		Change	
	Jobs	%	Jobs	%	Change	Change (%)
Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing	905	27%	957	27%	+52	+6%
Health Care & Social Assistance	311	9%	363	10%	+52	+17%
Accommodation & Food Services	263	8%	316	9%	+53	+20%
Manufacturing	336	10%	285	8%	-51	-15%
Construction	288	8%	270	8%	-18	-6%
Retail Trade	280	8%	256	7%	-24	-9%
Education & Training	196	6%	251	7%	+55	+28%
Public Administration & Safety	187	5%	164	5%	-23	-12%
Transport, Postal & Warehousing	121	4%	133	4%	+12	+10%
Professional, Scientific & Technical Services	98	3%	129	4%	+31	+32%
Administrative & Support Services	70	2%	115	3%	+45	+64%
Arts & Recreation Services	84	2%	114	3%	+30	+36%
Other Services	80	2%	100	3%	+20	+25%
Wholesale Trade	81	2%	44	1%	-37	-46%
Mining	10	0.3%	26	1%	+16	+160%
Rental, Hiring & Real Estate Services	32	1%	24	1%	-8	-25%
Financial & Insurance Services	38	1%	20	1%	-18	-47%
Electricity, Gas, Water & Waste Services	10	0.3%	14	0.4%	+4	+40%
Information Media & Telecommunications	16	0.5%	12	0.3%	-4	-25%
Total	3,406	100%	3,593	100%	+187	+5%

Source: REMPLAN, 2020. Note: Excludes jobs not aligned to an industry sector

3.3.1. INDUSTRY SUB-SECTOR PROFILE

Table T15 provides employment analysis for the top ten employing sub-sectors in Strathbogie, to demonstrate what is driving employment growth (and decline).

Similar to the economic output analysis, employment is driven by the **livestock and grains sub-sectors** (of the agricultural industry) including Sheep, Grains, Beef & Dairy Cattle (524 jobs) and Poultry & Other Livestock (272 jobs).

The hospitality (i.e. food and beverage) and retail sectors are also relatively high employing, providing for 268 and 256 jobs, respectively.

Other key points to note include:

- Employment in the health care sector is driven by a combination of **health care services** (184 jobs) and **residential care/social assistance** (179 jobs);
- School education (188 jobs) is a significant source of local employment; and
- **Wine, Spirits & Tobacco** (164 jobs) drives employment in manufacturing.

T15. INDUSTRY SUB-SECTOR EMPLOYMENT PROFILE 2019

Industry	Sub-sector	Jobs	%
Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing	Sheep, Grains, Beef & Dairy Cattle	524	15%
Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing	Poultry & Other Livestock	272	8%
Accommodation & Food Services	Food & Beverage Services	268	8%
Retail Trade	Retail Trade	256	7%
Education & Training	Pre-School, Primary, Secondary & Special Education	188	5%
Health Care & Social Assistance	Health Care Services	184	5%
Construction	Construction Services	183	5%
Health Care & Social Assistance	Residential Care & Social Assistance Services	179	5%
Manufacturing	Wine, Spirits & Tobacco	164	5%
Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing	Other Agriculture	137	4%

Source: REMPLAN, 2020

The Shire specialises in the livestock and grains sub-sectors, which are the primary drivers of employment and economic growth. This highlights the importance of agriculture to the Shire's economy, which should therefore be promoted and supported by Council.

However, this also indicates that there is scope to diversify the economy and focus on key emerging industries, including hospitality/tourism, as well as other industries that have experienced a decline in employment (e.g. manufacturing, construction, retail).

3.4. BUSINESS PROFILE

The following provides an overview of businesses within Strathbogie – across all industry sectors – outlining areas of business strength based on employee size (Table T16) and turnover (Table T17).

3.4.1. BUSINESSES BY EMPLOYEE SIZE

Consistent with the contribution to total output and employment, almost half of all businesses in Strathbogie (640 or 46%) are also in the *Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing* sector. This is followed by the *construction* sector (175 or 12%).

However, the majority of businesses – 959 or 68% – are non-employing (i.e. owner-operator), which limits its direct contribution to employment. Of the employing businesses, 30% are ‘small’ (1-19 employees), with only 1% employing over 20 people.

This demonstrates the need to diversify the economy, which is heavily reliant on a couple of major sectors, and promote business growth to increase employment opportunities.

T16. STRATHBOGIE NUMBER OF REGISTERED BUSINESSES BY EMPLOYEE SIZE 2019

Industry Sector	Non employing	1-19 Employees	20-199 Employees	200+ Employees	Total	
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	487	144	9	0	640	46%
Construction	107	68	0	0	175	12%
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	55	36	0	0	91	6%
Rental, Hiring and Real Estate Services	65	12	0	0	77	5%
Transport, Postal and Warehousing	33	30	0	0	63	4%
Manufacturing	28	26	4	0	58	4%
Financial and Insurance Services	57	0	0	0	57	4%
Accommodation and Food Services	17	33	3	0	53	4%
Retail Trade	17	17	0	0	34	2%
Administrative and Support Services	25	9	0	0	34	2%
Other Services	18	15	0	0	33	2%
Wholesale Trade	8	15	3	0	26	2%
Arts and Recreation Services	16	8	0	0	24	2%
Health Care and Social Assistance	9	3	2	0	14	1%
Education and Training	8	0	0	0	8	1%
Mining	0	5	0	0	5	0.4%
Information Media & Telecommunications	4	0	0	0	4	0.3%
Public Administration and Safety	3	0	0	0	3	0.2%
Not Classified	2	1	0	0	3	0.2%
Electricity, Gas, Water and Waste Services	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Total (no.)	959	422	21	0	1,402	100%
Total (%)	68%	30%	1%	0%	100%	

Source: REMPLAN, 2020.

3.4.2. BUSINESSES BY TURNOVER

T17. STRATHBOGIE NUMBER OF REGISTERED BUSINESSES BY TURNOVER 2019

Industry Sector	\$0 to \$50k	\$50k to \$200k	\$200k to \$2m	\$2m to \$5m	\$5m to \$10m	\$10m or more	Total	
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	228	201	198	7	3	3	640	46%
Construction	31	74	67	3	0	0	175	12%
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	20	37	34	0	0	0	91	6%
Rental, Hiring and Real Estate Services	23	33	21	0	0	0	77	5%
Transport, Postal and Warehousing	14	24	22	3	0	0	63	4%
Manufacturing	12	16	24	3	3	0	58	4%
Financial and Insurance Services	36	14	4	0	3	0	57	4%
Accommodation and Food Services	8	17	28	0	0	0	53	4%
Retail Trade	7	9	18	0	0	0	34	2%
Administrative and Support Services	12	13	9	0	0	0	34	2%
Other Services	4	14	15	0	0	0	33	2%
Wholesale Trade	0	12	11	0	3	0	26	2%
Arts and Recreation Services	10	9	5	0	0	0	24	2%
Health Care and Social Assistance	3	3	5	3	0	0	14	1%
Education and Training	3	2	3	0	0	0	8	1%
Mining	0	0	5	0	0	0	5	0.4%
Information Media & Telecommunications	4	0	0	0	0	0	4	0.3%
Public Administration and Safety	0	1	0	1	0	1	3	0.2%
Not Classified	0	0	3	0	0	0	3	0.2%
Electricity, Gas, Water and Waste Services							0	0.0%
Total (no.)	415	479	472	20	12	4	1,402	100%
Total (%)	30%	34%	34%	1%	1%	0.3%	100%	

Source: REMPLAN, 2020.

As shown in table opposite, due to the large proportion of non-employing or 'small' businesses, only a small fraction of businesses in Strathbogie generate large turnover of over \$2 million.

Conversely, 98% of businesses generate up to \$2 million in turnover.

Attracting large employing businesses that generate large turnover is key to stimulating employment and economic growth.

3.5. VISITOR ECONOMY PROFILE

The visitor economy is an important component of the local economy, contributing almost 6% of total economic output (around \$62.9 million per annum) and employing around 8% of the local workforce (274 jobs).¹⁴ As such, the tourism industry is ranked within the top 5 industries for Strathbogrie. Therefore, growing tourism is an important consideration as it helps diversify and strengthen the economy.

The industry is driven by the following key **destination strengths** that attract visitors and contribute to the visitor economy:

- Water-based assets such as Lake Nagambie and the Goulburn River;
- Nature-based assets such as Strathbogrie Ranges;
- A growing winery industry, providing specialty food and wine experiences;
- History and heritage (centred around the Ned Kelly story); and
- Festivals, markets and events.

With a range of products and experiences across the Shire, Strathbogrie has the opportunity to attract visitors and leverage its proximity to nearby regional (i.e. Shepparton) and metropolitan (i.e. Melbourne) centres.

3.5.1. VISITATION

Figure F14 shows the visitation growth for Strathbogrie from 2010 to 2019. Due to the small sample size for the SA2 regions, data has been presented in 5-year averages to increase the survey sample size and thus the reliability of results.

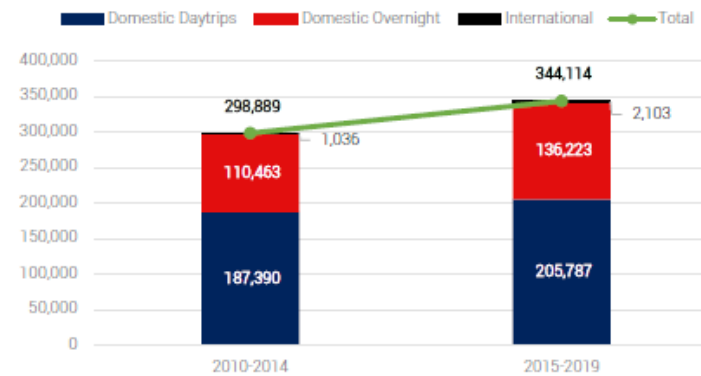
Between 2015-19, Strathbogrie attracted an average of **344,114 visitors** per annum, driven by the domestic daytrip (60%) and domestic overnight (40%) market (*note: international visitors make up less than 1% of total*).

This represents an average increase of 45,225 visitors per annum from the 2010-14 period (total growth of 15%). This was driven by increases in the domestic overnight (+25,760) and daytrip (+18,397) markets, while international visitors doubled.

This demonstrates the increasing popularity of the region as both an overnight and daytrip destination. Strathbogrie can leverage its proximity to Melbourne and other regional centres, through appropriate tourism product and infrastructure, to grow the visitor economy.

In terms of dispersal, visitation is evenly spread between the western half of the Shire (incorporating Nagambie and Mitchellstown) and the eastern half (Euroa, Strathbogrie and Violet Town).

F14. STRATHBOGRIE VISITATION GROWTH 2010-19



Source: National and International Visitor Survey, Tourism Research Australia, 2010-2019 YE March

¹⁴ REMPLAN, 2020

3.5.2. VISITOR EXPENDITURE

As shown in Table T18, average visitor expenditure in Strathbogrie totalled \$56.4 million per annum over the 2015-19 period. This was driven by domestic overnight visitors (\$34.5 million or 59% of total). Overnight visitors are also the highest yielding market in terms of average spend per trip (\$246 for domestic and \$687 for international visitors).

Therefore, the development of tourism product/experiences within the Shire should be targeted to the overnight market (or converting daytrips to overnight) to increase the value of the visitor economy.

T18. STRATHBOGRIE VISITOR EXPENDITURE, 5-YEAR AVERAGE 2015-19

Visitor Type	Visitor Spend (\$m) ¹⁵	Visitor Spend (%)	Average spend per trip (\$)	Average spend per day/night (\$)
Domestic Daytrip	\$21.4m	38%	\$104	\$104
Domestic Overnight	\$34.5m	59%	\$246	\$109
International	\$1.4m	3%	\$687	\$42
Total	\$56.4m	100%		

Source: National and International Visitor Survey, Tourism Research Australia, 2010-2019 YE March, REMPLAN, 2020. Derived by Urban Enterprise

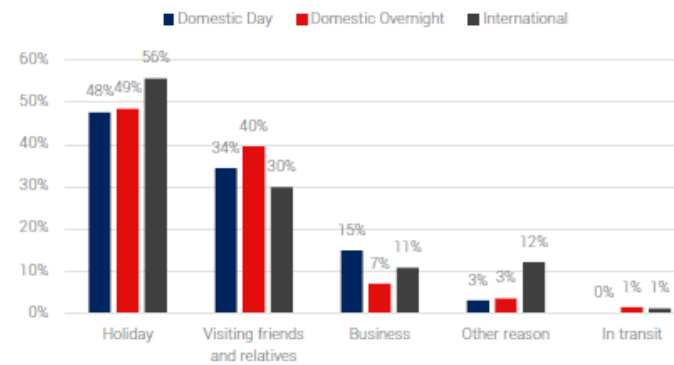
¹⁵ Visitor spend is calculated by applying average spend for average visitation levels for the 2015-19 period.

3.5.3. PURPOSE OF VISIT

The following shows the purpose of visit for all visitor types, which helps identify the key drivers of visitation to the region. As shown in Figure F15, the primary purpose of visit for domestic daytrip (48%), domestic overnight (49%) and international visitors (56%) are 'holidays', followed by visiting friends and relatives.

These results are significant in the context of the visitor economy, as the holiday market typically spends more on tourism product and entertainment.

F15. PURPOSE OF VISIT, 5 YEAR AVE 2015-19



Source: National and International Visitor Survey, Tourism Research Australia, 2010-2019 YE Dec

3.6. ECONOMIC IMPACT OF COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on the national economy, which has been felt at a local level. The impact to Strathbogie's economy and business activity has been quantified and is detailed below, including:

- Estimated impact on economic output (by industry);
- Estimated impact on employment (by industry);
- Estimated impact on business turnover (by industry); and
- Estimated impact on tourism industry in terms of visitation and expenditure.

Due to the recent nature of this event, the different impacts are estimated using various techniques and assumptions, which are explained below.

3.6.1. IMPACT ON ECONOMIC OUTPUT

The impact of the pandemic on economic output has been calculated using *REMPPLAN's COVID-19 Impact module* for Strathbogie Shire.

This data details the monthly changes in output – across industry sectors – between **March 2020** (i.e. pre-COVID) and **June 2020**, which therefore identifies the short-term impacts to-date.

As a result of COVID-19, the table below shows that Strathbogie experienced a total loss in monthly output of \$9.7 million (or 11%) between March and June 2020. The sectors most severely impacted to-date are some of the key sectors driving economic growth, including **Agriculture** (-\$1.7m), **Manufacturing** (-\$1.4m), **Construction** (-\$1.3m) and **Real Estate** (-\$1.8m). These sectors, therefore, will require the most support in the short-medium term to assist economic recovery.

Overall, the economic loss is consistent with the average decline in economic output across Victoria (-11%).

T19. IMPACT ON ECONOMIC OUTPUT

Industry Sector	March 2020 (pre-COVID) \$M	June 2020 \$M	Change \$M	Change (%)
Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing	\$27.7	\$26.0	-\$1.7	-6%
Manufacturing	\$11.8	\$10.4	-\$1.4	-12%
Construction	\$10.3	\$9.0	-\$1.3	-12%
Rental, Hiring & Real Estate Services	\$9.0	\$7.1	-\$1.8	-20%
Health Care & Social Assistance	\$3.9	\$3.6	-\$0.3	-8%
Public Administration & Safety	\$3.8	\$3.6	-\$0.2	-5%
Accommodation & Food Services	\$3.7	\$3.2	-\$0.5	-13%
Transport, Postal & Warehousing	\$3.6	\$3.3	-\$0.3	-8%
Professional, Scientific & Technical Services	\$2.9	\$2.6	-\$0.3	-10%
Education & Training	\$2.6	\$2.2	-\$0.5	-17%
Retail Trade	\$2.5	\$2.2	-\$0.3	-13%
Arts & Recreation Services	\$1.6	\$1.4	-\$0.3	-17%
Wholesale Trade	\$1.5	\$1.3	-\$0.2	-15%
Administrative & Support Services	\$1.4	\$1.3	-\$0.1	-5%
Other Services	\$1.2	\$1.0	-\$0.2	-19%
Financial & Insurance Services	\$1.2	\$1.1	-\$0.1	-8%
Mining	\$0.9	\$0.8	-\$0.1	-11%
Electricity, Gas, Water & Waste Services	\$0.62	\$0.6	-\$0.3	-4%
Information Media & Telecommunications	\$0.5	\$0.4	-\$0.1	-13%
Total	\$90.9	\$81.2	-\$9.7	-11%
Victoria	\$77,033	\$68,637	-\$8,395	-11%

Source: REMPLAN, 2020; Derived by Urban Enterprise

3.6.2. IMPACT ON EMPLOYMENT

Using *REMPLAN's COVID-19 Impact module* for Strathbogrie Shire, the following details the monthly changes in employment by industry from March to June 2020.

As shown in Table T20, a total of 244 jobs (-7%) were lost in Strathbogrie Shire between March and June 2020. The hardest hit employment sectors are again some of the key sectors driving employment, including:

- Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing (-55 jobs);
- Health Care & Social Assistance (-21 jobs);
- Manufacturing (-29 jobs);
- Construction (-23 jobs); and
- Education & Training (-22 jobs).

T20. IMPACT ON EMPLOYMENT

Industry Sector	March 2020 (pre-COVID) \$M	June 2020 \$M	Change \$M	Change (%)
Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing	957	902	-55	-6%
Health Care & Social Assistance	363	342	-21	-6%
Accommodation & Food Services	316	298	-18	-6%
Manufacturing	285	256	-29	-10%
Construction	270	247	-23	-9%
Retail Trade	256	241	-15	-6%
Education & Training	251	229	-22	-9%
Public Administration & Safety	164	159	-5	-3%
Transport, Postal & Warehousing	133	130	-3	-2%
Professional, Scientific & Technical Services	129	117	-12	-9%
Administrative & Support Services	115	112	-3	-3%
Arts & Recreation Services	114	100	-14	-12%
Other Services	100	87	-13	-13%
Wholesale Trade	44	40	-4	-9%
Mining	26	24	-2	-8%
Rental, Hiring & Real Estate Services	24	21	-3	-13%
Financial & Insurance Services	20	19	-1	-5%
Electricity, Gas, Water & Waste Services	14	14	0	0%
Information Media & Telecommunications	12	11	-1	-8%
Total	3,593	3,349	-244	-7%
Victoria	2,730,332	2,542,636	-187,696	-7%

Source: REMPLAN, 2020. Derived by Urban Enterprise

However, the impact on employment is expected increase in late-2020 should the JobSeeker initiative conclude. Furthermore, the impact on individual businesses is less evident through this data, as there is a high proportion of sole traders within the Shire that would be unable to reduce staff numbers.

3.6.3. IMPACT ON BUSINESSES

The following outlines the estimated impact on business turnover by industry. Due to lack of published data, this is quantified using the average results from *business surveys* (conducted by Urban Enterprise) in surrounding LGAs including Murrindindi and Mansfield.

Urban Enterprise distributed surveys to businesses across Murrindindi and Mansfield to report the COVID-19 impact on turnover for the June 2020 quarter, compared to the same time last year (2019).

Although not specific to Strathbogrie, the proximity and similarity of these LGAs can provide a guide as to the estimated changes in business turnover experienced in Strathbogrie.

As shown in Table T21, June 2020 quarter results showed an average downturn in most industry sectors, particularly the tourism reliant sector of Accommodation and Food Services (-53%), Arts and Recreation Services (-46%) and Retail Trade (-29%).

In addition, businesses within the key economic sectors for the Shire, including Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing (-15%) and Rental, Hiring and Real Estate Services (-38%) have also experienced significant decreases in turnover.

These results have led to increases in applications for JobSeeker assistance, with an estimated 25.6% of local businesses having already applied for support.¹⁶

In addition, the survey results indicated that businesses will require additional Council support to assist in recovery efforts, including:

- Assistance with marketing and promotion of local businesses within the community and across Victoria.
- Financial assistance with payment of Council rates or reduction in rate fees.
- Grants to support upgrades and contact-free operations.
- Training and support to understand and access government support schemes.
- Coordination of local business support networks.

¹⁶ REMPLAN, 2020

T21. IMPACT ON BUSINESS TURNOVER

Industry Sector	June Quarter 2020
Accommodation and Food Services	-53%
Information Media and Telecommunications	-50%
Arts and Recreation Services	-46%
Rental, Hiring and Real Estate Services	-38%
Other Services	-33%
Retail Trade	-29%
Education and Training	-16%
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	-15%
Health Care and Social Assistance	-9%
Financial and Insurance Services	-7%
Construction	-4%
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	0%
Manufacturing	+3%
Transport, Postal and Warehousing	+3%

Source: Mansfield and Murrindindi COVID-19 Recovery Plan Business Survey, Urban Enterprise, 2020. Note: excludes Administrative and Support Services and Public Administration and Safety due to low response rate.

3.6.4. IMPACT ON TOURISM INDUSTRY

The COVID-19 pandemic and summer bushfires have created a major downturn in Australia's visitor economy. The estimated impact on visitation and visitor expenditure for the Shire was quantified using the following methodology:

- The proportional decrease in visitation and visitor expenditure was based on average output loss in the June 2020 quarter across tourism businesses in Murrindindi and Mansfield (compared to the same time last year). This was derived from the business survey conducted by Urban Enterprise; and
- This decrease was applied to the 2015-2019 averages and annualised to estimate the short-term impacts on visitation and expenditure for 2020.

Although not specific to Strathbogrie, the proximity and similarity of Mansfield and Murrindindi can provide a guide as to the estimated impact to the Strathbogrie tourism industry.

Tables T22 and T23 detail the impacts to visitation and expenditure, which assumes an **average decrease of 43%** from current levels (note: this was evenly distributed across all visitor types). This represents the effects of restrictions to domestic and international travel, as well as restrictions on patron numbers for hospitality and accommodation venues.

Based on this, it is estimated that visitation to the Shire will **decrease by 147,969 visitors**, with the heaviest losses experienced by the daytrip market (-88,489), particularly as travel from Melbourne has been heavily reduced.

As a result, it is estimated that visitor expenditure will **decrease by \$24.2 million**, driven by significant reductions in domestic travel.

Strathbogrie's visitor economy has been less impacted by international travel restrictions as the Shire's tourism industry relies mainly on domestic travel.

T22. IMPACT ON VISITATION

	2015-2019 Ave	Average % Decrease	2020 Estimated	Change
Domestic Daytrips	205,787	-43%	117,299	-88,489
Domestic Overnight	136,223		77,647	-58,576
International	2,103		1,199	-904
Total	344,114		196,145	-147,969

Source: Mansfield and Murrindindi COVID-19 Recovery Plan Business Survey, Derived by Urban Enterprise

T23. IMPACT ON EXPENDITURE

Visitor Type	2015-19 Ave (\$m)	Average % Decrease	2020 Estimated (\$m)	Change
Domestic Daytrip	\$21.4m	-43%	\$12.2m	-\$9.2m
Domestic Overnight	\$34.5m		\$19.1m	-\$14.4m
International	\$1.4m		\$0.8m	-\$0.6m
Total	\$56.4m		\$32.1m	-\$24.2m

Source: Mansfield and Murrindindi COVID-19 Recovery Plan Business Survey, Derived by Urban Enterprise

4. STRATEGIC CONSIDERATIONS

4.1. INTRODUCTION

The following summarises some of the high-level strategic considerations for economic development in Strathbogie, given the current economic profile as well as the recent impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

These considerations could be used by Council to identify future measures, strategies and actions to generate sustainable economic growth.

4.2. POPULATION ATTRACTION AND RETENTION

Population retention and attraction can be a challenge for rural Shires, particularly given the growing trend of centralisation and the increase in rural-urban migration. Prioritising investment in initiatives that enhance liveability characteristics and build economic resilience can be an effective way to attract and retain population. Combined, these two factors strengthen the attractiveness of an area, as they can create employment opportunities, improve the area's attractiveness; providing high-quality infrastructure and services in health, education, retail, hospitality, entertainment and community uses.

The population data highlights that the growth in Strathbogie Shire is driven by the Nagambie SA2 (including the Nagambie and Avenel townships) and attributed to the attraction of older lifestyle residents (i.e. retirees) seeking a tree change. This growth supports residential building approvals and sales but is also likely to place additional pressure on public health care and social assistance.

Whilst the population has increased and is expected to continue over the next 20 years, overall growth in the Shire will remain relatively stagnant (due to a slow rate of estimated growth in Euroa SA2). Low levels of population growth are likely to impact overall economic development as it will affect labour force growth and result in labour shortages, which would impact the sustainability of local businesses.

Due to the skewed geography of population growth (concentrated in Nagambie), the Shire could focus on localised residential attraction and growth strategies in key areas to guide and manage development (building on the work already undertaken in the *Nagambie Growth Management Strategy*).

This focus on population growth should be targeted towards young and mid-life families, which will support labour force growth and provide for a more sustainable community in the future. This is facilitated through the delivery of high-quality land and high-amenity housing, that is suited to the market, in proximity to key nodes including Euroa and Nagambie.

The recent impact of COVID-19 also presents the opportunity to attract remote workers to the Shire, due to significant changes in workforce patterns. More specifically, it has led to a higher prevalence of working from home and, therefore, more flexibility for employees in choosing a place of residence.

4.3. A PRODUCTIVE & SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY

To ensure a productive and sustainable economy, Council should identify the priority areas for economic development in Strathbogie and leverage greater economic and employment outcomes from industries of competitive advantage, including growth industries and emerging industries. This includes leveraging the strengths in *Agriculture* (i.e. livestock and grains), *Manufacturing* (i.e. Wine), *Construction* and *Reals Estate*.

The focus for economic development in Strathbogie should, therefore, be on key industries that drive the local economy. support a high level of employment and have strong local supply chains.

To support a productive and sustainable economy, maximum value should be extracted from key industries, particularly agriculture, by exploring downstream processing opportunities. This could include (for example) expansion into agri-business, food processing/manufacturing and agri-tourism.

The Shire also has the opportunity to leverage its comparative advantages through transport links, including access to Melbourne via Hume Highway, inland rail freight service, Mangalore Airport, etc.

4.3.1. PROMOTING GROWTH IN THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR

Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing accounts for 31% of total output, 59% of total exports and 27% of total employment in the Shire. As such, it is the key competitive advantage and economic driver for Strathbogrie, particularly through the *livestock* and *grain* sub-sectors.

Agriculture also accounts for almost half the total business base in the Shire, however the majority of these are non-employing businesses. Therefore, it is critical that Council addresses any challenges facing this sector and promotes growth opportunities, which will drive economic development in the area.

According to Agriculture Victoria, there are a number of common challenges and opportunities for the State's agricultural sector, all of which are considered to be relevant to the industry in Strathbogrie Shire:

- **Infrastructure:** Addressing supply chain inefficiencies including improving road and rail freight flows.
- **Capability:** Adapting to climate change, using new and emerging technologies, responding to the potential for increased land use conflict, managing agriculture's social license to operate and meeting rural health needs.
- **Climate change:** Becoming more susceptible to weather volatility and extreme weather events such as floods, rainstorms and drought.
- **Innovation:** Opportunities exist in new and emerging technologies such as robotics, new packaging material, biotechnology and digital and wireless technologies for data measurement, weather monitoring, animal monitoring, geospatial monitoring and water management and chemicals.

It will, therefore, be critical for future economic development initiatives to focus on supporting agricultural activities in the Shire, particularly addressing any constraints to growth and promoting market opportunities.

Council should also identify the Shire's comparative advantages in agriculture and increase utilisation of areas with high agricultural potential such as Strathbogrie Ranges and Goulburn Valley (for example).

4.4. BUSINESS SUPPORT AND INVESTMENT

BUSINESS SUPPORT

A core function of Council's economic development activities is the provision of business support services, typically enabled through regular and meaningful engagement. This is designed to help businesses overcome specific challenges they face and help identify opportunities that could be further leveraged to achieve positive business outcomes. Key opportunities that could be pursued by Council include:

- Business training, mentoring and networking;
- Identifying grant opportunities;
- Assisting with planning and compliance barriers; and
- Providing digital infrastructure.

BUSINESS ATTRACTION

Council should also focus on attracting new businesses and increasing business investment within the Shire. Council, through the economic development unit, can support business attraction and target relevant industries by:

- Undertaking a gap analysis to identify businesses that are missing across sectors in terms of supply chain;
- Identify industries that are strategically suited to Strathbogrie but not present; and
- Ensure that there are equate stocks of zoned land supply to support new business investment.

4.5. MANGALORE AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT

Mangalore Airport is a 1000-acre airfield situated at the apex of the Goulburn Valley freeway and the Hume Freeway. Currently, its principal business is pilot training, particularly for trainee Chinese pilots. It is also proximate to the Goulburn Valley railway line and the main Sydney Melbourne railway line which is now being incorporated into the Federal Government's inland rail project. It also has a planning overlay that will prevent urban encroachment, therefore permitting industrial/airfield development without impinging on residence environment.

Council has commissioned a Business Case (in progress) to be submitted to the inland rail interface improvement project for a freight intermodal to be built at Mangalore Airport. Work is being undertaken by the accounting firm Ernst & Young, with input from Strathbogie Shire and the owners of Mangalore Airport. This Business Case will demonstrate project benefits, drawing on the airport's strategic location and the fact that the Goulburn Valley railway line passes through the airport site.

There is also strong potential for the development of an industrial/transport hub at the airport site, which is well positioned to service the northern Melbourne metropolitan area, the Goulburn Valley and wider regional Victoria. It is recommended that Council continue to advocate for the development of this site as a strategic asset for the region.

4.6. TOURISM INDUSTRY

Tourism is an important economic driver for the Shire, contributing the 5th largest economic output (\$62.3 million per annum), and is the 3rd largest employing industry (274 local jobs).

It is critical for the Shire to maintain growth in tourism – particularly domestic tourism following COVID and bushfire impacts – with investment in key products and experiences that meets contemporary visitor needs, including:

- Accommodation of various typologies including reinvestment in current accommodation stock;
- Agri-tourism, which leverages the Shire's key industry;

- Ensuring adequate visitor amenities and infrastructure to service visitors;
- Specialty food and beverage, which can complement the wineries; and
- Other outdoor recreation product that leverages the nature-based assets, particularly Lake Nagambie and Strathbogie Ranges.

Focusing on growth in tourism is important for the Shire as it helps to diversify the economy and achieve sustainable economic growth.

Council can support this growth in the tourism industry through preparation of a **Product Development and Investment Plan** focusing on areas of high amenity (e.g. along the Goulburn River, Lake Nagambie and in the Strathbogie Ranges).

Council could also explore opportunities to partner and collaborate with existing tourism organisations, in particular Tourism North East, to strengthen tourism governance for the Shire.

4.7. COVID RECOVERY AND SUPPORT

As detailed in this report, the COVID-19 pandemic (as well as the summer bushfires) have had significant impacts on the Shire's economy, including employment, business turnover and tourism. It is, therefore, critical that Council plays a lead role in supporting economic and business recovery, in collaboration with State and Federal Governments, through development of a recovery plan.

Recent work completed by Urban Enterprise identified three distinct phases of recovery, including:

1. Supporting Businesses through Restrictions
2. Returning Business Performance to Pre-COVID
3. A New Normal (reinstating a growth economy)

Understanding these phases and the level of support required helps provide a framework for Council to respond to specific business and economic issues as they arise. The opportunities to support business recovery from the impact of COVID-19 can be best identified through additional consultation and secondary research, including:

- **Primary research of the Shire's business community** through industry surveys, business workshops, direct liaison with business owners and employees; and
- **Secondary research of best practice responses** delivered by other Councils, international responses, and outcomes of emerging research.

Undertaking this work can enable Council to best identify areas of need, supporting requirements and development of a **Strategic Action Plan** to response to the three recovery phases.

ATTACHMENT 2:

Addendum

Executive Summary

Victoria in Future (VIF) is the official state government projection of population and households. Projections are based on trends and assumptions for births, life expectancy, migration, and living arrangements across all of Victoria. This addendum has been included within the Strathbogie Shire Economic Profile as current VIF projections do not accurately portray the growth Strathbogie Shire is currently experiencing.

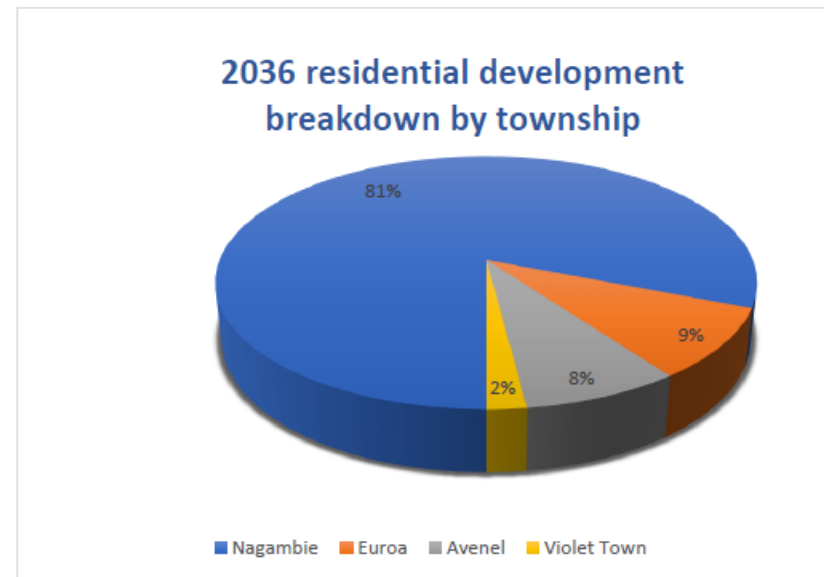
Population¹

- 2016-2019 additional 710 residents
- 10,984 residents in Strathbogie Shire as of 2019
- Projected total population of Strathbogie Shire in 2036 - 15,058
- Projected growth of + 4,074 residents between 2019-2036
- Dwellings projected to increase by + 1,852 between 2019-2036

Historic Residential Building Approvals³

	2016	2017	2018	2019	Total	Average
New dwellings	69	85	99	66	319	79

2036 residential development breakdown percentages of townships²



¹ Source: Strathbogie Shire Council issued building permits 2016-2019. Urban residential subdivisions approved by Council 2014-2019 & subdivision applications before Council as of 09/09/2020.

² Source: Urban residential subdivisions approved by Council 2014-2019 & subdivision applications before Council as of 09/09/2020.

³ Source: Strathbogie Shire Council issued building permits 2016-2019.

9.16 Sale of Land – 7 Industrial Crescent, Nagambie

Author: Director Corporate Operations

Responsible Director: Director Corporate Operations

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report recommends that Council commence the process under sections 189 and 223 of the *Local Government Act 1989* (the Act) to dispose of a property located at 7 Industrial Crescent Nagambie, following receipt of an expression of interest to acquire the property.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council :

- 1. Undertake the statutory public consultation process prescribed by sections 189 and 223 of the Local Government Act 1989 for the disposal of land known as 7 Industrial Crescent Nagambie (L 32 LP 218171 Parish of Tabilk) by:***
 - Placing notices of the intended sale of land in locally circulating newspapers***
 - Placing a notice under the 'Top News Stories' section of Council website***
 - Posting information on Council's social media pages.***
- 2. Consider any written and verbal submissions received during the statutory consultation period at a meeting of Council, on a date to be determined.***
- 3. Note that the Council meeting for the consideration of submissions, on a date to be determined, not be held if no submissions are received.***

PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND

Council owns a property with an area of 2,225 square metres located in the Industrial 1 Zone at 7 Industrial Crescent Nagambie. Other than a need for a 3 metre drainage easement, the property is surplus to Council's requirements.

A local business has expressed an interest in acquiring the property.

ISSUES, OPTIONS AND DISCUSSION

One of the Overarching governance principles in section 9 of the Local Government Act 2020 is that Priority is to be given to achieving the best outcomes for the municipal community, including future generations.

9.16 Sale of Land – 7 Industrial Crescent, Nagambie (cont.)

Any disposal of property needs to be done in accordance with Council's Disposal or Sale of Council Assets Policy which was adopted Council on 18 December 2019 . Included in the Policy are requirements for:

- A decision to dispose of an asset must be consistent with Council's Asset Management Policy and any relevant asset management plan that applies to the category or type of asset.
- Disposal of assets should be undertaken in an open manner, resulting in effective competition and in a way that stands up to public scrutiny. Fair and equitable consideration must be given to all prospective purchasers
- Council must aim to achieve best value for the community when disposing of assets, which is not limited to monetary value alone. The assessment of community value must include consideration, as applicable, of:
 - Whether the asset being disposed of requires replacement and if so, what new assets will be acquired
 - consistency with the Council Plan and other strategic priorities
 - financial considerations including all relevant direct and indirect benefits
 - efficiency and effectiveness
 - the costs of various disposal methods
 - internal administration costs
 - risk exposure
- any associated environmental benefits.

The Policy requires completion of an Asset Disposal Evaluation Form, which can be found at Attachment 1.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Sections 189 and 223 of the Act require Council to undertake mandatory public consultation when considering a proposal to sell land.

To facilitate this process, a resolution of Council is required to commence the consultation process and must include a discussion of the merits of the asset's disposal against the provisions of Section 8 Considerations to Identify Assets Due for Disposal.

The consultation process must be undertaken for at least 28 days. At a minimum, a notice is required to be placed on Council's website, however in order to be consistent with Council's Community Engagement Strategy, additional notices will be placed in locally circulating newspapers and on Council's social media pages.

Council must then consider any written (and supporting verbal) submissions made during the statutory consultation period prior to deciding as to whether the land will be sold. This reports seeks a resolution to hold a meeting on a date to be determined to hear these submissions.

9.16 Sale of Land – 7 Industrial Crescent, Nagambie (cont.)

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

Council Plans and Policies

Council Plan action:

- Review Council asset list to ensure ongoing need.

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

Despite passing of the Local Government Act 2020, due to phased implementation the provisions of the 1989 Act continue to apply in respect of the sale of property. These provisions are produced below

“Restriction on power to sell land

- (1) Except where section 181 or 191 applies, if a Council sells or exchanges any land it must comply with this section.
- (2) Before selling or exchanging the land the Council must—
 - (a) ensure that public notice of intention to do so is given at least 4 weeks prior to selling or exchanging the land; and

S. 189(2)(b) amended by Nos 91/1994 s. 36(6), 94/2009 s. 31(2).

- (b) obtain from a person who holds the qualifications or experience specified under section 13DA(2) of the Valuation of Land Act 1960 a valuation of the land which is made not more than 6 months prior to the sale or exchange.
- (3) A person has a right to make a submission under section 223 on the proposed sale or exchange.”

Under Council’s Policy, following compliance with the Act, sales are to be conducted through a public process of public auction, public tender or through registrations of expressions of interest, unless circumstances exist that justify an alternate method of sale such as the sale or exchange of land by private treaty in accordance with a Council resolution.

Sales and exchanges of land or land and buildings should not occur if less than the market value, as assessed by Council’s valuer.

However, if there is demonstrable and quantifiable community benefit gained by selling the land for less than the market value, or to exchange the land for land of a lesser value, a report to Council must explain the reasons leading to the recommendation to Council to accept a sale price less than market value or to exchange land for other land with a lower value. Council will then decide as to whether the proposed sale or exchange is appropriate.

9.16 Sale of Land – 7 Industrial Crescent, Nagambie (cont.)

Conflict of Interest Declaration

All officers, and/or contractors, involved in the preparation of this report have signed a written declaration that they do not have a conflict of interest in the subject matter of this report.

Transparency

One of the Overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that the transparency of Council decisions, actions and information is to be ensured.

Council is being quite open about the sale process, which is in accordance with the recently adopted Policy

FINANCIAL VIABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

One of the Overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that the ongoing financial viability of the Council is to be ensured.

Whilst there will be some costs involved in the sale of the property including agent's fees and valuation costs, the net proceeds have not been budgeted and will therefore improve Council's financial position.

SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

One of the Overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that the economic, social and environmental sustainability of the municipal district, including mitigation and planning for climate change risks, is to be promoted.

Economic

If a sale proceeds it will assist a local business.

CONCLUSION

The property in question is considered to be surplus to Council requirements and has the potential to assist a local business.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Land Disposal Evaluation Form

ATTACHMENT 1:



LAND DISPOSAL EVALUATION FORM

Completed form to be forwarded to the relevant officer or body as identified in section 16.1 of the Disposal of Assets Policy 2019. This form is to be used for land sale or exchange.

Details of Asset			
Asset identification (Council property ID)			
Street address	7 Industrial Crescent Nagambie		
Asset description			
Ownership details (eg any encumbrances on title)	Strathbogie Shire Council		
Relevant asset management plan disposal provisions			
Description of how asset is used and services it provides to the organisation and/or community	Vacant industrial block – no current use		
Current valuation of asset prepared by a suitably qualified Valuer (must be less than 6 months old)	\$89,000 – Council rating valuation. To be updated by additional valuation		
Estimated cost of disposal	\$	Total expected revenue (ie estimated market value minus cost of disposal)	\$
Assessment of the need for disposal against factors outline in section 8.1 of the Disposal of Council Assets Policy 2019	Underutilised, not currently providing any service		

Assessment of proposed method of disposal against the considerations of section 9 of the Disposal of Council Assets Policy	Public auction likely to achieve best outcome		
How the asset is going to be replaced (if replacement required)	Not required to be replaced		
How will the proceeds from the sale be allocated or spent?	Added to capital works budget		
Are there any legislative requirements that need to be satisfied?	Provisions of Local Government Act 1989		
Recommendation			
Signature, name and position of officer making the assessment		Date:	

Authorisation required under section 16.1 of the Disposal of Council Assets Policy	
<input type="checkbox"/> Council resolution	
Date proposal considered by EMT prior to being placed on a Council agenda <i>(if applicable)</i>	
Date of Council resolution <i>(if applicable)</i>	
Decision implemented by <i>(officer name, position and date)</i>	

The following factors must be considered when identifying an asset that is due for disposal and addressed in writing when completing the relevant Asset Disposal Evaluation Form outlined in Attachment 1:

- how the disposal of the asset implements the Council Plan, Strategic Resource Plan and long-term financial objectives (**Goal and Strategy in Council Plan**)
- the relevant Asset Management Plan's provisions for asset renewal and disposal (**renewal not an issue**)
- whether the asset is underutilised (**not being used for anything , currently vacant – allows for private investment**)
- useability of the asset (**would be used for industrial use eventually**)
- the remaining useful life of the asset (**land – not relevant**)
- current market value (**to be confirmed – in the order of \$90,000**)
- any duplication of the asset that supports its disposal (**NA**)
- annual maintenance costs (**minimal**)
- cost of repair or replacement for a similar asset (**refer valuation**)
- appropriate timing for the disposal to maximise community benefit (**currently not delivering any community benefit**)
- any impacts, positive or negative, of the disposal of the asset on the community (**sale proceeds will be available for investment in other community assets**)
- the service provided by the asset, whether it requires replacement to meet service needs and how its replacement will be funded (**nil at moment**)
- potential risk of ownership (eg contains hazardous materials), including health and safety risks for operators or the community (**NA**)
- cultural or historical significance of the asset (**NA**)
- any positive or negative impact on human rights and Council meeting its obligations under the Victorian Charter of Human Rights and the *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006* (**NA**)
- the outcome of any community consultation processes (**depends**)
- any restrictions on the proposed asset disposal (**Nil**)
- any other relevant Council policies
- where or for what purpose the proceeds of the asset's sale will be allocated or spent (**capital works**)

9.17 Community Funding Programs – RE3 COVID-19 Response

Author: Manager Community Wellbeing

Responsible Director: Acting Director Community and Planning

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council recognises the significant impact COVID-19 has had on our community, individuals, families, organisations and groups that provide services across our Shire. As part of supporting our community, it is proposed that Council initiate COVID Response Community Grants of up to \$5000 to assist organisations and groups to address the impacts of COVID-19 within their community. Proposed Community Funding Programs include:

- Community Grants
- Community Planning
- Sponsorship.

Community Grants

With the changing environment and the significant impact Covid-19 has had on the community it has been identified that a modified community grants program which will focus on initiatives that specifically address these impacts would provide benefit to the community.

A COVID-19 Community Grants Program has been developed and draft guidelines are attached to this report. This includes a new timeline with an opening date of 16 September 2020 and closing on 13 November 2020. It is anticipated a decision will be made at the December Council meeting with the newly elected Council representatives. Projects are to be implemented from 1 January 2021 and completed by 30 June 2021.

Community Planning

The majority of Community Planning Reference Groups have requested an extension for their 2019 – 2020 Community Planning projects. These projects have been delayed due to the impacts of COVID-19 and the various restrictions that have been in place.

The Community Planning program is due for review within the twelve (12) months following a Council election and this will be undertaken in the first six (6) months.

Sponsorship

It is proposed that sponsorship funds will remain in reserve to allow for applications which are likely to be early in 2021 to support events, which will reinvigorate and support the broader community post Covid and during the recovery phase.

9.17 Community Funding Programs – RE3 COVID-19 Response (cont.)

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 1. Maintain the sponsorship budget allocation of \$30,000 for potential post COVID-19 applications during 2020 -2021.***
- 2. Suspend Community Grants Program for 2020-2021 and endorse the RE3 COVID-19 Response Community Grants Program with a budget of \$85,000 and draft RE3 COVID-19 Response Community Grants Program Guidelines.***
- 3. Note that the RE3 COVID-19 Community Grant Program timelines will commence 16 September 2020 and close on 13 November 2020, with projects to be completed and acquitted by 30 June 2021.***
- 4. Suspend Community Planning/Community Action Groups Program for 2020 – 2021 and authorise officers to review this program in accordance with the Local Government Act 2020.***
- 5. Authorise officers to commence engagement with Graytown Action Group to establish an agreement for the management of their facility.***

PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND

To provide an overview of the status of the Community Funding Programs and the impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic. Additionally, to seek endorsement of as per the officers' recommendation.

Community Grants Program

Council allocated \$79,900 to twenty (20) community groups in the 2019-2020 Community Grants Program. Nineteen (19) of these groups have delivered their projects and completed their acquittal documentation. One (1) extension has been granted with the project due for completion by the end of 2020.

2020 – 2021 Community Grants

Due to COVID-19 pandemic and restrictions our usual timelines for the implementation of the Annual Community Grants program has been impacted for the 2020- 2021 program. Funding would have typically been distributed by now and projects would be in process of implementation. The impact of COVID-19 has identified that there are changing priorities for community, Council should provide avenues to address this. Consideration of re-developing the community grants program is one way in which Council can work towards addressing this.

9.17 Community Funding Programs – RE3 COVID-19 Response (cont.)

It is proposed that the RE3 COVID-19 Community Grants Program will be an avenue of support for groups. There will be a total budget of \$85,000 with grants of up to \$5000 available for projects and activities which address the following areas:

1. New one-off programs or activities that strengthen the Strathbogrie Shire community in response to the impact of COVID-19 and;
 - Aim to increase social connection and reduce social isolation, promote healthy relationships or improve social, physical and mental health during COVID-19 restrictions
 - Promote kindness and support for fellow community members
 - Increase the capacity of community to engage in the online environment such as training and development to use platforms like Zoom, Microsoft teams, phone film making to create and share stories etc.
2. The adaptation of existing services, programs or activities so they can sustain their operations or support operational changes to meet public health directives.
 - Technology equipment (iPad, laptops, monitors, keyboards, internet dongles, mobile handsets)
 - Signage about requirements/safety
 - Equipment to assist with maintaining physical distancing or reducing the need to share equipment.
3. The implementation of activities outlined in COVID Safe Plans
 - Buying cleaning and sanitising products
 - Portable or detachable sanitisers
 - Portable hand wash stations
 - Portable or detachable perspex screens
 - Personal Protective Equipment.

Due to the Council Elections and Caretaker period the RE3 COVID-19 Grants program will be advertised and promoted primarily by direct email distribution to all Committees of Management, Community Planning Reference Groups (Action Groups), Seniors Groups and clubs and associations across the Shire of Strathbogrie.

Community Planning Reference Groups (Action Groups) will be eligible to apply for this special one-off grant program if they meet the associated guidelines for eligibility.

Assessment of applications will occur after the closing date on Friday 13th November 2020. Initial assessments will be undertaken by Council officers who will then prepare summary reports for consideration at the December Council meeting.

9.17 Community Funding Programs – RE3 COVID-19 Response (cont.)

Community Planning Program

Council has eight (8) Community Planning Reference Groups (Action Groups); Violet Town, Strathbogie, Euroa, Longwood, Ruffy, Avenel, Nagambie and Graytown. Three (3) of the groups are incorporated and five (5) have no formal structure. All the groups have signed a charter for the delivery of Community planning. Only Graytown Action Group have the responsibility of a facility, but they presently have not agreement in place with Council for the management of this facility.

A summary of the status of the 2019 – 2020 Program is as follows:

- Two (2) out of the eight (8) groups have spent their allocation of funds and submitted their acquittals.
- The remaining groups have requested variations and extensions due to the impacts of COVID-19.

Under the existing Charter Agreement all projects need to be completed, funds spent, and the annual acquittal completed and reviewed prior to groups receiving further allocation of funds.

2020 – 2021 Sponsorship Program

The Sponsorship program is an annual program and accepts applications for consideration throughout the year, there is no official open and closing times for this program. It is proposed that this program should be quarantined to support post COVID-19 events and activities. This is now likely to be toward the end of the year or early 2021. Once events can occur again, applications will be sought for events that:

- Promote community engagement and participation
- Support gender equality, social inclusion and improve accessibility
- Contribute to building healthy and vibrant communities
- Increase economic development, tourism and the visitor economy.

All of which will be important to the community post COVID 19 and would align with the objectives of the RE3 sub-committee for recovery.

ISSUES, OPTIONS AND DISCUSSION

There are some issues identified in relation to the Community Planning program which will need to be explored during the review:

- Upon seeking advice from Macquarie Local Government Lawyers their view is that Council is risk exposed with the present program format, our existing arrangements where groups are making decisions to distribute funds to other community groups or to pay for items on behalf of other groups would not be viewed favourably.
- Groups need to be responsible for direct expenditure and cannot pass funds on to a third party. Some groups see the funds allocated by Council as money they can distribute to other community groups upon request. They do not have the authority to do this with public money.
- No formal structure for the Community Planning Reference groups may leave individuals exposed to litigation.

9.17 Community Funding Programs – RE3 COVID-19 Response (cont.)

- Groups without a formal structure are unable to auspice other groups, however they have been doing so since Councils previous decision to not require these groups to incorporate when their S86 status was revoked.
- Groups without formal structure are unable to apply for other external grant opportunities however, they can seek auspice arrangements for funding under an incorporated body.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

There has been no consultation with the community regarding the changes to the Community Grants program to date. Original plans were to undertake engagement in March/April 2020 however this was not able to occur due to COVID-19 restrictions.

As our community's confidence in using digital platforms increases, consultation will with the community regarding the community planning program review will occur using these platforms (or as COVID-19 restrictions allow). Additionally, a best practice analysis of other Councils community planning programs will also be used to inform the review process.

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

The following Council documents are applicable in the proposal:

- *Council Plan*: Enhance Community resilience, including supporting and increasing the participation of volunteers – Recognise and profile the importance of volunteers in our local community

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

One of the overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that Council decisions are to be made and actions taken in accordance with the relevant law.

Conflict of Interest Declaration

All officers, and/or contractors, involved in the preparation of this report have signed a written declaration that they do not have a conflict of interest in the subject matter of this report.

Transparency

This matter is in the interest of the community and the establishment of positive community and Council relationships which involve communication and collaboration to achieve positive outcomes. As such this is being discussed in a Council meeting open to the public in order to achieve the goals of public transparency.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

There are no additional financial considerations apart from what is already assigned in the 2020- 2021 budget. These funds are allocated in the budget annually for Community Grants, Community Planning and Sponsorship programs.

9.17 Community Funding Programs – RE3 COVID-19 Response (cont.)

SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

Economic

Because of the recent COVID-19 pandemic, it is now more important than ever that Council is seen to be supporting community and to have an understanding of the impacts the pandemic is having on our people, their lives, their work, their day to day existence.

Social

Social Isolation is having a significant impact on people during this pandemic. Initiatives which seek to address this in new and innovative ways should be encouraged and supported.

INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

Adaptation and review of programs in a changing environment is essential to best address the immediate needs of the community and to ensure we are delivering best practice and are meeting the needs of our community.

HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS

This report considers that the recommendations do not limit any human rights under the *Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006*.

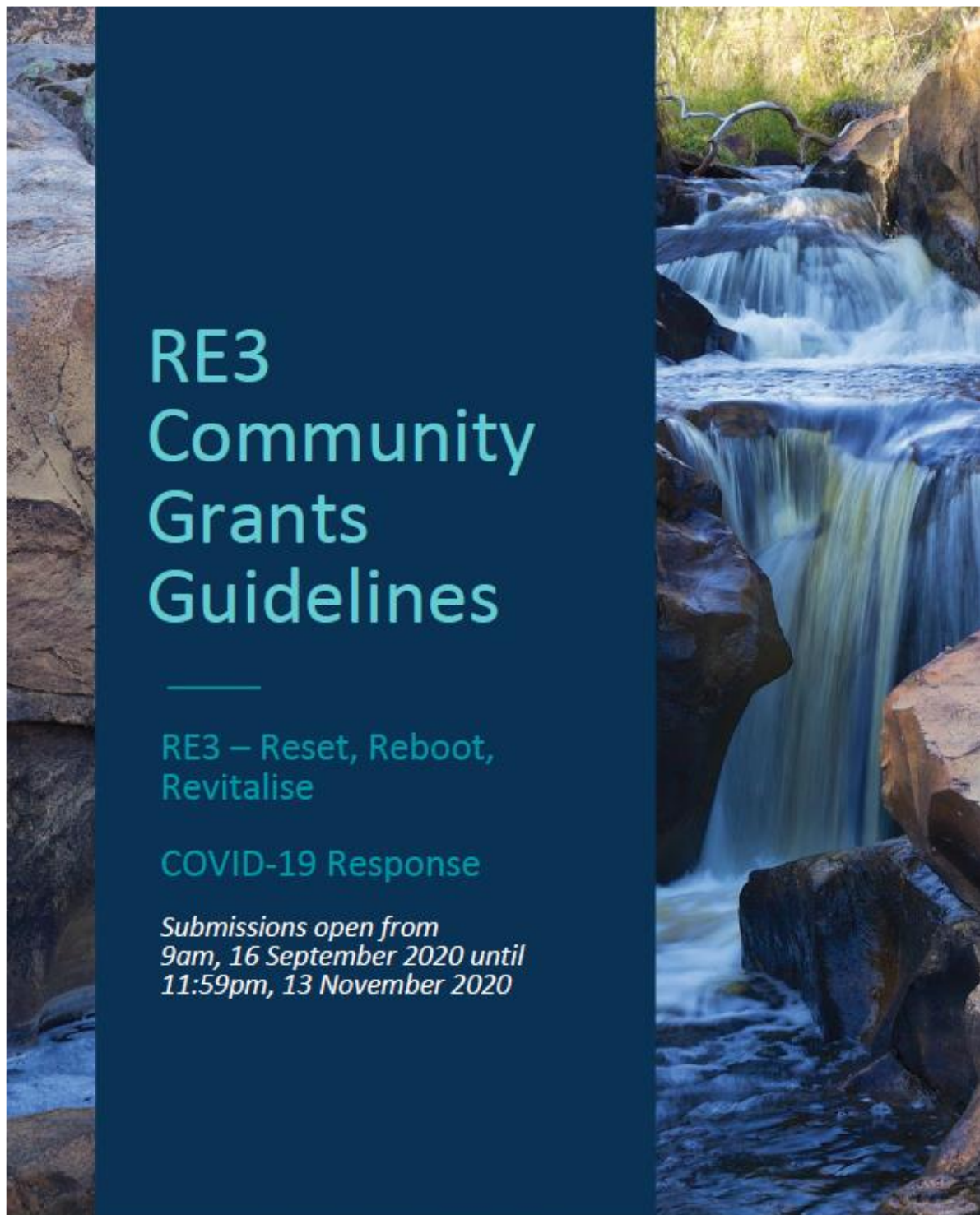
CONCLUSION

Council recognises the significant impact COVID-19 has had on individuals, families and the organisations and groups that provide services across the community. Providing the RE3 COVID Response Community Grants is a direct way in which Council can support this.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Draft COVID-19 Community Grants Guidelines.

ATTACHMENT 1:



Contents

1 RE3 COVID Response Community Grants Objectives.....	3
2 Eligibility criteria and conditions of funding.....	3
2.1 Exclusions.....	4
2.2 Conditions of funding.....	5
3 Assessment criteria COVID-19 Response.....	6
3.1 Information privacy and personal information.....	7
4 Budget advice.....	7
4.1 Expenditure.....	7
6 Assessment process.....	8
7 Grant Timelines.....	8
8 Contact details.....	8

1 RE3 COVID Response Community Grants Objectives

Council recognises the significant impact COVID-19 has had on individuals, families and the organisations and groups that provide services across the community. As part of supporting the community, Council is providing COVID Response Community grants of up to \$5,000 to assist organisations and groups to address the impacts of COVID-19 within their community.

The following types of activities will be prioritised for funding:

1. New one-off programs or activities that strengthen the Strathbogie Shire community in response to the impact of COVID-19 and;
 - aim to increase social connection and reduce social isolation, promote healthy relationships or improve social, physical and mental health during COVID-19 restrictions.
 - promote kindness and support for fellow community members
 - Increase the capacity of community to engage in the online environment such as training and development to use platforms like Zoom, Microsoft teams, phone film making to create and share stories etc.
2. The adaptation of existing services, programs or activities so they can sustain their operations or support operational changes to meet public health directives.
 - Technology equipment (iPad, laptops, monitors, keyboards, internet dongles, mobile handsets)
 - Signage about requirements/safety
 - Equipment to assist with maintaining physical distancing or reducing the need to share equipment
3. The implementation of activities outlined in COVID Safe Plans
 - buying cleaning and sanitising products
 - Portable or detachable sanitisers
 - Portable hand wash stations
 - Portable or detachable perspex screens
 - Personal Protective Equipment

2 Eligibility criteria and conditions of funding

To be eligible for a COVID Response Community Grant, your organisation must:

- Provide direct benefits to residents of the Strathbogie Shire (local organisations are prioritised)
- Be not-for-profit, as classified by the *Australian Tax Office in the Income Tax Assessment Act (1936)*
- Be a registered legally constituted entity (e.g. a co-operative, incorporated association or company limited by guarantee) or have an auspice
- Have an Australian Business Number (ABN), or complete a Statement by Supplier form, or hold an exemption from registration

- Have a committee of management that accepts responsibility for the administration of the grant
- Hold an adequate public liability insurance policy to cover the staff, members and the general public, as appropriate
- Not have its own grant giving program or fundraising program that provides money to finance another organisation's community initiatives
- Have satisfactorily accounted to Council for the expenditure of any previous Council grants if received
- Comply with all other relevant Australian and Victorian legislation, including: accounting and auditing requirements; equal opportunity and antidiscrimination laws; human rights laws; privacy, confidentiality and freedom of information laws; registration or accreditation of professional employees; and preparation and dissemination of annual reports
- Have an adequate risk management plan in place (as required).

2.1 Exclusions

- Individuals and private profit-making organisations
- Applications from groups or organisations that have an operating budget over \$1 million annually (organisations acting as an auspice and neighbourhood houses are exempt from this rule)
- Professional fees (e.g. labour, salary, wages) and administration costs (e.g. phone calls, correspondence, stationery)
- Applications from organisations or groups that own or operate poker machines, explicitly promote sports betting, or meet in venues that promote gaming
- Funding requests that Council considers are the funding responsibility of other levels of government
- Applications from primary or secondary schools (Council encourages partnerships between schools and community organisations, but the community organisation must be the applicant)
- Applications from registered political parties
- Religious projects or activities run by (or involvement with) religious groups seeking to promote their spiritual beliefs
- Projects that seek to lobby the local, state or federal governments about laws, policies, practices or decisions of governments
- Projects or activities that have already started or have been completed (no retrospective funding) except for applications to adapt projects or activities so they can continue to operate under COVID-19 restrictions
- Funding of competitions, prizes, sponsorships, donations or gifts
- New building works, capital improvements, facility maintenance or fixed assets (e.g. air conditioners, shade sails, cubby houses and sheds)
- Projects that have been or are being funded by other parts of Council
- Operational expenses such as insurance and rental subsidies
- Interstate or overseas travel.

2.2 Conditions of funding

- Applications will be accepted to adapt existing services, programs, or activities to operate under COVID-19 restrictions,
- The project must be completed within six months of receipt of the grant.
- Successful applicants and organisations who auspice applications will be required to become a signatory to the terms and conditions that lists all grant conditions. This must be signed before grant funds are issued.
- Auspice fees are not accepted and must not be included in the budget.
- Acknowledgement of the Strathbogie Shire must be made in any promotional material or publicity features.
- Successful applicants will be required to acquit the activity on completion of the project or activity. All evaluation reports will be required to be completed online via SmartyGrants. A link to the online form will be emailed to applicants.
- If Council's grant funds are not spent, all remaining funds must be returned to Council.
- Council may make funding conditional on other specific conditions being met.
- If the project/activity or timeframe needs to be varied, the applicant must contact Council to discuss.

3 Assessment criteria COVID-19 Response

Council assesses each application on merit. Eligible applications will be assessed using the criteria listed below:

% OF SCORE	CRITERIA (What you need to tell us)	MEASURE (How we assess it)
20%	<p>Who is delivering the activity/project?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Who is the individual/group/organisation and what do they do? 2. Is the group/organisation based within Strathbogie Shire? 3. What impact has COVID-19 restrictions had on members? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To what extent does the group/organisation demonstrate that it is able/equipped/resourced to support members that are impacted by COVID-19 restrictions? ▪ To what extent does the group benefit the local community and residents? ▪ How many local people are likely to benefit from the project?
40%	<p>What is the need?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What has been the impact of COVID-19 restrictions on the group/organisation's operations? 2. How will the proposed project alleviate the impact of COVID-19 on the Strathbogie Shire community? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ What is the level of need the project addresses? ▪ What outcomes should we see if this is successful? ▪ Is the project providing a solution to immediate needs within the community? ▪ What is the correlation between the need and the proposed project/solution?
40%	<p>How will you manage the project?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What are the planned activities? 2. How is your proposal offsetting/responding positively to community needs emerging from COVID-19 restrictions? 3. What is your budget? 4. How will you manage delivery? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Is the budget clear and realistic? ▪ Is the project financially viable and does it demonstrate sound management? ▪ How will the benefits of the project be delivered to the community? ▪ Has the applicant been able to demonstrate how they will deliver the projects whilst adhering to Restricted Activities and Stay at Home directives?

3.1 Information privacy and personal information

Council treats all personal information provided as part of a grant application in accordance with the *Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014* and the *Public Records Act 1973*. The personal information requested is being collected by Council for the purpose of assessing, processing and allocating applications. The personal information will be used by Council for that primary purpose or directly related purposes. The information may also be used to update Council's customer databases to assist Council in discharging its functions or providing services. The personal information collected will not otherwise be disclosed unless permitted or required by law. If the information is not collected, we are unable to process your application. Requests for access to and/or amendment of personal information should be made to Council's Privacy Officer.

4 Budget advice

4.1 Expenditure

- When completing the online application, in the expenditure section, only include the amount requested from Strathbogie Shire Council - not the total project budget (which may be more).
- The total income (amount requested from Strathbogie Shire Council) and total expenditure must be the same amount.
- All budget costs must be realistic and justified for the project proposal.
- The budget in the application must be completed with GST exclusive amounts.
- All applicants must complete a budget using the budget table provided in the SmartyGrants online application form.
- Auspice fees must not be included in the budget.
- All items listed in the budget must include a description of the item and the dollar amount.
- Some applications may receive partial funding. If your project/activity does not receive full funding, you will need to consider how it could be amended.

5 Submitting your application online

Please submit your application online in SmartyGrants.

[link to be provided once set up in SmartyGrants](#)

If you have not already registered for an account in SmartyGrants, you will find instructions here

[Link to be provided once all set up in SmartyGrants](#)

Access to the guidelines and application forms is via the following website link

[link to be provided once set up in SmartyGrants and information up on the website](#)

Applications and all supporting materials are due 11.59pm Friday, 13 November 2020. Late applications will not be considered.

6 Assessment process

Applications will be assessed after the closing date and applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application in late December 2020.

Our process:

- We undertake an eligibility check based on the conditions of funding.
- Applications are assessed by Council officers against the assessment criteria to provide a summary report to Council.
- Assessments and applications are provided to the Council for approval

7 Grant Timelines

Date Time Applications Open Wednesday, 16 September 2020.

Applications close Friday, 13 November 2020 at 11.59pm

Late applications will not be considered Notification of results Late-December 2020

8 Contact details

For general information please contact Debra Ellis (03) 5795 0000 or by email info@strathbogrie.vic.gov.au

There is also information on this grant opportunity on our website

[link to be included once set up on website](#)

9.18 **Nagambie Ageing Hub**

Author: Director Corporate Operations

Responsible Director: Director Corporate Operations

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report recommends that Council commence the statutory process under sections 189 and 223 of the *Local Government Act 1989* (the Act) to transfer two blocks of land in Carrick Crescent Nagambie to Nagambie HealthCare, with a land valuation of \$162,000 (Council Rating Valuation) as an in kind contribution to a project which will see the:

- Creation of an *Age Friendly* community Living environment
- Development of seven (7) additional units for supported living
- Eventual refurbishment of the Senior Citizens and RSL building
- Delivery of allied health services from premises adjoining the Nagambie Library
- Enhancement of the open space within the precinct in line with Rural Councils Victoria Older Persons Framework.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council :

1. ***Undertake the statutory public consultation process prescribed by sections 189 and 223 of the Local Government Act 1989 to transfer Lots 3 and 4 Carrick Crescent Nagambie (Lots 3 and 4 LP 220490 V9971 Parish of Tabilk) at no cost but with the land valuation of the properties being noted as Council's contribution to the project with Nagambie HealthCare Inc. for the purpose of developing additional units for supported living and enhancement of open space by:***
 - ***placing notices of the intended exchange of land in locally circulating newspapers***
 - ***placing a notice under the 'Top News Stories' section of Council website***
 - ***posting information on Council's social media pages.***
2. ***Inform the community that a Memorandum of Understanding and Section 173 agreement under the Planning and Environment Act 1997 would be entered into with Nagambie HealthCare should the exchange of land occur.***
3. ***Consider any written and verbal submissions received during the statutory consultation period at a meeting of Council on a date to be determined in consultation with the new Council.***
4. ***Note that the Council meeting for the consideration of submissions, on a date to be determined, will not be held if no submissions are received.***

9.18 Nagambie Ageing Hub (cont.)

PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND

Council has previously considered the concept of a Hub for the Aged and other services in Nagambie adjacent to the Nagambie Library and Senior Citizens Centre and involving the site of units formerly owned by Council on Vale Street, which were acquired by Nagambie HealthCare in 2016.

In 2018 Council signed a memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Nagambie HealthCare agreeing to work together to further develop the concept, allowing community access to aged care, supported living, home care and chronic disease assessment and self-management services, with Council agreeing to withhold Lots 3 and 4 Carrick Crescent (Lots 3 and 4 LP 220490 V9971 Parish of Tabilk) from sale until future plans for the precinct are finalised.

Nagambie HealthCare now wish to progress the development of the additional units on the Vale Street site , which requires the additional land, and are requesting that Council consider an in kind contribution of Lots 3 and 4 Carrick Crescent Nagambie, with Nagambie HealthCare funding the refurbishment and extension of the 6 existing units and construction of an additional seven (7) units together with accommodation for nursing and medical staff.

DISCUSSION

Under the proposal the following obligations would apply to each party, which are proposed to be included in an updated MOU and the development of a 173 Agreement.

Nagambie HealthCare

- Refurbishment and extension of 6 existing units and construction of an additional seven (7) units on the Vale Street Supported Living site for the purpose of providing low cost assisted living to Veterans, Ageing Community members and NDIS clients generally in accordance with the attached concept plan (refer Attachment 1)
- Construct accommodation for care staff and visiting clinicians generally in accordance with the attached concept plan
- Provide a range of community care and allied health services from council owned premises adjacent to the Nagambie library (Nagambie HealthCare Community Care Hub)
- Manage the Nagambie HealthCare Community Care Hub site and be responsible for service operations, infrastructure maintenance of the Nagambie Healthcare areas and garden maintenance of the entire site
- Work with Strathbogie Shire to further enhance the precinct including collaboration on funding applications for agreed improvements.

Council

- Transfer Lots 3 and 4 Carrick Crescent to Nagambie HealthCare at no cost for the purposes of constructing facilities described above, to be regulated by a Memorandum of Understanding between the two parties
- Recognises the as at Value of \$162,000 , or independent valuation, whichever is the greater, as Council's contribution to the project
- Provide facilities for the provision of community care and allied health services as above on a Peppercorn Lease arrangement

9.18 Nagambie Ageing Hub (cont.)

- Work with Nagambie HealthCare to further enhance the precinct including collaboration on funding applications for agreed improvements
- Where practicable, provide necessary internal Planning, Engineering and other advice to facilitate the project. Any external Planning, Engineering and other advice or services to facilitate the project be at Nagambie Healthcare cost
- Develop a 173 Agreement to ensure that the development remains for the purpose intended. Should there be any change in circumstances of Nagambie Health, the Section 173 agreement under the Planning and Environment Act requires that should any change of ownership occur the development remains for the same purpose and must be with Council consent.

Land Issues

Any disposal of property (as this would be) needs to be done in accordance with Council's Disposal or Sale of Council Assets Policy which was adopted Council on 18 December 2019. Included in the Policy are requirements for:

- A decision to dispose of an asset must be consistent with Council's Asset Management Policy and any relevant asset management plan that applies to the category or type of asset.
- Disposal of assets should be undertaken in an open manner, resulting in effective competition and in a way that stands up to public scrutiny. Fair and equitable consideration must be given to all prospective purchasers.
- Council must aim to achieve best value for the community when disposing of assets, which is not limited to monetary value alone. The assessment of community value must include consideration, as applicable, of:
 - Whether the asset being disposed of requires replacement and if so, what new assets will be acquired
 - consistency with the Council Plan and other strategic priorities
 - financial considerations including all relevant direct and indirect benefits
 - efficiency and effectiveness
 - the costs of various disposal methods
 - internal administration costs
 - risk exposure
- any associated environmental benefits.

From time to time there may be exceptional circumstances that arise where the processes and guidance outlined in this Policy will not deliver the best outcome for Council or the community.

Should this be the case, the waiver of the requirements of this policy must be subject to a resolution of Council to ensure maximum transparency and accountability to the community.

Proposed Transfer

It is under the above two provisions that the proposed transfer is proposed to take place.

9.18 Nagambie Ageing Hub (cont.)

Officers suggest that a case can be made for a waiver of requirements as, for a contribution of the two blocks (estimated value \$162,000 – Council rating valuation - to be confirmed by independent external valuation) as Nagambie HealthCare propose to invest \$2M in the development of the additional units together with refurbishment of the existing units. As well as the investment in the construction the development is expected to satisfy unmet demand for accommodation and services within Nagambie and surrounds.

Services are already being provided from premises adjacent to Council's library and this is expected to expand over time.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Sections 189 and 223 of the Act require Council to undertake mandatory public consultation when considering a proposal to sell or exchange land.

To facilitate this process, a resolution of Council is required to commence the consultation process and must include a discussion of the merits of the asset's disposal against the provisions of Section 8 Considerations to Identify Assets Due for Disposal.

The consultation process must be undertaken for a minimum of 28 days. At a minimum a notice is required to be placed on Council's website, however in order to be consistent with Council's Community Engagement Strategy, additional notices will be placed in locally circulating newspapers and on Council's social media pages.

Council must then consider any written (and supporting verbal) submissions made during the statutory consultation period prior to deciding as to whether the land will be sold. This report seeks a resolution to hold a meeting on a date to be determined to hear these submissions.

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

Council Plans and Policies

Council Plan Goal: To enhance community health and wellbeing and associated strategy to Complete MOU with Nagambie HealthCare for delivery of Nagambie Ageing Hub.

The merits of the proposed exchange have been assessed under Council's Disposal or Sale of Council Assets Policy, with the requisite completed land disposal evaluation form at Attachment 2.

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies

One of the Overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that regional, state and national plans and policies are to be taken into account in strategic planning and decision-making.

In a broad sense, the request from Nagambie Health's for Council's support to facilitate the provision of a more diverse range of aged care services is consistent with various aged care strategies and social policies at State and National level.

9.18 Nagambie Ageing Hub (cont.)

Our demographic profile highlights that our population is ageing. The provision of local facilities provides housing options to support our ageing community and assists in achieving State and Federal goals of ageing in place.

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

Any sale, exchange or transfer of land must comply with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1989, namely:

- the requirement to seek a valuation from a suitably qualified professional (valuations cannot be more than six months old from the date of sale)
- the mandatory community consultation requirements of section 189 (as section 191 of the Act does not apply)
- The ability for the community to make submissions under section 223, including being given an opportunity for these submissions to be heard at a Council meeting.

Following compliance with the Act and a subsequent resolution from Council to proceed with the disposal of the asset, sales are normally conducted through a public process of public auction, public tender or through registrations of expressions of interest, unless circumstances exist that justify an alternate method of sale such as the sale or exchange of land by private treaty in accordance with a Council resolution.

Sales and exchanges of land or land and buildings should not occur if less than the market value, as assessed by Council's valuer.

However, if there is demonstrable and quantifiable community benefit gained by selling the land for less than the market value, or to exchange the land for land of a lesser value, a report to Council must explain the reasons leading to the recommendation to Council to accept a sale price less than market value or to exchange land for other land with a lower value. Council will then decide as to whether the proposed sale or exchange is appropriate.

In the situation with Nagambie HealthCare any transfer would note the value ascribed to the blocks and this would be acknowledged as a Council contribution to the project.

Conflict of Interest Declaration

All officers, and/or contractors, involved in the preparation of this report have signed a written declaration that they do not have a conflict of interest in the subject matter of this report.

Transparency

Matter being discussed in public makes community aware of the project and allows for comment on the sale/transfer process.

9.18 Nagambie Ageing Hub (cont.)

FINANCIAL VIABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

The value of the blocks as carried in Council's Balance Sheet would need to be written off, having a one off impact on Council Operating Statement and Balance Sheet.

Costs of transfer and all associated planning, design and construction costs to achieve the development of the seven (7) additional units, including ongoing maintenance will be met in full by Nagambie HealthCare.

SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

One of the Overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that the economic, social and environmental sustainability of the municipal district, including mitigation and planning for climate change risks, is to be promoted.

Social

It is considered that substantial community benefit will be gained through the proposed land exchange given it will support the provision of a wide range of aged care facilities and services, enabling our community to age in place. Further:

- A significant proportion of the area's population is over 60
- Nagambie HealthCare currently provides home care services and service independent living support
- Nagambie HealthCare have acquired units in Vale Street Nagambie from Council
- There is potential for improved coordination of services across the Shire
- Space at the hospital location is fully 220organiza
- Nagambie HealthCare proposed to occupy premises adjacent to the library in order to work with Council to develop a Healthy Ageing Hub – allowing community access to aged care, supported living, home care and chronic disease assessment and self management services.
- There is an opportunity to provide an extension to GP and allied health services in Nagambie including recruitment of another GP and GP Registrar and service provision could include people over 65 and NDIS clients
- There was identified potential to work with Council and investors to build further independent living units co located with the Vale Street units. There is strong demand for supporting people with a disability. The facility would operate 5 days a week.

This would also provide a central location for community members, near Vale Street units, Library, Senior Citizens and RSL with an opportunity to maximise access both through proximity and availability of parking space.

Environmental

Principles in the proposed design of the development include:

- Liveability (Affordability, Safety, Natural Light,)
- Accessibility (DDA compliance, Adaptability)
- Sustainability (Passive design, water collection, solar design, shade cover, Food growing)
- Connectedness (street presentation, Seating opportunities, shared space.

9.18 Nagambie Ageing Hub (cont.)

COLLABORATION

One of the Overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that collaboration with other councils, levels of government and statutory bodies is to be sought.

The project demonstrates collaboration between Council and Nagambie HealthCare and over time is likely to involve other levels of government in sourcing of funding and operational assistance

HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS

The proposal will provide facilities and services for a sector of the community who are currently challenged in being able to access.

The concept around the use of the hub is to provide a broader range of health and allied services to the community – services which would otherwise be difficult to access. Some issues of access relate to the psychological barrier of attending a health service, and there are benefits to offering some services in a space removed from a medicalised setting eg: mental health support services and aged care services focused on assistance with navigating the system.

There are also some infrastructure barriers associated with accessing both the health service and medical clinic to attend health related appointments, eg: lack of a footpath, car park congestion and road congestion.

CONCLUSION

The proposal has the potential to provide significant benefits to Nagambie and surrounding communities by facilitating needed accommodation and improved service delivery.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Nagambie HealthCare Aged Care Hub Concept Plan

Attachment 2: Land Disposal Evaluation Form

ATTACHMENT 1:

PROJECT NO. 18008
 NAGAMBIE HEALTH CARE



proposed site plan - option a

(not to scale)

ATTACHMENT 2:



LAND DISPOSAL EVALUATION FORM

Completed form to be forwarded to the relevant officer or body as identified in section 16.1 of the Disposal of Assets Policy 2019. This form is to be used for land sale or exchange.

Details of Asset			
Asset identification (Council property ID)			
Street address	Lots 3 and 4 Carrick Crescent Nagambie		
Asset description			
Ownership details (eg any encumbrances on title)	Strathbogie Shire Council		
Relevant asset management plan disposal provisions	None applicable		
Description of how asset is used and services it provides to the organisation and/or community	Currently vacant residential land		
Current valuation of asset prepared by a suitably qualified Valuer (must be less than 6 months old)	Lot 3 \$83,000 Lot 4 \$79,000 Council valuation to be updated with independent external valuation		
Estimated cost of disposal	\$Valuation fees Legal fees	Total expected revenue (ie estimated market value minus cost of disposal)	\$ Nil

Assessment of the need for disposal against factors outline in section 8.1 of the Disposal of Council Assets Policy 2019	See below		
Assessment of proposed method of disposal against the considerations of section 9 of the Disposal of Council Assets Policy	Seeking exemption under Section 14		
How the asset is going to be replaced (if replacement required)	Not required		
How will the proceeds from the sale be allocated or spent?	Not relevant		
Are there any legislative requirements that need to be satisfied?	Section 189 Local Government Act 1989		
Recommendation			
Signature, name and position of officer making the assessment		Date:	

Authorisation required under section 16.1 of the Disposal of Council Assets Policy

<input type="checkbox"/> Council resolution	
Date proposal considered by EMT prior to being placed on a Council agenda <i>(if applicable)</i>	
Date of Council resolution <i>(if applicable)</i>	
Decision implemented by <i>(officer name, position and date)</i>	

The following factors must be considered when identifying an asset that is due for disposal and addressed in writing when completing the relevant Asset Disposal Evaluation Form outlined in Attachment 1:

- how the disposal of the asset implements the Council Plan, Strategic Resource Plan and long-term financial objectives (**Goal and Strategy in Council Plan**)
- the relevant Asset Management Plan's provisions for asset renewal and disposal (**renewal not an issue**)
- whether the asset is underutilised (**not being used for anything , alternative is residential , but significant community benefit with proposal**)
- useability of the asset (**would be use for residential either way**)
- the remaining useful life of the asset (**land – not relevant**)
- current market value (**to be confirmed – in the order of \$220,000**)
- any duplication of the asset that supports its disposal (**NA**)
- annual maintenance costs (**minimal**)
- cost of repair or replacement for a similar asset (**refer valuation**)
- appropriate timing for the disposal to maximise community benefit (**fits with Nagambie HealthCare development plans**)
- any impacts, positive or negative, of the disposal of the asset on the community (**sale proceeds not achieved but significant investment in providing needed facilities and services to community**)
- the service provided by the asset, whether it requires replacement to meet service needs and how its replacement will be funded (**nil at moment**)
- potential risk of ownership (eg contains hazardous materials), including health and safety risks for operators or the community (**NA**)
- cultural or historical significance of the asset (**NA**)
- any positive or negative impact on human rights and Council meeting its obligations under the Victorian Charter of Human Rights and the *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006* (**will assist those having difficulty accessing services**)
- the outcome of any community consultation processes (**depends**)
- any restrictions on the proposed asset disposal (**for defined purpose**)
- any other relevant Council policies
- where or for what purpose the proceeds of the asset's sale will be allocated or spent (**no proceeds**)

9.19 Visit Victoria Tourism Review

Authors: Manager Tourism, Arts and Culture / Economic Development and Projects Coordinator

Responsible Director: Director Community and Planning

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Visit Victoria is the state government body responsible for promoting tourism within Victoria. This body has been reviewing the positioning of Local Government areas within its identified region and Strathbogie Shire have been advised informally that the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events is looking to reduce the number of regional tourism regions from eleven (11) to nine (9) with the reasons for this reduction unclear.

Strathbogie Shire was previously aligned with the Goulburn River Valley Tourism board (GRVT) until its cessation in 2019, however this was a self-funded board as a collaborative four Shire entity and was never recognised by the state government as an official Regional Tourism Board (RTB) and therefore did not receive any government support, either financial or otherwise.

As part of the Visit Victoria Tourism Review, it is proposed for Strathbogie Shire to be positioned within the Murray River region would mean that effectively Strathbogie Shire will become part of the same tourist region as Mildura. If this option is confirmed without substantial modification it would once again reduce the Shire to being associated with a region with which we have no community of interest or consumer recognition.

It has been verbally proposed at the departmental level that a "Goulburn Region Subgroup" could be formed to facilitate a more identifiable geographic profile, however this subgroup would be reporting to the Murray River RTB. Despite numerous requests we have not received any written detail of this proposal to date.

Recent officer level discussions with the CEO of Murray Region Tourism Board has confirmed the understanding that the Minister is seeking to align Strathbogie Shire with the Murray region. He views the potential way forward is to have one board and two marketing arms including completely separate logo's and promotional campaigns for the Murray River and the Goulburn River regions.

9.19 Visit Victoria Tourism Review (cont.)

RECOMMENDATION

That:

1. ***Council take the lead on this issue and urgently write to the Hon. Martin Pakula Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events requesting written advice as to his intention of the proposed restructure of the Victorian Regional Tourism Boards (RTB) and the proposed alignment of Strathbogie Shire within an RTB and the need to for the formation of a Goulburn River Region group incorporating the Councils along the Goulburn River; and***
2. ***Should the Hon. Martin Pakula Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events confirm the intention to align Strathbogie Shire with the Murray Regional Tourism Board (board), Council authorise officers to enter into discussions with that board regarding potential membership and the preferred outcome of separate marketing bodies reporting back to that board.***

PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND

The purpose of this report is to advise Council that the State Government intends to align Strathbogie Shire, Mitchell Shire and the City of Greater Shepparton with the Murray River Region Tourist Board and that no other option will be offered or considered. If this is to be the case, Council will need to decide if the Shire should participate in this process or continue to stand alone without representation on an RTB. It is considered imperative that the Minister clarify his intent at the earliest opportunity to remove uncertainty and permit the Council to decide on its future course of action.

Current situation

Since the cessation of the Goulburn River Valley Tourism Board (GRVTB) in 2019, Strathbogie Shire has not been aligned with a Regional Tourism Board (RTB).

The issue of Strathbogie Shire's positioning within a specified RTB has been a long running one with a number of attempts to align the Shire with various identified tourist regions. Currently there are 12 identified tourist regions in Victoria (1 x metro and 11 x regional) with each being supported by a recognized tourism board (see attachment 1). Prior to the inception of the GRVTB, Strathbogie Shire was positioned within the "High Country" region which incorporates the North East and Alpine regions of Victoria.

There is little community of interest that exists between Strathbogie Shire and North Eastern Victoria and it is doubtful that members of the public would associate Strathbogie Shire with that region.

This lack of association is demonstrated by the lack of opportunity available to local businesses to advertise on the Visit Victoria website.

9.19 Visit Victoria Tourism Review (cont.)

Furthermore, the RTB operating as Tourism North-East (TNE) which Strathbogie Shire is not able to be associated with is the very strongly funded body that promotes tourism within the North East region.

Conversations with the Department of Jobs Precincts and Regions

In Mid 2019 the Department of Jobs Precincts and Regions conducted a review of Regional Tourism and the results of this review have yet to be published.

Shire officers have met with representatives from the department on three occasions within the last 18 months (in addition to the open workshops conducted as a part of the review). They did not seek any genuine feedback from Strathbogie Shire, no definitive information was provided and nothing has been provided in writing following these meetings.

On 1 July 2020 the Strathbogie Shire CEO received a letter from The Hon Martin Pakula, Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events in which he reiterated the Victorian Government's commitment to the RTB model. The minister further stated in his letter that:

"It is the Government's intention that RTBs will continue to play this important role, and the Government will seek opportunities to strengthen their position as regional tourism leaders.

This will include working with RTBs and councils to, where appropriate, clarify their remit, build RTB capabilities, support shared resourcing of RTBs and ensure council interests are appropriately represented on RTBs by council CEOs. The Government will also seek to ensure that all parts of regional Victoria have the opportunity to have input to, and have their interests represented by, an RTB. The Government has also advised RTBs that it will be providing funding to bridge the gap to ensure they can continue operations until the State Budget is announced in late 2020"

Since early July 2020, officers have sought further clarification as to the outcomes of the review and the timeframes. To date no further communication has been forthcoming. As such, Strathbogie Shire is not part of any Regional Tourist Board. no further communication has been forthcoming.

Other Submissions

In mid-2019, Go Nagambie responded to the Regional Tourism Review with a submission to the state government regarding the realignment of Victorian state tourism areas. The principal change put forward was that:

- "A greater Melbourne tourism zone aligned with the policy concept of a 90-minute travel ring around Melbourne be established."
- That the "Goulburn River and Ranges" brand be established as a sub region within the propose 90-minute ring and greater Melbourne tourism zone concepts.

Whilst this suggestion has some merit it would involve a complete redesign of the state government's current RTB concept and is likely to take several years to implement if accepted as a concept by the Victorian government.

9.19 Visit Victoria Tourism Review (cont.)

ISSUES, OPTIONS AND DISCUSSION

One of the Overarching governance principles in section 9 of the Local Government Act 2020 is that priority is to be given to achieving the best outcomes for the municipal community, including future generations. Following on from the outlined information in this report, it has been identified that the following potential courses of action are open for consideration by the Strathbogie Shire Council:

Visit Victoria is the state government body responsible for promoting tourism within Victoria. This body has been reviewing the positioning of Local government areas within its identified regent and Strathbogie Shire have been advised anecdotally that the Minister is looking to reduce the number of tourism regions down to nine. The reasons for this reduction are not known.

In previous discussions with Visit Victoria representatives we have been advised that there is now consideration being given to incorporating Strathbogie Shire into the Murray River region. This in effect will mean that Strathbogie Shire would be part of the same tourist region as Mildura. Forming a subregion consisting of Councils bordering the Goulburn River including Mitchell and Greater Shepparton would provide communities of interest for our Shire.

Option 1 – Decline to participate in any RTB and continue to market the Shire as a stand-alone entity forgoing any entitlement to state government assistance.

This option would be very difficult to implement financially and is unlikely to have a meaningful impact without substantial funding behind it.

Option 2 – Pursue the Go Nagambie Proposal which would effectively result in separating the Strathbogie Shire into two separate zones

Given the Minister's stated intent to continue with the RTB model it is doubtful that the Government would consider a total redesign the Regional Tourism Board model

Option 3 – Seek confirmation from the minister of the intention of the proposal to align the region with the Murray River RTB. The Shire and those adjoining can negotiate the proposal to establish suitable governance and funding guidelines that would prevent dominance by the Murray River Councils

Informal discussions with the CEO of that organisation have confirmed that the Murray River RTB is also of the understanding that City of Greater Shepparton, Mitchell Shire and Strathbogie Shire will be offered the opportunity to align with them and that the board believes that the most effective way of implementing this alignment is to provide for separate marketing arms and logos that would permit a level of autonomy for each region in managing its tourism campaigns. It should be noted that this is much firmer information than that provided by the Departments representatives and if accurate would provide for the level of autonomy needed to implement localised tourism marketing campaigns. The suggestion that these three Councils may be included in the Murray River RTB is in part supported by their inclusion in that region on the recently published "Click for Vic" online shopping site map on the Visit Victoria Website under the title "Murray and Goulburn Valley", <https://viccountrymarket.com.au/region/murray>

9.19 Visit Victoria Tourism Review (cont.)

Awaiting the response from the Minister's office regarding the intention to align Strathbogie Shire with the Murray with the region and then insist that the Goulburn River region subgroup be formed with autonomy and guaranteed funding. There is little community of interest between the Goulburn River LGA's and those following the Murray River and as such the establishment of the Goulburn River sub-region is critical.

The state government allocates funding based on RTB localities, and currently Strathbogie Shire is unable to receive any funding assistance as allocated until such time that we are aligned with a recognised RTB.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

One of the Overarching governance principles in section 9 of the Local Government Act 2020 is that the municipal community is to be engaged in strategic planning and strategic decision making.

Business and Community consultation has been undertaken by Visit Victoria as part of their Regional Tourism Review, and these groups as well as representatives from Strathbogie Shire Council were involved in this process.

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

Council Plans and Policies

The recommendations of this report align with the following Goals and Key Strategies of the Council Plan:

- Goal 4 – To Support and drive economic development
 - Key Strategy – Implement preferred option for involvement in regional tourism

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies

One of the Overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that regional, state and national plans and policies are to be taken into account in strategic planning and decision-making.

The state government allocates funding based on RTB localities, and currently Strathbogie Shire is unable to receive any funding assistance as allocated and we are not recognised as currently being aligned with a recognised RTB.

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

One of the Overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that Council decisions are to be made and actions taken in accordance with the relevant law, however there is no relevant legislation applicable to the recommendation in this report.

Conflict of Interest Declaration

All officers, and/or contractors, involved in the preparation of this report have signed a written declaration that they do not have a conflict of interest in the subject matter of this report.

9.19 Visit Victoria Tourism Review (cont.)

Transparency

One of the Overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that the transparency of Council decisions, actions and information is to be ensured.

This matter is in the interest of the tourism and economic development of our community and region and as such is being discussed in a Council meeting open to the public in order to achieve the goals of public transparency.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

One of the Overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that the ongoing financial viability of the Council is to be ensured.

The current situation of not having an alignment with a recognised RTB has considerable financial implications for Council, as we are currently missing out on any available funding from the state government in relation to assistance given to RTB's. This assistance and funding support is more important than ever before in the current economic climate that has resulted due to COVID-19.

SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

One of the Overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that the economic, social and environmental sustainability of the municipal district, including mitigation and planning for climate change risks, is to be promoted.

Economic

Due to the effect of the recent COVID-19 pandemic, it is more important than ever that tourism within the Shire receives adequate support and funding in order to assist with the sustainability and economic development of this sector and it's overarching effect on both the businesses and community of Strathbogie Shire.

State government support and appropriate alignment with an RTB would greatly assist the Shire in supporting the tourism sector and associated businesses. This matter should be addressed as a matter of urgency to facilitate the implementation of targeted marketing campaigns as we recover from the COVID-19 restrictions and position the Shire to take advantage of available state and federal funding for the tourist industry during the recovery phase. In the event that this alignment proves impractical the shire can, at a later date, advocate for further change. Given the urgency of the current situation, officers suggest that it may be advantageous to accept the offered realignment for the present time.

Social

Social implications relate to levels of resilience and social cohesion amongst both the business and broader community as a result of the effect on the tourism sector during COVID-19. State government support is critical to assisting the tourism sector, especially in the recovery phase within regional areas which is expected to last for several years.

9.19 Visit Victoria Tourism Review (cont.)

INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVMENT

One of the Overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is the pursuit of innovation and continuous improvement.

The State government have suggested that certain RTB models are currently working and are keen to see similar models rolled out in other areas without full consideration of the implication on smaller regional tourism areas.

After a review of all current available options, this report identifies in Option 3 a scenario that reviews the principles of continuous improvement in the pursuit of innovation.

COLLABORATION

One of the overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that collaboration with other councils, levels of government and statutory bodies is to be sought.

Collaboration has existed previously between the other Councils involved as part of Goulburn River Valley Tourism; however full support of this proposed Option 3 is still yet to be formally sought.

HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS

There are no significant human rights implications to be considered as part of The *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006*.

CONCLUSION

To ensure that the best possible outcome is achieved for the viability of the Tourism Sector for both Strathbogie Shire and the region, it is requested that Council seek written clarification from the Minister as to his intent to align Strathbogie shire with a specific RTB.

This will provide certainty, State funding and allow council time to formulate financial marketing plans as well as work with the proposed RTB management and executive to prepare for this alignment.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Map: Current division of Victorian Regional Tourism Boards

Attachment 2: Map: Proposed Murray River Region

ATTACHMENT 1:

1. Current Division of Victorian Regional Tourism Boards



9.20 Australian Rail Track Corporation (ARTC)

Author: /Director Community & Planning (Acting)

Responsible Director: Chief Executive Officer

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As a result of the Euroa Inland Rail Working Group meeting held with the Australian Rail Track Corporation (ARTC) on Monday 24th August 2020, considerable feedback was given to Council from members of the working group.

The feedback received was consistent in that each member expressed that whilst ARTC remained committed to meeting with the group, the matters discussed were not representative of the groups expectations. The meeting provided no clarity in regard to the process nor provided clear direction nor any commitment by ARTC to the *Creating Civic Presence* document (refer Attachment 1).

As a result, it is imperative that Council continue to remain committed to the Euroa Working Group and provide support. In this instance writing to ARTC (refer Attachment 2) reiterating our position moving forward through ARTC's Early Contractor Involvement (ECI) process and Detailed Design Process (DDP).

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 1. Support the Euroa Rail Inland Working Group through ongoing advocacy;***
- 2. Write to the Australian Rail Track Corporation (ARTC), expressing the need for the Creating Civic Presence document and Council Officers comments, which formed Council's formal position, be supplied to relevant parties, through ARTC's Early Contractor Involvement (ECI) and Detailed Design Process (DDP) process; and***
- 3. Write to the Department of Transport, Local and State Politicians, requesting that they recognise Council's formal position (as per Council minutes of the 15th September 2019) and seek support to work with the Australian Rail Track Corporation and the Euroa Inland Rail Working Group, to ensure the Euroa Community has a project delivered which recognises the work put in to the planning of this project.***

PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND

The purpose of this report is to formally recognise Council's commitment to our Community in support of the on going work the Euroa Inland Rail Working Group are doing.

It is necessary to reflect our position at this point in time, as the Inland Rail project moves to another phase.

9.20 Australian Rail Track Corporation (ARTC) (cont.)

Prior to ARTC embarking on their Early Contractor Involvement process (ECI) and their Detailed Design Process (DDP), Council must continue to advocate to ensure that our Communities position is not overlooked.

ISSUES, OPTIONS AND DISCUSSION

One of the overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that priority is to be given to achieving the best outcomes for the municipal community, including future generations. Hence the necessity for Council to continue to advocate for our community.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

One of the overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that the municipal community is to be engaged in strategic planning and strategic decision making.

Council is committed to ensuring that we advocate to ensure that our community is consulted with by ARTC.

Conflict of Interest Declaration

All officers, and/or contractors, involved in the preparation of this report have signed a written declaration that they do not have a conflict of interest in the subject matter of this report.

Transparency

One of the overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that the transparency of Council decisions, actions and information is to be ensured.

This report demonstrates that Council is being transparent in its position in relation to the Inland Rail Project and its advocacy role for the Euroa Inland Rail Working Group.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

One of the Overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that the ongoing financial viability of the Council is to be ensured.

It is imperative that Council continue to support the Euroa Inland Rail Working Group so as the best outcome is achieved for our community. Consideration in regard to design and delivery is fundamental to ensure that we are not left with a significant financial burden to “make good” the rail precinct as a result of a project which is not driven by Council.

SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

One of the Overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that the economic, social and environmental sustainability of the municipal district, including mitigation and planning for climate change risks, is to be promoted.

9.20 Australian Rail Track Corporation (ARTC) (cont.)

Economic

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.

Social

Council's decision to support ongoing advocacy is in the best interest of the community to achieve an acceptable outcome.

Environmental

The Inland Rail project (Anderson Street overpass) has an opportunity to clean up an unsightly piece of land i.e. VicTrack land with the 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

Climate change

By supporting the Euroa Inland Rail Working Group, we can advocate that all matters are taken into consideration in particular the detailed design for consideration of Climate Change.

HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS

This report considers that the recommendations do not limit any Human Rights under the Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006.

CONCLUSION

It is recommended that Council formally write to ARTC reiterating Council's ongoing support for the Euroa Inland Rail Working Group and the necessity for ARTC to ensure that all relevant parties are provided with the Creating Civic Presence document and Council Officers additional comments as per Council's formal position.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Council's Formal position as per minutes (Creating Civic Presence)

Attachment 2: Letter to the Australian Rail Track Corporation

Attachment 3: Letter to Politicians

ATTACHMENT 1:

PREAMBLE

A summary of the opinions of the Euroa Community as heard by members of the E.W.G.

CREATING A CIVIC PRESENCE

With the planned introduction of double stacked trains necessitating the removal of the Anderson Street bridge there are many possible solutions to an alternative rail crossing, some more palatable than others, to the community.

If the ARTC are to be the final arbiters on a replacement crossing and their chosen solution is a bridge replacement at Anderson Street then the Euroa community is overwhelmingly consistent in what its minimal expectation of what this bridge would entail.

Therefore what follows is a summary of those minimal expectations.

These baseline requirements are listed as:-

1. **Re-align & straighten tracks so that they run to the west side of the old Euroa Station.**
 - i) Euroa Station is platform 1 to Melbourne – (heritage precinct)
 - ii) Old goods shed environ is platform 2 to Albury
 - iii) Includes vehicular access to both platforms for emergency and service vehicles within a specified number of metres
 - iv) Disability Discrimination Act compliant and equitable access to both platforms
 - v) Customer parking area in very close proximity to both platforms (DDA compliant)
 - vi) Landscaping and visual screens to soften visual impact of hard surfaces
 - vii) (Alternatively: One passenger line only using a switchover i.e.(1 platform, 1 carpark, no tunnel)

2. **Provide an open span bridge structure with clear and visual amenity.**
 - i) Shift bridge apex as far west as possible – reduces visual impact
 - ii) Straighten road alignment over bridge (not straight)
 - iii) Bridge design MUST allow for re-connection of Railway & Hinton Streets and 2-way traffic under the bridge
 - iv) Minimal infrastructure on bridge (ABSOLUTELY no pedestrians)
 - v) Clear and enhanced lighting and balustrading. Positive visual impact
 - vi) Designed with the highest environmental standards
 - vii) Absolutely no concrete barriers/retaining walls in front of residences
 - viii) Maximize public space in, around and under bridge
(Is there a preferred ARTC bridge alignment? Land acquisition? Any? Who is impacted?)

3. **Verging/Merging traffic in relation to bridge design**
 - i) Allow for traffic moving west along Anderson Street to verge off towards Hinton/Railway Street. This allows for that traffic to turn left into Hinton Street or turn right into Railway Street.
 - ii) Allow for traffic travelling south along Railway Street to turn left and merge with the eastern traffic flow along Anderson Street

4. **Provide DDA compliant pedestrian and cycle access with underline crossing**
 - i) Enhance the present underline crossings with a special emphasis on DESIGN QUALITY. These crossings are:
 - a) Anderson Street to DeBoos Street
 - b) Kirkland Avenue to Sutherland Street (*can this crossing be car enabled as well?)

 - Provide a new crossing between Platform 1 and Platform 2
 - c) Railway/Binney Street to Scott Street

5. **Restoration & Clean-Up**

- i) There is a need to remove and make good
 - a) The old embankments
 - b) The standard rail and associated platform
 - c) Lighting
 - d) Re-vegetation
 - e) Drainage and services
- ii) On-going Management strategy

Summary

Please note that the members of the Euroa Working Group collectively had much loftier ideals than those presented here. However in our advisory role to the ARTC as spokespersons for the community we have put those ideals aside to present what are the absolute minimum expectations of the community in relation to a bridge replacement.

And finally could there be clarification on the boundaries of responsibility between ARTC, V-Line, Vic Roads and the Shire.

Strathbogie Shire Additional Requirements

Strathbogie Shire Council additional requirements to the Euroa Inland Rail Working Group, *Creating a Civic Presence*

Traffic Movements – Vehicle/Pedestrian/Cyclists

- Ensure that during construction stage of the Inland Rail project within Euroa, that alternative routes are capable of holding vehicular and pedestrian traffic volumes. (Approval must be sought from Council in regard to local road usage and condition assessments)
- Removal of all contaminated soil and materials within the Euroa Rail Precinct
- That ARTC commission an independent Traffic Impact Assessment demonstrating existing traffic and pedestrian movements and proposed traffic and pedestrian movements.
- Provide full Traffic Impact Assessment to Council Officers for review and comment which will take into consideration local knowledge of deliveries to main shopping precinct, heavy vehicle traffic movements and additional matters for consideration.
- Assist in the upgrade of Birkett/Campbell street intersection. For vehicle and pedestrian accessibility using desired lines.
- Ensure the use of desired lines for all pedestrian and cycling crossings for all railway intersection points using visually appealing urban design with urban tree canopy.
- Ensure the bridge has appropriate widths to allow for breakdowns.
- Ensure appropriate infrastructure is provided as a result of traffic impacts assessments and noise studies.

Parking

- Ensure that any loss of car parking be re-instated in alternative locations and formalised so as there is no loss of parking spaces.
- Improved crossing points DeBoos Street to Hinton Street. Birkett Street and Campbell Street.
- Establishment of parkland at 57-59 Garrett Street, fully landscaped
- Additional parking to be provided in conjunction with any new platforms
- Provision of shade for parking bays

Amenity/Health and Wellbeing

- Increased shelter and seating on platforms.
- Urban green design around entire precinct with significant tree canopy coverage.
- Ensure crossing infrastructure is visually sympathetic to surrounding character.
- No financial establishment costs to Council.

Signage

- All signage must align with Strathbogie Shire's Wayfinding Strategy to ensure consistency and deterrence from visual clutter.

Lighting of Public Spaces

- Ensure that all lighting plans are submitted to Council for consistency with our Lightening Strategy.
-

Neighbourhood Character

- Ensure that regard is given to Euroa's Neighbourhood Character where relevant

Other items

That upon ARTC submitting future design plans there may be other issues arise and therefore the above mentioned items in addition to the Euroa Inland Working Group items may not be complete.

ATTACHMENT 2:



1800 065 993

109a Binney Street, Euroa VIC 3666
PO Box 177, Euroa VIC 3666
info@strathbogie.vic.gov.au
www.strathbogie.vic.gov.au

[DATE]

ARTC
Inland Rail Project
Ed Walker
General Manager Victorian Projects
EWalker@ARTC.com.au
Level 1, 371 Spencer Street
Melbourne Vic 3003

Dear Sir

Re: ARTC & Euroa Working Group Meeting @ 24/08/2020

I write to you on behalf of Council in support of the Euroa Working Group for the Inland Rail Project.

In recognition of the meeting held on the 24th August 2020 with the Euroa Working Group, which resulted in considerable feedback to Council and yourselves, Council would like to express and reiterate the following matters.

That as part of the Early Contactor Involvement (ECI) and the Detailed Design Process (DDP) that ARTC ensure that the *Creating Civic Presence* document and the additional comments of Council Officers which formed our formal position, be supplied to the relevant parties as part of these processes.

It is imperative that anyone involved within the ECI and DDP process understand our communities' position.

We believe that the *Creating Civic Presence* document with the additional comments of Council officers which formed our formal position, will assist in your design process and enable ARTC to develop an acceptable outcome for our Community.

Your sincerely

Amanda McClaren
Mayor, Strathbogie Shire Council



ATTACHMENT 3:



1800 065 993

109a Binney Street, Euroa VIC 3666

PO Box 177, Euroa VIC 3666

info@strathbogie.vic.gov.au

www.strathbogie.vic.gov.au

(DATE)

(NAME)

Dear (Name)

Re: ARTC & Euroa Working Group Meeting

I write to you on behalf of Council in support of the Euroa Working Group for the Inland Rail Project.

In recognition of the most recent meeting held between the Euroa Inland Rail Working Group and ARTC held on the 24th August 2020, this meeting resulted in considerable feedback to Council and ARTC expressing dismay that our Working Group are not receiving clear messages in regard to the matters put forward to ARTC. Council are writing to ARTC reiterating the following matter;

That as part of the Early Contractor Involvement (ECI) and the Detailed Design Process (DDP) that ARTC ensure that the Creating Civic Presence document and the additional comments of Council Officers which formed Council's formal position, be supplied to the relevant parties as part of these processes.

It is imperative that anyone involved within the ECI and DDP process understand our communities position.

We believe that the *Creating Civic Presence* document with the additional comments of Council officers which formed our formal position, will assist in the design process and enable ARTC to develop an acceptable outcome for our Community.

We seek your support in ensuring that ARTC respect our communities views and utilise the work within these documents to inform the design process.

We look forward to hearing a favourable response to our communication.

Your sincerely

Amanda McClaren
Mayor, Strathbogie Shire Council



9.21 Strathbogie Shire Council RE3 – Reset, Reboot, Revitalise – Community Recovery Plan

Author: Manager Tourism Arts and Culture

Responsible Director: Chief Executive Officer & Executive Manager Communications and Engagement

Strathbogie Shire Council recognises that the COVID-19 pandemic and related government restrictions, has had specific and potential long-term impacts on our region and community. The *Strathbogie Shire Council RE3 – Reset, Reboot, Revitalise – Community Recovery Plan* has been initiated to support the immediate relief and recovery actions identified, as well as the future transition from the impacts of the pandemic.

The Community Recovery Plan has been developed by Council in consultation with our community and outlines actions to support our community while the pandemic continues, as well as actions to support both the short and long-term recovery and transition through the post COVID-19 phase, with the aim being to build on the strengths of our community and support them to learn, heal and flourish. We recognise that this is a dynamic plan and that further engagement with our community will influence and shape our directions going forward.

The release of the *Strathbogie Shire Council RE3 – Reset, Reboot, Revitalise – Community Recovery Plan* as a public document will contribute to the commitment from Council to continue to communicate with our community and be open and transparent in our actions.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council endorse the ‘Strathbogie Shire Council RE3 – Reset, Reboot, Revitalise – Community Recovery Plan’ and release as a public document.

PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND

The purpose of this report is to gain endorsement from Council for the release of the attached *Strathbogie Shire Council RE3 – Reset, Reboot, Revitalise – Community Recovery Plan* which will assist the community with recognising and identifying how Council have been both driving and assisting with the recovery process during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The RE3 Project – Reset, Reboot, Revitalise was established as a result of the pandemic to ensure our community knows exactly how we’re responding to the impact of COVID-19 within our region and a phased approach has been used in so as to be flexible to the changing conditions of the pandemic. There are three phases to the RE3 Project, which are outlined below:

9.21 Strathbogie Shire Council RE3 – Reset, Reboot, Revitalise – Community Recovery Plan (cont.)

Phase 1: Reset

This phase is about ensuring our community has access to the information it needs to stay safe during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. It's about establishing communication channels with our community to make sure they know where, and how, to get credible information about restrictions.

Phase 2: Reboot

This phase is rapidly responding - and rapidly changing - as we continue to adapt to meet our community's needs. In the reboot phase we are firmly focussed on tackling feelings of isolation and loneliness and looking out for the mental health of our community.

Our projects are focussed on driving community connection. Our officers are focussed on ensuring access to services and keeping our community safe. This will continue to evolve with further input from our community.

Phase 3: Revitalise

This is the forward-looking phase - where we plan, advocate and work together to help our community flourish in the wake of coronavirus.

ISSUES, OPTIONS AND DISCUSSION

One of the overarching governance principles in section 9 of the Local Government Act 2020 is that priority is to be given to achieving the best outcomes for the municipal community, including future generations.

At Strathbogie Shire we are acutely aware of how our region has been affected by drought, bushfire and now the unprecedented impacts of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

Our region has experienced job losses, staff being stood down and businesses being forced to close and our community has not been shy on its need for support.

There is no doubt people in our community are also feeling isolated and lonely.

The RE3 project is how we bring together all the great things being achieved in Strathbogie Shire as we help our community recover from coronavirus (COVID-19). It's how we Reset, Reboot and Revitalise.

Council has made a commitment to our community to be better at communicating with our community and to ensure transparent communication. The release of the attached document will assist with community understanding of the role undertaken by Council during the COVID-19 pandemic as well as communicating what strategies are being developed to assist with the future economic growth of the region as a result of the changing times.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

One of the overarching governance principles in section 9 of the Local Government Act 2020 is that the municipal community is to be engaged in strategic planning and strategic decision making.

9.21 Strathbogie Shire Council RE3 – Reset, Reboot, Revitalise – Community Recovery Plan (cont.

Community engagement was undertaken in the initial ‘Reset’ phase to assist in establishing connection with our community and to identify what it was that they believed to be a priority.

Through a series of online feedback sessions on the 2020/21 Draft Budget we heard that our community was hurting. The impacts of coronavirus (COVID-19) have hit many areas hard and they asked us to do all we could to support them, examples of which are contained in the attached plan.

We also built an email network of more than 600 businesses and used this to provide advice and seek feedback, while working closely with the business representative groups.

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

Council Plans and Policies

The Community Recovery Plan aligns with the Vision, Mission, Values and Commitment to Engagement and Communication of the Council Plan, as well as being representative of the following Goals:

1. To enhance community health and wellbeing
4. To support and drive economic development
5. To be a high performing Shire.

Conflict of Interest Declaration

All officers, and/or contractors, involved in the preparation of this report have signed a written declaration that they do not have a conflict of interest in the subject matter of this report.

Transparency

One of the overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that the transparency of Council decisions, actions and information is to be ensured.

In the interest of transparency and open and honest communication with our community it is recommended that the attached Community Response Plan be released to the public to assist in providing an understanding of the role that Council played through the COVID-19 pandemic.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

One of the overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that the ongoing financial viability of the Council is to be ensured.

It is not considered that there are any financial implications involved with the release of the Community Response Plan into the public domain.

SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

One of the overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that the economic, social and environmental sustainability of the municipal district, including mitigation and planning for climate change risks, is to be promoted.

9.21 Strathbogie Shire Council RE3 – Reset, Reboot, Revitalise – Community Recovery Plan (cont.

Economic

The Community Response Plan will assist with the further development of an Economic Recovery Strategy for Strathbogie Shire, with consultation that has already taken place and will continue to occur with our business community identifying the key issues being experienced as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Social

Our community want to know what Council are doing to support them during this time of uncertainty and huge change. The Community Response Plan assists with highlighting what has been achieved so far and will continue to be explored into the future to assist our community to learn, heal and flourish in a new, post COVID-19 environment. It is hoped that it will assist them to feel listened to and heard, build their resilience and continue to foster a sense of community and social cohesion.

INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVMENT

One of the overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is the pursuit of innovation and continuous improvement.

Communication with our community is of the highest priority for both Council and our community, and the release of the Community Response Plan will support Council's commitment to continuous improvement within the area of Communication and Engagement. It will assist to advocate to our community that Council are prepared to deliver on their promise to improve in this area.

HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS

It is not considered that there are any Human Rights that will be impacted as a result of releasing the Community Response Plan

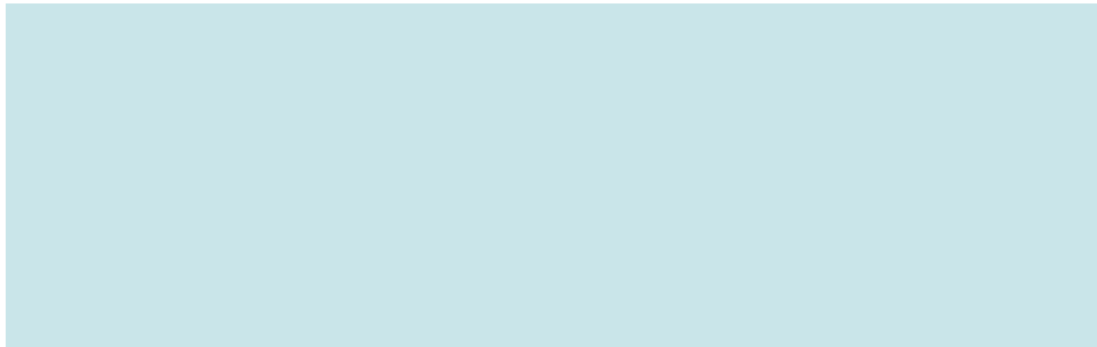
CONCLUSION

In conclusion, it is recommended that Council agree to the recommendation to release the 'Strathbogie Shire Council RE3 – Reset, Reboot, Revitalise – Community Recovery Plan' as a public document to follow through on their commitment of engaging and communicating in an open and honest manner with our community.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Strathbogie Shire Council RE3 – Reset, Reboot, Revitalise – Community Recovery Plan

ATTACHMENT 1:



Acknowledgement of Country

Strathbogie Shire Council acknowledges the Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people of this nation.

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the lands and we pay our respects to ancestors and Elders, past and present.

Council is committed to honouring Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' unique cultural and spiritual relationships to the land, waters and seas and their rich contribution to society.

Message from the Mayor

At Strathbogie Shire we are acutely aware of how our region has been affected by drought, bushfire and now the unprecedented impacts of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

Coronavirus restrictions have hit us hard. Our region has experienced job losses, staff being stood down and businesses being forced to close.

Our community has not been shy on its need for support during this challenging time and Council is committed to doing all it can to provide this help.

Our 2020/21 Budget was prepared with coronavirus at the forefront. It included rate relief for business and our community.



We also know providing support to our community during the coronavirus pandemic is not limited to financial assistance.

Helping to **Reset, Reboot and Revitalise** our communities will take much more.

This is why we launched the RE3 project – to support our community through the pandemic and to flourish on the other side.

Executive Summary

RESET



Established communications channels



Regular video updates



Rate relief for business and community



Health promotion



Signage to keep people safe



Launch RE3 project



Financial hardship support

REBOOT



Working for Victoria



The Strathbogie Story



Taking services and community engagement online



Access to health services



Capital works power on



Streamlined community grants

REVITALISE



Engage with community to learn, heal and flourish



Improve access to services



Ensure our community is heard



Economic Development Strategy



Taking customer service online

Why we need to act

IMPACT ON OUR ECONOMY

Local businesses are reporting a substantial decrease in economic output. Local businesses have reported a downturn in income so significant they are unable to meet rental and credit commitments.

We know:

- 25 per cent of businesses have applied for job keeper payments with a greater number applying for other government assistance measures
- There has been a seven per cent increase in unemployment across the Shire.

IMPACT ON OUR COMMUNITIES

Our community has worked hard to follow restrictions and help keep us all safe. Major events across the Shire have been cancelled. Community groups and sporting activities have stopped.

However, in doing our bit to stop the spread of the virus, comes feelings of isolation and loneliness.

We are constantly reminded of the significant number of older people in our community without access to technology. We know that now, more than ever, we must talk about mental health and look out for our friends, family and loved ones.

IMPACT ON OUR WORKERS

Strathbogie Shire has established a strict two-team routine to keep our staff and our organisation as safe as we can.

This means we are operating two teams across our entire business - working from the office, and from home, on alternating weeks. For those who could work from home, they did, and are continuing to do so.

What we're doing - Phase 1: Reset

Phase 1: Reset

This phase is about ensuring our community has access to the information it needs to stay safe during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. It's about establishing communication channels with our community to make sure they know where, and how, to get information credible information about restrictions.

WHAT WE HEARD

Through a series of online feedback sessions on the 2020/21 Draft Budget we heard our community was hurting. The impacts of coronavirus (COVID-19) have hit many areas hard and they asked us to do all we could to support them.



KEY OPPORTUNITIES

Communication:

We established a COVID-19 page on our website to ensure our community has a one-stop-shop for information about impacts to local services. We used social media to drive safety messages and continue to generate video updates to reinforce our messages.

We built an email network of more than 600 businesses and used to provide advice and seek feedback. We have also work closely with the business representative groups such as and the Euroa Chamber of Commerce.

Health promotion:

We are working closely with our immunisation provider to ensure immunisations continue, while following COVID-19 restrictions. Our maternal health services are also providing online appointments, with priority provided to young infants. Essential face-to-face appointments continue but are limited to 15 minutes.

What we're doing - Phase 1: Reset



Signage:

We have erected signs at the entry to all our townships reminding our community to stay safe and reinforcing messages on how to do this. Above and beyond this we are taking our messages to our main thoroughfares through innovative footpath stickers.

Our COVID response plan:

We established the RE3 Project – Reset, Reboot, Revitalise to ensure our community knows exactly how we're responding.

Relief to business and community:

Council's 2020/21 Budget included rate relief for our businesses and community. Our goal was to support businesses to continue to operate and provide support to our community in the best way for them.

In recognition of challenges faced by a number of our businesses, fees for registered premises were set at zero in our 2020/21 Budget and we will refund fees for the 2019/20 year. This also applies to footpath trading fees.

Our Budget also included a zero rate rise in the average rate per property.

Financial hardship support:

We're here to support our community and offer ratepayers special payment arrangements for those who may be experiencing hardship. We understand there is no one-size-fits-all approach so we work with individual ratepayers to best meet their needs.

What we're doing - Phase 2: Reboot

Phase 2: Reboot

The phase is rapidly responding - and rapidly changing - as we continue to adapt to meet our community's needs. In the reboot phase we are firmly focussed on tackling feelings of isolation and loneliness and looking out for the mental health of our community.

Our projects are focussed on driving community connection. Our staff are focussed on ensuring access to services and keeping our community safe.

WHAT WE KNOW

Research by the Black Dog Institute has found more than

50 per cent of people have reported feeling lonely during the coronavirus pandemic.

Rachel Cohen, a clinical psychologist at the Black Dog Institute, says that the loneliness we might be experiencing now can be reduced with the help of social media, but it's the quality of our online connections that count.

This is backed up by what we're hearing in our community. Staying at home, doing the right thing, has been hard for people. They're searching for the community connection that is usually prevalent in our Shire.



What we're doing - Working for Victoria

KEY OPPORTUNITIES

Working for Victoria

Up to 43 new jobs were created in our Shire to help those impacted by the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

The jobs were funded by the Victorian Government's Working for Victoria initiative and have provided us with the support needed to Reset, Reboot and Revitalise our community.

The six-month positions will provide community support in areas such as planning and assets, information technology, communications, project management, maintenance and repairs, food services and catering for the vulnerable, cleaning and much more.

In the outdoor crew we are ensuring facilities like playgrounds, toilets and public facilities are kept clean to meet the safest possible cleanliness measures during the coronavirus pandemic.

Members of this team are also out and about cleaning roadside drains to prepare for a wet winter and foreshadowed heavy spring rains and then the summer fire season.

In our communications, engagement, tourism and community development teams we have people working with schools, the art community, the elderly, our business community and so much more to drive connectiveness and wellbeing.

Our economic development team is working with businesses across our Shire to connect them to support opportunities and two additional project managers will help drive our important capital works program.

We'll also use the opportunity to work with the community to develop new streetscape plans for all our townships ready for planting and upgrades.

The \$500 million Working for Victoria program is part of the government's response to the coronavirus pandemic and includes matching people who have lost their job due to the economic impacts of coronavirus with employers.

Strathbogie Shire is one of an initial 28 councils across Victoria participating in the new initiative.

This is fantastic news for our community.

Before **After**

Before **After**

Before **After**

This is fantastic news for our community.

What we're doing - The Strathbogie Story

In doing our bit to stop the spread of the virus, comes feelings of isolation and loneliness.

Council knows these feelings are real because we too are feeling their effects.

To help our community overcome these feelings we've developed a project that aims to drive community connections.

This is more than a simple video storytelling project and more than a children's story book competition.

This is **The Strathbogie Story**.

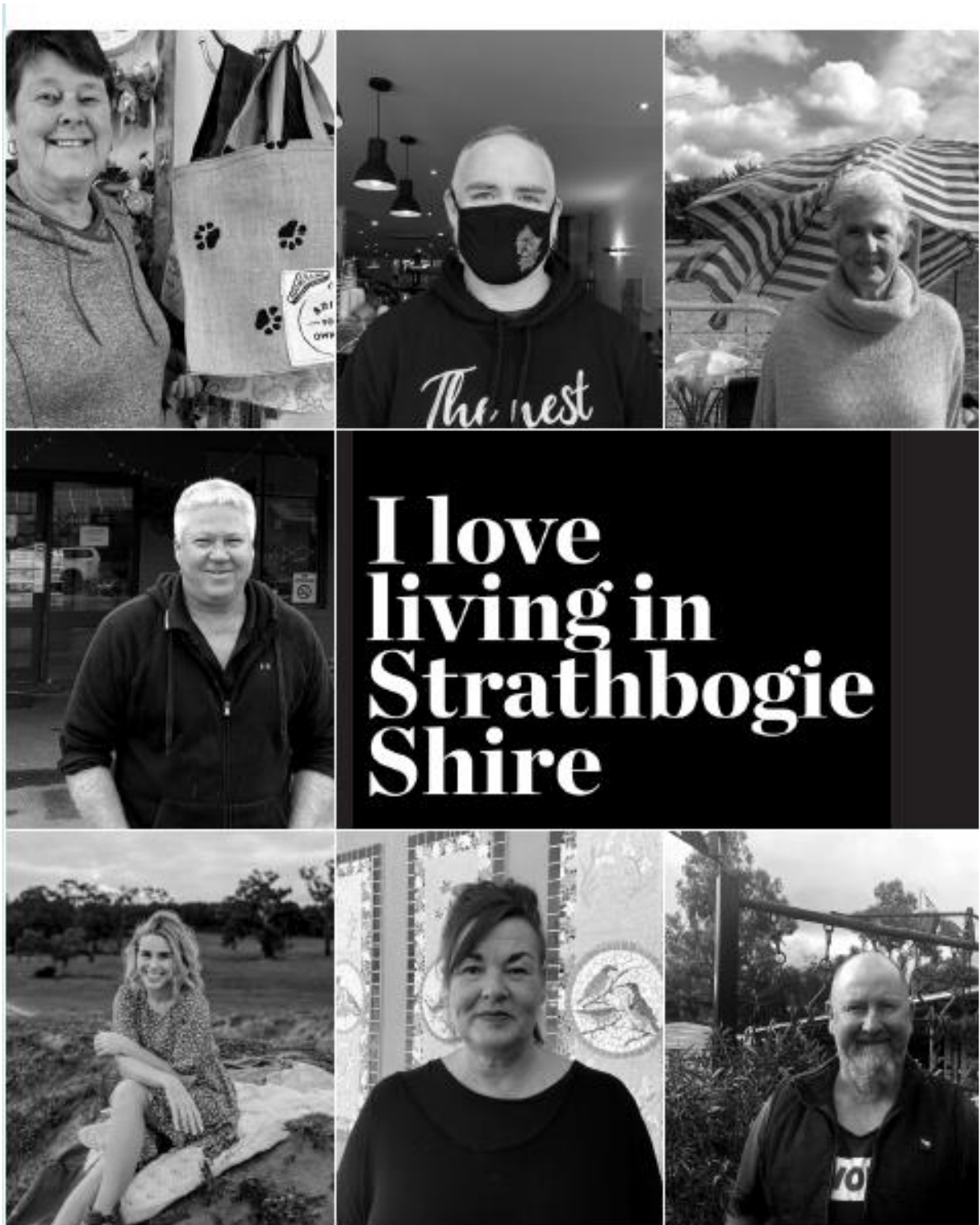
Through this project our community is sharing its stories through video, story books and even a hand-written note.

Locals are sharing their passions, why they love where we live and offering advice on getting through this together.

We are learning more about our people, their talents, resilience and ultimately what makes our community tick.

Most importantly we are tackling feelings of isolation and loneliness by bringing our community together.





What we're doing - community grants program

Another important way we're working to reboot our community is through a streamlined RE3 Community Grants Program.

We're simplifying the application process and asking our community to tell us how their project will help them address the impacts of the coronavirus pandemic.

Activities prioritised for a grant of up to \$5000 include:

- New one-off programs or activities that strengthen our community.

- The adaptation of existing services, programs or activities to sustain operations or support operational changes to meet public health directives.
- The implementation of activities outlined in COVID Safe Plans

We are encouraging projects that increase social connection and reduce isolation, promote healthy relationships or improve social, physical and mental health during COVID-19 restrictions. Most importantly we are looking to promote kindness and support for fellow community members.



Captions over page

1. Strathbogie Historical Group digitizing historical memorabilia

2. Kelvin View Hall project

3. Strathbogie Memorial Hall audio equipment

4. Bogarts opening night in Memorial Hall

5. Avenel Primary School - greenhouse for community garden

6. Euroa Croquet Club - concrete edging

7. Violet Historical Society - new projector



What we're doing – Phase 2: Reboot

Capital works power on

Our capital works program has not stopped. We want to ensure that when we move into the next phase we're ready to flourish. We know that, while the capital works program provides high quality infrastructure for our community, it's progress creates economic benefits through the construction of new projects and maintenance of existing assets.

In Euroa we will spend more than \$800,000 on projects which include upgrading the saleyards, netball courts and the RSL Clubroom. Along with a scoping study for the Rockies Pedestrian Footbridge and the creation of a leash free dog park.

In Violet Town we'll invest almost \$400,000 to upgrade netball courts and market infrastructure and create an important dump point.

In Nagambie more than \$800,000 will be spent investigating a splash park and aquatic park and the upgrade of Wattlevale Rd. We'll also create opportunities for youth and water infrastructure to the Nagambie Recreation Reserve.

In Longwood \$42,000 will install solar at the community centre, in Strathbogie \$25,000 will be spent on the picnic shelter works and in Avenel \$50,000 will be spent on an exercise station.

For the full program see the 2020/21 Budget at www.strathbogie.vic.gov.au

Taking services and community engagement online

One of the most important aspects of working with our community is ensuring we continue to engage with them. While online isn't always the perfect way to engage with our community, we have embraced technology and are running regular community feedback sessions online.

While our Library buildings are closed, the service is still well and truly running behind the scenes. Librarians are working to keep the click and collect service running.

We've also continued story time with the younger in our community via StoryBox Library and are sharing child friendly videos through Kanopy Kids.

What we're doing - Phase 2: Reboot



Zero to One Roads improvement program

Of particular note in our 2020/21 Budget is the continuation of an allocation of \$400,000 for the Zero to One Roads improvement program, which will continue to upgrade the municipality's unsealed roads. This brings to \$1.6 million the amount allocated to this initiative in the term of the current Council.

Access to health services

Our Council has received funding to be the lead agency in our Local Government area to deliver the COVID-19 Community Activation and Social Isolation Initiative (CASI). This initiative involves the appointment of a person to undertake the Community

The role will be a valuable contact point for all members of our community who need support during the coronavirus pandemic. Once connected with Strathbogie Shire, community members will be linked in with relevant support services. Additionally, the role will establish and build on existing networks of support services

What we're doing - Phase 3: Revitalise

Phase 3: Revitalise

This is the forward-looking phase. This is where we plan, advocate and work together to help our community flourish in the wake of coronavirus.

KEY OPPORTUNITIES

Engage with community to learn, heal and flourish:

Community engagement is key in this phase. We must work with our community to ensure we're hitting the mark - delivering the services they need. This is why the actions and opportunities in phase three are yet to be outlined. We wouldn't want to pre-empt our community's wants or needs.

Improve access to services:

It's highly likely our post-COVID community will look different. We must ensure access to services is easy, this includes (but is not limited to) health services, playgroups and maternal health services and mental health services

Ensure our community is heard:

We will advocate for funding to help our community recover. Our Shire will be strong in it's support, our community engagement will ensure a united voice.

Economic Development

Strategy: We will work in collaboration with our community to develop an Economic Development Strategy that further supports, stimulates and strengthens the local economy.

Taking customer service online:

As we adapt to a post COVID-19 community we know many things will have changed and we'll need to take our forms and payments online. This means we will provide our community with simple ways to access Council - from your home!



What does success look like

While measuring our success will be challenging, and largely outside of Council's control we have developed a set of performance measures for our organisation. These are outlined below.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- The impact on economic output steadies after the second (August/September) lock down.
- The job rate in Strathbogie Shire remains steady, or improves, as we move into Phase three of our COVID-19 recovery plan.
- Tourism is reignited and visitation returns to the area after the second (August/September) lock down.
- The return of large-scale events to the Shire when safe to do so with support from Council to ensure compliance of all COVID safety measures.

COMMUNITY

- Council's COVID recovery initiatives are welcomed by our community and we see increased performed in our Community Satisfaction Survey results.

- We see our community proactively taking up the help provided through the Community Connector role and the Community Activation and Social Isolation Initiative (CASI).
- The launch and delivery of a Healthy Aging newsletter to more vulnerable people in our community.
- We see the return of community events when safe to do so, with additional assistance offered by officers to support community to navigate new post COVID requirements.
- Successful community tree planting projects delivered across multiple sites in the Shire.
- RE3 COVID Response Community Grants implemented and funds distributed to a range of groups to deliver projects/ activities.

What does success look like

COMMUNICATION

- Our community is coming to us to learn. We achieve a social media reach of 30,000 on our RE3 initiatives.
 - Our community is easily informed about the work we do. This means a new website that is easy to use and navigate.
 - We get more information to our community through proactive media and the launch of an eNews.
 - Our My Strathbogie Bulletin is packed full of important information for our community.
 - A direct point of contact established for people impacted due to COVID-19 via the Community Connector role.
- Releasing more than 20 (90 second) videos featuring people from across our Shire which promote a diverse range of people and experiences
 - All eight primary schools participate in the Strathbogie Story.
 - Stronger connections established with community groups and relevant agencies
 - People who participate in Council engagement activities feel they are heard and their advice is taken on board.

OPERATIONS

- Successful delivery of Working for Victoria initiatives.

ENGAGEMENT

- The Strathbogie Story tackles isolation and loneliness in our community by:
 - Achieving more than 3000 page views.
 - Producing and released more than six Strathbogie Story postcards

9.22 Strathbogie Shire Submission to a Joint Standing Committee Inquiry into the Business Case for the NBN and Experiences of Small Businesses

Authors: Economic Development Team

Responsible Director: Director Community and Planning (Acting)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A Strathbogie Shire Submission has been prepared in response to calls for submissions from the Joint Standing Committee on the National Broadband Network (NBN) of the Commonwealth Parliament into the business case for the NBN and experiences of small businesses. The submission identifies the shortcomings of the NBN and mobile coverage for our Shire, considers the impact of Covid-19, calls for improvements, recommends recognition of the Goulburn Region Digital Plan and collaboration at all levels of Government to deliver an equitable offering of superfast broad band to the region.

The submission supports further development and improvements in the delivery of digital connectivity to communities and businesses in the Strathbogie Shire. Furthermore, providing a submission is consistent with a commitment to achieve best outcomes for the municipality for the future and being engaged in strategic decision making.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 1. Notes and endorses the submission to be sent to the Commonwealth Joint Standing Committee of Inquiry on the National Broadband Network (NBN) of the Commonwealth Parliament into the business case for the NBN and experiences of small businesses.***
- 2. Authorise officers to submit the letter, submission response and associated supporting documentation to the Inquiry.***

PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND

The NBN is a critical foundation infrastructure for Strathbogie Shire communities.

The purpose of researching and making a submission to the Joint Standing Committee on the NBN is to advocate on behalf of the community and businesses for upgrades and improvements to access to the NBN here in Strathbogie Shire. Therefore, we are supporting the community now, and for future social and economic development.

The Joint Standing Committee was formed last year, has received some submissions but due to the COVID-19 pandemic had reiterated its call for submitters to also assess the impact of COVID- 19 on the demand for NBN services and performance of broadband.

9.22 Strathbogie Shire Submission to a Joint Standing Committee Inquiry into the Business Case for the NBN and Experiences of Small Businesses (cont.)

By making this submission Council places information from the region on the record, informs the Parliament, and supports local MPs who have been working to assist locals to get connected or improve NBN services.

Strathbogie Shire is also a member of the Goulburn Region Partnership which has developed a Goulburn Digital Plan. The Plan and evidence document were developed by Goulburn Region Councils in partnership with Regional Development Victoria.

The Plan identified shortcomings in the provision of digital connections and proposes collaborations to improve outcomes in the region. Our submission also supports the Goulburn Regional Digital Plan.

ISSUES, OPTIONS AND DISCUSSION

Digital connection is an issue for our communities and businesses. The Northern Victoria region, in which Strathbogie Shire is located, rates as the at the lowest level in Victoria on the Australian Digital Divide Index. Essentially, poor digital connection and NBN services inhibit social and economic development.

As digital development moves quickly, we should not afford Strathbogie Shire to be left behind. During Covid-19 restrictions the use of internet connectivity has become more important for community, education, and business sustainability.

In preparation for making a submission we surveyed business owners on our business network database. 79 replies were returned with many useful comments and an overwhelming majority of respondents recording dropouts or slow service speeds of their NBN connections. There is unequivocal local dissatisfaction and frustration with the NBN.

Through taking the opportunity to research, write and present a submission to the Joint Standing Committee on behalf of our community places our concerns and position on the public record, and advocates for positive change with decision makers. Some locations in the Strathbogie Shire are poorly serviced by the NBN, by identifying these places Council can advocate for improvements.

Once accepted for publication by the Joint Standing Committee the submission can be distributed widely to encourage greater collaboration on the NBN issues in our region.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Community engagement has been conducted in the week of 24 to 31 August, 2020.

To initiate interest and gauge the attitude of business owners in the community a survey was emailed to our Business Network database (527 sent, 79 returns 15% response rate). The returned results were clear. Many respondents are troubled by their NBN connections and are not receiving a superfast broadband quality outcome.

9.22 Strathbogie Shire Submission to a Joint Standing Committee Inquiry into the Business Case for the NBN and Experiences of Small Businesses (cont.)

Business owners expressed frustration with the performance of the NBN and have been caused to seek alternative technologies to maintain good connections. For example, paying for extra 4G connections.

The consultations were well received by business owners. Engagement with businesses owners on these NBN issues provides a link between Council and business.

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

Council Plans and Policies

Researching the use of NBN and its impact on business in the Shire is consistent with promotion of improved social and economic development outcomes for Strathbogie Shire.

Bridging the digital divide between city and country is a key objective of the NBN rollout, our submission advocates for a continuing effort to ensure the NBN meets this objective.

The Submission to the Parliament is consistent with section 6-9 of the Council Plan covering telecommunications in which the council has proposed to “Advocate for improved telecommunications infrastructure and connectivity in the Strathbogie Shire”

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies

Strathbogie Shire has actively participated in the development of the Goulburn Digital Plan. Support for the Plan is expressed in the submission.

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

One of the Overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that Council decisions are to be made and actions taken in accordance with the relevant law.

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

Conflict of Interest Declaration

All officers, and/or contractors, involved in the preparation of this report have declared in writing that they do not have a conflict of interest in the subject matter of this report.

Transparency

This matter will be discussed at a Council meeting open to the public.

Making a submission to the Joint Standing Committee is a transparent and public activity, the submission is likely to be published on the Joint Standing committee website.

9.22 Strathbogie Shire Submission to a Joint Standing Committee Inquiry into the Business Case for the NBN and Experiences of Small Businesses (cont.)

FINANCIAL VIABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

Researching, writing, and submitting to the Joint Standing Committee on behalf of our residents and ratepayers incurs no additional cost to Council.

SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

One of the Overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that the economic, social and environmental sustainability of the municipal district, including mitigation and planning for climate change risks, is to be promoted.

Economic and Social

The NBN is a vital piece of foundation infrastructure (economic and social) and has been developed to supply all Australians with connectivity. Digital means of doing all manner of our daily transactions are developing fast and have the power to drive and improve economic and social sustainability.

In their 2019 “Measuring Australia’s Digital Divide Report” the Australian Digital Inclusion Index stated that:

“The goal of digital inclusion is to enable everyone to access and use digital technologies effectively.

It goes beyond simply owning a computer or having access to a smartphone. Social and economic participation lies at the heart of digital inclusion: using online and mobile technologies to improve skills, enhance quality of life, educate, and promote wellbeing, civic engagement and sustainable development across the whole of society.

Council’s submission supports continuing NBN development in the regions to reach the goal of digital inclusion, described above, for all Australians, and to advocate that people in regions must not be left behind... never to catch up.

Inclusion is an ever more important social sustainability matter in our society, the digital divide separates some people from others in our community, loneliness and isolation develops. Digital inclusion can bring people together and involve people in communities of activities. This has especially been the case during period of Covid restrictions.

INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

One of the Overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is the pursuit of innovation and continuous improvement.

By making a submission and detailing the shortcomings of the NBN in our region the Shire is contributing to continuous improvement of digital connection in the interests of the community.

9.22 Strathbogie Shire Submission to a Joint Standing Committee Inquiry into the Business Case for the NBN and Experiences of Small Businesses (cont.)

COLLABORATION

One of the Overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that collaboration with other councils, levels of government and statutory bodies is to be sought.

In the research and writing of the submission Council officers collaborated with the Goulburn Regional Partnership and Regional Development Victoria (Shepparton Office). To improve NBN outcomes a future highly focussed collaborative effort at all levels of Government is a recommendation in the submission.

HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS

This report does not consider that it limits human rights under the Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006

CONCLUSION

A Strathbogie Shire submission will add local information and regional evidence to the Joint Standing Committee NBN inquiry, support our communities and businesses, and promote the progress of the Goulburn Region Digital Plan.

Moreover, providing a submission is consistent with a commitment to achieve best outcomes for the municipality for the future and being engaged in strategic decision making.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Strathbogie Shire Letter of Submission

Attachment 2: Strathbogie Shire Submission to Joint Standing Committee NBN

Attachment 3: Strathbogie Shire NBN Survey Report August 2020

ATTACHMENT 1:

Draft

Committee Secretariat
Joint Standing Committee NBN - Inquiry into the business case for the NBN and
experiences of small business
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Delivered by email to nbn.joint@aph.gov.au

DD/MM/YY

Strathbogie Shire Council is pleased to deliver our submission, accompanying this letter, to the Joint Standing Committee NBN - Inquiry into the business case for the NBN and the experiences of small business. We appreciate the opportunity to contribute our local regional digital connectivity experiences.

The NBN is vitally important to our communities and businesses right now, and for our future development. Our submission includes research undertaken by the Goulburn Region Partnership and our own survey of business owners. In our survey, 61% of businesses experienced daily dropouts in connection and 90% reported slow speeds. Our small businesses are disadvantaged and likely to be uncompetitive in comparison to businesses in other places better served by the NBN.

In our submission, Strathbogie Shire Council seeks support for our region, we strongly believe that digital disadvantage should not cause impeded social and or economic development.

I trust that our submission will be useful to your inquiry. We are committed to seeking the best possible NBN and mobile connection outcomes for Strathbogie Shire communities.

Should you wish to discuss our submission please contact Steve Cooper, our Economic Development Co-ordinator on 0357951063 or by email to steve.cooper@strathbogie.vic.gov.au

Yours sincerely

Cr Amanda McClaren
Mayor and Lake Nagambie Ward Councillor

ATTACHMENT 2:



Close.... But No Connection

A Regional Perspective on the NBN

Submission to Joint Standing Committee NBN

Inquiry into the business case for the

NBN and the experiences of small

businesses

Table of Contents

Joint Parliamentary Committee Inquiry into the business case for the NBN and the experiences of small businesses	3
Strathbogie Shire Submission – a regional perspective on the NBN	3
Executive Summary	3
Close... But no connection	3
The National Broadband Network is important	4
The purpose of the NBN	4
Covid 19 restrictions forced people to stay at home	4
Working from home (WFH)	5
Australians rate broadband as “fairly or very poor”,	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Our own Strathbogie Shire Survey of businesses	5
Experiences of small and medium business in relation to the utilisation, accessibility, customer service and affordability of the NBN	6
In their own words... ..	6
Negative internet experiences	6
Video Conferencing	6
Working from home during Covid -19	6
Impact of Covid-19	7
Digital Divide	7
Price	7
Goulburn Region Digital Plan identifies NBN shortfalls	7
The Digital Divide	8
Looking forward to Superfast Broadband	9
The NBN job is not yet done	10
Emergency communications	10
Visitor Economy	10
Collaboration across all levels of Government is needed	11
Two connectivity case studies	12
Case Study 1 – Mitchelton Winery & Hotel	12
Case Study - 2 Swettenham Stud	13
Endnotes, Quotes and References	14



Joint Parliamentary Committee Inquiry into the business case for the NBN and the experiences of small businesses

Strathbogie Shire Submission – a regional perspective on the NBN

Executive Summary

Strathbogie Shire Council and its community located in the Goulburn region of Victoria, are looking forward to readily available, reliable, superfast broadband service. Supply of digital connectivity is a critical foundation infrastructure in our community. Right now, they feel dissatisfied, disadvantaged, and disconnected by the National Broadband Network (NBN) due to the current issues and service levels.

Recent statements made in the Parliament upon the introduction of new Telecommunications Bills were encouraging, the Minister for Communications, the Hon Paul Fletcher said:

" the Regional Broadband Scheme will establish a transparent and equitable funding mechanism to make sure NBN Co's satellite and fixed wireless services can continue to provide superfast broadband to regional Australia."

That is what we want in the regions... Superfast Broadband.

Covid 19 and working from home (WFH) have confirmed the value of connectivity. If the region is not supplied with an equitable NBN offer, then it will be further disadvantaged in the WFH space. The Australian Digital Divide Index (ADDI) places our region 13.7 index points behind Canberra and 11 behind Melbourne. A digital divide between rural/regional cities and metropolitan cities exists.

Strathbogie Shire Council seeks support for the region, we cannot afford to be digitally disadvantaged or impeded in social and economic development.

NBN experiences of Strathbogie businesses are poor, many short comings in service, and speed, are recorded. 61% of surveyed businesses experienced daily dropouts in connection. 90% reported slow speeds.

We fear that with increasing pace of digital development, regions like Strathbogie Shire will be left behind, we are already trying to catch up, but the NBN and mobile phone coverage is letting us down. Small businesses are disadvantaged and uncompetitive in comparison to businesses in other places better served by the NBN. Some businesses cannot remain in the regions and leave in search of greater connectivity.

We recommend to the Joint Committee, insights, and evidence, found in several key research papers: the Goulburn Regional Partnership Digital Plan, and Evidence, and the ADDI Report 2019. Our own survey of businesses in Strathbogie Shire is also attached.

The NBN job is not yet done.

Poor connectivity in the regions, in this digital age, must be turned around by an intense period of focus and renewed collaboration between all levels of Government.

Close... But no connection

There is a certain irony that Strathbogie Shire Council, in an inner regional area, is making this submission to emphasise that digital connectivity, critical to modern communications, is not up to par, so close to metropolitan Melbourne.

At our southern boundary Strathbogie Shire is 123 kilometres from the Melbourne CBD. Strathbogie Shire covers a large 3303 Sq. kilometres and has a population of 10,272 people. Euroa (3279), Nagambie (1880), Avenel (1054), and Violet Town (872), are our regional towns.



We have vibrant communities and businesses supported by agriculture, (sheep, grains, beef, and dairy cattle), viticulture, winemaking, horse breeding and training, tourism & hospitality, and the wonderful natural assets of Australia Felix. However, digital connectivity can be problematic for businesses, sole traders, our residents, and visitors.

Connectivity by fixed line, fixed wireless, satellite, or mobile phone technology is vital to our communities. Yet, fast broadband connectivity is not a reality in many Strathbogie Shire locations.

To be connected, we are always hopeful, we know it is possible, the NBN is here, but connectivity can be difficult to manage, and the results ultimately frustrating.

Black spots abound, too many to report, and mobile 4G coverage away from main roads has often gone missing or it is a poor quality or a poor quality 3G at best.

The National Broadband Network is important

Arguably, the National Broadband Network (NBN), and mobile phone coverage, is even more important now in regions like Strathbogie Shire than in any metropolis. Connectivity allows personal and business communications otherwise not possible. Video calls for example, meeting applications, ZOOM, and Telehealth are powerful communication tools for people challenged by distances, living and working outside a major city.

The purpose of the NBN

In its 2018-2021 Corporate plan, NBN Co declared its purpose to be:

"nbn's purpose is to connect Australia and bridge the digital divide. nbn exists to provide local network access to fast broadband to every home and business in Australia. The nbn local access network connects with Retail Service Providers' (RSPs) domestic transmission networks and international networks to deliver fast broadband. nbn has a commitment to deliver access to peak wholesale download data rates of at least 25 megabits per second (Mbps) to all premises, and at least 50Mbps peak wholesale download data rates to 90 per cent of the fixed line network"

That is what we want in our region, fast broadband, (also known as superfast broadband) in every home and business.

Covid 19 restrictions forced people to stay at home.

Many business owners and staff have worked from home, due to Covid-19, so connectivity is more important in 2020 than last year. There is an increasing reliance on the NBN and digital connectivity as a foundation infrastructure of our regional communities. NBN infrastructure, and 4G, therefore, must be accessible, reliable, and working better than ever.

Working from home (WFH)

Recently NBN Co surveyed over 1000 customers working from home because of the Covid 19 pandemic. The survey found that access to fast broadband made 81 per cent of those surveyed feel more secure in their jobs during the COVID-19 crisis.

Commenting on their survey Brad Whitcomb, Chief Customer Officer – Residential at NBN CO said:

"The COVID-19 pandemic has accelerated the digitisation of our lives and highlighted the very reason the nbn™ network was built," And further:

"The way Australians use the internet to work, learn new skills and connect with their family, friends and colleagues has been transformed, and we expect that many of these new behaviours are here to stay."

These NBN Co survey results, and positive commentary, highlight the importance of making sure that businesses and residents in places like Strathbogie Shire are delivered connectivity at an equivalent standard to other locations (in metropolitan centres) enjoying faster and better digital connectivity.

It should be ensured by appropriate investment, service delivery and targeted assistance, that NBN access and good performance in Strathbogie Shire is just as available here as it is to people living in Brunswick where Fibre To The Node or Fibre To The Premises can provide best level fast connections.

Many farmers, sole traders and business owners in Strathbogie Shire are always working from home, distant from fibre networks, they also deserve a good connection, on a par with metro Melbourne.

Our own Strathbogie Shire Survey of businesses

To prepare this submission and gauge the real world NBN experiences of business, Strathbogie Shire surveyed our business owners. The results of our survey may be best described as unsatisfactory, and those dissatisfied respondents as unhappy and frustrated.

68% of businesses experienced poor internet coverage which had a negative effect on their business.

Many respondents described poor services, poor connections, slow speeds, and drop-outs. Waiting, disruption of processes, and time lost are major frustrations.

The comments elicited by the survey are numerous and reflect the strength of feeling in the business community who now must rely on digital connectivity and worry about the efficacy of doing so.

Strathbogie Shire Survey figures:

- Type of service - 34% use NBN Fixed Wireless, 29% NBN Landline, 18% NBN Satellite, 13% 4G Mobile & Wireless and 6% ADSL/Cable.
- Slow speed - 90% of businesses surveyed experienced slow speed and drop-outs.
- Drop-outs - 62% of businesses surveyed experienced Daily dropouts, 24% Weekly dropouts and 14% Monthly dropouts.
- Slow Uploads- 77% of businesses surveyed experienced slow upload speeds.
- Video conferencing -77% of businesses surveyed used video conferencing during Covid-19.
- Video dropouts - 61% of businesses surveyed experienced video conferencing dropouts, slow speed, and time delays during Covid-19.
- Pricing - 56% of businesses surveyed said that pricing was not a deciding factor when choosing their internet plan, compared to 44% of business who said price was a deciding factor.

Experiences of small and medium business in relation to the utilisation, accessibility, customer service and affordability of the NBN

Reliance on NBN Fixed Wireless, and NBN satellite in Strathbogie is limiting, some businesses have been forced to seek 4G connections to improve performance and reliability. The ubiquity of internet driven systems demands that small business must seek out stable and useful connections.

Working from the survey results, and comments, the NBN is not meeting the expectations of business and the community is therefore not benefitting from the full service that the NBN should be providing and which is spoken of in NBN Strategic Plans and Ministerial announcements.

In their own words...

Typical of the comments from business owners, in their own words, were the following:

Negative internet experiences

- *"we have spent considerable amounts of money, have tried NBN satellite, broadband and 18mths ago had 4g internet and boosters installed. we are once again looking at upgrading internet equipment to try and achieve an improved internet service with our accounting and horse management software programs being cloud based we often struggle to even access these imperative business systems"*
- *"We have not been able to update and include new technology on our website and other communications as it is taking too long to do updates etc. I was driving to Melbourne frequently (pre-restrictions) and updating at the office in Melbourne as it was too difficult to do."*
- *"I have not been able to update my website regularly and it takes forever to connect to vital websites. I struggle to upload images for our sales and will have to go in to town to do this. It's not good enough."*
- *"We have had to abandon the NBN for our administrative office personnel and move to the far more expensive 4G connection - the speeds we obtain through this are at least >100mbps, and more reliable for the bandwidth requirements of the business. We provide emergency services through our aerial firefighting capability and connectivity is key to our ability to enact this critical community service."*

Video Conferencing:

- *"Delayed and some days has dropped out, inconsistent and therefore unreliable when running multiple businesses. Has financial and strategic impact short and long term."*
- *"The meeting will freeze and I will have to logout and log in again and I normally miss out on a vital part of the meeting! I can't use my camera either as the internet isn't good enough."*
- *"There is a definite lag between the lips moving and the voice you hear. Also video conferencing is very "jerky". And don't bother running video and sharing your screen in a zoom meeting the lag between you clicking on something and your client seeing what you are clicking on is frustrating!"*
- *"Connection lags and then we drop out completely. NBN is unreliable at best. Have been unable to join Zoom meetings."*

Working from home during Covid -19

- *"Staff working from home have has various success. Some employees experience multiple dropouts in an hour on remote connections to the office server making working from home extremely difficult."*

- *"We need more data, NBN satellite is limiting, children cannot home school from home and we cannot run our businesses effectively or on demand which is what is required with online businesses and global companies."*

Impact of Covid-19

- *"I pay for unlimited service and have begged Telstra for support or an NBN connection to no avail. Customers continually complain about the internet service, this is also bad for my mental health, I am trying to deal with a situation I can't help, very distressing. Have had to purchase a dongle to be able to work during the Coronavirus."*

Digital Divide

- *"I would like to have access to unlimited NBN at a reasonable cost, as people can do in larger cities."*
- *"Sufficient bandwidth and speed are more relevant to than is the price, but the price of services must always be evaluated. It is anti-competitive that metro based competitors have a bigger range of services and generally at lower prices than regionally based businesses."*

Price

- *"It's expensive particularly compared to other countries. We need internet to run our business yet we need it to be fast and consistent."*
- *"I would be comfortable with the pricing if the speed and reliability was consistent. Unfortunately it sometimes isn't and it seems that we are expected to accept this as normal."*
- *"I work from home (as do most people at the moment) so I need to have the fastest possible plan that I can afford. We need to be able to have multiple people using the internet for school, work or streaming/gaming at the same time."*
- *"I was prepared to pay more out of desperation but was told they could not guarantee it would be a better service."*

Other surveys in regional Victoria, like the Bendigo survey with over 3000 respondents, have also recorded dissatisfaction with NBN and mobile phone services. Strathbogie Shire residents are not alone in their commentary and experience of unsatisfactory low levels of NBN satisfaction.

Detailed Strathbogie Shire survey results and all comments are included as an attachment to this submission.

Goulburn Region Digital Plan identifies NBN shortfalls

Strathbogie Shire has been part of a study of digital connectivity across our region. A Goulburn Regional Digital Plan has been developed in collaboration with Goulburn Regional Partnerships. A report and supporting evidence document have been recently released. Some of the key findings are:

Enabling Infrastructure

- Fixed broadband service within the region currently do not meet the expectations or demand of communities and industry with substandard Fibre-to-the-Node (FTTN) connections limiting connectivity and use of fixed wireless and satellite technologies in smaller localities further compromising connectivity.... (Amen to that)
- Mobile connectivity is variable across the region with good service coverage around regional centres but poor network coverage in outlying areas – including key visitor and emergency management areas of the region.



- Networks available for Internet of Things (IOT) connectivity are not currently provided on a scale that meets the current and project future demand amongst industry. Use of these technologies offer significant opportunities for business to increase their productivity and efficiency.
- There is a deficiency in public Wi-Fi services relative to demand for affordable digital connectivity amongst visitors and the most vulnerable in communities.

Digital Uptake

- Across the region, issues around reliability of services and connectivity constraints as a result of the outlined Enabling Infrastructure issues are reducing the motivation of business and communities to explore and invest in digital technologies and services.

Digital Capability

- There are significant issues around the affordability of digital connectivity within the Goulburn Region with Goulburn residents paying more for access to digital services as a proportion of their household income than the rural Victorian and metropolitan Melbourne average.

Visitor locations supply shortfall

- All visitor locations have issues with fixed access broadband services. Half of the visitor spots analysed appear to have adequate mobile coverage based on public coverage data, but national parks, rivers and trails are under-served.
- Note that there are reservations, based on local mobile access experience, about the good coverage indicated by public coverage maps.

Primary production supply shortfalls

- Fixed access broadband services for businesses involved in primary production needs to be addressed. In its current state, the digital infrastructure is unable to meet the region's needs, with all locations found to have a major supply shortfall in fixed access broadband satellite services for business users.

The Goulburn Regional Digital Plan and supporting evidence document include a significant set of research relevant to Strathbogie Shire which we have referenced here. We recommend these reports to the Joint Standing Committee as useful material worthy of consideration, and to be given due weight, when analysing the current state of digital connectivity experience in the region.

Looking at the available NBN services now and into the future, 3 to 5 years, it appears that as demand increases the infrastructure will probably not keep up with the pace. Some communities will be left behind... that is not the purpose of the NBN. The aim is to provide fast broadband and to bridge the digital divide.

The local evidence is in...

Not to put too fine a point on it, people in the regions have reason to believe that they are not getting the full benefit of the NBN, and to feel short-changed.

The Digital Divide

There is a continuing gap between cities and regions... a digital divide not yet bridged. The NBN is a technology that should reduce distances and differences between city and country, it appears not yet, and even with the arrival of new services like 5G mobile, the gap may not be closed.

Figures and analysis published by the Australian Digital Inclusion Index 2019 (ADII) show that in the Northern Region of Victoria, including Strathbogrie, has the lowest ADII rating in Victoria.

- Northern Victoria scores - 53.9
- All other rural Victoria scores - 56.3
- Melbourne Metro scores - 64.9
- Melbourne Central scores - 66.8
- Canberra (all of ACT) scores - 67.6

Strathbogrie Shire in Northern Victoria is 11 points behind Metro Melbourne.

The gap between city and country has closed over recent ADII surveys however, there is concern that with continuing growth in the use of digital means to do everything in our lives, places like Strathbogrie Shire, currently sub-optimal will fall further behind. See Page 38 ADII Report for 2019.

Canberra (and all of ACT) is 13.7 index points ahead of Strathbogrie Shire.

What is the impact of the Digital Divide?

The Australian Digital Inclusion Index is instructive:

- Geography plays a critical role!
- Some Australians are particularly digitally excluded!
- Collaboration across all levels of government is needed!

"Digital inclusion is about bridging this digital divide. It is based on the premise that all Australians should be able to make full use of digital technologies: to manage their health and wellbeing, access education and services, organise their finances, and connect with friends, family, and the world beyond"

The goal of digital inclusion is to enable everyone to access and use digital technologies effectively. It goes beyond simply owning a computer or having access to a smartphone. Social and economic participation lies at the heart of digital inclusion: using online and mobile technologies to improve skills, enhance quality of life, educate, and promote wellbeing, civic engagement and sustainable development across the whole of society.

There are also larger national goals at stake. Digital inclusion is a necessary condition for the social, economic, and environmental transformations set out, for example, in the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Innovation leading to improved outcomes in health and education, sustainable cities, labour markets, and the justice system are likely to rely on high levels of participation, skills, and engagement with digital technologies".

We could not have said it better, the ADII group involving RMIT University, Swinburne University, the Centre for Social Impact, Telstra, and Roy Morgan Research... they have nailed it.

We ask that careful consideration and weight is given by the Committee to the full ADII report, "Measuring Australia's Digital Divide 2019": which we recommend to the committee.

People and communities should not be left behind, the necessary work in cooperation with State and Local governments must be done to engage all, or the original objectives of the NBN will not be met.

It would be particularly galling to allow metropolitan communities to benefit from the full NBN experience and knowingly leave behind regional communities.

Looking forward to Superfast Broadband

Introducing two Telecommunications Bills (Telecommunications Legislation Amendment (Competition and Consumer) Bill 2019, Telecommunications (Regional Broadband Scheme) Charge Bill 2019) into Parliament last year the Minister for Communications, The Hon Paul Fletcher said:



“the Regional Broadband Scheme will establish a transparent and equitable funding mechanism to make sure NBN Co’s satellite and fixed wireless services can continue to provide superfast broadband to regional Australia.”

Further Minister Fletcher said:

“The bill makes important changes to the regulatory framework to strengthen the provision of superfast broadband infrastructure across Australia. The changes put the customer experience at the forefront by ensuring consumers can benefit from greater wholesale and retail competition, access superfast broadband under the statutory infrastructure provider obligation and are supported by sustainable funding arrangements for essential broadband services in regional, rural and remote Australia.”

We support this statement whole heartedly and welcome the inherent commitment. Now we are looking forward to seeing the benefits of the legislation which passed and was assented to on May 20, 2020.

The NBN job is not yet done

Despite the June 30, 2020 end date for NBN rollout, the job is not yet done until gaps and missing links in services are improved to an acceptable operating standard in the regions... and there will always be room for further improvements.

What we ask, is that the NBN Co will bring the service up to a standard that does not discriminate against the likelihood of a successful fast broadband connection in all communities, and which therefore contributes to the success of communities and businesses in all places and does not lead to some being left behind.

Emergency communications

Safety and critical communications are enhanced by good internet and mobile phone coverage in circumstances where weather, fire and critical incidents strike to create danger. A sub-standard connection inhibits community understanding of warnings and news. Some providers of vital services or volunteers have been held back by slow or unreliable connections.

Black spots in mobile coverage coincident with poor NBN connections create communication black outs in some critical locations where visitors and tourists gather. 5G services are not here yet, it is not clear how 5G will impact and improve digital connectivity in the region. Will 5G be an NBN competitor too? What will happen to 3G services which in places is the only mobile service available?

What will happen when other competition arrives? There are currently in development and deployment, systems which use a multitude of broadband satellites to cover the globe. Will these new systems outrun and overtake the mixed method NBN?

Visitor Economy

Strathbogie Shire is visited by 366,000 people per annum, having a day out, a few days away, or a holiday. The visitor spend in the region is important, events, markets, festivals, and sporting gatherings also attract tourists.

NBN connections are especially important to tourism and hospitality businesses.

The Victorian Government has identified the importance of digital service to the visitor economy in its “Better tourism infrastructure 2025 outcomes plan”. They said:

“In a more competitive market, visitors are demanding better experiences. This includes high quality amenities and mobile phone and internet coverage.” And further:

“a \$52.5 million package has been announced to fix mobile blackspots in regional Victoria, including along regional rail lines. The Government will continue to look for opportunities to further increase regional mobile coverage.”



This is a good start to assist the visitor economy, however, some tourist locations in Strathbogie Shire are not even covered by reliable mobile phone coverage.

The power of tourism businesses having the ability to up tech should not be underestimated. Just to be competitive, tourism and hospitality businesses must be connected, and accessible, digital connectivity is vitally important.

Collaboration across all levels of Government is needed

The Strathbogie Shire recommends that a focussed and concerted effort be made to ensure that NBN delivery in this region is brought up to standard, to meet community expectations of Governments, and satisfy demand.

Right now, businesses and the community are falling behind in the digital race.

There is a level of dissatisfaction in the community which also undermines the NBN. The views of business owners are well expressed in the Strathbogie Shire survey.

One of the clear take away messages of this submission is the level of dissatisfaction and confusion out in the market for NBN services. More needs to be done to help people through connectivity, technical, and information issues.

The digital divide is being addressed by policies; however, practicalities are working against meeting policy expectations. More needs to be done in regions to communicate with business owners - listening, and acting to help people understand how to get the best out of the NBN.

A collaboration of Local, State and Commonwealth Governments using the Goulburn Regional Digital Plan as a guide in our region is recommended. Equity of access for regional businesses is very important, to deny equity is to place them at risk.

Working from home and schooling from home has recently increased demand and changed how people use the internet, but for others, much of their work has always been done at home. Tradies, farmers, contractors, sole traders need to be connected to obtain the benefits of new digitised systems.

The NBN shortfalls identified in the Goulburn Digital Plan are based on a careful analysis in their evidence document. This work should be used to immediately commence to collaborate on the upgrade of systems and upskilling of users in the Goulburn region.

Poor connectivity in the regions, in this digital age, must be turned around by an intense period of focus and renewed cooperation between all levels of Government to ensure equity with our metro counterparts.

The Council of Strathbogie Shire appreciates the work being performed by the Joint Standing Committee members in the delivery of this inquiry. The NBN is a critical foundation infrastructure. We trust that our submission will be useful to your inquiry. We are committed to seeking out the best possible NBN and mobile connection outcomes for Strathbogie Shire communities.

Attachments:

- Goulburn Region Digital Plan PDF
- Goulburn Region Digital Plan Evidence Document PDF
- Australian Digital Divide Index Report "Measuring Australia's Digital Divide" 2019 PDF
- Strathbogie Shire Survey of businesses – August 2020
- Two Connectivity case studies
- Endnotes, Quotes, Reference

Two connectivity case studies

Two connectivity case studies nearby to Nagambie

Digital connectivity is an issue even at places where tourism and commerce thrive, for example, the Mitchelton Hotel, an international standard tourist destination, and the neighbouring Swettenham Stud both near Nagambie.

Strathbogie Shire is also home to over 70 equine businesses, breeding properties and training centres, the horse racing industry is here, and international investors have arrived. The quality of the country and proximity to Melbourne is attractive however less than optimal digital connectivity can hold them back. Case study 2 describes the difficulties of operating a horse breeding facility with unreliable connectivity.

Case Study 1 – Mitchelton Winery & Hotel.

Started with vineyards planted in 1969 and then the building of the landmark 55 metre tower and cellar door in 1975, the Mitchelton site is a well-established tourist destination on the banks of the Goulburn River completed by the opening of a luxury boutique hotel and Day Spa in 2018.

It is major tourist destination in the area and attracts not only travellers but also local and international business and equine industry investors.

Mobile phone connectivity is a daily problem as coverage on site is intermittent, resulting in many visitors unable to make a phone call or send and receive email whilst in the area. The ability to offer high quality service to tourists is hampered by the negative experience of little or no mobile phone coverage. Improved mobile and internet services are vital to service existing businesses and continue to drive tourism and investment in the area.

Why is connectivity a problem?

- There are daily problems with mobile phone connectivity, coverage onsite at Mitchelton Hotel is poor and drops in and out depending where you are.
- Customers travel to local wineries, horse studs etc and cannot get a signal, make, and receive calls, or emails. Travellers are vital to the area.
- Want it to be a place where people can enjoy the tourism benefits.
- Horse stud neighbours and key investors are moving into the area, millions into major breeding operations. Hotel guests are visitors to the horse studs. If Nagambie and Strathbogie Shire aspire to build capacity in the region to be an internationally recognised equine epicentre, then horse studs and owners worldwide need to be able to connect.
- International visitors are taken aback when there is no mobile coverage for them it is a negative experience.

Case Study - 2 Swettenham Stud

Equine industries have found Strathbogie Shire to be well located for their purposes and have established horse breeding and training properties.

Investment in the racing industry continues with the likes of Swettenham Stud, Lindsay Park, and Yulong. A reputation is growing therefore the need for high quality connectivity is a necessity, not a nice to have, but a necessity to connect business here to overseas interests.

International renowned horse breeders Swettenham Stud are leaders in the thoroughbred industry, based in Nagambie. Investing substantially into their stud and celebrating the success of local horses such as Black Caviar, has seen a significant rise in international investment in the local area.

Online bloodstock auctions are the core of operating in the international arena, and internet delays can impact the auction result as many offers are lodged in the last 5minute period. Not knowing in 'real time' if your bid has been successful is an operational issue for the industry, of whom many are not just horse farms but multinational companies. Continued investment by international bloodstock breeders in the Nagambie, Strathbogie and Euroa areas will require accessible fast internet services to be able to compete now and into the future. It is critical.

Why connectivity is a problem:

- Swettenham Lodge is large estate where welfare of horses is very important. Internet based systems are used in breeding and welfare, staff and vets will be accessing information over the internet and delays/lag time is an issue, to be most effective the download information needs to be there and then on superfast broadband.
- Online auctions involve overseas bidding for horses online, the timeline is important to make an offer in the last minutes of the auction process. Sometimes the bidder is unsure if they pressed the button to bid, or if pressed twice then charged double.
- There is a widely held expectation that the NBN service will be fluent, and internet is vital to smooth operations of the stud.
- Other breeders moving into area, international investors from China, have discovered the region and need a good link to Mongolia. The Bloodstock hub area of Nagambie, Strathbogie, and Euroa is growing it in importance and connection to overseas.
- Investors are often multinational groups and the availability of the NBN, and Mobile cover is important to their investment decisions.

Endnotes, Quotes and References

Close...But no connection

<https://app.remplan.com.au/strathbogrie/community/population/age?state=PR&PieIiix2i0APYTXyavifkZiDBfnTitra5FvtPt4t0vuot6FKA2SEV7>

The National Broadband Network is important

The Purpose of the NBN

<https://www.nbnco.com.au/content/dam/nbnco2/2018/documents/corporate-reports/corporate-plan-2018-2021.pdf>

Working from home

NBN co have surveyed people working from home

<https://www.nbnco.com.au/blog/the-nbn-project/right-at-home-working-flexibility-the-new-normal-following-covid-19>

Live local, work global: In the era of remote work, Australia could become a destination for the world's best talent

https://www.smartcompany.com.au/people-human-resources/australia-destination-global-remote-workers/?utm_campaign=SC&utm_medium=email&utm_source=newsletter&utm_content=smartco_daily&utm_term=2020-08-25

Australians rate broadband as "fairly or very poor".

ISPOS survey of global infrastructure

Just 41 per cent rated the quality of Australia's digital infrastructure "fairly or very good" which was way below the global average of 55 per cent.

More than half of the Australians surveyed (51 per cent) rated the nation's digital infrastructure "fairly or very poor".

The Global Infrastructure Index survey conducted by the polling firm Ipsos asked respondents how they rated the nation's digital infrastructure including high speed broadband, full fibre networks (FTTP), and latest generation mobile phone networks.

Only Germany (30 per cent) and Italy (40 per cent) had a smaller share than Australia rating the quality their digital infrastructure "fairly or very good".

<https://www.ipsos.com/en/global-infrastructure-index-public-satisfaction-and-priorities-2019>

<https://www.smh.com.au/business/the-economy/global-survey-shows-australia-ranks-poorly-for-broadband-satisfaction-20191224-p53mpw.html>

Our own Strathbogrie Shire Survey of businesses

A copy is attached with this submission



Other surveys

<https://www.bendigoadvertiser.com.au/story/5282503/mp-receives-3250-responses-to-bendigo-nbn-survey/>

Goulburn Region Digital Plan identifies NBN shortfalls

A copy of the Plan and supporting evidence is attached with this submission

The digital divide

A vibrant digital economy and the significance of digital inclusion and confidence.

https://www.aph.gov.au/About_Parliament/Parliamentary_Departments/Parliamentary_Library/pubs/BriefingBook46p/RegionalTelecommunications

Measuring Australia's Digital Divide Report

A copy is attached with this submission

<https://digitalinclusionindex.org.au/>

AUSTRALIAN DIGITAL INCLUSION INDEX - What is digital inclusion?

As the internet has become the default medium for everyday exchanges, information-sharing, and access to essential services, being connected is now a necessity, rather than a luxury. However, some groups and individuals still face real barriers to participation. In recent years the overall digital divide has narrowed, but where gaps exist, it has also deepened. Latest ABS data shows that over two and a half million Australians are not online. These Australians are at risk of missing out on the advantages and assistance that digital technologies can offer.

Digital inclusion is whether a person can access, afford and have the digital ability to connect and use online technologies effectively]

Digital inclusion is about bridging this digital divide. It is based on the premise that all Australians should be able to make full use of digital technologies: to manage their health and wellbeing, access education and services, organise their finances, and connect with friends, family, and the world beyond.

The goal of digital inclusion is to enable everyone to access and use digital technologies effectively. It goes beyond simply owning a computer or having access to a smartphone. Social and economic participation lies at the heart of digital inclusion: using online and mobile technologies to improve skills, enhance quality of life, educate, and promote wellbeing, civic engagement and sustainable development across the whole of society.

There are also larger national goals at stake. Digital inclusion is a necessary condition for the social, economic, and environmental transformations set out, for example, in the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Innovation leading to improved outcomes in health and education, sustainable cities, labour markets, and the justice system are likely to rely on high levels of participation, skills, and engagement with digital technologies.

The Australian Digital Inclusion Index (ADII) has been created to measure the level of digital inclusion across the Australian population, and to monitor this level over time. Using data collected by Roy Morgan, the ADII has been developed through a collaborative partnership between RMIT University, Swinburne University of Technology, and Telstra.

A growing body of Australian and international research has outlined the various barriers to digital inclusion, the benefits of digital technologies, and the role of digital engagement in social inclusion.



Single studies have also measured how different social groups access and use the internet. However, the inaugural ADII report published in 2016 was the first substantive effort to combine these findings into a detailed measure of digital inclusion across Australia.

In our increasingly digitised world, it is vital that all Australians are able to share the advantages of being connected. By presenting an in-depth and ongoing overview, identifying gaps and barriers, and highlighting the social impact of digital engagement, the ADII aims to inform policy, community programs, and business efforts to boost digital inclusion in Australia.

Geography Plays a critical role

The ADII reveals substantial differences between Australians living in rural and urban areas. In 2019, digital inclusion is 8.1 points higher in capital cities (63.8) than in country areas (55.7). Nationally, the general trend has been a narrowing of the Capital–Country Gap since 2015, (from 9.6 points in 2015 to 8.1 points in 2019). However, there has been substantial fluctuation in the Capital–Country Gap across the states and territories since 2014. Over the past 12 months, the gap has narrowed in New South Wales (NSW), Victoria (VIC), South Australia (SA) and Queensland (QLD), but widened in Tasmania (TAS) and Western Australia (WA).

Some Australians are particularly digitally excluded

The ADII points to several socio-demographic groups that are Australia’s most digitally excluded in 2019, with scores 10.0 or more points below the national average (61.9). These groups in ascending order include: people in Q5 low-income households (43.3), mobile-only users (43.7) people aged 65+ (48.0), and people who did not complete secondary school (49.4).

Collaboration across all levels of government is needed

If the benefits of digital technology are to be shared by all Australians, digital inclusion should form an integral part of the state and national economic policy making and strategic planning. With the NBN nearing completion, Digital Ability and Affordability remain critical areas for attention. Collaboration across all three levels of government (which are rapidly moving their services online) is needed to improve the digital skills of excluded communities and people 50+ in the workforce. Consideration should also be given to digital inclusion as a key commitment in the Closing the Gap agenda, with a program of research to measure and monitor digital inclusion in remote Indigenous communities.

ADII 2019 https://digitalinclusionindex.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/TLS_ADII_Report-2019_Final_web_.pdf

Thomas, J, Barraket, J, Wilson, CK, Rennie, E, Ewing, S, MacDonald, T, 2019, Measuring Australia’s Digital Divide: The Australian Digital Inclusion Index 2019, RMIT University and Swinburne University of Technology, Melbourne, for Telstra.

Looking forward to Superfast Broadband

<https://parlinfo.aph.gov.au/parlInfo/search/display/display.w3p;query=Id%3A%22chamber%2Fhansard%2Fd70fa2ae-1caf-4548-a026-9f8c47bf03ee%2F0046%22>

Legislative improvements – recently legislated are welcome

Minister Fletcher introducing these changes in his second reading speech said:

"The competition and consumer bill contains three key measures.

Firstly, the bill will make carrier separation rules for superfast residential networks more effective and more flexible, giving carriers greater scope to invest in superfast networks and compete.

The changes to carrier separation rules will allow carriers, other than NBN Co, to operate fixed-line superfast networks with both wholesale and retail businesses, rather than to be wholesale only as is currently required.

Secondly, new statutory infrastructure provider (or SIP) obligations on NBN Co, and other carriers playing a comparable role, will support the ongoing delivery of superfast broadband services.

The statutory infrastructure provider obligations will place an explicit statutory requirement on NBN Co, or other carriers playing a comparable role, to connect premises and supply wholesale superfast broadband services on reasonable request from a retail provider. The baseline speed to be supplied is 25 megabits per second download and five megabits per second upload.

NBN Co will need to take all reasonable steps to ensure that 90 per cent of premises connected to its fixed-line networks can receive broadband speeds of 50 megabits per second download and 10 megabits per second upload. NBN Co's fixed-line networks should be able to connect at least 92 per cent of premises across Australia.

Thirdly, the Regional Broadband Scheme will establish a transparent and equitable funding mechanism to make sure NBN Co's satellite and fixed wireless services can continue to provide superfast broadband to regional Australia."

Further Minister Fletcher said"

The bill makes important changes to the regulatory framework to strengthen the provision of superfast broadband infrastructure across Australia. The changes put the customer experience at the forefront by ensuring consumers can benefit from greater wholesale and retail competition, access superfast broadband under the statutory infrastructure provider obligation and are supported by sustainable funding arrangements for essential broadband services in regional, rural and remote Australia.

Helen Haines MP Parliamentary debate 13 02 2020 Hansard p1189

<https://parlinfo.aph.gov.au/parlInfo/search/display/display.w3p;db=CHAMBER;id=chamber%2Fhansard%2F7d484b66-ffc9-4ae3-8b86-80e38515d510%2F0062;query=ld%3A%22chamber%>

Access to the internet is becoming as essential to daily life as access to electricity or water. It's now the government's main channel for interacting with citizens. This includes Centrelink reporting, the ATO and myGov. Yet this access is meaningless if it's unaffordable, particularly for low-income families. Coverage has to be universal not just on paper but in the reality of people's lives.

I welcome the second part of these bills. That's the introduction of the statutory infrastructure provider obligations on NBN Co and other carriers. These obligations will ensure that all Australian premises are able to access superfast broadband services of 25 megabits per second or better. If it's not reasonable to connect premises via fixed line, the provider must provide a fixed-wireless or satellite technology solution. On fixed-wireless services, voice services for consumers must be supported.

All people in Australia currently have guaranteed access to a telephone voice service through the Universal Service Obligation. This change helps build on that and provides consumers with certainty that all people in Australia, no matter where they live, have access to high-speed NBN. This news will

be very welcome to constituents of mine who access the NBN via satellite or fixed wireless, but I must say that these services still fall far below what they need, and I'd like to share just a couple of their stories.

A constituent who lives in Indi wrote to me expressing his frustration with the service he receives by satellite, the only NBN service available for his property. He and his partner are both undertaking university study by distance, online, to further their careers. They both actively volunteer with community groups and committees. But the current monthly data caps placed on NBN satellite customers mean they routinely run out of data. This places them at a huge disadvantage with regard to their ongoing education and involvement with the community groups that they serve. They've tried getting a bigger package, but they can't purchase any additional data, due to the NBN Fair Use Policy. As he told my office:

I'll cut to the chase, I truly feel like a second class citizen, I am disadvantaged simply due to my location, as I stated those in very close proximity to us have access to far better technology at a fraction of the cost. Whilst we are left short every month, I feel for those in more remote areas who rely on this technology for their children's education.

Experiences of small and medium business in relation to the utilisation, accessibility, customer service and affordability of the NBN

<https://theconversation.com/broadband-internet-can-help-rural-communities-connect-if-they-use-it-72941r>

<https://academic.oup.com/ajae/article-abstract/99/1/285/2452343>

<https://business.airband.co.uk/the-importance-of-fast-internet-for-rural-businesses/#:~:text=A%20high%20speed%20internet%20connection,that%20of%20their%20geographic%20base>

<https://www1.nbnco.com.au/blog/business/rural-women-achieving-goals-with-connectivity>

https://www.tio.com.au/sites/default/files/2020-07/TIO%20Systemic%20Report_Impacts%20of%20COVID-19%20on%20phone%20and%20internet%20complaints_July%202020.pdf

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/05/11/world/australia/australia-slow-internet-broadband.html>

ACCC are monitoring ...This Measuring Broadband Australia data clearly shows that too many consumers with FTTN connections are not receiving the speeds they are paying for.

<https://www.accc.gov.au/media-release/nbn-plan-speeds-pick-up-for-most-consumers>

Michelle Rowland speaking in Parliament on 13.02.2020 said

"Even as recently as yesterday, the ACCC took what can only be described as a direct swing at the performance of fibre to the node, following its latest broadband speed monitoring report. I point out that fibre to the node is actually the most prevalent fixed-line technology in regional Australia. The ACCC stated—and it wasn't subtle; it was very direct:

... many high speed fibre to the node (FTTN) connections still don't come close to performing as promised. The results show that about a quarter of those consumers on FTTN connections, who are paying for high-speed 50 Mbps and 100 Mbps plans, still did not receive anywhere near their full plan speeds, at any time.

Mr Sims, the ACCC chairman, went on to say:

This Measuring Broadband Australia data clearly shows that too many consumers with FTTN connections are not receiving the speeds they are paying for.

So the very valid question that Australian consumers should be asking, including those in rural and regional Australia is: why has this government built a \$51 billion network that is still not delivering the speeds that Australians are paying for?"

<https://parlinfo.aph.gov.au/parlInfo/search/display/display.w3p;query=ld%3A%22chamber%2Fhansard%2F7d484b66-ffc9-4ae3-8b86-80e38515d510%2F0059%22;src1=sm1>

The NBN JOB IS NOT DONE YET

Thursday, 10 May 2018 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 3657 CHAMBER

Ms McGOWAN (Indi) (11:04): I would like to endorse the comments of my colleague from Eden-Monaro. He absolutely understands the issues that we're facing. I rise to speak about the Telecommunications Legislation Amendment (Competition and Consumer) Bill 2017 and the Telecommunications (Regional Broadband Scheme) Charge Bill 2017. I will be supporting this legislation in the House. If passed, these bills will establish statutory infrastructure provider obligations on NBN Co to support the ongoing delivery of superfast broadband services and will provide sustainable funding for NBN Co's loss-making fixed wireless and satellite services to regional areas through the Regional Broadband Scheme, the RBS. I welcome these changes.

As a member of the Joint Standing Committee on the NBN, I, along with many of my colleagues in the House, heard firsthand of the dissatisfaction with the rollout of the NBN. The dissatisfaction absolutely seems to be highest in regional communities. The purpose of the NBN rollout committee is very clear. Our job is to assess the rollout of the NBN and ensure that this significant infrastructure project for Australia is delivered in a way that delivers the social and economic benefits it promised.

My office, like those of many members in regional areas, is acutely aware of the gap between the promise and the reality of the NBN. The experience of one of my constituents from the King Valley, a wine-producing and agricultural region 300 kilometres north of Melbourne, is a clear indication of this. I would like to read this into Hansard because I think it encapsulates the enormous frustrations that we're experiencing, but before I do I'd like to acknowledge the Minister for Regional Development, Territories and Local Government, who's in the House. It's lovely to have you here, Minister. I know that you understand this more than anybody else. Through our work on the House Select Committee on Regional Development and Decentralisation you've just heard of the opportunities that we've got to face. I really look forward to working with you in your role to see what we can do about making sure all the regions and agriculture in particular have access to the internet that they need.

Here's a case study of a business in my electorate. They had NBN Sky Muster satellite installed in November 2016. The telecommunications office has had a case file on the

complaints since mid-November 2016, with no resolution. NBN contractors have visited the property on six separate occasions to replace satellite dishes, NTD units and cables to the house. Each instance resulted in the technician reporting to NBN Co and Ericsson, the satellite provider, that there was no internet signal. NBN continued to close each case, and each time a technician went to the property a new case was opened.

Their ISP is iiNet. They have had two case managers at the TIO who have expressed their frustration in dealing with NBN Co. The assigned NBN Co case managers claim to have not had the emails sent by the TIO, even though the TIO have copies on file. The ISP seems powerless to pursue the case on behalf of the customer, even though NBN Co insists that the fault complaints have to come from the ISP.

The constituent has 4G with Optus, which they say works well. They want to keep a wireless internet arrangement at home using Optus, but they've been told that they have to be on satellite, which eliminates other options. NBN claims that they can opt to retain their legacy copper services as well as, or instead of, switching to NBN, as there are no plans to switch off the existing copper networks in these areas. That has been a hard-fought battle. But this particular constituent doesn't have fixed copper wire to their property, so it's not much help. They want the government to give the TIO more power to compel NBN to meet requirements. Despite the many fault lodgements to NBN, NBN continues to dismiss the issue.

There's not even the option to switch ISPs, because the fault continues with the satellite. There are only six providers to choose from, and my constituent believes that they've got dubious reputations. He tells me that the Sky Muster satellite ISPs do not include Telstra or Optus. The constituent tells me that he feels his hands are tied and he has been spun around like a yo-yo, with no resolution, as NBN refuses to admit that it cannot provide the capability for an internet service. This has affected the constituent's health and has been detrimental to the spouse's ability to work from home. They've agreed for me to put a ministerial into the system. They want the government to authorise on paper that he be allowed to continue to use his 4G for internet. It's just a comedy of errors—shock, horror! How could this be the case? Sadly, it's not a one-off experience. My electoral officers constantly regale me with stories, saying, 'Guess what else has happened?' I know it's not new, but really we need to put energy into what we do about this. The strong message from my community is that the NBN is not delivering as promised. Their concerns and dissatisfaction with the rollout illustrate a lack of equity between metro and regional communities, particularly in relation to slow speeds. When people in my community try to address this, there is a lack of clarity of responsibilities between NBN Co and retail service providers. Ultimately, they turn to the office of their member of parliament for help.

As part of my role on the NBN rollout committee, we spent 12 months meeting with communities across Australia, talking to businesses and local and state governments and taking submissions. In total the committee took 191 submissions from a range of individuals and organisations, 39 of which were from my electorate of Indi. I thank those constituents for playing an active role in this process, for engaging with me and the committee and for building the evidence base so that the committee can make informed decisions and sound recommendations. I have here the list of the 39 constituents, which I was going to read to the House today, but I think that would use up some of my scarce time, and I have more important things to say. But I want to acknowledge every single one of those constituents for the time and energy they put into putting their concerns in writing. Many of them turned up to the inquiry and actually spoke to their own issues. We do get that you are busy people, and I really do appreciate the energy it takes to work with government, so to every single one of you: thank you. I look forward to continuing to advocate in parliament so that we get a better outcome.

I want to turn my mind now to the recommendations of the committee. There were 23 recommendations, but there are just a few I would really like to highlight, as I think they address the needs of rural and regional communities. I continue to call on the government to direct the NBN to establish a regional and rural reference group to support the rollout of NBN in rural and remote Australia. Minister, this is where you could really help me. When we put this recommendation up, the NBN said they didn't need a rural and remote reference group—that they knew about what was going on. Well, they might know about it, but I tell you what: their communication to the regions is not strong. I do acknowledge that they brought a roadshow bus to north-east Victoria and took it around many of the towns in my electorate, which was certainly a beginning, but there are so many issues that still need to be addressed, and communication back to my electorate and my constituents about how these are being addressed is really needed. So one of the recommendations is that we set up a reference group.

The committee has seen really clearly there needs to be greater consultation with rural and regional end users in the development of NBN user policy and NBN rollout plans. To the advisers in parliament today and to the people listening, I plead: this is really important and not an optional extra. Just saying that the telcos understand rural and regional Australia is not good enough, because we don't have evidence of that and we think it needs to be done much better. This recommendation was accepted by the majority report of the committee. It went to the government, who came back with, 'No, we're not going to do it,' for no good reason. So I reiterate that in my speech today.

I understand that, if you could set up such a reference group, the group would include consumer advocacy groups and departmental representation from the communications and regional development areas. It would be a really important step in improving the end user experience and increasing transparency. It's easily done, with huge output. I can't see why we wouldn't agree to it. When business decisions fundamentally change, the NBN experience for the end user in regional and rural communities should be referred to the reference group for consideration and analysis as to whether the decision will result in NBN not meeting its responsibilities outlined in the statement of expectations. When changes happen with NBN, you really need to consult with your regional users and say: 'How is this going to impact on you? Is this actually going to work, yes or no? What's a communication plan we could put in place to actually make it work better?'

We also called for a clearly identified complaint-handling process which would include complaint resolution processes and time frames and complaint acceleration processes, internal and external, and would meet Australian government accessibility guidelines. It should not be hard to do that. We've been hearing about the problems with the TIO. They say, 'It's not us.' Why couldn't we set up something very specifically to meet the needs for rural and regional Australia? You've heard today that we've got special and quite different needs to the city people. If we could have a process where our needs were met directly and quickly, I could say that you would be a friend of every single regional member of parliament, because it would take the huge workload off our officers and it would be really appreciated by constituents. I know we have a helpline, but it's not targeted specifically to rural and regional, and we don't get a sense that our particular issues are being addressed in the right way. We have seen that there are significant inadequacies in resolving customer complaints—notably, a lack of direct access to the NBN and a gap in the knowledge of available avenues for complaints and dispute resolution. Whilst these issues cost wholesale and retail providers, there is a need for a single agency to provide this information to ensure the uniformity and consistency of messages and advice. If the minister and advisers would like to meet with staff in my department, I would be really happy to sit down with them and talk about the complaints that we get and how this recommendation could be worked to resolve some of the issues in a

speedy way.

Before I get to the end of my talk, I would like to address my comments to agriculture and rural and regional development. In doing so, I want to acknowledge the enormous difference that the NBN has actually made to my community. My speech so far has mostly been about the problems, but, truthfully, it is a most wonderful, essential service that is going to be such a game changer for communities like mine. Where it's working—and working well—it has made a huge difference, so it's fantastic to have. I refer to an experience that the minister and I

had as part of the inquiry into regional development. We went to Launceston, in Tasmania, and also to Geraldton, in Western Australia. We heard from both of these cities, which are

3660 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES Thursday, 10 May 2018

gigabit cities; they've got infinite internet. The envy that it evoked in the rest of us, because we don't have that and we put up with such substandard—it was like dirt road problems.

These two cities can advance because they've got the capacity to do it. It unleashed, I think, in all the people on our committee, an understanding of the opportunities from this technology for rural and regional Australia—and our frustration that we have to come to parliament and argue to get the changes made, as opposed to being on the front foot and being able to bring all our resources to work with the Department of Communications and the Arts, NBN Co and the TIO to actually sort out and solve the problems—because of all the benefit.

I know that the cities will benefit, but, in seeing what Launceston and Geraldton were able to do and the enormous optimism that those cities have because they've got such good internet, I could imagine that in my communities. We have so much potential to produce more. Fifty per cent of the water in the Murray-Darling Basin falls in my electorate. We could do so much. We could triple our agricultural production. We could triple our manufacturing. We're on a main transport route. We could do so much with 21st century agriculture if we could get hold of this technology. I've had the opportunity to go to Armidale, to the University of New England, to see what their smart farms are doing for agriculture. It is so exciting to see the research, but at the moment we can't bring that to our electorate. I can't bring that to my farming, manufacturing and stock and station agents, because we don't have the capacity. I'm here in parliament asking for basic services rather than being able to say, 'Let's work together to do what we can.' I'll be supporting this legislation. It is a good beginning, but we've got a long way to go. I offer the support of myself, my offices and my community to see if we can get over the hump and deliver what we know the potential of this technology is.

[https://parlinfo.aph.gov.au/parlInfo/download/chamber/hansardr/67aa916e-a0c1-4a4b-a23b-98660dd7d5e3/toc_pdf/House%20of%20Representatives 2018 05 10 6091 Official.pdf;fileType=application%2Fpdf](https://parlinfo.aph.gov.au/parlInfo/download/chamber/hansardr/67aa916e-a0c1-4a4b-a23b-98660dd7d5e3/toc_pdf/House%20of%20Representatives%202018%2005%2010%206091%20Official.pdf;fileType=application%2Fpdf)

<https://parlinfo.aph.gov.au/parlInfo/search/display/display.w3p;query=ld%3A%22chamber%2Fhansardr%2F7d484b66-ffc9-4ae3-8b86-80e38515d510%2F0059%22>

Visitor Economy

Better tourism infrastructure 2025 outcome

"Significant improvements in tourism infrastructure at key attractions is delivering a better visitor experience.

Why action is required Strategic public investment is required for Victoria to maintain its competitive



advantage. Investment by governments in high quality sports, arts and cultural, nature-based and local infrastructure helps to attract visitors and spur private sector investment. World class major sports and arts and cultural infrastructure is a major part of why people visit Victoria. In a more competitive market, visitors are demanding better experiences. This includes high quality amenities and mobile phone and internet coverage. More can be done to improve access to our natural assets through better outdoor recreation infrastructure. A third of the state is public land and appropriate infrastructure developments can improve people's access to these assets and deliver jobs for local communities. How we'll get there . As noted previously, the Government is investing substantially in regional Victoria, with a \$101 million Regional Tourism Infrastructure Fund and investments in regional sport complexes, arts facilities and indigenous heritage. In addition, a \$52.5 million package has been announced to fix mobile blackspots in regional Victoria, including along regional rail lines. The Government will continue to look for opportunities to further increase regional mobile coverage."

https://economicdevelopment.vic.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0006/1340979/Visitor_Economy_Strategy.pdf

https://parlinfo.aph.gov.au/parlInfo/search/display/display.w3p;query=Id%3A%22publications%2Fta_bledpapers%2F506e83cf-97e3-4984-b32a-1ae5e1113f1d%22

ABS Census data _ Strathbogie Shire

Dwellings — internet connection

[dwelling structure](#) | [household composition](#) | [mortgage & rent](#) | [number of motor vehicles](#) | [internet connection](#)

Dwelling internet connection	Strathbogie (\$)	%	Victoria	%	Australia	%
Internet not accessed from dwelling	945	22.6	267,506	13.6	1,172,415	14.1
Internet accessed from dwelling	3,079	73.7	1,768,050	83.7	6,662,165	83.2
Not stated	151	3.6	57,157	2.7	221,484	2.7

In Strathbogie (S) (Local Government Areas), 73.7% of households had at least one person access the internet from the dwelling. This could have been through a desktop/laptop computer, mobile or smart phone, tablet, music or video player, gaming console, smart TV or any other device.

What will happen when other competition arrives? There are currently in development and deployment, systems which use a multitude of broadband satellites to cover the globe. Will these systems outrun and overtake the Mixed method NBN?

<https://www.cnn.com/2020/02/04/australia-regulator-opens-door-for-spacex-starlink-internet-service.html>

Will 5G be a NBN competitor?

<https://www.reviews.org/au/internet/5g-australia/>

<https://www.reviews.org/au/internet/best-nbn-alternatives/>

DVR030920



ATTACHMENT 3:



NBN Survey Results Report

Strathbogie Shire Business Connectivity Survey August 2020

The Federal Government inquiry into 'The Business Case for The NBN and The Experiences of Small Businesses'.

This survey forms part of the submission to the inquiry and addresses the concerns of business owners about the quality and affordability of the NBN.

Survey of Business Owners in the Strathbogie Shire Council area conducted between 25 August 2020 and 31 August 2020.

Survey emailed to 527 businesses with 79 (15%) completing the survey.

Survey compiled by:
Steve Cooper
Economic Development & Project Coordinator
Strathbogie Shire Council
Phone: (03) 5795 0063
Email: Steve.Cooper@strathbogie.vic.gov.au

Question 1. Do you use an internet connection for your business?

Yes 79

No 0

Result 100% of businesses surveyed used the internet.

Question 2. What type of internet connection do you have?

NBN Landline 23

NBN Fixed Wireless 27

NBN Satellite (Skymuster) 14

4G Mobile Broadband/Wireless Broadband 10

ADSL/Cable 5

Result 34% NBN Fixed Wireless, 29% NBN Landline, 18% NBN Satellite, 13% 4G Mobile & Wireless and 6% ADSL/Cable.

Question 3. Have you experienced slow internet speeds or drop-outs?

Yes 71

No 8

Result 90% of businesses surveyed experienced slow speed and drop-outs.

Question 4. How often are slow speeds or drop-outs?

Daily 43

Weekly 17

Monthly 10

Result 62% of businesses surveyed experienced Daily drop-outs, 24% Weekly drop-outs and 14% Monthly drop-outs.

Question 5. Is the internet slow when uploading large documents, videos, photos etc?

Yes 61

No 18

Result 77% of businesses surveyed experienced slow upload speeds.



Question 6. Have you used video conferencing (Skype, Webex, Facetime, Teams, Zoom etc) during Covid-19 to keep in touch with staff, suppliers or others?

Yes 61

No 18

Result 77% of businesses surveyed used video conferencing during Covid-19.

Question 7. Did you experience any issues with video conferencing such as drop-outs, slow speed or time delays?

Yes 46

No 29

Result 61% of businesses surveyed experienced drop-outs, slow speed and time delays during Covid-19.

Question 8. Please describe your issues with video conferencing.

- *Office internet fine with skype, issues with other people calling in and dropping out, audio fading out.*
- *Slow speeds. Screen breaking up. Poor voice quality.*
- *Drop-outs and glitches. My son is doing VCE and the unreliable connection and frequent drop-outs mean we have had to hot spot during his SAC's and other more important online learning as well as when I have important zoom meetings as we are consistently experiencing long drop-outs - ie at least 4-5 per week.*
- *Distortion. Poor syncing.*
- *Drop-outs, freezing, slow speeds.*
- *Difficulties connecting video and voice.*
- *Latency .. drop-outs .. poor audio.*
- *Due to the limitation of 25mbps, and with multiple people in the office using the same bandwidth due to social distancing requirements with COVID-19, we get drop outs and loss of internet, which is a concern when holding calls with external parties/clients/potential customers where more than one person is required on the video conference. As a result, most of us move to mobile hotspots when doing internet critical tasks to ensure connectivity.*
- *Time delays, slow speed and drop outs.*
- *It appears as though I suffer intermittent slows associated with congestion. So kids at home on internet has slowed my EFTPOS where I experience most of my drop outs and slows. I have back up on 3G network but this is usually congested at the same time.*
- *Lose picture and sound.*
- *Constant drop-outs regardless of time where we have to constantly log on and off to get through meetings.*

Question 8 continued..

- *Delayed and some days has dropped out, inconsistent and therefore unreliable when running multiple businesses. Has financial and strategic impact short and long term.*
- *Buffering all the time, worse in bad weather.*
- *Inconsistent connection with the connection 'hiccuping' causing low res, lagged video and gurgled audio.*
- *Connection lags and then we drop out completely. NBN is unreliable at best. Have been unable to join Zoom meetings.*
- *Slow speeds.*
- *Incredibly slow, jerky.*
- *Slow, drop-outs, phasing.*
- *Audio dropping in and out. Image freezing on screen.*
- *On-Screen Message that internet is unstable and videos of other participants freezes and audio break up.*
- *Freezing and slow to connect.*
- *Bad connection. Frozen screens. Delayed audio.*
- *There is a definite lag between the lips moving and the voice you hear. Also video conferencing is very "jerky". And don't bother running video and sharing your screen in a zoom meeting the lag between you clicking on something and your client seeing what you are clicking on is frustrating!*
- *Uploads and downloads are slow for zoom conferencing. video will freeze audio will lag.*
- *The meeting will freeze and I will have to logout and log in again and I normally miss out on a vital part of the meeting! I can't use my camera either as the internet isn't good enough.*
- *Sometimes the video might be out of sync with the person talking or there might be a delay so that we would inadvertently talk over one another.*
- *Freeze, disconnection, drop-outs, etc.*
- *Drops out numerous times and is slow trying to reconnect.*
- *Delayed.*
- *Lagging, freezing, dropouts, feedback, screeching white noise background, poor picture quality.*
- *Periodic depixelating video breaks up.*
- *Speeds can vary depending on the day, time & weather. Our NBN based phones are AWFUL, we have regular drop outs that make us look incompetent!*
- *Constant glitches and buffering - to the point where it can't be used. The trouble is, our mobile reception in Euroa is rather awful, too.*
- *Poor quality vision and audio and often drops out.*
- *Don't bother as it is too slow.*
- *Drop-outs, Intermittent sound and pictures.*
- *Delayed and very slow.*
- *Sometimes lagging with audio and video but mainly video, hasn't been too much of an issue.*
- *Slow, lagging of images, sound lagging as well.*

Question 8 continued..

- *Drops out and freezes.*
- *Drop-outs, freezing of video and voice delays.*
- *It is almost impossible to use video conferencing or Zoom due to drop outs and slow service with the ADSL.*
- *Slow.*
- *Slow speed, drop-outs, time delays.*

Question 9. Has poor internet coverage had a negative effect on your business?

Yes 51

No 24

Result 68% of businesses surveyed experienced poor internet coverage which had a negative effect on their business.

Question 10. Please describe your negative internet experience.

- *Makes it less likely to use zoom as can't be trusted.*
- *Our phones are VOIP, over the NBN too. We also have 4G backup, because the NBN goes down so frequently. If it rains, the NBN connection becomes unreliable. Most of us also have our mobile phones on 4G as backup, to hotspot to our laptops as an emergency measure. All our work is stored on a cloud server, so if we can't access the internet, we cannot work. If the NBN stops, the phones go down. This all has a HUGE impact on business continuity, and staff frustration levels.*
- *Costs time whilst down.*
- *Staff working from home have has various success. Some employees experience multiple dropouts in an hour on remote connections to the office server making working from home extremely difficult.*
- *We have not been able to update and include new technology on our website and other communications as it is taking too long to do updates etc. I was driving to Melbourne frequently (pre-restrictions) and updating at the office in Melbourne as it was too difficult to do.*
- *Customer complaint about poor wifi. And wifi signals not stable.*
- *Most importantly lack of reliable phone communication due to WiFi calling not working effectively.*
- *We have had to install expensive equipment to secure reliable internet services.*
- *Processing sales. In some cases I have taken IOUs which is never a good thing especially with certain customers.*
- *Terrible, slow, days where it is not working, NBN worse than original internet not worth changing to as slower drops out more and much more expensive for worse result, if I had an option I would not have changed.*

Question 10 continued..

- *We have 11 eftpos terminals that can experience significant lag, as well as web based programs for ordering. Can become costly with the extra time its taking to submit. - we have spent considerable amounts of money, have tried NBN satellite, broadband and 18mths ago had 4g internet and boosters installed. We are once again looking at upgrading internet equipment to try and achieve an improved internet service. With our accounting and horse management software programs being cloud based we often struggle to even access these imperative business systems.*
- *What do you think.*
- *We invested in an office in the town to combat internet issues/access, but work now is required outside 9am - 5pm with businesses and we still need to operate from home.*
- *Slows down our office work.*
- *Dropping out of meetings. Then having to rejoin via phone.*
- *We lost tenders for big events due to the internet speed we are able to offer customers.*
- *Our telephones consistently drop out, lost business.*
- *Lost funding and other applications in portals where you can't save and everything drops out.*
- *Unable to complete discussions online and reverting to phone call instead. Inconsistent connections doesn't give you the confidence to carry out effective communication online.*
- *Outages on data connections result in lost sales because out telephone sales team loose access to the sales programs and/or the connection is lost to the eCommerce platform.*
- *Unable to communicate in the way we should be able to with better internet speed.*
- *We are a Motel and are unable to check people in at times, also negative reviews due to WiFi drop-outs.*
- *Can take 3 mins to upload a doc working through a VPN it is very slow compared to other people with different type of connections.*
- *A drover's dog should have known that wireless last mile in Violet Town DOES NOT WORK AND NEVER WILL!!!! It is basic Year 10 physics. The more people on the 'roadway' the slower the traffic until it drops to nil. The LIBERAL NATIONALS ARE RESPONSIBLE for giving us a No Bloody Network dog of a system!!!*
- *With a move to more on-line meetings the slow internet connection and occasional drop out do not give customers the excellent customer experience I am striving for.*
- *Video courses are either stopped or put off to other times. Where the internet could be better in speed late at night.*
- *I have not been able to update my website regularly and it takes forever to connect to vital websites. I struggle to upload images for our sales and will have to go in to town to do this. It's not good enough.*
- *Loss of productive/efficient time for management and business calls.*

Question 10 continued..

- *Perhaps due to our street having old copper cables, the internet will be slower during bad weather or drop out completely. This can mean work does not get done on time.*
- *It's very frustrating when your half way through doing invoices and I do up to 200 invoices when a message comes on screen too say there has been an error with internet connection and then it just shuts myob down. Now I don't know whether my work is done or not and have to reload check and redo and this can happen 3 to 4 times on the day. It draws out the task immensely. Getting onto web sites can take trying up to six times just to connect. Trying to pay bills getting onto the bank site when you think your just connected and go to do something and it disconnects. Have sent emails to clients that never got there. This leads to frustration and you give up the task to do another time, this leaves the job not done. It doesn't make a harmonious or efficient work environment when it's not working properly.*
- *Slow turn around times. Cannot download or upload decent sized doc when required or contribute to some web based events as it is too slow. Multiple uses are unable to maintain a secure connection/speed.*
- *Interrupted meetings and demonstrations where I miss important information. Training with gaps unable to answer questionnaire have had to redo.*
- *Some days struggle just to open our emails.*
- *Losing clients due to poor quality. Slow receival and sending of emails, poor picture quality, freezing. Monthly fees for connections get wasted and under utilised due to time and money spent in just trying to connect, buffering etc.*
- *Frustration.*
- *Slow speeds, especially when it's been raining. Inability to complete tasks, or having to drive out of town and use my mobile phone as a hotspot to send/receive files.*
- *Clients become very unhappy.*
- *It can be the ultimate time waster! When it drops in and out it can make a 5 min task take forever. It is embarrassing if the service drops below a level that I can't transfer phone calls internally. Imagine ringing a dealership to buy a new tractor only to be told they can't transfer the call to the salesman because of the internet has dropped out and he will have to call you back! Very unprofessional.*
- *Creates extra workload for staff and heavily affects the guest experience at our hotel.*
- *I work off farm as an accountant and am unable to use the company's accounting software because of our slow speeds at home. Farming operation is also badly affected as we are also in a mobile phone black spot (12 kms west of Nagambie).*
- *Unable to download documents. Missed inwards and outwards emails during periods when there are internet issues. Slow speeds.*
- *Extremely difficult to run a business that relies on the internet 100% of the time when it is so slow and drops out all the time.*
- *Reduces our staff's ability to work productively.*
- *Emails not sending and guests not being able to contact us as phone line says busy tone when it's not.*

Question 10 continued..

- *I pay for unlimited service and have begged Telstra for support or an NBN connection to no avail. Customers continually complain about the internet service, this is also bad for my mental health, I am trying to deal with a situation I can't help, very distressing. Have had to purchase a dongle to be able to work during the Coronavirus.*
- *I have had trouble interacting with customers.*
- *When internet goes down we can't receive phone calls, emails or online bookings*
- *Loss of productive/efficient time for management and business calls.*

Question 11. Was pricing and affordability a factor when choosing your internet plan?

Yes 33

No 42

Result 56% of businesses surveyed said that pricing was not a deciding factor when choosing their internet plan, compared to 44% of business who said price was a deciding factor.

Question 12. Please explain your thoughts about internet pricing as it relates to your business.

- *Happy to pay the price if we get the service.*
- *It's very good value and Activ8me offer excellent support when required.*
- *We are rural and have found NBN to be much better than the old ADSL. The pricing was lower when we switched over. I have heard people who live in town complain that NBN is more expensive than other suppliers, but we did not have that wide a selection being out of town.*
- *We believe the price for the speed is expensive in Australia compared with an internet connection we have overseas for a less price and much faster both download and up load.*
- *Very reasonable.*
- *Low quality for high rates ... it's a no brainer. The LNP killed what would have been a decent standard in Aus. NBN have no right to advertise their service as fast or inviting. It's a comedy without a decent punchline.*
- *Yes.*
- *Not worth it.*
- *Am still with Telstra, their service is not so hot, but when I priced the change over to NBN, FORGET IT. No guarantee I would get signal anyway, Not happy with Telstra Sales Staff, but sticking with the Devil I know. Personal opinion, all internet providers are "thieves" not worried about providing service, but filling their pockets with dollars.*
- *I would like to have access to unlimited NBN at a reasonable cost, as people can do in larger cities.*

Question 12 continued..

- *It's expensive particularly compared to other countries. We need internet to run our business yet we need it to be fast and consistent.*
- *I would be comfortable with the pricing if the speed and reliability was consistent. Unfortunately it sometimes isn't and it seems that we are expected to accept this as normal.*
- *Sufficient bandwidth and speed are more relevant than is the price, but the price of services must always be evaluated. It is anti-competitive that metro based competitors have a bigger range of services and generally at lower prices than regionally based businesses.*
- *It's fine.*
- *It is what it is.*
- *It is more expensive than city based products that have unlimited downloads. We do not have unlimited as it is so expensive.*
- *Expensive for the quality.*
- *NBN IS MORE EXPENSIVE.*
- *I work from home (as do most people at the moment) so I need to have the fastest possible plan that I can afford. We need to be able to have multiple people using the internet for school, work or streaming/gaming at the same time.*
- *I was prepared to pay more out of desperation but was told they could not guarantee it would be a better service.*
- *Unlimited plans a fallacy. Either not available for country users, too expensive or nowhere near what city people get in deals, quality, etc. Off peak plans set unrealistic times to assist with downloads eg 1am to 5am?!!!*
- *Reliability and affordability are vital.*
- *Wanted a competitive price with good service.*
- *Irrelevant - I can't get faster speeds, anyway.*
- *Current service is not expensive. Delivery is the issue as we cannot generally offer free wi-fi to patron as we don't want to slow delivery for our own business operations.*
- *It wouldn't seem to be expensive if it was reliable, but as it is not, it is very frustrating to pay for something that is sub par.*

Question 13. Has your internet performance changed during the Covid-19 period?

Yes 15

No 18

Result 55% of businesses surveyed believed their internet performance changed during Covid-19 compared to 45% who did not experience a change.



Question 14. Tell us how your internet performance has changed during Covid-19.

- *Seems slower due to greater usage by community???*
- *Slowed with the extra use.*
- *Mobile service is ridiculously bad as is internet bandwidth bottlenecks.*
- *Slow and drops out.*
- *Even more slower if possible.*
- *Its slower and more unreliable as more use it. We should be receiving what we pay for. High speed internet.*
- *At different time of the day, we have had difficulty maintaining reasonable speed. This is usually late afternoon and sometimes early evening.*
- *Because we've been using it via VPN to enable work from home.*
- *Slowed or drops out more often.*
- *It seems that daytime speeds are slower.*
- *Slower speeds and drop-outs.*
- *Using it more yet picture quality and Skype standard worse.*
- *More drop-outs, given that more people are online.*
- *As there are more people at home using internet more eg. students and people working from home it has slowed.*

Question 15. Please add any further comments about your NBN experience.

- *I pay a lot for my phone solution, with all the backups, etc, just because of unreliability.*
- *Now we have access to the NBN wireless, we have had good experience. Previously when our only connection was via 4G, everything was nearly impossible - even internet banking. Videos were impossible. Many people in our area still have no access to NBN and therefore are relying 4G and 3G connections, both of which very poor.*
- *The only issue we had was the old copper lines are still used from the NBN Node to our business premises. We were one of the first connected, and often when another business connected to the node we lost our connection- the old copper junction point was a mess and in poor shape. Since everyone has now connected, we've had no issues at all.*
- *Seems to be more slow downs and drop-outs in wet weather. Have noticed speed decrease when students work from home. Large decrease at 4 when kids go onto Netflix.*
- *It has been a huge improvement for us. We are ten minutes out of town.*
- *Bad experience.*
- *Hope this is helpful and thank you.*
- *Equipment typically provided by Telstra to support NBN Connections is fragile - damages easily due to local power outages and tends to brick connection. NBN support teams overseas are not up to date with current practices supported by local support teams and local technicians.*
- *On the whole our NBN experience is good, however post COVID it has had problems.*

Question 15 continued..

- *We have only been connected to the NBN for a couple of months as it took a time to convince providers and the NBN authorities that we could see two fixed wireless towers from our premises. Pretty happy with the service so far not withstanding the comments about cost.*
- *We have been trying to switch over to NBN for over 12 months. Continual dates to connect only for the technicians to arrive and find another fault with the infrastructure in the area. As soon as a connection date expires we have gone back into the pool to be assigned a new case manager, taking several months each time. We have had to engage a local data/voice technician to liaise with Telstra so we can try and achieve the best outcome for our business and therefore hopefully limiting any downtime. They want to take the easiest option to get people switched over whether or not it's the best option for the business.*
- *Pricing needs to reflect the actual quality of service . At our property in Bailieston, only a 10 min drive from NAGAMBIE we can only utilise Satelite, which is less than ideal , fixed ADSL was not even an option:({ . This is pretty poor delivery of a 'so called ' national network. All in all it's a joke really... and a costly one. Political maneuvering prior to elections and a sell out by Turnbull cost the Australian public dearly .. let's face it .. that's the way the cookie crumbled and now we are stuck with an obsolete infrastructure:({*
- *We have had to abandon the NBN for our administrative office personnel and move to the far more expensive 4G connection - the speeds we obtain through this are at least >100mbps, and more reliable for the bandwidth requirements of the business. I am happy to have a conversation with someone on this matter, as we provide emergency services through our aerial firefighting capability and connectivity is key to our ability to enact this critical community service.*
- *We found NBN satellite to be unusable, constant drop-outs, slow, lots of downtime/no service.*
- *Could be better.*
- *Rubbish.*
- *Terrible.*
- *The lack of consistent service makes it more time consuming when doing even the basic of jobs in our work place. The old fashioned dial up internet connection is better than what we have now in Binney street Euroa.*
- *We need more data, NBN satellite is limiting, children cannot home school from home and we cannot run our businesses effectively or on demand which is what is required with online businesses and global companies.*
- *When applying for NBN Skymuster was given a 6 week waiting time for installment as (my area is considered 'Rural) which would have made Working from home impossible (no-low 3g+4g reception). Solution was to go with a local Wireless broadband provider which offered comparable speeds and prices to NBN and was connected within 24hrs of initial contact.*
- *No NBN experience.*
- *We were better off without it.*

Question 15 continued..

- *The NBN is fabulous when working. Remote schooling has also been a challenge with internet speed being very slow.*
- *My largest concern is the restrictions we have on speed due to our distance from the nearest node. We would prefer to utilise a faster speed, however this is not an option available to us.*
- *There is no NBN service available at our location. The business has been required to install its own radio link across to a location where NBN fixed wireless can be accessed.*
- *Are in communication with Optus regarding slow internet speed and have a ticket for the issue, but they have not followed up on it even after we have rung back about it.*
- *The initial connection experience was a pain.*
- *More of a concern is our Telstra Mobile reception (or lack thereof). Ranges between nothing and one bar and only when standing at certain points around the home and sometimes not even then. Yes we have reported it on several occasions but to no avail. Our landline was so bad we recently stopped it - no ability to get it repaired so all we got was sales/ scam calls interrupting our day.*
- *It's absolute rubbish and sooner or later we all will have to have fiber to the home and SPEND the money!!!!*
- *Not what was promised of the speed and we are only 500 mtrs from tower.*
- *There seem to be just as many, if not more drop-outs on the NBN as there were with ADSL.*
- *Poor coverage, slow and very outdated.*
- *I wish I had never gone on NBN I had a better service before. I have spent So many hours on the phone trying to fix slow internet and dropouts.*
- *Difficult to run a business when there are slow speeds and dropouts. It is frustrating, time consuming and often feeling unprofessional when trying to meet deadlines etc and you can't even open an email.*
- *A tower in our area would assist so many. Others near me have much poorer access than ours.*
- *In an emergency, this a huge concern.*
- *We do not have NBN because it does not work here.*
- *Not as reliable as the old service.*
- *FTTP should have been kept - do it once, do it right. Failing that, make sure the copper line from the node is actually up to the task and that storm water incursions into pits are minimised.*
- *It has been very disappointing to experience the changeover and the slow response and care when raising issues has been nothing like I have previously experienced. The service was meant to be an upgrade but the amount of issues we had was not acceptable. If any business can hold off on the change over I would highly recommend them to.*
- *No NBN at this address, have been advised the tower is too far away.*
- *I'm happy and prepared to pay more for reliable internet. There are greater business losses through downtime with the current unreliability of the internet.*

Question 15 continued..

- *I live in the Mitchellstown area and an NBN technician who visited the site would not install fixed wireless as there were "too many trees in the vicinity" and there would be an "interrupted signal" from the existing tower.*
- *I wouldn't mind paying extra for a service that is more reliable.*
- *Our only option is Skymuster which despite all the promises can only offer at best 25MB, and mostly it doesn't even get to that. Nagambie township and surrounds gets between 45-50 MB so we are mostly under half of that, with no promise of better speeds in the future. This combined with poor or no mobile service (despite the fact that we paid to have a Telstra booster installed at the house, which works intermittently and only within metres of the unit inside the house)) makes ordinary business interactions, especially once out on the farm, and at the yards and sheds very difficult.*
- *Internet had fewer dropouts before we went to NBN.*
- *It must be said that the internet speed during covid has slowed and reliability is not as it should be, but it hasn't been as bad as it is over the summer period when we have a huge increase in population. So over all our internet quality is extremely unsatisfactory as a whole!*
- *I have a business grade NBN service and currently due to COVID 19 the business is not operating at full potential.*

9.23 Adoption of Strathbogie Shire Council Community Local Law No. 2 of 2020

Author: Team Leader Compliance

Responsible Director: Director Corporate Operations

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council's current Community Local Law No 6 (2010) is due to expire on 7 October 2020. It contains a number of provisions in relation to the use of Council land and restrictions on private land with the objective to ensure the safety of our community and protect neighbourhood amenity.

The draft Local Law contains a number of provisions around the use of Council property and private property with a number of new provisions as well as former provisions being either deleted or consolidated.

The draft document was reviewed by a Project Reference Group, which included two community representatives and was then placed on public exhibition of 28 days through August and September 2020, as required by sections 119 and 223 of the *Local Government Act 1989* (the 1989 Act).

Two online community meetings were held during the public exhibition as a response to community concerns being raised about a number of issues.

A total of 59 submissions were received during the exhibition period of which 3 elected to present a verbal submissions to a Special Meeting of Council on 8 September 2020.

In response to the issues raised by the community during the public exhibition process, a number of changes have been made to the Local Law including changes to provisions around the droving of stock, drones, shipping containers, animal excrement, permit requirements and penalties for breaching the Local Law.

The draft Local Law is now submitted to Council for adoption following the refinement of the local law in response to community engagement.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 1. Having considered all written and verbal submissions during the public consultation process undertaken under Section 223 of the Local Government Act 1989, and having made a number of amendments to the draft Local Law in response the issues raised, adopt Strathbogie Shire Council Community Local Law No.2 of 2020, which is made under the powers vested in Council under Section 111 of the Local Government Act 1989.***

9.23 Adoption of Strathbogie Shire Council Community Local Law No. 2 of 2020 (cont.)

- 2. Place a notice:**
 - *in the Government Gazette*
 - *in locally circulating newspapers*
 - *on Council's website and social media pages regarding the adoption of the local law**in accordance with Section 119(3) of the Local Government Act 1989.*
- 3. Send a copy of the adopted Strathbogie Shire Council Community Local Law No.2 2020 to the Minister for Local Government in accordance with Section 119(4) of the Local Government Act 1989.**
- 4. Make hard copies and electronic copies of the Strathbogie Shire Council Community Local Law No.2 2020 available at the Shire's Customer Service Centres and on the Shire's website in accordance with Section 120 of the Local Government Act 1989.**
- 5. Notify each submitted in writing of this decision and the reasons for that decision, including if and how the Local Law was changed in response to the issues their submission raised in accordance with section 223 (1) (d) (ii) of the Local Government Act 1989.**
- 6. Direct Officers to complete procedures for assessment of permit applications, using permit considerations included in the draft as a guide. The procedures must be approved by the Chief Executive Officer and made publicly available before January 2021.**

PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND

The purpose of this report is to adopt the Strathbogie Shire Council Community Local Law No. 2 of 2020 following the completion of the prescribed section 223 public consultation process under the 1989 Act.

The Local Law ensures continuity in regulation around the use of the use of land and activities that can/cannot occur throughout the municipal area.

The Strathbogie Shire Community current local law, Community Local Law No.6 (2010) expires on 7 October 2020. The sun setting of the current local law on 7 October 2020 without a replacement would mean that there would be no regulation around the use of, or activities on land throughout the municipal area under any Local Law.

A review of the Local Law has been undertaking previous consultation, complaints, enquiries and permits as well as seeking input from the Community Local Law Project Group, which included two community representatives, prior to public exhibition which occurred for 28 days over August/September 2020.

9.23 Adoption of Strathbogie Shire Council Community Local Law No. 2 of 2020 (cont.)

As part of the public exhibition and in response to some of the key issues raised by the draft, officers held two online sessions (afternoon and evening) in late August to discuss a response to these issues. These were well received by those who attended. While officers were not able to meet with the community in a face to face manner due to the current restrictions as part of COVID-19, officers have spoken with a large number of our community on a range of different issues contained within the local law.

ISSUES, OPTIONS AND DISCUSSION

At its meeting on 21 July 2020, Council resolved to endorse the amended process for the review of the Community Local Law which included the formation of the Local Law Project Group which consists of two councillors, two community representatives, two officers as well as the Director Corporate Operations.

The Project Group endorsed by Council met on 29 July 2020 in Council Chambers to discuss the provisions of the local law with changes made to reflect this taking into consideration readability, perception of fairness as well as providing our community with a clear local law which works to support all.

At a Special Meeting on Tuesday 4 August 2020, Council noted the draft document and agreed to it being placed on public exhibition in accordance with Sections 119 and 223 of the Local Government Act 1989.

Those who made a written submission and who identified that they wished to make a verbal submission to Council in support of their submission were invited to present their submission to Council at a Special Meeting on 8 September 2020, of which 3 did.

Throughout exhibition of the draft document, a number of issues were raised in relation to some of the conditions, particularly stock on roads, drones, shipping containers and animal excrement. Council responded to these issues by hosting two online consultation sessions which were well received by those who attended.

Upon review of the Draft Local Law by Council's legal adviser, it was recommended that the Permit Considerations were removed from the document. These had been included in the draft to provide transparency with the community in relation to what would need to be considered as part of any application. This will now be done through a procedure instead. This document can be updated in the future to reflect current issues and will avoid the need to amend the Local Law.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

There are supporting principles relating to community engagement and public transparency in the 2020 Act that promote community participation in Council decision making processes.

A draft local law needs to be placed on public exhibition for a period of no less than 28 days under a formal consultation process outlined in section 223 of the 1989 Act.

Notices were placed in the Government Gazette, as well as locally circulating newspapers and local newsletters in townships across the Shire. Posts appeared on Council's website and social media pages during the consultation period.

9.23 Adoption of Strathbogie Shire Council Community Local Law No. 2 of 2020 (cont.)

A Community Impact Statement was also prepared to inform the community about the implications of the draft local law and is identified by the State government as best practice when any council makes a new local law.

During the consultation process 59 submissions were received raising a number of issues which can be summarised as relating to the following clauses of the draft document:

- proposed new clause – Droving of Livestock
- proposed new clause – Shipping Containers
- proposed new clause – Use of Drones
- existing clause carried over from the current Local Law – Animal Excrement.

A summary of the issues raised by submitters and how the amended draft Local Law presented in this report responds to these matters can be found at Attachment 2.

Droving of livestock

The droving of livestock was the biggest issue raised by the community throughout the public exhibition process. This was seen as an excessive and unnecessary impost on our community. The current Local Law requires a permit for droving of livestock from outside of the shire to within the shire as well as driving which comes through the shire (where start and finish points are both outside of the shire). The Draft Local Law proposed a permit system within the shire boundaries. This was introduced as a measure to manage risk to Council but also as a result of verbal complaints around signage, or lack of when stock are being moved. It is recognised that the majority of farmers move stock within the shire without incident.

As a result of this feedback, officers presented an alternate provision which removes the requirement for a permit but specifies conditions which must be adhered to. The amended provision in the local law presented to Council in this report is as follows:

18. Droving livestock

- 18.1 A person must not, without a permit, drove livestock on any Council land or road, unless the livestock are kept within the municipality, or on property which is immediately adjacent to the border of the municipal district and the livestock are travelling either to or from that property into a neighbouring municipality.
- 18.2 Any stock moved between properties within or bordering the municipal district must meet the following requirements:
- (a) adequate warning of the presence of the livestock on the road is given to other road users;
 - (b) signs conforming to guidelines prepared by the relevant road authority must be displayed; and
 - (c) the signs must be immediately removed on completion of the droving.

9.23 Adoption of Strathbogie Shire Council Community Local Law No. 2 of 2020 (cont.)

Shipping containers

While they have a range of different uses and provide an alternative to more permanent shedding, shipping containers can significantly impact on the amenity of surrounding land owners and occupants.

The draft Local Law included a provision which requires a permit for any container not requiring a planning or building permit. Feedback in relation to the excessive administration required to enforce this was received as well as recognising that there are legitimate uses for containers and the manageable amenity impacts on them.

Use of drones

The proposal to include a permit requirement for the launching or landing of drones on Council land was met with a significant number of submissions against this provision. This was largely due to the use of drones being governed at a federal level by the Civil Aviation Safety Authority. Concerns were also raised about Council's ability to enforce this provision from both an administrative and community awareness perspective. On legal advice, it is considered that this provision not be included in the document for adoption.

Animal excrement

Animal Excrement requirements in both the current Local Law and the draft Local Law also attracted a large amount of feedback. The provision required that all animal excrement left on any Council land be removed. While this is generally accepted in the case of a domestic animal within the urban area, this is not logistically enforceable outside of these areas, particularly when larger numbers of stock are being moved. It is considered that this provision be tightened to reflect only domestic animals within an urban area.

The four main issues were discussed at our online community meetings. The responses to this feedback and how this could reflect in the final document were well received by those who attended.

Other Provisions and comments made by submitters related to the following themes:

- camping on private land
- excessive penalties
- requirements for permits and associated penalties for creative or other activities with a broad community benefit i.e. nature strip plantings or busking.

Camping on private land

The provisions around camping on private land provided mixed feedback from our community. This provision allows for camping to occur for up to 28 days without a permit, provided it is not a commercial operation. This is in response to more permanent 'camping' activities that have arisen from time to time throughout the municipal area. Setting the threshold at 28 days provides sufficient time for landowners to camp over all long weekend periods in Victoria (currently) with additional time.

9.23 Adoption of Strathbogie Shire Council Community Local Law No. 2 of 2020 (cont.)

Camping holidays in rural areas are an evolving area which is currently increasing in popularity and expectations and are part of the diversification of farming businesses.

While officers are supportive of the diversification of farm businesses and the social and economic benefit they provide, this needs to be balanced with environmental factors as well as the amenity of surrounding land owners and uses. Where a permit is required, a number of issues will need to be considered, particularly around waste management and amenity.

Permit requirements for Council land

While generally speaking, officers and Council are supportive of creative uses and activities in public spaces, consideration must be given to how these uses are undertaken. Provisions for busking, nature strip planting, money collection and the like should be supported when undertaken by our community in a manner which is both safe and does not impact on the amenity of our community.

The Local Law provides a mechanism for regulating these uses. While these activities are supported by the Compliance Team and Council more broadly, these need to be undertaken in a safe manner which enhances the public space.

Proposed penalties

A number of written submissions, as well as verbal enquiries, related to the excessive penalties for breaches of the local law.

In addition to this, the community felt that there was no fairness given to the seriousness of an offence or breach attached to a number of offences and their relationship to others.

As an example, the Busking provision in the draft contained a penalty of 5 Penalty Units (approximately \$825) whereas Collection of Money had a penalty of 1 Penalty Unit (approximately \$165). While these generally take place in the same locations and have similar levels of risk and impact on amenity, their fines are vastly different.

As a result, officers have undertaken a full review of the penalty units, most of which have been revised down and are better aligned in terms of seriousness of the offence and fairness.

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

Council Plans and Policies

The review of the Community Local Law to reflect contemporary issues is a key strategy of the Council's goal to enhance community health and wellbeing. The draft local law has been updated to reflect a number of current and emerging issues within our community.

9.23 Adoption of Strathbogie Shire Council Community Local Law No. 2 of 2020 cont.)

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies

The preparation and exhibition of the draft Local Law is consistent with practices across the State and a review of similar local law provisions within our region.

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

The drafting of the Local Law and its public exhibition have been undertaken in accordance with the power to make a local law under section 111 of the 1989 Act and the requirements of sections 119 and 223 of the same Act.

The provisions of the 1989 Act remain in operation at this time in part while the transition to the new Local Government Act 2020 is completed. In relation to Council powers to make and revoke local laws, the requirements of the 1989 Act are still in operation.

Conflict of Interest Declaration

All officers, and/or contractors, involved in the preparation of this report have signed a written declaration that they do not have a conflict of interest in the subject matter of this report.

Transparency

One of the Overarching governance principles in Section 9 of the Local Government Act 2020 is to achieve transparency in Council decision making, actions and information.

The exhibition of this draft Local Law is the most transparent way to explain what these documents mean and the way in which Council is seeking to achieve.

The draft Local Law contained permit considerations for all clauses where a permit was required. On legal advice, as well as from a readability perspective, these considerations have been removed from the document. In their place will be a suite of documents which are made available to the community on Council's website which provide for permit considerations as well as application requirements. These documents will be able to be updated regularly or as issues emerge to reflect contemporary issues as well as community expectations.

SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

One of the overarching governance principles in Section 9 of the Local Government Act 2020 is that the economic, social, and environmental sustainability of the municipal district, including mitigation and planning for climate change risks, is to be promoted.

Economic

The author of this report considers that the recommendation will have economic benefits for our community.

9.23 Adoption of Strathbogie Shire Council Community Local Law No. 2 of 2020 cont.)

The regulation of the use of Council land enables Council to approve and support commercial uses on publicly managed land such as reserves and footpaths. This will benefit both local and mobile businesses to utilise Council spaces to provide for diversification and expansion of our business community which increases competition to the benefit of our community.

Regulation of Council spaces also allows for fairness in opportunities made available to our business community. This will be reinforced by a supportive approach from officers to assist our community to achieve compliance with the Local Law rather than a hard-line enforcement program, particularly in relation to new provisions included in the document for adoption.

Social

The author of this report considers that the draft Local Law will provide a social benefit to both Council and the wider community. The regulation of the use of Council spaces ensures that access to these spaces is equitable and safe for our community.

The Local Law also places some restrictions on private land around specific activities and animal keeping. These are in place to protect the amenity of our wider community in a way that is not already captured under other legislation.

This localised response to potential amenity issues is not captured under other legislation such as the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* (in some instances) or the *Domestic Animals Act 1994*, and so the Local Law will provide greater protection of amenity for our community.

Environmental

The author of this report considers that the recommendation will create environmental benefit. While other legislation provides for greater specific benefit in terms of the natural environment, the local law supports the use of Council Land by allowing a localised approval mechanism for any range of projects undertaken by our community.

Additionally, environmental impacts stemming from the use of properties can lead to significant amenity issues, such as smell and noise which impact on the health and wellbeing of our community. The Local Law provides for a response to these issues.

HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS

The consideration of the Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006 is relevant to the Local Law in the sense that the latter seeks to moderate the use of private land and the use of Council land by individuals. However, while the Local Law places parameters around some aspects of private and community life, it seeks to do so in order to support broader community health, safety, amenity and wellbeing.

9.23 Adoption of Strathbogie Shire Council Community Local Law No. 2 of 2020 cont.)

It is considered that following the amendments made to the draft Local Law in response to the community engagement process, the document now strikes the right balance between the two.

CONCLUSION

The draft Local Law complies with all aspects of the Local Government Act 1989 in relation to making a new Local Law.

The Local Law has been on public exhibition for a period of 28 days. Significant feedback in relation to particular issues within the draft document. In response the draft Local Law has been amended to address many of the issues of concern.

The Local Law is considered to strike the right balance between the community feedback received and maintaining the overall purpose of the document, which is to manage and regulate amenity throughout the municipal district.

Following adoption of the Local Law, a number of procedural matters need to be attended to including writing back to all submitters in terms of how we have responded to their concerns and sending a copy of the document to the Minister for Local Government.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Strathbogie Shire Community Local Law No.2

Attachment 2: Summary of issues raised by submitters and Council's response to the matters raised

Attachment 3: Example of Procedure Document

Attachment 4: Local Law No.2 Draft Engagement Report September 2020

ATTACHMENT 1:

Local Law No. 2 – Community Local Law 2020

**Local Law NO. 2
Community Local Law 2020**



Strathbogie
shire

Adopted by Council 15 September 2020

Local Law No. 2 – Community Local Law 2020

CONTENTS

PART ONE – PRELIMINARY.....	3
1. Title	3
2. Purposes	3
3. Authorising provision.....	3
4. Commencement and operation.....	3
5. Revocation of other Local Laws	4
7. Definitions	4
PART TWO - COUNCIL LAND, BUILDINGS AND ROADS.....	8
8. Behaviour on Council land.....	8
9. Shopping trolleys.....	9
10. Overhanging vegetation	9
11. Consumption of alcohol	9
12. Bulk rubbish containers	10
13. Rubbish bins in public places.....	10
14. Animals in Council buildings.....	10
15. Events, festivals or processions.....	10
16. Activities on nature strips.....	10
17. Camping on Council managed land.....	10
18. Droving livestock.....	10
19. Grazing livestock	10
20. Recreational vehicles on public land.....	11
21. Collection of money.....	11
22. Busking	11
23. Trading from a road	11
24. Using the footpath for commercial activities	11
PART THREE – SAFETY AND AMENITY	12
28. Events on private properties	12
29. Scare guns	12
30. Adequate fencing for animals	13
31. Collection of domestic waste	13
32. Disposal of commercial waste	13
33. Displaying property numbers.....	14
34. Using incinerators and burning in the open air during non-fire danger period ..	14
35. Occupying temporary dwellings	14
36. Camping on private land	14
37. Recreational vehicles on private land.....	15

Local Law No. 2 – Community Local Law 2020	
38.	Shipping containers..... 15
PART FOUR - ANIMALS..... 16	
39.	Keeping animals 16
40.	Vermin control 16
41.	Poultry 17
42.	Livestock 17
43.	Cleanliness..... 17
44.	Animal excrement..... 17
45.	Dogs on leads 17
46.	Unleashed dogs 18
PART FIVE – INFRASTRUCTURE..... 19	
47.	Construction and maintenance of vehicle crossings 19
48.	Asset protection 19
49.	Damage to Council assets..... 19
PART SIX – ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT..... 20	
51.	Issue of permits 20
52.	Duration of permits 20
53.	Correction of permits..... 20
54.	Review of permit decision or conditions 20
55.	Fees 20
56.	Notice to Comply 21
57.	Urgent circumstances 21
58.	Power to impound..... 21
59.	Infringement notices and penalties..... 22
60.	Offences generally..... 22

Local Law No. 2 – Community Local Law 2020

PART ONE – PRELIMINARY

1. Title

This Local Law is titled Community Local Law No. 2. 2020

2. Purposes

The purposes of this Local Law are to provide for the peace, order and good governance of the Strathbogie Shire by:

- (a) Supporting the Strathbogie community to utilise public land managed by Council in a manner which enhances the wellbeing of our community as well as protecting our amenity and livability;
- (b) regulating and controlling uses and activities on Council land and roads so that the Council is aware of uses or activities which may:
 - (a) be detrimental to the amenity of the area or the enjoyment of facilities on land or roads;
 - (b) cause damage to Council assets;
 - (c) create a danger or expose others to risk;
 - (d) interfere with the safety and convenience of people travelling on or using Council land or roads; or
 - (e) impede free and safe access for people, and in particular those with sight and movement impairment or disabilities;
- (c) managing, regulating and controlling activities and uses on any land which:
 - (a) may be dangerous, or cause a nuisance or be detrimental to the amenity of the area or the environment;
 - (b) are directed at maintaining a healthy and safe environment for residents and visitors; or
 - (c) promote community expectations and demands about their desired lifestyle and the availability of goods and services provided to them;
- (d) identifying activities and uses that are not permitted so as to achieve these purposes; and
- (e) providing for the administration of Council's powers and functions.

3. Authorising provision

This Local Law is made under section 111(1) of the *Local Government Act 1989* and section 42 of the *Domestic Animals Act 1994*.

4. Commencement and operation

This Local Law:

- (a) commences on 15 September 2020;
- (b) unless sooner revoked, ceases to operate on 15 September 2030; and
- (c) operates throughout the whole municipal district.

Local Law No. 2 – Community Local Law 2020

5. Revocation of other Local Laws

From the date of commencement of this Local Law, Council's Community Local Law No. 6 2010 will cease to operate and is revoked.

6. Other legislation

Anything allowed under any Act, Regulation or the Planning Scheme is not affected by any prohibition, requirement or restriction under this Local Law.

7. Definitions

In this Local Law:

“Act”	means the <i>Local Government Act 1989</i> .
“advertising sign”	means any board, notice, structure, banner, flag or similar device whether portable, affixed to a structure or attached to any public land to be used for the purpose of soliciting sales or promoting a brand, person or business, goods, services, a competition or an event.
“alcohol”	means a beverage intended for human consumption with an alcohol content greater than 0.5 per centum by volume at a temperature of 20 degrees Celsius.
“animal”	includes every species of quadruped and every species of bird and any other living animal tame or wild kept by a person.
“applicant”	means a Person who applies for a Permit under this Local Law.
“assistance animal”	means a dog or other animal, accredited by a State or Territory to assist a person with a disability that meets the standards of hygiene and behaviour that are appropriate in a public place.
“Authorised Officer”	means a person appointed as an Authorised Officer, including a police officer, under section 224 of the Act.
“building”	has the same meaning as in the <i>Building Act 1993</i>
“built up area”	means an area in which there is urban development or in which street lighting is provided.
“bulk rubbish container”	means a skip, bin, container, mobile storage unit, charity collection bin or other structure designed to take bulk quantities of rubbish and refuse which can only be lifted with mechanical assistance but excludes rubbish receptacle used in connection with the Council's collection service for domestic waste.
“busk”	means to perform to the public, whether by acting, juggling, dancing, singing, mime, statue, drawing, playing a musical instrument or otherwise entertaining passers-by, with or without collection money.
“camp or “camping”	means using a tent, caravan, motor vehicle or like structure, including sleeping bags or swags for either temporary or permanent accommodation of a person or persons.
“caravan”	includes a mobile home or dwelling.

Local Law No. 2 – Community Local Law 2020

“Chief Executive Officer”	means the person appointed as the Chief Executive Officer of the Council.
“commercial waste”	means any refuse, rubbish or other waste matter arising from, or generated by, any trade, industry or commercial undertaking.
“Council”	means Strathbogie Shire Council.
“Council asset”	means Council owned resources and structures including footpaths, nature strips, kerb and channel, drainage pits and pipes and street furniture
“Council building”	means any building owned, occupied or under control of the Council including libraries, swimming pools and recreation centres.
“Council land”	means any land vested in, or under the control, of the Council, including municipal reserves, watercourses, reservations and the like, including a road vested in or under the care and management of Council.
“declared dog”	means a declared restricted breed, menacing or dangerous dog under the <i>Domestic Animals Act 1994</i>
“domestic pets”	includes dogs and cats.
“droving livestock”	means the movement of livestock in or through the municipal district, or from one location to another for the purpose of changing the grazing area, or for the purposes of relocation after sale.
“event”	means a non-private gathering of people, which is free or ticketed, at a predetermined location, for a specific purpose, for a specified time, which occurs in either open space or within a purpose-built building, including: festivals, shows, markets, carnivals, live outdoor entertainment, business conferences and exhibitions.
“goods”	includes, produce, articles, items, table and chairs, advertising signs, planter boxes, screens, umbrellas, heaters and anything similar.
“incinerator”	means a structure or device which is not in a building and is used or is intended, adapted or designed to be used for the purpose of burning any matter, material or substance but is: (a) not licensed or subject to control under the provisions of any other Act; or (b) not a barbeque.
“large bird”	means any pigeon, cockatoo or other bird similar or larger size of any age, excluding poultry.
“livestock”	means any animal kept for primary production including cattle, sheep, pigs, buffalo, camels, alpacas, goats, deer and horses (and includes horses used for recreation).
“municipal district”	means the municipal district of the Council, as defined by the Act.

Local Law No. 2 – Community Local Law 2020

“notice to comply”	means a notice to comply issued under this Local Law.
“occupier”	means: <ol style="list-style-type: none">a person who manages any land on behalf of the land’s owner;a person who is responsible for the care and control of any land;a lessee or licensee of any land; orin relation to land that has a lot entitlement or lot liability in respect of common property, the body corporate created upon the registration of a land of subdivision affecting the land
“owner”	means in relation to: <ol style="list-style-type: none">land, the same meaning as in section 3 of the <i>Local Government Act 2020</i>; anda building, the owner of land on which the building is situated; anda motor vehicle<ol style="list-style-type: none">the registered owner of the motor vehicle; anda person who has possession of the motor vehicle;Livestock means<ol style="list-style-type: none">a person who is entitled to legal or equitable possession of livestock whether solely or jointly; anda person who has custody of livestock on behalf of a person referred to in (d)(i).
“penalty unit”	has the same meaning as in the <i>Sentencing Act 1991</i> and includes any amendments to that amount as determined from time to time.
“permit”	in relation to a use or activity, means a permit issued under this Local Law which authorises that use or activity.
“person”	means a natural person or other legal entity.
“planning scheme”	means the <i>Strathbogie Planning Scheme</i> under the <i>Planning and Environment Act 1987</i> .
“poultry”	means birds kept such as a fowl, bantam or duck that are kept for producing eggs or meat for human consumption, or exhibition but does not include roosters, peacocks, or turkeys.
“public place”	has the same meaning as in the <i>Summary Offences Act 1966</i> .
“recreational vehicle”	includes mini bikes, trail bikes, monkey bikes, quad bikes, motor bikes, motor scooters and go karts or other vehicles used for recreational purposes but does not include motorised vehicles being used for farming purposes or a motorised wheelchair or scooter used by a person with impaired mobility.

Local Law No. 2 – Community Local Law 2020

“road”	has the same meaning as in section 3(1) of the <i>Road Management Act 2004</i> and includes any public highway, nature strip, ancillary area and land declared to be a road under section 11 of the <i>Road Management Act 2004</i> or forming part of a public highway or ancillary area.
“scare-gun”	means a scare-gun described in the Noise Control Guidelines published by the Environment Protection Authority.
“temporary dwelling”	means a house, flat, apartment, or any portion thereof, and includes a tent, caravan, sleepout, bungalow, mobile home or other place of abode.
“vehicle”	has the same meaning as in the <i>Road Safety Act 1986</i> .
“vehicle crossover”	means a Council approved and properly constructed surface providing for vehicular access from the road carriageway to a parcel of land, including footpath section, crossing culverts, kerb and channel or layback.

PART TWO - COUNCIL LAND, BUILDINGS AND ROADS

8. Behaviour on Council land

8.1 A person on Council land must not:

- (a) damage or interfere with that Council land, including any trees or vegetation located on it;
- (b) act contrary to any sign erected or authorised by the Council;
- (c) act other than in compliance with the lawful direction of an Authorised Officer or member of the Victoria Police which is intended to achieve compliance with this Local Law;
- (d) obstruct, hinder or do anything that is likely to injure, endanger, inconvenience or interfere with any other person's use of Council land; or
- (e) act contrary to any lawful direction of an Authorised Officer to leave the Council land, whether or not a fee for admission has been paid.

8.2 A person must not:

- (a) allow any tree or plant or allow any other condition on land owned or occupied by him or her; or
- (b) use any vehicle or equipment -
to cause damage to or interfere with Council land or a road.

8.3 A person using any facilities on Council land must comply with:

- (a) any conditions of entry, including the payment of any fee; and
- (b) the directions of a person in charge or acting on behalf of a person in charge of facilities on that Council land, and not use insulting or abusive language.

8.4 If a person destroys, damages or interferes with Council land or facilities on Council land the person is liable for any costs associated with the restoration of the Council land or facilities on it.

8.5 A person must not dismantle, paint, carry out maintenance or repair a vehicle on a road or Council land except in an emergency or where it is necessary to enable the vehicle to be removed.

8.6 A person must not use a heavy vehicle on a road contrary to any sign applicable to that road or use the heavy vehicle in a way that causes damage to a road.

8.7 A person must not use:

- (a) or ride a skateboard or similar wheeled recreational vehicle, or ride a horse, in an area where such use or riding is not permitted as stated on Council erected signage;
- (b) a skateboard or similar wheeled recreational vehicle, or ride a horse, on Council land or in a public place in a way that:
 - (i) causes the safety of other users of the Council land or public place to be compromised;

Local Law No. 2 – Community Local Law 2020

- (ii) inconveniences other users of the Council land or public place; or
- (iii) damages any property on the Council land or public place.

9. Shopping trolleys

- 9.1 A person must not leave a shopping trolley at a place other than:
- (a) on the trolley owner's premises in an area designated for such purpose; or
 - (b) in areas for collection located elsewhere that are provided by the trolley owner or the Council and designated for such purpose.
- 9.2 If a shopping trolley has been left in a public place (other than in an area designated for that purpose), an Authorised Officer may direct the owner of the shopping trolley, or the person in charge of the land from which it has apparently been transported, to remove the shopping trolley.
- 9.3 A person to whom a direction has been given under this clause must comply with that direction.

10. Overhanging vegetation

An owner or occupier of land must not allow any vegetation, to grow in such a manner which:

- (a) overhangs onto or over the footpath or road to an extent where, in the opinion of an Authorised Officer, impedes or obstructs the reasonable use of the pavement or road;
- (b) obstructs or impairs the vision of the driver of a motor vehicle travelling along a road adjacent to the land; or
- (c) otherwise interferes with the safe and convenient use of the footpath or road adjacent the land.

11. Consumption of alcohol

- 11.1 A person must not consume an alcoholic beverage or have in their possession alcohol other than in a sealed container, in any municipal place within the township boundaries of Avenel, Euroa, Nagambie (including the Regatta Centre area) or Violet Town.
- 11.2 No offence against this clause arises if:
- (a) the consumption, possession or control of an alcoholic beverage is within the enclosed area shown as Area A on Map 1, Map 2; Map 3 and Map 4 in Schedule 2 of this Local Law while the person is partaking in a meal between the hours of 10am until 9pm on any day; or
 - (b) the Council has granted a permit or an exemption from the requirement to have a permit and there is compliance with all conditions of that permit or exemption.
- 11.3 Where an Authorised Officer believes, on reasonable grounds, that a person is in contravention of, or has contravened, clause 11.2(a) the Authorised Officer may direct the person to surrender the alcohol in any unsealed container to them.
- 11.4 A person to whom a direction is given under clause 11.3 must comply with that direction.
- 11.5 If a person to whom a direction is given under clause 11(2)(a) does not

Local Law No. 2 – Community Local Law 2020

immediately comply with that direction, the Authorised Officer may seize any alcohol in any unsealed container in that person's possession and then keep, store or dispose of that alcohol.

12. Bulk rubbish containers

A person must not without a permit place a bulk rubbish container on a road.

13. Rubbish bins in public places

A person must not deposit any household refuse or recyclable goods in a rubbish bin in a public place.

14. Animals in Council buildings

A person must not bring any animal into a Council building, or allow an animal under their control to remain in a Council building, with the exception of an assistance animal.

15. Events, festivals or processions

A person must not, without a permit conduct a commercial activity, including a festival, procession, party or event on Council land or a road.

16. Activities on nature strips

A person must not, without a permit, plant trees, install garden beds or any other item on Council nature strips.

17. Camping on Council managed land

17.1 A person must not camp on Council land for a period longer than 8 hours, whether in a caravan, vehicle or tent or in any other temporary or makeshift structure.

17.2 Nothing in sub-clause 17(1) applies to a person camping on Council managed land where approval has been issued for a specific site approved by Council.

18. Droving livestock

18.1 A person must not, without a permit, drove livestock on any Council land or road, unless the livestock are kept within the municipality, or on property which is immediately adjacent to the border of the municipal district and the livestock are travelling either to or from that property into a neighbouring municipality.

18.2 Any stock moved between properties within or bordering the municipal district must meet the following requirements:

- (a) adequate warning of the presence of the livestock on the road is given to other road users;
- (b) signs conforming to guidelines prepared by the relevant road authority must be displayed; and
- (c) the signs must be immediately removed on completion of the droving.

19. Grazing livestock

A person must not, without a permit, graze livestock on any Council land or road.

Local Law No. 2 – Community Local Law 2020

20. Recreational vehicles on public land

A person must not, without a permit, use or drive a recreational vehicle on any public land.

21. Collection of money

A person must not, without a permit, solicit or collect money or any articles from any person for a charitable organisation, or cause or authorise another person to do so in a public place.

22. Busking

A person must not, without a permit, busk on any road or Council land unless the following conditions are met:

- (a) no services, such as electricity are required from an adjoining building as part of the busking activity;
- (b) there is no interference with the passage or activity of any other user of the road or Council land;
- (c) the duration of the busking activity does not exceed 2 hours;
- (d) on completion of the busking, the road or Council land is restored to the state it was found;
- (e) if busking on a footpath:
 - the footpath must be at least 2.9 metres wide;
 - the busking must be at least 0.75 metres from the edge of the kerb or 1.5m if adjoining a disabled parking space; and
 - the busking must be at least 1.8 metres off the edge of a building or shopfront in order to maintain pedestrian access.

23. Trading from a road

A person must not, without a permit, sell or offer to sell:

- (a) goods or services from a road; or
- (b) goods or services from a vehicle, caravan, trailer, stall or other type of structure on a road.

24. Using the footpath for commercial activities

A person must not, without a permit, use a footpath:

- (a) to display goods for sale;
- (b) to erect an advertising sign; or
- (c) for the purpose of outdoor-dining.

Local Law No. 2 – Community Local Law 2020

PART THREE – SAFETY AND AMENITY

25. Dangerous and unsightly land

A person must not allow their land to be, in the opinion of an Authorised Officer, kept in a manner which:

- (a) is dangerous or likely to cause danger to life, property or the environment because of the materials or substances that are kept or are allowed to exist on the land; or
- (b) which is unsightly, offensive or detrimental to the amenity of the neighbourhood.

NOTE: For the purposes of this clause, 'unsightly' land includes land which:

- *harbours rubbish;*
- *contains disused excavation, waste material and other bulky items;*
- *appears neglected or unkempt in appearance; or*
- *is unsightly or detrimental for any other reason.*

26. Storage and maintenance of machinery or second hand goods

26.1 A person must not use open land in a residential area for the storage of old or second-hand motor vehicles or machinery or old or second-hand materials or for the dismantling or breaking up of motor vehicles or machinery.

26.2 A person must not use land in a residential area for the repair, servicing, panel beating or spray painting of any vehicle other than a vehicle which is registered to a person living at that address.

27. Disused compartments

An owner or occupier must not store a disused refrigerator, ice-chest, ice-box, trunk, chest or other similar article which could facilitate entrapment, on that land.

28. Events on private properties

A person must not, without a permit conduct:

- (a) an event; or
- (b) a private function attended by more than 100 persons on land located within a residential area.

29. Scare guns

29.1 A person must not use, or allow or authorise others to use, a scare gun unless:

- (a) the scare gun is only used for the purpose of scaring birds away from crops during a recognised crop growing period;
- (b) the scare gun is being used on land within in a Rural Zone under the Planning Scheme;
- (c) the distance in a straight line between the scare gun and any residential premises is 300 metres or greater another scare gun in use (whether located on the same or on another land) is 150 metres or greater;
- (d) The scare gun is only used between 7:00am and sunset on any day and is not used in excess of 12 hours in any one day;

Local Law No. 2 – Community Local Law 2020

- (e) the maximum noise level of the scare gun when measured immediately in front of residential premises on another parcel of land is 100dB LIN peak or less;
 - (f) the permitted number and regularity of blasts in any one day period does not exceed the number set out in clause 29(2);
 - (g) no more than one scare gun is in use at any one time on the land unless a permit has been issued by Council under this Local Law to allow multiple scare guns; and,
 - (h) wherever possible, the shielding effects of natural features, buildings or the like are used to reduce the level of the blasts on nearby properties.
- 29.2 The number and regularity of blasts of a scare gun in any one day period must not exceed:
 - (a) in the case of a single blast scare gun, 70 blasts, with the time between blasts to be no less than six minutes;
 - (b) in the case of a multiple blast scare gun, 70 blasts, with the time between blast sequences being no less than six minutes; and
 - (c) the time between the first blast of a sequence and the last blast of a sequence being no more than one minute.
- 29.3 Each blast in a sequence from a multiple blast scare gun shall be counted as one blast.
- 29.4 A permit may be granted to allow the use of multiple scare guns where the area under crop is twenty hectares or more, but so as not to allow more than two scare guns for each ten hectares of crop.
- 30. Adequate fencing for animals**

The owner or occupier of any land where any animal is kept must ensure that it is fenced in a way that will prevent the animal escaping from the land.
- 31. Collection of domestic waste**
 - 31.1 An owner or occupier of land must return all Council issued refuse bins to the land within 24 hours after collection.
 - 31.2 A person placing a bin out for collection by the Council must ensure that only the type of waste intended for the type of bin provided has been placed in the bin and in the case of a bin:
 - (a) provided for garbage, has only been used for waste or material that cannot be reused, recycled or composted;
 - (b) provided for recycling, has only been used for recycling bottles, cans, paper and cardboard but not for any other type of product that the Council has advised is not acceptable and will not be collected; and
 - (c) provided for organic material, has only been used for the material that can be composted at Council's composting facility.
 - 31.3 A person must not interfere with any bin left out for collection and must not remove any goods or materials left out for collection as part of the Council's domestic waste collection.
- 32. Disposal of commercial waste**

A person operating a commercial waste collection service must take all practicable steps to minimise interference with the amenity of any residential area by:

 - (a) locating commercial waste bins at sites to limit interference with

Local Law No. 2 – Community Local Law 2020

residential land;

- (b) compacting waste only while the vehicle is moving; and
- (c) not breaking up bottles at the collection site.

33. Displaying property numbers

The owner or occupier of a property must ensure that any allocated property number is clearly displayed on the property so that it is visible from the road adjacent the property during normal lighting conditions.

34. Using incinerators and burning in the open air during non-fire danger period

34.1 A person must not, without a permit, burn in the open air or in a properly constructed fireplace any material on land located in a Residential Zone (with the exception of land within a Low Density Residential Zone), Business or Industrial Zone under the Planning Scheme, unless the fire is lit for the purpose of:

- (a) cooking;
- (b) heating when contained in a fire proof receptacle; or,
- (c) duties carried out by a member of the Country Fire Authority or other approved agency.

34.2 A person must not, without a permit, burn or cause or allow to be burned, any substance that may:

- (a) be dangerous to the health of any person; or,
- (b) offensive to any person; in a manner that causes a hazard, risk or nuisance to another person or property.

34.3 A member of an emergency service or an Authorised Officer may direct any person to extinguish a fire that contravenes, or is likely to contravene, this Local Law.

34.5 A person must not fail to comply with a direction given in accordance with clause 34.3

35. Occupying temporary dwellings

A person must not, without a permit occupy a temporary or moveable dwelling within the meaning of the *Residential Tenancies Act 1998* for more than twelve months while a permanent dwelling is being constructed unless:

- (a) the landowner has a current building permit; and
- (b) an appropriate sanitation system/waste disposal system has been obtained and approved by the Council's Environmental Health Officer.

36. Camping on private land

A person must not, without a permit, use accommodation in any caravan, mobile home or tent on any private land unless all of the following requirements are met:

- (a) the occupation does not exceed 28 days in any calendar year; and
- (b) no rent, licence fee or charge is paid by any person in respect of the occupation;
- (c) toilet, bathing and laundry facilities are made available without charge to the occupant(s) of the caravan, mobile home or tent; and
- (d) waste water disposal from the caravan, mobile home or tent does not cause a health risk, nuisance or an offensive condition.

Local Law No. 2 – Community Local Law 2020

37. Recreational vehicles on private land

A person must not, without a permit use or drive a recreational vehicle on any private land so as to cause detriment to the amenity of the neighbourhood.

NOTE: For the purposes of clause 37.1 'detriment' may be suffered by

(a) dust emission;

(b) noise emission; or

(c) any other reason which is considered by an Authorised Officer to be unreasonable or which causes discomfort of any other person.

38. Shipping containers

38.1 A person must not, without a permit, store, keep or place a shipping container on any land within the municipal district unless permitted under a planning permit issued in accordance with the Planning Scheme.

38.2 Subclause 38.1 *does not apply to any shipping container to be stored, kept or placed on land in the Farming Zone that is used for agricultural purposes provided that the shipping container is appropriately screened or located so as to minimise amenity impacts from adjoining properties or public land.*

Local Law No. 2 – Community Local Law 2020

PART FOUR - ANIMALS

39. Keeping animals

- 39.1 A person must not, without a permit, have or allow to be kept a domestic pet or other animal on any property if the number of animals exceeds the permitted number in the table below:

Column 1 – Type of animal*	Column 2 – Land less than 1000m2 *	Column 3 – between 1000 – 10,000m2 and in a Residential Zone*	Column 4 – Land greater than 10,000m2 *
Dogs	2	2	5
Cats	2	2	5
Poultry	5	5	Not limited by this Local Law
Roosters**, Peacocks and Donkeys	Not Permitted	Not Permitted	Not limited by this Local Law
Pigs	Not Permitted	Not Permitted	Not limited by this Local Law
Other large birds (excluding peacocks, poultry and roosters)	5	5	Not limited by this Local Law
Livestock	Not Permitted	Maximum Density of one animal per every 2000 square metres of open land (excluding buildings)	Not limited by this Local Law
Maximum total number of animals of any kind	20	20	Not limited by this Local Law

*The Planning Scheme may also affect a person's right to use land for the keeping of animals

**Roosters are prohibited in a Residential Zone

- 39.2 Where a person occupies a number of properties, domestic pet numbers are only permitted to be kept at the person's principal place of residence.
- 39.3 For the purposes of the above table, the following types of animals are exempt:
- any large bird or poultry that is less than 8 weeks old;
 - any dog or cat that is less than 3 months old;
 - working dogs; or
 - dogs which have been declared under the *Domestic Animals Act 1994* as either a restricted breed, dangerous or menacing dog.

40. Vermin control

- 40.1 An owner or occupier of any property must keep the area within two metres of a poultry house, pigeon loft, bird cage or any animal enclosure on that property free from all dry grass, weeds, refuse and other materials capable of harbouring vermin.

Local Law No. 2 – Community Local Law 2020

40.2 An owner or occupier of land must not keep any food for the consumption of any poultry or other birds, or any animals, on that land unless such food is kept in a vermin-proof receptacle or building.

41. Poultry

41.1 A person must not, without a permit, keep poultry on any property other than in a poultry house which is:

- (a) at least 20m from the property frontage;
- (b) at least 3m from any other street or road;
- (c) at least 12m from any dwelling whether on the same or adjoining property; and
- (d) consisting of a minimum floor area of five square metres.

41.2 Sub-clause 41.1 does not apply to a commercial poultry farm.

41.3 An owner or occupier of land on which a poultry house is located must ensure that it has:

- (a) a location on ground which is well drained;
- (b) weatherproof walls of approved materials, provided that wire netting may be used in a portion of one wall;
- (c) a weatherproof roof of approved materials; and
- (d) a wall height of not more than 2.1 metres.

42. Livestock

Unless to the extent permitted in clause 39, a person must not, without a permit, keep any livestock on any property in a residential or commercial area.

43. Cleanliness

43.1 An owner or occupier of land must cause every poultry house, pigeon loft, bird cage or animal enclosure on that land to be thoroughly cleansed as often as may be necessary to keep the same in a clean and sanitary condition.

43.2 An owner or occupier of land must remove droppings and refuse from the land from regularly or as frequently as may be directed by an Authorised Officer so as not to cause a nuisance or offensive condition.

44. Animal excrement

44.1 A person in charge of a dog must not allow any part of the animal's excrement to remain on a road or Council land.

44.2 A person in charge of a dog must carry a suitable receptacle for the removal of that animal's excrement from a road or Council land.

45. Dogs on leads

A person in charge of a dog on any road or in any public place must ensure that the dog is secured by a chain, cord or leash in any area zoned under the Strathbogie Planning Scheme as Township, Residential (including low density residential) or Business or Industrial, unless it is an off leash area designated and signposted for the purpose.

Local Law No. 2 – Community Local Law 2020

46. Unleashed dogs

A person may unleash a dog in an area designated by Council and sign posted for the purpose except that:

- (a) a person who unleashes a dog must keep the dog under effective control; and
- (b) the provisions of this clause do not apply to greyhounds, dangerous dogs or restricted breed dogs.

PART FIVE – INFRASTRUCTURE

47. Construction and maintenance of vehicle crossings

A person must not, without a permit, construct or alter a vehicle crossing, including a temporary vehicle crossing.

48. Asset protection

A person must obtain an Asset Protection Permit before commencing or continuing on land any works:

- (a) requiring a building permit under the *Building Act 1993*;
- (b) to a vehicle crossover, including a temporary crossover; or
- (c) in the road reserve

49. Damage to Council assets

A person must not, without a permit:

- (a) destroy;
- (b) damage;
- (c) interfere with;
- (d) excavate;
- (e) tap into; or
- (f) obstruct the function of:
any Council asset.

PART SIX – ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT

50. Applying for a permit

50.1 A person may apply for a permit by:

- (a) lodging with the Council an application; and
- (b) paying to the Council the appropriate application fee.

50.2 The Council may require an applicant to provide additional information before dealing with an application for a permit or for exemption.

50.3 The Council may require a person making an application for a permit to give public notice which will entitle any person to make a submission.

51. Issue of permits

The Council may:

- (a) issue a permit either with or without conditions; or
- (b) refuse to issue a permit.

52. Duration of permits

52.1 A permit is in force until the expiry date indicated on the permit, unless it is cancelled before the expiry date.

52.2 Before the permit expires, a person may request the Council to extend the permit for a further period.

53. Correction of permits

53.1 The Council may correct a permit in relation to:

- (a) an unintentional error or an omission; or
- (b) an evident material miscalculation or an evident material mistake of description of a person, thing or property.

53.2 The Council must notify a permit holder in writing of any correction.

53.3 If the permit holder is not the owner of the land and the owner's consent was required to be given to the application for the permit, the owner must be notified of any correction to a permit.

54. Review of permit decision or conditions

Any person can request a review of any decision to issue a permit with permit conditions or to refuse to issue a permit, in writing within 30 days of the date of Council's decision.

55. Fees

55.1 The Council may, from time to time, by resolution determine fees for the purposes of this Local Law.

55.2 In determining any fees and charges the Council may establish a system or structure of fees and charges, including a minimum or maximum fee or charge, if it considers it is appropriate to do so.

55.3 The Council may waive, reduce or alter a fee with or without conditions.

Local Law No. 2 – Community Local Law 2020

56. Notice to Comply

- 56.1 An Authorised Officer may serve a Notice to Comply on any person who is in breach of this Local Law.
- 56.2 A Notice to Comply must state the time and date by which the situation must be remedied and must include the signature of the Authorised Officer.
- 56.3 The time required by a Notice to Comply must be reasonable in the circumstances having regard to:
- (a) the amount of work involved;
 - (b) the degree of difficulty;
 - (c) the availability of necessary materials or other necessary items;
 - (d) climatic conditions;
 - (e) the degree of risk or potential risk; and
 - (f) any other relevant factor.

57. Urgent circumstances

- 57.1 In urgent circumstances arising as a result of a failure to comply with this Local Law, an Authorised Officer may take action to remove, remedy or rectify a situation without first serving a Notice to Comply if:
- (a) the Authorised Officer considers the circumstances or situation to be sufficiently urgent and that the time involved or difficulties associated with the serving of a notice, may place a person, animal, property or thing at risk or in danger; and
 - (b) wherever practicable, a senior officer is given prior notice of the proposed action.
- 57.2 In deciding whether circumstances are urgent, an Authorised Officer must take into consideration, to the extent relevant whether it is practicable to contact:
- (a) the person by whose default, permission or tolerance the situation has arisen; or
 - (b) the owner or the occupier of the premises or property affected; and
 - (c) whether there is an urgent risk or threat to public health, public safety, the environment or animal welfare.
- 57.3 The action taken by an Authorised Officer under clause 57.1 must not extend beyond what is necessary to cause the immediate abatement of or minimise the risk or danger involved.
- 57.4 An Authorised Officer who takes action under clause 57.1 must ensure that, as soon as practicable:
- (a) details of the circumstances and remedying action are forwarded to the person on whose behalf the action was taken; and
 - (b) a report of the action taken is submitted to the Chief Executive Officer.

58. Power to impound

- 58.1 Where any items, goods and equipment are used in contravention of this Local Law an Authorised Officer may remove and impound them.

Local Law No. 2 – Community Local Law 2020

- 58.2 Where any items, goods and equipment are impounded under this provision, an Authorised Officer must as soon as possible and where practicable serve a Notice of Impounding on the owner or the person responsible for the item setting out the fees and charges payable and the time by which the item must be retrieved.
- 58.3 Where the identity or whereabouts of the owner or the person responsible for the impounded item is unknown the Authorised Officer must take reasonable steps to establish the identify or whereabouts of the person and may to dispose of the impounded item in the following way:
- (a) where the item is declared by a senior officer or another officer authorised for the purpose to have no saleable value, it may be disposed of in the most economical way determined by that officer; or
 - (b) where the item is declared by a person in sub-clause 58.3(a) to have some saleable value the item may be disposed of by tender, public auction or private sale but may be given away or disposed of if the sale is unsuccessful.
- 58.4 Any proceeds from the disposal of an impounded item will be paid to the owner or the person who in the opinion of the Council appears to be authorised to receive the money, except for the reasonable costs incurred to the Council in the administration of this Local Law.
- 58.5 If the person described in sub-clause 58.4 cannot be identified located within 1 year of serving the Notice of Impounding, any proceeds of sale cease to be payable to that person and may be retained for municipal purposes.
- 58.6 If an Authorised Officer has impounded anything in accordance with this Local Law, the Council may refuse to release it until the appropriate fee or charge for its release has been paid to the Council.
- 59. Infringement notices and penalties**
- 59.1 As an alternative to prosecution an Authorised Officer may issue an infringement notice to any person who has committed an offence against this Local Law.
- 59.2 The penalty fixed in respect of an infringement is the amount set out in the Schedule 1 to this Local Law.
- 60. Offences generally**
- A person is guilty of an offence, and liable to a maximum penalty of 20 Penalty units if the person –
- (a) does something which a provision of this Local Law prohibits;
 - (b) knowingly provides false information in support of an application for a permit under this Local Law;
 - (c) knowingly supplies false or misleading information to an authorised officer;
 - (d) engages in an activity without a current permit where a provision of this Local Law requires that person obtain a permit before engaging in that activity;
 - (e) breaches or fails to comply with a condition of a permit issued under this Local Law;
 - (f) fails to comply with a verbal direction issued, or a notice to comply served, by an authorised officer; or
 - (g) fails to comply with a sign erected by Council.

Local Law No. 2 – Community Local Law 2020

SCHEDULE 1 - PENALTIES FIXED FOR INFRINGEMENT NOTICE PURPOSES

(Clause 59)

<i>Clause</i>	Infringement	<i>Penalty Units</i>
8	Behaving on Council land contrary to Local Law	2
8	Failing to comply with requirements applying to activities on Council land and roads	5
9	Leaving a shopping trolley contrary to a Local Law or failure to comply with direction	1
10	Allowing trees, plants and obstructions contrary to a Local Law	1
11	Consumption of alcohol contrary to Local Law	3
12	Bulk Rubbish Containers contrary to Local Law	5
13	Rubbish Bins in Public Places contrary to Local Law	2
14	Animals in Council Buildings contrary to Local Law	1
15	Events, festivals or processions contrary to Local Law	5
16	Activities on Nature Strip contrary to Local Law	1
17	Camping on Council Land contrary to Local Law	3
18	Droving livestock contrary to Local Law or Policies (first offence)	5
19	Grazing livestock contrary to Local Law or Policies (first offence)	3
20	Failing to obtain a permit for a recreation vehicle	3
21	Collection of money without a permit	1
22	Busking without a permit	1
23	Trading from a road contrary to Local Law	5
24	Using the footpath for commercial activities contrary to Local Law or Policy	3
25	Dangerous & Unsightly Land contrary to Local Law	5
26	Storage and maintenance of Machinery or Second Hand Goods contrary to Local Law	3
27	Disused Compartments contrary to Local Law	4
28	Events on private property contrary to Local Law	5
29	Using Scareguns contrary to Local Law	4
30	Failing to provide adequate fencing	5
31	Collection of Domestic Refuse Bins contrary to Local Law	1
32	Disposal of Commercial Waste contrary to Local Law	2
33	Failing to display property numbers	1
34	Using incinerators and burning in the open air during non fire danger period	5
35	Occupation of temporary dwelling without a permit	5
36	Camping on private land contrary to Local Law	2
37	Recreation Vehicles on Private Land contrary to Local Law	3
38	Shipping Containers contrary to Local Law	5
39	Keeping Animals contrary to Local Law	4
40	Vermin control contrary to Local Law	2
41	Keeping of Poultry contrary to Local Law	2
42	Keeping of Livestock contrary to Local Law	2
43	Cleanliness contrary to Local Law	2
44	Animal Excrement contrary to Local Law	2
45	Dogs on Leads contrary to Local Law (first offence)	2
46	Unleashed Dogs contrary to Local Law	2
47	Construction and maintenance of vehicle crossings contrary to Local Law	10
48	Asset Protection contrary to Local Law	5
49	Damage to Council Assets	10

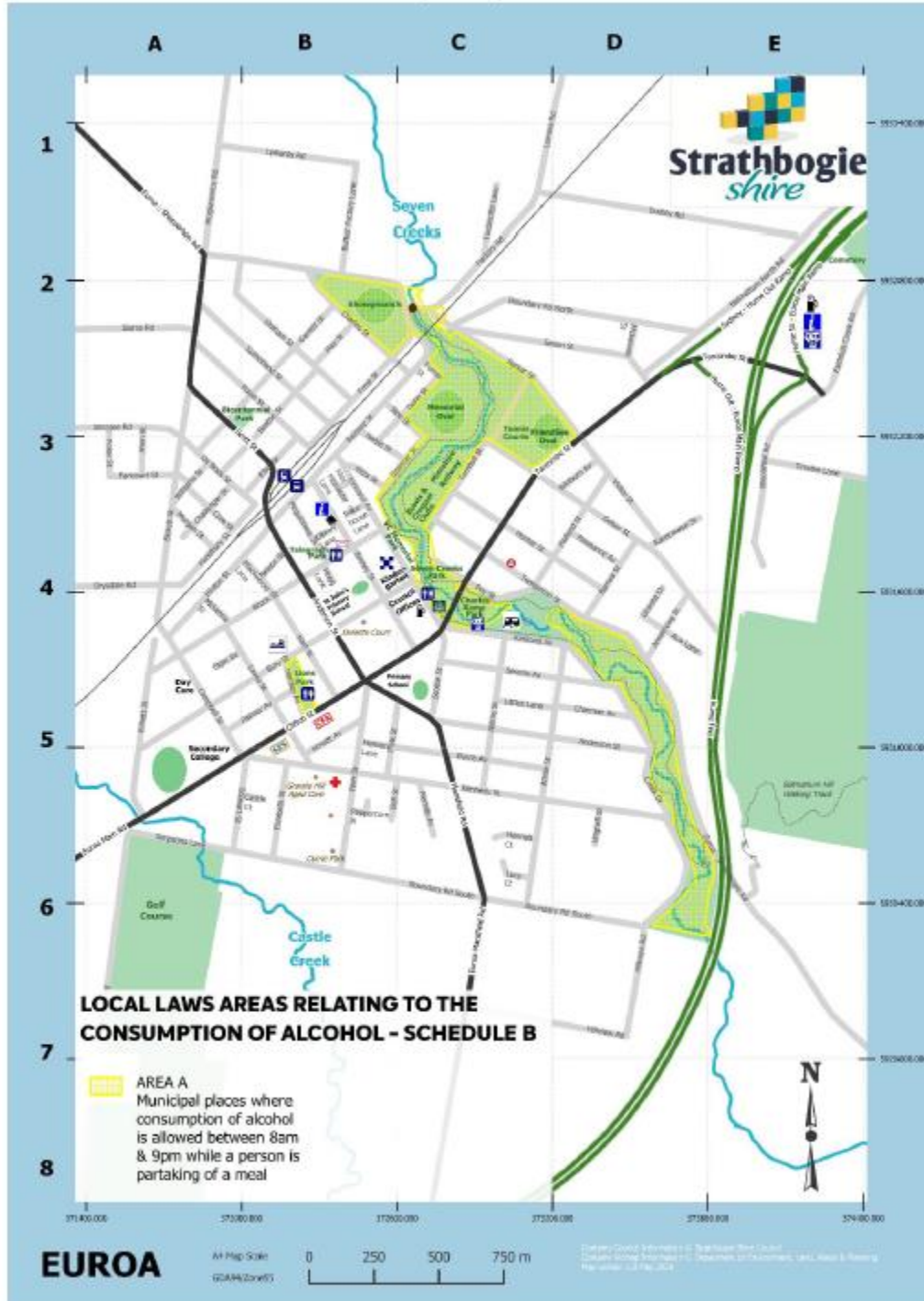
Local Law No. 2 – Community Local Law 2020

SCHEDULE 2 - CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOL
(Clause 11)



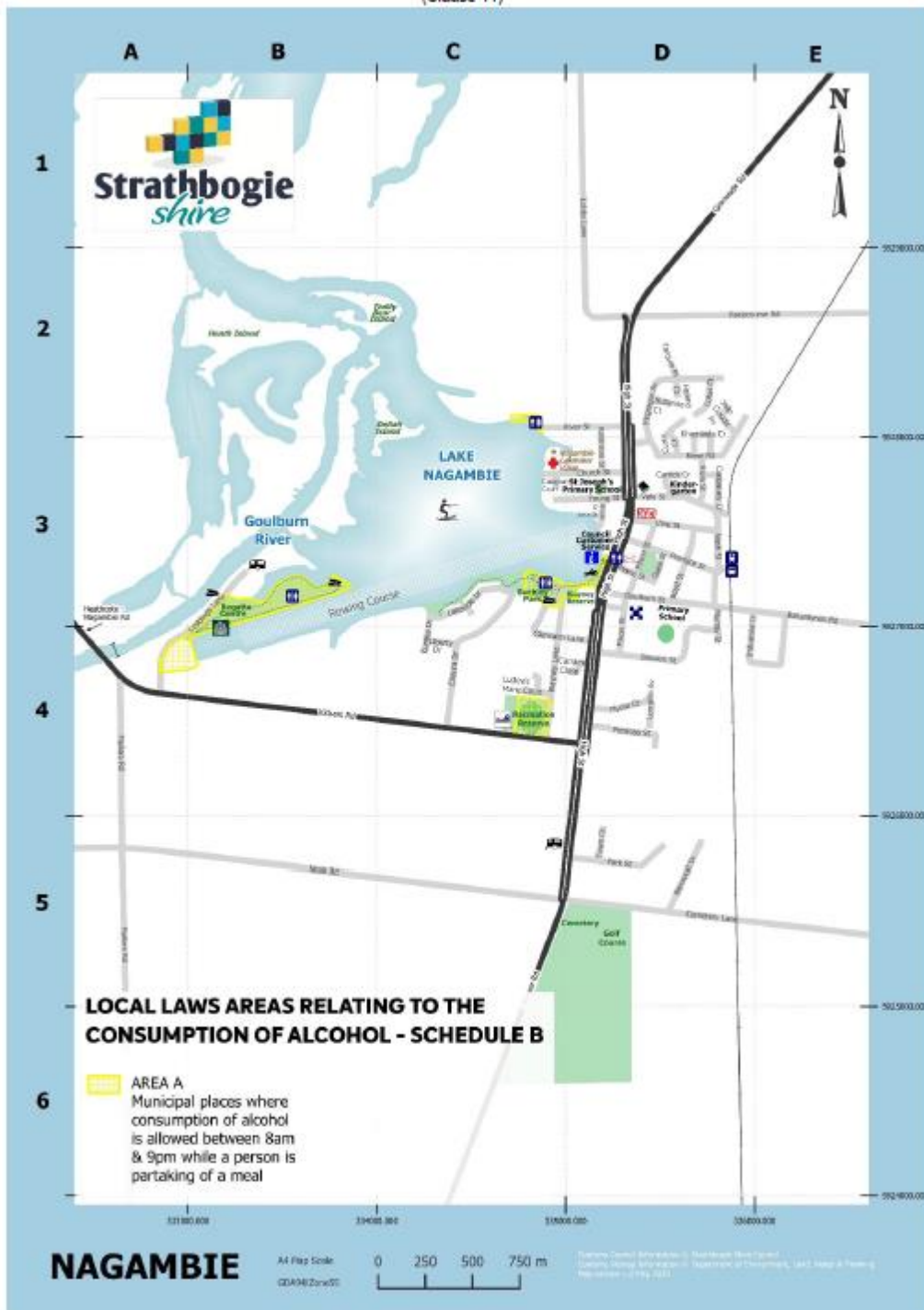
Local Law No. 2 – Community Local Law 2020

SCHEDULE 2 - CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOL
(Clause 11)



Local Law No. 2 – Community Local Law 2020

SCHEDULE 2 - CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOL
 (Clause 11)



ATTACHMENT 2:

SUMMARY OF ISSUES RAISED BY SUBMITTERS AND COUNCIL'S RESPONSE TO THE MATTERS RAISED

ISSUE	NUMBER OF SUBMITTERS RAISING THE ISSUE	SUGGESTIONS FROM SUBMITTERS AS TO HOW TO RESOLVE THEIR CONCERNS (IF ANY)	OFFICER RESPONSE INCLUDING OUTLINE OF ANY CHANGES MADE TO THE DRAFT LOCAL LAW
Inclusion of a permit requirement to drove stock within the municipal area	30	The provisions of the Local Law No.6 2010 should not change. Remove proposed permit requirement for movement of stock.	Permit requirement has been removed, however provision in local law has not remained the same as the Local Law No. 6. While a permit is not required, additional conditions around signage and providing warning to other road users.
Animal Excrement	6	Remove this requirement as it is not manageable or enforceable by those moving large numbers of stock on roads.	Requirement for the removal of animal excrement has been tightened to only apply to dogs.
Drones	15	Remove this requirement as the operation of drones is governed by the Civil Aviation and Safety Authority.	This requirement has been removed from the Local Law in its entirety.
Camping on Private Land	5	Remove the restriction for people camping on private land.	Requirement has been kept as a means of protecting amenity to surrounding land owners/occupants however exemptions apply for private camping which are separate to commercial pursuits.

<p>Excessive nature of infringements</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>Review or remove infringements for some breaches within the local law.</p>	<p>Officers have undertaken a full review of the penalty units, most of which have been revised down and are better aligned in terms of seriousness and fairness.</p>
<p>Embrace community spirit</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>Deletion of conditions related to busking, nature strip planting and bin collection.</p>	<p>Busking provision has been amended to provide some exemptions. Council will be undertaking further work to provide separate supporting documentation to support the community to achieve compliance with the requirements of the local law.</p>
<p>Other provisions with typographical errors</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>Typographical errors should be remedied.</p> <p>Inclusion of provision within the local law to require all beekeepers in the urban area to operate in accordance with the code of practice.</p> <p>Ensure provision on consumption of alcohol doesn't affect businesses at markets or events.</p>	<p>This has been reflected in the document for adoption.</p> <p>Not included in final draft as this is covered by its own code and other legislation</p> <p>Provision has not changed as this is covered as part of larger approval for a market or event.</p>

ATTACHMENT 3:

Community Local Law No.2

About footpath Trading



Footpath trading is an important part of our retail environment. At Strathbogrie Shire we know it can significantly add to the ambience and enjoyment of our region.

What we need to ensure is that we balance this with the need to provide a safe environment for everyone who uses footpaths throughout our municipality.

This is why we manage footpath trading activities to ensure safe and dignified pedestrian access at all times.

Application Requirements

Making an application for a footpath trading permit is simple. All we need is:

- a completed application [form](#)
- a copy of your public liability insurance, and
- A site plan showing the areas of the footpath that will be occupied and for what purpose. E.g: tables and chairs or retail displays.

Considerations

Council officers will consider any application for footpath trading against our Footpath Trading Guidelines. You can find these on our [website](http://www.strathbogrie.vic.gov.au) (www.strathbogrie.vic.gov.au)

More generally, we consider many things as part of any applications, including:

- User safety
- Pedestrian safety and movement
- Other businesses [impacts](#)
- Public infrastructure, and
- Road users.

For more information get in touch with Strathbogrie Shire's Compliance Team by phoning 1800 065 993.

About the Community Local Law No.2

The Community Local Law No.2 is an important document for our community.

It is designed to empower Council to respond to local issues and protect public amenity, health and safety within our municipality.

We want to ensure the place we call home continues to be as special as it is now, well into the future.

Council does not create these local laws to make it hard on our residents. They are not designed to restrict activities or stymie creativity.

We want to encourage an innovative and creative culture within our community.

In this Local Law we have removed the section on 'recommended permit [considerations](#)'.

Instead we have created guidance fact sheets (like this one) that ensure we can easily respond to our community's needs.

By doing this we are making it easier for us to be proactive and create change based on our community's advice.

At Strathbogrie Shire Council we love where we live and we're here to work with our community to make it even better.



ATTACHMENT 4:



**DRAFT COMMUNITY
LOCAL LAW NO.2**
Draft Engagement Report

September 2020

Document control

Document information

Document name	Draft Community Local Law No.2 Engagement Report
Reference	
Document owner	Kristin Favaloro

Contents

1.	Introduction	4
2.	The Engagement Approach	4
2.1.	Information provided to the community.....	5
3.	Participants	5
4.	What our community told us	6
6.	Evaluation	10

1. Introduction

Strathbogie Shire Council Draft Community Local Law No.2 provides for the administration, management and protection of amenity and safety throughout the shire.

Upon adoption of a new Community Local Law No.2 - the Strathbogie Shire Council Community Local Law No. 6 (2010) would be repealed.

Council officers reviewed the current local law, complaint enquiries received, previous permits issued under the local law, along with reviews of similar laws of adjoining and/or similarly sized Councils to ensure consistency across municipal boundaries.

The draft local law was also been reviewed by the Local Law Project Group consisting of Councillors, officers and community representatives and endorsed by Council at its ordinary meeting in July with further input added.

The proposed changes included in the draft local law include:

- New provisions intended to improve regulation around uses or activities which may impact on amenity of surrounding land owners, occupants or our wider community
- Consolidation or deletion of some previous requirements
- Updated layout to reflect where the activity occurs – private or public land or a topic – animals and infrastructure
- Permit considerations have been included for all permit required activities. This is intended to provide transparency to our applicants and the wider community in the decision making process of the Compliance

2. The Engagement Approach

To ensure community input into the Draft Community Local Law No.2, Strathbogie Shire Council created an engagement plan that aimed to:

- ensure the community was informed about the review
- ensure the community understood how it could provide feedback
- provide clear and informative communications materials, and
- provide different engagement opportunities to ensure the community could learn and provide feedback in the method that best suited their needs.

Members of the public were encouraged to provide feedback for a four-week period through written submissions until Thursday, September 3, 2020.

This could be done through:

- Sending an email to info@strathbogie.vic.gov.au
- Writing to Strathbogie Shire Council, PO Box 177, Euroa 3666.

We also created two-way engagement opportunities to create more meaningful engagement.

Two online feedback sessions provided participants with the opportunity to ask questions and provide their feedback in a more informal setting. The online session also ensured we were meeting the social distancing requirements of the coronavirus (COVID-19).

More importantly the online sessions were held about half-way through the public engagement process. They allowed us to test our thinking, based on what we were hearing from the community.

Council's engagement stretched along the IAP2 Engagement Spectrum from 'inform' to 'consult' and 'involve'.

Table 1: Engagement methods used based on the level of impact

Inform	Consult	Involve
<p>General Communication</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Media releases Website Social media Advertising 	<p>Direct and Interactive Engagement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Written submission period 	<p>Feedback forums</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Online feedback sessions Councillor workshop

2.1. Information provided to the community

During our engagement activities information provided to the community was detailed.

Table 2: Links to all the information provided.

What	Topic
Draft Document	Draft Community Local Law No.2
Presentation	Online feedback sessions
Website content	Have your say
Media release	Have your say on protecting amenity in Strathogie Shire
Advertisement	Published in all local newspapers
Social media	Seeking community input
Social media	Register for online feedback session
Video	Provide your thoughts and advice

3. Participants

Participants of the Draft Community Local Law No.2 community engagement program consisted of:

- 66 written submissions
- About 80 one-on-one meetings/phone calls
- 20 people attended online feedback sessions

4. What our community told us

The themes from our one on one discussions, written submissions and online engagement forums are outlined below.

Stock on roads: We heard the proposed requirement for farmers requiring a permit to move stock within the Shire was not needed. Our community said it was an additional expense, generated more paperwork and above all seemed like it punished those who are doing the right thing.

Animal excrement: Our community told us this requirement was impossible to manage or enforce. We heard farmers simply did not have the ability to abide by this requirement.

Drones: The message on a proposed permit to launch drones from Council owned land was loud, especially in the written submissions. This is creating unnecessary red tape when Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) restrictions are already in place.

Shipping containers: We heard they were often used as important storage and feed sheds in farming zones. At the same time our community understood we must protect amenity – this is why we love where we live!

Embrace community spirit: Encourage creativity in our Shire. Allow busking that can enhance our wellbeing, support safe lemonade stands for kids and encourage appropriate nature strip plantings.

5. Findings

Table 3. The number of submissions relating to each theme.

Theme	Stock on roads	Animal excrement	Drones	Shipping containers	Embrace community spirit	Other
Number of submissions	30	6	15	Information gathered during online sessions and 1:1 meetings	4	11

Table 4. Feedback gathered during online session 1 (held on Monday, August 24) relating to each theme.

Theme	Feedback
Stock on roads	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You're not targeting those doing the wrong things. There's going to need to be some education about moving stock and what drivers should do. I support moving away from a permit system. We need a driver education program. Drivers have no idea what to do. It's all about driver education. The majority of landowners have properties on either side of the road. I support removing the permit, I felt this was going toward penalising those who do the right things, congratulations. I think the education aspect is a great idea. Happy this does not affect horses being ridden down a road.
Animal excrement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I agree with the change, I did think it was an oversight from transferring urban to farming. It's funny and non-sensical Permits should be required to move stock into the shire, need to specify this is trucked or droving, I assume trucking does not require a permit.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Needs to be very clear.
Drones	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I agree with proposed changes. Laws already exist. Think Council needs to balance privacy and productivity. Drones are new technology and moving into the farming areas they provide a fantastic opportunity for farmers to increase productivity and improve our Shire. We've got to be careful we're not too restrictive that we stop future opportunities.
Shipping containers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This definition needs to be tidied up. Where a container is used for agricultural storage you shouldn't need a permit. I think if a container impacts amenity then guidelines need to be included to improve that amenity. It's all about amenity.
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clause 39 needs clarification – it could mean 20 fish 40 notes vermin control. Newer working indicates every storage feed shed requires vermin proofing. On a hayshed that would mean unnecessary costs. 42 notes on keeping poultry. This is at odds with the code of practice. On recreational vehicles a definition needs to be included. On 29 the two difference requirements makes it difficult. On 28 the interpretation of events sounds like birthday parties need a permit. On 31 – I'm concerned this will means illegal dumping or burying on properties. Perhaps we need central collections points. On 46 and 47 there's no reference to working dogs, which needs to be excluded. Council needs a tool to better manage temporary vehicle crossings.

Table 5. Feedback gathered during online session 1 (held on Thursday, August 27) relating to each theme.

Theme	Feedback
Stock on roads	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Think removing the permit is appropriate and a good outcome. • Those doing the wrong thing won't get a permit anyway. • It makes more sense • Think it's a good idea to remove the requirement to have a permit • A permit is hard and costs everyone • I agree there shouldn't be a permit required. • Can I suggest there needs to be education to drivers. It's about the overall wellbeing and safety.
Animal excrement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I think dogs and cats are fine. • I think that's a sensible way to put it. • What about horses, what is fair and reasonable?
Drones	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I think a permit might be a good idea, especially if they're flying over backyards. • I don't understand how CASA works, but there is a privacy issue. •
Shipping containers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I would support excluding the farming zone and I would be happy to be painted a suitable colour. • I disagree I don't think you can given the state of some properties. I don't think it's reasonable. • Would it be more relevant to limit the amount based on the zone?
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can we include a better definition on events. • What about entrepreneurial kids who want to have a lemonade stand on a roadside, with the trading from a roadside permit prevent this from happening?

6. Evaluation

At the end of the online feedback sessions we asked participants to rate their satisfaction with the process. *This was sent through a survey via email and the results below will continually be updated.*

Table 5. Community satisfaction ratings.

Bad	Not so good	Okay	Very good	Excellent
1*		1	1	1

*This relates to internet connection and access to technology.

9.24 Business Management System

The September 2020 Business Management System Report includes reports as follows:-

- Building Department – August 2020 Statistics
- Planning Department – Planning Application Approvals – Development Cost (Capital Improved Value) - August 2020
- Customer Enquiry Analysis Report – Report for August 2020
- Waste Management Reporting ~ Year to Date - August 2020
- Actioning of Council Reports Resolutions – Council Meeting 18 August 2020
- Outstanding Actions of Council Resolutions to 31 August 2020
- Review of Council Policies and Adoption of new Policies – August/September 2020
- Record of Assemblies of Councillors
- Record of Minutes of Meetings of Special Committees of Council received in the past month

By reporting on a monthly basis, Council can effectively manage any risks that may arise. The Business Management System will also incorporate Council's corporate goals and objectives.

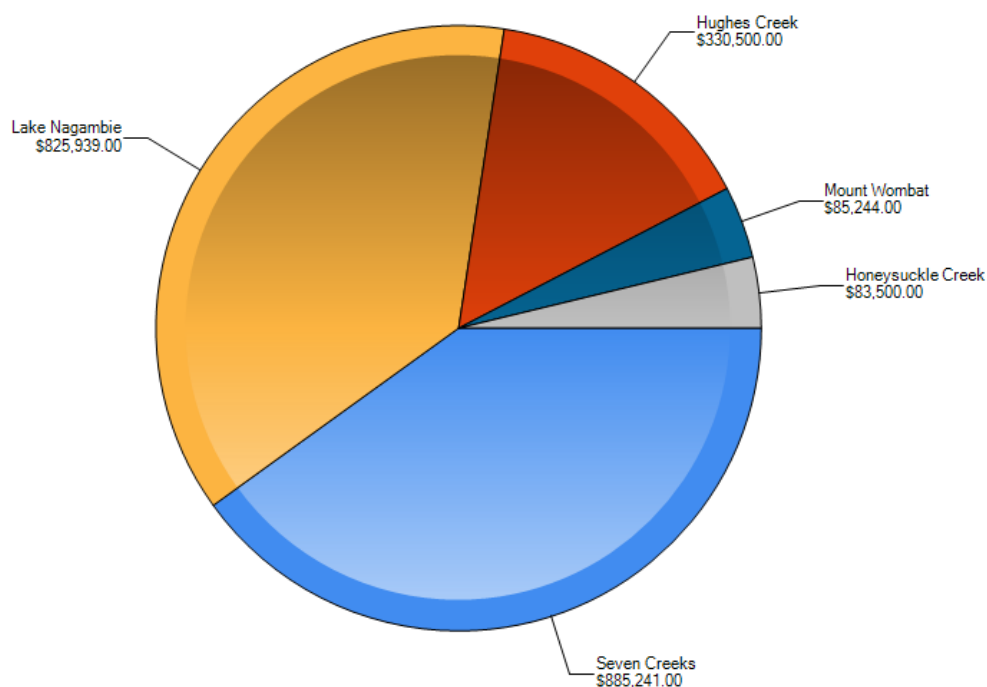
RECOMMENDATION

That the report be noted.

BUILDING ACTIVITY

AUGUST 2020

Twenty-two (22) permits, with a works value of \$2,210,424, were lodged with Council in August. The number of permits lodged are slightly above 2019, however the works value is 33% lower. The number of lodgements and the works value for the Lake Nagambie and Seven Creeks wards were close this month, with eight permits and 37.4% of the works value and seven permits and 40% of the works value respectively.



Honeysuckle Creek

Permit Number	Permit Date	Works	Building Use	Town	Cost of Works
2121166653688	14/08/2020	Construction of	Shed	Earlston	\$50,000.00
7076912405714	6/08/2020	Construction of	Shelter, Spa safety barrier	Violet Town	\$9,500.00
8353124053310	28/07/2020	Construction of	Verandah	Violet Town	\$24,000.00

Hughes Creek

Permit Number	Permit Date	Works	Building Use	Town	Cost of Works
3346650355917	6/08/2020	Construction of	Dwelling & Garage	Avenel	\$330,500.00

Lake Nagambie

Permit Number	Permit Date	Works	Building Use	Town	Cost of Works
2495103891985	17/08/2020	Construction of	Shed	Tabilk	\$14,116.00
2965340277371	26/08/2020	Construction of	Shed	Nagambie	\$53,101.00
3627242588954	3/08/2020	Construction of	Shed	Goulburn Weir	\$30,000.00
4431975669372	18/08/2020	Installation of	Swimming Pool, Swimming Pool Barrier	Nagambie	\$15,400.00
4703233459385	31/08/2020	Construction of	Garage	Nagambie	\$7,800.00
4846873438482	5/08/2020	Construction of	Shed	Tabilk	\$71,634.00
986423338568	27/07/2020	Construction of	Dwelling & Garage	Nagambie	\$249,699.00
9922922765119	26/08/2020	Construction of	Dwelling & Garage	Nagambie	\$384,189.00

Mount Wombat

Permit Number	Permit Date	Works	Building Use	Town	Cost of Works
1770266280080	7/08/2020	Construction of	Shed	Kithbrook	\$31,244.00
4246035076923	22/07/2020	Construction of	Carport	Strathbogie	\$4,000.00
5120098506003	11/08/2020	Construction of	Shed	Sheans Creek	\$50,000.00

Seven Creeks

Permit Number	Permit Date	Works	Building Use	Town	Cost of Works
1147777948558	7/07/2020	Construction of	Shed	Euroa	\$15,800.00
1894893874882	25/08/2020	Construction of	Dwelling & Garage	Euroa	\$354,146.00
3611553478136	6/08/2020	Completion of	Dwelling	Euroa	\$14,000.00
7068632583912	9/08/2020	Construction of	Shed, Carport	Euroa	\$9,665.00
8630806078183	27/07/2020	Alterations & Additions to	Public Hall	Euroa	\$372,600.00
8838535521461	14/08/2020	Construction of	Shed	Euroa	\$45,000.00
9084076101308	20/08/2020	Construction of	Shed	Molka	\$74,030.00

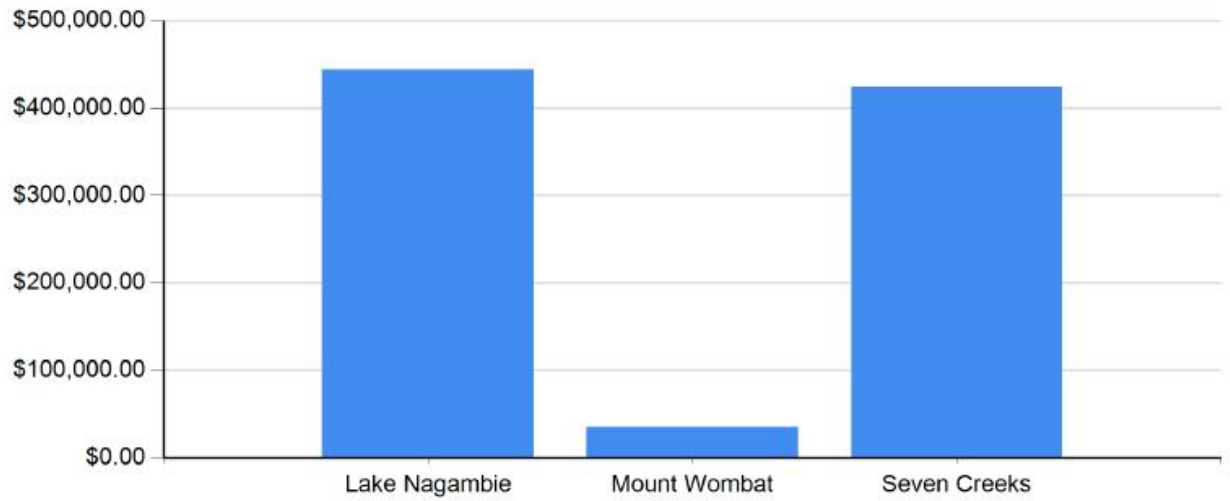
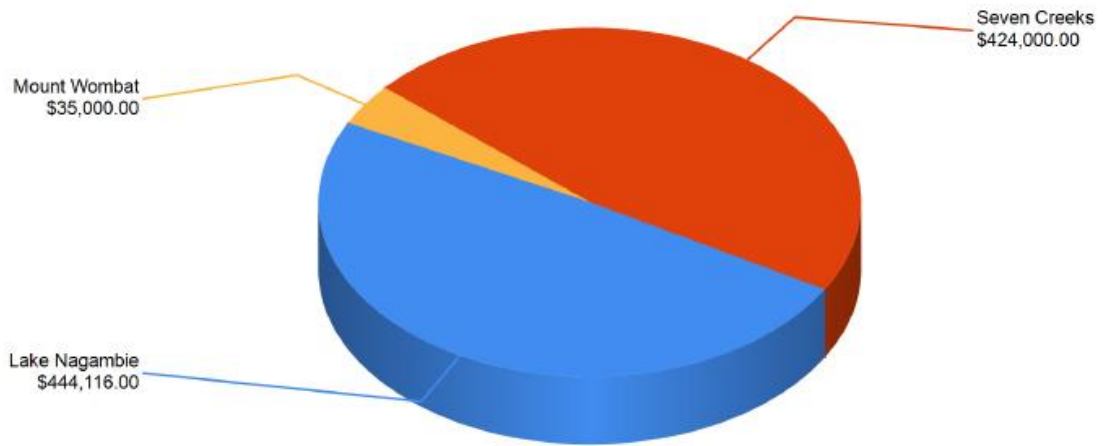
**PLANNING APPLICATION APPROVALS – DEVELOPMENT COST (CAPITAL
IMPROVED VALUE)
AUGUST 2020**



Planning Applications Determined

August 2020

Lake Nagambie	\$444,116.00
Bailieston	\$395,000.00
Nagambie	\$35,000.00
Tabilk	\$14,116.00
Mount Wombat	\$35,000.00
Kithbrook	\$35,000.00
Seven Creeks	\$424,000.00
Euroa	\$350,000.00
Molka	\$74,000.00
Total Value	\$903,116.00



**CUSTOMER ENQUIRY ANALYSIS REPORT
 - REPORT FOR AUGUST 2020**



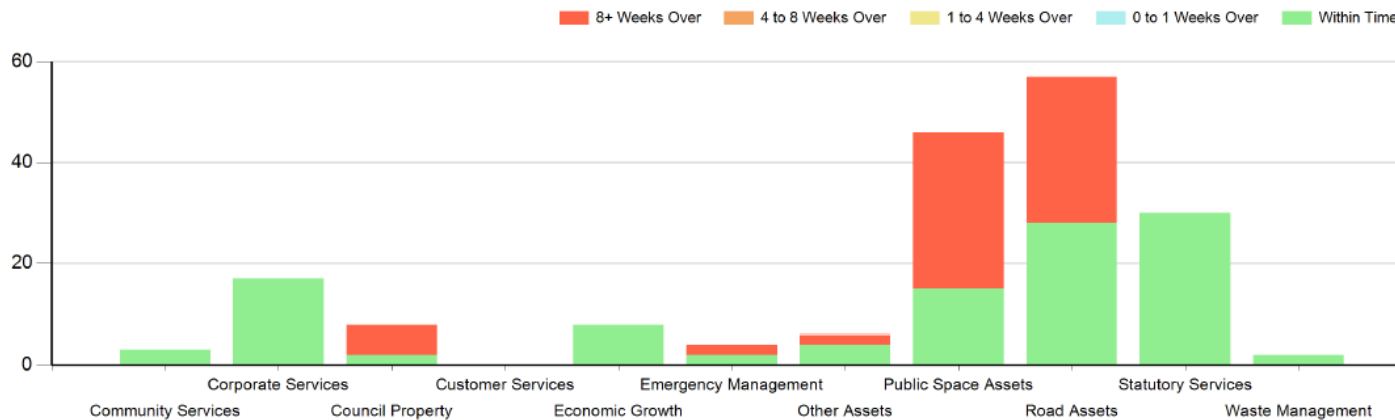
Request Throughput Analysis

01/08/2020 to 31/08/2020

C N	Complete / New	> 80%	50-80%	< 50%
	O R	Overdue / Remaining	< 33%	34-70%

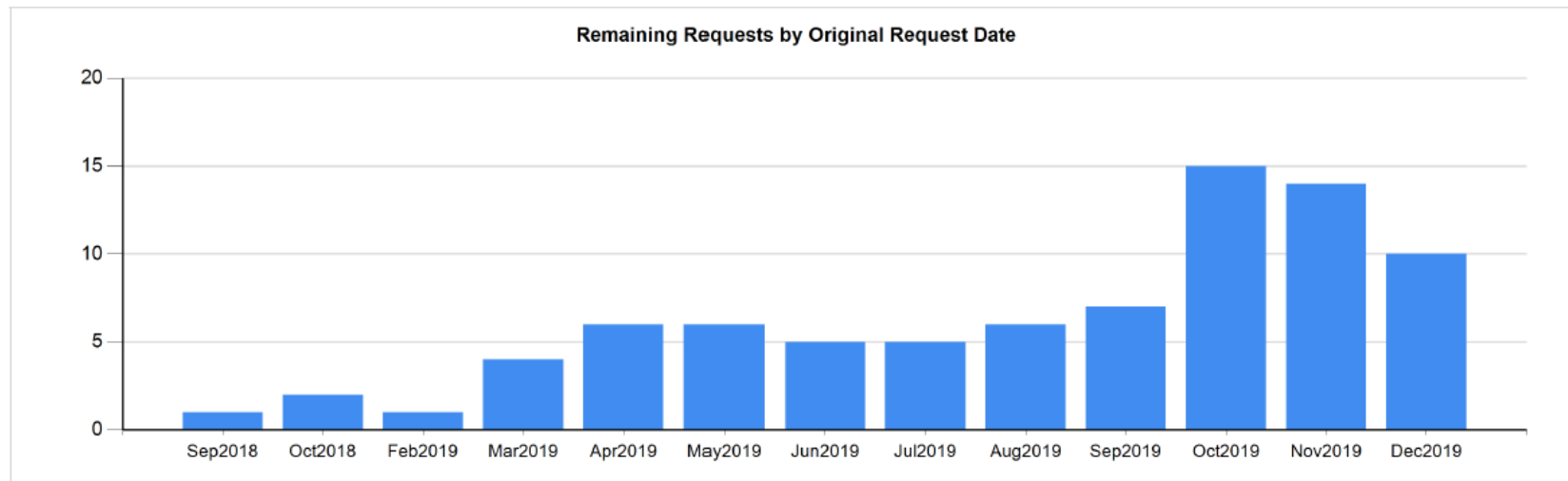
Service Area	Existing Requests	New Requests	Completed Requests	Remaining Requests	C N	Within Time	Over Time	O R	Pending Resources	Service Area Usage
Community Services	2	43	40	5	✓	3	2	⚠	0	█
Corporate Services	18	128	116	30	✓	17	13	⚠	0	█
Council Property	73	30	64	39	✓	2	37	✗	0	█
Customer Services	6	11	16	1	✓	0	1	✗	0	█
Economic Growth	24	241	247	18	✓	8	10	⚠	0	█
Emergency Management	18	8	8	18	✓	2	16	✗	0	█
Other Assets	67	23	44	46	✓	4	42	✗	0	█
Public Space Assets	102	34	42	79	✓	15	64	✗	15	█
Road Assets	184	100	101	181	✓	28	153	✗	2	█
Statutory Services	46	151	151	46	✓	30	16	⚠	0	█
Waste Management	7	17	19	5	✓	2	3	⚠	0	█

Request Ageing



Service Usage





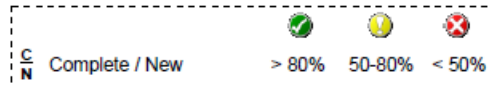
		Council Property	Economic Growth	Emergency Management	Other Assets	Public Space Assets	Road Assets
2018	September					1	
	October					1	1
2019	February						1
	March					2	2
	April					3	3
	May					2	4
	June					1	4
	July					3	2
	August	1				2	3
	September	1				6	
	October	3			1	6	5
	November	1		2		8	3
	December	1	1	1	1	4	2
Total		7	1	3	2	39	30

Definitions

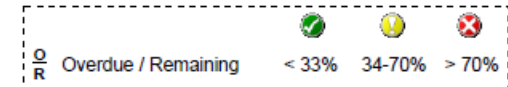
Service Area	Grouping of services by area of responsibility
Existing	Requests open prior to reporting period
New	Requests made during reporting period
Within Time	Remaining Requests where defined deadline is after reporting period
Pending Resources	Requests where additional resources are required to continue. This includes labour, materials, and financial resources.

Service	Activities that provide value to the customer
Remaining	Requests incomplete at end of reporting period
Completed	Requests completed during reporting period
Over Time	Remaining Requests where defined deadline is before the end of the reporting period

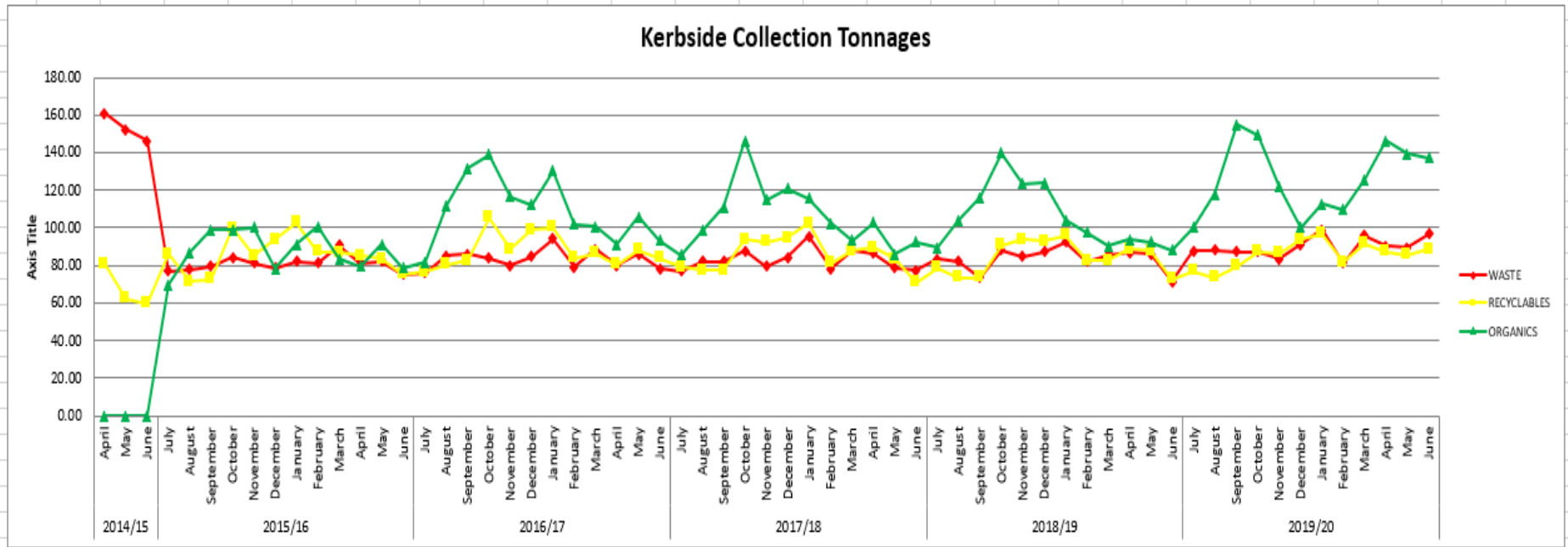
Complete New
 An indicator showing the ratio of Completed requests and New requests. Designed to represent how well we are keeping up with the demand for a service.

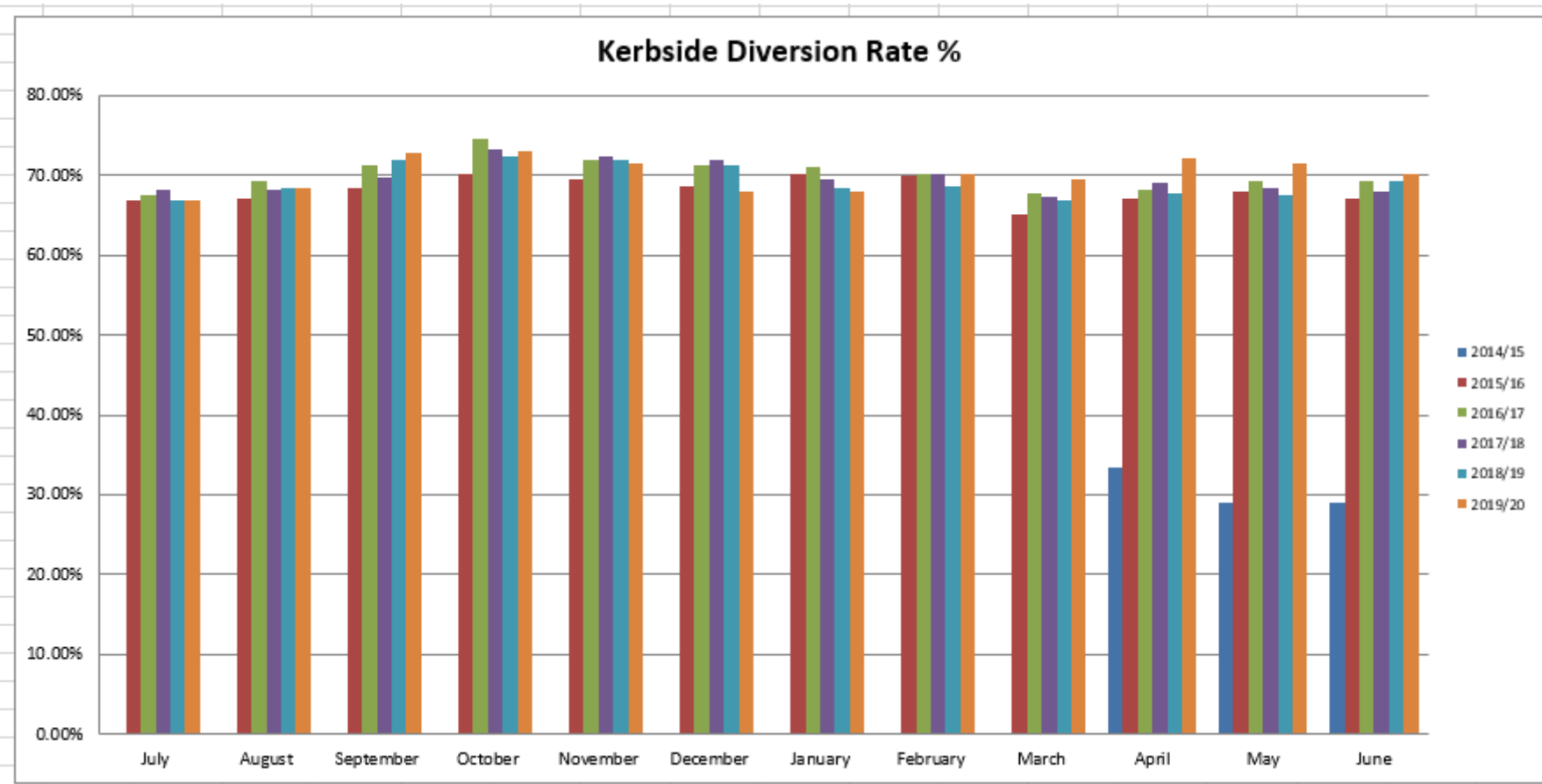


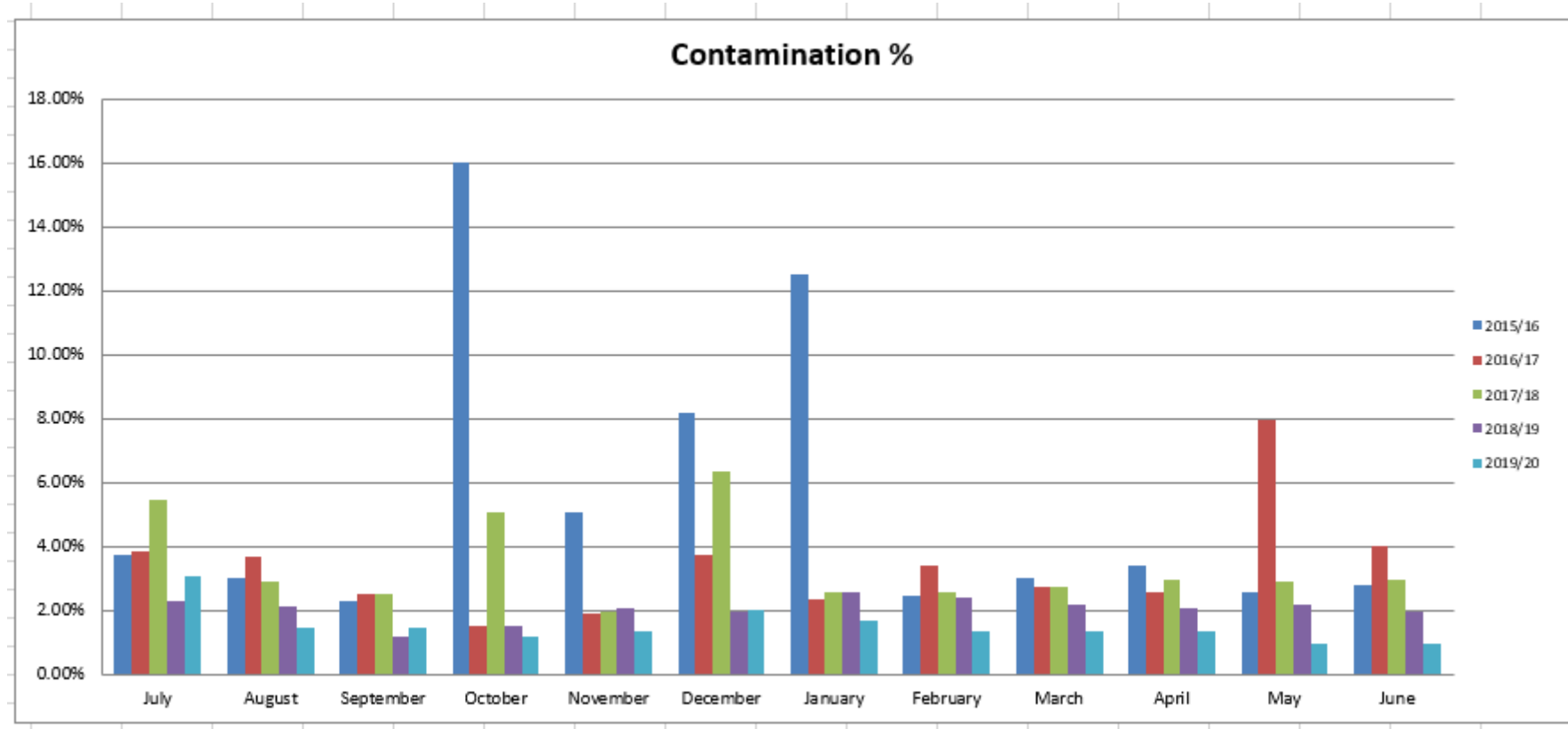
Overdue Remaining
 An indicator showing the ratio of Overdue requests and Remaining requests. Designed to represent how well we are keeping to the defined deadlines.



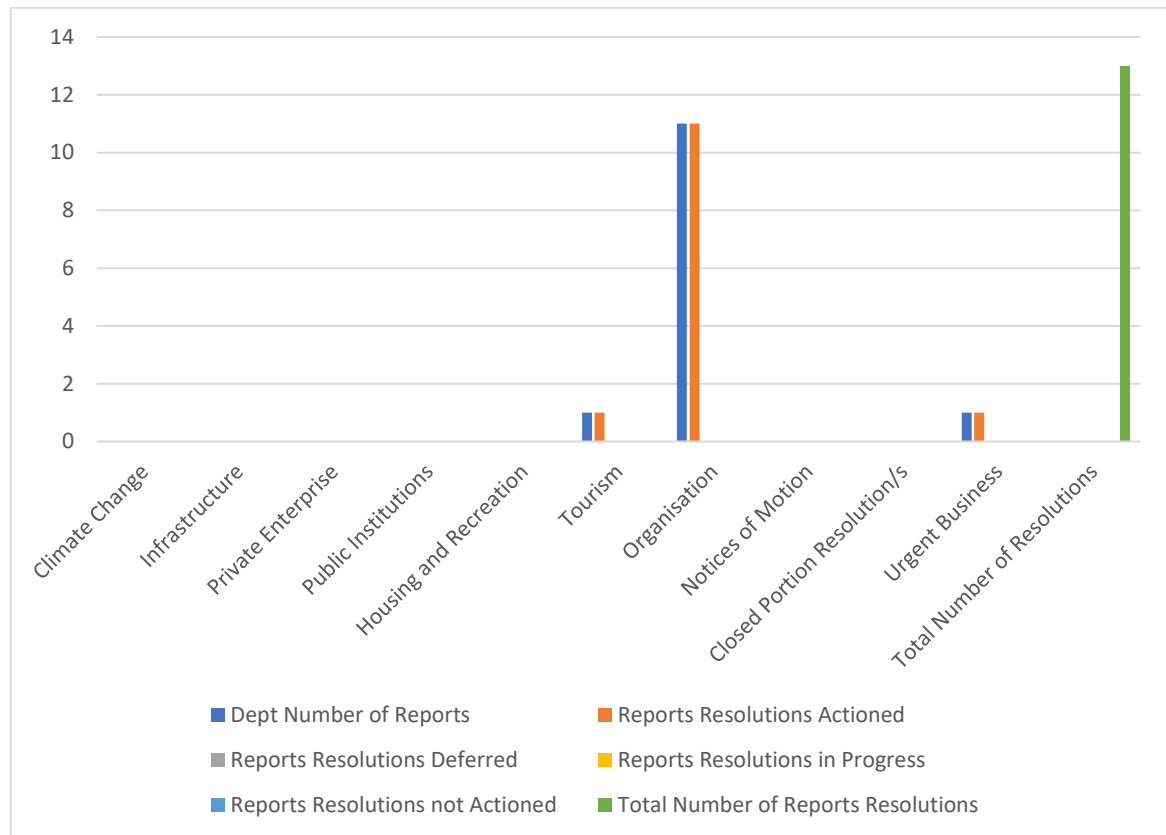
WASTE MANAGEMENT REPORTING
YEAR TO DATE - AUGUST 2020







ACTIONING OF COUNCIL REPORTS RESOLUTIONS
COUNCIL MEETING – 18 AUGUST 2020



**OUTSTANDING ACTIONS OF COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS TO
31 AUGUST 2020**

This Report is to advise the Executive Management Team, Councillors and the community of the status of previous Council resolutions which are in progress but are yet to be finalised.

Council Meeting Date	Item No.	Description
<i>Nil</i>		

**REVIEW OF EXISTING COUNCIL POLICIES
AND ADOPTION OF NEW POLICIES**

Review of Policy / New Policy	Policy Name	Details
New Policy	Coronavirus (COVID-19) Management Policy	Refer to Item 9.14

RECORDS OF ASSEMBLIES OF COUNCILLORS

For period 30 July to 26 August 2020

Record in accordance with sections 77 and 80A(1) of the *Local Government Act 1989*

Note: Details of matters discussed at the meeting that have been designated confidential under section 77 of the Local Government Act 1989 are described in a separate "confidential addendum" that will be reported to the next closed Council meeting]

Name of Meeting: Assembly of Councillors

Date of Meeting: Tuesday 4 August 2020

Time: 1.00 p.m. to 5.19 p.m.

Attendees:

Councillors

Amanda McClaren
Robert Gardner
Malcolm Little
John Mason
Chris Raeburn
Alistair Thomson
Graeme Williams

Officers

Julie Salomon (Chief Executive Officer)
Phil Howard (Director, Community and Planning)
David Roff (Director, Corporate Operations)
Dawn Bray (Executive Manager, Governance and Customer Service)
Kristin Favaloro (Executive Manager, Communications and Engagement)

Apologies

Nil.

1. Councillors / CEO Meeting
2. Councillors / ELT – 'Welcome and What's been Happening'

Declarations of Interest

3. Delegation Instruments from Council to Officers
4. Special Council Meeting Agenda Review
5. Visitor Information Centre / Arts Facility
6. Items for Discussion
 - 6.1 Feature Film Sponsorship Opportunity
 - 6.2 Occupation Licence – GMW and SSC ~ Maintenance & Use Licence / Foreshore and Approved Structures (Kirwans Bridge)
 - 6.3 Humanitarianism needed for Shincheonji Christian Denomination
7. Goulburn Valley Libraries 2020/21 Budget and Library Plan – briefing by CEO, Kevin Preece (*meeting rescheduled to Tuesday 25 August 2020*)
8. Special Council Meeting
 - Strathbogie Shire Council Community Local Law No.2

Councillor/s - Declaration of Interest/s / Direct or Indirect - NIL

Officer/s - Declaration of Interest/s / Direct or Indirect - NIL

Record of Assembly of Councillors

Record in accordance with sections 77 and 80A(1) of the *Local Government Act 1989*

Note: Details of matters discussed at the meeting that have been designated confidential under section 77 of the Local Government Act 1989 are described in a separate "confidential addendum" that will be reported to the next closed Council meeting

Name of Meeting: Assembly of Councillors

Date of Meeting: Tuesday 11 August 2020

Time: 12.15 p.m. to 5.00 p.m.

Attendees:

Councillors

Amanda McClaren
Robert Gardner
Malcolm Little
John Mason
Chris Raeburn
Alistair Thomson
Graeme Williams

Officers

Julie Salomon (Chief Executive Officer)
Phil Howard (Director, Community and Planning)
David Roff (Director, Corporate Operations)
Dawn Bray (Executive Manager, Governance and Customer Service)
Kristin Favaloro (Executive Manager, Communications and Engagement)

Apologies

Nil.

1. Councillors / CEO Meeting
 2. Councillors / ELT – 'Welcome and What's been Happening'
- Declarations of Interest
3. Presentation by 2019 Fairley Leadership Program Council-sponsored participant
 4. Review of August Planning Committee Agenda
 5. Review of Draft August Ordinary Council Meeting Agenda
 6. Items for Discussion
 - 6.1 Honeysuckle Regional Health – concerns raised due to COVID-19
 - 6.2 ALGA 2020 National Local Roads and Transport Congress
 - 6.3 Advice from Darebin City Council – 2020 Council Elections
 - 6.4 Request for Mayors of regional Victoria to unite – effect of COVID-19 restrictions on regional Victoria

Councillor/s - Declaration of Interest/s / Direct or Indirect - NIL

Officer/s - Declaration of Interest/s / Direct or Indirect - NIL

Record of Assembly of Councillors

Record in accordance with sections 77 and 80A(1) of the *Local Government Act 1989*

Note: Details of matters discussed at the meeting that have been designated confidential under section 77 of the Local Government Act 1989 are described in a separate "confidential addendum" that will be reported to the next closed Council meeting

Name of Meeting: Assembly of Councillors

Date of Meeting: Tuesday 18 August 2020

Time: 12.30 p.m. to 7.47 p.m.

Attendees:

Councillors

Amanda McClaren
Robert Gardner
Malcolm Little
John Mason
Chris Raeburn
Alistair Thomson
Graeme Williams

Officers

Julie Salomon (Chief Executive Officer)
Phil Howard (Director, Community and Planning)
David Roff (Director, Corporate Operations)
Dawn Bray (Executive Manager, Governance and Customer Service)
Kristin Favaloro (Executive Manager, Communications and Engagement)

Apologies

Nil

1. Councillors / CEO Meeting
 2. Councillors / ELT – 'Welcome and What's been Happening'
- Declarations of Interest
3. Resourcing in Finance Department
 4. Caretaker Period Update
 5. Section 86 Committees Transition Project
 6. August Planning Agenda Review / Planning Matters
 7. August Ordinary Council Meeting Agenda Review
 8. Planning Committee Meeting
 9. Item/s for Discussions
 - 9.1 Murray Darling Association – invitation to attend virtual 76th National 2-Day Conference
 10. August Ordinary Council Meeting

Councillor/s - Declaration of Interest/s / Direct or Indirect - NIL

Officer/s - Declaration of Interest/s / Direct or Indirect - NIL

Record of Assembly of Councillors

Record in accordance with sections 77 and 80A(1) of the *Local Government Act 1989*

Note: Details of matters discussed at the meeting that have been designated confidential under section 77 of the Local Government Act 1989 are described in a separate "confidential addendum" that will be reported to the next closed Council meeting

Name of Meeting: Assembly of Councillors

Date of Meeting: Tuesday 25 August 2020

Time: 12.30 p.m. to 6.00 p.m.

Attendees:

Councillors

Amanda McClaren
Robert Gardner
Malcolm Little
John Mason
Chris Raeburn
Alistair Thomson
Graeme Williams

Officers

Julie Salomon (Chief Executive Officer)
Phil Howard (Director, Community and Planning)
David Roff (Director, Corporate Operations)
Dawn Bray (Executive Manager, Governance and Customer Service)
Kristin Favaloro (Executive Manager, Communications and Engagement)

Apologies

Nil.

1. Councillors / CEO Meeting
2. Councillors / ELT – 'Welcome and What's been Happening'

Declarations of Interest

3. Community Local Law No. 2 Workshop
4. Community Funding Programs
5. Items for Discussion
 - 5.1 Letter of Support for Nagambie War Memorial - Restoration Project Grant Application
 - 5.2 Working for Victoria Program
6. Special Council Meeting Agenda Review
7. Use of Local Roads for West Gate Tunnel Project Cargo Transportation – discussions with WGTP Representatives
8. Special Council Meeting
- Adoption of Governance Rules and making of Local Law for the Common Seal
9. De-brief on WGTP presentation

Councillor/s - Declaration of Interest/s / Direct or Indirect

Matter No.	Names of Councillor/s who disclosed interest	Did the Councillor/s leave the meeting?
Item 1	Cr Mason	Yes

Officer/s - Declaration of Interest/s / Direct or Indirect – NIL

Record of Assembly of Councillors

Record in accordance with sections 77 and 80A(1) of the *Local Government Act 1989*

Note: Details of matters discussed at the meeting that have been designated confidential under section 77 of the Local Government Act 1989 are described in a separate "confidential addendum" that will be reported to the next closed Council meeting

Name of Meeting: Assembly of Councillors

Date of Meeting: Tuesday 8 September 2020

Time: 12.30 p.m. to 6.30 p.m.

Attendees:

Councillors

Amanda McClaren
Robert Gardner
Malcolm Little
John Mason
Chris Raeburn
Alistair Thomson
Graeme Williams

Officers

Julie Salomon (Chief Executive Officer)
David Roff (Director, Corporate Operations)
Dawn Bray (Executive Manager, Governance and Customer Service)
Kristin Favaloro (Executive Manager, Communications and Engagement)
Emma Kubeil (Acting Director, Community and Planning)

Apologies

Phil Howard (Director, Community and Planning) *(on leave)*

1. Councillors / CEO Meeting
 2. Councillors / ELT – 'Welcome and What's been Happening'
- Declarations of Interest
3. Strathbogie Shire Economic Profile
 4. Review of Draft September Ordinary Council Meeting
 5. Special Council Meeting
- Receiving / Hearing of Submissions to Community Local Law
 6. Items for Discussion
 - 6.1 Planning Matter (Wattlevale / Delaney Roads, Nagambie)
 - 6.2 Proposed Meeting with Rail Projects Victoria
 - 6.3 Rates Hardship Policy

Councillor/s - Declaration of Interest/s / Direct or Indirect - NIL

Councillor/s - Declaration of Interest/s / Direct or Indirect - NIL

RECORD OF MEETINGS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL

Record of Minutes of Meetings received in the August / September 2020 Period

Name of Special Committee	Date of Meeting
Euroa Community Action Group	31/08/20

10. NOTICES OF MOTION

10.1 NOTICE OF MOTION (REF. NO. 6/2020) – ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING
- 15 SEPTEMBER 2020

Notice of Motion – Lodged by Councillors Amanda McClaren, Robert Gardner, Malcolm Little, John Mason, Chris Raeburn, Alistair Thomson and Graeme Williams (Ref. No. 6/2020)
- West Gate Tunnel Project

As a matter of urgency, write to the Hon. Dan Andrews MP Premier of Victoria, the Hon Jacinta Allen Minister for Transport and for the Coordination of Transport and the State Government Department of Transport to reinforce Councils' position that the contra-flow option along the northbound lane of the Hume Freeway is the preferred option to be adopted for the diversion of oversized over mass (OSOM) vehicles and that Avenel Longwood and Alexandersons Roads are only to be utilised during any contra-flow movements in cases of emergency.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 1. Write to the Hon Dan Andrews, Premier of Victoria, the Hon Jacinta Allen, Minister for Transport, and for the Coordination of Transport and the State Government Department of Transport that Council strongly reinforces its position in supporting the consideration of a contra-flow option aimed at the transportation of the OSOM vehicles intended for the Westgate Tunnel Project and if this option is adopted, the proposed use of Avenel Longwood and Alexandersons Roads are only to occur in emergency situations and not for northbound traffic deviation during the contra-flow operation; and***
- 2. Advise the Longwood/Locksley community of this decision.***




Mayor, Councillor Amanda McClaren



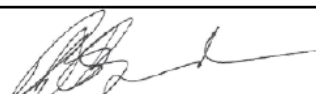
Councillor Malcolm Little



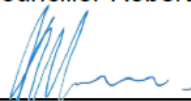
Councillor Chris Raeburn




Councillor Graeme Williams



Councillor Robert Gardner



Councillor John Mason



Councillor Alistair Thomson

Date : 10 / 09 / 2020

- 10.1 Notice of Motion – Lodged by Councillors Amanda McClaren, Robert Gardner, Malcolm Little, John Mason, Chris Raeburn, Alistair Thomson and Graeme Williams (Ref. No. 6/2020)
- West Gate Tunnel Project (cont.)

BACKGROUND

At the commencement of the Westgate Tunnel Project (WTP), it was intended that the transportation of precast concrete tunnel and bridge sections from Benalla to Melbourne would be by rail, but due to the sizes of the precast units, transportation needed to be by road.

The Hume Freeway between Benalla and Melbourne was chosen for use by the OSOM vehicles, however investigations found two bridges along the Hume Freeway not having the capacity to support the weight of the precast sections.

After reviewing a number of options, the Westgate Tunnel Project (WTP) and the Department of Transport determined the use of Avenel Longwood and Alexandersons Roads as the most viable diversion to ensure the continued supply chain of the precast concrete tunnel sections.

Since this proposed diversion was raised with Councillors, attempts have been made to gain a more detailed understanding of the diversion, including what will be the impacts for residents and on road infrastructure.

Council has also asked for a Memorandum of Understanding to be developed and signed by both Strathbogie Shire Council (Council), the State Government Department of Transport and the CPBJH Joint Venture (Westgate Tunnel Project) and the community, to ensure Council and the Community that their concerns would be addressed in terms of the road infrastructure and amenity impacts.

In the interim, under section 132(2)(j) of the Road Management Act 2004, Council has temporarily installed 70-ton Gross Load Limits on the roads until December to regulate the use of the road by vehicles having a specified mass, thereby ensuring the amenity of both the residences and infrastructure until a final decision has been reached on the route and there is a clear agreement between all parties.

CONCLUSION

Council strongly supports the community's concerns over the proposed diversion of OSOM vehicles onto the Avenel Longwood and Alexandersons Roads and has its own concerns to the deterioration to infrastructure. On behalf of our community, we intend to write to the Hon. Dan Andrews MP, Premier of Victoria, the Hon Jacinta Allen, Minister for Transport, and for the Coordination of Transport and the State Government Department of Transport to reinforce Councils' position in supporting the contra-flow option and if adopted that Avenel Longwood and Alexandersons Roads are only to be utilised in cases of emergency. We firmly believe that this will deliver the best outcomes for our community in ensuring their amenity, safety and prevent significant damage to our road infrastructure.

11. NOTICES OF RESCISSION

11.1 **Notice of Rescission Motion – Item 9.7.9 from Council Meeting 18 August 2020 ~ Proposed Memorandum of Understanding with the Taungurung Land & Waters Council (Ref. Nos 04/2020 and 05/2020)**

On 19 August 2020, the Chief Executive Officer received a 'Notice of Rescission' for Item 9.7.9 of the Ordinary Council meeting agenda of 18 August 2020 from Councillor Chris Raeburn. This notice was lodged under sections 76 and 77 of Strathbogie Shire Council's Meeting Procedure Local Law No. 1 of 2014 which was operational at the time; Council's Governance Rules did not come into force until 1 September 2020 as per the Council resolution from 25 August 2020.

The motion under request for rescission is:

That Council authorise the Mayor and Chief Executive Officer to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Taungurung Land and Waters Council after having:

1. *A broad-based discussion and information sessions with ratepayers, residents and the TLaWC; and*
2. *As per the Council Plan developing an MOU in conjunction with other LGAs and in the TLaWC area.*

The Notice of Rescission was delivered within the 24 hour period after the resolution was made and in accordance with the Local Law requirements.

As per Section 78 of Local Law No. 1, for a Council to rescind a previous decision, it must be carried by a majority of the votes cast.

That Council:

1. **Rescind the Recommendation for Item '9.7.9' from the Ordinary Council meeting agenda of 18 August 2020, viz;**

That Council authorise the Mayor and Chief Executive Officer to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Taungurung Land and Waters Council after having:

1. ***A broad-based discussion and information sessions with ratepayers, residents and the TLaWC; and***
2. ***As per the Council Plan, developing an MOU in conjunction with other LGAs in the TLaWC area.***

11.1 Notice of Rescission Motion – Item 9.7.9 from Council Meeting 18 August 2020 ~ Proposed Memorandum of Understanding with the Taungurung Land & Waters Council (Ref. Nos 04/2020 and 05/2020) (cont.)

2. Resolve to move -

That Council:

1. **Undertake broad based consultation with ratepayers, residents and the TLaWC in relation to the development of a Memorandum of Understanding between Strathbogrie Shire Council and the TLaWC.**
2. **Receive a further report from Officers on the outcome of the consultation process.**

For the Motion to Rescind

Against the Motion to Rescind

BACKGROUND

At its Ordinary Council meeting agenda of 18 August 2020; Council considered the following:

That a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) should be entered into with the Taungurung Land & Water Council (TLAWC) to ensure compliance with the following legislation, reduce Council's risk exposure and most importantly strengthen the relationship with first peoples, and the Traditional Owners of Taungurung Country:

- Native Title Act 1993 (Commonwealth);
- Traditional Owner Settlement Act 2010 (State); and
- Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006 (State).

In addition; the MoU recognises Australia's (and therefore Council's) obligations arising out of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The officer recommendation was:

- *That Council authorise the Mayor and Chief Executive Officer to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Taungurung Land & Water Council as per the draft MoU attached.*

This was amended by Council and the following resolution was passed:

- *That Council authorise the Mayor and Chief Executive Officer to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Taungurung Land and Waters Council after having:*
 1. *A broad-based discussion and information sessions with ratepayers, residents and the TLaWC; and*
 2. *As per the Council Plan developing an MOU in conjunction with other LGAs and in the TLaWC area.*

11.1 Notice of Rescission Motion (Ref. No. 04/2020) – Item 9.7.9 from Council Meeting 18 August 2020 ~ Proposed Memorandum of Understanding with the Taungurung Land & Waters Council (Ref. Nos 04/2020 and 05/20520) (cont.)

The Notice of Motion to Rescind from Councillor Raeburn was submitted to the CEO under the former Meetings Procedures Local Law No1 of 2014. This was replaced on 1 September 2020 by the Strathbogie Shire Council's Governance Rules as per the requirements of the new Local Government Act 2020 to repeal existing meetings procedures local laws and replace them with the prescribed 'governance rules'.

Councillor Raeburn, therefore, complied with all the requirements for rescission motions under the former meetings procedure local law but the consideration of the rescission motion by Council must be performed under clause 57 of Division 1.9 of the new Governance Rules, adopted by Council on 25 August 2020.

The motion to rescind is put before Council for consideration.

It should be noted that under clause 57, unless the Council resolves to re-list at a future meeting, a notice to rescind that item which has been lost must not be put before the Council for a period of three months from the date it was last considered.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Extract of Relevant Minuted Report from the Ordinary Meeting of Strathbogie Shire Council held on Tuesday 18 August 2020

Attachment 2: Copy of Notice of Rescission Motion, as lodged by Councillor Chris Raeburn (Ref. No. 04/2020)

Attachment 3: Copy of Notice of Motion, as Lodged by Councillor Chris Raeburn and Councillor Alistair Thomson (Ref. No. 05/2020)

ATTACHMENT 1:

EXTRACT OF RELEVANT MINUTED REPORT FROM THE ORDINARY MEETING OF STRATHBOGRIE SHIRE COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 18 AUGUST 2020

9.7.9 Proposed Memorandum of Understanding with the Taungurung Land & Waters Council

Responsible Director: Community & Planning

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of the report is to recommend to Council that a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) should be entered into with the Taungurung Land & Water Council (TLAWC) to ensure compliance with the following legislation, reduce Council's risk exposure and most importantly strengthen the relationship with first peoples, and the Traditional Owners of Taungurung Country:

- Native Title Act 1993 (Commonwealth);
- Traditional Owner Settlement Act 2010 (State); and
- Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006 (State).

In addition; the MoU recognises Australia's (and therefore Council's) obligations arising out of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

**MOVED: COUNCILLOR RAEBURN
SECONDED: COUNCILLOR THOMSON**

That Council authorise the Mayor and Chief Executive Officer to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Taungurung Land & Waters Council as per the draft MoU attached.

COUNCILLOR GARDNER REQUESTED TO MOVE AN AMENDMENT TO THE MOTION -

That Council authorize the Mayor and Chief Executive Officer to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Taungurung Land & Waters Council after having:

- 1. A broad based discussion and information sessions with ratepayers, residents and the TLaWC; and**
- 2. As per the Council Plan, developing an MoU in conjunction with other LGAs in the TLaWC area.**

COUNCILLOR LITTLE SECONDED THE AMENDMENT.

ALL COUNCILLORS WERE GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS THEIR SUPPORT OF EITHER THE RECOMMENDATION, AS MOVED BY COUNCILLOR RAEBURN AND SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR THOMSON, OR THE AMENDMENT, AS MOVED BY COUNCILLOR GARDNER AND SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR LITTLE.

THE MAYOR CALLED FOR A VOTE.

For the Amended Motion: Crs Gardner, Little, Mason, Williams

Against the Amended Motion: Crs Raeburn, Thomson, McClaren

ON BEING PUT, THE AMENDMENT BECAME THE MOTION

128/20 CARRIED

ATTACHMENT 2:

***COPY OF NOTICE OF RESCISSION MOTION, AS LODGED BY COUNCILLOR
CHRIS RAEBURN (Ref. No. 4/2020)***

19 August 2020

To: Julie Salomon, Chief Executive Officer

From: Cr Chris Raeburn

**NOTICE OF RESCISSION MOTION – ITEM 9.7.9 PROPOSED MEMORANDUM OF
UNDERSTANDING WITH THE TAUNGURUNG LAND & WATERS COUNCIL, COUNCIL
MEETING DATE 18 AUGUST 2020**

I write to provide notice of my request for you to place this rescission motion on the Ordinary Council meeting agenda of 15 September 2020 as per clause 76 of the Meetings Procedure Local Law No 1 of 2014.

The motion which I seek to rescind related to item 9.7.9 (as identified above) from the Ordinary Council meeting agenda of 18 August 2020 is:

That Council authorise the Mayor and Chief Executive Officer to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Taungurung Land and Waters Council after having:

- 1. A broad based discussion and information sessions with ratepayers, residents and the TLaWC; and*
- 2. As per the Council Plan developing an MOU in conjunction with other LGAs and in the TLaWC area.*

The notice of motion which I wish to be placed on the agenda is:

That Council:

- 1. Undertake broad based consultation with ratepayers, residents and the TLaWC in relation to the development of a Memorandum of Understanding between Strathbogie Shire Council and the TLaWC.*
- 2. Receive a further report from Officers on the outcome of the consultation process.*

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you wish to discuss.



Cr Chris Raeburn

Honeysuckle Ward

ATTACHMENT 3:

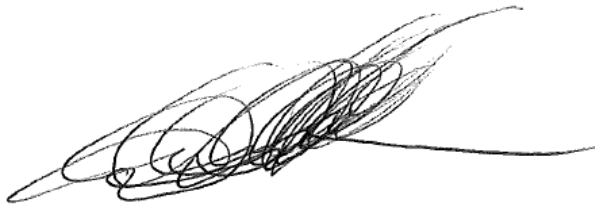
***COPY OF NOTICE OF MOTION, AS LODGED BY COUNCILLOR CHRIS
RAEBURN AND COUNCILLOR ALISTAIR THOMSON (Ref. No. 5/2020)***

Notice of Motion – Ordinary Council Meeting, 15 September, 2020

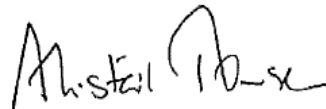
Recommendation:

That Council:

1. Undertake broad based consultation with ratepayers, residents and the TLaWC in relation to the development of a Memorandum of Understanding between Strathbogie Shire Council and the TLaWC.
2. Receive a further report from Officers on the outcome of the consultation process.

A large, dense, and somewhat illegible handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of many overlapping loops and lines.

Cr Chris Raeburn

A handwritten signature in black ink that is more legible than the one on the left, appearing to read 'Alistair Thomson'.

Cr Alistair Thomson

12. URGENT BUSINESS

13. CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS

..... p.m.

That Council, in conformance with section 66(2)(a) and the definitions for confidential matters under Part 1, section 3 Definitions of the Local Government Act 2020 (the Act), resolve to close the meeting to members of the public for the purpose of considering an item relating to:-

C.P. 1 Chief Executive Officer Performance Appraisal

In accordance with section 66(5) of the Act, this item is classified as confidential under the following definition outlined by section 3 of the Act

- (f) *personal information, being information which if released would result in the unreasonable disclosure of information about any person or their personal affairs*

This ground has been applied to this matter as it relates to personnel matters and the six-month performance review of the Chief Executive Officer undertaken by Council.

Confidential Appendices

These appendices have been classified as being confidential in accordance with section 66(2)(a) and Part 1, section 3 Definitions of the Local Government Act 2020 as they relate to:

- (g) *private commercial information, being information provided by a business, commercial or financial undertaking that -*
- (i) *relates to trade secrets; or*
 - (ii) *if released, would unreasonably expose the business, commercial or financial undertaking to disadvantage*

- Appendix 1: Tender for Contract Number 20/21-12: Environmental Monitoring at the Violet Town Landfill
- Appendix 2: Tender for Contract Number 20/21-10: Supply and Installation of Public Amenities Violet Town
- Appendix 3: Tender for Contract Number 20/21-08: Supply and Install of Water Tanks – Various Locations (Avenel, Creighton’s Creek, Euroa, Gooram, Ruffy, Strathbogie and Violet Town)
- Appendix 4: Tender for Contract Number 20/21-23 Ranger and Local Laws Enforcement Services
- Appendix 5: Tender for Contract Number 20/21-22: Provision of Boating Safety Operations
- Appendix 6: Tender for Contract Number 20/21-20: Operation and Management of Municipal Swimming Pools

..... p.m.

CRS -

That Council open the meeting to members of the public and resume normal business.

RECOMMENDATION

CRS -

That the decision/s of Council's 'Closed Portion' considerations be confirmed.

NEXT MEETING

The final Ordinary Meeting of the Strathbogie Shire Council for this current term of Council is scheduled to be held, virtually, on Tuesday 20 October 2020, commencing at 6.00 p.m.

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