

**STRATHBOGRIE SHIRE COUNCIL**



Notice is hereby given that a Meeting of the Strathbogrie Shire Council will be held, virtually, on Tuesday 19 October 2021, commencing at 6.00 p.m.

**Chair:** Chris Raeburn (Mayor) *(Honeysuckle Creek Ward)*

**Councillors:** David Andrews *(Lake Nagambie Ward)*  
Laura Binks *(Mount Wombat Ward)*  
Reg Dickinson *(Lake Nagambie Ward)*  
Sally Hayes-Burke *(Seven Creeks Ward)*  
Kristy Hourigan *(Seven Creeks Ward)*  
Paul Murray *(Hughes Creek Ward)*

**Municipal Monitor:** Janet Dore

**Officers:** Julie Salomon Chief Executive Officer *(CEO)*  
David Roff Director, Corporate Operations *(DCO)*  
Amanda Tingay Director, Community and Planning *(DCP)*  
Dawn Bray Executive Manager, Governance and Customer Service *(EMGCS)*  
Kristin Favaloro Executive Manager, Communications and Engagement *(EMCE)*

**Until further notice, all meetings conducted by Strathbogrie Shire Council will be held virtually, and live streamed on our website at [www.strathbogrie.vic.gov.au](http://www.strathbogrie.vic.gov.au). This ensures we are meeting the Victorian Government's current COVID-19 directions**

We encourage all community members to watch the meeting online, given we are required to conduct meetings virtually, with all Councillors and Officers participating in the meeting remotely

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. **Questions must be submitted by 12 noon on Tuesday 19 October 2021** by emailing [info@strathbogrie.vic.gov.au](mailto:info@strathbogrie.vic.gov.au)

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
4. Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest
5. Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meetings  
- Council Meeting Tuesday 21 September 2021

**RECOMMENDATION**

***That the Minutes of the Council meeting held on Tuesday 21 September be confirmed.***

6. Petitions

A petition has been received by Council from Councillor Reg Dickinson on behalf of residents in Nagambie and district.

The petition reads –

*Petition to Upgrade Nagambie's Footpaths (instigated by Elizabeth Branagan)  
Our footpaths are a disgrace and in some areas a tripping hazard. In the last couple of years there has been 4 such accidents of varying severity, with minimal response from Council. I urge all concerned residents to sign this petition to request a complete overhaul of the central footpaths in particular the older sections near Mechanics Institute and Historical Society precinct. Nagambie is the fastest growing town in our Shire and brings in substantial rates to Council's budget, they need to invest some of this back to the safety of our town.*

The petition has 241 signatories.

**RECOMMENDATION**

1. ***That Council accept the petition to 'Upgrade Nagambie's Footpaths', which was submitted by the community through Councillor Dickinson.***
2. ***That the petition be referred to a relevant officer for response.***

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.

9. Officer Reports
  - 9.1 Strategic and Statutory
  - 9.2 Community
  - 9.3 Infrastructure
  - 9.4 Corporate
  - 9.5 Governance and Customer Service
  - 9.6 Executive
10. Notices of Motion
11. Notices of Rescission
12. Urgent Business
13. Confidential Business

Julie Salomon  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

15 October 2021

### **NEXT MEETING**

The next Meeting of the Strathbogie Shire Council will be the Annual Statutory Meeting, which is scheduled to be held on Tuesday 16 November 2021, commencing at 6.00 p.m.

The next monthly Meeting of the Strathbogie Shire Council is also scheduled to be held on Tuesday 16 November 2021, and will commence at the conclusion of the Annual Statutory Meeting.

It is intended that these meetings be held at the Euroa Community Conference Centre, however, it should be noted that if coronavirus restrictions are in force, the meetings will be held virtually.

Please Note: The December Meeting of the Strathbogie Shire Council will be held on Tuesday 14 December 2021, a week earlier than the usual schedule for Council meetings.



Council Ref. .... / 2021

## Public Question Time Form Ordinary Council Meeting

Strathbogrie 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.....  
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.....

**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 – as per Rule 31 of the Strathbogie Shire Council Governance Rules**

**31. QUESTION TIME**

- 31.1 There must be a public question time at every Council meeting fixed under Rule 19 to enable members of the public to submit questions to Council.
- 31.2 Sub-Rule 31.1 does not apply during any:
- 31.2.1 period when a meeting is closed to members of the public in accordance with section 66(2) of the Act; or
  - 31.2.2 election period.
- 31.3 Public question time will not exceed 30 minutes in duration.
- 31.4 Questions submitted to Council must meet all of the following:
- (a) be in writing and state the name and address of the person submitting the question;
  - (b) be generally be in a form approved or permitted by Council; and
  - (c) be lodged either by delivery to Council's main office, or electronically at the prescribed email address prior to 12 noon on the day of the Council meeting.
- 31.5 No person may submit more than two questions at any one meeting.
- 31.6 If a person has submitted two questions to a meeting, the second question may:
- 31.6.1 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
  - 31.6.2 not be asked if the time allotted for public question time has expired and Council has not resolved to extend the time allocated for public questions.
- 31.7 If the person who has submitted the question is not present at the meeting the Chair, or a member of Council staff nominated by the Chair, will read out the question on the person's behalf if the person has elected not to participate in the meeting either by way of the live streaming software or by teleconference.
- 31.8 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;
  - (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.
- 31.9 Any question which has been disallowed by the Chair must be made available to any other Councillor upon request.
- 31.10 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.
- 31.11 Like questions may be grouped together and a single answer provided.
- 31.12 The Chair may nominate a Councillor or the Chief Executive Officer to respond to a question.
- 31.13 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 to the person who asked the question within five (5) working days and the answer included in the following Council meeting's agenda.
- 31.14 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.

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## **9. OFFICER REPORTS**

### **9.1 Strategic and Statutory Planning**

#### **9.1.1 Planning Permit Application No. P2021-091 - Use and Development of land for a dwelling and access (for Crown Allotment 7 Section G) ~ 7 Hill Close, Ruffly VIC 3666**

Author: Town Planner

Responsible Director: Director Community and Planning

#### ***EXECUTIVE SUMMARY***

- The proposal is for the use and development of land for a dwelling at Crown Allotment 7 Section G ~ 7 Hill Close, Ruffly VIC 3666.
- The application was advertised, and three (3) objections were received. Further detail is contained within this Delegate Report attached.
- The application has not been assessed within the 60-day statutory timeframe (36 days outside of the statutory timeframe) due to Covid restrictions and time taken in working with objectors to try and resolve their concerns.
- The proposal meets the objectives of the Planning Policy Framework, Local Planning Policy Framework, and the Farming Zone.

#### ***RECOMMENDATION***

***That Council:***

- 1. Resolve to issue a Notice of Decision to Grant a Permit in accordance with the Officer's recommendation in the attached Delegate's report; and***
- 2. Note the Delegate's Report, including the following conditions:-***

#### **Amended Plans:**

- 1. Prior to the commencement of any buildings or works a plan or plans must be submitted to and approved by, the Responsible Authority. When approved these plans shall be endorsed and form part of this permit. The plans must show –**
  - a) A finalised set of floor plans and elevations for the dwelling.**

#### **Endorsed Plans:**

- 2. The use and development must be sited and constructed in accordance with the endorsed plans. These endorsed plans can only be altered or modified with the prior written approval of the Responsible Authority, or to comply with statutory requirements.**



9.1.1 Planning Permit Application No. P2021-091  
- Use and Development of land for a dwelling and access (for Crown Allotment 7  
Section G) ~ 7 Hill Close, Ruffy VIC 3666 (cont.)

**Environmental Health Conditions:**

***Septic Tanks Code of Practice***

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.
4. 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.
5. No wastewater shall drain directly or indirectly onto an adjoining property, street or any watercourse or drain to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.

***Approval of wastewater disposal***

6. Prior to installation/alterations works commencing on the septic tank system, a Permit to Install/Alter must be obtained from Council.

***Area of wastewater disposal***

7. 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).

**Engineering Conditions:**

***Rural Vehicle Crossing Location***

8. Prior to the commencement of works on site, any new, relocated, alteration or replacement of required vehicular entrances to the subject land from the road shall be constructed at a location and of a size and standard in accordance with the requirements of the relevant Authority and shall be at the applicant's expense. The final location of the crossing is to be approved by the Responsible Authority via a Vehicle Crossing Permit. Reference should be made to Clause 12.9.2 “Rural Vehicle Crossings” of the Infrastructure Design Manual. Refer to standard drawing SD255 for small vehicles or SD265 for large vehicles.
9. The vehicular crossing shall have satisfactory clearance to any power or Telecommunications pole, manhole cover or marker, or street tree and have a minimum of 50mm of gravel from the shoulder to the property boundary.

9.1.1 Planning Permit Application No. P2021-091  
- Use and Development of land for a dwelling and access (for Crown Allotment 7  
Section G) ~ 7 Hill Close, Ruffly VIC 3666 (cont.)

***Internal Access Roads***

10. Prior to the occupation of the dwelling all 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.

***Rural Drainage - Works***

11. Prior to the occupation of the dwelling, 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.

***Drainage Discharge Plan***

12. Before any of the development starts, a properly prepared drainage discharge plan with computations to the satisfaction of the responsible authority 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. *The information submitted must show the details listed in the council's Infrastructure Design Manual and be designed in accordance with the requirements of that manual.*

The information and plan must include:

- a) details of how the works on the land are to be drained *and/or* retarded.
- b) computations including total energy line and hydraulic grade line for the existing and proposed drainage as directed by Responsible Authority
- c) underground pipe drains conveying stormwater to the legal point of discharge for each allotment
- d) a maximum discharge rate from the site is to be determined by computation to the satisfaction of Council.
- e) documentation demonstrating approval from the relevant authority for the legal point of discharge.
- f) the details of the incorporation of water sensitive urban design designed in accordance either "Urban Stormwater Best Practice Environmental Management Guidelines" 1999.
- g) maintenance schedules for treatment elements.

9.1.1 Planning Permit Application No. P2021-091  
- Use and Development of land for a dwelling and access (for Crown Allotment 7 Section G) ~ 7 Hill Close, Ruffly VIC 3666 (cont.)

**Prior to the occupation of the dwelling all works constructed or carried out must be in accordance with those plans. to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.**

13. **Appropriate steps must be taken to retain all silt and sediment on site during the construction phase to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority and must be carried out in accordance with the following EPA guidelines and policies: -**
  - **Environmental Guidelines for Major Construction Sites (EPA publication No. 480, December 19985); and**
  - **Construction Techniques for Sedimentation Pollution Control (EPA publication No. 275, May 1991)**
14. **Prior to the commencement of any works, the design parameters for any defined watercourse crossing(s), both structural and hydraulic design, shall be approved by the Responsible Authority (GBCMA – Works on Waterways Permit).**

***Council's Assets***

15. **Before the development starts, the owner or developer must submit to the Responsible Authority a written report and photos of any prior damage to public infrastructure. Listed in the report must be the condition of kerb & channel, footpath, seal, street lights, signs and other public infrastructure fronting the property and abutting at least two properties either side of the development. Unless identified with the written report, any damage to infrastructure post construction will be attributed to the development. The owner or developer of the subject land must pay for any damage caused to the Councils assets/Public infrastructure caused as a result of the development or use permitted by this permit.**

**DELWP Conditions:**

***Access and Encroachment***

16. **No access is permitted to the subject land via the Crown land.**
17. **Adjoining Crown land must not be used for truck turning areas, entry points, parking areas or temporary stack sites during the construction of buildings or works.**
18. **No polluted and/or sediment laden run-off is to be discharged directly or indirectly into or watercourses on Crown land. Overland flows must be maintained at the same rate post development as on the undeveloped land.**
19. **No native vegetation is to be removed.**

9.1.1 Planning Permit Application No. P2021-091  
- Use and Development of land for a dwelling and access (for Crown Allotment 7  
Section G) ~ 7 Hill Close, Ruffly VIC 3666 (cont.)

**General Conditions:**

20. The external cladding of the proposed buildings, including the roof, must be constructed of materials in good order and condition, be non-reflective and be of muted colours to enhance the aesthetic amenity of the area.
21. 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.

**Dwelling Conditions:**

22. The dwelling must be connected to a reticulated potable water supply or have an alternative potable water supply with adequate storage for domestic use as well as for fire fighting purposes.
23. The dwelling must be connected to a reticulated electricity supply or have an alternative energy source.

**Permit Expiry:**

24. This permit will expire if one of the following circumstances applies:
  - (a) The use and development has not started within two years of the date of this Permit.
  - (b) The development is not completed within four years of the date of this Permit.
  - (c) The use ceases for a period of two years or more.

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.

9.1.1 Planning Permit Application No. P2021-091  
- Use and Development of land for a dwelling and access (for Crown Allotment 7 Section G) ~ 7 Hill Close, Ruffy VIC 3666 (cont.)

**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 creation of a new access way/crossover. Before any such development may commence, the Applicant must apply for and obtain appropriate approval from Council.
- 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.

**Environmental Health Notes:**

- 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.
- The property has been identified as a Medium Risk Area (Minor Catchment Area).
- A Medium Risk Template - Land Capability Assessment has been provided by Porta Environmental Pty Ltd and prepared in December 2020.

**DELWP Notes:**

- The adjoining Crown land is not to be used for access, storage of materials or rubbish. Any private use of Crown land requires consent and/or licensing from the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning.

***PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND***

The landowner is applying to use and develop the land for a dwelling on a small lot in the Farming Zone. The land is identified as Area 19 in the 2004 Strathbogie Shire Rural Residential Strategy and has an area of 1.214 hectares this does not meet the required 40 hectare area for an as of right use in the Farming Zone.

The proposal is for the construction of a single storey 4 bedroom home with a floor area of 215.6 square metres. A length of 20 metres by 12 metres.

The proposed dwelling contains:

- Four bedrooms – including main bedroom with ensuite and WIR
- Media room
- Open kitchen, meals and family area
- Alfresco Area
- Double Garage

9.1.1 Planning Permit Application No. P2021-091  
- Use and Development of land for a dwelling and access (for Crown Allotment 7  
Section G) ~ 7 Hill Close, Ruffy VIC 3666 (cont.)

Subject Site:



***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 a Responsible Authority under the Planning and Environment Act 1987 (the Act). In this role, Council administers the Strathbogie Planning Scheme (Planning Scheme) and, among other things, determines planning permit applications made for the use and development of the land in the municipality.

Under delegated authority of Council, Council officers determine some matters.

Any application that receives objections is heard before Council.

***SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES***

- The land is in the Farming Zone and is less than the 40-hectare requirement for an as of right use for a dwelling.
- The land is identified in the 2004 Strathbogie Shire Rural Residential Strategy (Area 19).
- The area is used for rural residential purposes.
- The objectors have indicated their objections stand and they do not wish to undertake mediation.

9.1.1 Planning Permit Application No. P2021-091  
- Use and Development of land for a dwelling and access (for Crown Allotment 7  
Section G) ~ 7 Hill Close, Ruffy VIC 3666 (cont.)

*Officer Response:*

It is considered appropriate to allow approval for the proposed dwelling. This is in keeping with the character of the area which is used for rural residential purposes and therefore can be considered under the Strathbogie Rural Residential Strategy.

It is recommended that conditions be included on any planning permit issued to ensure that:

- All sewage and sullage waters shall be treated in accordance with the requirements of the Environment Protection Act 1970 and be disposed of within the curtilage of the land. No wastewater shall drain directly or indirectly onto an adjoining property, street or any watercourse.
- 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.
- Crossovers and internal access will be constructed to the satisfaction of Council and provide emergency access.
- The proposed dwelling have an alternative potable water supply with adequate storage for domestic use as well as for fire fighting purposes. And that the dwelling must be connected to a reticulated electricity supply or have an alternative energy source.
- The amenity of the area is not detrimentally affected by the use, through the:
  - (f) Appearance of any building, works or materials;
  - (g) Transport of materials, goods or commodities to or from the land;
  - (h) Emission of noise, artificial light, vibration, smell, fumes, smoke, vapour, steam, soot, ash, dust, wastewater, waste products, grit or oil;
  - (i) Presence of vermin, and;
  - (j) Others as appropriate.
- No native vegetation is removed.

The objectors have indicated their objections stand. It is considered the above Conditions will address their concerns regarding drainage and effluent dispersal from the proposed site onto adjoining lots and amenity and environmental concerns. The addition of one proposed dwelling on this lot is considered appropriate and in keeping with the 2004 Strathbogie Shire Rural Residential Strategy.

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

9.1.1 Planning Permit Application No. P2021-091  
- Use and Development of land for a dwelling and access (for Crown Allotment 7  
Section G) ~ 7 Hill Close, Ruffy VIC 3666 (cont.)

**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.

Individual applications consider these requirements through assessment phase of each application as per the Planning and Environment Act 1987 and the provisions of the Strathbogie Planning Scheme. The application was advertised to the neighbouring lots.

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

- Sending letters to adjoining land owners (as shown on the plan below)
- Placing (a) sign on site

Council officers are satisfied that the notification has been carried out correctly. In addition, officers undertook a site visit.

Consultation was carried out with the objectors and the application and further information of this consultation can be found within the attached Delegate Report.

**POLICY CONSIDERATIONS**

**Council Plans and Policies**

There are no implications on the Council Plan or any Council Policies as a result of this decision (Please refer further to the Delegate report attached).

**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 policies are considered in the attached Delegate report.

**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 application is being considered under Section 61 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*.

**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.



9.1.1 Planning Permit Application No. P2021-091  
- Use and Development of land for a dwelling and access (for Crown Allotment 7  
Section G) ~ 7 Hill Close, Ruffy VIC 3666 (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 application is being heard by Council as the proposal has three (3) objections to the proposed use and development of land for a dwelling. Hearing the application in the public meeting will allow all parties the opportunity to be heard by the councillors prior to a decision being made.

***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 impact on agricultural productivity is considered minimal given the small size of the lot and surrounding residential development, the use of the land for agriculture would become incompatible with surrounding land uses and it is considered the development and use of the land for a dwelling will enhance the existing rural residential character of the area.

**Social**

The proposal is in keeping with Area 19 of the 2004 Strathbogie Shire Rural Residential strategy. Ruffy no longer has a Primary School. There has been increased interest in rural residential type lots within the Shire and Ruffy township. The site is large enough to accommodate the buildings and is considered in keeping with the area and the rural residential development.

**Environmental**

The application has been assessed against the relevant provisions of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*. The Land Capability Assessment provided to Council demonstrates the ability of the land to support the development as proposed without adversely affecting the environment. Grazing of the land is expected to continue as it is currently. The removal of the old cattle yards and the old shearing shed and erecting the new house reduces the building footprint on the property, therefore increasing grazing space and having a positive environmental outcome. There is no proposal to remove vegetation.

**Climate change**

The Strathbogie Planning Scheme has incorporated broader considerations on Climate Change, with the assessment that the proposal will not have an impact on climate change within the municipality, as all works will be required to comply with relevant legislation.

- 9.1.1 Planning Permit Application No. P2021-091  
- Use and Development of land for a dwelling and access (for Crown Allotment 7  
Section G) ~ 7 Hill Close, Ruffly VIC 3666 (cont.)

***HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS***

There are no human rights implications with this proposal. The application is being assessed in accordance with relevant legislation, and all parties will be afforded all relevant rights of appeal at the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal.

***CONCLUSION***

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

***ATTACHMENTS***

**Attachment 1:** Delegate Report

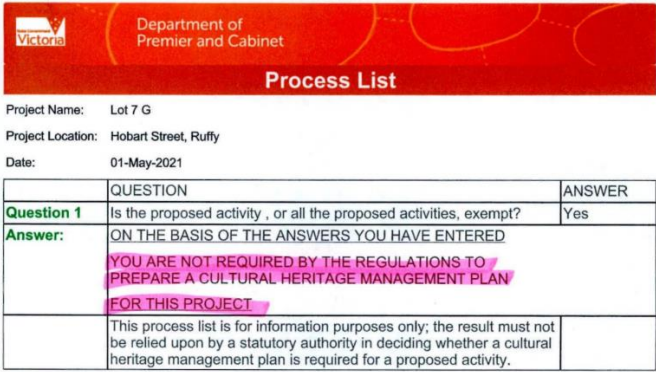
**Attachment 2:** Subject Land Map

**Attachment 3:** Locality Map

**ATTACHMENT 1:**

Planning Report – Delegate

**Application Details:**

Application is for:	Use and Development of land for a dwelling and access (for Crown Allotment 7 Section G)
Applicant's/Owner's Name:	Hamill Agriculture
Date Received:	4 June 2021 Application received 7 June 2021 Paid 21 June 2021 Further Information requested 23 June Further Information Received
Statutory Days:	96
Application Number:	P2021-091
Planner: Name, title & department	Trish Hall Town Planner Planning and Investment Department
Land/Address:	Certificate of Title Volume 05973 Folio 402 Crown Allotment 7 Section G Known as 7 Hill Close, Ruffly VIC 3666
Zoning:	Farming Zone
Overlays:	No Overlays
Is a CHMP required?	<p>No</p> <p>The subject site is affected by Cultural Sensitivity; however, a single dwelling is an exempt activity.</p> 
Is it within an Open Potable Catchment Area?	<p>No</p> <p>The subject site is not within the Open Potable water Catchment Area.</p>
Under what clause(s) is a permit required? (include description)	<p>Clause 35.07-1 Use of land for a dwelling on a small lot in the Farming Zone</p> <p>Clause 35.07-4 Buildings and works associated with a Section 2 Use in the Farming Zone and less than 20 metres from a road</p>

Restrictive covenants on the title?	No
Current use and development:	Agriculture

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

After reading the definitions of a general or material conflict of interest as defined by the *Local Government Act 2020*, do you have a conflict of interest?

Yes

(if YES, please complete a Conflict of Interest and Declaration Making Declaration form)

No

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**Recommendation**

**That Council**

- having caused notice of Planning Application No. P2021-091 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 35.07-1 Use of land for a dwelling on a small lot in the Farming Zone, Clause 35.07-4 Buildings and works associated with a Section 2 Use and less than 20 metres from a road in the Farming Zone of the Strathbogie Planning Scheme in respect of the land known as (Crown Allotment 7 Section G) 7 Hill Close, Ruffy VIC 3666, for the Use and Development of land for a dwelling and access (for Crown Allotment 7 Section G), in accordance with endorsed plans, subject to the following conditions:

**Amended Plans:**

25. Prior to the commencement of any buildings or works a plan or plans must be submitted to and approved by, the Responsible Authority. When approved these plans shall be endorsed and form part of this permit. The plans must show –
- A finalised set of floor plans and elevations for the dwelling.

**Endorsed Plans:**

26. The use and development must be sited and constructed in accordance with the endorsed plans. These endorsed plans can only be altered or modified with the prior written approval of the Responsible Authority, or to comply with statutory requirements.

**Environmental Health Conditions:**

***Septic Tanks Code of Practice***

27. 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.

28. 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.
29. No wastewater shall drain directly or indirectly onto an adjoining property, street or any watercourse or drain to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.

***Approval of wastewater disposal***

30. Prior to installation/alterations works commencing on the septic tank system, a Permit to Install/Alter must be obtained from Council.

***Area of wastewater disposal***

31. 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).

**Engineering Conditions:**

***Rural Vehicle Crossing Location***

32. Prior to the commencement of works on site, any new, relocated, alteration or replacement of required vehicular entrances to the subject land from the road shall be constructed at a location and of a size and standard in accordance with the requirements of the relevant Authority and shall be at the applicant's expense. The final location of the crossing is to be approved by the Responsible Authority via a Vehicle Crossing Permit. Reference should be made to Clause 12.9.2 "Rural Vehicle Crossings" of the Infrastructure Design Manual. Refer to standard drawing SD255 for small vehicles or SD265 for large vehicles.
33. The vehicular crossing shall have satisfactory clearance to any power or Telecommunications pole, manhole cover or marker, or street tree and have a minimum of 50mm of gravel from the shoulder to the property boundary.

***Internal Access Roads***

34. Prior to the occupation of the dwelling all 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.

***Rural Drainage - Works***

35. Prior to the occupation of the dwelling, 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.

### ***Drainage Discharge Plan***

36. Before any of the development starts, a properly prepared drainage discharge plan with computations to the satisfaction of the responsible authority 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. *The information submitted must show the details listed in the council's Infrastructure Design Manual and be designed in accordance with the requirements of that manual.*

The information and plan must include:

- h) details of how the works on the land are to be drained *and/or* retarded.
- i) computations including total energy line and hydraulic grade line for the existing and proposed drainage as directed by Responsible Authority
- j) underground pipe drains conveying stormwater to the legal point of discharge for each allotment
- k) a maximum discharge rate from the site is to be determined by computation to the satisfaction of Council.
- l) documentation demonstrating approval from the relevant authority for the legal point of discharge.
- m) the details of the incorporation of water sensitive urban design designed in accordance either "Urban Stormwater Best Practice Environmental Management Guidelines" 1999.
- n) maintenance schedules for treatment elements.

Prior to the occupation of the dwelling all works constructed or carried out must be in accordance with those plans. to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.

37. Appropriate steps must be taken to retain all silt and sediment on site during the construction phase to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority and must be carried out in accordance with the following EPA guidelines and policies: -

- Environmental Guidelines for Major Construction Sites (EPA publication No. 480, December 19985); and
- Construction Techniques for Sedimentation Pollution Control (EPA publication No. 275, May 1991)

38. Prior to the commencement of any works, the design parameters for any defined watercourse crossing(s), both structural and hydraulic design, shall be approved by the Responsible Authority (GBCMA – Works on Waterways Permit).

### ***Council's Assets***

39. Before the development starts, the owner or developer must submit to the Responsible Authority a written report and photos of any prior damage to public infrastructure. Listed in the report must be the condition of kerb & channel, footpath, seal, street lights, signs and other public infrastructure fronting the property and abutting at least two properties either side of the development. Unless identified with the written report, any damage to infrastructure post construction will be attributed to the development. The owner or developer of the subject land must pay for any damage caused to the Councils assets/Public infrastructure caused as a result of the development or use permitted by this permit.

**DELWP Conditions:**

**Access and Encroachment**

40. No access is permitted to the subject land via the Crown land.
41. Adjoining Crown land must not be used for truck turning areas, entry points, parking areas or temporary stack sites during the construction of buildings or works.
42. No polluted and/or sediment laden run-off is to be discharged directly or indirectly into or watercourses on Crown land. Overland flows must be maintained at the same rate post development as on the undeveloped land.
43. No native vegetation is to be removed.

**General Conditions:**

44. The external cladding of the proposed buildings, including the roof, must be constructed of materials in good order and condition, be non-reflective and be of muted colours to enhance the aesthetic amenity of the area.
45. The amenity of the area must not be detrimentally affected by the use, through the:
  - (k) Appearance of any building, works or materials;
  - (l) Transport of materials, goods or commodities to or from the land;
  - (m) Emission of noise, artificial light, vibration, smell, fumes, smoke, vapour, steam, soot, ash, dust, wastewater, waste products, grit or oil;
  - (n) Presence of vermin, and;
  - (o) Others as appropriate.

**Dwelling Conditions:**

46. The dwelling must be connected to a reticulated potable water supply or have an alternative potable water supply with adequate storage for domestic use as well as for fire fighting purposes.
47. The dwelling must be connected to a reticulated electricity supply or have an alternative energy source.

**Permit Expiry:**

48. This permit will expire if one of the following circumstances applies:
  - (d) The use and development has not started within two years of the date of this Permit.
  - (e) The development is not completed within four years of the date of this Permit.
  - (f) The use ceases for a period of two years or more.

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 creation of a new access way/crossover. Before any such development may commence, the Applicant must apply for and obtain appropriate approval from Council.
- 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.

**Environmental Health Notes:**

- 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.
- The property has been identified as a Medium Risk Area (Minor Catchment Area).
- A Medium Risk Template - Land Capability Assessment has been provided by Porta Environmental Pty Ltd and prepared in December 2020.

**DELWP Notes:**

- The adjoining Crown land is not to be used for access, storage of materials or rubbish. Any private use of Crown land requires consent and/or licensing from the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning.

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**Proposal**

The landowner is applying to use and develop the land for a dwelling on a small lot in the Farming Zone. The land is identified as Area 19 in the 2004 Strathbogie Shire Rural Residential Strategy and has an area of 1.214 hectares this does not meet the required 40 hectare area for an as of right use in the Farming Zone.

The proposal is for the construction of a single storey 4 bedroom home with a floor area of 215.6 square metres. A length of 20 metres by 12 metres.

The proposed dwelling contains:

- Four bedrooms – including main bedroom with ensuite and WIR
- Media room
- Open kitchen, meals and family area
- Alfresco Area
- Double Garage

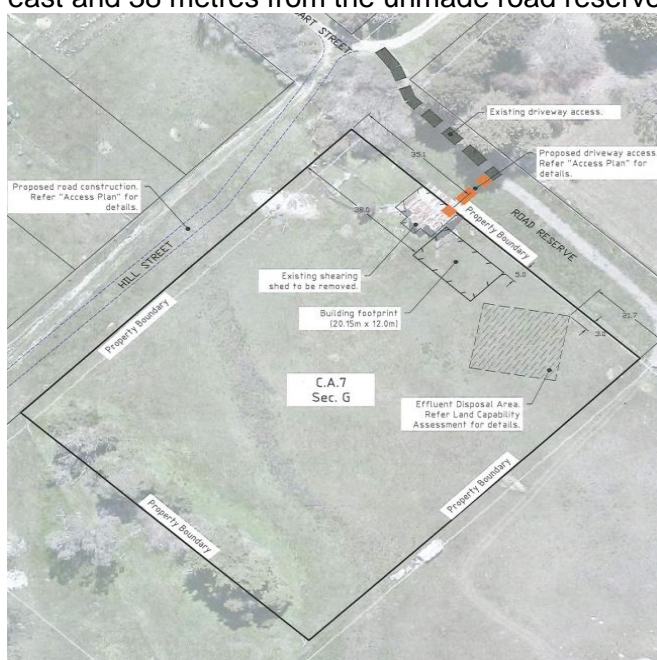




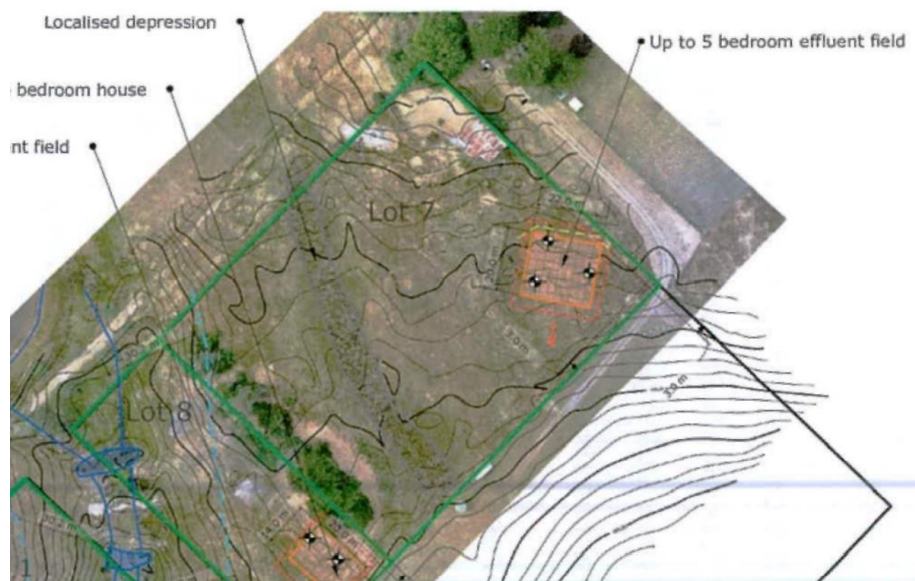
The applicant has requested that elevation plans be provided at a later stage by Condition on any planning permit issued.

The proposed development includes removing the shearing shed and yards and creating a gravel driveway off Hobart Street.

The dwelling would be set back 5 metres from the Hobart Street boundary to the north east and 38 metres from the unmade road reserve known as Hill Street to the north west.



The effluent field is proposed to be located in the eastern corner as described in the Land Capability Assessment provided.



View of LCA test area on Lot 7G, gentle slope and excellent wind and solar exposure

The stand of cypress will remain.



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### Subject site & locality

The property is made up of six (6) lots and is known as 7 Hill Close Ruffy.

Allotment 1 Section H – Approximately 4050 square metres

Allotment 2 Section H - Approximately 3297 square metres

Allotment 3 Section H – Approximately 12893 square metres

Allotment 7 Section G – Approximately 12127 square metres

Allotment 8 Section G - Approximately 4152 square metres

Allotment 9 Section D – Approximately 93 hectares



The proposal is for Certificate of Title Volume 05973 Folio 402 Crown Allotment 7 Section G. This lot has an area of 1.214 hectares.

The lot is located on the southern side of Hobart Street. The allotment is a corner lot with Hobart Street to the north and an unmade road reserve to the west. The unmade road reserve is commonly referred to as Hill Street.

Hobart Street is a gravel road and adjoins Nolans Road 220 metres to the north. Nolans Road is sealed to the Nolans Road and Hobart Street corner and links to Longwood Ruffy Road and the Hume Freeway. The Hume Freeway is located approximately 18 kilometres to the north of the subject site.

The site contains a shearing shed along the north eastern boundary and cattle yards in the northern corner.



The land is grassed and currently used for grazing. There is a stand of large cypress trees at the south west end.



The applicant has stated that no sheep dip has been located on this or adjoining sites.

The surrounding neighbourhood

The site measures 1.21 hectares and it is considered to be a rural lifestyle property. The adjoining and neighbouring lots to the southwest are in the same ownership and are vacant.

The neighbouring lots to the north, east, and south are either developed, or have a planning permit for dwellings and shedding.

More broadly some of the lots originally surveyed more than a century ago remain undeveloped, and larger parcels are utilised for grazing, boutique enterprises and other uses.



- ★ Lot proposed for a dwelling
- ★ Planning permit approved for a dwelling
- ★ Surrounding lots with dwellings

### Area 19 2004 Strathbogie Shire Rural Residential Strategy

The subject site is identified in the 2004 Strathbogie Shire Rural Residential Zone as Area 19 – Ruffy Township. The township of Ruffy has been identified as a potential rural living destination. The town itself was originally surveyed more than a century ago, however it has barely been developed since then, and is predominantly utilised by the farming community surrounding it. More recently interest in Ruffy as a rural lifestyle area is growing. Ruffy is a village that operates one small produce store. The town has a town hall and community centre. The land in the area is used for sheep and cattle grazing with various boutique enterprises including vineyards, nurseries, trail riding facilities and bed & breakfasts etc. More recently, the town of Ruffy has seen weekend visitors taking advantage of the slow pace and scenery. Allotment sizes range from 5 acres to 20 acres.



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### **Permit/Site History**

A search of Councils electronic records showed the following planning permits have previously been issued:

P2014-061	Use and development of land for a dwelling (issued)
P2019-031 - 1	Use and development of land for a dwelling (issued)

The following applications have been received:

P2021-089	Application Development of land for a dwelling and access (In Progress)
P2021-090	Application Development of land for a dwelling and access (In Progress)
P2021-092	Application Development of land for a dwelling and access (In Progress)

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### **Public Notification**

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

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

The notification has been carried out correctly.

Council has received three (3) objections to date.

The objections included the following:

- Effluent Disposal Areas will affect naturally fed springs
- Run off and effluent will end up on adjoining and neighbouring properties



- Disturbance of peace with multiple dwellings; including disturbance to local wildlife and local area.
- Loss of privacy and views from neighbouring dwellings
- Density of housing inappropriate in small rural farming area.

Please see locality map of objectors.



17<sup>th</sup> September 2021

The applicant responded to the objections (Please see below).

### Privacy and views

*There will be minimal impact on privacy because:*

- *As can be seen from the attached Site Map, the line of sight from the windows of the objector's house, marked in yellow, is largely obscured by trees towards the proposed 7G house site marked in blue.*
- *The Site Map indicates where new trees have been planted with red lines. These trees will in time further obscure any view of any development on 7G.*
- *The paddock of 7G is attended at least daily already to tend to the stock kept there, therefore would not significantly increase traffic.*
- *Vehicles will not turn into Hill St nor pass the objectors house.*
- *To reduce traffic, in the interest of the objector, we will cease allowing the neighbours Carole Mansfield, Alex and Parisa Theodorou access to their property through ours. This will reduce traffic significantly.*
- *There is no overshadowing or overlooking of the property. As can be seen from photo 1 and photo 2, the current outlook from the front and side windows of Bannisters house is a collection of shacks made of tin, shade cloth, caravans with a general junk yard attracting vermin.*

### Amenity

*The construction of a house, clad of neutral tones would not be of aesthetic detriment if it was able to be seen. There is a large derelict shed, cattle yards and scrap tin on site 7G where the development is proposed. This will be removed and replaced by a properly constructed home, which again, would not be of aesthetic detriment, rather the opposite. There is no specific protection or legal right to the view and it will remain largely unaffected, the only impacts being positive.*

### Effect on objector's wellbeing

*The proximity of the proposed new building from the objectors is far from the high density housing that would begin to effect a person's well-being. No evidence can be shown that this low density housing in a rural environment would effect a person's wellbeing. The positions of the other houses and proposals on Hobart St and Hill Close have not proven to be detrimental to the well-being of the objector.*

*Housing density and appropriate use of land The Strathbogie Shire Rural Residential Strategy July 2004 has identified areas within the Shire that are best suited to accommodate future rural residential development. The strategy, after considering the background information, public opinion and demand, recommends as a high priority the development of Ruffy in this area. The objection counters this established strategy. The site is an ideal place to build. It is in the centre of the township, only a few hundred meters from the shop, community centre, local hall, proposed museum and fire station. The housing density is not affected by this proposal. The lot on which the objectors house is built is the same sized lot as that of 7G.*

*Therefore, if the housing density on 7G was inappropriate, it would be equally inappropriate on the objectors lots. The precedent has been set and repeated in the granting of permits in this area on similar sized lots. Materials As described in the initial application surrounding buildings and lots are a collection of single storey, double storey and mobile dwellings constructed of neutral to eclectic materials. The proposed dwelling is single story constructed in neutral tones to complement and blend with the natural, rural environment.*



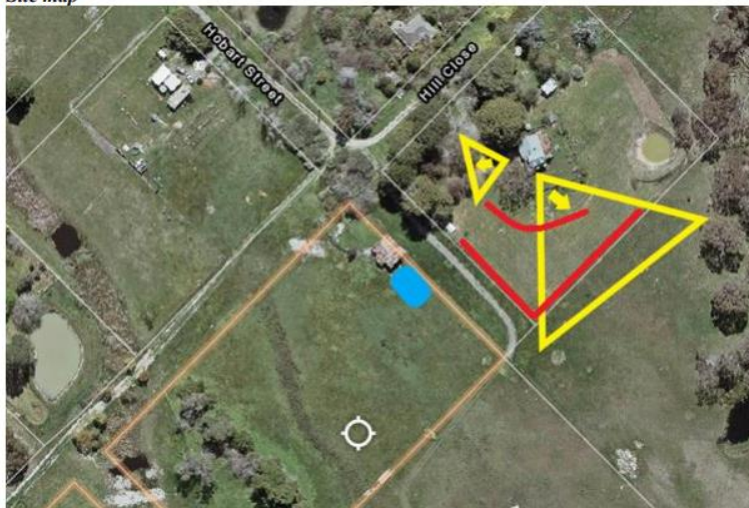
Environmental impact

*The Land Capability Assessment provided to Council demonstrates the ability of the land to support the development as proposed without adversely affecting the environment. Grazing of the land is expected to continue as it is currently. The removal of the old cattle yards and the old shearing shed and erecting the new house reduces the building footprint on the property, therefore increasing grazing space and having a positive environmental outcome. There is no proposal to remove vegetation. The siting of the building is per the recommendations made in the Land Capability Statement, fits with the character of the area and does not cause material detriment to the objector. The objector's house will be more private due to reduced passing traffic and in time increased tree foliage. The local environment will remain largely unchanged. Site map Photo 1 – view from objector's front window Photo 2*

*The effluent disposal areas are compliant and will not affect naturally fed springs and the run off will not end up in the neighbouring properties.*

*Significant native planting along Peter St, installed as a buffer between farmed land and the developing area, has created a new wildlife corridor to the creek reserve therefore the development has already and will continue to benefit the wildlife. There is no proposal to remove vegetation.*

Site map



*Photo 1 – view from objector's front window*



*Photo 2*



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## **Consultation**

4 June 2021	Application received
7 June 2021	Application paid
21 June 2021	Further Information requested
23 June	Further Information Received
5 <sup>th</sup> August 2021	Advertised on website and to neighbours
20 <sup>th</sup> August 2021	Objection 1 Received
30 <sup>th</sup> August 2021	Further details received
23 <sup>rd</sup> August 2021	Objection 2 Received
30 <sup>th</sup> August 2021	Objection 3 Received
31 <sup>st</sup> August and	

1 <sup>st</sup> September 2021	Objections sent to applicant
17 <sup>th</sup> September 2021	Applicant responded to Objections
17 <sup>th</sup> September 2021	Applicants response sent to Objectors with Option 3 letter, 14 days to respond.
20 <sup>th</sup> September 2021	Objector advised their objection stands

Officers Response:

The objectors have indicated their objections stand and they do not wish to undertake mediation.

- **Effluent Disposal Areas will affect naturally fed springs**
- **Run off and effluent will end up on adjoining and neighbouring properties**

Conditions will be placed on any planning permit issued to ensure all sewage and sullage waters shall be treated in accordance with the requirements of the Environment Protection Act 1970 and be disposed of within the curtilage of the land. No wastewater shall drain directly or indirectly onto an adjoining property, street or any watercourse.

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. The LCA provided states there no springs or bores noted on the near any of the LCA testing areas, there are also no dams for incised waterways or drainage line on the property apart from a localised depression some distance from the LCA test area.

- **Disturbance of peace with multiple dwellings; including disturbance to local wildlife and local area.**
- **Loss of privacy and views from neighbouring dwellings**
- **Density of housing inappropriate in small rural farming area.**

The subject site is identified in the 2004 Strathbogrie Shire Rural Residential Strategy for consideration for rural type living, the proposal is for a single dwelling on a lot with an area of 1.2 hectares. Conditions will be placed on any planning permit issued to ensure the amenity of the area is not detrimentally affected by the use, through the:

- Appearance of any building, works or materials;
- Transport of materials, goods or commodities to or from the land;
- Emission of noise, artificial light, vibration, smell, fumes, smoke, vapour, steam, soot, ash, dust, wastewater, waste products, grit or oil;
- Presence of vermin, and;
- Others as appropriate.
- No native vegetation is removed

It is noted that the applicant does have three other applications for single dwellings on lots within the area before Council and these will be considered separately.

## Referrals

External Referrals/Notices required by the Planning Scheme:

External Referrals	Advice/Response/Conditions
Ausnet (Section 52)	No Objection
DELWP (Section 52)	No Objection Subject to Conditions

Internal Council Referrals	Advice/Response/Conditions
Asset Department	No Objection – subject to Conditions
Health Department	No Objection – subject to Conditions

## Assessment

### The zoning of the land and any relevant overlay provisions

#### Farming Zone

##### *Purpose*

- *To implement the Municipal Planning Strategy and the Planning Policy Framework.*
- *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.*
- *To provide for the use and development of land for the specific purposes identified in a schedule to this zone.*

##### Officers Response:

A permit is required for the use and development of land for a dwelling, as the subject site is less than the minimum lot size (40 hectares). The subject site has been identified in Area 19 of the Strathbogie Shire 2004 Rural Residential Strategy. The site measures 1.214 hectares and it is considered to be a rural lifestyle property. The adjoining and neighbouring lots to the southwest are in the same ownership and are vacant.




The neighbouring lots to the north, east, and south are either developed, or have a planning permit for dwellings and shedding.

The use and development of the site for a dwelling will not lead to a direct loss in productive agricultural land. The land is identified in the 2004 Strathbogie Rural Residential Strategy, the lot is smaller in size, located in proximity to other rural dwellings. The impact of the proposed development on surrounding lots and broader agricultural activity to the south west will be minimal as the land is separated by the area known as Ruffy Township to the north, Boggy Creek to the east and watercourses to the south west.

A response to the Decision Guidelines at Clause 35.07-6 is detailed below:

<b>General Issues</b>	<b>Complies</b>	<b>Officers Comment</b>
<i>The Planning Policy Framework and the Local Planning Policy Framework, including the Municipal Planning Strategy and local planning policies.</i>	Yes	Assessment against PPF & LPPF is provided below.
<i>Any Regional Catchment Strategy and associated plan applying to the land.</i>	Yes	Boggy Creek and Hughes Creek Catchment Area
<i>The capability of the land to accommodate the proposed use or development, including the disposal of effluent.</i>	Yes	The application has been referred to Council's environmental health department who have consented to this application, subject to conditions. Given this, it is considered the land is capable of treating effluent waste on site. The development has an existing septic system on site.
<i>How the use or development relates to sustainable land management.</i>	Yes	The nature of the subject site including its size, location lends itself to residential development. The addition of a dwelling will result in regular monitoring and reduction in pests and weeds.

<p><i>Whether the site is suitable for the use or development and whether the proposal is compatible with adjoining and nearby land uses.</i></p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>It is considered the proposal is consistent with the adjoining land uses and is not likely to have a negative impact on the amenity of the exiting residents. The lot is separated from the larger surrounding agricultural parcels by the area known as Ruffy Township to the north, Boggy Creek to the east and watercourses to the south west.</p>
<p><i>How the use and development makes use of existing infrastructure and service.</i></p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Access is proposed via Hobart Street. Hobart Street fronts the lot to the north eastern boundary of the lot and is unsealed Conditions regarding appropriate access will be included on any planning permit issued.</p>
<p><b>Agricultural Issues</b></p>		
<p><i>Whether the use or development will support and enhance agricultural production.</i></p>	<p>No</p>	<p>The subject land contains an older shearing shed and has previously been utilised as a farming enterprise. However the land is identified as Area 19 in the <i>Rural Residential Strategy 2004</i>. The immediate surrounding lots vary in size and some have been developed with single dwellings and shedding suitable for rural lifestyle living and is known as Ruffy Township.</p>
<p><i>Whether the use or development will permanently remove land from agricultural production.</i></p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>The site forms part of Ruffy Township. Despite its links through ownership to larger parcels of land to the south west utilised for sheep and cattle grazing the area is considered appropriate use for rural lifestyle living and is identified in the Strathbogie 2004 Rural Residential Strategy.</p>  <p>The town itself was originally surveyed more than a century ago and is becoming more popular as a rural living area. Ruffy is a village that operates one small produce store. The town has a town hall and</p>

		community centre. The area has been identified as an area for investigation for Rural Residential and Low Density Residential rezoning.
<i>The potential for the use or development to limit the operation and expansion of adjoining and nearby agricultural uses.</i>	Yes	It is considered the development will not directly limit the operation of adjoining and nearby agricultural uses. The site is separated from larger agriculture lots to the south west and is separated by the area known as Ruffy Township to the north, Boggy Creek to the east and watercourses to the south west. Smaller lots are identified in the 2004 Strathbogie Rural Residential Strategy and known as the Ruffy Township.
<i>The capacity of the site to sustain the agricultural use.</i>	Yes	The area is known as the Ruffy township and has already been established as an area for rural living. It is considered as discussed in this report the proposed development will not have a detrimental effect to the sustainable agricultural uses surrounding the subject site.
<i>The agricultural qualities of the land, such as soil quality, access to water and access to rural infrastructure.</i>	Yes	The land does have previous ties to agricultural use, several lots are in the same ownership, the site contains an old shearing shed and has access to water as a larger allotment.
<i>Any integrated land management plan prepared for the site.</i>	Yes	No integrated land management plans have been prepared; given the size of the land and the fact it is identified for rural residential purposes.
<b>Dwelling Issues</b>	<b>Complies</b>	<b>Officers Comment</b>
<i>Whether the dwelling will result in the loss or fragmentation of productive agricultural land.</i>	Yes	The proposed dwelling will not directly result in the loss or fragmentation of productive agricultural land, the subject site has been identified in the Rural Residential Strategy 2004 and neighbouring lots have been developed for residential purposes.
<i>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</i>	Yes	The subject site is surrounded by other rural lifestyle blocks of varied sizes. Land to the north, east, south and west is used for Rural Residential living whilst traditional agricultural purposes such as grazing exist past these allotments.

<i>machinery, traffic and hours of operation.</i>		
<i>Whether the dwelling will adversely affect the operation and expansion of adjoining and nearby agricultural uses.</i>	Yes	As the use of the land for a dwelling is in an area that is identified and already used for rural living purposes, there will be no impact on the adjoining agricultural practices in any different way than the neighbouring lots impact the land now.
<i>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.</i>	Yes	The proposal has been assessed, taking into consideration the <i>Rural Residential Strategy 2004</i> it is unlikely that the proposed dwelling would directly result in the proliferation of dwellings beyond the area identified under the strategy.
<b>Environmental issues</b>		
<i>The impact of the proposal on the natural physical features and resources of the area, in particular on soil and water quality.</i>	Yes	Given the dwelling is proposed to be built in an area identified for rural living; the land is unlikely to be impacted any more detrimentally than it is already impacted from the current dwellings and shedding in the area. The site is free of any waterways. The proposed dwelling, access and septic is located more than 100 metres from any waterway and Boggy Creek. According to the LCA there no springs or bores noted on the near any of the LCA testing areas, there are also no dams for incised waterways or drainage line on the property apart from a localised depression some distance from the LCA test area. The application has been referred to Strathbogie Shires Environmental Health Department and appropriate conditions will be included on any issued planning permit regarding drainage and sediment and silt. The dwelling is less than 20 metres from the road reserve this is considered appropriate due to the area being used for rural type living.
<i>The impact of the use or development on the flora and fauna on the site and its surrounds.</i>	Yes	The proposal does not include the removal of any vegetation.



<p><i>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.</i></p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>The proposal does not include the removal of any vegetation. Conditions will be included on any permit issued to ensure the dwelling and effluent disposal is located on the site to the satisfaction of the responsible authority.</p>
<p><i>The location of on-site effluent disposal areas to minimise the impact of nutrient loads on waterways and native vegetation.</i></p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>On site effluent disposal will be required to be carried out in accordance with the requirements of the Responsible Authority.</p>
<p><b>Design and siting issue</b></p>		
<p><i>The need to locate buildings in one area to avoid any adverse impacts on surrounding agricultural uses and to minimise the loss of productive agricultural land.</i></p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>The proposed buildings and works are on a site with an area of 1.214 hectares. The site does not contain any waterways, the proposed dwelling is more than 100 metres from any waterway and Boggy Creek. The proposed dwelling is on a site that has been identified in the 2004 Rural Residential Strategy for rural living. Due to the size and location of the subject land it is considered the site is appropriate for residential living and the lost of any potential for agricultural production has already occurred to some degree. The lot is separated from larger agricultural parcels by the area known as Ruffy Township to the north, Boggy Creek to the east and watercourses to the south west.</p>
<p><i>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 minimise any adverse impacts.</i></p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Should a permit be issued, a condition will be placed on the permit requiring muted tones and materials of good condition.</p>

<p><i>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.</i></p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>The proposal is unlikely to detract from the existing character and amenity values of the area. The subject site and surrounding land has been identified in the rural living strategy. Some have been developed in a similar manner with single dwellings and shedding constructed from similar materials. A muted tones condition will be included on any planning permit issued.</p>
<p><i>The location and design of existing and proposed infrastructure including roads, gas, water, drainage, telecommunications and sewerage facilities.</i></p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>The proposed buildings and works are located on site, the new dwelling is appropriately located. The site is in the Farming Zone and standard conditions will be included on any planning permit issued regarding the provision of water, sewage, electricity and access.</p>
<p><i>Whether the use and development will require traffic management measures.</i></p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>As the proposal is for a dwelling, and fronts a made Street it is deemed not necessary for there to be traffic management measures implemented</p>

### **The Planning Policy Framework (PPF)**

#### *Clause 13.03-1S Floodplain management*

##### *Objective:*

*To assist in 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 environment significance or of importance to river health.*

#### *Clause 13.04-2S Erosion and landslip*

##### *Objective:*

- *To protect areas prone to erosion, landslip or other land degradation processes.*

#### *Clause 13.02-1S, Bushfire planning*

##### *Objective*

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

#### *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 14.01-1S 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.*

*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.*

*Officers Response:*

The proposal is considered consistent with the *Planning Policy Framework*. The subject site has a total area of 1.214 hectares. The proposed development aligns with the character of the area as the pattern of development in the immediate area is considered rural residential with agricultural uses being undertaken outside of the Ruffy Township. This parcel is part of a larger property within the Ruffy Township with an area of 97.39 hectares and is one of the last larger properties within the Township to still be utilised for grazing purposes.

It is considered the proposed dwelling will have minimal impact on the environment. No vegetation is proposed to be removed; the site contains grasses and few remnant trees. The proposal is unlikely to create any significant flooding issues the land is not affected by any flood overlays, conditions will be included on any permit issued to ensure stormwater and surface water is discharged from the site to the satisfaction of the responsible authority. The proposal includes new access from Hobart Street, Conditions will be included on any planning permit issued to ensure accessibility for emergency vehicles. The site is currently grazed and grass land is expected to be mown as part of the approval of any dwelling via amenity Conditions.

The impact on agricultural productivity is considered minimal given the small size of the lot and surrounding residential development, the use of the land for agriculture would become incompatible with surrounding land uses and it is considered the development and use of the land for a dwelling will enhance the existing rural residential character of the area. The land and surrounding area have previously been identified as Area 19 in the *Rural Residential Strategy 2004* as part of an area used for rural living purposes.

The proposed dwelling and works are more than 100 metres from the identified waterway to the and Boggy Creek. Conditions will be included on any planning permit regarding drainage.

The development meets the setbacks in the Farming Zone. The surrounding area are used for residential purposes and therefore this is considered appropriate.

The application was referred internally to Council's Assets and Health Department as discussed previously in this report.

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

*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.*

*Clause 21.07-5 Drainage*

*Objective:*

- *To ensure that appropriate drainage infrastructure is installed and maintained.*

*Clause 22.01-3 Dwellings on small lots in the Farming Zone*

*Policies:*

- *The construction of a new dwelling on an existing small lot will be discouraged unless it meets all of the following requirements:*
  - *The lot is accessed by an all-weather road and has appropriate service provisions.*
  - *Emergency ingress and egress is at an appropriate standard,*
  - *The dwelling will not inhibit the operation of agriculture and rural industries. \*
  - *The site must be able to contain and treat onsite effluent and wastewater in accordance with the relevant Code of Practice and Australian Standards,*  
*and;*
- *Meets at least one of the following requirements:*
- *The dwelling should be associated with a sustainable rural pursuit that requires a dwelling on the land to manage that pursuit.*
- *The application should be supported by a farm management plan that justifies the need for a dwelling to assist in the operation of the farm.*
- *The applicant can substantiate that the land has no agricultural potential due to environmental significance and the dwelling is to be used in conjunction with sustainable land management and the significant vegetation is protected on title.*
- *The lot has been identified in the Strathbogrie Shire Rural Residential Strategy, 2004 as rural residential; implying that there is an historic use and development pattern. Consideration should be given to the recommendations in the Strategy.*
- *The applicant is proposing to consolidate one or more lots in the same ownership with the subject land prior to the construction of the dwelling.*

*Officers Response*

The proposal is considered consistent with the Local Planning Policy Framework. A standard condition to ensure the proposed dwelling will be constructed from materials of good order and in muted colours will be included on the planning permit.

The application was referred to Council's Assets Department and standard conditions regarding drainage will be included on the planning permit.

The proposal is considered to be generally consistent with the local policy in relation to dwellings on small lots in the Farming Zone. The dwelling is unlikely to inhibit the operation of agricultural land use on the broader lots surrounding the site. Standard condition will be included to ensure the dwelling is accessible via an all-weather road. The site has been identified as being an area of rural living character in the *Strathbogrie Rural Residential Strategy 2004*.

Although it is policy, it is considered that requiring the applicant to enter an agreement under

Section 173 of the *Planning & Environment Act* to prohibit further subdivision, would be excessive for the following reasons:

- The site has been recognised in the 2004 Rural Residential Strategy as being in area mainly used for rural living purposes.

- The nature of the surrounding development. Surrounding properties of similar size to the subject site, have been developed with single dwellings and shedding.

### Relevant Particular Provisions

#### *2004 Strathbogie Shire Rural Residential Strategy*

#### *Area 19 Ruffy Township*

The township of Ruffy has been identified as a potential rural living destination. The town itself was originally surveyed more than a century ago, however it has barely been developed since then, and is predominantly utilised by the farming community surrounding it. Ruffy is a village that operates one small produce store. The town has a State Primary School, town hall and community centre (cricket and tennis). The land in the area is used for sheep and cattle grazing with various boutique enterprises including vineyards, nurseries, trail riding facilities and bed & breakfasts etc. More recently, the town of Ruffy has seen weekend visitors taking advantage of the slow pace and scenery. Allotment sizes range from 5 acres to 20 acres.

#### Officers Response:

The proposal is in keeping with Area 19 of the 2004 Strathbogie Shire Rural Residential strategy. Ruffy no longer has a Primary School. There has been increased interest in rural residential type lots within the Shire and Ruffy township.

The site is large enough to accommodate the buildings and is considered in keeping with the area and the rural residential development.

### 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:*

<b>Guideline</b>	<b>Assessment</b>
<i>The matters set out in Section 60 of the Act.</i>	Complies. Consistent with the objectives for planning and satisfies the Scheme requirements. No significant effects are anticipated, including social or economic effects apart from being of benefit.
<i>The Municipal Planning Strategy and the Planning Policy Framework</i>	Complies.
<i>The purpose of the zone, overlay or other provision.</i>	Complies. The proposed development is in accordance with the 2004 Rural Residential Strategy as Area 19.
<i>Any matter required to be considered in the zone, overlay or other provision.</i>	Complies.
<i>The orderly planning of the area.</i>	Complies. The proposal is considered to represent orderly planning as it complies with the scheme and incorporated document requirements.
<i>The effect on the amenity of the area.</i>	Complies. The proposal is consistent with the purpose of the 2004 Strathbogie Shire Rural Residential Strategy.

	No amenity issues are anticipated with the development. Standard amenity condition will be included on any planning permit issued.
<i>The proximity of the land to any public land.</i>	Complies. The subject site does not adjoin public land other than the road reserve. The proposed dwelling is less than 20 metres from the road; however, the road reserve is treed and offers a buffer. In addition, the area is primarily used for residential purposes.
<i>Factors likely to cause or contribute to land degradation, salinity or reduce water quality.</i>	Complies. The proposal will be governed by permit conditions which will ensure there will be no land degradation, salinity or reduction in water quality.
<i>Whether the proposed development is designed to maintain or improve the quality of stormwater within and exiting the site.</i>	Stormwater runoff will be managed in accordance with Council's Engineering Conditions.
<i>The extent and character of native vegetation and the likelihood of its destruction.</i>	Complies. No native vegetation is proposed to be removed or impacted as part of the development works.
<i>Whether native vegetation is to be or can be protected, planted or allowed to regenerate.</i>	Complies.
<i>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 minimise any such hazard.</i>	Complies. The site is not affected by the Bushfire Management Overlay it is within the Bushfire Prone Area. The dwelling will be required to be constructed to the appropriate BAL under the building regulations.
<i>The adequacy of loading and unloading facilities and any associated amenity, traffic flow and road safety impacts.</i>	Not applicable.

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

There are no relevant adopted State policies.

**Relevant incorporated, reference or adopted documents**

2004 Rural Residential Strategy Area 19

The officer has made reference to this throughout the report.

**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.

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### **Summary of Key Issues and Assessment**

- The land is in the Farming Zone and is less than the 40-hectare requirement for an as of right use for a dwelling.
- The land is identified in the 2004 Strathbogrie Shire Rural Residential Strategy (Area 19).
- The proposed dwelling is less than 20 metres from the road; which is a trigger for a planning permit under the Farming Zone however, the road reserve is treed and offers a buffer. In addition, the area is primarily used for rural residential purposes and therefore a reduced setback is considered appropriate.

#### *Officer Response:*

It is considered appropriate to allow approval for the proposed dwelling. This is in keeping with the area and the Strathbogrie Rural residential Strategy. The owner will still need to obtain appropriate building approvals to ensure the structures have the relevant permissions under the building code.

Conditions will be included on any planning permit issued to ensure but not limited to:

- All sewage and sullage waters shall be treated in accordance with the requirements of the Environment Protection Act 1970 and be disposed of within the curtilage of the land. No wastewater shall drain directly or indirectly onto an adjoining property, street or any watercourse.
- 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.
- Crossovers and internal access will be constructed to the satisfaction of Council and provide emergency access.
- The proposed dwelling have an alternative potable water supply with adequate storage for domestic use as well as for fire fighting purposes. And that the dwelling must be connected to a reticulated electricity supply or have an alternative energy source.
- The amenity of the area is not detrimentally affected by the use, through the:
  - (p) Appearance of any building, works or materials;
  - (q) Transport of materials, goods or commodities to or from the land;
  - (r) Emission of noise, artificial light, vibration, smell, fumes, smoke, vapour, steam, soot, ash, dust, wastewater, waste products, grit or oil;
  - (s) Presence of vermin, and;
  - (t) Others as appropriate.
- No native vegetation is removed

These will address the concerns raised by the objectors.

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### Conclusion

After due assessment of all the relevant factors, it is considered appropriate to grant a planning permit, subject to conditions.

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### Declaration:

In making this decision as a delegated Officer, I declare that I have had regard to the decision-making requirements of the Strathbogie Shire Council's Governance Rules 2020 outlined by Rule 6 and have:

Made a fair, balanced, ethical and impartial decision - Sub Rule 6(c)(i)

Made a decision based on merits, free from favouritism or self-interest and without regard to irrelevant or unauthorised considerations- Sub Rule 6 (c)(ii)

Applied the principles of natural justice to my decision, ensuring any person whose rights will be directly affected by the decision has been entitled to communicate their views and have their interests considered - Sub Rule 6(d) N/A

Identified the person or persons whose rights will be directly affected Sub Rule 6(e)(i)

Given notice of the decision Council must make under Sub Rule G(e)(i) N/A

Ensured that such person(s) have had an opportunity to communicate their views and have their interests considered before I made the decision - Sub Rule 6(e)(i) N/A

Included information about how I've met these Sub Rules in my delegate report- Sub Rule 6(e)(iv)



**ATTACHMENT 2:**



**ATTACHMENT 3:**



### **9.1.2 Proposed Planning Scheme Amendment C085, for the Rezoning of Land - Murray Street, Nagambie**

Author: Town Planner

Responsible Director: Director Community & Planning

#### **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 C085 has been prepared by the proponent to change the zoning and overlays that apply to the land known as Lot A on Plan of Subdivision 215264G (future Lot B, PS 815393J), which will be a continuation of Murray Street, Nagambie.

The amendment includes rezoning of the subject land from Farming Zone to General Residential Zone and proposes to implement a new schedule to Development Plan Overlay to guide the future development of the site. The amendment seeks to amend Planning Scheme Zoning Maps 22 and Overlays Maps 22DPO.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

##### ***That Council:***

- 1. Request 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 C085 to the Strathbogie Planning Scheme for the land known formally as Lot A on Plan of Subdivision 215264G (future Lot B, PS 815393J) in accordance with Section 17 of the Planning and Environment Act 1987;***
- 2. Notify the Minister for Planning that when it exhibits Amendment C085, Strathbogie Shire Council intends to give full notification of the amendment under Section 17 of the Planning and Environment Act 1987 for the minimum statutory period of one month; and***
- 3. When authorised by the Minister for Planning, exhibit Amendment C085 to the Strathbogie Planning Scheme under Sections 18 and 19 of the Planning and Environment Act 1987.***

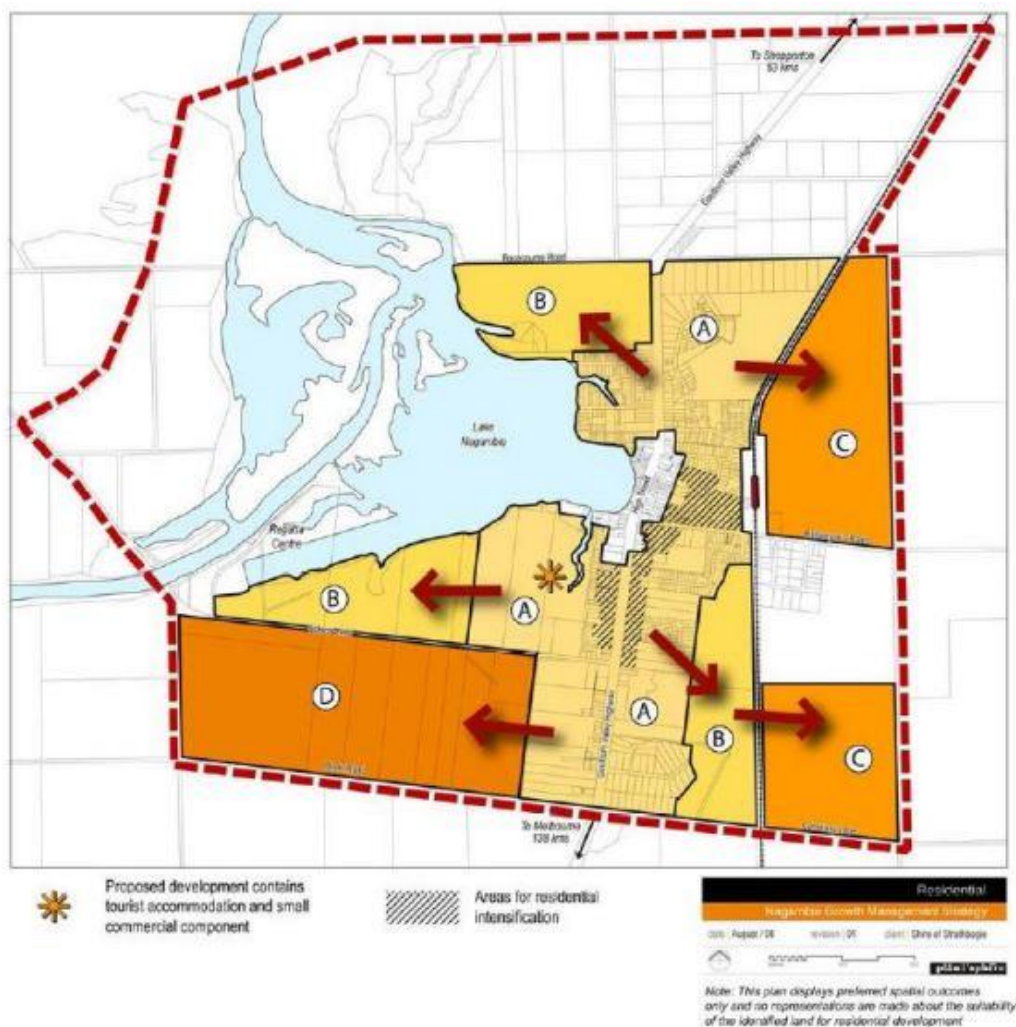
#### **PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND**

Chris Smith and Associates, on behalf of Excelltec Pty Ltd, has made a request for a planning scheme amendment at the land known as Lot A on Plan of Subdivision 215264G (future Lot B, PS 815393J) on Murray Street in Nagambie. This request has been allocated amendment number C085.

9.1.2 Proposed Planning Scheme Amendment C085, for the Rezoning of Land - Murray Street, Nagambie (cont.)

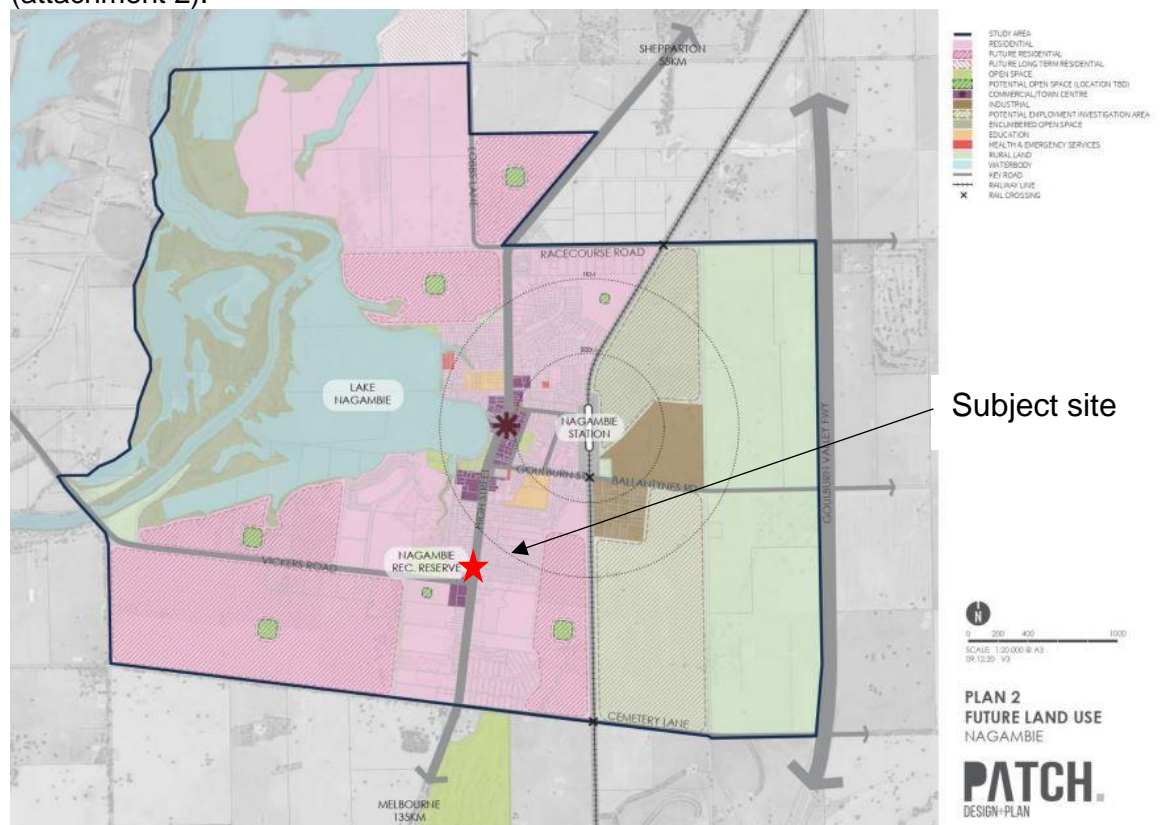
As requested, Amendment C085 proposes to rezone approximately 16 hectares of land off Murray Street, Nagambie from Farming Zone to General Residential Zone and apply the Development Plan Overlay to the site to guide the future development of the site. The site is located approximately 650 metres south-east of the Commercial centre of Nagambie, and approximately 300 metres south-east of the Nagambie Primary School. The adjoining properties to the north and west of the subject site is within the General Residential Zone and is predominantly residential uses. The west of the property is bounded by the Shepparton-Melbourne railway line. To the south of the property is continued Farming Zone land and contains one dwelling.

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 North of the subject site as “A” has permits issued for *subdivision of the bulk of this area*.



9.1.2 Proposed Planning Scheme Amendment C085, for the Rezoning of Land - Murray Street, Nagambie (cont.)

The subject site is also formally identified in the draft update of the Nagambie Growth Management Strategy 2020. Specifically for future residential growth, in line with the Nagambie Growth Management Strategy of 2008. The draft 2020 strategy identifies residential developments to provide open space within the precinct. This will be achieved via requirements of the Development Plan Overlay (attachment 2).



The future development of the site will be guided by a Development Plan Overlay (attachment 2). A Development Plan Overlay is a mechanism that seeks to ensure permits are not granted until a development plan for a wider precinct is approved, this ensures items like road network, stormwater management, open spaces etc, are designed and conditioned to the relevant stands at time of approval of the development plan.

**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 amendment request.

9.1.2 Proposed Planning Scheme Amendment C085, for the Rezoning of Land - Murray Street, Nagambie (cont.)

**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 (2008) 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 in 2013.

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
- Council Website and social media accounts

**POLICY CONSIDERATIONS**

**Council Plans and Policies**

The Nagambie Growth Management Strategy (2008 and draft 2020) 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 amendment request.

This amendment request 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.

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.

9.1.2 Proposed Planning Scheme Amendment C085, for the Rezoning of Land - Murray Street, Nagambie (cont.)

The amendment has been prepared to rezone the parcel of land known as Lot A on Plan of Subdivision 215264G (future Lot B, PS 815393J), Nagambie. 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. This is not recommended by officers as it would mean the property could not, at present be developed in a residential way. The request for rezoning is in line with Council's strategic documentation being the Nagambie Growth Management Strategy 2008 and draft Nagambie Growth Management Strategy. Both strategies have been on exhibition for the residents of Nagambie, with no submissions focusing on potential future use for 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.

The amendment request 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.

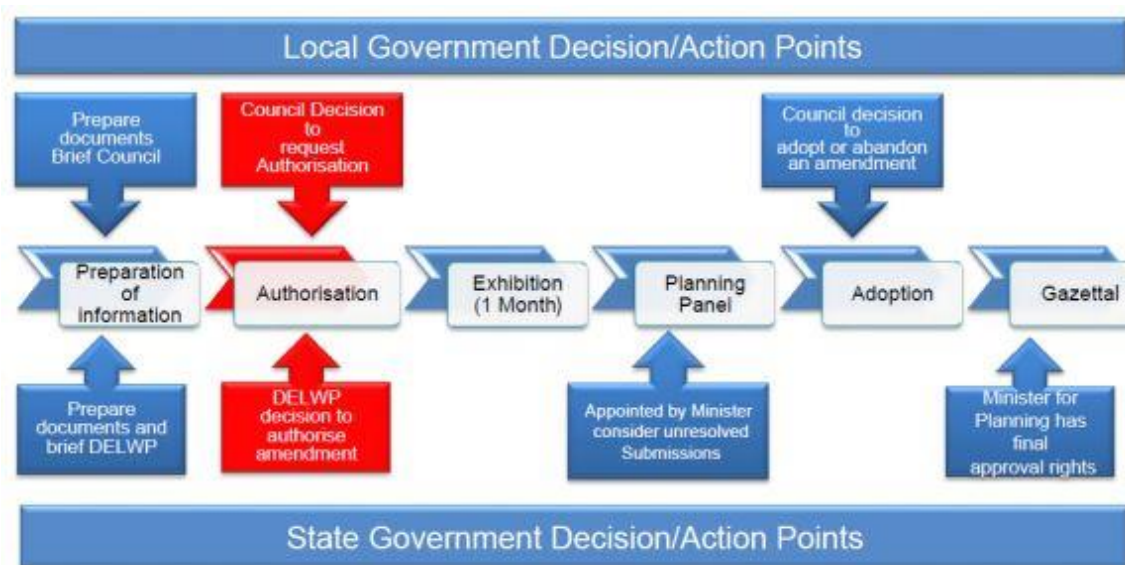
The Hume Regional Growth Plan identifies Nagambie as a township to accommodate residential growth as a key sub-regional settlement.

**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 amendment request is in the second phase at Council Decision to request authorization.

9.1.2 Proposed Planning Scheme Amendment C085, for the Rezoning of Land - Murray Street, Nagambie (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).



9.1.2 Proposed Planning Scheme Amendment C085, for the Rezoning of Land - Murray Street, 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.

In order to ensure transparency of process, this amendment request 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 the 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 considered that the recommendation will provide for an additional 90-120 residential allotments in Nagambie and will have a positive impact on potential employment opportunities as construction comes to fruition.

**Social**

The Development Plan Overlay will require any application to provide for public open spaces, footpaths and access throughout the development site and externally and meet the standards of the Strathbogie Planning Scheme and Infrastructure Design Manual at time of endorsing relevant plans.

**Environmental**

The author of this report considers that the recommendation has no significant environmental or amenity implications for Council or the broader community. A biodiversity report and environmental site assessment has been undertaken and show the site is suitable for a residential development.

9.1.2 Proposed Planning Scheme Amendment C085, for the Rezoning of Land - Murray Street, Nagambie (cont.)

**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. Objectives have been included in the Development Plan Overlay requiring environmentally sustainable designs that incorporate solar orientation, reduce urban heat effects, efficient use of energy and water are used.

***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 proposed amendment is 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 amendment 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.

***CONCLUSION***

This is a proponent driven planning scheme amendment, for the rezoning and development of land off Murray 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 – Development Plan Overlay

**Attachment 3:** Amendment Document – Instruction Sheet – doc id#740718

**ATTACHMENT 1:**

*Planning and Environment Act 1987*

**STRATHBOGIE PLANNING SCHEME**

**AMENDMENT CXX**

**EXPLANATORY REPORT**

***Who is the planning authority?***

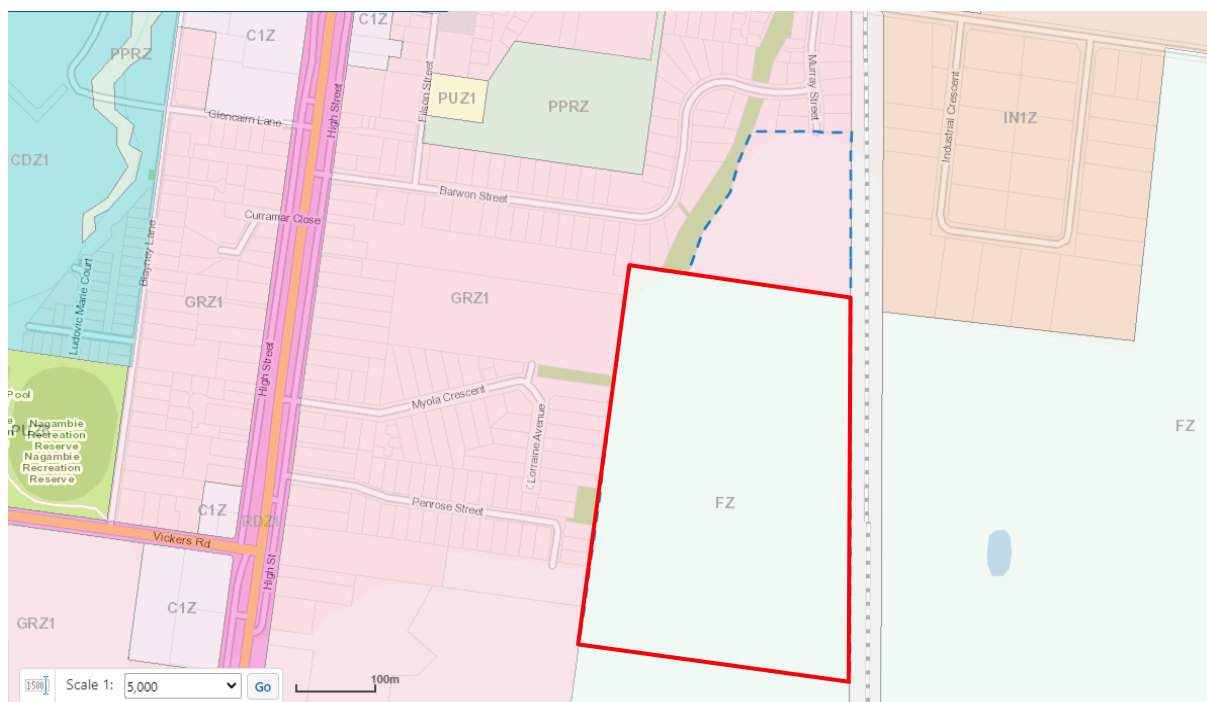
This amendment has been prepared by the Strathbogie Shire Council, who is the planning authority for this amendment.

The amendment has been made at the request of Chris Smith and Associates, who act for Excelltec Pty. Ltd., who is the landowner and proponent for this amendment.

***Land affected by the amendment***

The Amendment applies to land described as:

- Murray Street, Nagambie (Lot A, LP215264 (*Future Lot B, PS815393J*))



**Figure 1:** Subject Land (red) to which this amendment applies

The extent of the subject site is the future Lot B, PS815393J, which represents the balance lot of the soon-to-be completed subdivision of the GRZ land immediately north of the site.

The land is currently addressed as Murray Street and is currently within the Farming Zone, encompassing an area of 15.87ha. The subject land is flat and cleared of any vegetation, with some planted trees having been recently removed by the proponent prior to this submission.

The land is located approximately 430m southeast of the Nagambie town centre, and 1.6km west of the Goulburn Valley Highway. The site also adjoins the current extent of Murray Street, which is constructed to its northern boundary, while there is an unmade extent of Myola Crescent which abuts the western boundary of the site.

The site is not currently subject to any formal flood mapping under the Planning Scheme.

However, there is forecast to be a remapping of the north-western corner of the site – this is

subject to the finalisation of the revised flood modelling by the GBMCA and Strathbogie Shire Council.

The amendment site is adjoined by the following land uses:

**North:** Immediately north of the site is a soon-to-be-completed residential subdivision in the General Residential Zone (of particular note: it is the Part A of the subject site – Lot A LP215264). Further north is the established residential area of Nagambie.

**East:** Immediately east of the site is a railway reserve comprising the Shepparton to Melbourne line. The property to the northeast is within the **Industrial Zone 1** and land to the east – beyond the rail reserve – is within the Farming Zone. The land to the south-east is identified for longer term residential purposes.

**South:** The property to the south is recognised as a future urban area – although it is currently within the Farming Zone. This land consists of a dwelling, sheds and plantations. This land could be taken up for residential purposes as part of a future residential rezoning.

**West:** The land to the west of the site is a mix of developed and yet-to-be-developed residential land. The Nagambie town centre is north-west of the site, along with the town’s community facilities.

### ***What the amendment does***

The Amendment provides for the rezoning of the land at Murray Street, Nagambie from the Farming Zone to the General Residential Zone – Schedule 1 to allow a future residential subdivision.

The Amendment proposes to:

- Rezone the land at Murray Street, Nagambie (*future* Lot B, PS815393J) from Farming Zone to General Residential 1 Zone, by amending Planning Scheme Map No. 22 of Strathbogie Planning Scheme, and
- Inserts a new site-specific Schedule to the Development Plan Overlay for “Nagambie South East”
- Amends Planning Scheme Map 22DPO & 22ZN

A conceptual layout of the potential subdivision layout of the site is provided for illustrative purposes – this is highly likely to change once the land is rezoned but demonstrates the capacity of the site for residential development.

### ***Strategic Assessment of the Amendment***

#### ***Why is the Amendment required?***

The rezoning is required to meet Council’s obligation to provide 15 years supply of residential land in proximity to essential services and infrastructure.

Strathbogie Shire Council is currently in the process of updating the 2008 Nagambie Growth Management Strategy (NGMS 2008). The subject site was originally identified in the NGMS 2008 as “*existing undeveloped residential land*”, which is reflected in the site’s designation as future urban development within the Nagambie Structure Plan within Clause 21.03 of the Strathbogie Planning Scheme.

The draft 2020 Nagambie Growth Management Strategy (NGMS 2020) forecasts Nagambie will have a population of approximately 4000 people by 2036. Based on the current population of 2286, this represents an annual increase of 2.9% additional residents annually over the next 15 years.

<b>Population growth target</b>	
Additional people	2,286
Additional dwellings (assumes occupancy rate @ 2 persons/dw)	1,143
Additional land supply (assumes 900 square metre lots)	102.87 ha

**Table 1 Nagambie forecast residential land supply requirement**

The NGMS 2008 has prescribed the sequential residential development of land – with land to be developed alphabetically, with “A” being the first priority through to “D” being the longest forecast residential land. The subject land is identified under “B” and can provide approximately 15.87 hectares of conventional residential development.

The subject land is currently in the Farming Zone, which limits subdivision to a minimum lot size of forty (40) hectares. The amendment is required to allow development in a context consistent with the Nagambie residential precinct expansion. In rezoning the subject land, it is anticipated approximately 100 residential lots would be capable of being supported on the site, including the provision of a neighbourhood park / public open space.

The currently under exhibition **C080strb**, which similarly seeks the rezoning of similarly designated future residential land identified the current shortfall of approximately 800 GRZ lots within the Nagambie township. Accordingly, the potential for approximately 100 GRZ lots that would be provided by the proposed rezoning would contribute a significant portion of this housing need.

The existing residentially zoned land to the south of the Nagambie is largely constrained through different ownerships and no established or coordinated access – the subject site provides immediate road connection and will provide linkages to facilitate the further expansion to the south and southwest of the site.

Accordingly, the proposed rezoning provides for land that:

- Is in proximity to the Nagambie town centre and the established residential areas and urban road networks
- Forms a logical expansion of Nagambie’s residential growth
- Has access to Goulburn Valley Highway within 1.6km to east, running north-south, facilitating connection to Shepparton and Seymour (employment hubs).
- Is close to tourist attractions (e.g., Nagambie Lake Front)
- Will complement established residential neighbourhoods with proximity to lifestyle opportunities.

The proposed rezoning of the subject land represents the opportunity for the sequential and logical expansion of the existing established residential neighbourhood that has long been identified for residential development since the NGMS 2008.

### ***How does the Amendment implement the objectives of Planning in Victoria?***

The amendment implements the relevant objectives of planning in Victoria at Section 4(1) of the Planning and Environment Act 1987 – as it will facilitate the orderly, fair and economic development of residential land in the municipality that will secure a safe living environment for future residents and visitors. Enabling development at an urban density comparable to the surrounding township to enable orderly, efficient, and coordinated provision of public utilities for the benefit of the community and in the interests of all Victorians.

The proposed rezoning of the site will ensure consistent supply of land for residential purposes to ensure the delivery of affordable housing within Nagambie and addressing the overarching VPP Objectives.

### ***How does the Amendment address any Environmental, social, and economic effect?***

The amendment enables Nagambie to meet the future housing needs of the community that is essential to municipality’s vision for long term growth, as identified in both the *NGMS 2008 & draft NGMS 2020*.

It is not envisioned that the Amendment is likely to cause any adverse environmental, social, or economic impacts, as set out below.

### Environmental

The amendment site has had a previous association with dryland farming. The site has been long-since cleared of any vegetation for agricultural use. Accordingly, the site is of relatively minimal biodiversity value.

The proponents engaged Ground Science to carry out a Preliminary Site Investigation. The scope of the investigation included a preliminary desktop and historical review, a site walkover and a resultant report. This preliminary Investigation classified the site as suitable for residential development, with an acceptable risk of contamination.

A *preliminary biodiversity* assessment of the site has been undertaken by Damian Wall of Red-Gum Environmental Consulting – a DELWP-accredited vegetation assessor. This assessment determined that the site contains five (5) river red gums and one (1) acacia. Two (2) of these trees are located within the Tabilk Depression and will be incorporated into a future open space/drainage reserve and would be unimpacted by the proposed rezoning. Therefore, there are three (3) trees that would be located within the “developable” area of the site – which would likely be sought for removal – subject to a planning permit consequent to the site’s rezoning.

The north-west corner of the site lies within the Tabilk Depression system and is considered an active floodpath. Accordingly, upon rezoning this portion of the site will be set aside for flood storage and conveyance to the satisfaction of the flood authority.

### Social

The amendment will result in a net community benefit by providing residential land within close proximity to existing community facilities and services. A future development (enabled by the proposed rezoning) will be capable of including public open space that will contribute positively to the public realm by providing high quality urban amenities enhancing the streetscape.

The development shall create range of lot sizes which shall provide choice of housing for the future residents of Nagambie. The land is in proximity to the existing community facilities including sport grounds, Nagambie medical centre, two primary schools and recreation areas such as Lake Nagambie etc. Accordingly, the proposed amendment and shall contribute positively for a net community benefit.

### Economic

The proposed rezoning is expected to have a positive economic effect as it provides land which will be developed for residential development at a higher density than it is used presently. This residential development will support and create local jobs both during construction and ongoing, boost local businesses and generate opportunities for new businesses.

Additional housing opportunities will address the current housing shortage and support the growth associated with current employment investment in Nagambie. Further, these housing opportunities will attract greater population to the municipality and in-turn stimulate development which shall generate economic and employment growth. Thus, there are no likely adverse economic impacts associated with this proposed Amendment.

### ***Does the Amendment address relevant Bushfire Risk?***

The amendment site is not within a Bushfire Management Overlay; however, it is in a rural setting that is designated as a bushfire prone area (BPA) under the Building Code of Australia.

It is considered that the landscape setting of the amendment site – within an area of open (cleared) dry farmland and bordered by established residential neighbourhood does not pose an unacceptable risk to life (as a priority), property, community infrastructure or the natural environment from bushfire. Development of the land for residential purposes will further reduce potential risk to grass fire.

Initial discussions with the former Country Fire Authority – now Fire Rescue Victoria (FRV) – confirmed that the site is of relatively low bushfire concern. FRV will be provided with opportunity to comment formally on this proposal during the formal exhibition process associated with this

planning scheme amendment. A Bushfire Risk Assessment has been prepared in support of the proposed rezoning.

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

The amendment is affected by the Ministerial Directions under sections 7 and 12 of *the Planning and Environment Act, 1987*.

The amendment (including the amendment documentation and the proposed planning controls) is consistent with the Ministerial Direction on the Form and Content of Planning Schemes under section 7(5) of the Act.

Under section 12(2) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* the following Minister's Direction is applicable to the consideration of this amendment:

Ministerial Direction No 1 – Potentially Contaminated Land

Through the investigations carried out by Ground Science, it has been determined that the land is suitable for a sensitive (residential) use, which will be facilitated by the proposed rezoning.

Ministerial Direction No 11 – Strategic Assessment of Amendments

The purpose of this Direction is to ensure a comprehensive strategic evaluation of a planning scheme amendment and the outcomes it produces. It requires an explanatory report to discuss how the amendment addresses certain strategic considerations. The preparation of this explanatory report relating to this amendment complies with this Direction.

Ministerial Direction No 19 – Preparation and content of amendments that may significantly impact the environment, amenity and human health.

The purpose of this Direction is to require planning authorities to seek the views of the Environment Protection Authority (APA) when preparing a planning scheme amendment.

***Does the Amendment support or implement the Planning Policy Framework and any adopted State policy?***

The proposed Amendment supports the Planning Policy Framework (PPF), giving effect to the principles and specific policies contained within the SPPF. The following objectives and strategies of the PPF are relevant to this Amendment:

The PPF outlines that:

- *Planning is to anticipate and respond to the needs of existing and future communities through provision of zoned and serviced land for housing, employment, recreation and open space, commercial and community facilities and infrastructure.*
- *Planning is to recognise the need for, and as far as practicable contribute towards...diversity of choice, economic viability, accessibility... a high standard of urban design and amenity..."*
- *Planning is to facilitate sustainable development that takes full advantage of existing settlement patterns and investment in transport, utility, social, community and commercial infrastructure and services.*

General objectives relevant to the subject land include:

**Clause 11.01 Settlement - Hume**

*To promote the sustainable growth and development of Victoria and deliver choice and opportunity for all Victorians through a network of settlements.*

Strategies:

- *Providing for appropriately located supplies of residential, commercial, and industrial land across a region, sufficient to meet community needs in accordance with the relevant regional growth plan.*
- *Limit urban sprawl and direct growth into existing settlements.*
- *Develop compact urban areas that are based around existing or planned activity centres to maximise accessibility to facilities and services.*

**Clause 11.02 Managing Growth**

- *To ensure a sufficient supply of land is available for residential, commercial, retail, industrial, recreational, institutional, and other community uses.*
- *To facilitate the orderly development of urban areas.*
- *To manage the sequence of development in areas of growth so that services are available from early in the life of new communities.*

**Clause 13.02 Bushfire Planning**

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

**Clause 13.03 Floodplains**

*To assist the protection of:*

- *The natural flood carrying capacity of rivers, streams, and floodways.*
- *The flood storage function of floodplains and waterways.*

**Clause 15 Built Environment and Heritage**

- *Planning should ensure all land use and development appropriately responds to its surrounding landscape and character, valued built form and cultural context.*
- *Planning must support the establishment and maintenance of communities by delivering functional, accessible, safe, and diverse physical and social environments, through the appropriate location of use and development and through high quality buildings and urban design.*

**Clause 16 Housing**

*To facilitate well-located, integrated and diverse housing that meets community needs.*

Strategies:

- *Ensure that an appropriate quantity, quality and type of housing is provided, including aged care facilities and other housing suitable for older people, supported accommodation for people with disability, rooming houses, student accommodation and social housing.*



- *Increase the proportion of housing in designated locations in established urban areas (including under-utilised urban land) and reduce the share of new dwellings in greenfield, fringe and dispersed development areas.*
- *Encourage higher density housing development on sites that are well located in relation to jobs, services and public transport.*
- *Identify opportunities for increased residential densities to help consolidate urban areas.*
- *Facilitate diverse housing that offers choice and meets changing household needs by widening housing diversity through a mix of housing types*
- *Plan for growth areas to provide for a mix of housing types through a variety of lot sizes, including higher housing densities in and around activity centres.*

#### **Clause 17.01-1R Diversified economy – Hume**

*To strengthen and diversify the economy*

##### Strategy

- *Encourage appropriate new and developing forms of industry, agriculture, tourism, and alternative energy production.*

The amendment site located within the Nagambie locality, which is rapidly undergoing residential development to meet the growing demand for residential land. It is therefore necessary to make suitable land available to service the community needs.

The proposed amendment site is strategically located in proximity to major employment generating centres, namely Shepparton and Seymour. The proposed rezoning site along with its accessibility shall provide for a mix of housing through a variety of lot sizes within an established residential neighbourhood and activity centre, facilitating the *Settlement* objective of PPF.

The proposed amendment seeks to support all the above principles and objectives of the PPF.

#### ***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, as outlined below.

##### **Clause 21.02-1 Whole Municipality**

- *To have consistent planning across the Municipality that individually represents and respects the natural and built environment.*

##### **Clause 21.03-4 Nagambie**

- *To grow Nagambie as an agricultural service centre as well as a visitor, lifestyle and retirement centre.*

##### **Clause 21.04-6 Flooding**

- *To protect and manage floodplains.*

##### **Clause 21.04-8 Heritage**

- *To recognise and protect places of heritage, cultural and social significance*

### **Clause 21.05-3 Social services and infrastructure**

- To provide networked communities.

### **Clause 21.07-2 Urban Services**

- To deliver sustainable services.

Nagambie's population is growing significantly, albeit from a relatively small base. In recent times, the Strathbogrie Shire has experienced increasing interest from the Melbourne and Shepparton property markets, particularly in the Strathbogrie Ranges, Avenel and Nagambie.

It is expected that to accommodate this additional population, there will need to be a corresponding growth in the number of dwellings. At the same time, with changing demographic trends (two persons per household), smaller household sizes and an increase in non-Australian born persons will create demand for a broad range of housing types within the municipality.

The amendment will apply a DPO to the land, which will ensure future development will be consistent with the existing character of the Nagambie township. The application of a DPO with a site-specific schedule will provide certainty for landholders and developers in the precinct by guiding future urban development in a manner that is consistent with the development standards in the Nagambie Growth Management Plan and Nagambie Style Guidelines 2008.

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

The amendment intends to co-ordinate appropriate and sustainable development of the land to interface with the existing General Residential 1 Zone; the proposed rezoning will provide for consistent use of land, by taking into consideration the context of the site and the surrounding area.

The Victoria Planning Provisions facilitate the management of land for standard residential use on lots, and development that meet the demands and expectations of the community. Specifically, the General Residential Zone (GRZ) is the appropriate tool, as it provides for standard urban residential living at a density consistent with the Nagambie township. Thus, the proponent intends to ensure continuity in development, as per the NGMS 2008.

Alternative residential zones were considered; however, they were deemed to be inappropriate for the following reasons:

- The amendment site will continue the development of the Murray Street as it expands to the south. The *Residential Growth Zone* (RGZ) would promote comparatively intensive residential development. The RGZ is designed to be implemented proximate to major, established activity centres and residential areas, as well as infill development to consolidate established residential areas.
- The potential use of the land for the *Neighbourhood Residential Zone* (NRZ) would impose planning considerations on land in an area that does not exhibit any inherent neighbourhood character. The NRZ is not deemed appropriate for new development.
- The *Low Density Residential Zone* (LDRZ) would provide lots that are significantly larger than the existing area; requiring the provision of lots greater than 2,000m<sup>2</sup>. This represents a size more than twice the average residential land parcel in the neighbourhood area. Further, this zone will override the objective of identifying opportunities for increased residential densities that shall help consolidate urban areas and thus limiting the land to be used to its optimum potential.
- The *Township Zone* (TZ) would not only provide for residential development, but also a range of commercial and industrial uses. The subject land is located within a designated residential

growth corridor, the use of the TZ would allow a wider range of non-residential uses that would be incompatible with the strategic intention for the land for residential use.

The use of the site-specific schedule to the Development Plan Overlay will ensure that development in accordance with the NGMS 2008, Draft NGMS 2020 & Nagambie Style Guidelines 2008 which shall remain consistent with local planning policy.

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

The formal considerations of relevant agencies are yet to be sought. The public exhibition phase of this amendment will ensure that all authorities, groups, or individuals affected by the amendment are appropriately notified. All affected parties are entitled to lodge a submission.

### ***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.

Future development facilitated by the amendment will be connected to the existing local road network through the continuation of Murray Street. 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*.

Accordingly, this amendment does not conflict with the purpose, objectives, or 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?***

There will be no costs incurred by 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 in accordance with statutory fees and charges.

#### ***Where you may inspect this Amendment***

The amendment can be inspected free of charge at the Strathbogie Shire Council website at

[www.strathbogie.vic.gov.au](http://www.strathbogie.vic.gov.au)

.

And/or

The amendment is available for public inspection, free of charge, during office hours at the following places:

Strathbogie Shire Council offices,

- 109A Binney Street, Euroa and,
- 293 High Street, Nagambie

The amendment can also be inspected free of charge at the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning website [www.planning.vic.gov.au/public-inspection](http://www.planning.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  
or  
[info@strathbogie.vic.gov.au](mailto:info@strathbogie.vic.gov.au)

### **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:

- Direction's hearing: To commence in the week on **[insert directions hearing date]**
- Panel hearing: To commence in the week of **[insert panel hearing date]**

## **ATTACHMENT 2:**

### STRATHBOGRIE PLANNING SCHEME

#### **30/07/2018 SCHEDULE ~~6X~~ TO CLAUSE 43.04 DEVELOPMENT PLAN OVERLAY**

Shown on the planning scheme map as DPO~~6X~~

#### **NAGAMBIE SOUTH EAST**

#### **1.0 Objectives**

**30/07/2018**

To guide the future subdivision, use and development of land known as Nagambie South East.

To facilitate the development of a high-quality residential estate in a manner that responds to its strategic location and activity centres.

Require the To provide for development that uses environmentally sustainable designs that incorporates solar orientation, methods to reduce urban heat effects, and the efficient use of energy and water.

Require To facilitate vehicle access to, from throughout the development that is safe, connected, manageable and convenient.

#### **2.0 Requirement before a permit is granted**

**30/07/2018**

Before any use, development or subdivision commences, a development plan must be prepared and endorsed to the satisfaction of the responsible authority.

The development plan may be amended to the satisfaction of the responsible authority.

A permit may be granted for the following before a development plan has been prepared for:

- Subdivision that does not create any additional lots.
- A use permitted under the zone, provided the responsible authority is satisfied that it will not unreasonably prejudice the future subdivision of the land or the objectives of the Nagambie South East Development Plan area.
- Removal or creation of easements or restrictions.
- Any buildings and works associated with the ongoing maintenance or operation of the subject site.
- A single dwelling on a lot.

#### **3.0 Conditions and requirements for permits**

**30/07/2018**

An application for planning permit must include (as appropriate):

- A town planning report, outlining how the use and/or development responds to the Municipal Planning Strategy and Planning Policy Framework of the Strathbogrie Planning Scheme, and the approved development plan for the area.
- A plan that shows the layout of the proposed subdivision that generally accords with the endorsed Development Plan, how and is informed by the subdivision relates to the landform and natural features and topography of the site, and including the protection and management of any existing remnant native vegetation, vegetation and how it responds to the site analysis.
- Plans submitted must be prepared in accordance with the Infrastructure Design Manual and must include details of measures to prevent potential on and off-site amenity impacts DM-TP1.

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- A Traffic Management Plan
- A Stormwater Management Plan utilising Water Sensitive Urban Design Principles

Conditions must, as appropriate, be included on any planning permit issued to subdivide or develop land with regard to infrastructure works being completed in accordance with any approved Infrastructure Plan approved under this schedule.

4.0 Requirements for development plan[DM-TP2]

30/07/2018

A Development Plan must be generally in accordance with the Nagambie South East Concept Plan, [DM-TP3][DM-TP4]~~forming part of this~~ Schedule and include the following requirements (as appropriate):[DM-TP5]

- General consistency with the Nagambie Growth Management Strategy,
- The application of the sustainable growth principles and implementation requirements of the Nagambie Growth Management Strategy, including:
  - Diversity in residential allotment sizes and dimensions to encourage variety in dwelling types.
  - Medium density lots in areas within close proximity to areas of open space and community infrastructure, where appropriate.
  - ~~Lots should be generally rectangular in shape and located on a north-south or east-west axis so that the number of lots ~~that~~ have optimal solar orientation ~~are~~ maximised.~~
- A site analysis that should include:
  - Topography of the land (including ridgelines, landscape, geography, slope gradients).
  - Drainage lines and dams.
  - Land subject to inundation by floodwaters.
  - Existing road connections and access.
  - Available infrastructure including power, water, sewer and telecommunications.
  - ~~Adjoining land uses and neighbouring buildings and works.~~
    - ~~Proposed areas of public open space.~~
    - ~~Any other matter relevant to the site and its environment.~~
- The relationship of the land to the adjoining land and treatment(s) at the interface with existing ongoing and future land uses, particularly those with potential amenity impacts [DM-TP6]
- The layout of public open space and the type of facilities, to be provided for users of the open space.
  - Any other matter relevant to the site and its environment.
- Subdivision layout and road alignment must consider [DM-TP7]
  - The natural direction of overland flow paths for both stormwater and riverine flooding and the requirements of the Goulburn-Broken Catchment Management Authority.

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- The anticipated stages in which the land to which the plan relates is to be developed taking into account the flood impacts of the development and the requirement for flood mitigation works.
- Stormwater management methods, including the location of any on-site drainage retention facilities in accordance with the IDM [DM-TP8]
- Arrangements for the provision of all physical and community infrastructure and services to ~~the land~~ [DM-TP9].
- Lots that provide overlooking of open spaces to encourage passive surveillance of the public realm.
- Road links to the existing road network, creating more than one way in and out of the Development Plan area.
- Links to existing cycle and pedestrian networks, including the waterside accessway and routes to key activity generators such as the High Street retail area, school, and other community facilities.
- A development plan must include, where required by the responsible authority:
  - An integrated water management plan detailing how stormwater will be collected and treated within the development. The integrated water management plan must be prepared in accordance with the design standards of the Council's Infrastructure Design Manual and consider ongoing maintenance of the stormwater management measures.
  - A Transport Impact Assessment Report that identifies:
    - Appropriate access and circulation of vehicles on the existing and future road network.
    - The capacity of the existing road network to support the subdivision and development of the land
  - An Infrastructure Provision Plan in accordance with the IDM, approved by the responsible authority which makes arrangements for the owner or developer or both, to meet ~~or contribute to the~~ entire cost of infrastructure and utilities, both on and off the land, generally associated with, or relating to the subdivision of the land. The Infrastructure Provision Plan must address, as appropriate:
    - Arrangements for provision of any necessary infrastructure or utilities referenced in the various plans otherwise required by this clause.
    - The provision, staging and timing of stormwater, drainage works and earthworks.
    - The provision of landscaping
    - The layout of areas of public open space and the type of facilities, to be provided for the users of the open space. [DM-TP10]

Before approving the development plan, the responsible authority must consider the following and may include conditions (where appropriate):

- Any design considerations to mitigate flood risks for the potential development.
- The need for any agreement to be made pursuant to the provisions of Section 173 of the Planning and Environment Act 1987 with respect to matters arising from the proposed use and development, including infrastructure provisions requirements and the use of such agreements to reduce potential land use conflict at the residential and agricultural interface, and community infrastructure needs. [DM-TP11]
- The environmental, ecological, landscape values and features of the site.
- Any requirements and/or views of the Strathbogie Shire Council and referral authorities to properly service the proposed use and development of the land.

STRATHBOGIE PLANNING SCHEME

Decision guidelines

The following decision guidelines apply to an application for a permit under Clause 43.02, in addition to those specified in Clause 43.02 and elsewhere in the scheme which must be considered, as appropriate, by the responsible authority:

- ▲ The design and development guidelines set out in the [Nagambie Style] Guidelines. [DM-TP12]



## **ATTACHMENT 3:**

### *Planning and Environment Act 1987*

### **STRATHBOGIE PLANNING SCHEME**

### **AMENDMENT C085STRBXX**

### **INSTRUCTION SHEET**

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

The Strathbogie **Planning** Scheme is amended as follows:

#### **Planning Scheme Maps**

The Planning Scheme Maps are amended by a total of three (3) attached map sheets

#### **Zoning Maps**

1. Amend Planning Scheme Map No. 22 in the manner shown on the attached map marked "Strathbogie Planning Scheme, Amendment C085XX".

#### **Overlay Maps**

2. Amend Planning Scheme Map No. 22DPO in the manner shown on the attached map marked "Strathbogie Planning Scheme, Amendment C085XX".
3. Amend Planning Scheme Map No. 22LSIO-FO in the manner shown on the attached map marked "Strathbogie Planning Scheme, Amendment C085XX".

#### **Planning Scheme Ordinance**

The Planning Scheme Ordinance is amended as follows:

4. In **Overlays** – Clause 453.04 (Development Plan Overlay), insert a new **Schedule 06xx** in the form of the attached document.

### **9.1.3 State Government Planning System Reforms – Advocacy**

Author: Manager Planning and Investment

Responsible Director: Director Community and Planning

#### ***EXECUTIVE SUMMARY***

Council is a Responsible Authority under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*. In this role, Council administers the Strathbogie Planning Scheme and, among other things, determines planning permit applications made for the use and development of the land in the municipality.

Council Officers have recently attended a workshop outlining potential changes to the Victorian Government Planning System. Detailed within this workshop was information on the five focus areas of the reform:

- Update and simplify planning rules and processes
- Partner with Local Government Planning Departments
- Focus on major projects and attracting investment
- Planning for priority projects and growth areas
- Prioritising infrastructure delivery.

Following this workshop there has been very limited information on the detail of these system reforms or any information on the timing of any community consultation. Therefore, the impact on local government (if any) as a planning authority and the broader community as a result of these reforms is unknown.

The purpose of this report is to join with other Local Government Authorities by advocating to the Minister for Planning regarding the urgent need for consultation with local government and the broader community before the implementation of any changes to current planning processes.

#### ***RECOMMENDATION***

***That Council note the letter written to the Minister for Planning seeking further information on the proposed planning system reforms as soon as possible and to ensure that there is an opportunity for meaningful consultation with Council and the community prior to the implementation of any reforms.***

#### ***PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND***

Council is a Responsible Authority under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*. In this role, Council administers the Strathbogie Planning Scheme and, among other things, determines planning permit applications made for the use and development of the land in the municipality.

The State Government under the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) is the department currently responsible for the state's land-use planning system, managing the regulatory framework and providing advice on planning policy, strategic planning and urban design.

### 9.1.3 State Government Planning System Reforms – Advocacy (cont.)

DELWP have advised that there are proposed changes to the Planning System currently being considered, however little detail has been provided on the specifics of this system reform. In addition, there has been no information provided regarding Local Governments involvement as a result of the reforms or any consultation proposed to be undertaken by DELWP.

#### ***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.

Further information is required to understand what the proposed changes to the Planning System are.

Our community and Council are extremely passionate about achieving great planning outcomes and managing change in a way that will not detract from the unique character of our many townships. Therefore, any proposed changes to the Planning System must include broad consultation not only with local governments as the responsible planning authority, but also with the wider 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.

This report notes Council's advocacy to the Minister for Planning to ensure that local government as the planning authority and the community are consulted before any changes to the Planning System are implemented by the State Government.

#### ***POLICY CONSIDERATIONS***

##### **Council Plans and Policies**

*This report aligns to the Strathbogie Council Plan:*

- Goal 4:
  - Provide innovative and sustainable land use planning.

##### **Regional, State and National Plans and Policies**

This report seeks to note the letter sent to the Minister for Planning calling for the need for broad consultation on any changes to the planning system.

#### ***LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS***

This report has no relevant legal considerations.

##### **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.

### 9.1.3 State Government Planning System Reforms – Advocacy (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 report is being presented to a Council Meeting to provide maximum transparency to our community.

#### ***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.

There are no financial implications associated with this report, however the introduction of the planning system reforms may impose financial implications on Council. To date, this information is unknown.

#### ***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**

Changes to the Planning System may have economic implications for the Council, whether it be a future increase or decrease in planning permit applications. It is important to understand what the proposed changes are so that any future economic impacts can be taken into consideration.

#### **Social**

Change as the result of planning permit applications can have a social impact on local communities. The public notice provisions of the Victorian Planning Provisions allow for public participation in the planning system and help to achieve good social outcomes. It is important that the community is consulted on any potential changes to these provisions.

#### **Environmental**

Planning permit applications are assessed against the relevant provisions of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and subject to proposed conditions where any potential environmental impacts will be managed. It is important that the community is consulted on any potential changes to the Planning System that may impact on the environmental values of the community.

#### **Climate change**

The Strathbogie Planning Scheme has incorporated broader considerations on Climate Change. Of relevance is Clause 13 within the Strathbogie Planning Scheme which considers a broad range of considerations for Environmental Risks and Amenity. It is important that the community is consulted on any changes to the Victorian Planning Provisions that may limit local decision making in this context.

### 9.1.3 State Government Planning System Reforms – Advocacy (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.

Council has received correspondence from Yarra Ranges Council, relating to concerns around the lack of consultation regarding the Planning System reforms. Council officers concur with Yarra Ranges Councils position and an advocacy letter has been sent to the Minister for Planning. A copy of the letter is attached to this report.

#### **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.

#### **CONCLUSION**

The purpose of this report is to note that Strathbogie Shire supports other Local Government Authorities by advocating to the Minister for Planning regarding the urgent need for consultation with the local government sector and the broader community before the implementation of any changes to current planning processes are enacted.

#### **ATTACHMENTS**

**Attachment 1:** Letter Minister for Planning

**ATTACHMENT 1:**



4 October 2021

The Hon. Richard Wynne MP  
Minister for Planning  
8 Nicholson Street  
EAST MELBOURNE VIC 3000

Via email: [Richard.Wynne@parliament.vic.gov.au](mailto:Richard.Wynne@parliament.vic.gov.au)

Dear Minister Wynne

**Planning System Reforms**

We write to you in relation to the State Government's proposed Planning System Reforms. Strathbogie Shire Council has recently been contacted by Yarra Ranges Council calling for advocacy support regarding the lack of consultation on proposed system reforms. We share Yarra Ranges Councils concerns about the lack of consultation with Councils and the community.

We are a small rural council with a population of just over 11,000 residents. During the past four years our municipality has, and continues to see, a significant increase in the number and diversity of planning permit applications. This diversity in applications is resulting in the landscape of our community changing.

Our community and Council are extremely passionate about achieving great planning outcomes and managing change in a way that will not detract from the unique character of our many townships. Therefore, any proposed changes to the planning system must include broad consultation not only with local governments as the responsible planning authority, but also with the wider community.

We urge the State Government to provide further information to local government on the proposed planning system reforms as soon as possible and to ensure there is opportunity for meaningful consultation with Council and the community prior to any reforms being implemented.

We look forward to working with the State Government to achieve a clearer, fairer and more timely Planning System for all involved in the planning process.

Yours faithfully

Chris Raeburn  
Mayor  
Strathbogie Shire Council

**1800 065 993**

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PO Box 177, Euroa VIC 3666  
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#### **9.1.4 Planning Applications Received and Planning Applications Determined - 1 to 30 September 2021**

Author: Director Community and Planning

Responsible Director: Director Community and Planning

##### ***EXECUTIVE SUMMARY***

This report provides listings of all Planning Applications Received (Attachment 1) and Planning Applications Determined (Attachment 2) for the period 1 to 30 September 2021 are provided for information.

It is noted that there were 31 planning applications received during the reporting period. The 31 applications comprised of 21 new planning permit applications, 6 requests for an extension of time, 2 requests for endorsement of plans to form part of the planning permit, 1 request for an amended planning permit and 1 request for a correction of planning permit conditions.

During the reporting period there were 16 planning permits and 1 Notice of Decision to Grant a planning permit issued. No planning applications lapsed or were withdrawn during this period.

##### ***RECOMMENDATION***

***That Council:***

- 1. Note that there were 31 new planning applications received, and 17 planning permit applications decided on during the period 1<sup>st</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021.***
- 2. Note the report.***

##### ***PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND***

To report to Council on the current planning application activity and matters considered under delegation.

##### ***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 a Responsible Authority under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* (the Act). In this role, Council administers the Strathbogie Planning Scheme (Planning Scheme) and, among other things, determines planning permit applications made for the use and development of the land in the municipality. Under delegated authority of Council, Council officers determine some matters.

Many types of use and development do not require a planning permit and may take place without being recorded as part of the planning approvals data. The statistics presented do not represent all development activity in the municipality. In addition, some planning permits are not acted on, or there may be a delay between when the approval is granted and when works take place.

9.1.4 Planning Applications Received and Planning Applications Determined  
- 1 to 30 September 2021 (cont.)

**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.

Individual applications consider these requirements through assessment phase of each application as per the Planning and Environment Act 1987 and the provisions of the Strathbogie Planning Scheme.

**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 continues to demonstrate that Council is being transparent in its position in relation to all applications received and determined by the Council.

**CONCLUSION**

This report is provided for Council to note the current planning application activity.

**ATTACHMENTS**

**Attachment 1:** Planning Applications Received

**Attachment 2:** Planning Applications Determined



**ATTACHMENT 1:**

**Wednesday, 1 September 2021**

Site Address	Application Number Display	Application Description	Cost Of Works
1172 Creightons Creek Road, Creightons Creek VIC 3666	P2021-160	Boundary Realignment (re-alignment of a common boundary to ensure all buildings are contained within the one allotment)	\$0.00

**Thursday, 2 September 2021**

Site Address	Application Number Display	Application Description	Cost Of Works
280-282 High Street, Nagambie VIC 3608	P2021-165	Six (6) lot subdivision – former telephone exchange site	\$0.00
41 Primrose Street, Violet Town VIC 3669	P2021-166	Two (2) lot subdivision to provide a separate title for each dwelling	\$0.00

**Friday, 3 September 2021**

Site Address	Application Number Display	Application Description	Cost Of Works
552 Riggs Creek Road, Riggs Creek VIC 3666	P2019-094 EOT 1	Use and development of land for a dwelling and shed -seeking extension of time	\$0.00

**Monday, 6 September 2021**

Site Address	Application Number Display	Application Description	Cost Of Works
149 James Track, Boho VIC 3669	P2015-161 EOT 3	Two (2) lot re-subdivision and development of a replacement dwelling – seeking extension of time	\$0.00
20 Woodlea Court, Kirwans Bridge VIC 3608	P2021-161	Use and development of land for a dwelling and garage	\$450,000.00

## Tuesday, 7 September 2021

Site Address	Application Number Display	Application Description	Cost Of Works
10 Hobart Street, Ruffy VIC 3666	P2019-031 EOT 1	Use and development of land for a dwelling -seeking extension of time	\$0.00
140 Euroa-Shepparton Road, Euroa VIC 3666	P2015-084-EOT2	Use and Development of land for a single dwelling – seeking extension of time	\$0.00
454 Longwood-Gobur Road, Creightons Creek VIC 3666	P2021-159	Development of land for an extension to a dwelling	\$30,000.00
54 Blayney Lane, Nagambie VIC 3608	P2021-162	Use and development of land for two tourist accommodation buildings	\$98,000.00
69 Vickers Road, Nagambie VIC 3608	P2018-049 SC C1	Use and development of land for a dwelling and shed – seeking endorsement of plans to form part of the permit	\$0.00
Burkes Road, Moorilim VIC 3610	P2021-167	Use and development of land for a dwelling	\$0.00

## Wednesday, 8 September 2021

Site Address	Application Number Display	Application Description	Cost Of Works
40 Babbler Lane, Tabilk VIC 3607	P2021-163	Use and development of land for a dwelling	\$450,000.00

## Friday, 10 September 2021

Site Address	Application Number Display	Application Description	Cost Of Works
101 Summer Road, Arcadia South VIC 3631	P2021-164	Two (2) lot subdivision	\$0.00

## Monday, 13 September 2021

Site Address	Application Number Display	Application Description	Cost Of Works
1890 Euroa-Strathbogie Road, Kithbrook VIC 3666	P2021-170	Use and development of land for a gin distillery, cellar door sales and restaurant, liquor licence, managers dwelling and shed, six accommodation units, business identification signage and associated buildings and works.	\$900,000.00

### Wednesday, 15 September 2021

Site Address	Application Number Display	Application Description	Cost Of Works
1425 Euroa-Mansfield Road, Gooram VIC 3666	P2021-168	Development of land for a dwelling	\$217,000.00
541 Euroa-Mansfield Road, Euroa VIC 3666	P2021-169	Development of land for a replacement agricultural machinery shed	\$39,000.00

### Friday, 17 September 2021

Site Address	Application Number Display	Application Description	Cost Of Works
Faithfuls Creek Road, Euroa VIC 3666	P2021-172	Use and Development for a Dwelling and Shed; Creation of an Access from a Road Zone Category 1	\$480,000.00

### Monday, 20 September 2021

Site Address	Application Number Display	Application Description	Cost Of Works
1487 Arcadia Two Chain Road, Miepoll VIC 3666	P2021-174	Development of land for a shed	\$19,440.00
352 Nagambie-Locksley Road, Tabilk VIC 3607	P2006-033-1	Use & Development of Land for Animal Keeping & Training Facility (Greyhounds) requested amendment to not limit the breed of dog.	\$0.00
45 Wattlevale Road, Bailieston VIC 3608	P2021-173	Private Jetty (Recreational Boat Facility)	\$30,000.00

### Tuesday, 21 September 2021

Site Address	Application Number Display	Application Description	Cost Of Works
105 Vickers Road, Nagambie VIC 3608	P2019-029 EOT	Use and development of land for a dwelling and shed – seeking an extension of time	\$0.00

### Wednesday, 22 September 2021

Site Address	Application Number Display	Application Description	Cost Of Works
18 Gillespie Street, Tabilk VIC 3607	P2021-171	Construction of a Shed	\$38,000.00
42 McLeod Street, Kirwans Bridge VIC 3608	P2021-178	Development of a Replacement Dwelling	\$350,000.00

### Thursday, 23 September 2021

Site Address	Application Number Display	Application Description	Cost Of Works
102 Fernhills Road, Sheans Creek VIC 3666	P2021-176	Development of land for an agricultural shed	\$35,000.00

### Monday, 27 September 2021

Site Address	Application Number Display	Application Description	Cost Of Works
339 Kippings Road, Strathbogie VIC 3666	P2021-177	Construction of an Agricultural Shed	\$30,000.00

### Tuesday, 28 September 2021

Site Address	Application Number Display	Application Description	Cost Of Works
2 Tarcombe Street, Euroa VIC 3666	P2021-180	Constriction of an Outdoor Entertainment Area	\$18,000.00

Thursday, 30 September 2021

Site Address	Application Number Display	Application Description	Cost Of Works
1653 Creightons Creek Road, Creightons Creek VIC 3666	P2021-179	Construction of a Shed	\$127,180.00
204 Goulburn Weir-Murchison Road, Goulburn Weir VIC 3608	P2018-148 PC1	Use and development of land for caravan and camping park (4 glamping huts and 6 tents) – seeking approval of plans to form part of the planning permit	\$0.00
298 Mitchellstown Road, Tabilk VIC 3607	P2021-140-1	Native Vegetation Removal – seeking correction of conditions to match biodiversity report offset requirements	\$0.00
91 Vickers Road, Nagambie VIC 3608	P2017-126 EOT	Use and development of land for a dwelling and a shed – seeking an extension of time	\$0.00

**ATTACHMENT 2:**

3/09/2021 12:00:00 AM

Site Address	Application Number Display	Application Description	Cost Of Works	Decision
132 McDiarmids Road, Violet Town VIC 3669	P2021-058	Use of Land for Timber Yard and Solid Timber Joinery (Retail and Wholesale); Signage; Reduction in Car Parking	\$0.00	Issued
18 Armstrong Avenue, Strathbogie VIC 3666	P2021-073	Construction of a Dwelling and Shed and Associated Works	\$450,000.00	Issued
Kellys Lane, Violet Town VIC 3669	P2021-110	Creation of a carriageway easement (vehicle access over land)	\$0.00	Issued

9/09/2021 12:00:00 AM

Site Address	Application Number Display	Application Description	Cost Of Works	Decision
1513 Euroa-Mansfield Road, Gooram VIC 3666	P2021-128	Native Vegetation Removal -11 small trees (red box, long leaf box, red stringybark), minimum extent necessary to allow for private power supply.	\$10,000.00	Issued
16 Hobart Street, Ruffy VIC 3666	P2021-020	Use and development of land for a dwelling, and outbuildings (garage, two garden shed, woodshed, hothouse and studio/workshop)	\$70,000.00	Issued

10/09/2021 12:00:00 AM

Site Address	Application Number Display	Application Description	Cost Of Works	Decision
115 High Street, Nagambie VIC 3608	P2021-085	Three Lot Subdivision	\$0.00	Issued
2026 Creightons Creek Road, Creightons Creek VIC 3666	P2021-104	Development of land for a dwelling, associated shed and swimming pool	\$791,000.00	Issued
298 Mitchellstown Road, Tabilk VIC 3607	P2021-140	Native Vegetation Removal – removal of 3 large trees (2 grey box and one stag) minimum extent necessary to facilitate internal road network.	\$0.00	Issued
35-37 Filson Street, Nagambie VIC 3608	P2021-138	Addition to a Dwelling	\$60,000.00	Issued
Galls Gap Road, Strathbogie VIC 3666	P2021-067	Construction of a Dwelling and Car Port and Associated Works	\$200,000.00	Issued

13/09/2021 12:00:00 AM

Site Address	Application Number Display	Application Description	Cost Of Works	Decision
1172 Creightons Creek Road, Creightons Creek VIC 3666	P2021-160	Boundary Realignment (to contain all buildings within the one allotment).	\$0.00	Issued

21/09/2021 12:00:00 AM

Site Address	Application Number Display	Application Description	Cost Of Works	Decision
24 Babbler Lane, Tabilk VIC 3607	P2021-072	Use and development of land for a dwelling and associated outbuildings	\$250,000.00	NOD

22/09/2021 12:00:00 AM

Site Address	Application Number Display	Application Description	Cost Of Works	Decision
41 Primrose Street, Violet Town VIC 3669	P2021-031	Two (2) Lot Subdivision	\$0.00	Issued
4316 Heathcote-Nagambie Road, Bailieston VIC 3608	P2021-007	Use and Development for Two Staff Accommodation Buildings	\$500,000.00	Issued
5/263 High Street, Nagambie VIC 3608	P2021-114	Use of land for Indoor Recreation Facility (Pilates) associated with a retail premises	\$0.00	Issued
Barrymore Court, Miepoll VIC 3666	P2021-088	Use and Development of land for a dwelling	\$250,000.00	Issued

30/09/2021 12:00:00 AM

Site Address	Application Number Display	Application Description	Cost Of Works	Decision
1350 Geodetic Road, Molka VIC 3666	P2021-132	Boundary Realignment	\$0.00	Issued

## **9.2 COMMUNITY**

### **9.2.1 Domestic Animal Management Plan**

Author: Team Leader Compliance

Responsible Director: Director Corporate Services

#### ***EXECUTIVE SUMMARY***

The *Domestic Animals Act 1994* (the Act) requires Council to prepare a Domestic Animal Management Plan every four years.

The plan must set out a method for evaluating whether the animal management services provided by council are adequate to give effect to requirements of the Act and the Domestic Animal Regulations 2015. The plan must also outline programs for the training of authorised officers along with programs, services, and strategies to address the key issues in relation to responsible pet ownership within the municipality.

The development of a draft Strathbogie Shire Domestic Animal Management Plan has been completed after considering the results of a public survey to establish the priorities and feedback of the community in relation to domestic animals within the municipal district. Public engagement provided Council with a variety of options to consider, but also provided Council with feedback from personal experiences with domestic animals in the community, or engagement with Authorised Officers attending to domestic animal issues in the community.

Council has considered all options put forward by community members and developed a draft plan that will meet the needs of the community that it serves and will publish an evaluation of the implementation of the plan in the Council annual report.

To further assist and inform the development of the 2021-2025 Strathbogie Shire Domestic Animal Management Plan, Council will put the draft plan on public exhibition for a final period of 14 days to seek further comment and feedback from the community prior to adopting the plan, noting that significant feedback has already been received.

#### ***RECOMMENDATION***

##### ***That Council:***

- 1. Endorse the public exhibition of the draft plan (stage 3) to seek final input and feedback to further inform the development of the draft 2021-2025 Strathbogie Shire Domestic Animal Management Plan in accordance with section 68A of the Domestic Animals Act 1994; and***
- 2. Receive a further report detailing the outcomes of the public exhibition of the draft 2021-2025 Strathbogie Shire Domestic Animal Management Plan at a future Council meeting.***



### 9.2.1 Domestic Animal Management Plan (cont.)

#### **PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND**

Under Section 68A of the *Domestic Animals Act 1994* (the Act), every Council in Victoria is required to produce a Domestic Animal Management Plan (DAMP) which will be renewed every four years. The current DAMP was adopted by Council in 2017. This report seeks Council's endorsement to commence stage three (3) of the four (4) stage engagement approach as detailed in the Consultation and Engagement Plan, included in the report to Council on Tuesday 20 July 2021. A further report will be presented to Council once the review of the DAMP is completed.

#### **ISSUES, OPTIONS AND DISCUSSION**

The results of stage two (2) of council's engagement approach clearly identified prominent issues within the community in relation to the responsible ownership of domestic animals.

Domestic animals (dogs and cats) wandering at large was clearly identified as the biggest risk to the community of the Strathbogie Shire. The draft plan has considered these findings and proposed methods to address these issues within the community.

#### *Common key issues identified through engagement*

- Dogs wandering streets and involved in aggressive incidents
- Cats wandering away from owners' property
- More off lead dog areas within the municipality

#### *Addressing these concerns*

The draft plan addresses these issues as follows:

- More regular proactive patrols, and community events promoting responsible ownership of dogs
- Publicly promoting the outcomes of dog attack prosecutions to discourage this type of behaviour
- Promoting the benefits of preventing your cat from wandering, and gauge community feedback on a possible cat curfew for the municipality
- Explore the possibility of an off-leash dog park in the Nagambie area and if viable, establish a park during the life of this plan.

#### *Proposed Process:*

The development of the draft Strathbogie Shire Domestic Animal Management Plan has been completed after considering the results of a public survey to establish the priorities and feedback from the community in relation to domestic animals within the municipal district. Public consultation provided Council with a variety of options to consider, but also provided Council with some negative feedback from personal experiences with domestic animals in the community, or engagement with Authorised Officers attending to domestic animal issues in the community.

Council has considered all options put forward by community members and developed a plan that will meet the needs of the community that it serves.

9.2.1 Domestic Animal Management Plan (cont.)

**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.

We have previously adopted an engagement plan and associated communications campaign that would ensure our residents were clear on how to have their say and feel confident in providing their feedback.

This plan takes a four-stage approach to community engagement to which stages one (1) and two (2) have now been completed. This means we have developed a draft plan with the community and are now seeking public comment on the draft plan by way of further public consultation.

The stages, goals, and tools we are using are summarised in the table below:

Stage	Goal	Tools and methods
One	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To education our community about the DAMP.</li> <li>To inform our community a new DAMP is being prepared.</li> <li>To ensure the community understands how to participate.</li> <li>To provide communications that encourage people to participate.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Media release</li> <li>Fact sheets</li> <li>Website copy</li> <li>Advertising</li> <li>Social Media</li> <li>Posters</li> </ul>
Two	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To educate our community about the role of a DAMP.</li> <li>To provide our community with the opportunity to provide input into the development of the Draft DAMP.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Media release</li> <li>Website copy</li> <li>Advertising</li> <li>Social Media</li> <li>Fact sheets</li> <li>Share Strathbogie online engagement</li> <li>Letters to key stakeholders seeking feedback</li> </ul>
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Four	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To provide the community with an updated DAMP.</li> <li>To provide the community with information on how their feedback was used to develop the DAMP.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Website content</li> <li>Social Media</li> <li>Media release</li> <li>Advertising</li> <li>My Strathbogie Bulletin</li> <li>Letters / emails to stakeholders</li> <li>Share Strathbogie online engagement</li> </ul>

### 9.2.1 Domestic Animal Management Plan (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.

Section 68A of the *Domestic Animals Act 1994* states that each Council **must**, in consultation with the Secretary, prepare a domestic animal management plan on 4 December 2021 and at the end of each period of four years after that day.

Every Council **must** (a) review its domestic animal management plan annually and, if appropriate, amend the plan; and (b) provide the Secretary with a copy of the plan and any amendments to the plan; and (c) publish an evaluation of its implementation of the plan in its annual report

#### **Conflict of Interest Declaration**

All officers, and/or contractors, involved in the preparation of this report will sign 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 will be considered in a Council meeting open to the public as the primary target audience is the Strathbogie Shire community, pet related businesses and the many community groups within our region.

#### **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.

An overview of economic, social, and environmental issues and initiatives has been considered after the public consultation took place, and during the drafting phase of the four-year plan.

#### **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.

Our draft Domestic Animal Management Plan outlines the key issues, objectives, and priorities for how cats and dogs will be managed in our Shire. The plan covers issues such as:

- The importance of pets to Shire residents
- Concerns about animal-related matters (nuisance animals, dog attacks, dangerous dogs and restricted breeds)
- Ideas and resources to help locals manage and care for their pets
- Dogs in parks and reserves

### 9.2.1 Domestic Animal Management Plan (cont.)

- How well information provided by Council about pets and animal management addresses the needs of residents

#### **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.

This is a plan that is relevant to the needs of the Strathbogie Shire community only, and collaboration with other councils or statutory bodies is not required to formulate this plan.

#### **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.

Any human rights issues will be considered once the draft Domestic Animal Management Plan has been further developed for council to consider adopting.

#### **CONCLUSION**

In accordance with the adopted Community Engagement Plan for the development of the Domestic Animal Management Plan that Council seek further public consultation to finalise the development of the draft Domestic Animal Management Plan that will benefit the residents and business operators within our municipality. It is recommended that council endorsed draft Domestic Animal Management Plan for final public exhibition to seek such comments and feedback from the community.

#### **ATTACHMENTS**

**Attachment 1:** Community and Engagement Report

**Attachment 2:** Share Strathbogie Feedback Report

**ATTACHMENT 1:**

## Engagement Report



# Domestic Animal Management Plan

### Background

Under Section 68A of the Domestic Animals Act 1994 (the Act), every Council in Victoria is required to produce a Domestic Animal Management Plan (plan) which will be renewed every four years. The plan covers issues such as:

- The importance of pets to Shire residents
- Concerns about animal-related matters (nuisance animals, dog attacks, dangerous dogs and restricted breeds)
- Ideas and resources to help locals manage and care for their pets
- Dogs in parks and reserves, and
- How well information provided by Council about pets and animal management addresses the needs of residents.

### The Engagement Approach

Our planned engagement program and associated communications campaign will ensure our residents are clear on how to have their say and feel confident in providing their feedback.

Our plan takes a four-stage approach to community engagement – which will ensure community input into the development of the draft plan. This means we're developing a draft plan with the community, not simply releasing a draft plan for consultation.

*The stages, goals and tools to be used are summarised in the table below. Stage one and two are complete:*

Stage	Goal	Tools and methods
One	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To education our community about the DAMP.</li> <li>• To inform our community a new DAMP is being prepared.</li> <li>• To ensure the community understands how to participate.</li> <li>• To provide communications that encourage people to participate.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Media release</li> <li>• Fact sheets</li> <li>• Website copy</li> <li>• Advertising</li> <li>• Social Media</li> <li>• Posters</li> </ul>
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Three	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To show the community how their input, provided during stage two, helped inform the Draft DAMP.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Media release</li> <li>• Website copy</li> </ul>

## Engagement Report



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To provide the community with further opportunity to have their say on the Draft DAMP.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advertising</li> <li>Social Media</li> <li>Share Strathbogie online engagement</li> <li>Letters to key stakeholders seeking feedback</li> </ul>
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### Depth of engagement

**Depth:** Involve

**Public participation goal:** To work directly with the public throughout the process to ensure that public concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered.

**Promise to the public:** We will work with you to ensure that your concerns and aspirations are directly reflected in the alternatives developed and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.

### Participation and reach

- Sixty-one contributors participated in the DAMP survey on [www.share.strathbogie.vic.gov.au](http://www.share.strathbogie.vic.gov.au)
- There were 218 page views on the project
- A social media reach of 5507 was achieved with an engagement score of 452.

### Recommendations

Council Officers to develop a Draft Domestic Animal Management Plan to be released for community consultation (stage three of the engagement plan). Key themes to be investigated for inclusion in the draft include:

- A focus on responding to nuisance dogs and cat reports
- Education and communication about responsible pet ownership, with a focus on social media
- Greater availability of poo bags and bins
- Investigate off-leash times in Shire parks and walks
- More regular ranger patrols
- Stronger fines for those consistently doing the wrong thing
- Warnings for first time offenders

*For detailed survey data please see following report.*

**ATTACHMENT 2:**



The image shows the cover of a report titled "Domestic Animal Management Plan". At the top, there is a teal banner with a white speech bubble containing the text "SHARE STRATHBOGIE" and the text "Share Strathbogie Survey Results" to its right. Below the banner, the title "Domestic Animal Management Plan" is written in large white font. Underneath the title, the dates "29th July 2021 - 27th August 2021" are listed. The bottom half of the cover features a close-up photograph of a brown and tan dog's face. In the bottom right corner, there is a logo for "The HiVE" with the text "POWERED BY:" above it.

**SHARE STRATHBOGIE** Share Strathbogie Survey Results

# Domestic Animal Management Plan

29th July 2021 - 27th August 2021

POWERED BY: **The HiVE**

## Share Strathbogie

Report Type: Form Results Summary

Date Range: 29-07-2021 - 27-08-2021

Exported: 30-08-2021

Closed

Domestic Animal Management Survey  
Domestic Animal Management Plan

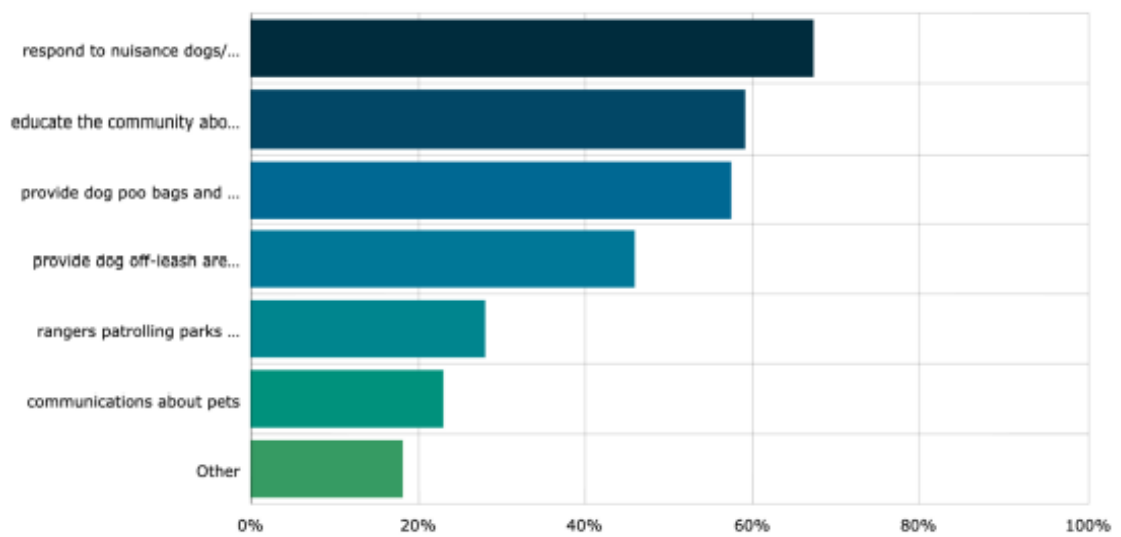
57  
Contributors

61  
Contributions

### Contribution summary

#### 1. What are the important animal management issues that council should focus on? Required

Multi Choice | Skipped: 0 | Answered: 61 (100%)



Answer choices	Percent	Count
respond to nuisance dogs/cats reports	67.21%	41
educate the community about responsible pet ownership	59.02%	36
provide dog poo bags and bins at parks where people walk their dogs	57.38%	35
provide dog off-leash areas	45.90%	28
rangers patrolling parks and public areas	27.87%	17
communications about pets	22.95%	14
Other	18.03%	11



<b>1. What are the important animal management issues that council should focus on?</b>	
<b>Selected answer: Other</b>	
<b>1</b>	Protecting stock and wildlife from domestic animal attacks
<b>2</b>	Restrict cats to their property boundary, I've live many country towns that have cats restricted to their yard. Also I've had cats of my own and restricted them to my property boundary very easily
<b>3</b>	DABs
<b>4</b>	More microchip days or encourage people to bring their dogs and check their details are up to date on their respective registry
<b>5</b>	We have enough laws and regulation re animals and pet so will you please focus on maintaining our roads and footpaths, please.
<b>6</b>	The fact that many people care about the local wildlife and irresponsible pet ownership (mostly cats and dogs) can heavily impact local wildlife populations.
<b>7</b>	24 hour cat curfew
<b>8</b>	Stray dogs
<b>9</b>	Have an actual pound in the shire our rates are high enough without travelling to Shepparton to get your pet back in f they get out.
<b>10</b>	provide water stations ,human and pet around walking tracks and parks refurbish and reinstate local pound
<b>11</b>	Curfew for cats to protect native wildlife

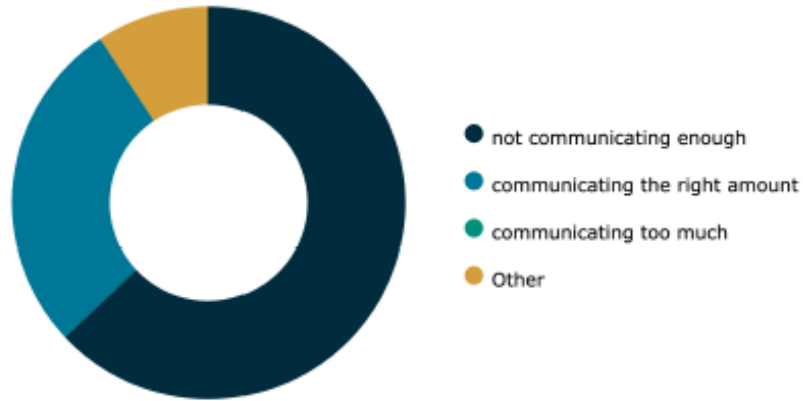
<b>2. Is there an area in which we should focus our actions to encourage responsible pet ownership?</b>	
<i>Long Text   Skipped: 20   Answered: 41 (67.2%)</i>	
<b>1</b>	All domestic pets, including cats, should not be allowed outside without a lead. If they cannot be restrained in the owners yard, then it should be an indoor cat. No exceptions.
<b>2</b>	Dogs roaming the streets !!
<b>3</b>	Providing at least ONE dog park per main township.
<b>4</b>	Avenel- constant complaints online about dogs roaming the streets
<b>5</b>	With the increase of tree changers there in semi rural areas there has been an increase of stock attacks. This goes mainly unreported. Encouraging reporting of stock attacks and putting in place actions to reduce these with the onus of prevention on the domestic animal owner would be a positive move.
<b>6</b>	Understanding that dogs need to be leashed outside the owners property. Walking my on lead dog is a nightmare as she is defensive when other dogs off lease!
<b>7</b>	Responsible pet walking - education around risks of walking dog off lead for all involved I.e. alot of people walk dogs off lead because they are "nice" but what they don't realise is maybe another dog on lead isn't as nice or can react if a dog off lead races towards it Responsible ways of ensuring dogs don't escape/nuisance cats can be etc
<b>8</b>	The shire has a great ranger who responds promptly and is always polite I think for dogs there is excellent facilities However more bins on the apex track would be good Cats however seem to be able to roam It would be good if they too were told / made to be kept in the owners yard I don't have a cat but my neighbours vCard leaves a mess at my place and kills the birds I attract to my garden
<b>9</b>	Some pet owners need to realise that there dog off lead may be friendly but some dogs don't like being rushed at when they are on lead.
<b>10</b>	Responding to calls about animal welfare to be able to provide evidence ASAP to the RSPCA since they're so far away.
<b>11</b>	More local education on general pet care and responsible pet ownership, potentially look at subsidised desexing for lower socioeconomic families if they complete some informal educational course?
<b>12</b>	Prevent cats straying beyond their homes and killing native birds and animals.
<b>13</b>	To stop wandering and aggressive unrestrained doges
<b>14</b>	- Off leash park in Avenel. - Roaming dogs and dogs at large that come onto your property.

<p><b>15</b></p>	<p>The value of desexing pets - offering low income earners subsidises for desexing their pets, reducing the number of animals in pounds/shelters.</p> <p>Socialisation of pets / what this looks like / obedience clubs locally that people can further the education and socialisation of dogs after puppy preschool.</p> <p>Dog/pet friendly towns - Main Street cafes, pet friendly markets. Many travellers travel with pets and can't attend the VT market as they can't take their pet with them or leave them in the car/van.</p> <p>Other markets across Victoria are dog friendly. Shouldn't ban all dog's because of a small few who have behaved badly</p>
<p><b>16</b></p>	<p>The entire Apex walking track. I walk the track every day between the White Street end and the Rockies. Almost every day I see people walking their dogs off lead.</p>
<p><b>17</b></p>	<p>The biggest issue I have as a dog owner is when I am walking my dog on the lead and other dogs off lead run up to me on the walking track. People need to understand the dangers posed by off leash dogs. Given the high percentage of dog ownership in our shire, maybe we could establish a dog obedience club. It would be a good place to learn about dog behaviour and might have a flow on effect in the community.</p>
<p><b>18</b></p>	<p>Presently pet owners are charged for a full year registration when pet is obtained part way through that period (i.e. should be pro rata)</p> <p>Reduce the annual pet registration fee then encourage more people to register with the Shire. (Many other councils charge a lower annual pet registration fee compared to Strathbogie Shire and also pro rata for part year registration.)</p>
<p><b>19</b></p>	<p>Livestock</p>
<p><b>20</b></p>	<p>I would like to see better pet controls in place . . . Our region is a wildlife haven - domestic animals continue to decimate our wildlife populations . . .</p> <p>1) Cats should be kept in well-designed/ well-constructed cages - as is happening in many places already <a href="https://theconversation.com/one-cat-one-year-110-native-animals-lock-up-your-pet-its-a-killing-machine-138412">https://theconversation.com/one-cat-one-year-110-native-animals-lock-up-your-pet-its-a-killing-machine-138412</a></p> <p>2) Dogs are often poorly managed - with many owners losing interest after the initial novelty of "having a dog" wears off. Repeated messaging about the on-going responsibilities of pet ownership must occur.</p> <p>3) Irresponsible pet ownership should result in greater penalties.</p>
<p><b>21</b></p>	<p>People need to be aware that there are fines for walking dogs off leash and for not picking up after their dogs. So many people still continue to walk dogs off leash and not pick up their poop!</p>
<p><b>22</b></p>	<p>Education Support Desexing incentives - cost is far too expensive for the battler and every child deserves the live of a pet 🐾</p>
<p><b>23</b></p>	<p>Yes in Tabilk specifically in regards to striking other peoples animals, cats being loose and horses without shelter or rugs in winter.</p>
<p><b>24</b></p>	<p>Avenel residents allow dogs to roam freely and still think they are good and responsible owners. The respond varies "it's always been like that" or "he Just wants to be friendly". My small dog is always leashed, is extremely protective of me and senses my anxiety. It is nothing to run across 3 different roaming dogs on our daily walks. That impacts on my enjoyment and health. Perhaps education of owners is the answer</p>

<b>25</b>	Encourage more farmers to desex and microchip their dogs.
<b>26</b>	Avenel has become difficult for people to exercise and walk around streets because of unrestrained dogs and barking dogs behind fenced and gates that walking an anxious activity. We know of many instances where people have been threatened by unrestrained dogs and in a few cases bitten requiring doctor's visit.
<b>27</b>	Cats kill at night I'd like to see it mandatory that cats are indoors at night Then I'd like to see cat night patrols and those cats confiscated
<b>28</b>	Do something about the known offenders in town that breed and release unregistered, fertile cats!
<b>29</b>	Council needs to fine owners of cats that are known to have undersexed cats and allowed to wander the neighbourhood. We have neighbour in Nagambie on Ross Street that we have made constant complaints about and have at 30+ cats caught and picked up by the Ranger. He has at least 10 new kittens again.
<b>30</b>	I think council should focus on enforcing the laws associated with pet ownership such as stray dogs and cats that are out after dark. I also think that council should consider prohibiting dogs from all weekend markets not just Violet Town. This is my opinion as I feel it can be dangerous if there are too many dogs in a public place.
<b>31</b>	Cats must be kept locked up, not allow free reign to kill, which they must do by nature ( I like cats, but....). Dogs also ought be kept close, registered and tagged electronically. Owners fined for not looking after them and keeping them at home.
<b>32</b>	Cat curfews.
<b>33</b>	Offer a desexing discount to pensioners we pay enough on rates to fund this program lots of other shires offer this service.
<b>34</b>	Frequently dogs and cats, unaccompanied by owners, are seen wandering the streets. Unsafe for the animal and for people driving and walking in the area. Also, the mess animals leave is left on residents' properties and public areas, not picked up by irresponsible owners. More compliance in securing pets in properties is needed.
<b>35</b>	Education of pet dog owners. Ensuring dogs not used for breeding are neutered by the age of 1yr. Educate children how to respond and greet dogs Provide off leash areas Ensure dogs in all areas other than off leash areas are on a leash and under control.
<b>36</b>	educate people to exercise dogs daily and socially for an hour at least and list suitable reliable town dogs, i.e., NOT hard jaw hunting types, NOT immature working bred dogs unless an active owner is home and can give them hours and kilometres as well as if no one is home don't leave your pet home alone for days, or even extended hours find a pet sitter or take the dog with you. lonely, bored dogs get into trouble and are barkers, anxious and plain miserable often escapees

<b>37</b>	Dog off the leash areas
<b>38</b>	Barking dogs and roaming cats are a constant nuisance, so education of owners is needed. Difficult job I know.
<b>39</b>	I would recommend that the Shire ensure that all domestic cats are confined at all times within the owners property, either by keeping them inside or by having suitable external cat runs. The Shire should also mandate the desexing/chipping and vaccination of all cats and kittens
<b>40</b>	We walk around Honeysuckle Creek and in VT each day and always have our dog on a lead. We have experienced aggressive dogs off leash and owners who don't appear to understand that they are required to have their dogs on a lead and to pick up after their dogs. One of the incidents involved three large dogs coming down from Hurt Street which was reported but we still don't know what action was taken despite following up several times and we still don't walk over there.
<b>41</b>	The Avenel Facebook page is a forum for animals at large in Avenel. The majority of animals are dogs and it appears that there is a lack of responsibility by owners of dogs. With the increase of new residents this issue needs to be attended to.

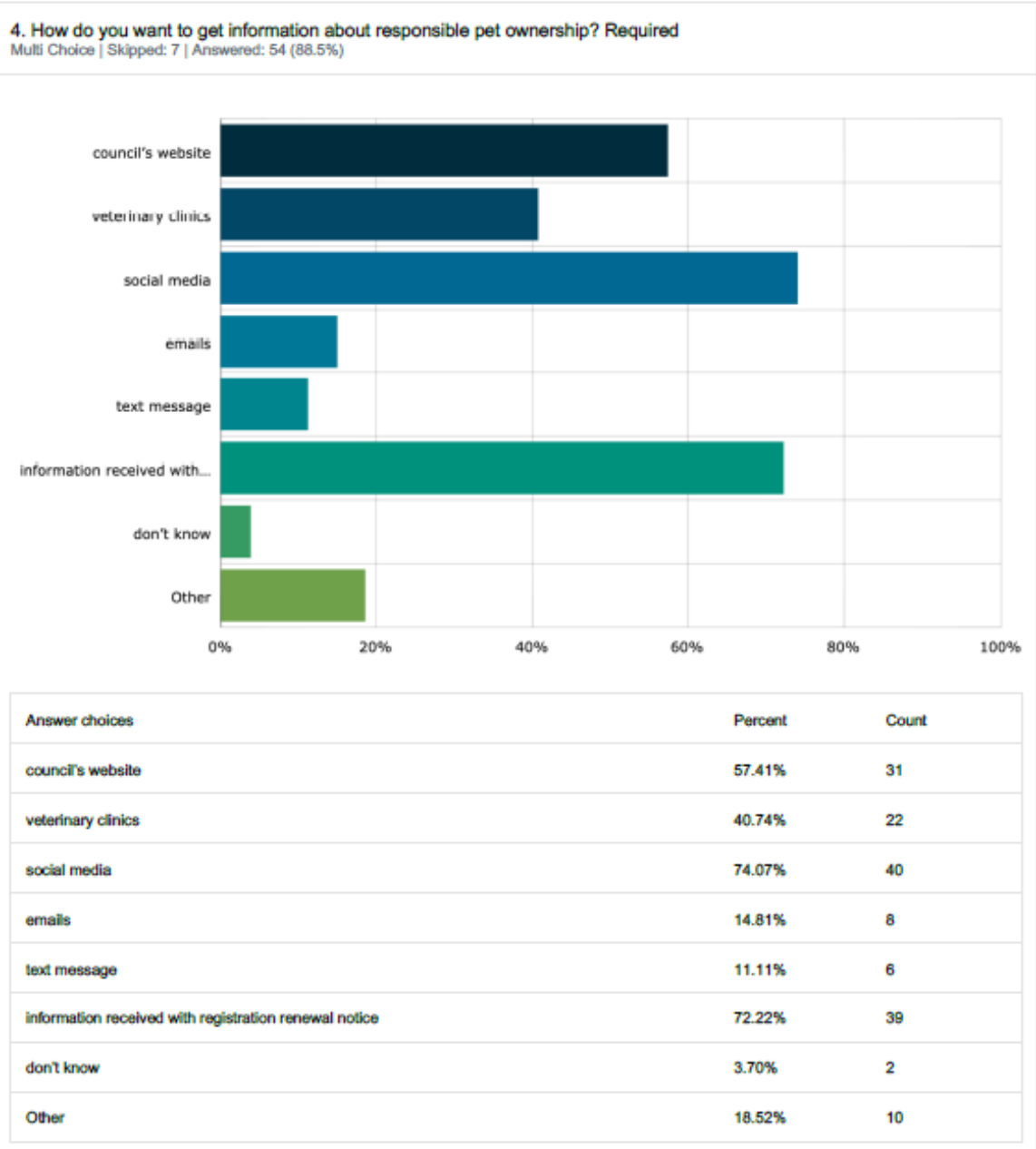
**3. When it comes to communications about responsible pet ownership, council is...** Required  
Multi Choice | Skipped: 7 | Answered: 54 (88.5%)



Answer choices	Percent	Count
not communicating enough	62.96%	34
communicating the right amount	27.78%	15
communicating too much	0%	0
Other	9.26%	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>54</b>

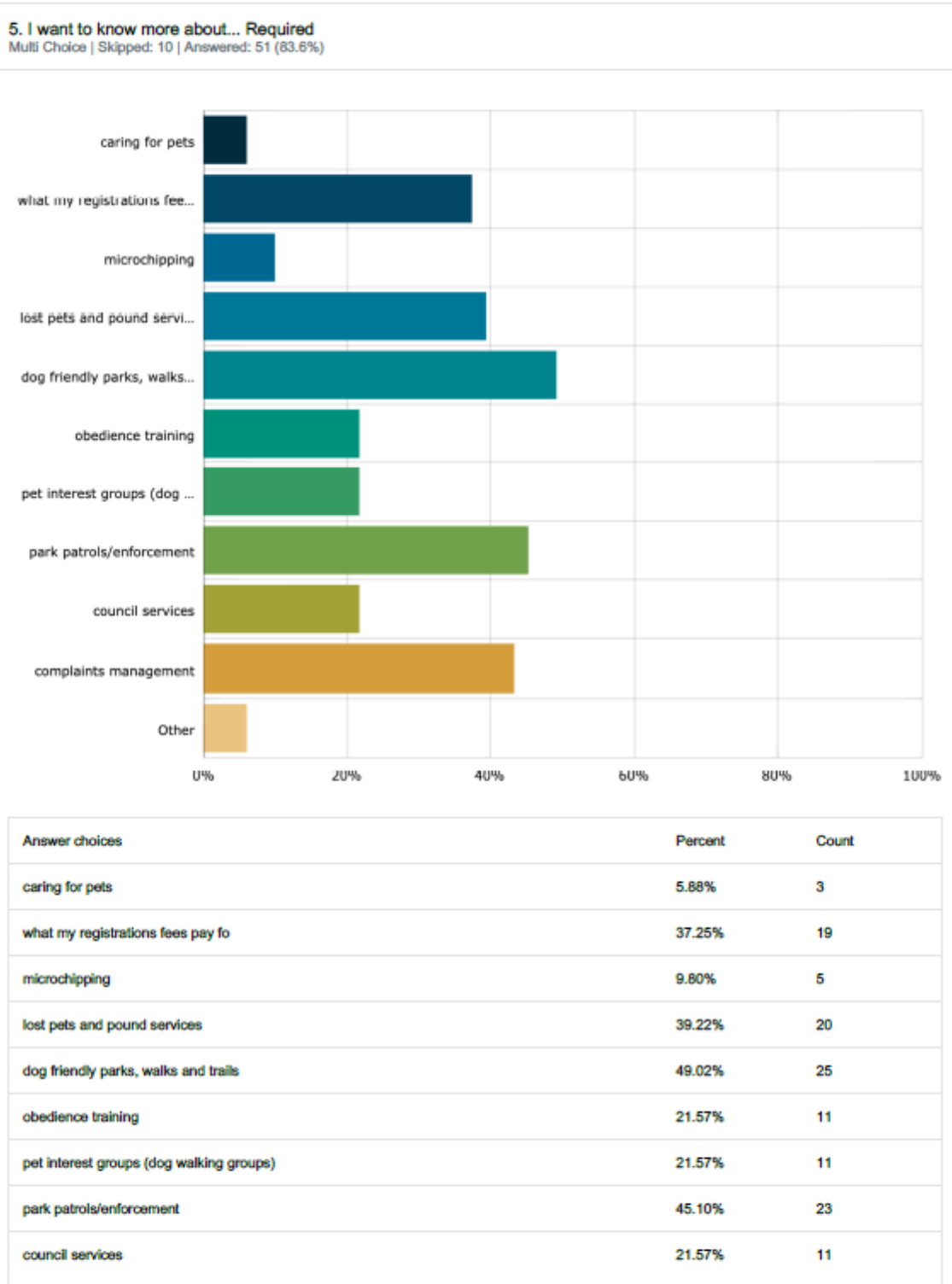
**Selected Answer: Other / I have further feedback**

<b>1</b>	This could be expensive for Council to manage/afford - pet registrations should be higher to cover the costs
<b>2</b>	There's nothing in my area that is a problem with pets, with the exception of a neighbour's Alsatian
<b>3</b>	When my pet got out when I was moving I contacted the ranger for him to close the case after 24 hours with nothing done to notify the public about him. Then I had to go to Shepparton to pick him up as he was not registered as a missing pet.
<b>4</b>	even our local councillor was unaware that the pound had closed TRANSPARENCY ?,PUBLIC INFORMATION?
<b>5</b>	Rangers don't know the rules and if they do, they ignore them



<b>4. How do you want to get information about responsible pet ownership?</b>	
<b>Selected Answer: Other</b>	
<b>1</b>	Local newspaper
<b>2</b>	Agriculture Victoria website
<b>3</b>	Quarterly reminders relevant to the resealable
<b>4</b>	I believe relevant information around the extinction rates of wild species should be given greater airplay.
<b>5</b>	Door knocking and personally seeing the people complaining or sending a newsletter.
<b>6</b>	Local paper.
<b>7</b>	Community Dogs Day Out Events
<b>8</b>	I am a responsible pet owner
<b>9</b>	ALL NEW RESIDENTS TO SHIRE SHOULD RECIEVE A WELCOME PACKAGE , ALL USEFUL INFORMATION ,IE PETS BINS COUNCEL PHONE ,CONTACTS ,POLICE AMBO ,LOCAL MAP ,MADICAL INFO ,HUB ETC PLEASE BE MINDFUL THAT NOT EVERYONE HAS A SMART PHONE AD MORE USE SHOULD BE MADE OF THE NEWSPAPER AND COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD
<b>20</b>	Pop Up stands in towns with a council person present. More patrols by the Ranger/s (maybe more Rangers)

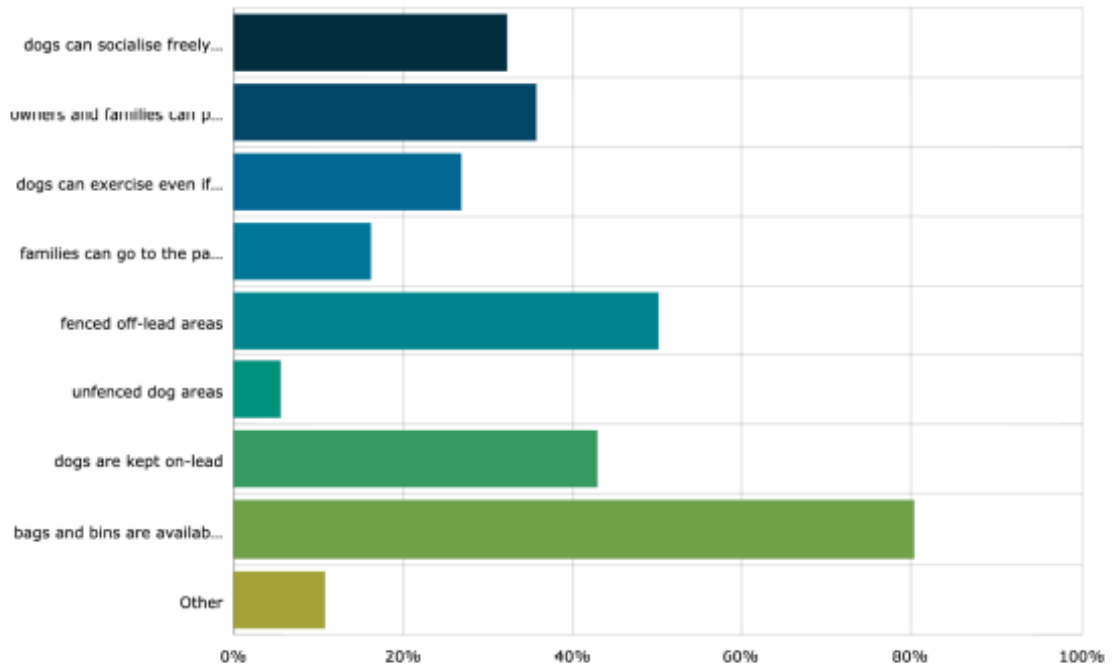




complaints management	43.14%	22
Other	5.88%	3

<b>Selected Answer: Other</b>	
<b>1</b>	How many cats/dogs can a household have? This information does not appear easy to find on website.
<b>2</b>	Please display ranger contact details in prominent spots ie council rates notice ,sale yards ,tip , approach and departure points of town
<b>3</b>	CAT OWNERS RESPONSIBILITY

**6. What aspects are most important to you when you are sharing parks and public spaces with pets? Required**  
Multi Choice | Skipped: 5 | Answered: 56 (91.8%)

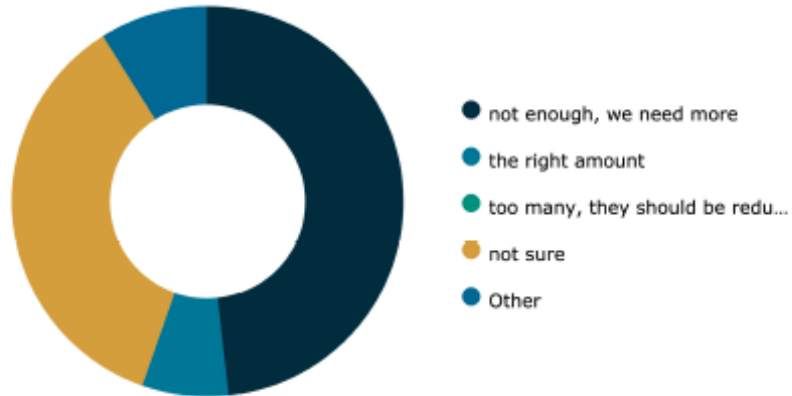


Answer choices	Percent	Count
dogs can socialise freely with other dogs	32.14%	18
owners and families can play freely with their dogs	35.71%	20
dogs can exercise even if their owners cannot	26.79%	15
families can go to the park together and do different things	16.07%	9
fenced off-lead areas	50.00%	28
unfenced dog areas	5.36%	3
dogs are kept on-lead	42.86%	24
bags and bins are available for animal waste	80.36%	45
Other	10.71%	6

<b>6. What aspects are most important to you when you are sharing parks and public spaces with pets?</b>	
<b>Selected Answer: Other</b>	
<b>1</b>	I don't understand the question of "what aspects are the most important". Living in Nagambie I don't have access to any parks or public spaces where my dog can play freely, either with me, other dogs or families.
<b>2</b>	Thank you for the Euroa dog park. It's very gratefully received.
<b>3</b>	Dogs being under control 'full stop'. Just because you're in a 'leash free' area, doesn't mean your dog can run riot. Must be watched at all times & under voice control !!
<b>4</b>	The dog and I use Shadforth Reserve at least six times a week with the only issue being mobs of kangaroos at certain times of the years. There are at least two mobs managed by big male Roos which might deter people using the reserve. Or might encourage a bad element to sool their dogs onto the Roos. That hasn't happened yet to my knowledge.
<b>5</b>	Off leash areas are free from dog droppings. In the event of an outbreak of parvo or similar notice is displayed
<b>6</b>	water

**7. The number of off-lead parks in Strathbogie Shire is... Required**

Multi Choice | Skipped: 5 | Answered: 56 (91.8%)



Answer choices	Percent	Count
not enough, we need more	48.21%	27
the right amount	7.14%	4
too many, they should be reduced	0%	0
not sure	35.71%	20
Other	8.93%	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>56</b>

**Selected Answer: Other / I have an idea**

<b>1</b>	I don't know of any areas
<b>2</b>	1 in Euroa is enough, but there needs to be more in other towns.
<b>3</b>	I don't know where the off lead shire parks are, but I understand the Arboretum is off lead. I haven't yet been to the off lead area behind Euroa Showgrounds but someone told me it is just a grass area. My idea would be to include some challenges for the dogs such as jumps, things to run through, hay bales etc etc.
<b>4</b>	Is there any ? If so where ?
<b>5</b>	a dog needs acres , the showgrounds area may be huge to miniature but to a bigger dog its waay too small

8. Are there any other parks that should be considered for off-lead areas? Required

Multi Choice | Skipped: 14 | Answered: 47 (77%)



Answer choices	Percent	Count
no	55.32%	26
Other	44.68%	21
Total	100.00%	47

**Selected Answer: Other = Yes (please specify)**

1	Other parks than what parks? Question doesn't make sense. 🤔
2	Somewhere in Avenel? Unsure where it could be though
3	Areas that f the apex track
4	The creek reserve in Avenel. Or football ovals ect
5	Stewart Park, Avenel or build one.
6	Balmattum hill reserve, apex walking track
7	Any fenced off area on the proviso that there are no other people or dogs around and the owner has control of dog. and they pick up the dogs excrement.

<b>8</b>	Shadforth reserve
<b>9</b>	If people own dogs that are not under control then they should be on a lead
<b>10</b>	There is none in Nagambie, so ANYWHERE would be good
<b>11</b>	Nagambie needs one
<b>12</b>	Avenel
<b>13</b>	One in other towns
<b>14</b>	All parks that don't have playgrounds in the immediate vicinity.
<b>15</b>	Balmattum hill , arboretum ,waterboard track garden ranges ?
<b>16</b>	Not sure
<b>17</b>	The existing off lead park could be split into multiple areas so that more people could utilise it at the same time. The addition of agility type equipment, obstacles would make the space more fun for two legged and four legged users
<b>18</b>	Nagambie need one
<b>19</b>	Old Tennis court in VT
<b>20</b>	All Strathbogie
<b>21</b>	Nagambie

**9. Would you like set times for off-lead areas in some parks? Required**  
Multi Choice | Skipped: 5 | Answered: 56 (91.8%)

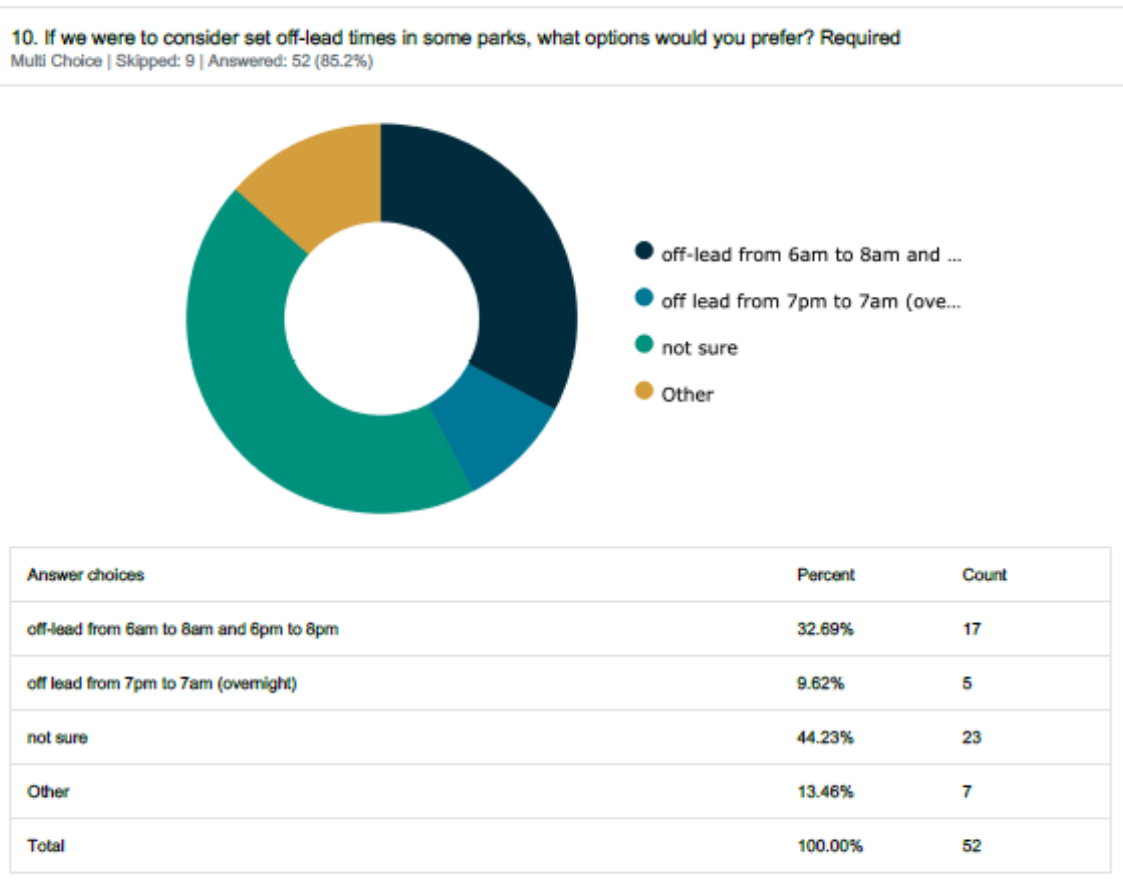


Answer choices	Percent	Count
yes	23.21%	13
no	35.71%	20
no sure	32.14%	18
Other	8.93%	5
Total	100.00%	56

**Selected Answer: Other = Comment**

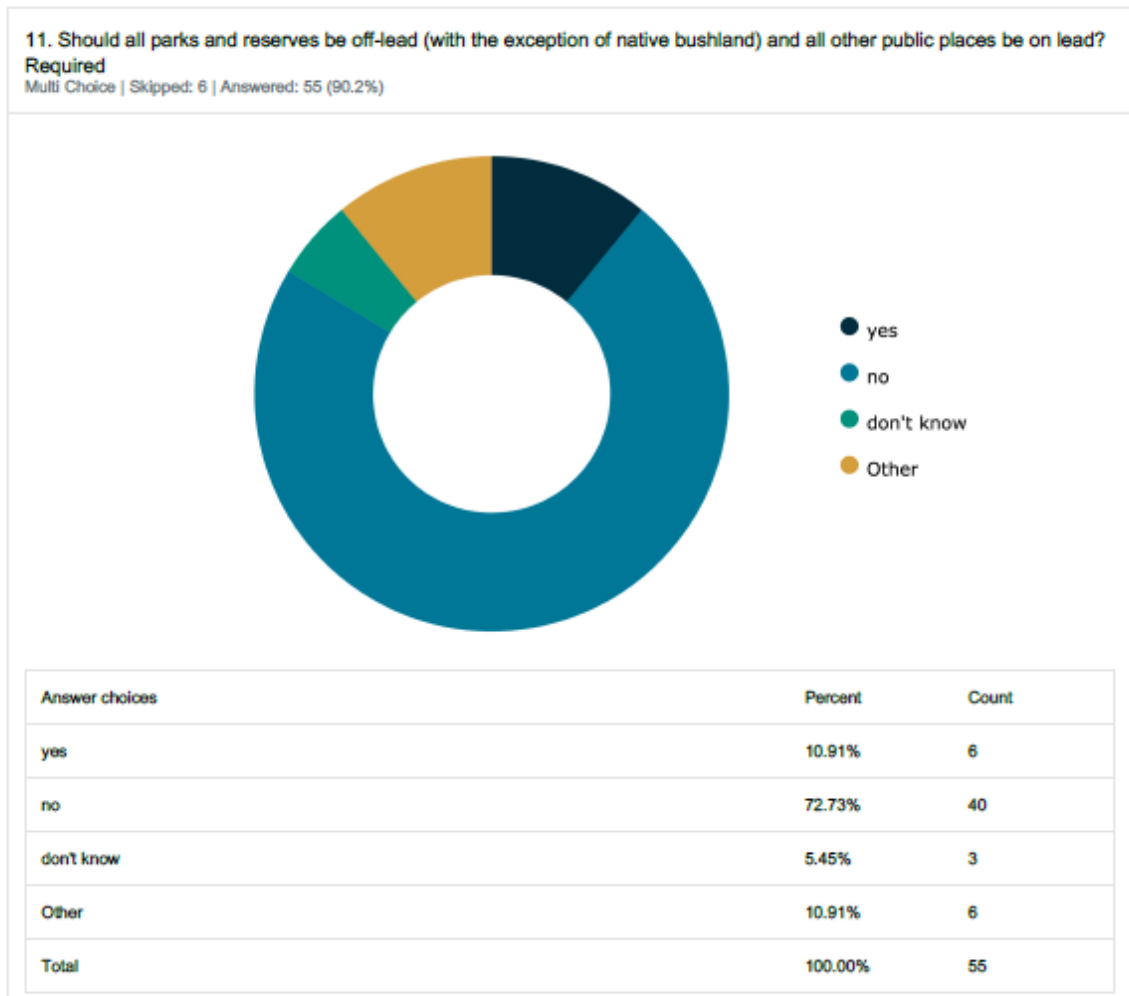
<b>1</b>	Yes, this would allow for shared use of spaces to suit more users
<b>2</b>	I think unless an area is fenced dogs should be on lead at all times
<b>3</b>	alternate to give everyone a fair go ie am /pm week one week two
<b>4</b>	As per above if the space was divided into more areas there could be on lead and off lead areas or areas for small and large dogs so that all patrons could enjoy the space at the same time.
<b>5</b>	Yes if it increases the amount of off leash social opportunities





**Selected Answer: Other (please specify)**

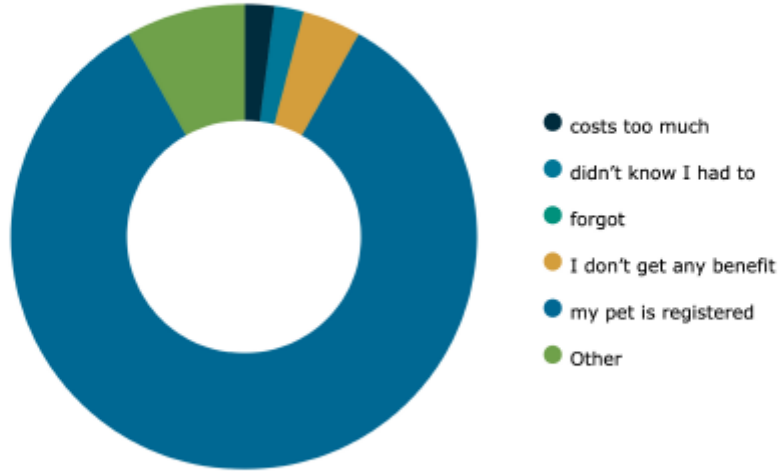
1	It's a horrible idea as so many dogs in our area are untrained, aggressive and unsocialised. If you decided on times, some dog owners would just stay away as there is an overwhelming risk their dog would get attacked or injured by another dog, who now suddenly is "allowed" to be off leash.
2	Off lead 6am to 8am and then off lead 4pm to 7pm when it's not daylight savings.
3	Most of our parks are also home to a range of native birds and mammals - their survival must come before that of domestic pets.
4	5am- 10pm
5	This requires persons to comply with regulations. I doubt compliance would occur (current covid restrictions demonstrate this completely)
6	alternate to give everyone a chance
7	In a small Town the shady walking areas are limited and the times people tend to use them are based around their work and family schedule, so just have fenced off-leash areas please.



**Selected Answer: Other (please specify)**

1	No I don't think they should be because not all people can walk their dogs off lead for behavioural and safety reasons, this would limit those people
2	Possibly, but would need more information/details to make a decision
3	I think children/ aggressive people should be on leads or under control in public areas first. Secondly dogs under voice control or shown to be under control should be exempt from this ruling
4	How could you possibly police that as the dogs would roam outside the areas.
5	Native bushland should be too. Most dogs are hopeless hunters. It's the cats you've gotta worry about.
6	definitely on lead on footpaths and main street

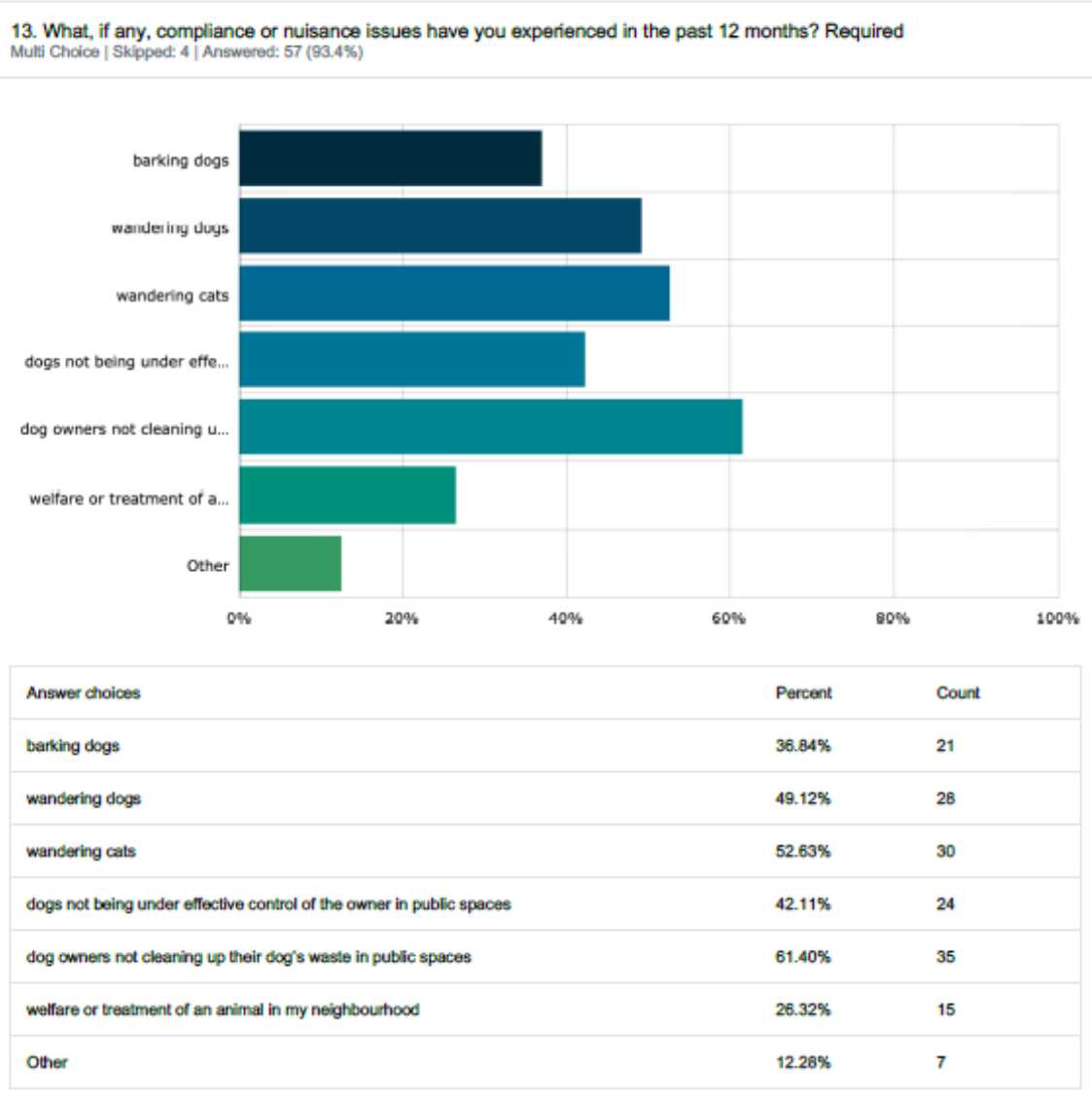
**12. If your pet is not registered with Council, why not? Required**  
Multi Choice | Skipped: 12 | Answered: 49 (80.3%)



Answer choices	Percent	Count
costs too much	2.04%	1
didn't know I had to	2.04%	1
forgot	0%	0
I don't get any benefit	4.08%	2
my pet is registered	83.67%	41
Other	8.16%	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>49</b>

**Selected Answer: Other (please specify)**

<b>1</b>	No pets
<b>2</b>	no dog
<b>3</b>	I don't have a pet
<b>4</b>	don't have any



<b>13. What, if any, compliance or nuisance issues have you experienced in the past 12 months?</b>	
<b>Selected Answer: Other (please specify)</b>	
<b>1</b>	Aggressive dogs attacking my dog and friends and family members.
<b>2</b>	Dog attacks on other animals
<b>3</b>	the number of dogs taken to Binney St.
<b>4</b>	School children taunting neighbourhood dogs through fencing, whilst walking to & from school.
<b>5</b>	Constantly having to hire a cat trap to capture nuisance cats from neighbour that has constant litters with no fines outcome from council of know offender.
<b>6</b>	As well as dogs, also neighbourhood cats allowed to wander and leave their waste in my yard.
<b>7</b>	Our son was attacked by a neighbours dog. The neighbours dogs continue to bark and disturb houses close to these dogs

**14. If you have notified council's rangers, were you satisfied with the outcome? Required**  
Multi Choice | Skipped: 12 | Answered: 49 (80.3%)

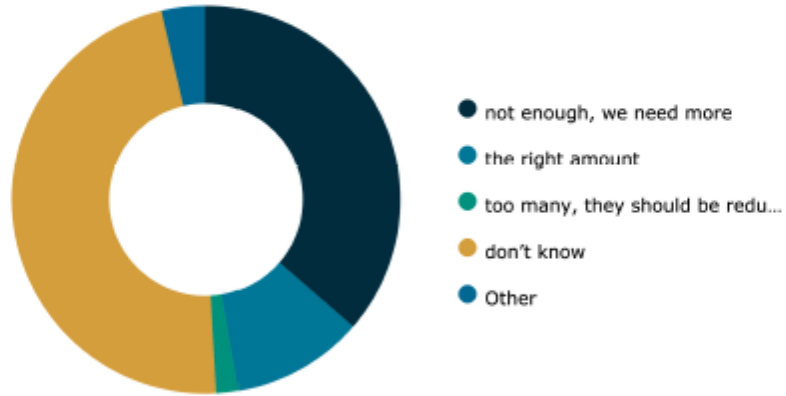


Answer choices	Percent	Count
yes	30.61%	15
no	18.37%	9
not sure	38.78%	19
Other	12.24%	6
Total	100.00%	49

**Selected Answer: Other = I have some further feedback:**

<b>1</b>	I reached out to Agriculture Victoria who referred it to the ranger. The ranger had no power to do anything which is why I didn't contact them first. I often see the ranger around and think he does a good job. I like the education and assistance before enforcement approach he uses.
<b>2</b>	I have been told there is no point notifying shire as they won't do anything.
<b>3</b>	Constant complaints made by numerous residents in street with no outcome.
<b>4</b>	No. Numerous complaints about feral cat issue in Blayney lane and nothing is being done.
<b>5</b>	I would like to be able to speak to the person responsible for animal management within the Shire
<b>6</b>	Didn't listen and didn't CARE

**15. The amount of Ranger patrols are... Required**  
Multi Choice | Skipped: 6 | Answered: 55 (90.2%)

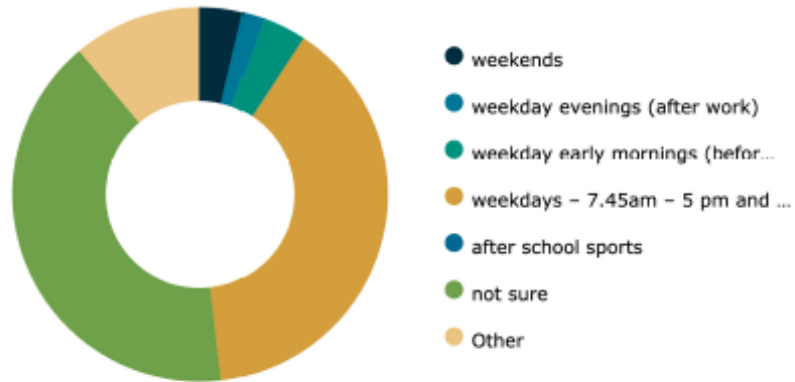


Answer choices	Percent	Count
not enough, we need more	36.36%	20
the right amount	10.91%	6
too many, they should be reduced	1.82%	1
don't know	47.27%	26
Other	3.64%	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>55</b>

**Selected Answer: Other = I have a comment**

<b>1</b>	I think Norm does as many patrols as he can. But more would be better
<b>2</b>	Large animals on roads are a problem, especially with newcomers to country life

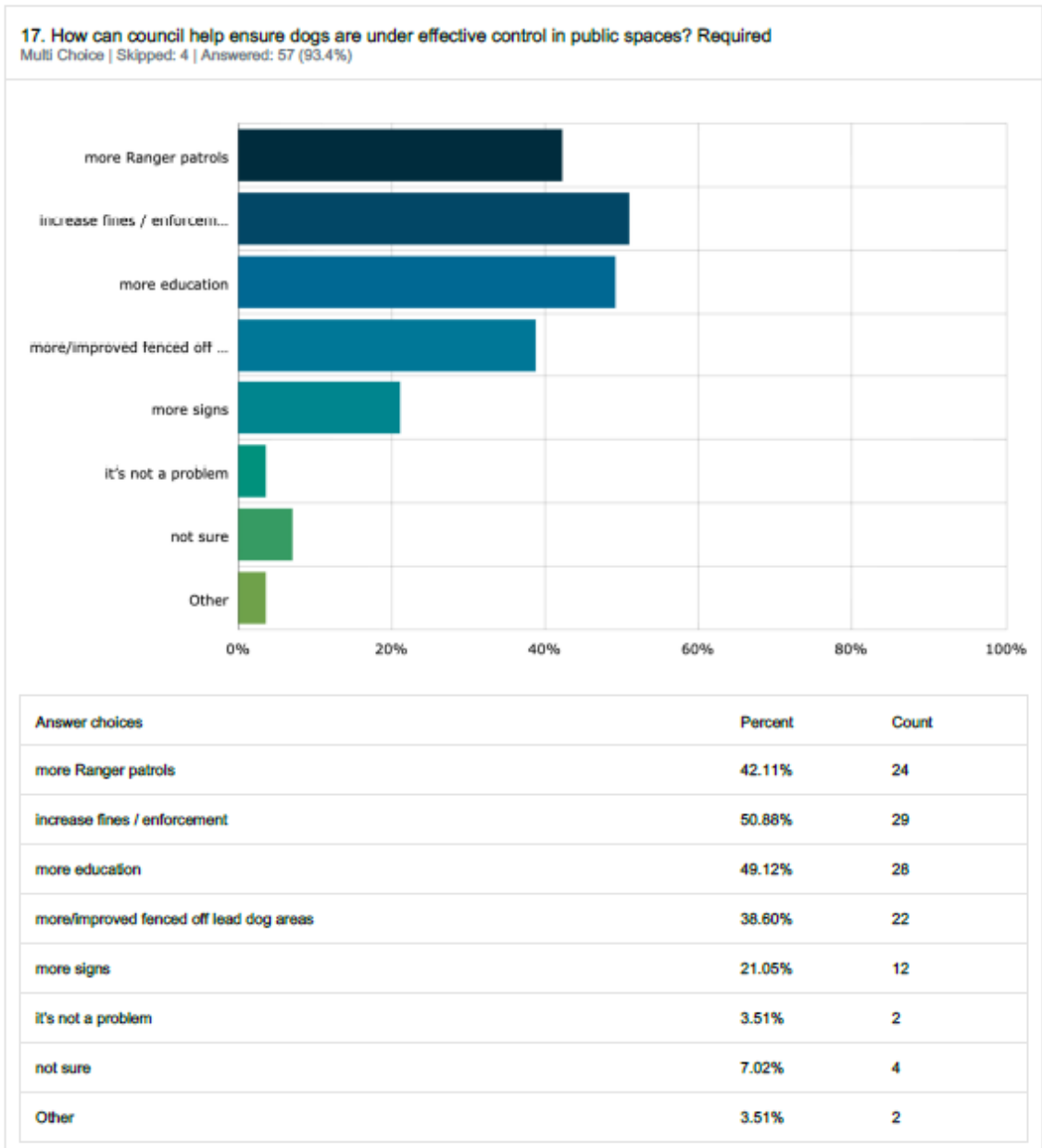
**16. What times do you think should be priorities for Rangers to patrol? Required**  
Multi Choice | Skipped: 7 | Answered: 54 (88.5%)



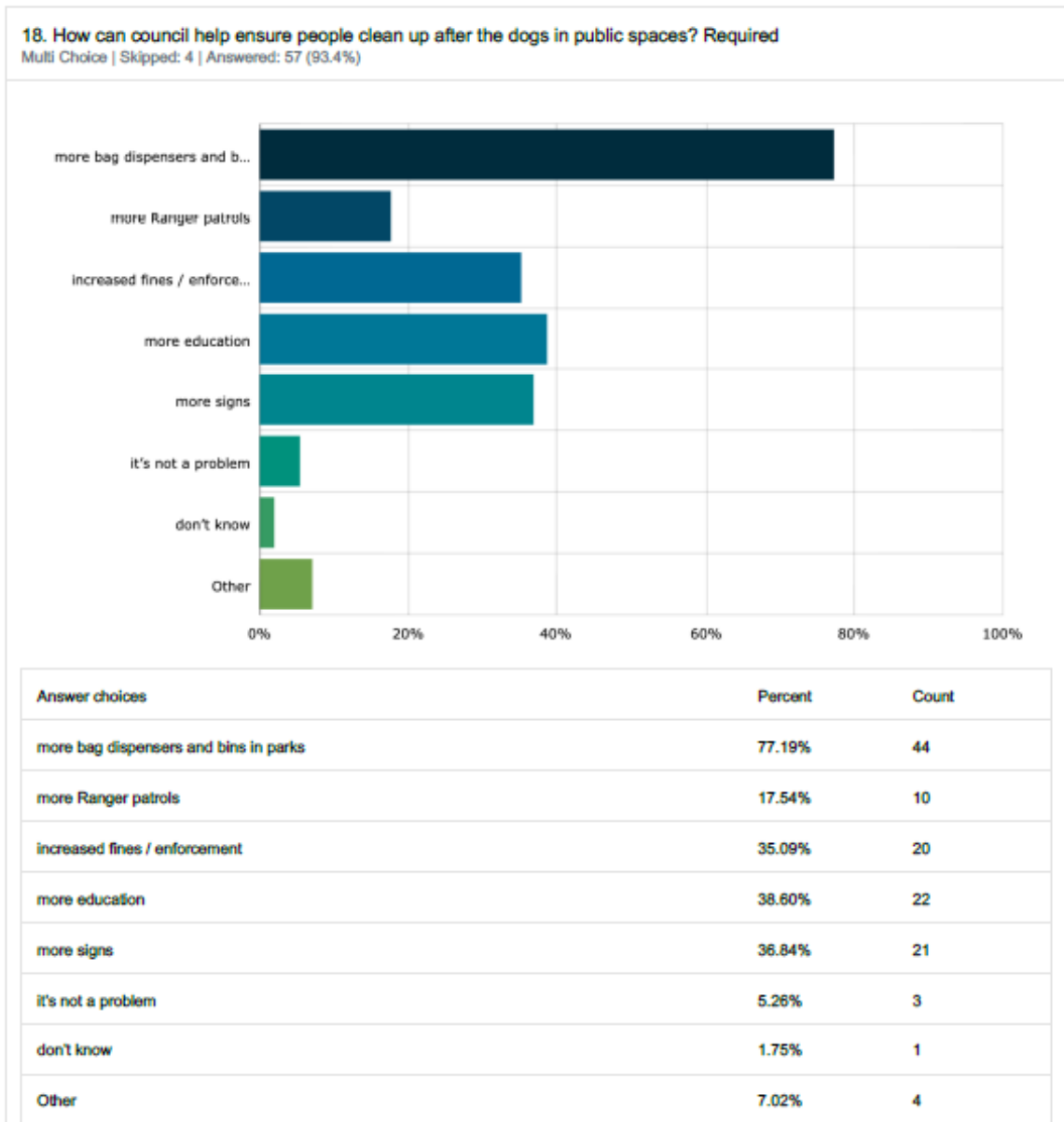
Answer choices	Percent	Count
weekends	3.70%	2
weekday evenings (after work)	1.85%	1
weekday early mornings (before work)	3.70%	2
weekdays - 7.45am - 5 pm and random patrols on weekends	38.89%	21
after school sports	0%	0
not sure	40.74%	22
Other	11.11%	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>54</b>



<b>16. What times do you think should be priorities for Rangers to patrol?</b>	
<b>Selected Answer: Other (please specify)</b>	
<b>1</b>	Rangers need a life too!
<b>2</b>	I think patrols should be random, not at set times.
<b>3</b>	Randomly
<b>4</b>	any job involving animals requires seven day a week on call. we need two rangers
<b>5</b>	Should be on call our RATES ARE HIGH ENOUGH.
<b>6</b>	Random and ask the ranger to check on the Avenel FB page re wandering animals.



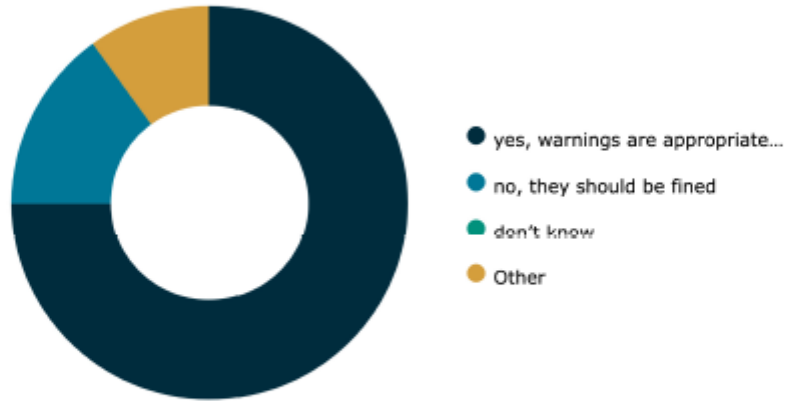
Selected Answer: Other (please specify)	
<b>1</b>	Encourage people to record others not picking up after their dogs and send it to the council.
<b>2</b>	Offer courses for dog discipline and care.



**Selected Answer: Other (please specify)**

<b>1</b>	I find the roaming dogs the biggest issue
<b>2</b>	Definitely more bins along the Apex walking track, including the Rockies end.
<b>3</b>	council could give a roll of biodegradable bags with pet registration. People pick up the waste put it in a plastic bag and throw it off the track.
<b>4</b>	Security cameras

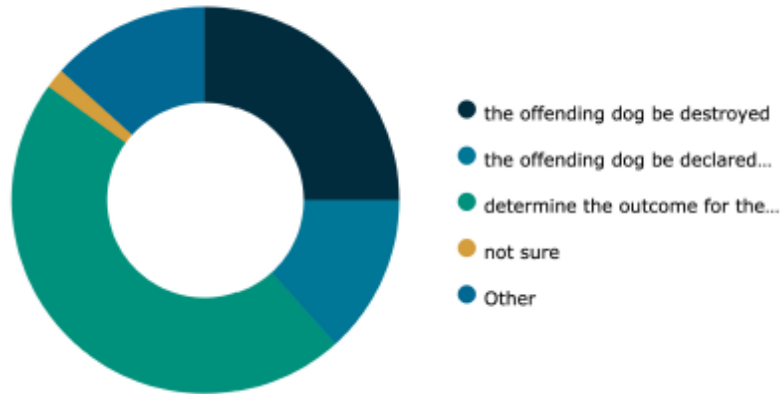
**19. When pets are found wondering, should council issue a warning for first-time offenders Required**  
Multi Choice | Skipped: 1 | Answered: 60 (98.4%)



Answer choices	Percent	Count
yes, warnings are appropriate for first time offenders	75.00%	45
no, they should be fined	15.00%	9
don't know	0%	0
Other	10.00%	6
Total	100.00%	60

Selected Answer: Other (please specify)	
1	Not sure "wondering" dogs are a problem... Possibly "wandering" dogs, however. And yes, a warning is fine.
2	For being curious! If found wandering however, I think education and suggestions on appropriate confinement would be preferable.
3	*Wandering Education and ensure animal is chipped
4	All pet owners should sign up to a duty of care when registering their animals. If they breach that responsibility, there must be a meaningful penalty.
5	Give a warning but make sure pet is desexed and microchipped as a condition of warning.
6	help/ advice with strategies to keep the animal happy and with its owner

20. In the event of a serious dog attack being proven and/or the owner convicted of the offence of serious dog attack, what action should council take? Required  
Multi Choice | Skipped: 1 | Answered: 60 (98.4%)



Answer choices	Percent	Count
the offending dog be destroyed	25.00%	15
the offending dog be declared dangerous; (this means the dog is kept in a secure enclosure, and always kept on lead and muzzled when outside the enclosure)	13.33%	8
determine the outcome for the offending dog on a case by case basis	46.67%	28
not sure	1.67%	1
Other	13.33%	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>60</b>

<b>20. In the event of a serious dog attack being proven and/or the owner convicted of the offence of serious dog attack, what action should council take?</b>	
<b>Selected Answer: Other (please specify)</b>	
<b>1</b>	case by case. If the dog attacks someone in defence, on its own property or it is a guard dog on duty it is acceptable without issue
<b>2</b>	Put the owner down
<b>3</b>	Determine the outcome on a case by case basis which involves thorough and independent assessment, reviewing all circumstances
<b>4</b>	Probably the owners laziness not the dogs fault
<b>5</b>	The offending human destroyed.
<b>6</b>	Determined on a case by case basis. The dog may simply need to be relocated. Destroying the dog (what a disgusting term for it), should never be an option really.
<b>7</b>	once a killer always a killer ,in respect to stock ,but humans can be provocative so stock worriers should be put down and the others assessed
<b>8</b>	What about cat attacks on the wildlife!!!

21. Do you have any general or additional comments about animal management?

Long Text | Skipped: 27 | Answered: 34 (55.7%)

1	Put a ban in place that cats, just like dogs, cannot wander outside of their property. We are a wildlife haven. Cats kill millions of native animals every year. Including domestic cats. Get with the times. Do the right thing. Ban cats from wandering.
2	Fenced in area for dogs to go off lead would be ideal - Avenel
3	The appears to be community apathy "its always been ok to let dogs and cats roam" If anyone dares to say differently they are shouted down.
4	No, just that in Avenel, dogs escaping from yards and wandering seems to be an issue. Also people walking dogs off lead at Stewart's Park.
5	There is always a lot about dogs but nothing about cats. Dog owners must keep there dogs in a yard but cats wonder at will
6	Too many roaming dogs in Euroa; especially ones that run out at cars and people and other dogs from an unfenced yard just around from Branjee Rd; nothing is ever done about that blue staffy! It's dangerous!
7	I think the Ranger does a great job however they can't be everywhere at once. More education on just simple things for example what to do when people find a stray dog or cat; what happens when an animal is impounded; what happens when the impounded animal is not claimed. These simple Q & As would help allay a lot of people's ill conceived perceptions that all animals are destroyed when impounded, that they "must not" report found animals to the shire or ranger; instead that if they contact the shire, most pets are happily reconnected with their owners. The Animals of Mitchell Shire have a terrific Facebook page that is highly effective at advertising stray or lost animals and stock. If you have someone interested in undertaking and maintaining a similar fb page, this would be a very simple way of educating the general public.
8	My main concern is cats killing wildlife. Cats should be contained at their home, not allowed to roam freely. People not complying with cat control should be fined and educated. There should be a limit on the number of cats each home can have. Shire Rangers need to enforce this limit strictly. Cats should be sterilised, unless Registered breeder.
9	There is quite a few repeat offender dogs that are out and about in Avenel on a regular basis. There is one big dog in particular in Hughes St who will kill a little dog if he comes across it as he's tried it before. Not a safe place to walk. This dog will also jump the fence into Scobie St to chase you if he's not chained up.
10	I think the introduction of fines for non desexed pets needs to be a consideration if we want to have real impact on the number of animals ending up in shelters or euthanised.  There are circumstances that would allow exemption from desexing but fir the vast majority it should be compulsory
11	I think the biggest issue that needs addressing is dogs being walked off lead, which leads to dog attacks (dogs attacking other on lead dogs).

<b>12</b>	I would love to see a curfew for cats, our pet birds and wild birds on our property have been killed by neighbour's cats.
<b>13</b>	No
<b>14</b>	Not sure why this survey is so focused on domestic animals. Drive around the roads and see sheep, cattle, horses, pigs roaming around for days and people are notified on Facebook. Landowners are becoming complacent about keeping their livestock under control and adequate fencing provided. With more Melbourne people owning land up this way they are not being responsible for their animals or fences and it gives the local landowners and generations of family famers a bad name.
<b>15</b>	I believe there is a very poor attitude by many pet owners to the impacts their pets have on other people (who choose not to have domestic pets). There is growing acknowledgment of the disastrous impacts of cats on local wildlife and a shift towards 24 hour containment. This is heartening, but as usual - the responsible owners are not the problem. As with many pet dogs, those owners who quickly tire of the responsibility to exercise their pet, are usually the ones whose dogs bark endlessly, or escape frequently. Incentives to share pets should be encouraged - to minimize numbers of uncared-for animals.
<b>16</b>	i believe we need more rangers patrolling as I have seen so many people walking dogs off leash with out any regard to others that walk dogs on the lead. As the owner of a service dog, my dog feels threatened when he is on his lead and approached by a dog off the lead and so many owners do NOT have voice control over their dog. Also people need to be made aware that there are fines for not picking up their dog excrement. More signage definitely needed. So many nature strips are unsafe to walk on with dog poo left behind. Bins need to be provide along the Apex walking track. Most responsible dog owners do tend to carry their own doggy doo bags.
<b>17</b>	Council run training classes to deal with problem pets/ owners before someone gets hurt or pets get put down
<b>18</b>	I believe cats are the worst here as owners are not penalised for them wandering having fights and killing native wildlife. We need a effective solution for cats more than dogs at current.
<b>19</b>	Please do something about the wandering dog situation in Strathbogie
<b>20</b>	Cattle out on roads is a growing issue. - Euroa
<b>21</b>	Covid has bought about a big increase in dog ownership with many owners not willing to control or manage their dogs. There are many times dogs roam around the streets without owners and bark continuously because owners are at work or out. – Avenel
<b>22</b>	Do something about the known cat breeders
<b>23</b>	Listen and act on complaints by rate payers/residents.
<b>24</b>	Pet ownership is a privilege, AND a responsibility. Not to be taken for granted. Animal welfare is important, as is freedom of others to not be bothered or harassed by these animals.



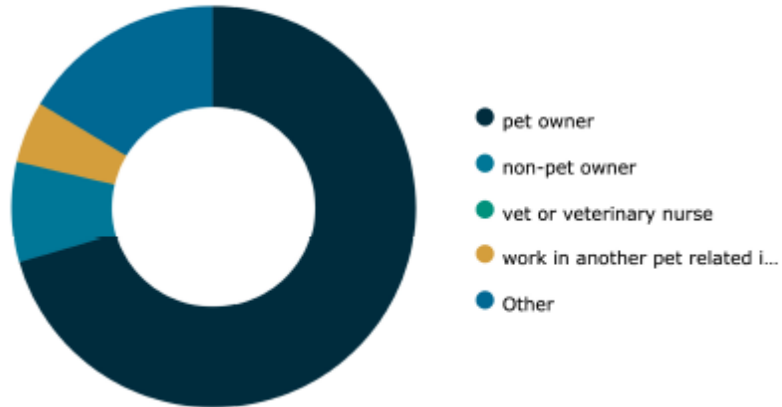
25	Cats wandering the neighbourhood at all hours and killing native birds and animals are my biggest concern.
26	<p>The amount of farm animals that are out after hours and the ranger won't respond to will eventually kill a person. We need a ranger that's available every day 24/7</p> <p>So maybe hire more rangers rather than office staff. The shire has a surplus budget. And our rates have just significantly increased in a global pandemic so use that money to help the actual residents.</p> <p>- Euroa</p>
27	<p>very disappointed that the pound was closed ,having previously offered to found a friends of the pound group</p> <p>there is a real need to educate the people of this district ,not only about pets but all livestock especially SLOW DOWN this is a rural area , horses are flight animals and easily startled , go through fences stop the air brakes ,horns and revving and if there is stock on the road ,open a gate and put them in ; a real problem now with farmers forced to padlock gates so more displays or ranger contacts would be handy</p>
28	Well done Strathbogie Shire on a Shire that is pet friendly and pet owner friendly. We love living here.
29	We need an off the leash park for dog so socialise - Nagambie
30	<p>My name is Ian Crook. I am the CEO of the Cat Protection Society of Victoria based in Greensborough. The Society has been in existence for 75 years and provides clinic and shelter/pound services. The Society has strict guidelines in regard to the responsible ownership of cats and kittens:</p> <p>i) All domestic cats and kittens must be desexed/vaccinated and microchipped</p> <p>ii) All domestic cats and kittens must be confined at all times</p> <p>The Society values highly the benefits that domestic animals provide to their owners (particularly in time of hardship like Covid), but at the same time we acknowledge that domestic cats and feral cats can be a nuisance and cause environmental damage if they are not controlled/managed. The Society has worked closely with our local Councils to support desexing programs and to provide educational material.</p> <p>I would be happy to further engage with Council if this would help. My number is 0417526667</p>
31	Restrictions on poultry ownership should be eased
32	I would really appreciate and welcome a tougher stance by Council in relation to off-leash and uncontrolled dogs. For the people who neglect their responsibility in relation to their pets, there appears to be little or no consequence. For me, who always has my dog on a leash and takes my responsibility seriously, my options for walking her safely continue to reduce. Please consider what behaviour and community you wish to foster when you are framing your policies and making your decisions.
33	We have written plenty of emails to council.
34	There's an increase in pet ownership since COVID lockdown however there is a lack of pet friendly social opportunities within the shire. Most pets are under stimulated and escape due to a lack of proper exercise and outdoor social interaction. There are A LOT of loose cats and attacks on wildlife are frequent

**22. Where in the council do you live? Required**  
Short Text | Skipped: 0 | Answered: 61 (100%)

<b>Townships:</b>			
<b>Avenel</b>	12	<b>Euroa</b>	14
<b>Longwood</b>	5	<b>Nagambie</b>	8
<b>Strathbogie</b>	4	<b>Violet Town</b>	9
<b>Other:</b>			
Township	Creek Drive	Shire of Strathbogie	Tabilk
Sheans Creek	Highlands	Residential	Strathbogie road
South			

**23. What best describes you? Required**

Multi Choice | Skipped: 0 | Answered: 61 (100%)



Answer choices	Percent	Count
pet owner	70.49%	43
non-pet owner	8.20%	5
vet or veterinary nurse	0%	0
work in another pet related industry (trainer, dog walker, retailer)	4.92%	3
Other	16.39%	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>61</b>

<b>Selected Answer: Other (please specify)</b>			
<b>1</b>	Past pet owner, dogs and cats	<b>2</b>	Native animal lover
<b>2</b>	Academic	<b>4</b>	Farmer
<b>5</b>	Pet Owner & work in animal related industry	<b>6</b>	Pet owner, who has worked in various animal industries, in different roles for 30+ years
<b>7</b>	Pet owner & primary producer	<b>8</b>	CEO Cat Protection Society of Victoria
<b>9</b>	All the above and a wildlife rescuer and rehabilitator	<b>10</b>	farmer / pet owner

## **9.2.2 Euroa Golf Club Inc – Application for Small Projects Grant**

Author: Community Development Officer

Responsible Director: Director Community and Planning

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Euroa Golf Club have applied for a Small Projects Grant requesting \$1,000 from Council to put towards the purchase and installation of new carpet within their clubrooms.

The Small Projects Grants Program forms part of Councils overarching Community Grants Program and opens after the main first round of community grants offering an additional opportunity to apply for community grant funding. The Small Projects Grant Program is available for the remainder of the financial year or until available funds are exhausted.

Small Project Grants must meet the criteria for one of the four Community Grant Categories:

- Active & Healthy Communities
- Arts & Culture
- Environmental & Sustainability
- Facilities & Infrastructure

This Small Projects Grant application is the first received for the 2021/22 financial year where a budget of \$7,407 is available for the program. It is recommended that Council support this application in full (\$1,000) with \$6,407 remaining for the financial year or until available funds are exhausted.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

***That Council endorse the request for \$1,000 to be funded from the 2021-22 budget for the Community Grants Program - Small Projects allocation, for the Euroa Golf Club to assist with their carpet replacement project.***

### **PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND**

The Euroa Golf Club which was formed in 1908 has built a rich history within the Strathbogie Shire. The current course, designed in 1948 by Kingston Heath golf course architect Vern Morcom, is watered by an automated system utilising recycled water which was installed by club volunteers in 2008. The facility has a function area as well as a bar and kitchen and used by the club as well as community organisations for meetings and events. The facility is not owned or managed by Council. The Euroa Golf Club offers memberships to all ages, genders and abilities.

The funds requested from the Small Projects Grant will be put towards the replacement of damaged carpet within the clubrooms reducing the potential OH&S risk and improving the aesthetic of the clubroom. The club's strategic plan includes improving the clubhouse in order to provide an attractive and safe venue, not only for club functions but for the broader Euroa community.

### 9.2.2 Euroa Golf Club Inc – Application for Small Projects Grant (cont.)

The Small Projects Grant Program forms part of the overarching Community Grants Program. Funding allocations for the 2021-22 Community Grants Program is as follows:

#### **Community Grants Program Round – 1**

- Opened: June 1<sup>st</sup> - June 30<sup>th</sup> 2021
- Allocated - \$57,593 (August Council Meeting)

#### **Community Grants Program Round - 2**

- Opened: October 1<sup>st</sup> – October 31<sup>st</sup> 2021
- Allocation - \$20,000

#### **Small Projects Grant Program**

- September 1st – ongoing throughout the financial year or until available funds exhausted
- Allocation - \$7,407

#### **Total Community Grants Program Budget 2021-22**

- Allocation - \$85,000

The intent of the Small Projects Grant Program is to provide an opportunity for community groups to undertake projects that complement the focus areas of Council and encourage participation in a community activity at all stages of the project from planning to completion.

Small Projects Grants opens after the main first round of community grants offering an additional opportunity for organisations to apply for community grant funding. Groups are only eligible to receive this grant once per year and are not eligible for a Small Project Grant if they are currently expending other Strathbogie Shire Community Grant Funds.

This application was assessed by a Council Officer Assessment Panel which comprised of the following:

- Visitor Economy & Events Coordinator
- Community Development Officer

The application was evaluated and scored against the funding criteria as detailed below:

- Alignment to Community Grants Outcomes and Strategic Plan (30% weighting)
- Community Need (20% weighting)
- Organisational Capacity (20% weighting)
- Access and Equity (15% weighting)
- Budget (15% weighting)

#### ***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.

9.2.2 Euroa Golf Club Inc – Application for Small Projects Grant (cont.)

Funding assistance provided by Council will facilitate a safer more attractive clubhouse environment for the Euroa Golf Club. The current carpet in the main Clubhouse is steadily deteriorating which will eventually become a tripping risk for club members and the general public. The Club's Strategic Plan includes improving the Clubhouse in order to provide an attractive and safe venue, not only for Club functions, but also for members of the broader Euroa community. The Club's Strategic Plan outlines a desire to make the clubhouse an attractive and cost-effective venue to hold meetings and private functions.

**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.

Community engagement for the Small Projects Grants Program was conducted as part of the overall Strathbogie Shire Community Grants Program.

A four-stage communications plan was developed for the 2021-22 Community Grants Program. This plan worked well for Round 1 of the program and has been utilised for the Round 2 that opened on October 1<sup>st</sup>.

The table below outlines the communications and engagement plan used for the 2021-22 Community Grants Program.

Stage	Goal	Tools and methods
One Inform	To inform the community the Community Grant Program is now open.  To encourage the community to attend an information session.  To remind the community about Grant Program timelines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Media release</li> <li>• Social media</li> <li>• eNews</li> <li>• Website content</li> <li>• Advertising</li> </ul> Frequently asked questions
Two Engage	To provide applicants with the opportunity to seek feedback and assistance from Council Officers on their applications.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Workshops</li> <li>• Media release</li> <li>• Social Media</li> <li>• eNews</li> <li>• Website content</li> <li>• Advertising</li> </ul>
Three Inform	To keep applicants up to date on the process and what to expect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acknowledgement letter</li> </ul>
Four Inform	To inform applicants and the community of the projects which received grants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Letter successful</li> <li>• Letter unsuccessful</li> <li>• Media release</li> <li>• Social media</li> <li>• Advertising</li> <li>• Website content</li> <li>• eNews</li> </ul>

## 9.2.2 Euroa Golf Club Inc – Application for Small Projects Grant (cont.)

### **POLICY CONSIDERATIONS**

#### **Council Plans and Policies**

- Council Plan goal one:
  - To enhance community health and wellbeing
    - Plan for improved community health, wellbeing and liveability
    - Engage and participate with the community in Council / Community initiatives
- Council Plan goal three:
  - To provide quality infrastructure
    - Provide best practice management of all assets

### **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 application has been assessed against an updated weighted scorecard to ensure consistency, equity and transparency across the program.

#### **Conflict of Interest Declaration**

The assessment panel for Community Grants and the Small Projects program would usually consist of the Coordinator Community Services and Inclusion, however they were not involved in the assessment of the application due to a potential conflict of interest due to membership in the club. The Visitor Economy & Events Coordinator took the vacant assessment role.

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 application is released to the public providing an understanding of the assessment process and outcomes of the program.

### **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 request for a Small Project Grant is the first application received for the 2021-22 financial year, with a total budget available of \$7,407. The carpet replacement project has received good support from Club members with several of them contributing to the project personally along with the Euroa Golf Club contributing their own funds – see attached budget below:

## 9.2.2 Euroa Golf Club Inc – Application for Small Projects Grant (cont.)

### Euroa Golf Club Project Budget

#### Income

Strathbogie Shire Grant	\$1,000
Euroa Golf Club	\$3,630
Club Members	\$1,000
	\$5,630

#### Expenditure

Choices Flooring Euroa	\$5,630
------------------------	---------

### ***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 Euroa Golf Club is anticipating that by improving the aesthetics of the clubhouse a 20%-30% increase in the hiring rate of the venue for non-club related events will occur by 2025.

#### **Social**

The awarding of funding for the Euroa Golf Club will further assist with rebuilding the sense of community that has been challenged during the various lockdown periods throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. By improving the aesthetics of the clubhouse, the club is aiming to increase the membership base which in turn will create many more social gathering opportunities for the club. In addition this will be creating a more attractive venue for local community groups to utilise.

#### **Environmental**

The carpet supplier provides carbon neutral floors, with every flooring product being carbon neutral across its full lifecycle. They operate a recycling re-entry program which reclaims and recycles end of life carpet.

#### **Climate change**

The particular carpet that has been identified has soil and stain protection which eliminates the need for harsh cleaning chemicals. The underlay that will be used is 100% recyclable and uses 90% recycled materials, leaving a lighter footprint on the environment.

### ***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 funding will support the ongoing improvement of a facility within the Shire and support increased use by the wider community.



9.2.2 Euroa Golf Club Inc – Application for Small Projects Grant (cont.)

***HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS***

It is not considered that there are any Human Rights that will be impacted as a result of the Euroa Golf Club carpet replacement project.

***CONCLUSION***

It is recommended that the request from the Euroa Golf Club Inc for a \$1,000 Small Projects Grant to support the Clubroom Carpet replacement project be granted for the reasons identified in this report.

***ATTACHMENTS***

**Attachment 1:** 2021-22 Small Projects Grant Program – Application Recommended for funding

**ATTACHMENT 1:**

<b>Application Organisation</b>	<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Brief Project Description</b>	<b>Amount Requested</b>	<b>Total Project Cost</b>	<b>Recommended Funding</b>	<b>Funding Conditions</b>
Euroa Gold Club	Carpet replacement	Replacement of carpet in the Euroa Golf Club Clubrooms	\$1,000.00	\$5,630.00	<b>\$1,000.00</b>	N/A

### **9.2.3 Memorandum of Understanding with the Taungurung Land and Waters Council**

Author: Director Community and Planning

Responsible Director: Director Community and Planning

#### ***EXECUTIVE SUMMARY***

Incorporated under the Commonwealth Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006, Taungurung Land and Waters Council (TL&WC) was established to represent the descendants of the Taungurung People, make decisions and act on any significant matters on their behalf, and enter into any agreements with any person, government agency, or authority in relation to the betterment of the Taungurung People and protection of Taungurung Country and interests. The Taungurung Land and Waters Council received Registered Aboriginal Status from the Victorian Government in April 2009, and the majority of lands which now comprises the Strathbogie Shire Local Government Area are recognised by the State Government as Taungurung Land.

Over the past eighteen months, Strathbogie Shire Council and TL&WC have been working closely continuing to further strengthen Council's commitment to our first nations peoples. An important step within this commitment, was the development of a draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Council and TL&WC to facilitate the ongoing process of reconciliation and Aboriginal self-determination.

At the August 2020 Council Meeting, a draft Memorandum of Understanding between Council and the TL&WC was presented to Council for consideration. The Council resolved to:

*Authorise the Mayor and the Chief Executive Officer to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Taungurung Land and Waters Council after having:*

- 1. A broad based discussion and information sessions with ratepayers, residents and the TL&WC; and*
- 2. As per the Council Plan, developing an MoU in conjunction with other LGAs in the TL&WC area.*

A Notice of Motion to Rescind was subsequently presented at the September 2020 Council Meeting. At this Council Meeting, Council resolved to:

- 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.*

The formal consultation process on the draft MOU with the TL&WC commenced in June 2021. The responses received depicted strong community support for the development of the MOU, and in addition a number of suggestions were made to further strengthen the draft MOU and have been incorporated into the final document.

9.2.3 Memorandum of Understanding with the Taungurung Land and Waters Council (cont.)

Following the consultation period, it is now recommended that Council endorse the attached Memorandum of Understanding with the TL&WC.

**RECOMMENDATION**

***That Council authorise the Mayor and Chief Executive Officer to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Taungurung Land and Waters Council.***

**PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND**

The purpose of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) sets out specific commitments for the ongoing relationship and mutual cooperation between Taungurung Land and Waters Council (TL&WC) and Strathbogie Shire Council. Both parties share the desire and goodwill to work jointly to improve and presence and understanding for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander issues in the planning and programs provided by Council with a view to improve Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander participation, employment, health and wellbeing outcomes.

This MoU is underpinned by a number of agreed founding principles, which establish the basis for the mutual commitment between the parties and set the focus for the ongoing management of this agreement.

- (a) The Taungurung people are acknowledged as the first peoples, and Traditional Owners of Taungurung Country.
- (b) The arrival of non-Aboriginal people to Taungurung Country brought massive change to the landscape and way of life of the Taungurung people.
- (c) The Council desires to address the past and embrace the process of reconciliation and truth telling.
- (d) TLaWC and the Council are committed to working together to support, knowledge and respect the Taungurung people's self-determination.
- (e) The Council respect, and hold in strong regard the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage, traditions, customs and beliefs of the Taungurung people.
- (f) The parties agree that improvements in Aboriginal participation, health and wellbeing outcomes will realise long term benefits for the community as a whole.
- (g) Council supports the recognition of Aboriginal sovereignty in the Australian constitution.
- (h) Council supports the notion of treaty as proposed by the Victorian State Government and Traditional Owners.

### 9.2.3 Memorandum of Understanding with the Taungurung Land and Waters Council (cont.)

Formal consultation process on the draft MOU between Strathbogrie Shire Council and the TL&WC commenced in June 2021. The responses received depict strong community support for the development of the MOU, and in addition a number of suggestions were made to further strengthen the document and have been incorporated into the final version.

#### **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 Council is a local government body responsible for the administration of the municipal area of the Shire of Strathbogrie under the Local Government Act. TL&WC is the corporate representative of the Taungurung people, the first nation and Traditional Owners of the lands north of the Dividing Range, bounded by the Campaspe River in the west, the Ovens River in the east. Those areas administered by the Council, and the traditional lands of the Taungurung, overlap and correspond, meaning that both parties have an interest in caring for country, and in building a relationship of trust and resilience.

TL&WC received Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAP) status in 2009 from the Victorian Government. This status empowers TL&WC to manage and protect cultural heritage values in general and the cultural heritage of the Taungurung Clans, their Traditional lands and RAP region in Victoria under the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006. Under this Act TL&WC as a RAP has legislative responsibility to monitor onsite development, to review and advise on Cultural Heritage Management Plans (CHMPs) and to safeguard the cultural heritage of Taungurung People.

The Strathbogrie Shire municipal area also sits on the lands of the Yorta Yorta Peoples (in the north of the shire near Violet Town). The Registered Aboriginal Party is the Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation. Whilst this MOU solely relates to our relationship with Taungurung, Officers will liaise with Yorta Yorta representatives regarding possible partnership opportunities.

#### **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.

Community engagement was undertaken in line with Councils Community Engagement Policy. At Strathbogrie Shire Council's August 2020, Council resolved to:

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.*

### 9.2.3 Memorandum of Understanding with the Taungurung Land and Waters Council (cont.)

The consultation approach was as follows:

- **Depth:** Consult
- **Public participation goal:** To obtain public feedback on analysis, alternatives and/or decisions.
- **Promise to the public:** We will keep you informed, listen to and acknowledge concerns and aspirations, and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.

Council used [www.share.strathbogie.vic.gov.au](http://www.share.strathbogie.vic.gov.au) to provide the community with a copy of the draft MOU and a submission form to have their say. The community was also able to email and post submissions.

The consultation period was open for six weeks and during this time a communication plan was undertaken that included a media release, advertising, social media, eNews, website content and emails seeking feedback from key stakeholders.

Overall Council received four written submissions on the Share Strathbogie platform. These submissions were outside of the listed individuals who expanded on how these they saw the Acknowledgement and the Principles relating to this MOU.

The project achieved 300 views on the Share Strathbogie platform and our social media campaign achieved a reach of more than 1,000.

Feedback received included:

- Council adopts several versions of the Acknowledgment to Country options
- Suggestions regarding inclusion of additional principles
- More clarity on the word Council – to ensure it is clear which organisation the MoU is referring to.

A full summary of the consultation and individual submissions is attached to this report (attachment 2).

## ***POLICY CONSIDERATIONS***

### **Council Plans and Policies**

*The MoU is consistent with the following council plans:*

Council Plan:

Goal 2: To enhance community health and wellbeing

- Enhance community resilience, including supporting and increasing the participation of volunteers

Arts and Culture Strategy:

Goal 1: A connected and vibrant community

Goal 2: A culturally capable community

Goal 3: A diverse community that recognises, expresses, and celebrates creativity and heritage.

### 9.2.3 Memorandum of Understanding with the Taungurung Land and Waters Council (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.

This report aligns with a number of Regional, State and National plans and policies direction including:

- Regional
  - o Goulburn Murray Prosperity Plan
- State
  - o Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006
  - o Traditional Owner Settlement Act 2010
  - o Planning and Environment Act 1987
  - o Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978
- National
  - o Native Title Act 1993
  - o Uluru Statement

#### **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 Memorandum of Understanding between Taungurung Land and Waters Council and Strathbogie Shire Council is considered a document in good faith. The document has many actions and initiatives with both organisations are committed to working towards.

#### **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.

The MoU will be made available to the public and any stakeholder conducting activities or development on Crown Land on Taungurung Country in the Strathbogie Shire Council.

#### **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.

Any financial implications associated with the Memorandum of Understanding will be undertaken in line with existing budgetary allocations or through budget bids for consideration in future Council budgets.

9.2.3 Memorandum of Understanding with the Taungurung Land and Waters Council (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**

This MOU seeks to support TLaWC's aspirations to achieve economic independence for the Taungurung people and support local business and local jobs. The Council will provide TLaWC with the opportunity to apply for contracts providing works or services to the Council and develop a "weighting system" within its procurement guidelines to assist TLaWC in achieving goals (a) and (b) above, while acknowledging Council's obligations to ensure value for money under the Local Government Act 2020, the need to comply with the provisions of Council's Procurement Policy and Council's obligations to comply with the National Competition Policy and Principles.

**Social**

Both parties share the desire and goodwill to work collectively to improve the presence and understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander issues in the planning and programs provided by Council with a view to improved Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander participation, employment, health and wellbeing outcomes.

**Environmental**

As the owners of the land, the Taungurung people have an extremely strong connection to natural environment. First Nations people have cared and protected the environment for over 60,000 years. A numbers of these practices include; fire management, carbon sequestrations, restoration of wetlands, feral animal control and biodiversity conservation. In addition, the protection of land is vitally important, ensuring that sacred sites are preserved, and the history of the oldest living culture continues. Taungurung liaise with governmental bodies, private landowners, developers, and other stakeholders to assist with applying protocol for best land and water management practices to ensure environmental and cultural heritage preservation.

**Climate change**

The contemporary context of ecological degradation, endangered species and rapid shifts in the climate has presented new priorities and challenges to first nations peoples and their role in caring for country. This MOU requires Council to consult with TLaWC prior to any proposed high or low impact works being undertaken by the Council within Aboriginal Sensitivity zones and commits to adopting any reasonable advice provided by TLaWC arising from these consultations.

**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.



9.2.3 Memorandum of Understanding with the Taungurung Land and Waters Council (cont.)

The MOU will be jointly evaluated for progress on an annual basis by the principal contact of each party, and an annual progress report will be prepared respectively by each party. The annual progress report will be submitted to each party's board or Council for noting.

***HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS***

The Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006 is a consideration when reporting to Council. 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.

***CONCLUSION***

Formal consultation process on the draft MOU between Strathbogie Shire Council and the TL&WC commenced in June 2021. The responses received depict strong community support for the development of the MOU, and in addition a number of suggestions were made to further strengthen the document and have been incorporated into the final version.

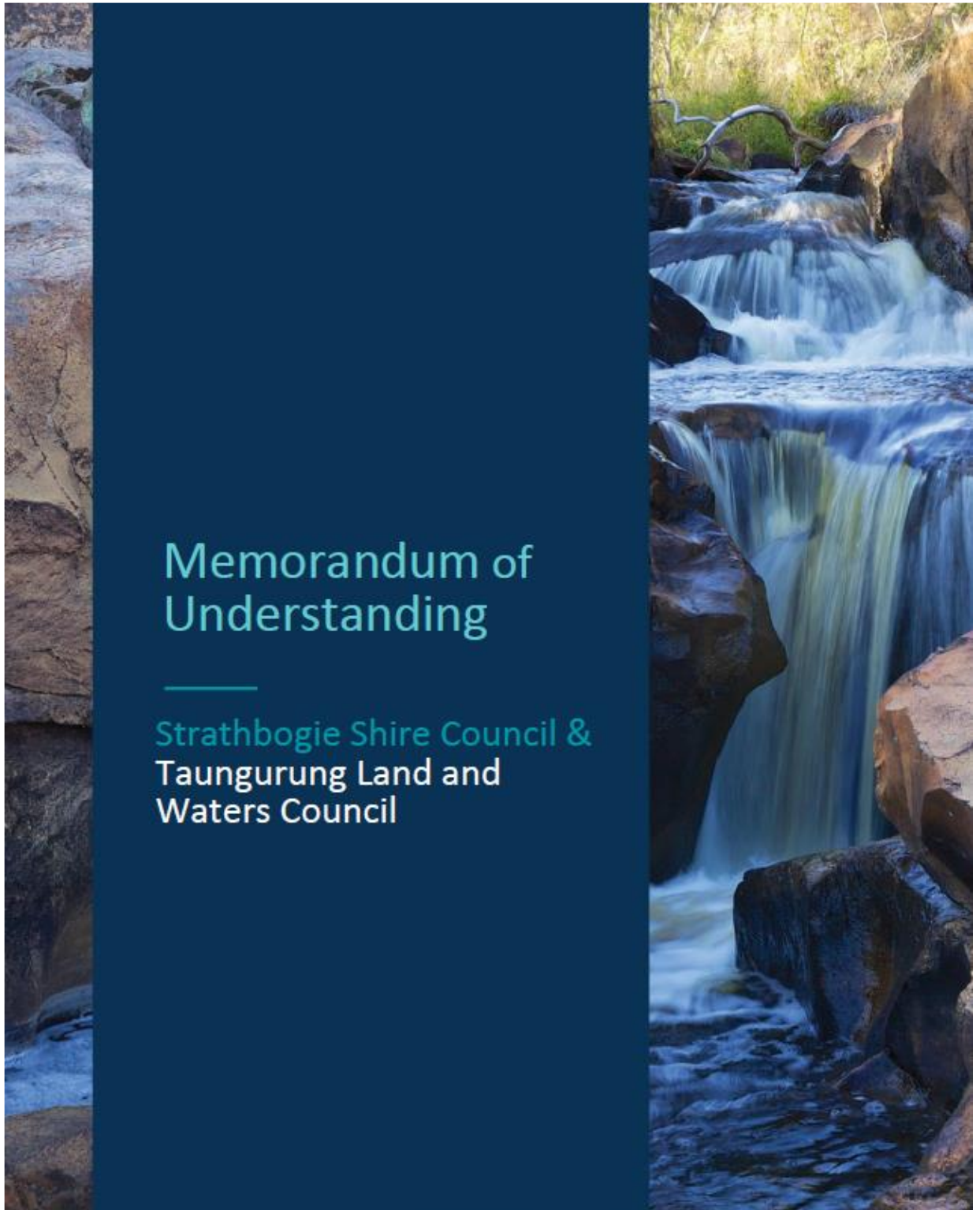
Following the consultation period, it is now recommended that Council endorse the Memorandum of Understanding with the Taungurung Land and Waters Council.

***ATTACHMENTS***

**Attachment 1:** Memorandum of Understanding between Strathbogie Shire Council and Taungurung Land and Waters Council

**Attachment 2:** Engagement Report

**ATTACHMENT 1:**



Taungurung | Memorandum of Understanding | Strathbogie Shire Council



### Memorandum of Understanding

This **Memorandum of Understanding** is made on the  
\_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2021

Between: **TAUNGURUNG LAND AND WATERS COUNCIL**, of  
37 High St, Broadford VIC 3658 (TLaWC)

and: **STRATHBOGIE SHIRE COUNCIL** of 109A Binney St,  
Euroa, VIC 3666 (Council)

Please note: Throughout this documents Taungurung Land and Waters Council will be written as "TLaWC" and Strathbogie Shire Council will be referred to as "Council"

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Taungurung | Memorandum of Understanding | Strathbogie Shire Council

## 1. Background

- 1.1 The Strathbogie Shire Council (Council) is local government body responsible for the administration of the municipal area of Shire of Strathbogie under the *Local Government Act 1989*.
- 1.2 Taungurung Land and Waters Council (TLaWC) is the corporate representative of the Taungurung people, the first nation and Traditional Owners of the lands north of the Dividing Range, bounded by the Campaspe River in the west, the Ovens River in the east.
- 1.3 Those areas administered by the Council, and the traditional lands of the Taungurung, overlap and correspond, meaning that both parties have an interest in caring for country, and in building a relationship of trust and resilience.
- 1.4 The Council also acknowledges and is committed to meeting Australia's obligations arising out of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as reproduced in Annexure 1.
- 1.5 In a spirit of reconciliation and partnership, the Council and TLaWC enter into this MOU, to govern their interactions, and to build practical and mutually beneficial connections.

## 2. Definitions and Interpretations

- 2.1 In this MOU, unless the context otherwise requires:
  - (a) **Aboriginal Cultural Heritage** has the same meaning as in the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006 (Vic).
  - (b) **Council** means the Strathbogie Shire Council, being the local government body responsible for the administration of the municipal area of Shire of Strathbogie under the Local Government Act 1989 and 2020.
  - (c) **MOU** means this Memorandum of Understanding.
  - (d) **Principles** means those guiding principles forming the basis of the mutual commitment and relationship between the parties and set out in clause 3.1.
  - (e) **Registered Aboriginal Party** has the same meaning as in the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006 (Vic).
  - (f) **Taungurung Country** for the purposes of this MOU, means that land for which TLaWC is the appointed Registered Aboriginal Party, as shown in the map at Annexure 2.
  - (g) **TLaWC** means the Taungurung Land & Waters Council.

## 3. Principles

- 3.1 This MOU is underpinned by the principles, which establish the basis for the mutual commitment and relationship between the parties. The principles are as follows:
    - (a) The Taungurung people are acknowledged as the first peoples, and Traditional Owners of Taungurung Country.
-

Taungurung | Memorandum of Understanding | Strathbogrie Shire Council

- (b) The arrival of non-Aboriginal people to Taungurung Country brought massive change to the landscape and way of life of the Taungurung people.
- (c) The Council desires to address the past and embrace the process of reconciliation and truth telling.
- (d) TLaWC and the Council are committed to working together to support, knowledge and respect the Taungurung people's self-determination.
- (e) The Council respect, and hold in strong regard the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage, traditions, customs and beliefs of the Taungurung people.
- (f) The parties agree that improvements in Aboriginal participation, health and wellbeing outcomes will realise long term benefits for the community as a whole.
- (g) Council supports the recognition of Aboriginal sovereignty in the Australian constitution.
- (h) Council supports the notion of treaty as proposed by the Victorian State Government and Traditional Owners.

#### **4. Acknowledgement of legal rights and obligation**

4.1 TLaWC acknowledges that the Council has legal rights and obligations:

- (a) in its role as a local government body under the *Local Government Act 2020* and as a *Planning Authority* and *Responsible Authority* under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*; and
- (b) by its appointment as the committee of management for various parcels of Crown Land, under the *Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978*, and potentially other Victorian legislation.

4.2 The Council acknowledges that TLaWC has legal rights and obligations:

- (a) with respect to the management and protection of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage through its appointment as the Registered Aboriginal Party under the *Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006 (Vic)*; and
- (b) with respect to native title rights and interests and has entered into a Recognition and Settlement Agreement (RSA) with the State of Victoria under the *Traditional Owner Settlement Act 2010*, which provides it certain rights with respect to the development and use of Crown Land.

4.3 The parties agree to:

- (a) respect the legal rights and obligations of the other; and
- (b) work together in good faith, and where possible, to assist the other party to meet its legal obligations, and realise its rights, under legislation.

#### **5. Specific Acknowledgements and Commitments**

5.1 Consistent with the Principles, TLaWC and the Council each make the following specific acknowledgements and commitments to each other:

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Taungurung | Memorandum of Understanding | Strathbogrie Shire Council

(a) **TLaWC:**

- (i) acknowledges and respects the ongoing interests and rights of all peoples in the Shire of Strathbogrie;
- (ii) will work with Council in developing accessible and appropriate local government services for the benefit of Aboriginal people and therefore the whole community;
- (iii) will work together with Council so that programs and services have a greater opportunity to create sustainable change;
- (iv) will work together with, and educate, Council on local Aboriginal Cultural Heritage matters and opportunities for improved Council practice; and
- (v) will act to comply in good faith with all relevant legislation, including the:
  - (A) *Native Title Act 1993 (Cth)*;
  - (B) *Traditional Owner Settlement Act 2010 (Vic)*; and
  - (C) *Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006 (Vic)*.

(b) **Council:**

- (i) acknowledges and respects the ongoing interests and rights of the Taungurung people;
- (ii) is committed to working with TLaWC and supporting the efforts of non-Aboriginal people in understanding Aboriginal culture and values;
- (iii) will advocate for the rights and interests of the Taungurung people and promote the principles of reconciliation;
- (iv) will promote Taungurung cultural heritage in a way that is desired by and respectful to Taungurung People;
- (v) is committed to working towards the implementation of all the actions listed in schedule 5 'Local Government Engagement Strategy' of the RSA, as reproduced in annexure 3;
- (vi) will consult with TLaWC prior to any proposed high or low impact works being undertaken by the Council within Aboriginal Sensitivity zones and commits to adopting any reasonable advice provided by TLaWC arising from these consultations (*and both parties will work towards developing agreed guidelines for providing exemptions for some low impact works with standard conditions, within 12 months of signing this MOU*);
- (vii) will ensure any planning permit application proposing high or low impact works to be undertaken in Aboriginal Sensitivity zones will require the planning permit applicant consult with TLaWC, and adopt any TLaWC's reasonable advice consistent with relevant legislation which may arise from these consultations, as a pre-condition to the Council granting approval for any such planning permit (*and both parties will work towards developing agreed*

Taungurung | Memorandum of Understanding | Strathbogie Shire Council

*guidelines for providing exemptions for some low impact works with standard conditions, within 12 months of signing this MOU);*

- (viii) is committed to working towards establishing a framework to support increased participation by the Taungurung people in Council decision-making;
- (ix) commits to ensure the consideration of local Taungurung issues as part of any review process for Council programs and services;
- (x) will acknowledge traditional owners of the land before each Council meeting and at civic receptions;
- (xi) will permanently fly the Aboriginal flag at each Council office, building and service centre;
- (xii) will acknowledge the traditional owners of the land through digital platforms
- (xiii) will act to comply in good faith with all relevant legislation, including the:
  - (A) *Native Title Act 1993 (Cth)*;
  - (B) *Traditional Owner Settlement Act (2010) (Vic)*; and
  - (C) *Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006 (Vic)*.

## 6. Procurement

### 6.1 In an order to:

- (a) support TLaWC's aspirations to achieve economic independence for the Taungurung people; and
- (b) support local business, and local jobs;

The Council will provide TLaWC with the opportunity to apply for contracts providing works or services to the Council and develop a "weighting system" within its procurement guidelines to assist TLaWC in achieving goals (a) and (b) above, while acknowledging Council's obligations to ensure value for money under the Local Government Act 2020, the need to comply with the provisions of Council's Procurement Policy and Council's obligations to comply with the National Competition Policy and Principles.

### 6.2 TLaWC will provide the Council with information in writing as to what service it is able to provide, and following receipt of this information, the Council will provide TLaWC (or any subsidiary of TLaWC) with:

- (a) an opportunity to provide a quote, as part of any broader competitive quotation or tender process; and
- (b) opportunities to undertake any such contract in accordance with 6.1 above;

for any works or services Council requires, and which TLaWC can provide at the same or similar standard, quality and price to other providers of those works or services.

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Taungurung | Memorandum of Understanding | Strathbogrie Shire Council

## 7. Implementation of the MOU

- 7.1 The responsibility for ensuring the implementation, progression and fulfilment of this MOU is held by the Chief Executive Officer of each party on behalf of their respective organisations.
- 7.2 Each party nominates the person below to be the principal contact responsible for the day to day management of the MOU, and who will additionally be responsible for monitoring and reporting on the MOU's progress:

Party	Principal Contact
TLaWC	Mathew Burns CEO 37 High St, Broadford VIC 3658 <a href="mailto:CEO@Taungurung.com.au">CEO@Taungurung.com.au</a> (03) 5784 1433
Council	Amanda Tingay Director Community and Planning 109A Binney Street Euroa VIC 3666 (03) 57950000

## 8. Resourcing and engagement

- 8.1 The parties agree to provide reasonable resourcing to the nominated principal contact to ensure that coordination and day-to-day management of the MOU can be achieved.
- 8.2 In keeping with best practice on engaging with Traditional Owners in Victoria, meetings will be conducted to review the relationship on the following terms:
- (a) the nominated principal contacts from each party commit to meeting once each quarter;
  - (b) the Chief Executive Officer from each party commit to meeting twice-annually; and
  - (c) the elected Councillors of the Council, and the TLaWC board of directors, commit to meeting annually.

## 9. Marketing and publicity

- 9.1 For any public information that requires mention of either party, the requesting party shall obtain the other's prior approval to ensure compliance with any relevant policy or procedure.
-



## 10. Exchange of information

- 10.1 From time to time either party may request from the other access to documents or information relating to issues relevant to either the party, and each party will assist the other to meet the request, so far as is reasonably practicable and provided that the request is consistent with the provisions of the Privacy and Data Protection Act 1994 and Council's Privacy and Data Protection Policy.
- 10.2 This does not apply to documents subject to privilege, any privacy laws, which are commercial-in-confidence, or information that was provided to either party in confidence.

## 11. Settlement of disputes

- 11.1 If any party is dissatisfied with any decision or action of the other regarding the implementation of this MOU, the identified principal contacts must notify the Chief Executive Officer of each party in writing.
- 11.2 Should the dispute remain unresolved by discussions between the parties, the matter will be referred to an independent Mediator agreed to by the Chief Executive Officers or referred to the Dispute Settlement Centre of Victoria for resolution if a suitable Mediator is not found.

## 12. Evaluation and evolution

- 12.1 The MOU will be jointly evaluated for progress on an annual basis by the principal contact of each party, and an annual progress report will be prepared respectively by each party. The annual progress report will be submitted to each party's board or Council for noting.
- 12.2 A review of the MOU will be undertaken in every two years, whereby:
- (a) minor adjustments will be allowable by mutual written agreement of the Chief Executives Officer of each party, and adopted by Council, provided the spirit and substance of the MOU is not materially altered;
  - (b) any proposed changes that would materially alter the spirit or substance of the MOU will require formal approval by both the TLaWC board of directors, and the elected Councillors of the Council.
- 12.3 The parties additionally agree to build on the momentum gained by implementing this MOU by progressing the development of a Reconciliation Action Plan within 24 months of the execution of this document and affixation of Council's Common Seal by way of Council resolution.

## 13. Termination of the MOU

- 13.1 The MOU may be terminated at any time by either party, in writing and where endorsed by a valid resolution of the TLaWC board of directors, or the elected Councillors of the Council.
-

Taungurung | Memorandum of Understanding | Strathbogie Shire Council

This Memorandum of Understanding is brought into effect this day \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ 2021:

Signed by **Taungurung Land & Waters Council** )  
(**ABN 47 145 916 168**) in accordance with section )  
99-5 of the *Corporations (Aboriginal & Torres Strait* )  
*Islander) Act 2006* (Cth): )

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Director

\_\_\_\_\_  
Full Name of Director (Printed)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Director

\_\_\_\_\_  
Full Name of Director (Printed)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Signed by [Council] in accordance with the *Local* )  
*Government Act 1989*: )

) Common Seal clause needs including

)  
)  
)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Full Name of Mayor (Printed)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of CEO

\_\_\_\_\_  
Full Name of CEO (Printed)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



## Annexure 1

### Acknowledgement to Country

Any of the below Acknowledgment to Country should be utilised before each Council meeting and at civic receptions.

#### Option one

*I'd like to start today by acknowledging the Traditional Owners of the lands on which we are all meeting and pay my respects to Elders past, present and emerging, and also to any Aboriginal people who may be online/here with us today.*

*Today, we are meeting on the lands of the Taungurung peoples of the Eastern Kulin nation, whose sovereignty here has never been ceded.*

#### Option two

*I acknowledge the Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people of this nation.*

*We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the lands we have gathered on today and I pay our respects to ancestors and Elders, past and present.*

#### Option three (community suggested)

*I'd like to start today by acknowledging the Sovereign Owners and Traditional Custodians of the lands on which we are all meeting. The Taungurung Peoples of the East Kulin Nation and pay my respects to Elders past, present and emerging, and to any Aboriginal people who may be online/here with us today*

#### Option four (community suggested)

*We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the places we live, work and play. We recognise and respect the enduring relationship they have with their lands and waters, and we pay respects to the Elders past, present and emerging.*

*Today we are meeting on the lands of the Taungurung peoples of the Eastern Kulin nation, whose sovereignty here has never been ceded.*

#### Option five (community suggested)

*We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the lands on which we strive, the peoples of the rivers and the hills of the Strathbogie Shire region who walked these lands for generations.*

*We pay our respects to the elders of the past, and the speakers of the first words, who lived in harmony with this country.*

*We acknowledge the elders of the present, who seek to regain their culture, and to teach the elders of the future their law, their history and their language.*

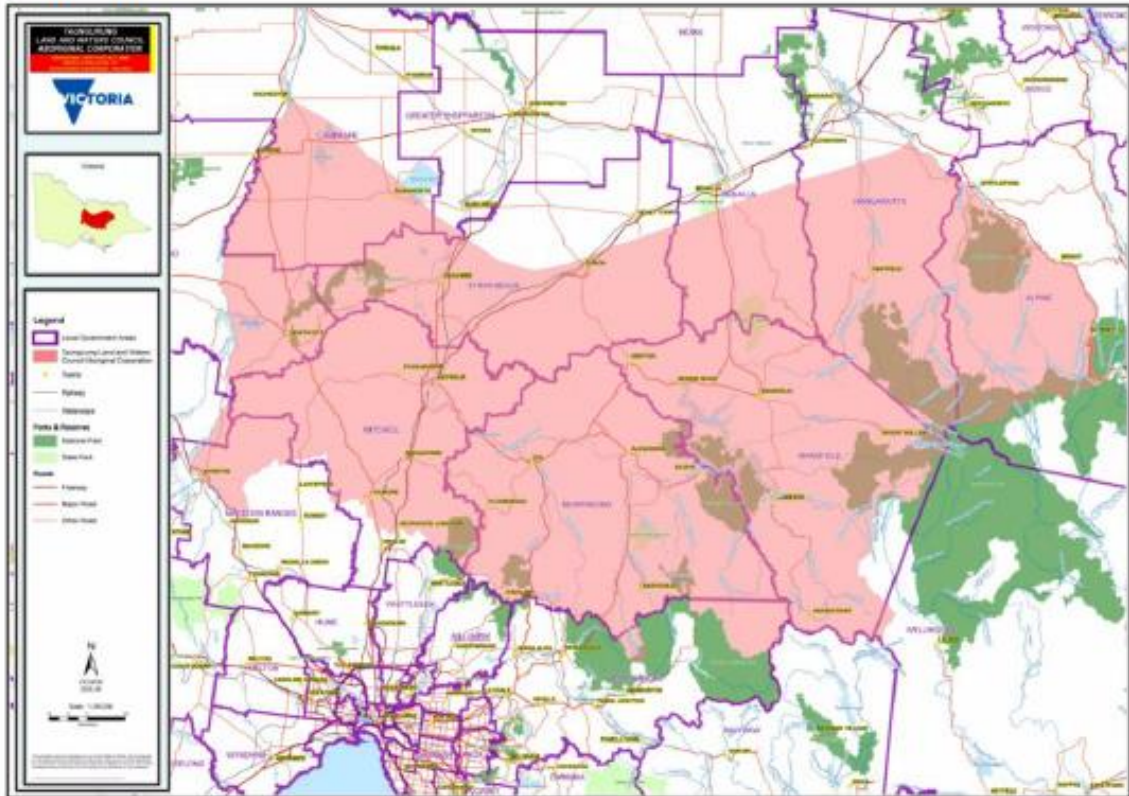
*We pay our respects to them and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples today.*

*We honour their spirit – and the memory, culture, art and science of the world's oldest living culture through 60,000 years.*

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Taungurung | Memorandum of Understanding | Strathbogie Shire Council

## Annexure 2



Taungurung | Memorandum of Understanding | Strathbogie Shire Council

### Annexure 3

Action
(A) Local government compliance with relevant legislation and agreements in relation to public and private land management, including the Land Use Activity Agreement and the Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006 (including through training of local government personnel).
(B) Educating local government in relation to the role of the Corporation as the Registered Aboriginal Party under the Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006 for the Agreement Area and building partnerships for the maintenance and protection of significant sites.
(C) Engagement by local government with the Corporation in relation to the management of parks, reserves and other crown land for which relevant councils are the land manager.
(D) Development of a Reconciliation Action Plan with the assistance of Reconciliation Australia.
(E) Contracting by local government of the Corporation and/or its subsidiaries to perform natural resources management, cultural awareness training, or other work for which the Corporation and/or its subsidiaries have relevant expertise.
(F) Flying the Aboriginal flag.
(G) Acknowledging the Taungurung as the traditional owners of relevant areas in official documents and websites and seeking welcomes to country for council events (by adoption of the Protocol on Acknowledgements and Welcomes to Country contained in the Recognition and Settlement Agreement).
(H) Adoption of traditional Taungurung names for new local roads, bridges and public spaces in relevant council areas in consultation with the Corporation.
(I) Installation of appropriate signage, keeping places and interpretive information to recognise the Taungurung as the traditional owners for the Agreement Area following appropriate consultation between Taungurung and relevant councils.
(J) Support for the development of cultural awareness strategies and projects (such as local history research, language preservation).
(K) Mandate the use of the strategic planning tools available within the planning system to protect places of significant Aboriginal cultural heritage.
(L) Education of the broader community about the Taungurung people and their customs, language, spirituality and history.
(M) Employment of Indigenous Liaison Officers in consultation with Taungurung Clans Aboriginal Corporation.

## **ATTACHMENT 2:**

# Engagement Report



## **Draft MOU Taungurung**

### **Background**

The Strathbogie Shire Council is in the process of developing a Memorandum of Understanding with the Taungurung Land & Water Council (TLaWC) which is a Registered Aboriginal Party (RAP) representing the Taungurung people.

RAP's hold decision-making responsibilities under the Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006 for protecting Aboriginal cultural heritage in a specific geographical area.

Council's responsibility with this MOU with the TLaWC is to ensure compliance with the following legislation, reduce Council's risk exposure and most importantly strengthen the relationship with first nations 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.

In the spirit of reconciliation and future partnership, the Strathbogie Council and the Taungurung Land and Waters Council will enter a Memorandum of Understanding, to govern their interactions, and to build practical and mutually respectful and beneficial connections.

### **The Engagement Approach**

At Strathbogie Shire Council's August 2020, Council resolved to:

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.

This engagement report outlines the activities that were undertaken seeking community input into the draft MoU and its Principles and versions of the Acknowledgement to Country.

Council used [www.share.strathbogie.vic.gov.au](http://www.share.strathbogie.vic.gov.au) to provide the community with a copy of the draft MOU and a submission form to have their say. The community was also able to email and post submissions.

The consultation period was open for six weeks and during this time a communication plan was undertaken that included a media release, advertising, social media, eNews, website content and emails seeking feedback from key stakeholders.

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# Engagement Report



**Depth:** Consult

**Public participation goal:** To obtain public feedback on analysis, alternatives and/or decisions.

**Promise to the public:** We will keep you informed, listen to and acknowledge concerns and aspirations, and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.

## Participation and reach

Overall Council received four written submissions both on the Share Strathbogie platform. These submissions were outside of the listed individuals who expanded on how these they saw the Acknowledgement and the Principles relating to this MOU.

The project achieved 300 views on the Share Strathbogie platform and our social media campaign achieved a reach of more than 1,000.

## What our community told us

Firstly, the respondents welcomed the opportunity to provide feedback and make considered suggestions in relation to our **Acknowledgement to Country**.

These **three options** were listed for comment and consideration.

### Option One -

I'd like to start today by acknowledging the traditional owners of the lands on which we are all meeting and pay my respects to Elders past, present and emerging, and also to any Aboriginal people who may be online/here with us today.

Today, we are meeting on the lands of the Taungurung peoples of the Eastern Kulin nation, whose sovereignty here has never been ceded.

### Option Two -

I acknowledge the Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people of this nation.

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the lands we have gathered on today and I pay our respects to ancestors and Elders, past and present.

### Option Three -

I acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land we have gathered on today. I pay my respects to the Elders past and present, for they hold the memories, the traditions, the culture and hopes of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples across the nation.

A better understanding and respect for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures develops an enriched appreciation of Australia's cultural heritage and can lead to reconciliation. This is essential to the maturity of Australia as a nation and fundamental to the development of an Australian identity.

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## Engagement Report

### Observations and recommendations:

- Option Two gained the most votes representing 36.36 per cent of recipients, followed by Option One 24.24 per cent and then Option Three 18.18 per cent.
- Some seven respondents also included other versions or commentary, and these are listed later in this document.
- There was a comment made that maybe the Acknowledgement could be varied and not just the same each time allowing people to zone out and not focus on the value of the words spoken.
- Some offered shorter or longer versions for consideration and there was a question relating to the legality in relation to Council's purpose in providing an Acknowledgment to Country.
- It is our recommendation that Council adopts several versions of the Acknowledgment to Country options as recommended by our community.

### Draft MoU Principles

Our draft MoU is underpinned by principles, which establish the basis for the mutual commitment and relationship between the parties. The principles listed are:

1. The Taungurung people are acknowledged as the first peoples, and Traditional Owners of Taungurung Country
2. The arrival of non-aboriginal people to Taungurung Country brought massive change to the landscape and way of life of the Taungurung people
3. The Council desires to address the past and embrace the process of reconciliation
4. TLaWC and the Council are committed to working together to support the Taungurung people's self-determination
5. The Council respect, and hold in strong regard the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage, traditions, customs and beliefs of the Taungurung people
6. The parties agree that improvements in Aboriginal participation, health and wellbeing outcomes will realise long term benefits for the community.

### Observations and comments:

Of the recipients almost half thought that the principles listed above were **perfect** representing 47.73 per cent with 36.36 per cent saying they were **okay**, and seven residents (15.91 per cent) said they had a **suggestion of their own**.

The suggestions included;

- More clarity on the word Council – to ensure it is clear which organisation the MoU is referring to.



## Engagement Report



- Include information on our website linking to the TLaWC to provide further detail about the organisation
  - Replace support in point four to acknowledge and respect.
  - Capitalise Aboriginal in principle two
  - Recognise truth-telling in principle three
  - Include a further two principals as suggested by Avenel Active:
  - *Council supports the recognition of Aboriginal sovereignty in the Australian constitution.*
  - *Council supports the notion of treaty as proposed by the Victorian State Government and Traditional Owners.*
-

# Engagement Report

## Findings



From	Request to speak	Submission in relation to writing your own version of the Acknowledgement
1. General Submissions	No	I like <b>Option one</b> for its local specificity and <b>Option 3</b> for its educational value for those in the community who switch off when an acknowledgement is done. Does there have to be one approved acknowledgement? I believe the regular use of one acknowledgement causes many to zone out and ignore the words, to downplay the meaning behind the acknowledgement
2.	No	<b>Option one</b> - first paragraph only and if the chair of the meeting feels they want to add something more personal to it they can. This way it is more heartfelt and meaningful
3.	No	I'd like to start today by acknowledging the Sovereign Owners and Traditional Custodians of the lands on which we are all meeting. The Taungurung Peoples of the East Kulin Nation and pay my respects to Elders past, present and emerging, and also to any Aboriginal people who may be online/here with us today.
4.	No	We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the places we live, work and play. We recognise and respect the enduring relationship they have with their lands and waters, and we pay respects to the Elders past, present and emerging. Today we are meeting on the lands of the Taungurung peoples of the Eastern Kulin nation, whose sovereignty here has never been ceded.
5.	No	Are we legally required to have an acknowledgement? If not, then why are we doing it. If we are legally required to have an acknowledgement, then <b>Option two</b> . Thank you.
6.	No	Here is a good concise acknowledgement: We acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the Traditional Custodians of the lands in which we live, work and learn. This one is from the MND website.
7.	No	<b>Option one</b> - however Traditional Owners needs to be capitalised and the reference is "Traditional Owners and Custodians of the lands..." If you know whose Country you are on, it needs to state the mob specifically not be generic.

## Engagement Report



From	Request to speak	Submission in relation the principles of the draft MOU
1. General Submissions	No	<p><b>Number 1.</b> custodians not owners as the Shire itself uses</p> <p><b>Numbers 3&amp;4.</b> explain the processes of reconciliation and self determination</p> <p><b>Number 5.</b> Are docs or websites that can explain customs beliefs?</p> <p><b>Number 6.</b> Fully support especially participation</p>
2.	No	<p><b>Number 4.</b> What does 'self-determination' include/mean in this context</p> <p><b>Number 5.</b> When Council say 'beliefs, etc what are the people's beliefs?</p> <p>And as the Taungurung are the Land and Waters COUNCIL, where it states Council this should be clearer to state which Council, ie Strathbogie Shire Council</p>
3.	No	<p>Wording for <b>Number 6</b></p> <p>The parties agree that Aboriginal participation, health and wellbeing will realise long term benefits for the community as a whole</p>
4.	No	<p>Everyone must abide by the same laws, to single out one race against another and give them special privileges will create division</p>
5	No	<p>Allow the Taungurung to manage landscape across the Strathbogie shire.</p> <p>It is vitally important to allow them to manage as much of the Strathbogie shires landscape as they wish too without white people interviewing or interfering.</p>
6.	No	<p>Provide absolute proof that the Taungurung people were the first people and that there were no other inhabitants of the lands prior to the Taungurung people occupying the land they call Taungurung Country.</p>
7.	No	<p>I am not Taungurung, so as a white European, it is with great hesitancy I share this random thought... Take it or leave it! I'm just wondering if the word "support" in <b>Number 4</b> could not be replaced with something else, such as for instance "to acknowledge and respect". (Or do a rewrite of the whole sentence.) I feel like the word "support" indicates a power balance where the strong, (in this case, primarily the Council) graciously lends its strength to the weaker. (In this case the Taungurung.)</p> <p>But like I said, I am technically not the one who should be making that call...</p>

## Engagement Report



From	Response	General feedback
1. General Submissions	Okay	In addressing the past, I think any massacres and or conflicts should be investigated. Also how many if any removal of children from their families should be investigated. Along with general relocation of populations
2.	Okay	A statue of an elder to the area. More native trees in town and not European. A street or area named after the original owners.
3.	Perfect	It is an important and significant moment when Council the broader community recognise Taungurung has a responsibility to care for Country for all people living on Country.
4.	Perfect	I would like to see a shire action plan - what happens after this MoU?
5.	Okay	It requires editing. The City of Melbourne Council have a branch called Aboriginal Melbourne, dedicated to some of the processes mentioned. They may be able to help.
6.	Perfect	How we reach a truly respectful and meaningful MOU is the key question. Are we meeting regularly with TL&WC representatives of the Taungurung people to identify issues and a way to achievement? Have people been selected to do this? How high a priority is this for Council? With others in Avenel we have just completed AMAGA's Cultural Capability Training Course where we gained extensive insight into indigenous culture, the journey, govt involvements, the need for self-determination, current issues. It was a revealing and highly respectful program. I believe we can contribute to this process and are ready to support Council and indeed the Taungurung people.
7.	Perfect	It would be great, and I think important to put something on all the town entry signs acknowledging/saying that we are in Taungurung Country.
8.	Okay	Number 4 When you say self-determination what is meant by stating this? Number 5 what are the beliefs referenced?

## Engagement Report



From	Request to speak	General submission
1. Community Group	No	<p>Avenel Active Inc. congratulates Strathbogie Shire Council on developing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with our traditional owners, the Taungurung peoples. Avenel Active members established a Cultural Awareness Project in 2020 to walk with our Traditional Owners. The group is participating in online cultural training and considering ways Avenel Active Inc can support truth telling, sovereignty and treaty in our community.</p> <p>We welcome the opportunity to provide feedback on the draft MoU and provide the following suggestions.</p> <p><b>1. PRINCIPLES</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avenel Active Inc suggests the following edits to the Draft MoU Principles: -</li> <li>* Principle 2. Capitalise Aboriginal <i>'The arrival of non-Aboriginal people to Taungurung...'</i></li> <li>* Principle 3. Recognise truth telling. <i>'The Council desires to address the past and embrace the process of reconciliation including truth telling.'</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Strathbogie Shire Council</b> Share Strathbogie Project – Taungurung MoU</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avenel Active Inc suggests the insertion of the following Principle, based on the work of First Nations communities that is summarised in the Uluru Statement: - <i>*Council supports the recognition of Aboriginal sovereignty in the Australian constitution.</i></li> <li>• Avenel Active Inc suggests the insertion of the following Principle, based on the work of First Nations communities and the Victorian State Government: - <i>*Council supports the notion of treaty as proposed by the Victorian State Government and Traditional Owners.</i></li> </ul> <p><b>2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avenel Active suggests Council discuss an appropriate Acknowledgement to Country with the Taungurung Land and Water Council.</li> <li>• An additional option that may be considered is: - <i>I'd like to start today by acknowledging the Taungurung peoples of the East Kulin nation, the traditional owners of the lands on which we are meeting and pay my respects to Elders past, present, emerging, and also to Aboriginal people who may be here with us today.</i></li> </ul> <p>Avenel Active Inc. congratulates Council on your work in this space. The 2021 NAIDOC week Welcome to Country, flag raising, and community film screening was attended by a number of Avenel residents.</p>

## Engagement Report



2. Resident	No	The Shadforth Reserve Committee of Management wishes to express that we are interested to meet with Taungurung representatives to discuss acknowledgement of history and future cooperation at Shadforth Reserve. Shadforth Reserve is a 60-hectare public land reserve at the north edge of Violet Town.
3 Resident	No	Council considers strengthening the relationship with our First Nations people and building practical, mutually respectful and beneficial connections as a key priority.
4. Community member	No	<p>We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the lands on which we strive, the peoples of the rivers and the hills of the Strathbogie Shire region who walked these lands for generations.</p> <p>We pay our respects to the elders of the past, and the speakers of the first words, who lived in harmony with this country.</p> <p>We acknowledge the elders of the present, who seek to regain their culture, and to teach the elders of the future their law, their history and their language.</p> <p>We pay our respects to them and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples today.</p> <p>We honour their spirit – and the memory, culture, art and science of the world's oldest living culture through 60,000 years.</p>

**9.2.4 Application for Sponsorship - Avenel Museum and Courthouse Public Recreation and Playground Reserve Inc. ~ Roaming Rhythms Event**

Author: Manager Tourism and Community Services

Responsible Director: Director Community and Planning

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Avenel Museum and Courthouse Public Recreation and Playground Reserve Inc are auspicing the Roaming Rhythms Event and have submitted a request for sponsorship of \$3,500 from Council to be put towards the Roaming Rhythms Event.

The event will be held over two (2) days on 11 and 12 December 2021, which will be held in various locations around Avenel.

The funds will be utilised for the following purpose:

1. Cost of professional musicians; and
2. Marquee Hire.

Their application was of a good standard with most questions addressed and scored 20/25 against the measured criteria of the Sponsorship Program. There is currently \$27,000 of available funding remaining of the 2021 – 2022 financial year budget allocation for the sponsorship program, with four (4) sponsorship applications submitted for consideration at the October 2021 Council Meeting.

<b>Strathbogie Shire's SPONSORSHIP BUDGET 2021 - 2022</b>			
Total Budget Allocation	\$30,000		
	<b>Requested</b>	<b>Recommended</b>	
Euroa Little Theatre	\$3,000	\$3,000	<i>Approved</i>
Nagambie Carols	\$3,919	\$3,000	Pending
Euroa Twilight Shopping	\$3,000	\$3,000	Pending
Euroa Festival Prelude	\$5,000	\$3,000	Pending
Avenel Roaming Rhythms	\$3,500	\$3,000	Pending
<b>Unconfirmed TOTAL budget remaining</b>	<b>\$11,581</b>	<b>\$15,000</b>	

This application for sponsorship aligns with the following priority focus areas of Council for the Sponsorship Program which are to:

1. Promote community engagement and participation
2. Support gender equality and social inclusion
3. Contribute to building health and vibrant communities

This report seeks approval for the provision of this sponsorship request for \$3,000.

9.2.4 Application for Sponsorship - Avenel Museum and Courthouse Public Recreation and Playground Reserve Inc. ~ Roaming Rhythms Event (cont.)

**RECOMMENDATION**

***That Council:***

1. ***Endorse sponsorship of \$3,000 to be funded from the 2021 – 22 budget allocations for community sponsorship, to the Avenel Museum & Courthouse Inc to assist with the Roaming Rhythms Event being held in December 2021; and***
2. ***Work with the Avenel Museum & Courthouse Inc to reduce overall waste produced at the event through the implementation of the objectives of both the Waste Wise Events Guidelines and Sustainable Strathbogie 2030 in being “A Zero Waste Shire”. Future funding is contingent on post event evaluation with demonstrated evidence of compliance of the Waste Wise Event Guidelines required.***
3. ***Make it a condition of the sponsorship funding that Avenel Museum & Courthouse Inc must comply with COVID-19 directions issued by the Chief Health Officer/Department of Health at the time of the event. Future funding is contingent on post event evaluation with demonstrated evidence of compliance of these directions is required.***

**PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND**

The proposal for the event is to engage local musical artists from Avenel and surrounding areas to entertain the Avenel community and surrounds at four (4) local business venues throughout both days. A variety of different musicians will play at the venues for two (2) hours each across the two days at different times of the day as well as at the annual Twilight market in Jubilee Park on Saturday 11 December 2021, and then continue at other venues on Sunday 12 December 2021.

It is anticipated that this will provide an income for members of our local music industry who have lost significant income due to COVID restrictions and lockdowns. It will provide a boost to the community's mental health as it gives them something to look forward to and will provide financial support to our local businesses who are keen to offer a location for the musicians to play and promote their music. Musicians will also play at the local Twilight market on the Saturday evening which caters for a wide range of ages. The aim is to offer a high quality, inspiring event bringing businesses, locals and visitors together.

The event will have economic benefit to the businesses in Avenel, attracting shoppers, visitors and families to Avenel to get together prior to Christmas. It will also be an opportunity for the community to come together after a difficult year – specifically relating to Goal 2 of the Arts and Culture Strategy enhancing a ‘Culturally capable community’. This project will positively contribute to building healthy and vibrant communities, welcomes gender equality inclusion and access for all, capacity building and promote community engagement.



9.2.4 Application for Sponsorship - Avenel Museum and Courthouse Public Recreation and Playground Reserve Inc. ~ Roaming Rhythms Event (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.

The sponsorship assistance provided by Council will facilitate a more professional event and increase the overall enjoyment of this community initiative.

This project aligns with the key principles of the Arts and Culture Strategy and will:

- Promote community engagement and participation
- Contribute to building healthy and vibrant communities.

Whilst Council has three large marquees available for community use, the request is for hire of a small marquee.

**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 Avenel Arts Culture and Events committee has recently been created to drive events such as this in the community. The committee incorporates members from many sections of the community who are involved in music, artists, theatre producers, community facilities, Avenel Active, market manager and philanthropists.

This committee recently met with the Arts & Culture Officer and Events Team at Council to both discuss this event to seek feedback and guidance in the execution and delivery of this initiative.

**POLICY CONSIDERATIONS**

**Council Plans and Policies**

*This initiative addresses the key objectives of the Council Plan 2017 – 2021 as follows:*

- *Goal One: To enhance community health and wellbeing*
  - *Key strategies – Plan for improved community health, wellbeing and liveability; Engage and participate with the community in Council/Community initiatives; Support and drive community, arts and cultural events*

*This initiative also directly relates to the Arts and Culture Strategy 2019 -2023 as follows:*

- *Goal 1: A Connected and Vibrant Community which is focused on strengthening the strong sense of belonging and community pride, by increasing the opportunities for creative stimulation and connectedness.*
  - *Strategic Objective 1.1 – we will support initiatives that bring people together, encourage collaboration and partnerships and create networks.*

9.2.4 Application for Sponsorship - Avenel Museum and Courthouse Public Recreation and Playground Reserve Inc. ~ Roaming Rhythms Event (cont.)

*It also relates to the Liveability Plan 2017-2021 as follows:*

- *Priority One: Stronger Together. Establish strong partnerships and increase collaboration.*

**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**

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 this request for sponsorship of the Avenel Roaming Rhythms Event be acknowledged in a public forum providing full disclosure of how potential allocated sponsorship funding is being distributed within our community.

**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.

There is currently \$27,000 of available funding remaining of the 2021 – 2022 financial year budget allocation for the sponsorship program, with four (4) sponsorship applications submitted for consideration at the October 2021 Council Meeting. The event is scheduled for December 2021 and the estimated budget is attached below:

***Roaming Rhythms Event Budget***

**Income**

Strathbogie Shire	\$3,500	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$3,500</b>	

**Expenditure**

North Central Hire	\$ 950	Council Funding
Musicians	\$ 2,550	Council Funding
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$3,500</b>	

#### 9.2.4 Application for Sponsorship - Avenel Museum and Courthouse Public Recreation and Playground Reserve Inc. ~ Roaming Rhythms Event (cont.)

The current Sponsorship Program Budget is listed below and list both the requested and recommended sponsorship funding amounts:

<b>Strathbogrie Shire's SPONSORSHIP BUDGET 2021 - 2022</b>			
Total Budget Allocation	\$30,000		
	<b>Requested</b>	<b>Recommended</b>	
Euroa Little Theatre	\$3,000	\$3,000	<i>Approved</i>
Nagambie Carols	\$3,919	\$3,000	Pending
Euroa Twilight Shopping	\$3,000	\$3,000	Pending
Euroa Festival Prelude	\$5,000	\$3,000	Pending
Avenel Roaming Rhythms	\$3,500	\$3,000	Pending
<b>Unconfirmed TOTAL budget remaining</b>	<b>\$11,581</b>	<b>\$15,000</b>	

It is the recommendation of the reviewing officer to reduce the sponsorship funding from the requested amount of \$3,500 to a recommended amount of \$3,000 due to the higher than usual uptake of sponsorship program funding at this time and to ensure that there are sponsorship funds available for allocation for the remainder of the financial year.

#### ***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**

This event will assist in bringing people from the surrounding areas to join with the Avenel community and visitors staying within the region to enjoy the event with the possibility of providing an economic stimulus to the township. It will also be an outlet for local musicians to perform and gain some much needed income.

#### **Social**

The event supports social connection by providing a family friendly community event within the township of Avenel, enabling those residents who usually have to travel out of town in order to access cultural events to participate in a cultural event within their own town and community.

#### **Environment**

There may be some minimal environmental impacts including additional electricity consumption that will be required to deliver the event as well as an elevated noise level for a short period of time. Officers will work with event organisers to implement initiatives within the Waste Wise Policy at this event.

#### **Climate Change**

This event can provide the opportunity for attendees to carpool or walk the various locations, reducing the carbon footprint on the environment and reduce the need to travel to larger centres to experience a live music event.

9.2.4 Application for Sponsorship - Avenel Museum and Courthouse Public Recreation and Playground Reserve Inc. ~ Roaming Rhythms Event (cont.)

**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.

Officers will work with the organising committee of the Roaming Rhythms Event to ensure that this event aligns with the requirements of the Events Policy and to identify actions in collaboration with them for improvement an 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.

This event will be a collaboration between the local community, Avenel Market, Strathbogie Shire, various local businesses and the Avenel Museum & Courthouse Inc Committee.

**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*.

**CONCLUSION**

It is recommended that the request from for the Roaming Rhythms Event be supported for the reasons identified in this report.

It is the recommendation of the reviewing officer to reduce the sponsorship funding from the requested amount of \$3,500 to a recommended amount of \$3,000 due to the higher than usual uptake of sponsorship program funding at this time and to ensure that there are sponsorship funds available for allocation for the remainder of the financial year.

**9.2.5 Application for Sponsorship - Euroa Chamber of Business and Commerce Inc. ~ Euroa Music Festival Prelude Event**

Author: Manager Tourism and Community Services

Responsible Director: Director Community and Planning

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Euroa Chamber of Business and Commerce Inc have submitted a request for sponsorship of \$5,000 from Council to be put towards the Euroa Music Festival Prelude Event being held on Friday 25 March 2022, in Binney Street, Euroa.

The funds will be utilised for the following purpose:

1. Hire of Tables and Chairs and other associated infrastructure
2. Hire of Sound Stage and AV equipment

Their application was of a good standard with most questions addressed and scored a 16/25 against the measured criteria of the Sponsorship Program. There is currently \$27,000 of available funds remaining of the 2021 – 2022 financial year budget allocation for the sponsorship program, with four (4) sponsorship applications submitted for consideration at the October 2021 Council Meeting.

<b>Strathbogie Shire's SPONSORSHIP BUDGET 2021 - 2022</b>			
Total Budget Allocation	\$30,000		
	<b>Requested</b>	<b>Recommended</b>	
Euroa Little Theatre	\$3,000	\$3,000	<i>Approved</i>
Nagambie Carols	\$3,919	\$3,000	Pending
Euroa Twilight Shopping	\$3,000	\$3,000	Pending
Euroa Festival Prelude	\$5,000	\$3,000	Pending
Avenel Roaming Rhythms	\$3,500	\$3,000	Pending
<b>Unconfirmed TOTAL budget remaining</b>	<b>\$11,581</b>	<b>\$15,000</b>	

This application for sponsorship aligns with the following priority focus areas of Council for the Sponsorship Program which are to:

1. Promote community engagement and participation
2. Contribute to building healthy and vibrant communities

This report seeks approval for the provision of this sponsorship request.

9.2.5 Application for Sponsorship - Euroa Chamber of Business and Commerce Inc. ~ Euroa Music Festival Prelude Event (cont.)

**RECOMMENDATION**

***That Council:***

1. ***Endorse sponsorship of \$3,000 to be funded from the 2021 – 22 budget allocations for community sponsorship, to the Euroa Chamber of Commerce to assist with the Euroa Music Festival Prelude Event being held in March 2022; and***
2. ***Work with the Euroa Chamber of Commerce to reduce overall waste produced at the event through the implementation of the objectives of both the Waste Wise Events Guidelines and Sustainable Strathbogie 2030 in being “A Zero Waste Shire”. Future funding is contingent on post event evaluation with demonstrated evidence of compliance of the Waste Wise Event Guidelines required.***
3. ***Make it a condition of the sponsorship funding that Euroa Chamber of Business and Commerce Inc must comply with COVID-19 directions issued by the Chief Health Officer/Department of Health at the time of the event. Future funding is contingent on post event evaluation with demonstrated evidence of compliance of these directions is required.***

**PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND**

In 2021 the Euroa Chamber of Commerce Inc presented the inaugural Euroa Music Festival Prelude Event with great success. Funding for the hire of furniture and associated infrastructure for the 2021 event was provided by Council from the Business Victoria Grant.

This proposal is to close Binney Street to traffic and create a carnival atmosphere with the local traders opening their doors later than usual on the Friday night and also include: casual outdoor dining, children’s activities, live music, local food and wine stalls, along with the ability for traders who don’t have a Binney Street presence to set up a stall. It will be a place for the community to come together attracting local residents, families and the many visitors who will be in town for the Euroa Music Festival.

The event will have economic benefit to the businesses in Euroa, attracting shoppers, visitors and families to the CBD to experience local live acts, in a relaxed pre festival atmosphere. This event will encourage visitors attending the Euroa Music Festival on 26 March to come to town a day earlier and enjoy a relaxed weekend. It will showcase the talented local artists as well as the local community and businesses.

**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.

### 9.2.5 Application for Sponsorship - Euroa Chamber of Business and Commerce Inc. ~ Euroa Music Festival Prelude Event (cont.)

The sponsorship assistance provided by Council will facilitate a more accessible event, encouraging patrons to stay longer and spend more and increase the overall enjoyment of this community event.

This project aligns well the key principles of the Arts and Culture Strategy and will -

- Promote community engagement and participation
- Contribute to building healthy and vibrant communities

It will also be an opportunity for the community to come together after a difficult year – specifically relating to Goal 2 of the Arts and Culture Strategy enhancing a 'Culturally capable community'. This project will positively contribute to building healthy and vibrant communities, welcomes gender equality inclusion and access for all, capacity building and promote community engagement.

#### **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 Euroa Chamber of Commerce Inc are a representative body of businesses capturing membership from Euroa, Longwood and Violet Town. The Euroa Chamber of Commerce has a membership in excess of 130 businesses and provides opportunities for engagement through a number of activities and initiatives.

#### **POLICY CONSIDERATIONS**

##### **Council Plans and Policies**

*This initiative addresses the key objectives of the Council Plan 2017 – 2021 as follows:*

- *Goal One: To enhance community health and wellbeing*
  - *Key strategies – Plan for improved community health, wellbeing and liveability; Engage and participate with the community in Council/Community initiatives; Support and drive community, arts and cultural events*

*This initiative also directly relates to the Arts and Culture Strategy 2019 -2023 as follows:*

- *Goal 1: A Connected and Vibrant Community which is focused on strengthening the strong sense of belonging and community pride, by increasing the opportunities for creative stimulation and connectedness.*
  - *Strategic Objective 1.1 – we will support initiatives that bring people together, encourage collaboration and partnerships and create networks.*

*It also relates to the Liveability Plan 2017-2021 as follows:*

- *Priority One: Stronger Together. Establish strong partnerships and increase collaboration.*

#### **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.

9.2.5 Application for Sponsorship - Euroa Chamber of Business and Commerce Inc. ~ Euroa Music Festival Prelude Event (cont.)

**Conflict of Interest Declaration**

All officers 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 this request for sponsorship of the Euroa Music Festival Prelude Event be acknowledged in a public forum providing full disclosure of how potential allocated sponsorship funding is being distributed within our community.

***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.

There is currently \$27,000 of available funds remaining of the 2021 – 2022 financial year budget allocation for the sponsorship program, with four (4) sponsorship applications submitted for consideration at the October 2021 Council Meeting. The event is scheduled for March 2022 and has support from the Euroa Chamber of Commerce Inc in contribution of additional funding towards the event – see attached budget below:

**Euroa Music Festival Prelude Event Sponsorship  
Application Proposed Budget**

**Income**

Strathbogie Shire	\$5,000	Requested
Euroa Chamber of Commerce	\$ 3,651	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$8,651</b>	

**Expenditure**

Heartwood Hire	\$2,835	Chamber Funds
Sounds Stage	\$3,146	Council Sponsorship
Children's activities	\$ 550	Chamber Funds
Advertising	\$ 120	Chamber Funds
Musicians	\$2,000	Chamber Funds
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$8,651</b>	



9.2.5 Application for Sponsorship - Euroa Chamber of Business and Commerce Inc. ~ Euroa Music Festival Prelude Event (cont.)

The current Sponsorship Program Budget is listed below and list both the requested and recommended sponsorship funding amounts:

<b>Strathbogie Shire's SPONSORSHIP BUDGET 2021 - 2022</b>			
Total Budget Allocation	\$30,000		
	Requested	Recommended	
Euroa Little Theatre	\$3,000	\$3,000	<i>Approved</i>
Nagambie Carols	\$3,919	\$3,000	Pending
Euroa Twilight Shopping	\$3,000	\$3,000	Pending
Euroa Festival Prelude	\$5,000	\$3,000	Pending
Avenel Roaming Rhythms	\$3,500	\$3,000	Pending
<b>Unconfirmed TOTAL budget remaining</b>	<b>\$11,581</b>	<b>\$15,000</b>	

It is the recommendation of the reviewing officer to reduce the sponsorship funding from the requested amount of \$5,000 to a recommended amount of \$3,000 due to the higher than usual uptake of sponsorship program funding at this time and to ensure that there are sponsorship funds available for allocation for the remainder of the financial year.

### ***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**

This event will assist in bringing people from the surrounding areas to join with the Euroa community, families and visitors, to enjoy the event which will provide the local traders and local artists with a much needed economic stimulus.

#### **Social**

The event supports social connection by providing a family friendly community event within the CBD of Euroa enabling those residents who usually travel to Shepparton or Benalla to access live music the opportunity to experience it within their own town and community. It will also provide an activity for the visitors coming to Euroa for the Euroa Music Festival to arrive a day earlier to enjoy a pleasant night within the township.

#### **Environment**

There may be some minimal environmental impacts including additional electricity consumption that will be required to deliver the event as well as an elevated noise level for a short period of time. Officers will work event organisers to implement initiatives in the Waste Wise Policy at this event.

#### **Climate Change**

This event can provide the opportunity for attendees to carpool or walk to the CBD, reducing the carbon footprint on the environment and reduce the need to travel to larger centres to experience a live music event.

9.2.5 Application for Sponsorship - Euroa Chamber of Business and Commerce Inc. ~ Euroa Music Festival Prelude Event (cont.)

**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.

Officers will work with the Euroa Chamber of Commerce Inc (ECC) to ensure that this event aligns with the requirements of the Events Policy and to identify actions in collaboration with ECC for improvement an innovation on the previous event held in 2021.

**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.

This event will be a collaboration between the local community, local musicians, local traders, Strathbogrie Shire and the Euroa Chamber of Commerce Inc.

**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.

**CONCLUSION**

It is recommended that the request for the Euroa Music Festival Prelude Event be supported for the reasons identified in this report.

It is the recommendation of the reviewing officer to reduce the sponsorship funding from the requested amount of \$5,000 to a recommended amount of \$3,000 due to the higher than usual uptake of sponsorship program funding at this time and to ensure that there are sponsorship funds available for allocation for the remainder of the financial year.

### 9.2.6 Application for Sponsorship - Euroa Chamber of Business and Commerce Inc. ~ Euroa Twilight Christmas Shopping Event

Author: Manager Tourism and Community Services

Responsible Director: Director Community and Planning

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Euroa Chamber of Business and Commerce Inc (ECC) have applied for sponsorship for the Euroa Twilight Christmas Shopping Event on 9 or 10 December 2021 (the ECC are still to finalise the exact date) to be held in Binney Street, Euroa.

The funds will be utilised for the following purpose:

3. Hire of tables, chairs and other associated infrastructure.

Their application was of a good standard with most questions addressed and scored a 16/25 against the measured criteria of the Sponsorship Program. There is currently \$27,000 of available funds remaining of the 2021 – 2022 financial year budget allocation for the sponsorship program, with four (4) sponsorship applications submitted for consideration at the October 2021 Council Meeting.

<b>Strathbogie Shire's SPONSORSHIP BUDGET 2021 - 2022</b>			
Total Budget Allocation	\$30,000		
	<b>Requested</b>	<b>Recommended</b>	
Euroa Little Theatre	\$3,000	\$3,000	<i>Approved</i>
Nagambie Carols	\$3,919	\$3,000	Pending
Euroa Twilight Shopping	\$3,000	\$3,000	Pending
Euroa Festival Prelude	\$5,000	\$3,000	Pending
Avenel Roaming Rhythms	\$3,500	\$3,000	Pending
<b>Unconfirmed TOTAL budget remaining</b>	<b>\$11,581</b>	<b>\$15,000</b>	

This application for sponsorship aligns with the following priority focus areas of Council for the Sponsorship Program which are to:

4. Promote community engagement and participation
5. Support gender equality and social inclusion and improve accessibility
6. Contribute to building health and vibrant communities

This report seeks approval for the provision of this sponsorship request.

9.2.6 Application for Sponsorship - Euroa Chamber of Business and Commerce Inc. ~ Euroa Twilight Christmas Shopping Event (cont.)

**RECOMMENDATION**

***That Council:***

1. ***Endorse sponsorship of \$3,000 to be funded from the 2021 – 22 budget allocation for community sponsorship, to the Euroa Chamber of Commerce to assist with the Euroa Twilight Shopping Event being held in December 2021; and***
2. ***Work with the Euroa Chamber of Commerce to reduce overall waste produced at the event through the implementation of the objectives of both the Waste Wise Events Guidelines and Sustainable Strathbogie 2030 in being “A Zero Waste Shire”. Future funding is contingent on post event evaluation with demonstrated evidence of compliance of the Waste Wise Event Guidelines required.***
3. ***Make it a condition of the sponsorship funding that Euroa Chamber of Business and Commerce Inc must comply with COVID-19 directions issued by the Chief Health Officer/Department of Health at the time of the event. Future funding is contingent on post event evaluation with demonstrated evidence of compliance of these directions is required.***

**PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND**

The Euroa Chamber of Commerce Inc have held the Christmas Twilight Market in Binney Street over a number of years, however in 2020 they ‘revamped’ the format to create more of a festival vibe, with the feedback received from both traders and the community that it was a highly successful adaptation. Funding for the hire of furniture and associated infrastructure for the 2020 event was provided by Council from the Outdoor Activation funding provided by the State Government.

It is proposed to close Binney Street to traffic and create a vibrant atmosphere with the local traders opening their doors later than usual, casual outdoor dining, children’s activities, live music, local food and wine stalls, along with the ability for traders who don’t have a Binney Street presence to set up a stall. It will be a place for the community to come together attracting local residents, families and visitors to the region.

The event will have an economic benefit to the businesses in Euroa, attracting shoppers, visitors and families to the CBD to enjoy a shopping and dining experience in a relaxed pre-Christmas atmosphere.

**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.

9.2.6 Application for Sponsorship - Euroa Chamber of Business and Commerce Inc. ~ Euroa Twilight Christmas Shopping Event (cont.)

The sponsorship assistance provided by Council will facilitate a more accessible event, encouraging patrons to stay longer and potentially spend more and add to the increased overall enjoyment of this community event.

It will also be an opportunity for the community to come together after another challenging year – specifically relating to Goal 2 of the Arts and Culture Strategy enhancing a ‘Culturally capable community’. This event will positively contribute to building healthy and vibrant communities, welcomes gender equality inclusion and access for all, capacity building and promote community engagement

**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 Euroa Chamber of Commerce Inc are a representative body of businesses capturing membership from Euroa, Longwood and Violet Town. The Euroa Chamber of Commerce has a membership in excess of 130 businesses and provides opportunities for engagement through a number of activities and initiatives.

**POLICY CONSIDERATIONS**

**Council Plans and Policies**

This initiative addresses the key objectives of the Council Plan 2017 – 2021 as follows:

- Goal One: To enhance community health and wellbeing
  - Key strategies – Plan for improved community health, wellbeing and liveability; Engage and participate with the community in Council/Community initiatives; Support and drive community, arts and cultural events

This initiative also directly relates to the Arts and Culture Strategy 2019 -2023 as follows:

- Goal 1: A Connected and Vibrant Community which is focused on strengthening the strong sense of belonging and community pride, by increasing the opportunities for creative stimulation and connectedness.
  - Strategic Objective 1.1 – we will support initiatives that bring people together, encourage collaboration and partnerships and create networks.

It also relates to the Liveability Plan 2017-2021 as follows:

- Priority One: Stronger Together. Establish strong partnerships and increase collaboration.

**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.

9.2.6 Application for Sponsorship - Euroa Chamber of Business and Commerce Inc. ~ Euroa Twilight Christmas Shopping Event (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 the interest of transparency and open and honest communication with our community, it is recommended that this request for sponsorship of the Euroa Twilight Christmas Shopping event be acknowledged in a public forum providing full disclosure of how potential allocated sponsorship funding is being distributed within our community.

***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.

There is currently \$27,000 of available funding remaining of the 2021 – 2022 financial year budget allocation for the sponsorship program, with four (4) sponsorship applications submitted for consideration at the October 2021 Council Meeting. The event is scheduled for December 2021 and has support from the Euroa Chamber of Commerce Inc in contribution of additional funding towards the event – see attached budget below:

**Euroa Christmas Shopping Twilight Event Budget  
Income**

Strathbogie Shire	\$3,000	
Other Sponsorship	\$ 762	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$3,762</b>	

**Expenditure**

Heartwood Hire	\$2 762	Council Grant
Children's activities	\$ 650	Own Funds
Advertising	\$ 100	Own Funds
Santa	\$ 100	Own Funds
Market Coordinator	\$ 150	Own Funds
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$3,762</b>	

9.2.6 Application for Sponsorship - Euroa Chamber of Business and Commerce Inc. ~ Euroa Twilight Christmas Shopping Event (cont.)

The current Sponsorship Program Budget is listed below and list both the requested and recommended sponsorship funding amounts:

<b>Strathbogie Shire's SPONSORSHIP BUDGET 2021 - 2022</b>			
Total Budget Allocation	\$30,000		
	<b>Requested</b>	<b>Recommended</b>	
Euroa Little Theatre	\$3,000	\$3,000	<i>Approved</i>
Nagambie Carols	\$3,919	\$3,000	Pending
Euroa Twilight Shopping	\$3,000	\$3,000	Pending
Euroa Festival Prelude	\$5,000	\$3,000	Pending
Avenel Roaming Rhythms	\$3,500	\$3,000	Pending
<b>Unconfirmed TOTAL budget remaining</b>	<b>\$11,581</b>	<b>\$15,000</b>	

### ***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**

This event will assist in bringing people from the surrounding areas to join with the Euroa community, families and visitors to enjoy the event which will provide the local traders with a much needed economic stimulus during these COVID times.

#### **Social**

The event supports social connection by providing a family friendly community event within the CBD of Euroa. Those residents who would usually travel to Shepparton or Benalla to access Christmas shopping facilities are able to participate in a unique Christmas Shopping experience within their own town and community.

#### **Environment**

There may be some minimal environmental impacts including additional electricity consumption that will be required to deliver the event. Officers will work event organisers to implement initiatives in the Waste Wise Policy at this event

#### **Climate Change**

This event can provide the opportunity for attendees to carpool or walk to the CBD, reducing the carbon footprint on the environment and reduced the need to travel to larger centres to undertake their Christmas shopping.

### ***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.

Officers will work with the Euroa Chamber of Commerce Inc (ECC) to ensure that this event aligns with the requirements of the Events Policy and to identify actions in collaboration with ECC for improvement an innovation on the previous event held in 2020.

9.2.6 Application for Sponsorship - Euroa Chamber of Business and Commerce Inc. ~ Euroa Twilight Christmas Shopping Event (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.

This event will be a collaboration between the local community, local traders, Shire and the Euroa Chamber of Commerce.

**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*.

**CONCLUSION**

It is recommended that the request for the Euroa Twilight Christmas Shopping Event be supported for the reasons identified in this report.



### 9.2.7 **Application for Sponsorship - GoFish Nagambie Pty Ltd. ~ GoFish Nagambie 2022 Event**

Author: Manager Tourism and Community Services

Responsible Director: Director Community and Planning

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The GoFish Nagambie Pty Ltd have submitted a request for sponsorship from Council to be put towards the GoFish Nagambie 2022 Event being held on Thursday 10 February – Sunday 13 February 2022, located at the Nagambie Lakes Regatta Centre, Loddings Lane, Nagambie.

Their request is as follows:

<b>Cash Component</b>	
Cash sponsorship (to be used for Marketing)	\$ 5,000 ex GST
<b>In kind Component</b>	
Hire of Regatta Centre @ \$1,688/day x 5 days	\$ 8,440 ex GST
<b>Additional Cost to be absorbed by Council</b>	
Additional Waste Management	\$ 1,318 ex GST
<b>Total Sponsorship Request Amount</b>	<b>\$14,758 ex GST</b>

Whilst their application for sponsorship aligns with most priority focus areas for the Sponsorship Program, under the Sponsorship Guidelines their application is not eligible. The Sponsorship Guidelines determine that the following are not eligible to apply:

- An individual
- An unincorporated not for profit community group, organisation or club without an appropriate auspicing body
- Any group who has an overdue acquittal from a previous funding application
- Any group already receiving other financial support from Council where their funding and service agreement precludes access to other Council funding
- Private, profit-making organisations.

GoFish Nagambie Pty Ltd is registered as an Australian Private Company on the Australian Business Register.

Since the event inception in 2019 (no event held in 2020 due to the coronavirus global pandemic), council has provided support to the event through the provision of:

- Complementary venue hire of the Regatta Centre, Nagambie;
- Council officer time over and above normal support to an event; and
- Additional waste management services (at a cost to Council).

There was no formal documentation in place to detail this commitment, however the Council Resolutions from both the November 2018 and February 2020 Council Ordinary Meeting Minutes identify the commitment to support that Council has previously provided to this event.

9.2.7 Application for Sponsorship - GoFish Nagambie Pty Ltd. ~ GoFish Nagambie 2022 Event (cont.)

It is recommended that Council not provide financial 'cash' support to this event application due to the entity of GoFish Nagambie Pty Ltd being deemed 'ineligible' for cash sponsorship support under the endorsed guidelines of Council's formal Sponsorship Program. There are no stipulations in the current Sponsorship Guidelines around providing 'in-kind' support.

**RECOMMENDATION**

***That Council:***

1. ***Decline support for the request for \$5,000 cash sponsorship to GoFish Nagambie Pty Ltd as they are deemed ineligible for 'cash' sponsorship support under the endorsed guidelines of Council's formal Sponsorship Program;***
2. ***Support the request to provide 'in-kind' sponsorship support to GoFish Nagambie Pty Ltd to support the delivery of the GoFish Nagambie 2022 event in the form of:***
  - a. ***Five (5) days of complimentary venue hire of the Regatta Centre to a value of \$8,444; and***
  - b. ***In-kind staff support during normal business hours.***
3. ***Absorb the cost of additional waste management collection to a value of \$1,318.00;***
4. ***As in previous years, work with GoFish Nagambie to reduce overall waste at the event to provide alternatives to single use items to support the objectives of the Sustainable Strathbogrie 2030 in being "A Zero Waste Shire"; and***
5. ***Request as in previous years, that GoFish Nagambie provide a briefing of the outcomes of the event to Council.***
6. ***Make it a condition of the sponsorship funding that GoFish Nagambie Pty Ltd must comply with COVID-19 directions issued by the Chief Health Officer/Department of Health at the time of the event. Future funding is contingent on post event evaluation with demonstrated evidence of compliance of these directions is required.***

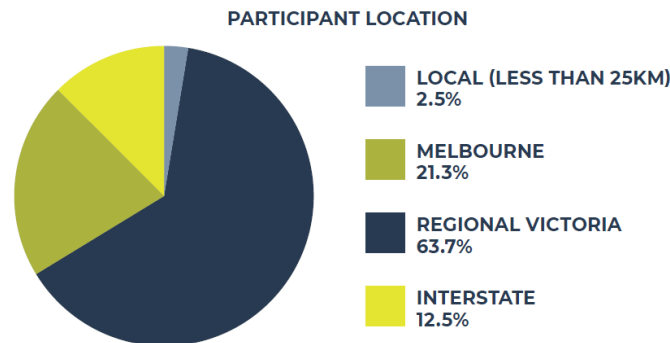
**PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND**

GoFish Nagambie is one of Australia's largest freshwater fishing competitions attracting 2323 competitors at the 2021 event, which was a 10.25% increase on the 2019 event. The event generates approximately \$18 million in tourism economic impact for Strathbogrie Shire (see attached Remplan report – attachment 1). In conjunction with the actual fishing competition (competitor fee charged), a free entry festival with education stalls, an expo and entertainment is offered continuously over the weekend event.

### 9.2.7 Application for Sponsorship - GoFish Nagambie Pty Ltd. ~ GoFish Nagambie 2022 Event (cont.)

A survey of participants from previous the 2021 event indicates that:

- 9.4% of participants travel home each day of the event with 56.4% staying in Nagambie;
- 30% had not been to Nagambie before and indicated that they would return;
- 85.32% stayed more than 4 days in Strathbogie region spending in hotels, restaurants, shops and supermarkets;
  
- 92.75% of exhibitors stayed in paid accommodation;
- 10.4% of attendees stayed after the event to explore Strathbogie;
- 32.8% travelled to Nagambie prior to the event to specifically pre-fish in the area in preparation for the tournament; and
- Overall daily spend of attendees increased in 2021.



This event positively contributes to building healthy and vibrant communities, welcomes inclusion and access for all, capacity building and promotes community engagement. One of the key focus areas that GoFish Nagambie set is to increase participation of women in fishing and provide an avenue to increase awareness, inclusion, and access for both women already active in the sport, but also those who had never taken the first step to casting a lure. In 2021, 13% of the registered entrants were women which was an increase on the 2019 event numbers.

#### ***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.

Whilst the economic benefit for Nagambie itself and the border region is clearly demonstrated, under the current Sponsorship Guidelines, private for profit-making organisations are ineligible to apply for a sponsorship request.

In both 2019 and 2021 (the event was postponed in 2020 due to COVID-19), Council has supported the event through the provision of 'in-kind' sponsorship. The comparison 'in-kind' sponsorship request and associated costs to Council are listed below:

9.2.7 Application for Sponsorship - GoFish Nagambie Pty Ltd. ~ GoFish Nagambie 2022 Event (cont.)

*Table of Requests 2021 vs 2022*

	<b>2021 request/requirement</b>	<b>2022 request/requirement</b>	<b>2022 \$ equivalent</b>
a.	7 x Day Hire of the Regatta Centre Precinct (including all buildings, facilities and peninsula land area)	<i>5 x Day Hire of the Regatta Centre Precinct (including all buildings, facilities and peninsula land area)</i>	<b>\$8,440.00</b> The reduced cost is due to a reduction in the number of days the facility is required for bump in/bump out
b.	Access to Council owned boat ramps and assistance in preparing ramps and access points		N/A Part of the general maintenance. Only boat ramp that needs work is Picnic Point near Kirwans B ridge which is GMW owned and maintained
c.	Boating safety patrol of Nagambie Lakes and Goulburn River during event delivery	<i>No requirement/request for use at the 2022 event</i>	N/A
d.	Liaison with Maritime Safety Victoria and Goulburn Murray Water		N/A Forms 'business as usual' support from Council Officer
e.	Event Management support from Council Officer including liaison between GOFish Nagambie and Council (pre and post event) including assistance with permits	<i>'Business as usual' Event Management support from Council Officer including liaison between GoFish Nagambie and Council</i>	N/A
f.	Event Management support from Council Officer outside of 'Business as usual' (weekend and after hours)	<i>At previous events in 2019 and 2021 this was required and calculated at a cost of \$1692.98. Due to the experience of the event organiser and familiarity of the venue this support is not required in 2022.</i>	N/A
g.	Access to power and water	<i>Access to power and water</i>	Included as part of the overall daily Hire Fee charged for the Regatta Centre

9.2.7 Application for Sponsorship - GoFish Nagambie Pty Ltd. ~ GoFish Nagambie 2022 Event (cont.)

h.	Assistance through the loan of Council's temporary fencing (pending availability)	<i>Not a requirement in 2022 due to the upgrade in infrastructure at The Regatta Centre</i>	N/A
i.	Assistance with community engagement including the recruitment of volunteers	<i>Not a requirement in 2022 due GoFish Nagambie now having 2 years of previous experience with the event</i>	N/A
j.	Four-day hire of onsite toilet and shower facilities	<i>This is still required, however these facilities are included as part of the overall Regatta Centre Hire Fee, which has been requested to be waived</i>	Included as part of the overall daily Hire Fee charged for the Regatta Centre
k.	Access and use of pontoon including assistance in positioning	<i>Access and use of pontoon including assistance in positioning</i>	N/A Component of contractor's duties – no additional cost to Council
l.	Maintenance, cleaning and facility upkeep of the area surrounding the Nagambie Lakes Regatta Centre	<i>Any additional charges to be incurred above 'business as usual' tasks are negotiated directly with the contractor responsible for maintenance at the Regatta Centre, therefore these services and are not an additional cost to Council</i>	N/A
m.	On-site visitor information services including use of marquee	<i>On-site visitor information services including use of marquee</i>	Forms 'business as usual' support from Council Officer
n.	Support in preparing the venue and tethering platform for boats		N/A Component of contractor's duties – no additional cost to Council
o.	Additional waste management	<i>Additional cost to Council over and above our contracted service by Cleanaway. It is proposed to absorb this cost within existing budget resources.</i>	<b>\$1,318</b>
<b>TOTAL SUPPORT REQUEST FOR 2022</b>			<b>\$9,758</b>

9.2.7 Application for Sponsorship - GoFish Nagambie Pty Ltd. ~ GoFish Nagambie 2022 Event (cont.)

Previously, this sponsorship support provision has been provided through an in-kind arrangement, where no monies were transferred via organisations. Additional Council event staff time outside of normal duties to support the event and waste collection above the normal requirements of the venue were considered as direct costs incurred by Council and absorbed through existing budget allocations.

The hire of the Regatta Centre facilities was revenue to Council that was waived in lieu of the large economic benefit to both Strathbogrie Shire and the region as a result of this event. There was no formal documentation in place to detail this commitment from Strathbogrie Shire Council.

The requests for assistance of the event organiser (GoFish Nagambie Pty Ltd) from Council officers have reduced significantly for the 2022 event due to the learning outcomes and knowledge gained over the previous two (2) events, and this accounts for the reduction in the costs associated with the 'in-kind' support as referenced in the 'Table of Requests 2021 vs 2022'.

Given the large economic benefit that GoFish offers the Shire of Strathbogrie, officers propose that Council provide support through the abovementioned provisions as it has over previous years (outside of Council's Sponsorship Program).

**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.

In 2021 GoFish Nagambie incorporated several community activities into the festival including:

- Vic Kids Fishing Program - over 200 children participation in learn to fish sessions
- North East Emergency Expo - aim of getting communities prepared for emergencies and especially those centred around the water. The event provided a number of emergency services an opportunity to display their resources, as well as the support services and community groups showcasing a variety of interactive and visual displays. Five regional CFA brigades benefited with the distribution of \$2,281 in funds that was raised by the raffle.
- Victorian Dragon Boat Championships 2021 - over 400 Dragon Boat Competitors competed in 12 class divisions with 12 Victorian clubs in attendance.
- Volunteer Program – The Volunteer Program at GoFish Nagambie seeks out participants from regional and local sporting and community based clubs. Each Volunteer received a uniform and catering, as well as the funds donated per shift directly to their community program. GoFish Nagambie donated over \$4,000 to community programs.

9.2.7 Application for Sponsorship - GoFish Nagambie Pty Ltd. ~ GoFish Nagambie 2022 Event (cont.)

- MS Family Program & Raffle - providing community engagement through respite, education and social interaction the GoFish Family Program provides family's living with Multiple Sclerosis an opportunity to escape and enjoy the Nagambie region. Family members experienced a number of regional activities facilitated by GoFish Nagambie and their partners. Standing alongside the Family Program is the GoFish Nagambie MS Raffle which had 12,500 tickets sold through a 12 week campaign. In 2021 \$84,120 was raised and donated to the worthy charity.
- Women in Recreational Fishing – A major driver in the 2021 event was to promote participation of women in fishing. This year 13% of the registered entrants were women which was an increase on the 2019 event numbers.

***POLICY CONSIDERATIONS***

**Council Plans and Policies**

This initiative addresses the key objectives of the Council Plan 2017 – 2021 as follows:

- Goal One: To enhance community health and wellbeing
  - Key strategies – Plan for improved community health, wellbeing and liveability; Engage and participate with the community in Council/Community initiatives; Support and drive community, arts and cultural events

This initiative also directly relates to the Arts and Culture Strategy 2019 -2023 as follows:

- Goal 1: A Connected and Vibrant Community which is focused on strengthening the strong sense of belonging and community pride, by increasing the opportunities for creative stimulation and connectedness.
  - Strategic Objective 1.1 – we will support initiatives that bring people together, encourage collaboration and partnerships and create networks.

It also relates to the Liveability Plan 2017-2021 as follows:

- Priority One: Stronger Together. Establish strong partnerships and increase collaboration.

***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 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.

9.2.7 Application for Sponsorship - GoFish Nagambie Pty Ltd. ~ GoFish Nagambie 2022 Event (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.

In the interest of transparency and open and honest communication with our community, this report is being presented a public forum providing full disclosure of this sponsorship request.

GoFish Nagambie have advised that they will invite Councillors to welcome event patrons to the Shire on the first night along with the opportunity to present prizes throughout the weekend on the main stage, as well as an invitation to speak at the VIP Event.

***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 contribution for waste management services through Council's contractor is over and above the contract sum and it is proposed that this cost will be absorbed into current operating budget.

The event has broad support from GoNagambie, local traders / accommodation providers and hospitality venues.

***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 GoFish Nagambie model generates economic benefit and increased tourism to the Strathbogie Shire local government area and Nagambie region, bringing a \$18 Million stimulus to the region (see attached Remplan report – attachment 1). The economic benefit is not only on the weekend of the event, but participants also indicated that they travel to the region prior and post the event, with this information highlighted in the GoFish 2021 Stakeholder Report (see Attachment 2). The event supports local business in the hospitality and service retail industries in the region.

**Social**

The event supports social connection by providing a family friendly event within the festival hub, enabling those residents who would usually travel to seek out entertainment opportunities to access live music and kids entertainment opportunities to experience a significant event within their own town and community. It also provides an activity for the family members coming to Nagambie for the Festival but not necessarily for fishing to enjoy the township.



9.2.7 Application for Sponsorship - GoFish Nagambie Pty Ltd. ~ GoFish Nagambie 2022 Event (cont.)

**Environment**

There will be additional water movement due to the increase of watercraft movements on the waterways which can have an impact on erosion and native flora and fauna from boat wash and other disturbances. All participants are remaindered to adhere to all waterways restrictions to limit the impact on the environment. There will also be additional consumption of power on site for use by both campers and the event organiser, however all power provided on site from Council meters is 100% renewable.

**Climate Change**

Officers will work event organisers to implement initiatives in the Waste Wise Events Guidelines at this event, making it a showcase for how a waste wise event should be run and encouraging all to reduce their consumption of raw materials in a further effort to reduce the effects of climate change.

***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.

Officers will work with GoFish Nagambie to ensure that this event aligns with the requirements of the Events Policy and to identify actions in collaboration with GoFish Nagambie for improvement an innovation on the previous event held in 2021.

***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.

This event will be a collaboration between the local community, local accommodation providers, hospitality venues, local traders, volunteer organisations, Victorian Fishing Authority, Multiple Sclerosis Foundation, Maritime Safety Victoria, Victorian Water Police, Strathbogie Shire and GoNagambie.

***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.

***CONCLUSION***

Following the assessment of the Go Fish Nagambie Pty Ltd application against the Sponsorship Guidelines, it has been concluded that Go Fish Nagambie Pty Ltd is ineligible to apply for 'cash' sponsorship funding support as they are deemed to be a 'for profit' organisation. There are no stipulations in the current Sponsorship Guidelines around providing 'in-kind' support.

9.2.7 Application for Sponsorship - GoFish Nagambie Pty Ltd. ~ GoFish Nagambie 2022 Event (cont.)

It is therefore recommended that Council support the request to provide 'in-kind' sponsorship support to Go Fish Nagambie Pty Ltd to support the delivery of the Go Fish Nagambie 2022 event for the provision of free venue hire, officer support and the cost of additional waste management collection.

**ATTACHMENTS**

**Attachment 1:** Remplan Report

**Attachment 2:** GoFish 2021 Stakeholder Report

**ATTACHMENT 1:**



**Tourism Impact Summary Report for Australia (Tourism Activity: 4 days)**

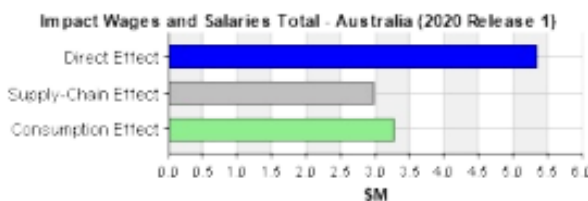
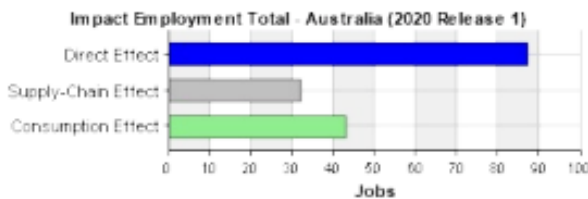
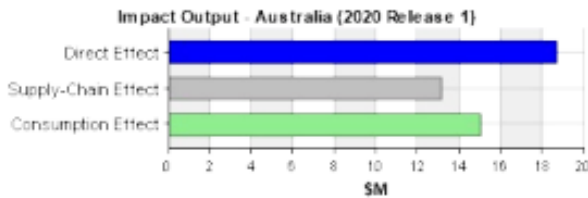
Tourism Impact Scenario

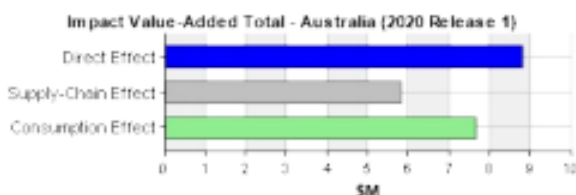
Name GoFish Nagambie 2022  
Duration 4 days

Direct Impact	Domestic Day	Domestic Overnight	International	Total
Number of Visitors	250	20,160	0	20,410
Number of Nights	n/a	5.00	0.00	
Estimated Expenditure per Visitor per Day (\$)	\$108	\$185	\$164	
Total Estimated Expenditure (\$)	\$27,000	\$18,648,000	\$0	\$18,675,000

Estimated Expenditure per Visitor per Day data sourced from:  
TRA June 2020 National & International Visitor Survey

Tourism Impacts





Under this scenario Gross Regional Product is estimated to increase by \$22.246 million ( 0.00%) to \$1,985,460.246 million. Contributing to this is a direct increase in output of \$18.675 million, 87 additional jobs , \$5.335 million more in wages and salaries and a boost in value-added of \$8.788 million.

From this direct expansion in the economy, flow-on supply-chain effects in terms of local purchases of goods and services are anticipated, and it is estimated that these indirect impacts would result in a further increase to output valued at \$13.123 million, 32 more jobs , \$2.965 million more paid in wages and salaries, and a gain of \$5.815 million in terms of value-added.

These supply-chain effects represent the following Type 1 economic multipliers:

Impact	Type 1 Multipliers
Output	1.703
Employment	1.368
Wages and Salaries	1.556
Value-added	1.662

The increase in direct and indirect output and the corresponding creation of jobs in the economy are expected to result in an increase in the wages and salaries paid to employees. A proportion of these wages and salaries are typically spent on consumption and a proportion of this expenditure is captured in the local economy. The consumption effects under the scenario are expected to further boost output by \$15.012 million, employment by 43 jobs , wages and salaries by \$3.268 million, and value-added by \$7.643 million.

Under this scenario, total output is expected to rise by \$46.811 million. Corresponding to this are anticipated increases in employment of 162 jobs , \$11.568 million wages and salaries, and \$22.246 million in terms of value-added.

The total changes to economic activity represent the following Type 2 economic multipliers:

Impact	Type 2 Multipliers
Output	2.507
Employment	1.862
Wages and Salaries	2.168
Value-added	2.531

### Tourism Impact Summary (Tourism Activity: 4 days)

Impact	Direct Effect	Supply-Chain Effect	Consumption Effect	Total Effect	Type 1 Multiplier	Type 2 Multiplier
Output (\$M)	\$18.675	\$13.123	\$15.012	\$46.811	1.703	2.507
Long Term Employment (Jobs)	87	32	43	162	1.368	1.862
Wages and Salaries (\$M)	\$5.335	\$2.965	\$3.268	\$11.568	1.556	2.168
Value-added (\$M)	\$8.788	\$5.815	\$7.643	\$22.246	1.662	2.531



## Disclaimer

All figures, data and commentary presented in this report are based on data sourced from the Australia Bureau of Statistics (ABS), most of which relates to the 2016, 2011, 2006 and 2001 Censuses, and data sourced from the National Visitor Survey (NVS) and International Visitor Survey (IVS) published by Tourism Research Australia.

Using ABS datasets and an input / output methodology industrial economic data estimates for defined geographic regions are generated.

This report is provided in good faith with every effort made to provide accurate data and apply comprehensive knowledge. However, REMPLAN does not guarantee the accuracy of data nor the conclusions drawn from this information. A decision to pursue any action in any way related to the figures, data and commentary presented in this report is wholly the responsibility of the party concerned. REMPLAN advises any party to conduct detailed feasibility studies and seek professional advice before proceeding with any such action and accept no responsibility for the consequences of pursuing any such action.

**ATTACHMENT 2:**



**POST EVENT REPORT**

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## **1. FOREWORD FROM THE MANAGING DIRECTOR, ROD LOCKWOOD**

## 1. FOREWORD FROM THE MANAGING DIRECTOR, ROD LOCKWOOD



On behalf of the team at Go Fish Nagambie (GFN), we are pleased to provide the attached Post Event Report for the 2021 event. Following a very difficult "Covid 2020" which saw GFN cancelled it was important to us to re-establish the brand and conduct a successful event to ensure the tournament was placed back at the forefront of freshwater fishing competitions in Australia. We are pleased to state from the outset that our objectives were met and the conduct of the event was successful. Our report will identify the achievements and indicators that prove that we have achieved our goal of building a sustainable event.

We are pleased that we delivered an attractive and viable Jayco Tournament Hub with 30 exhibitors and Sponsors present along with over 2300 fishers. This coupled with the strong attendance to our Go Nagambie Jayco Tournament Hub shows that we have successfully established the brand and we now have a commercially viable event.

We are particularly pleased that we have been able to contribute to make Nagambie and the Strathbogrie region a desirable tourism destination. Our marketing pushed the beauty and desirability of the location and people were not disappointed when they attended. The Nagambie Lakes Resort (adjacent to our hub) report that there is now year round fishing on the river and increased business from the numerous fishers that have discovered the excellent fishing and beautiful region. Fishing is now a year round economic contributor to the Strathbogrie region.

Go Fish Nagambie has now proved itself to be Australia's largest freshwater tournament. The atmosphere around the fishing and Jayco Tournament Hub was relaxed and happy, the feedback is that our attendees love the region and the tournament itself. We installed a camping ground on our Regatta Centre site which assisted us to create a pleasant destination for our festival hub and nightly with our prize giving and VIP functions. The event is very popular and our use of the Regatta Centre site proves that this site is ideal for GFN. The Shire of Strathbogrie are to be commended on the improvements they have made to the Regatta Centre as a desirable events site.

GFN uses a catch, measure and release system for the fishing tournament. This also makes the competition environmentally sustainable. All fish are measure and photographed and submitted via our proprietary online system that we have developed for this tournament. Our rules are strict about the handling of the fish that have been caught and we manage the rules of the tournament to ensure our competitors are responsible.

We are grateful to all our wonderful sponsors and exhibitors. The combined cash and prize pool was a huge attraction. We could not have created this massive pool without the support of our wonderful sponsors including Visit Victoria, Victoria Fisheries Authority, Shire of Strathbogrie, Jayco Carevans, Honda Australia Motorcycle and Power Equipment Pty Ltd, Seymour Toyota, Kilmore LDV, Shimano Australia Fishing Pty Ltd, Daiwa Australia Pty Ltd, Navico Asia Pacific - (Lowrance), Nautilus Marine Insurance, Anaconda, Tonic Eyewear, FLIR Maritime Asia Pty Ltd (Raymarine), Pure Fishing, Infiniti Boats Australia. There are many more exhibitors and contributors, and we are grateful to all the wonderful support for our 2021 event.

We hope you get hooked on the following post event report, because we want to catch you again next year!  
~ Rod Lockwood

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Rod Lockwood'.



## 2. EVENT SUMMARY

## 2. EVENT SUMMARY

The 2020 GoFish Nagambie event was set to hit all internal and external targets for event growth after the amazingly successful inaugural event in 2019. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, the event had to be postponed until 2021.

After a significant investment in the 2019 GoFish event, GTR Events was determined to conduct the 2021 event to see the GoFish brand back into the recreational fishing market. However, it is only through the support of the fishing community and event stakeholders that this iconic event managed to undertake a year long hiatus and return, in a slightly different format in March this year.

The national events market was hard hit by COVID-19 and GFN actively sought to increase community support through this year's event. GoFish Nagambie utilised the difficult event restrictions as an opportunity to provide a platform for alternate community based inclusions, as well as increasing targeted previous event elements to capacity.

With an increased daily economic participant spend of 507% from 2019, an estimated tourism economic impact of over \$6.03 million, a marketing reach of over 813K, and a 97.5% non-local participation rate, GFN 2021 excelled in all target areas against the odds in a COVID-19 environment.

2021 EVENT FOCUS POINTS			
Community Inclusion	COVID-19 Impacts	Event Improvements	Participation Targets
Hosted North East Emergency Expo	Condensing off water hours for participation fishers	Extension of tournament zone	2323 Total Participants
Hosted Strathbogie Evolve Kids	Decreased camping areas to minimise risk	Built custom catch manager to improve submission experience	Sold out - 260 participants in VFA Women in Fishing Function
Hosted Dragon Boat Victorian Championships 2021	Streamlined participation registration and at-event system	Earlier date to take advantage of warmer weather	Sold out - 200 participants in VFA Vic Kids Fish Clinics



### 3. EVENT SNAPSHOT

### 3. EVENT SNAPSHOT

#### 3.1. TOURNAMENT RESULTS

GTR Events actively sought to move the event dates earlier to take advantage of daylight savings and a warmer climate. Fishers saw a distinct shift in the number and fish species caught at the inaugural event. Due to the awareness of the date change, many tournament participants travelled to the Nagambie region to pre-fish the area to try to find the best location for during the event.

An increase in Junior fishers was seen in response to targeted messaging through the marketing campaign and increased opportunity and activation through the event period. Working hand in hand with key stakeholders, this family friendly focus for the tournament is looked to be increased for 2022.



**976**

fish caught and released over three days



**2323**

total tournament participants (increase of 10.25%)



**2057**

Open Tournament participants



**266**

Junior Tournament participants



**32.8%**

of participants travelled to Nagambie prior to the event to specifically pre-fish the area in preparation of the tournament

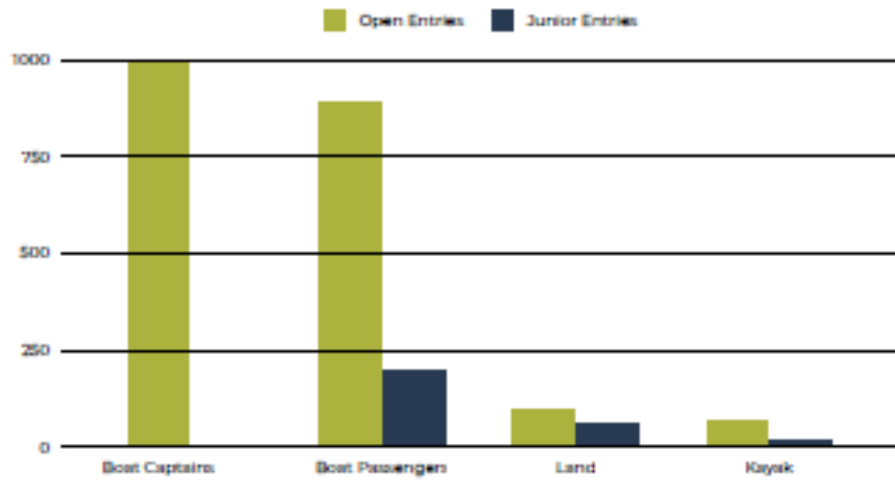


**85.56%**

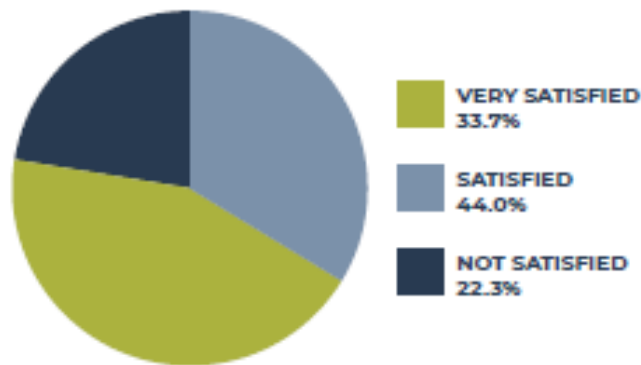
of participants will enter again in 2022

### 3. EVENT SNAPSHOT

#### TOURNAMENT RESULTS



#### OVERALL PARTICIPANT SATISFACTION



### 3. EVENT SNAPSHOT

WINNERS LIST			
Winners Name	Classification	Species	Size (cm)
Graham Fletcher	Open	Murray Cod	100.7
Nicholas Philbrick	Open	European Carp	77
Stephen Majera	Open	Golden Perch	53.5
Fred Johnstone	Junior	Murray Cod	95
Tyler Norton	Junior	European Carp	73
Jack Taylor	Junior	Golden Perch	46
Klara Atkins	Junior	Redfin	27



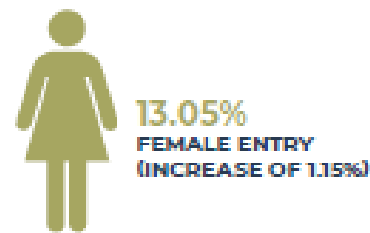
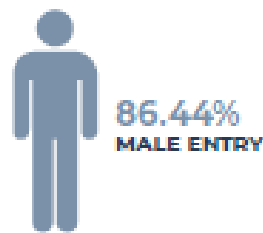
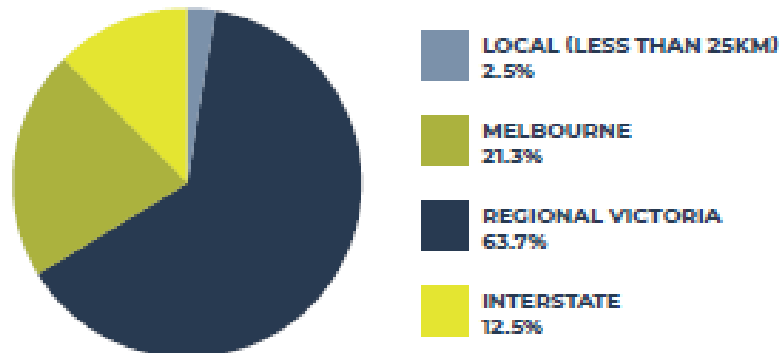


### 3. EVENT SNAPSHOT

#### 3.2. VISITOR INFORMATION

The demographic of the GoFish participants is a direct response to the implementation of COVID-19 travel restrictions and an adjusted marketing campaign, with a large percentage of participants travelling from Regional Victoria to Nagambie. With only 9.4% of participants travelling home each day of the event, the Nagambie and surrounding regions saw an influx of attendees both before and during the event period.

PARTICIPANT LOCATION

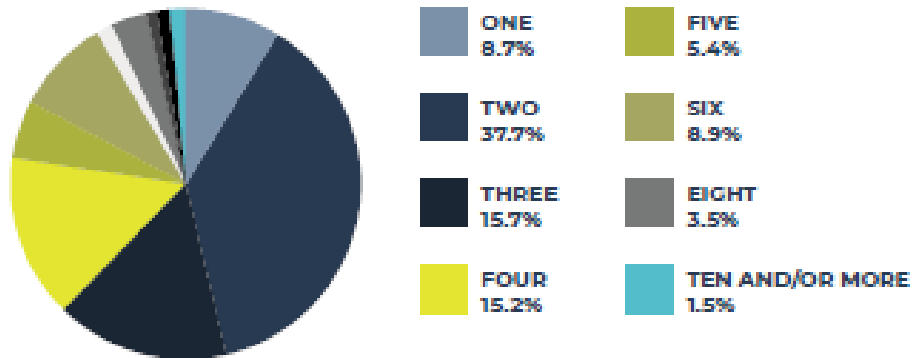


Demographic Changes	
International	Decrease of 0.05%
Interstate	Decrease of 0.98%
Intrastate	Increase of 7.35%
Local	Decrease of 6.33%

State by State Breakdown			
VIC	2079	QLD	10
NSW	200	TAS	3
ACT	16	WA	2
SA	13	NT	0

### 3. EVENT SNAPSHOT

NUMBER IN TRAVELLING PARTY



**29.77%**

**OF GOFISH PARTICIPANTS HAD NEVER BEEN TO THE NAGAMBIE REGION PRIOR TO ENTERING THE EVENT.**



**35.85%**

**OF COMPETITORS BROUGHT THEIR CHILDREN OR FAMILY TO THE EVENT.**



**56.15%**

**OF PARTICIPANTS UTILISED PAID ACCOMMODATION WITHIN THE NAGAMBIE AND SURROUNDING REGIONS.**

**FULL DETAIL OF THE PARTICIPATION NUMBERS OF THE EVENT CAN BE FOUND IN APPENDIX T1.3.**



## 4. MARKETING & PROMOTION

## 4. MARKETING & PROMOTION

### 4.1. CAMPAIGN OVERVIEW

The GoFish Nagambie 2021 campaign launched on the 17th February 2021, amongst a snap lockdown, just 5-weeks before the event. When considered that previously GFN had delivered an event marketing campaign across 4-months, the results and targets that were met are a huge success.

The 2021 GFN campaign focused on targeting three separate audiences all within the broader fishing community and the local community. The central aim was to increase tournament participation and visitation to the hub as well as the broader Nagambie area.

As the 2020 GoFish Nagambie event was cancelled due to COVID-19, the 2021 campaign started with competitors rolled over from the 2020 entries. With this in mind, the campaign focused on selling out of the remaining boat captain entries, as well as increasing the participation of Bank and Kayak fishing.

The audiences targeted in the marketing and communications strategy were split into two categories; participants and the local community. Combining a strong marketing mix of above and below the line channels, converting the primary audience who are participants with an inherent interest in the event was a successfully achieved goal.

The campaign included strategies to re-engage past participants, encouraging current participants to refer their friends and increase boat passenger entries. Discounted junior entries and discounted land and kayak entries utilising the GoFish Ambassadors Rhys Creed and Paul Woestling's platforms was another key strategy.

Overall, the campaign was successful with increased participation across all entries compared to the 2019 event. This is a remarkable feat considering the campaign was only 5-weeks in duration, compared with the previous 4-month campaign.

### 4.1.1. KEY MARKETING HIGHLIGHTS AND CHANNELS

2021 Total Campaign Reach

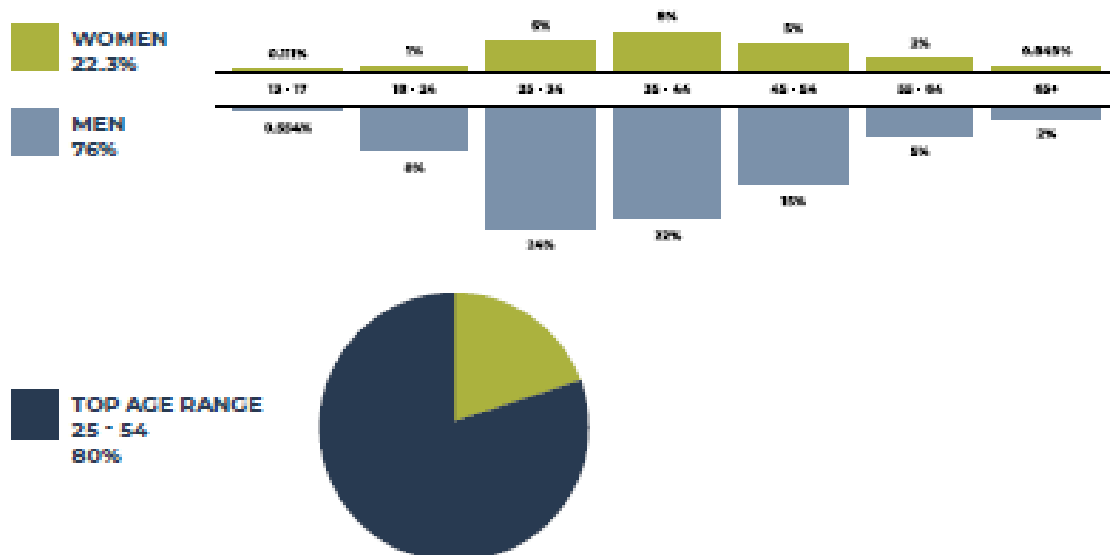


## 4. MARKETING & PROMOTION

The 2021 marketing strategy included a diverse mix of above and below the line methods to achieve our campaign objectives, including the following:

State by State Breakdown	
Below the Line	Above the Line
<p><b>Social Media</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organic Facebook and Instagram (GoFish Nagambie)</li> <li>• Paid Social Media Advertising</li> </ul> <p><b>Paid Digital Media</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AdWords</li> <li>• Display</li> <li>• Perfect Audience</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GoFish Nagambie E-Newsletter</li> <li>• GoFish Nagambie Official Website</li> <li>• Text message</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Print Media</li> <li>• Radio</li> <li>• Ambassadors</li> </ul>

### 4.2.3. AUDIENCE DEMOGRAPHICS



## 4. MARKETING & PROMOTION

### 4.2. BELOW THE LINE

Google Adwords, Google Display and Perfect Audiences as well as Paid Social Media, E-Newsletter and the GoFish Nagambie website were all used in the 2021 below the line campaign.

#### PAID DIGITAL MEDIA

Paid advertisements via social media were pushed from the GoFish official accounts on both Instagram and Facebook (@GoFish\_nagambie).

##### Overview:

- Social Media Reach: 356,792
- Social Media Impressions: 1,548,938
- Facebook Engagement: 7,558

#### FACEBOOK OVERVIEW

The Facebook Campaign performed strongly, resulting in increased spending. The advertisement copy was updated to push the scarcity angle and focused on the top-performing ads that drove the most conversions.

- Reach: 274,826
- Impressions: 1,086,594
- Website Clicks/interactions: 7,558
- CPC: \$1.21

#### PERFORMANCE – CONVERSION

Ad Name	2021 Campaign - Fishing Interest Location: - People: 100k	2021 Campaign - Fishing Interest Location: - People: 100k	2021 Campaign - Fishing Interest Location: - People: 100k	2021 Campaign - Fishing Interest Location: - People: 100k
Ad 1				
Per Ad (Clicks, conversions, cost)	36	19	25	36
Overall	11	36	86	56
CPA	\$4.56	\$2.14	\$0.95	\$2.01

## 4. MARKETING & PROMOTION

### INSTAGRAM

The Instagram platform was used to convert customers who shown interest in fishing, boat and outdoor activities.

#### Overview:

- Reach: 81,966
- Impressions: 162,256
- Website Clicks/interactions: 808
- CPC: \$1.83

### INSTAGRAM PERFORMANCE – ENGAGEMENT VS CONVERSION



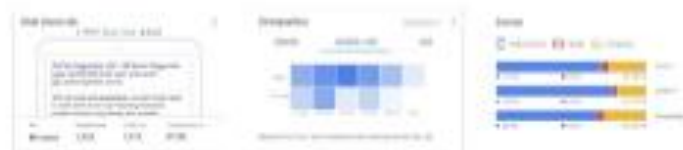
### GOOGLE ADS

Overall, the Google Ads performed well with an above-average 4.28% conversion rate. This was achieved by pushing the budget towards high performing campaigns, focusing on top-performing segments and activating retargeting campaigns which enabled much broader search terms.

#### Overview:

- Impressions: 82,782
- Website clicks/interactions: 5,542
- CPC: \$0.60

### GOOGLE ADS INSIGHTS



### GOOGLE DISPLAY

The primary objective of the display advertising campaign is to drive awareness and capitalise on the sheer volume of traffic publishers receive on their website.

#### Overview:

- Impressions: 20,005
- Website clicks/interactions: 1,722
- CPC: \$0.22

## 4. MARKETING & PROMOTION

### PERFECT AUDIENCE ADS

The primary objective here is to retarget the audience on the various website through Google Display Networks.

#### Overview:

- Impressions: 16,301
- Website clicks/interactions: 31
- CPC: \$5.26

### RETARGETING ADS AND SAMPLE SITES



### ORGANIC SOCIAL MEDIA

Organic social channels were used to provide engaging and information content.

#### Overview:

- Total Social Media Reach: 4.8 million
- Total Social Media Impressions: 2.46 million
- Total Facebook Likes/Comments/Shares: 8758

### EDM

The eDM's were sent out to the GoFish Nagambie database which numbers 10,644. The email campaign targeted eDM's to segmented audiences including 2020 Rollover Competitors, 2021 competitors and 2021 boat passengers, allowing GFN to communicate information directly to a specific audience.

#### Overview:

- Total eDMs Sent: 29
- Average Open Rate: 47.90%
- Average Click Through Rate: 16.08%



## 4. MARKETING & PROMOTION

### WEBSITE ANALYTICS

The GoFish Nagambie website was carried over from the 2020 campaign. The main aim of the website was to be a source of event information for competitors and spectators.

#### Overview:

- 134k total page views
- 104k Individual users
- Top Performing Pages:
  - Homepage - 30k views
  - 2021 landing page - 7.7k views
  - Tournament - 5k views
  - Ticketing page - 4.9k views
  - Prize Pool - 4.8k views

1	Home	30,148	21,140	66.82%	100%	100%
2	2021	7,761	3,277	42.22%	23.22%	23.22%
3	Tournament	5,000	3,067	61.34%	14.97%	14.97%
4	GoFish Nagambie 2021	4,941	1,400	28.33%	14.55%	14.55%
5	Prize Pool	4,811	1,000	20.81%	14.97%	14.97%





## 5. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

## 5. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

### 5.1. WOMEN IN RECREATIONAL FISHING

One of the targets that GoFish Nagambie always set out to do was to focus on the participation of women in fishing and provide an avenue to increase awareness, inclusion and access for both women already active in the sport, but also those who had never taken the first step to casting a lure.

Through a combined marketing effort, the footwork and access provided by our GoFish Nagambie ambassadors as well as a beautiful location, food and wine, GoFish Nagambie was proud to host and sell out the Women in Fishing function on the Friday night of the tournament.

- 260 registered attendees
- 23,960 total Facebook reach
- 15,080 total Facebook impressions.

*The WIRF Function at GoFish Nagambie provided a rare opportunity for female anglers to come together, share their passion for fishing and celebrate the achievements of females in the industry. The response to the event far exceeded everyone's expectations with over 260 female anglers and their supporters from all age groups and backgrounds coming together to enjoy the event and taking home some very generous prizes thanks to event supporters Daiwa Australia and Trilby's Outdoor.*

**Karen Rees**  
GoFish Nagambie Ambassador and WIRF Ambassador



## 5. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

### 5.2. VIC KIDS FISH PROGRAM

With a strong history of support from the Victorian Fishing Authority, GoFish Nagambie was happy to host a Vic Kids Fish Program as part of the State Governments Target One Million Campaign. With the aim of getting more under 18's involved in fishing, the event element allowed 200 children the opportunity to get a free rod and reel, as well as learning to fish sessions across the entire event.

- Over 200 children participated
- 3 days of activation
- 10 Learn to fish sessions attended
- 46,279 people reached on Facebook - booked out in less than 1 hour

*What a celebration was hosted. It was fantastic to see a diverse and engaged audience at GoFish Nagambie 2021. The smiles on faces and fun interaction between everyone at the event was great to see. The VFA were thrilled by the sell out status achieved at both of our key activations at GoFish Nagambie; Vic Fish Kids and Women In Recreational Fishing (WIRF) function.*

*We look forward to continuing to work with Go Fish Nagambie for future events.*

**Brian Mottram, Director Recreational Programs, Victorian Fishing Authority**



## 5. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

### 5.3. MS FAMILY PROGRAM & RAFFLE

The MS relationship with GoFish Nagambie has been one that has shown exponential growth over the two events. Providing community engagement through respite, education and social interaction the GoFish Family Program provides family's living with MS an opportunity to escape and enjoy the Nagambie region. The family members experienced a number of regional activities facilitated by GoFish Nagambie and their partners.

Standing alongside the Family Program is the GoFish Nagambie MS Raffle which had 12,500 tickets sold through a 12 week campaign and at event sales which resulted in a 196% increase in amounts fundraised from 2019.

GoFish Nagambie would like to thank their generous stakeholders, participants and the public for assisting to raise vital funds to support those living with multiple sclerosis, with the aim of ensuring that no one faces this debilitating disease alone.

- 28 family members participation in the MS Family Program
- Raffle prizes of \$25,417 donated to MS
- \$84,120 in fundraising raised

*"GoFish Nagambie is a community event that uniquely unites locals and visitors, in particular families, over four days through fishing and an active event hub providing entertainment and expo experiences.*

*Multiple Sclerosis is warmly welcomed by the public attending the event not just through the fundraising achieved, but importantly the conversations and acknowledgment of the challenges faced by people and families living with MS."*

**Greg Hutchings, Senior Manager, MS Event Strategy & Operations**



## 5. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

### 5.4. NORTH EAST EMERGENCY EXPO

In a region that itself has been affected by devastating fires in 2019, GoFish Nagambie was proud to host and support the third annual North East Emergency Expo. With the aim of getting communities prepared for emergencies and especially those centered around the water, the event provided a number of emergency services an opportunity to display their resources, as well as the support services and community groups showcasing a variety of interactive and visual displays.

With free entry into the event, which was hosted within the GoFish Nagambie footprint, the event included a raffle with all funds raised going back into the Nagambie community specifically for emergency projects and equipment.

- 10 registered exhibitors
- \$2,281.30 raised in raffle funds
- Contribution directly provided to five regional CFA branches

*"GoFish Nagambie instilled inspiration and dedication throughout their amazing lineup of displays over the weekend with plenty to see and do for all. Our group, although new to the events business, saw that weekend what we could become if we continued to strive towards greatness. Because in one word that is how we would have described the event - Great".*

**Carina Newton, President, North East Emergency Action Group Inc.**



## 5. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

### 5.5. STRATHBOGRIE EVOLVE KIDS

Evolve Youth of Strathbogrie is a group of young people who meet every second Wednesday in Euroa or Nagambie to discuss, plan and manage a number of events catering to the diverse needs and interests of youth in the Strathbogrie community. The group supports community organisations within the Strathbogrie Shire and beyond, with youth focused music events, as well as building the capacity of young people in the Shire.

500 kids of all ages enjoyed a range of activities with a free shuttle bus running to and from Nagambie, with drop off and pick up points at Violet Town, Euroa and Avenal.

- 500 kids participated within Evolve Kids
- Free regional shuttle assisting transportation for minors
- Virtual reality gaming, bucking bull and footy kicking competitions.

*"What I found most amazing about the GoFish Evolve Youth Event 2021 was Council working to give our young people the opportunity to congregate, participate and celebrate in a great afternoon of free activities and perks. From bull riding, gaming and DJ trailers to footy kicking and a photo booth; this year's GoFish Youth Event was a festival highlight with over 500 participants between 15 to 25 years old."*

**Cr Melanie Likos, Deputy Mayor Strathbogrie Shire Council**



## 5. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

### 5.6. DRAGON BOAT VICTORIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS 2021

Due to last minute Blue Green Algae concerns at their intended venue, GoFish Nagambie stepped in to help Dragon Boat Victoria to proceed with their 2021 Championships on the Saturday morning of the event.

There was a large number of CFN participants who enjoyed the additional festivities and a number of Dragon Boaters who expressed an interest in returning to the event as participants in the future.

- Over 400 Dragon Boat competitors
- 12 class divisions
- 12 clubs with Victoria wide participation.





## 5. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

### 5.7. VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

The Volunteer Program at GoFish Nagambie seeks out participants from regional and local sporting and community based clubs. Each Volunteer received a uniform and catering, as well as the funds donated per shift directly to their community program.

62.5% of Volunteers chose to undertake more than four shifts with 87.5% looking to Volunteer with the program again in the future.

- 53 clubs contacted to register
- 21 individuals participated
- 157 lunches provided through local business
- Over \$4,000 in donated funds to community programs.





## 6. COVID-19 IMPACTS

## 6. COVID-19 IMPACTS

The result of the COVID-19 pandemic reverberated through the entire community in 2020 and both the fishing community and GoFish Nagambie were not immune. The most significant impact on the event was the postponement of the much anticipated 2020 event - however the pandemic went on to shape and change the event in 2021. As one of the first mass participation events to be run in 2021, the event faced challenges both in its basic format and operational running. What resulted was a different event than was expected for 2020 and the changes implemented will continue to mould the 2022 GFN format.

### 6.1. HIATUS FUNDING

Issue	Solution	Result
COVID-19 struck less than a month prior to the 2019 event, with restrictions being implemented only weeks prior to the start date. This resulted in the postponement of the event with a large percentage of the event spend already diminished through 2020 event infrastructure and marketing costs.	Creative solutions were found through the application for additional funding and the conservation of current funding through budget adjustments and increased focus on tournament creation and participation.	The 2021 event model was changed due to the financial impact of the COVID-19 pandemic - however the main tournament element of GFN grew at expected 2020 rates with a satisfaction rating of over 77%.

### 6.2. INDUSTRY IMPACT

Issue	Solution	Result
Due to overwhelming interest in domestic holidays, activities and outdoor lifestyle, many industries including Caravanning, Camping and Fishing experienced a significant increase in sales both during and post the pandemic lockdowns.	The event was remodelled financially to not rely on the large presence of a multi-faceted exhibition. Existing 2020 partnerships were retained with a focus being moved on to the delivery of digital assets and maximising onsite benefits to brands that could continue to be present and support the event.	The decrease of the Jayco Tournament Hub was not well accepted by some participants and exhibitors, however the condensed hours of the hub were well received to increase hours on water and less diversion from the tournament.
Combined with a reduction in production capacity and shipping delay, this resulted in brands being unable to activate at events as they experienced a lack of stock for display or for sale leaving them unable to produce usual ROI at such an event.	Event messaging to ticketed and prospective attendees was adjusted to reflect the tailored provision that would be available in the 2021 model	There remain areas the footprint can expand for the future in this space which will build this event as a focussed fishing exhibition and tournament.
This resulted in a reduction in guaranteed brand and activation presence in the venue and reduced offering for a general attendee.	By remodelling the event, GFN could focus on adapting to include exhibitors and sponsors as they came on board, rather than working or planning to accommodate a larger footprint that was unachievable for the industry.	

## 6. COVID-19 IMPACTS

### 6.3. IMPLEMENTING COVID SAFE PRACTICES

Issue	Solution	Result
<p>As a mass participation event, GFN had to implement a number of different COVID safe practices in order to keep its staff, contractors, stakeholders and participants safe.</p>	<p>Introduction of new queuing systems and methods of communication had to be implemented for the participants during the event days. High risk touch points such as participant packs had to be modified. Camping numbers were restricted and delineation between sites and maximum capacities were strictly adhered to. COVID marshalls and increased signage, content and announcements reinforce the COVID safe message at the event.</p>	<p>The result was a far more distanced event, with participants feeling the impact when attending the Jayco Tournament Hub rather than the tournament itself. Whilst the participant feedback noted the implementation COVID safe practices, they also understood the higher need for community safety and adhered to all regulations. GoFish Nagambie was commended on its CovidSafe Plan implementation and on site adherence by COVID-19 Authorised Officers that attended the event.</p>



## 6. COVID-19 IMPACTS

### 6.4. DELAYED MARKETING CAMPAIGN

Issue	Solution	Result
<p>Due to the constant changing nature of restriction and COVID Safe event plans, GNF had to delay the 2021 sales campaign until the point was reached where event confidence in delivery method was high - resulting in a confirmed product to market to prospective participants.</p> <p>Due to this, ticket sales were unable to be relaunched until 17th February, just 5 weeks before the event. This posed difficulties conforming a previous 4-month campaign into five week while maintaining required targets.</p> <p>Simultaneously, the aim was to ensure the fishing community had set aside event dates and understood that the event was going ahead, despite entries not going on sale in the traditional November period.</p>	<p>The decision was taken to run a small brand awareness and lead generation campaign before the Christmas period, in order to maintain brand presence in the industry.</p> <p>An aggressive pre-sale campaign was then launched to "buy early" and invested heavily in the digital space, so GFN marketing could warm up, retarget and convert customers at a faster rate.</p>	<p>The initial brand awareness and lead generation campaign ahead of the Christmas break, saw the event decrease cost per lead by \$0.44c on previous campaigns and increase the number of leads generated.</p> <p>Once tickets went on sale, the campaign was able to increase overall participation by 10.25% mainly by being aggressive with event owned data and social media channels.</p>





## 7. 2019 EVENT RESPONSES

## 7. 2019 EVENT RESPONSES

After the inaugural event in 2019, GTR Events sought information from stakeholders and participants regarding the event and how it could be improved in future. Three key features were identified and focused on for the 2020 event, which were then transferred to the 2021 tournament.

### 7.1. SEASON CHANGES

Participant Feedback	Event Response	Feedback
The 2019 dates for the inaugural event fell on the ANZAC long weekend at the end of April. Participants felt that the weather was not conducive to an outdoor event and that the fishing available at the time was not at the same level as it could be earlier in the year.	An earlier date in the year was identified for the 2020 event, however this date had to be postponed to the following year.	The warmer weather was well received and the fishing was at a level better fitting the event prize pool - however the major benefit to the festival area was not achieved due to event responses to COVID-19 restrictions in place.

### 7.2. PRIZE DISTRIBUTION

Participant Feedback	Event Response	Feedback
The 2019 prize pool was focused at the high tier level, with greater prizes for the winner and only provision for top three placegetters only. Participants felt that the prizes could be more evenly distributed.	A full review was undertaken of the prize pool distribution and reformatting of the species competitions was completed.	77.54% of participants were happy with the extended prize pool this year. Event sponsors were also pleased as they received a larger marketing reach for the same level of provision.

### 7.3. APP DEVELOPMENT

Participant Feedback	Event Response	Feedback
The system utilised for the catch submission 2019 event experienced issues due to a lack of signal in the tournament area and also the complexity of users downloading and using an app based system.	A custom web Catch Manager system was built and programmed specifically for GTR Event with GFN users and requirements in mind.	Less negative feedback regarding the app was received during and post event. GTR Events has been approached by a number of parties regarding utilisation of the platform for alternate fishing events.

### 7.4. TOURNAMENT EXTENSION

Participant Feedback	Event Response	Feedback
Congestion on the riverways was noted in 2019 by participants and water safety regulators.	An increased tournament footprint was created to extend the fishing areas past Murchison. Strict speed limits were enforced on the water and regulations surrounding the space required was included within GFN rules.	Less congestion was found overall on the river, however popular areas and those near the festival were still considered to be highly congested. A review will be undertaken regarding new extension options for 2022.



## **8. ECONOMIC IMPACT OVERVIEW**



## 8. ECONOMIC IMPACT OVERVIEW

The main aim of the GoFish Nagambie model was always on bringing economic benefit and increased tourism to the underutilised area of Strathbogie Shire and Nagambie region. GTR Events has estimated that the 2021 event has delivered \$6.03million Tourism Economic Impact to Regional Victoria and Nagambie through the following three main aspects:

### 8.1. NEW & RETURN VISITATION

New Visitation	Percentage pre-event visitation	Number of days visited prior to event	Return Visitation
29.77% of participants were new to the region prior to GFN.	32.80% of participants travelled to the region prior to the 2021 event to fish in preparation of the event	85.32% stayed longer than one day in pre-event visits	88.99% of participants will now return outside of the 2022 event to fish the region

### 8.2. VISITOR STAY

Maintained Stay Length	Number of days visited	Regional Exploration	Accommodation
Average length of stay maintained the 2019 average of 4 days for tournament participants	85.32% stayed longer than one day within the Nagambie region	10.02% of participants entered to explore the Nagambie area as well as fish	Over 56% of participants and 92.75% of exhibitors stayed within paid regional accommodation

### 8.2. VISITOR SPEND & IMPACT

Tourism Days	Increased Spend	Increased Impact	2021 Estimated TEI
The more focused fishing exhibitors, contractors and festival attendees had a 11.9% decrease in overall tourism days to the region	Overall daily spend increase of 50.7% compared to data captured from 2019 participant & exhibitor post-event survey.	Overall the TEI increased by 7.296% for the 2021 event.	GFN had an estimated \$6.03million economic impact to regional Victoria

**FULL DETAIL OF THE TOURISM ECONOMIC IMPACT OF THE EVENT CAN BE FOUND IN APPENDIX 11.4.**



## 9. 2021 EVENT WRAP UP

## 9. 2021 EVENT WRAP UP

GFN 2021 proved to be an overall success in a year which struggled to include events in their previously provided format. The impact from COVID-19 on events such as GoFish Nagambie will be felt over the next three years at least. This next phase of the event lifecycle will be modeled around a rebuilding process to achieve and grow pre-COVID target levels.

Increases in options for tournament expansion which do not impact on waterway congestion levels such as family bank fishing through zone expansion continue to be on the forefront of the rebuilding process. A staged rebuild of the exhibition element over the next event phase will provide increased commercial and stakeholder opportunities, as well as increasing value and attraction for participants. Increased engagement opportunities for regional governmental bodies and commercial stakeholders to target both the participant and non-participants are potential growth areas to increase the events ROI for stakeholders and overall TEI.

The opportunity to increase growth within the recreational fishing demographic to regional Victoria is substantial. The regional economic impact of the event continues to grow through a difficult time, despite the event restrictions imposed. This growth demonstrates the event's future capacity to attract thousands of return visitors to the region, as well as contribute to the economic vibrancy of the area. Business growth will follow from increased fishing tourism to the Strathbogie and adjacent regions over 365 days a year prompted from events such as GFN.

GTR Events and GFN look forward to the next three years of rebuilding and refocusing on creating the ultimate inland fishing tournament in Australia.





## 10. STAKEHOLDER ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

## 10. STAKEHOLDER ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

### PREMIER PARTNERS



### MAJOR PARTNERS



TOYOTA

Seymour Toyota



### OFFICIAL CHARITY PARTNERS

OFFICIAL  
CHARITY PARTNER





## 11. APPENDICES

## 11. APPENDICES

### 11.1. GOFISH NAGAMBIE 2021 TOURNAMENT ZONE



## 11. APPENDICES

### 11.2. PARTICIPANT POST EVENT SURVEY



#### 2021 GoFish Nagambie Competitors Survey GoFish Competitor Survey

**How to entry:**

- Click on the link below and fill out the survey.

**Terms and Conditions:**

- The survey will close on April Sunday 25th at 11:59 pm.
- Winners will be drawn at random
- Winners will be contacted via email
- To be eligible to win you must answer every question.

**Good Luck**

**\* 1. Where did you travel from for the competition?**

- Local ( less than 25km)
- Regional Victoria
- Melbourne
- Interstate

**\* 2. Did you come to the Nagambie region specifically for the GoFish Event**

- Yes
- No (please specify)



## 11. APPENDICES

\* 3. How many people were in your travelling party?

- 1  6  
 2  7  
 3  8  
 4  9  
 5  10

If you had more than 10 people in your travelling party please specify

\* 4. Did everyone in your travelling party enter and fish in the tournament?

- Yes  
 No

\* 5. Did you bring your kids or family with you to the competition

- Yes  
 No




### 2021 GoFish Nagambie Competitors Survey

\* 6. Did they fish in the competition?

- Yes  
 No

## 11. APPENDICES

### 11.2. PARTICIPANT POST EVENT SURVEY



### 2021 GoFish Nagambie Competitors Survey

**\* 7. Why did you decide to enter GoFish Nagambie in 2021 (Select all that apply)**

<input type="checkbox"/> A chance to win the \$80k biggest cod	<input type="checkbox"/> A weekend away fishing with mates
<input type="checkbox"/> The cash prizes that totalled \$150k	<input type="checkbox"/> A weekend away fishing with family / young kids
<input type="checkbox"/> The other major prizes (Jayco Cod O'Clock, Honda Marine Golden Hour, Carp O'Clock)	<input type="checkbox"/> To explore the Nagambie area
<input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) <input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>	

**\* 8. Over the weekend, what was your favourite aspect of the event? (select all that apply)**

<input type="checkbox"/> Being out on the water fishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Shopping in the expo
<input type="checkbox"/> Staying and hanging out at the Anaconda Campsite	<input type="checkbox"/> Listening to Rhys Creed and Paul Worsteling on stage
<input type="checkbox"/> The presentations	<input type="checkbox"/> The activations including Vic Fish Kids, Women in Fishing Function, Seymour Toyota Longest Kick etc.
<input type="checkbox"/> The live music	
<input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) <input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>	

## 11. APPENDICES

### 11.2. PARTICIPANT POST EVENT SURVEY



#### 2021 GoFish Nagambie Competitors Survey

##### GoFish Competitor Survey

##### How to entry:

- Click on the link below and fill out the survey.

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- To be eligible to win you must answer every question.

##### Good Luck

\* 1. Where did you travel from for the competition?

- Local ( less than 25km)
- Regional Victoria
- Melbourne
- Interstate

\* 2. Did you come to the Nagambie region specifically for the GoFish Event

- Yes
- No (please specify)

## 11. APPENDICES

### 11.2. PARTICIPANT POST EVENT SURVEY

\* 12. Would you pay more to have an official branded GoFish Nagambie Brag mat?

- Yes
- No
- Maybe (please specify)

\* 13. Were you happy with the extended prize pool this year?

- Yes
- No
- Somewhat (please specify)

\* 14. Did you read the Competitor Guide and Tournament Map

- Yes - Prior to arriving at the event
- Yes - At the event
- No
- Is there any information you thought should have been included?



**2021 GoFish Nagambie Competitors Survey**  
NAGAMBIE REGION

## 11. APPENDICES

### 11.2. PARTICIPANT POST EVENT SURVEY

\* 15. Have you been to the Nagambie area before entering GoFish Nagambie?

Yes

No

\* 16. Did you pre-fish the tournament zone in the months leading up to the competition?

Yes

No



#### 2021 GoFish Nagambie Competitors Survey NAGAMBIE REGION

\* 17. How many times did you visit the area in the lead up?

1

6

2

7

3

8

4

9

5

10

If you visited more than 10 times please specify how many times


## 11. APPENDICES

### 11.2. PARTICIPANT POST EVENT SURVEY

\* 18. Did you stay overnight or just come for the day

Overnight

Day Visit



**2021 GoFish Nagambie Competitors Survey**  
**NAGAMBIE REGION**

\* 19. Where did you stay during the event?

I travelled home everyday

Nagambie

Shepparton

Seymour

Other (please specify)

\_\_\_\_\_

\* 20. What kind of accommodation did you stay in?

Anaconda Campground at GoFish       Caravan Park

Hotel/Motel       Free campsite

AirBnb

Other (please specify)

\_\_\_\_\_

## 11. APPENDICES

### 11.2. PARTICIPANT POST EVENT SURVEY

\* 21. How many nights did you stay for the 2021 GoFish Nagambie competition?

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

If you stayed more than 10 nights please specify how many days you stayed for


\* 22. How much did you spend per day on the following?

	Amount
Travel (Car hire, petrol)	<input type="text"/>
Shopping (food, alcohol, essentials)	<input type="text"/>
Restaurants	<input type="text"/>
Entertainment and Local attractions	<input type="text"/>
Accommodation	<input type="text"/>

\* 23. Will you return to the region to fish outside of the GoFish Nagambie event?

Yes

No



## 11. APPENDICES

### 11.2. PARTICIPANT POST EVENT SURVEY

**2021 GoFish Nagambie Competitors Survey**  
**MARKETING**

\* 24. How did you hear about the event?

Website  Local Radio

Social Media (Facebook / Instagram)  Local Newspapers

Email  Word of Mouth

Other (please specify)

\_\_\_\_\_

\* 25. Where do you get your GoFish Nagambie information from?

Website

Social media (Facebook / Instagram)

Email

Word of mouth

Other (please specify)

\_\_\_\_\_

\* 26. What other content do you regularly consume? (Select all that apply)

Free to air TV  Fishing Magazines

AM Radio  Podcasts

FM Radio  Newspapers

Other (please specify)

\_\_\_\_\_

9



## 11. APPENDICES

### 11.2. PARTICIPANT POST EVENT SURVEY

\* 27. Anything else you'd like to tell us (all feedback welcome)?

\* 28. Please fill out your details so we can contact you if you win

Name

Email Address

10

## 11. APPENDICES

### 11.3. GOFISH NAGAMBIE 2021 PARTICIPATION

GoFish - Tourism Participation	2021 Actual				Attendance		Tourism Days	
	%	#	Average	Total	#	Total	#	Total
<b>FISHING COMPETITORS</b>	100%			2,323		9,292		9,582
International	0.00%			0	4	0	6	0
Interstate	12.48%			290	4	1160	5	1450
Intrastate	84.98%			1,974	4	7896	4	7896
Local (less than 25km)	2.54%			59	4	236	4	236
<b>OTHER EVENT ELEMENTS</b>								
<b>Exhibitors</b>	100%	40		138		552		715
International	0.00%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Interstate	27.50%	11	3.27	36	4	144	6	216
Intrastate	60.00%	24	3.83	92	4	368	5	460
Local	12.50%	5	2	10	4	40	4	40
<b>Competitor Co-Attendance</b>	100%			2,486		9,942		10,253
International	0.00%	0	0	0	4	0	6	0
Interstate	11.08%	290	1.07	310	4	1241	5	1552
Intrastate	88.47%	1,974	1.07	2112	4	8449	4	8449
Local	0.46%	59	1.07	63	4	253	4	253
<b>Additional Festival Attendance</b>	100%	-		1220	1	0	1	1220
International	0.00%			0	-	0	0	0
Interstate	0.00%			0	-	0	0	0
Intrastate	30.74%	375		375	1	375	1	375
Local	69.26%	845		845	1	845	1	845
<b>TOTAL OTHER EVENTS</b>				<b>3,844</b>		<b>10,494</b>		<b>12,188</b>
<b>OTHER</b>								
Volunteers				21	4	84	4	84
Educators				6	2	12	2	12
Media				6	2	12	2	12
Event Staff				31	4	124	8	248
Event Staff Contractors				71	4	284	6	426
Entertainers				55	2	110	2	110
<b>TOTAL - OTHER</b>				<b>190</b>		<b>626</b>		<b>892</b>
<b>INDIVIDUAL ATTENDANCE</b>				<b>6,357</b>		<b>20,412</b>		<b>22,662</b>

## 11. APPENDICES

### 11.4. GOFISH NAGAMBIE 2021 TOURISM ECONOMIC IMPACT

GoFish Nagambie - Tourism Economic Impact Actual 2019														
Category	% Direct Participants	Tourism Ratio	Event Days	Total Attendance	Average Stay Days	Total Tourism Days	Daily Spend	Total Economic Impact	Accom Per Head	Transport	F & B	Daily Spend Retail	Entertain	
<b>GOFISH NAGAMBIE</b>														
<b>FISHING COMPETITORS</b>	100.00%	2,323		9,292		9,346		1,896,765						
International	0.00%	-	100%	4	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Interstate	12.48%	290	100%	4	1160	5	1,450	321	465,450	102	54	34	98	33
Intrastate	84.98%	1,974	100%	4	7,896	4	7896	321	2,534,616	102	54	34	98	33
Local	2.54%	59	0%	4	236	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total GoFish Nagambie</b>		<b>2,323</b>		<b>9,292</b>		<b>9,346</b>		<b>1,896,765</b>						
<b>Other Festival Elements</b>														
<b>EXHIBITORS</b>	100.00%	138		552		675		314,746						
International	0.00%	-	100%	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Interstate	27.50%	36	100%	4	144	6	216	466	100,572	185	100	50	98	33
Intrastate	60.00%	92	100%	4	368	5	460	466	214,174	185	100	50	98	33
Local	12.50%	10	0%	4	40	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>COMPETITOR CO-ATT</b>	100.00%	2,486		9,942		10,000		3,210,071						
International	0.00%	-	100%	4	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Interstate	11.08%	310	100%	4	1241	5	1,552	321	498,032	102	54	34	98	33
Intrastate	88.47%	2,112	100%	4	8449	4	8,449	321	2,712,039	102	54	34	98	33
Local	0.46%	63	0%	4	253	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>ADDITIONAL FESTIVAL</b>	100.00%	1220		1220		-		-						
International	0.00%	-	100%	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Interstate	0.00%	-	100%	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Intrastate	30.74%	375	100%	1	375	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Local	69.26%	845	0%	1	845	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Other Festival Elements</b>		<b>3,844</b>		<b>11,714</b>		<b>10,676</b>		<b>3,524,816</b>						
<b>OTHERS</b>														
<b>OTHERS</b>	100.00%	190		626		1,947		608,690						
Volunteers	11.05%	21	74.29%	4	84	5	250	163	40,687	50	10	40	30	33
Educators	3.16%	6	81.82%	2	12	2	20	321	6,303	102	54	34	98	33
Media	3.16%	6	100.00%	2	12	2	24	253	6,072	102	54	34	30	33
Event Staff	16.32%	31	100.00%	4	124	9	496	336	166,656	185	54	34	30	33
Event Staff Contractor	37.37%	71	82.54%	4	284	7	938	336	315,052	185	54	34	30	33
Entertainers	28.95%	55	100.00%	2	110	2	220	336	73,920	185	54	34	30	33
<b>TOTAL TOURISM ECONOMIC IMPACT</b>		<b>6,357</b>		<b>21,632</b>		<b>21,969</b>		<b>6,030,272</b>						

**Presented By**



**9.2.8 Application for Sponsorship - Nagambie Community Christmas Carols Committee ~ Nagambie Christmas Carols Event**

Author: Manager Tourism and Community Services

Responsible Director: Director Community and Planning

***EXECUTIVE SUMMARY***

The Nagambie Community Christmas Committee have submitted a request for sponsorship of \$3,919 from Council to be put towards the Nagambie Christmas Carols Event on 5 December 2021.

The funds are proposed to be utilised for the following purpose:

1. Hire of audio equipment
2. Cost of musicians
3. Associate catering costs

Their application was of a good standard with most questions addressed and scored a 19/25 against the measured criteria of the Sponsorship Program. There is currently \$27,000 of available funding remaining of the 2021 – 2022 financial year budget allocation for the sponsorship program, with four (4) sponsorship applications submitted for consideration at the October 2021 Council Meeting.

<b>Strathbogie Shire's SPONSORSHIP BUDGET 2021 - 2022</b>			
Total Budget Allocation	\$30,000		
	<b>Requested</b>	<b>Recommended</b>	
Euroa Little Theatre	\$3,000	\$3,000	<i>Approved</i>
Nagambie Carols	\$3,919	\$3,000	Pending
Euroa Twilight Shopping	\$3,000	\$3,000	Pending
Euroa Festival Prelude	\$5,000	\$3,000	Pending
Avenel Roaming Rhythms	\$3,500	\$3,000	Pending
<b>Unconfirmed TOTAL budget remaining</b>	<b>\$11,581</b>	<b>\$15,000</b>	

This application for sponsorship aligns with the following priority focus areas of Council for the Sponsorship Program which are to:

1. Promote community engagement and participation
2. Contribute to building healthy and vibrant communities

This report seeks approval for the provision of \$3,000 towards this sponsorship request.

9.2.8 Application for Sponsorship - Nagambie Community Christmas Carols Committee ~ Nagambie Christmas Carols Event (cont.)

**RECOMMENDATION**

***That Council:***

1. ***Endorse sponsorship of \$3,000 to be funded from the 2021 – 22 budget allocations for community sponsorship, to the Nagambie Community Christmas Committee to assist with the Nagambie Christmas Carols Event being held on 5 December 2021; and***
2. ***Work with the Nagambie Community Christmas Committee to reduce overall waste produced at the event through the implementation of the objectives of both the Waste Wise Events Guidelines and Sustainable Strathbogie 2030 in being “A Zero Waste Shire”. Future funding is contingent on post event evaluation with demonstrated evidence of compliance of the Waste Wise Event Guidelines required.***
3. ***Make it a condition of the sponsorship funding that the Nagambie Community Christmas Carols Committee must comply with COVID-19 directions issued by the Chief Health Officer/Department of Health at the time of the event. Future funding is contingent on post event evaluation with demonstrated evidence of compliance of these directions is required.***

**PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND**

In 2020, the Nagambie Lakes Community House presented the Nagambie Christmas Carols event online due to COVID-19 restrictions, with great success and praise for their innovation in reimaging this event.

They plan to make this year’s event a live performance, which will celebrate both Christmas and the community. After a long difficult period as a result of COVID-19, they believe people in Nagambie would benefit from coming together in person. The event will involve many other local community groups such as the CFA, Men’s Shed, Primary Schools and Pre School. Local talents, schools, choirs and professional musicians will be invited to partake in the event performances. The aim is to offer a high quality, inspiring event that brings both the local community and visitors to the region together to celebrate the Christmas spirit.

The funds from the sponsorship will be utilised to hire audio equipment, the cost of musicians, along with purchase of sausages and soft drinks for the community. St Malachy’s and the Nagambie Anglican Church will contribute the printing of the song books and providing goods for the Nativity Play.

The event will offer great community benefit, specifically relating to Goal 2 of the Arts and Culture Strategy enhancing a ‘Culturally capable community’. This event will positively contribute to building healthy and vibrant communities, welcomes gender equality inclusion and access for all, capacity building and promote community engagement.

9.2.8 Application for Sponsorship - Nagambie Community Christmas Carols Committee  
~ Nagambie Christmas Carols Event (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.

The sponsorship assistance provided by Council will facilitate a more professional production and increase the overall enjoyment of this community event.

This project aligns well the key principles of the Arts and Culture Strategy and will:

- Promote community engagement and participation
- Contribute to building healthy and vibrant communities

**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 Nagambie Community House oversee the Nagambie Community Christmas Committee, which is made up of members from both the community and businesses of Nagambie. The feedback from the 2020 Christmas Carol Event that was forced to 'pivot' to an online platform was overwhelmingly positive, and the feedback received from members of the Nagambie community that have been engaged is that the Nagambie Christmas Carols is such a positive event and that it will hopefully be able to be enjoyed in person (rather than online) in 2021.

**POLICY CONSIDERATIONS**

**Council Plans and Policies**

This initiative addresses the key objectives of the Council Plan 2017 – 2021 as follows:

- Goal One: To enhance community health and wellbeing
  - Key strategies – Plan for improved community health, wellbeing and liveability; Engage and participate with the community in Council/Community initiatives; Support and drive community, arts and cultural events

This initiative also directly relates to the Arts and Culture Strategy 2019 -2023 as follows:

- Goal 1: A Connected and Vibrant Community which is focused on strengthening the strong sense of belonging and community pride, by increasing the opportunities for creative stimulation and connectedness.
  - Strategic Objective 1.1 – we will support initiatives that bring people together, encourage collaboration and partnerships and create networks.

It also relates to the Liveability Plan 2017-2021 as follows:

- Priority One: Stronger Together. Establish strong partnerships and increase collaboration.

9.2.8 Application for Sponsorship - Nagambie Community Christmas Carols Committee  
~ Nagambie Christmas Carols Event (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.

**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 this request for sponsorship of the Nagambie Christmas Carols event be acknowledged in a public forum providing full disclosure of how potential allocated sponsorship funding is being distributed within our community.

**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.

There is currently \$27,000 of available funding remaining of the 2021 – 2022 financial year budget allocation for the sponsorship program, with four (4) sponsorship applications submitted for consideration at the October 2021 Council Meeting. The event is scheduled for December 2021 and has support from the Nagambie Community Christmas Committee in contribution of additional funding towards the event – see attached budget below:

**Nagambie Community Carols Event Budget**

**Income**

Strathbogie Shire	\$3,919	
Other Sponsorship	\$ 360	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$4,279</b>	

**Expenditure**

Corton Audio	\$1,419	Council Funding
Children's Lucky dip	\$ 200	Council Funding
Musicians	\$1,800	Council Funding
Sausages & Soft Drink	\$ 500	Council Funding
Printing	\$ 310	Other Sponsorship
Materials for Nativity Play	\$ 50	Other Sponsorship
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$4,279</b>	



9.2.8 Application for Sponsorship - Nagambie Community Christmas Carols Committee ~ Nagambie Christmas Carols Event (cont.)

The current Sponsorship Program Budget is listed below and lists both the requested and recommended sponsorship funding amounts:

<b>Strathbogie Shire's SPONSORSHIP BUDGET 2021 - 2022</b>			
Total Budget Allocation	\$30,000		
	<b>Requested</b>	<b>Recommended</b>	
Euroa Little Theatre	\$3,000	\$3,000	<i>Approved</i>
Nagambie Carols	\$3,919	\$3,000	Pending
Euroa Twilight Shopping	\$3,000	\$3,000	Pending
Euroa Festival Prelude	\$5,000	\$3,000	Pending
Avenel Roaming Rhythms	\$3,500	\$3,000	Pending
<b>Unconfirmed TOTAL budget remaining</b>	<b>\$11,581</b>	<b>\$15,000</b>	

It is the recommendation of the reviewing officer to reduce the sponsorship funding from the requested amount of \$3,919 to a recommended amount of \$3,000 due to the higher than usual uptake of sponsorship program funding at this time, and to ensure that there are sponsorship funds available for allocation for the remainder of the financial year.

***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**

This event will assist in bringing people from the surrounding areas to join with the Nagambie community as well as visitors staying within the region to enjoy the event, with the possibility of a small economic stimulus to the township.

**Social**

The event supports social connection by providing a family friendly, community event within the township of Nagambie, enabling those residents who usually have to travel to access cultural events out of town the opportunity to experience a cultural event within both their own town and community.

**Environment**

There may be some minimal environmental impacts including additional electricity consumption that will be required to deliver the event as well as an elevated noise level for a short period of time. Officers will work with event organisers to implement the initiatives within the Waste Wise Policy at this event.

**Climate Change**

This event can provide the opportunity for attendees to carpool or walk to the venue, reducing the carbon footprint on the environment and reduce the need to travel to larger centres to experience a live Christmas Carol event.

9.2.8 Application for Sponsorship - Nagambie Community Christmas Carols Committee ~  
Nagambie Christmas Carols Event (cont.)

**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.

Officers will work with the Nagambie Community Christmas Committee to ensure that this event aligns with the requirements of the Events Policy and to identify actions in collaboration with them for improvement and innovation for future events.

**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.

This event will be a collaboration between the local community, local musicians, Strathbogie Shire, and the Nagambie Community House.

**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*.

**CONCLUSION**

It is recommended that the request for the Nagambie Christmas Carols Event be supported for the reasons identified in this report.

It is the recommendation of the reviewing officer to reduce the sponsorship funding from the requested amount of \$3,919 to a recommended amount of \$3,000 due to the higher than usual uptake of sponsorship program funding at this time and to ensure that there is sponsorship funding available for allocation for the remainder of the financial year.

### **9.2.9 EveryAGE Counts Campaign**

Author: Coordinator Community Services and Inclusion

Responsible Director: Director Community and Planning

#### ***EXECUTIVE SUMMARY***

EveryAGE Counts is an advocacy campaign aimed at tackling ageism against older Australians.

Ageism is stereotyping, discrimination and mistreatment based solely on a person's age. When it is aimed at older people, ageism comes from negative attitudes and beliefs about what it means to be older. Ageism exists when someone is considered 'too old' for something like a job or promotion. Essentially, it is a lack of respect for older people. It affects people's self-confidence, quality of life, job prospects and health. At its extreme, ageism contributes to elder abuse.

The Strathbogie Local Government Area has an ageing community and is committed to tackling the issue of ageism.

All Local Governments have been approached by the Municipal Association of Victoria (Local Government peak body) to join them in a state-wide campaign to reduce ageism in our community.

#### ***RECOMMENDATION***

***That Council participate in the Municipality Association of Victoria advocacy by providing our support to the EveryAGE Counts initiative to reduce ageism in our community.***

#### ***PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND***

The inaugural Ageism Awareness Day was held on 1 October with the aim of drawing the community's attention to the existence and impacts of ageism in Australia.

The Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) has written to all Local Governments asking for their support in a state-wide campaign to reduce ageism in our community.

In partnership with EveryAGE Counts, it aims to shed light on the prejudice expressed towards a person because of their age as well as discriminatory practices against older people when it comes to employment and other social roles.

#### ***ISSUES, OPTIONS AND DISCUSSION***

Ageism has become a significant focus in policy and practice as Australians live longer and our population ages. Longevity coupled with falling birth rates has resulted in steady growth in both the number and the proportion of the population who are older, giving rise to a public narrative around older people as a burden and cost to society.

### 9.2.9 EveryAGE Counts Campaign (cont.)

The purpose of the EveryAGE Counts Campaign is to positively change thinking about ageing, to re-imagine getting older and to set the foundations for current and future generations to age well.

The 2016 Australian Bureau of Statistic analysis of the service age groups of Strathbogie Shire compared to regional Victoria shows that there was a lower proportion of people in the younger age groups (0 to 17 years) and a higher proportion of people in the older age groups (60+ years).

Overall, 18.1% of the population was aged between 0 and 17, and 37.8% were aged 60 years and over, compared with 21.9% and 27.3% respectively for regional Victoria.

#### **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 broad community consultation has been undertaken in the development of this report. However, the EveryAGE Counts initiative was developed following extensive consultation, qualitative evidence based research and literature reviews.

#### **POLICY CONSIDERATIONS**

##### **Council Plans and Policies**

Our Values and 2017-21 council Plan highlight the need for openness, the highest ethical standards and transparency.

Council Plan Goal

- To enhance community health and wellbeing and liveability
  - o Plan for improved community health, wellbeing and liveability
  - o Engage and participate with the community in Council / Community initiatives
- To be a high performing shire
  - o To communicate and engage effectively with our community and key stakeholders
  - o To be equitable and fair in all decision making processes
- Liveability Plan
  - o Stronger Together

##### **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.

MAV in conjunction with EveryAGE Counts national campaign is encouraging Victorian councils to identify and respond to ageism within their organisation and local community.

### 9.2.9 EveryAGE Counts Campaign (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.

There are no negative legal considerations associated with 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.

The request for Council to join the EveryAGE campaign is put forward in this report to ensure 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 development and rollout of the advocacy campaign to support the MAV in this state-wide initiative will be undertaken through existing budgetary allocations.

#### **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**

Older people contribute to society in a range of ways; as paid workers, family members, volunteers, carers, and in their general contributions to social capital and community.

#### **Social**

The 2016 Australian Bureau of Statistic analysis of the service age groups of Strathbogie Shire compared to regional Victoria shows that there was a lower proportion of people in the younger age groups (0 to 17 years) and a higher proportion of people in the older age groups (60+ years).

Overall, 18.1% of the population was aged between 0 and 17, and 37.8% were aged 60 years and over, compared with 21.9% and 27.3% respectively for regional Victoria.

### 9.2.9 EveryAGE Counts Campaign (cont.)

The major differences between the age structure of Strathbogie Shire and regional Victoria were:

- A *larger* percentage of 'Empty nesters and retirees' (18.4% compared to 13.4%)
- A *larger* percentage of 'Seniors' (15.7% compared to 11.1%)
- A *smaller* percentage of 'Tertiary education & independence' (4.8% compared to 7.9%)
- A *smaller* percentage of 'Young workforce' (8.0% compared to 10.9%)

#### **Environmental**

This campaign will be promoted through existing Council engagement online platforms as well as printed materials. Where printed materials are used, recycled paper options will be preferred.

#### **Climate change**

As highlighted above, recycled paper options will be preferred for the promotion of the campaign, providing a greater benefit to the environment.

#### ***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 advocacy campaign will tackle the emerging issue regarding Ageism. Joining the MAV in their state-wide campaign will provide a greater reach (and subsequent impact) on this important topic.

#### ***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***

The Strathbogie Local Government Area has an ageing community and as such Council is committed to addressing the issue of ageism.

All Local Governments have been approached by the Municipal Association of Victoria (Local Government peak body) to join them in a state-wide campaign to reduce ageism in our community.

### **9.2.10 Events Management Framework**

Author: Manager Tourism and Community Services

Responsible Director: Director Community and Planning

#### ***EXECUTIVE SUMMARY***

Strathbogie Shire Council (SSC) plans, manages, supports and delivers a range of events, functions and festivals held in Council facilities and on Council owned land. The purpose of this Events Management Framework (Framework) is to provide a structure to guide the delivery and support of safe and successful internal and external events and festivals throughout the municipality.

The development of this Framework is a direct result of the findings from the Internal Audit Report conducted by AFS & Associates in April 2021 into the Event Management procedures at Strathbogie Shire Council.

The Framework has been developed in line with the recommendations of the Internal Audit Report. The Framework applies to all Council and Community run events conducted on land owned/managed by Strathbogie Shire Council. The Framework is a supporting document to the Events Policy adopted by Council at the August 2021 Council Meeting and will be reviewed and updated in 12 months using feedback from officers and event organisers.

#### ***RECOMMENDATION***

***That Council note the Strathbogie Shire Council Events Management Framework to guide the delivery of safe and successful internal and external events and festivals.***

#### ***PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND***

Strathbogie Shire Council recognises the important role events play in the development of vibrant sustainable communities. Evidence shows that events can generate significant social, cultural and economic benefits to the community. Well managed local events offer a range of benefits including:

- Improve social cohesion, community spirit and pride;
- Build community involvement, interest and participation;
- Increased health and well being;
- Support local economic development;
- Foster and strengthen civic pride and encouraging community connections; and
- Encourage and support a diverse community by promoting access and inclusion for all.

Council plans, manages, supports and delivers a range of events, functions and festivals held in Council facilities and on Council owned land. In April 2021, an internal audit was conducted by AFS & Associates to review the effectiveness of Event Management in achieving event and economic goals, whilst effectively identifying and mitigating associated risks.

### 9.2.10 Events Management Framework (cont.)

This report seeks Council's endorsement of the Events Management Framework to address Finding 1. of the 10 findings identified in this recent audit.

#### ***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.

Whilst the internal audit found a number of strengths, it also identified areas of risk exposure to be addressed. The development of the Strathbogie Shire Council Events Policy was undertaken in consultation with relevant internal stakeholders and benchmarked against best practice and similar departments within other local government authorities. This Policy was adopted by Council at the August 2021 Council Meeting.

To support this Policy, an Events Management Framework (Framework) has been developed to guide the delivery of internal and external events within the Shire. The Framework considers the nature and size of different events to determine the complexity of the required documentation and reporting requirements. This Framework incorporates formal policies, procedures, and relevant checklists to govern the initiation, planning, execution, and closure of events.

The specific recommendations for consideration within the Events Management Framework as outlined in the audit report, state that a framework should consider:

- policy – including definition of an “event”, accountabilities and responsibilities
- links to the SCC Risk Management Framework
- consultation with internal and external stakeholders
- use of contractors and volunteers
- policy on the provision of in-kind contributions, along with procedures for capturing and measuring these contributions
- decision making processes and considerations required to approved events
- timeframes for the receipt of applications from event holders to allow adequate time for assessment and approval
- procedures for:
  - processing and event applications
  - application assessments, incorporating the input of key stakeholders within SCC, such as:
    - local laws for the provision of permits
    - procurement in relation to contractors
    - building team for **place of public entertainment (POPE)** permits
    - input by waste management, asset management areas into event risk management plans
    - events management team for tourism purposes and record keeping.

To demonstrate timely customer service, also embedded in the Framework is a direct extract from and link to the Strathbogie Shire Customer Service Charter which outlines the promised response timeframe of officers to customers.



### 9.2.10 Events Management Framework (cont.)

Both the Policy and the Framework will be supported by an Events Management Toolkit to fully complement this documentation suite. This Toolkit provides a practical 'how to guide' for event organisers to step through the application process and other considerations when applying for an event permit.

The Policy and Toolkit will be available on Council's website. The Event Management Toolkit was previously known as the Event Management Guidelines. This document has now been updated in line with the recommendations of the internal audit report and the newly developed Event Management Framework. The Framework will be an internal document to ensure alignment and compliance with better practice within the event management process.

#### **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 development of the Framework was benchmarked against other event policies and practices.

Due to the specific legislative requirements of the event process to ensure that all events held within Strathbogie Shire are conducted safely, the appropriate authorities have been consulted in the development of the Framework for the purpose of actioning safe and compliant event. A 12-month review process is proposed for this Framework, during which Officers will request feedback from event organisers regarding our event management practices.

#### **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.

It directly links to the Council Plan 2017 – 2021 as follows:  
Goal 1 – To enhance community health and wellbeing

##### **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 Victorian Guidelines for Planning Safe Public Events were referenced in the development of the Events Management Framework in line with the Internal Audit Recommendations.

#### **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.

### 9.2.10 Events Management Framework (cont.)

In addition, the following legislation is required to be adhered to when reviewing the safe implementation of events and has been taken into consideration in the development of the Events Management Framework:

- Community Local Laws No. 2 (2020)
- Food Act 1998
- Transport Act (1983)
- Maritime Safety Act (2010)
- Planning & Environment Act (1987)
- Liquor Control Reform Act (1998)
- Building Act (1993), Building Regulations (2006)
- Australia's Strategy for Protecting Crowded Places from Terrorism

#### **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.

Whilst operational in nature, the Framework is being presented to a public Council Meeting to ensure maximum transparency and will be available as a companion document to the Event Management Policy on Council website.

#### ***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**

A key driver of the visitor economy within Strathbogie Shire is the events calendar, in particular the high impact/major events. Spectators, participants and event personal all contribute to the tourism impact on the area which is a growing driver of economic growth for the broader Strathbogie region.

The implementation of a comprehensive framework for events management will reduce a wide range of potential risks to Council that can result from poorly managed events, including delays in receiving appropriate paperwork, lack of communication with community, managing stakeholder expectations, and poor record keeping.

#### **Social**

Events bring communities together, enhance health and wellbeing, boost the local economy, build a sense of identity within our towns and townships and help to create memorable moments through shared experiences.

## 9.2.10 Events Management Framework (cont.)

### **Environmental**

The Framework builds on Council's commitment to the sensitivity of our environment as a key principle in the consideration and assessment of suitable events within Strathbogie Shire. Furthermore, it highlights the expectation of all organisers requirement to deliver Waste Wise events.

### **Climate change**

The expectation that all event organisers adhere to Council's Waste Wise Event Policy is in consideration of the position that Council has taken in relation to the Climate Change Emergency. A Waste Wise event is any event where the organisers 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.

### ***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 Framework has been developed with consideration of the recommendation from the Internal Audit Report to review the Victorian Guidelines for Planning Safe Public Events.*

### ***HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS***

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

### ***CONCLUSION***

It is proposed that Council note the Strathbogie Shire Council Events Management Framework, in line with the recommendations of the Internal Audit Report conducted by AFS & Associates in April 2021 to strengthen a consistent and structured approach to event management.

### ***ATTACHMENTS***

**Attachment 1:** Events Management Framework

**ATTACHMENT 1:**



DOCUMENT TYPE:	Internal Document
DOCUMENT STATUS:	Approved
FRAMEWORK POSITION OWNER:	Manager Tourism and Community Services
INTERNAL APPROVAL	Chief Executive Officer
APPROVED BY:	Director Community and Planning
DATE APPROVED:	14/10/2021
VERSION NUMBER	1.0
REVIEW DATE:	1 year
DATE RESCINDED:	
INTERNAL RELATED STRATEGIC DOCUMENTS, POLICIES OR PROCEDURES	Council Plan 2021 – 2025 Events Policy Event Management Toolkit Arts & Culture Strategy 2019 - 2023 Sponsorship Program Guidelines 2021 – 2022 Waste Wise Events Guide 2020 Child Safety Policy 2021 Community Local Laws No. 2 (2020) Strathbogie Shire Planning Scheme 2021 Social Media Policy Stakeholder Engagement Policy Records Management Policy Risk Management Policy and Framework Gifts, Benefits and Hospitality Policy Related Parties and Interests Policy Code of Conduct
RELATED LEGISLATION:	Victorian Guidelines for Planning Safe Public Events – Edition 01 Local Government Act 2020 Food Act 1984 Transport Integration Act 2010 Planning and Environment Act 1987 Liquor Control Reform Act 1998 Building Act 1993, Building Regulations 2018 Australia’s Strategy for Protecting Crowded Places from Terrorism
EVIDENCE OF APPROVAL:	Signed by Chief Executive Officer
FILE LOCATION:	Enter location

***Strategic documents are amended and updated as required; therefore, you should not rely on a printed copy being the current version.***

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*PLEASE NOTE: THE PAGE NUMBERING FOR THE ABOVE CONTENTS IS NOT SYNCHRONISED WITH THE PAGE NUMBERING OF THIS AGENDA DOCUMENT*

## 1 PURPOSE

The Events Management Framework applies to all Council staff responsible for the approval of any Community or the delivery of a Council run event.

The framework will consider the nature and size of different events to determine the complexity of the required documentation and reporting requirements.

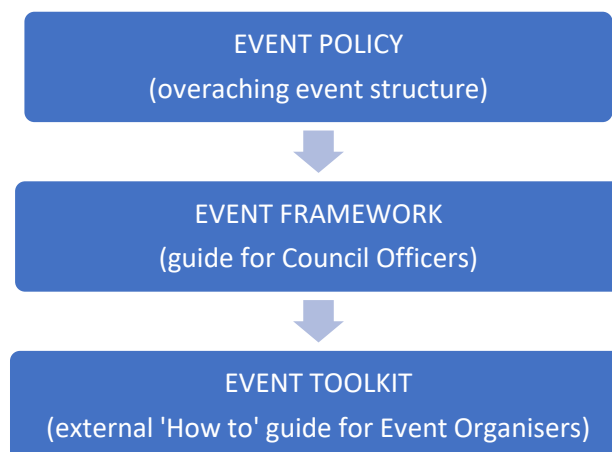
This framework incorporates formal policies, procedures, and relevant checklists to govern the initiation, planning, execution, and closure of events. This will also consider Strathbogie Shire's Waste-Wise Events Guide, making sure that all solutions come with an environmentally friendly end and sustainable materials and products are used at events.

Implementation of a comprehensive framework for events management will reduce a wide range of potential risks to Council that can result from poorly managed events, including delays in receiving appropriate paperwork, lack of communication with community, managing stakeholder expectations, and poor record keeping.

The framework was established resulting from a review of the Event Management process and is designed to provide consistency in processes and procedures to improve on event planning, delivery, and debriefing for events. It will assist event officers with guidance to meet Council expectations for the successful and timely delivery of event approvals, and achievement of event outcomes and objectives in alignment with the Events Policy guide.

Our Event Management process is supported by the following Governance Structure:

*Table 1: Event Management Governance Structure*



The purpose of the Events Policy is to provide the community and Council officers with clarity and an understanding of Council objectives and approach with regard to the delivery and support of events. The Events Management Toolkit provides a practical 'how to guide' for event organisers to step through the application process and other considerations when applying for an event permit.



## 2 EVENT MANAGEMENT OVERVIEW

### 2.1 Principles

Key principles of effective management of events are:

1. Event decisions are integrated with organisational strategic planning.
2. Event planning decisions are based on an understanding of the Risk Management of the event process.
3. An effective internal control structure is established to manage both event approvals of external events and the delivery of Council (Civic) Events.

This Event Management Framework addresses these principles by providing guidance for officers and community about matters that need to be considered when managing an event, including policies, procedures, templates, and relevant checklists, in order to facilitate:

- effective and consistent event management across the organisation and community
- appropriate event management governance
- effective change, communication, and risk management
- improvement to Council's event methodology using post implementation reviews

*At all times, event approval will be in accordance with statutory requirements and any existing council policies, procedures, or guidelines.*

### 2.2 Document templates to be used

The following templates are located on the InfoWise information management system. They are required to be used as part of the event approval and review process, in accordance with the event approval process as outlined in section 2.4.

Links to all of the relevant documents required as listed below can be found in Section 11.

#### EVENTS

1. Event Application Form
2. Weddings and Family Gatherings in the Parks
3. Risk Assessment
4. Tourism/Event Signage Application
5. Social Media Application
6. Request for Supply of Bins

#### HIRE FORMS

7. Euroa Community Cinema Hire Form
8. Nagambie Regatta Centre Hire Form
9. Community Facilities Hire Form
10. Loan of Shire Equipment Hire Form

#### PERMITS

11. Events on Waterways and Exclusion Zones (MSV)
12. Total Fire Ban Permit (CFA)
13. Cycling Events Permit (VicRoads)
14. Occupancy Permit (POPE)
15. Siting Permit for Prescribed Structures
16. Filming and Photography
17. Victorian Screen Industry Code of Conduct
18. MOA Requirements
19. MOA Application Form

#### 'HOW TO' GUIDES

20. Event Application Guide

21. Event Planning Toolkit
  22. Sustainable Events – Waste Wise Events Guide
  23. Register on Streatrader (Food Stalls)
  24. First Aid at Events
- INTERNAL DOCUMENTS**
25. Event Approval Letter Template
  26. Internal/Civic Event Approval Form Template
  27. Filming Permit Approval Letter Template
  28. Wedding and Gatherings Approval Letter Template
  29. Event Application Progress Spreadsheet
  30. Tourism Signage Tracking Spreadsheet
  31. Event Code Naming Convention Form
  32. Councillor Invitation and Request Form
  33. Event Approval Checklist Template
  34. Internal/Civic Event Approval Checklist Template
  35. How to process and Event Application (EventManage Guide)
  36. Event Debrief Template
  37. Stakeholder Contact List
  38. Internal/Civic Events Equipment Checklist

The Events Team will also support any requests for or adaptations to templates in consideration of best practice.

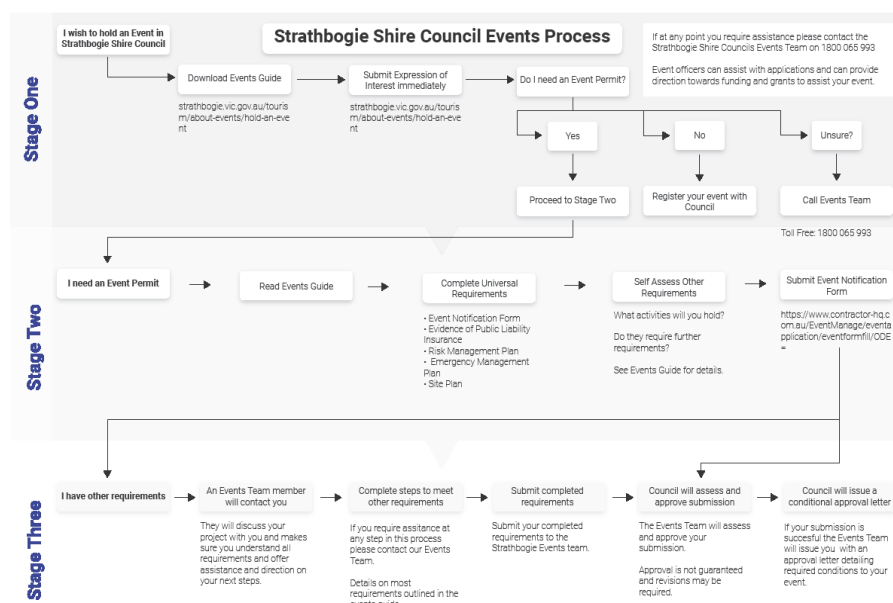
### 2.3 Event Management Checklist

The Event Management Checklist (Appendix 1) includes reminders of the process that must be followed for all events that require Council approval in accordance with this framework. This checklist will be used to facilitate the events team review of event compliance with regards to the Event Management Framework.

### 2.4 Event Approval Process

Council is committed to ensuring that all events held on Council owned or Council managed land or waterways are safe, accessible, well planned and address all potential impacts.

**Table 2: Events Process Diagram**



Events are classified using three different categories: High, Medium and Low Impact Events. See Table 3 for the definition of each type of event.

**Table 3: Classification of Events**

Application process	Types of Events	Total Processing Time	Approvals
High Impact Event	<p>Estimated 1501+ attendees.</p> <p>Events including but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 'On water' Events (ie. Go Fish, Head of the River)</li> <li>• Music Festivals (ie. Euroa Music Festival)</li> <li>• Significant Events (ie. Show and Shine, NYE Fireworks)</li> <li>• Large 'on road' Events (ie. Ride the Ranges, Jayco Herald Sun Tour)</li> </ul>	Minimum 6 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Director Community &amp; Planning</li> <li>• Manager Tourism &amp; Community Services</li> </ul>
Medium Impact Event	<p>Estimated 101-1500 attendees.</p> <p>Events including but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 'on water' Events (ie. Rowing/Dragon Boat Regatta's)</li> <li>• 'on road' Events (ie. Cycling events)</li> <li>• 'on land' Events (ie. Longwood Beer, Wine &amp; Cider Festival)</li> </ul>	Minimum 3 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Director Community &amp; Planning</li> <li>• Manager Tourism &amp; Community Services</li> </ul>
	<p>Markets Including but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monthly markets</li> <li>• Community markets</li> </ul>	Minimum 3 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Manager Tourism &amp; Community Services</li> <li>• Visitor Economy &amp; Events Co-ordinator</li> </ul>

Low impact Event	Estimated 1-100 attendees  Events including but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Small community events</li> <li>• Weddings</li> <li>• Celebration in Park</li> </ul>	Minimum 1 month	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visitor Economy &amp; Events Co-ordinator</li> </ul>
Civic Events	Including but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Youth events</li> <li>• Official openings</li> <li>• NAIDOC Week</li> </ul>	Minimum 1 - 3 months (dependant on scale of event)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Director Community &amp; Planning</li> <li>• Manager Tourism &amp; Community Services</li> </ul>

The relevant council officers involved in the event approval process are listed in Table 4.

**Table 4: Officer Approval Process**

ACTION	POSITION
Event Application Documentation reviewed by:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Events and Business Relationship Support Officer</li> <li>• Visitor Economy &amp; Events Co-ordinator</li> <li>• Relevant Internal/External Stakeholders as required</li> </ul>
COVIDsafe Plans/Public Liability Insurance reviewed by:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Events and Business Relationship Support Officer</li> <li>• Visitor Economy &amp; Events Co-ordinator</li> </ul>
Risk Assessments reviewed by: <i>(High Impact Events may require a professional Risk Assessment to be submitted)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Events and Business Relationship Support Officer</li> <li>• Visitor Economy &amp; Events Co-ordinator</li> </ul>
Risk Assessments approved by:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Manager Tourism &amp; Community Services (assistance provided by Risk Officer if required)</li> </ul>
Event Approval given by: <i>(dependant on size of event - see Table 3 below)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visitor Economy &amp; Events Co-ordinator</li> <li>• Manager Tourism &amp; Community Services</li> <li>• Director Community &amp; Planning</li> </ul>

### 3 EVENT INITIATION

#### 3.1 Purpose

Events can be undertaken by community groups, external organisations, members of the public or by Council. When an event is to be held on Council Land it is essential that the event organisers provide relevant documents to the Events Team to ensure safety for all stakeholders and to identify that potential risks have been mitigated to ensure that no undue risk is projected onto Strathbogie Shire Council.

The initiation activities are the responsibility of the relevant event organiser, dependant on the type of event. Event initiation involves identifying potential risks and outlining how the risk will be mitigated.

### 3.2 Event Management Plan

The Events Team is responsible for ensuring that the objectives of the Strathbogie Shire are being met by event organisers. This involves managing the relationships that exist between the Strathbogie Shire Council, the event organiser, stakeholders, public authorities and any other relevant third party.

The Events Team have the responsibility of approving a range of events and activities within the Shire under a variety of criteria and are able to suggest ways to deliver a safe and successful event that maintains access for everyone, as well as providing advice on logistics and operations.

The list below outlines the various events and activities that the Events Team issues approvals for the following events held on Council land:

- Public events (festivals, community events)
- On water events and activities
- On road events
- Markets
- Civic/Internal events
- Weddings and Family Celebrations
- Filming and photography
- Personal training (outdoors)

**Please note:** events and activities are classified as low, medium and high impact. There are different requirements and online application forms for each of the activities, which are detailed in section 2.4.

There are also a range of other permits that the Strathbogie Shire requires that the Event Team assist in the coordination for gaining these approvals. For more information on these other types of permits please refer to section 4.3.

**Table 5: Event Phases**




### 3.3 **Communication and the Customer Service Charter**

We strive to better understand our customers' needs and preferences through listening, discussion, consultation and feedback. We want to ensure our customers have a good experience when dealing with Council.

Adherence to the 'Response Times' as listed in the Customer Service Charter is required for all forms of community and stakeholder correspondence. See Table 6 for the outline of our promised response timeframe.

**Table 6: Customer Service Charter – Response Times**

 <h2>Response Times</h2> <p>There are a number of ways you can contact Council to make an enquiry, request a service or provide feedback.</p>	
Method of Contact	Our Promised Response Timeframe
<b>Email</b> <b>Online forms</b> <b>Social media</b>	<p><b>Acknowledgement within 2 working days</b>  <b>A response within 7 working days or as otherwise specified in our service commitments on pages 5-9 of this charter.</b></p> <p>If a full response is not possible initially, then you will receive an acknowledgement which will indicate a timeframe in which you can expect a reply and the name of the officer handling your request.</p>
<b>Phone or in person</b>	<p>We aim to resolve your enquiry promptly without unnecessary referrals or transfers.</p> <p>If we are unable to resolve your enquiry at the time we will provide you with the name of the person the enquiry will be referred to.</p> <p>Phone calls will be returned at the first opportunity. However if information is not readily available, verbal enquiries will receive an acknowledgement phone call with in <b>24 hours</b> and a more detailed response within <b>7 working days</b>.</p> <p>If you have an enquiry about a complex issue like planning or building you may wish to make an appointment. This way we can ensure a specialist officer is available to discuss your issue.</p>
<b>Written requests</b>	<p><b>We aim to respond to you within 10 working days</b></p> <p>If a full response is not possible, then you will receive an acknowledgment which will indicate a timeframe in which you can expect a reply and the name of the officer handling your request.</p> <p>All correspondence will be prompt, courteous and written in plain language.</p>

## **4 EVENT PLANNING**

### **4.1 Purpose of an Event Management Plan**

To stage an event or activity in a public space managed by the Strathbogie Shire, organisers must have an approved Event Management Plan and receive Event Approval documentation from the Events Team. The Event Management Toolkit is designed to assist organisers in developing their Event Management Plan whilst informing them of their responsibilities and other statutory obligations/permits that may be required. This ensures public safety, sustainable management and amenity in Strathbogie Shire's public spaces, parks and gardens.

An event approval ensures that the event activity is conducted in accordance with the Strathbogie Shire's Community Local Law No. 2 (2020), Section 15 and the Crown Land (*Reserves*) Act 1978 and any other relevant state legislation. It also ensures that any disruption to stakeholders is minimal and that any parties who have the potential be impacted are notified, and that the event is conducted in a safe and compliant manner.

Depending on the size and requirements of the event as outlined in section 2.4, the Events Team need sufficient notice to process an application. Leaving an event approval application to the last minute can lead to issues in regard to getting all of the appropriate paperwork finalised and approved with the relevant stakeholders.

The Strathbogie Shire Council reserves the right to decline an application if submitted with insufficient notice. Please refer to the table in section 2.4 for timelines.

Should an event approval be required to stage an event, the event application will be assessed against the objectives and key considerations of the Event Policy to ensure that the event aligns with these Council endorsed requirements.

The event approval requirements will depend on the needs of the site, size and scale of an event. Strathbogie Shire Council may withdraw an application at any stage if the applicant is unable to satisfy the requirements of the event application process.

### **4.2 Developing an Event Management Plan**

An event organiser is responsible for compiling an Event Management Plan and submitting a draft at the beginning of the application process. The size, scope and complexity of an event will determine what elements to include in this plan. This section outlines the compulsory requirements, as well as other areas that may need addressing.

NOTE: Required documents and/or templates can be found in Section 11.

#### **4.2.1 Contact List**

A contact list is necessary and should include all the key contacts for the event, including but not limited to staff, volunteers, contractors, stakeholders, and public authorities (if applicable). It is also essential to add in any emergency contact details, including but not limited to 000

#### **4.2.2 Event details overview**

The event details overview section of an event plan should provide a high-level summary to give the Events Team a broader understanding of the event.

Information in this part of the plan should include:

- event name

- event location/s
- a description of the event
- the main purpose of the event
- nature of attendance (public or private event)
- event times and dates (including bump-in and bump-out)
- an overview of the event's key entertainment and activities
- target audience
- how the event is being promoted, and
- estimated attendance.

#### **4.2.3 Event Running Sheet**

A running sheet sets the timing and sequence of an event so that the Event Organiser, the Event Team, and other key stakeholders know what is happening and when. A good running sheet includes a detailed timeline of the event production schedule including bump-in/bump-out, event timings, locations, and program details.

#### **4.2.4 Public Liability Insurance**

Event organisers must make sure they have a public liability insurance policy underwritten by an insurance broker/company authorised to conduct insurance business in Australia. A Certificate of Currency must be provided showing that the proposed event is fully covered for a minimum of \$20 million. Event organisers must also provide copies of current certificates of currency from sub-contractors providing event services (e.g. performers, marquee hire, fireworks).

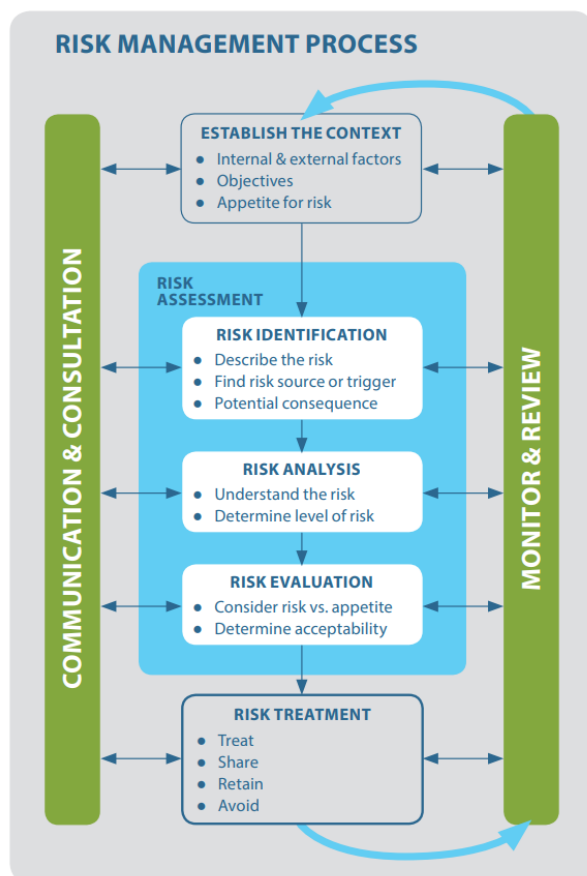
#### **4.2.5 Risk Management**

Every event application must have a Risk Assessment in line with the Risk Assessment Guidelines unless the Corporate Risk Officer states otherwise. All Risk Assessments will be approved by the Manager Tourism and Community Services in consultation with the Corporate Risk Officer as required. An event approval cannot be granted unless the Risk Assessment has been approved. When the Event Approval letter is granted, it will state the following:

*'Ensure your Risk Assessment addresses all potential risks such as, **but not limited to**; traffic management, child safety, crowd control, security, food safety, COVIDsafe guidelines etc. It is your responsibility to address all risks associated with the event'*



**Table 7: The Risk Management Process Model (AS/NZ 31000)**



#### **4.2.6 Site Plan**

The site plan should identify the location of all aspects of the event including the event itself, equipment, activities, permanent and temporary infrastructure, crowd control infrastructure, power/generators, amenities, parking, pedestrian and vehicle access routes, water, seating, emergency access/egress, licensed areas, food outlets and merchandise stalls.

#### **4.2.7 Site Meeting**

Strathbogie Shire Council officers may hold the right to request a site meeting with relevant stakeholders at any stage of Event Application to ensure that appropriate Planning and Building requirements are addressed and all appropriate permits are sought.

#### **4.2.8 Emergency Management**

An Emergency Management Plan (EMP) should be prepared by the Event Organiser and approved by the Events Team for all High Impact Events. The EMP should be prepared in conjunction with the Risk Assessment and is a formal, written plan that identifies potential emergency conditions at the event site and prescribes the procedures to be followed to minimise risk and prevent loss of life and property.

The event organisers are responsible for preparing for all possible emergencies and for keeping the appropriate people/groups informed. In the event of an emergency and where the presence of emergency services is needed, the event organisers must immediately transfer management of the event to the emergency services present, and follow all instructions given, until advised otherwise.

*Refer to the Victorian Guidelines for Planning Safe Public Events for a full description of guidelines.*

**Table 8: Examples of an Emergency Situation**

EXAMPLES OF AN EMERGENCY SITUATION	
1. Crowd crush.	7. Loss of key supplier or customer.
2. Fire.	8. Explosion.
3. Flood or flash flood.	9. Biological agent release (bioterrorism).
4. Severe weather.	10. Communications failure.
5. Earthquake.	11. Escalated fire danger ratings
6. Civil disturbance.	12. Mass overdose

#### **4.2.9 Waste Management**

Waste is a big part of any event and typically comes from construction activity, promotional materials, and food and drinks. Under Strathbogie Shire’s Waste Wise Event Guidelines, Event organisers are encouraged to minimise and avoid the waste they create by thinking about what they 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. A waste wise management plan will identify the kinds of waste expected, and amount of waste the event will generate.

Included in the plan is a calculation of how many and the locations where waste bins are required, waste education information, and clean-up practices that aim to reduce the amount of waste being sent to landfill. The waste wise management plan can be as complex or simple as required but should reflect the complexity of the event. If the event is ongoing or regular it should be flexible to change over time.

#### **4.2.10 Communications/Advertising**

Strathbogie Shire reserve the right to choose if external events will be advertised through the Strathbogie Shire Council media channels. A Social Media application can be found on the Event Application online form.

Strathbogie Shire Council reserve the right to choose which information they will share, and will not share information that may be offensive, illegal, controversial or jeopardises the reputation of Strathbogie Shire Council.

#### **4.2.11 Advertising of road closures and other impacts**

If the event involves a major road closure/s or impacts the public transport network, a communications plan detailing how these impacts are to be advertised will be required to be submitted to Strathbogie Shire Council.

The advertisement must include the following:

- name
- date
- location of the event
- road closure locations
- opening and closing times
- impact on public transport routes, such as buses

- a contact number and website for further enquiries

A copy of the communications plan must be sent to the Events Team for review prior to the advertising commencing. Printed press advertising drafts must be provided to the Events Team at least 14 days prior to the date of publication for approval.

#### **4.2.12 Stakeholder Notification Plan**

To minimise any impact on surrounding stakeholders, communication is required to be distributed to those who may be affected. Large events or events where fireworks will be discharged, or road closures will require notification to all affected residents and businesses.

A formal letter may be required to be sent to all stakeholders within the event precinct. It is the event organisers responsibility to make sure that adequate stakeholder notification is conducted.

The letter must include the following details:

- the name, date, and location of the event
- the purpose of the event
- the expected number of participants
- activities being conducted as part of the event
- timing of the event (including bump-in and bump-out times)
- what the likely disruptions to residents and businesses will be with respect to noise, transport, and road closures
- a contact number for further information or queries
- The Event Team details as a secondary contact.

The first letter must be written as a 'proposal' and a draft submitted to the Event Team for approval before distribution. A follow up notification letter may also need to be sent one week prior to the event. Depending on the nature of the event or location, stakeholder sign off may also be required.

#### **4.2.13 Event Signage**

The Strathbogie Shire Council's 'Tourism Event Signage Application' needs to be completed for

Please keep in mind the following:

- that this needs to be submitted at least 6 weeks prior to the event.
- A separate application form must be completed for each event requesting signage.
- The applicant will be notified if their application is successful within 21 days.
- Signs should be made of corflute and measure:
  - 2400 x 600mm or
  - 1800 x 600mm for the Nagambie frames (as these are different)

Local manufacturer of signage: Euroa Printers 45 Railway Street, Euroa Phone: 5795 1655
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### **4.3 Permits, Hire Facilities, Fees and Charges**

The following activities or facility hire will trigger the requirement of either an internal and external permit (requiring to be issued by an external authority or stakeholder) and/or associated fees and charges to be paid either to Council or an external authority or stakeholder.

#### **4.3.1 Community Halls and Facilities**

Community Halls and Facilities that are a Council asset and maintained by a Committee of Management are able to be hired out to the public at the discretion of the delegated Committee of Management. Event Organisers must seek approval in writing from the relevant Committee of Management to hold an event on the premises (and agree to the payment of the associated hire fees required) prior to commencing the event application process with Council.

#### **4.3.2 Euroa Community Cinema**

The Euroa Community Cinema is a Strathbogie Shire Council managed facility which is overseen by an operating committee made up of council officers and local volunteers. A group of dedicated community members volunteer their time to screen movies as projectionists and operating the kiosk and ticket box.

The Events Team is responsible for the overall management of the Euroa Community Cinema which is able to be hired out for functions, events and fundraisers. Organisers must complete the online Cinema Hire Form via the EventManage portal and this application will be assessed by the Events Team.

When assessing the application, consideration will be given to date, time, regular screening times, availability of volunteers and the type of event. The projector is only to be used by trained Strathbogie Shire Council Projection Volunteers. Organisers can request the kiosk to be open for their event, however this will depend on volunteer availability.

#### **4.3.3 Filming and photography**

Any professional filming on Council Owned land or property must be issued with a permit from the Events Team. Applicants must fill in an online application via the EventManage portal, and include details of the proposed site, what will be filmed, how it will be filmed, a Certificate of Currency of Public Liability Insurance with a minimum of \$20,000,000 coverage, a running sheet, Risk Assessment.

Depending on the filming required, they may also need to supply a parking application, site plan, stakeholder communication plan (Public notification letter), Traffic & Pedestrian management plan(s) and compliance with the Victorian Screen Industry Code of Conduct.

#### **4.3.4 Fireworks**

For the discharge of fireworks, all event organisers need to contact [WorkSafe Victoria](#) for approvals. These approvals must then be provided by the event organiser to the Events Team for inclusion as conditions in their Event Approval Letter.

#### **4.3.5 Temporary Liquor License**

If an event is planning on selling alcohol, it is the responsibility of the event organiser to apply for a Temporary Liquor License from the Victorian Commission for Gambling and Liquor Regulation (VCGLR). See here for the form to apply for a [temporary liquor license](#). Time frame for this application is 2-3 months

#### **4.3.6 Mobile Catering**

If an event has any type of mobile catering set up (including food vans, trailers and marquees), the operator must be registered on [Streatrader](#) and provide the event organiser with their registered permit to trade. For more information on registration of a mobile food premise visit the [Streatrader](#) website.

#### **4.3.7 Place of Public Entertainment (POPE)**

A Place of Public Entertainment (POPE) Building Occupancy Permit may be required for an event in the following circumstances, if an event will:

- have more than 5,000 people in an enclosed area
- have structures such as marquees that exceed 100m<sup>2</sup>
- have structures that occupy an outdoor area of over 500m<sup>2</sup>

The Building Department at Council will need to be contacted to determine if a POPE is required. The timeframe for this is approximately three (3) months and fees apply dependant on the requirements of this permit.

#### **4.3.8 Road Closures/Traffic Management Plan**

For events that will affect road traffic and pedestrian flow, a Traffic Management Plan will need to be created. And the event organiser will need to engage with a qualified traffic management company to draw up the plan.

Plans that affect VicRoads will require a Memorandum of Authorisation (MOA) to be submitted to VicRoads for approval. Road Closures on Council controlled roads will require Council approval. Road Closures on Council roads require a decision to be made by the Councillors at a monthly Council meeting. Therefore, if a road closure is required at an event, a Traffic Management Plan must be provided by the event organiser with plenty of lead time to ensure a decision can be made at a Council meeting prior to the event.

Notification of road closures need to be placed in the relevant newspapers giving prior notice for this event. The advertisement will need to be placed 7 - 14 days prior to the event.

#### **4.3.9 Siting Approval for Temporary Structures**

A Siting Approval is required for a prescribed temporary structure where public entertainment is to be conducted, prior to the installation and use of the structure. Prescribed temporary structures require an occupancy permit to be issued by the Victoria Building Authority and a copy of the occupancy permit must be submitted when applying for a siting approval.

A prescribed temporary structure includes the following:

- tents, marquees or booths with a floor area greater than 100m<sup>2</sup>
- seating stands for more than 20 persons
- stages or platforms (including sky borders and stage wings) exceeding 150m<sup>2</sup> in floor area
- prefabricated buildings with an area exceeding 100m<sup>2</sup> and that are *not* placed directly on the ground surface

The Building Department at Council will need to be contacted to determine a siting approval is required. The timeframe for this is approximately three (3) months and fees apply dependant on the requirements of this permit.

#### **4.3.10 Total Fire Ban**

For total fire ban exemptions for the use of an open fire or flame (including gas barbeque) or fireworks at events when a total fire ban has been declared, event organisers will need to apply for a permit from the [CFA permits](#) website. These approvals must then be provided by the event organiser to the Events Team for inclusion as conditions in their Event Approval Letter.

#### **4.3.11 Waterways Closures**

All events on water, including training camps require a current certificate of currency for the group's public liability and an on-water risk assessment to be lodged with Council. This is a requirement under the Marine Act 2010.

An on-water event may also require the closure of a section of the water on Lake Nagambie, to ensure the safe conduct of the event. Please refer to the 'Application for Boating Activity' document to assist with the requirements of enacting a waterways closure.

#### **4.3.12 Weddings or Family Celebrations in the Parks**

For requests to hold Wedding Ceremonies (not receptions) or family celebrations on public land, the 'Weddings and family celebrations in parks form' is required to be completed online. Public liability insurance cover for applicants can be arranged at the cost of \$110 (incl GST) if required.

### **4.4 Council sponsorship of events**

An annual program of events within the Shire adds significantly to the social health of the community, assists to raise awareness of the destination to identified markets, provides yield and yield dispersal to a broad range of local businesses and directly assists to increase the average length of stay of visitors.

Opportunities to attract or develop an event to a level of regional and state significance could be supported by Strathbogie Shire Council relevant to available resources. In partnership with community groups and event organisers, Strathbogie Shire Council is committed to ensuring that our municipality continues to develop as a thriving destination and Council aims to provide appropriate support for groups undertaking the development and delivery of events where possible. The Sponsorship Program provides an opportunity for groups to undertake events that complement the focus areas identified as priorities for the Strathbogie Shire Council.

Applications are sought for events that:

1. Promote community engagement and participation.
2. Support gender equality and social inclusion and improve accessibility.
3. Contribute to building healthy and vibrant communities.
4. Increase economic development, tourism and the visitor economy

Applicants are required to contribute towards the implementation of their event; this may include cash or in-kind contributions or a combination of both. There is no minimum contribution required however evidence of the contribution must be provided.

#### **4.4.1 In-Kind Sponsorship**

Event Organisers can also apply for In -Kind Sponsorship for items that Strathbogie Shire Council own such as but not limited to the following: marquees, chairs, portable PA system, event trailer, walkie talkies, event signage, traffic management signage, show bags, trestle tables, hand washing stations, hand sanitisation stations, portable water refill stations, umbrellas and room hire.

Event Organisers must complete the online form to request the items required. Items will then be approved based on availability and type of event. It is the responsibility of the Event Organiser to collect items from their storage location and to return the items within the required time frame, and items must be returned in the same condition where they were borrowed. If Event Organisers fail to return items according to the hire conditions, they will be liable for the replacement cost of the items.

#### **4.5 Approval of Event**

Following the steps set out in the Event Approval Checklist Template, once all elements are satisfied and approved by the relevant departments at Strathbogie Shire Council and external agencies, the Events Team will issue an Event Approval Letter stating the conditions of the event approval. It is the responsibility of the Event Organiser to agree and adhere to these conditions. Non-adherence of the conditions may conditions specified in the Event Approval Letter may affect future event applications.

The table below shows a list of stakeholders who will potentially need to be consulted (dependant on the requirements of the event) as part of the event approval process:

**Table 9: Stakeholder List**

<b>Internal Departments</b>	<b>Role/Approval Requirements</b>
Asset Planning	Traffic Management Plans, Road Closures
Building	Siting Approvals, POPE requirements
Communications & Engagement	Communications & Engagement, Marketing, Publicity
Community Services	Community Liaison
Compliance	Local Laws permits, enforcement and compliance
Corporate Risk	Assistance with Risk Assessments
Emergency Management	Emergency Management
Environmental Health	Mobile Catering (Stretrader enforcement)
Operations	Trees, gardens and open spaces management
Planning	Town Planning Permits, Liquor Licencing
Waste Management	Waste Management and education
Youth Services	Youth Programs, Event assistance
<b>External Departments</b>	<b>Role/Approval Requirements</b>
Police	Liquor Licencing, Law enforcement, Information
Maritime Safety Victoria	Waterways Closures, Zoning Changes
Regional Roads Victoria (VicRoads)	Road Closure Approval, Installation of VMS's, Zoning Changes
GMW	Information and advice
Emergency Services	Information and assessment of their presence at events
Parks Victoria	Information
Taungurung Land & Waters Council	Traditional Ceremony requirements, approval of land use, general information

Telstra	Information, request for additional services
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*Please refer to the Stakeholder Contact List for the most up to date version of relevant contacts.*

## **5 EVENT EXECUTION**

The execution phase of event management involves monitoring and controlling the activities needed to deliver the event, and the delivery of each event to the satisfaction of stakeholders. All actions in the execution phase are the responsibility of the designated person on either the Event Approval Letter or the officer specified (for Internal/Civic Events) for the event and as signed off the Internal/Civic Event Approval Form.

Council officers 'on-site' involvement in event execution is generally only applicable to Internal/Civic Events.

### **5.1 Event Planning**

Review relevant documentation for specific event - refer to Internal Event Checklist for the event. Liaise with on ground stakeholder to determine site set up. Develop running sheets, Order of Proceedings, Ministerial briefings and an Internal/Civic Event Management Plan to forward to relevant stakeholders for approval.

### **5.2 Site Inspection**

Conduct site inspection to confirm that set up adheres to the approved risk and emergency plans.

### **5.3 Council Event Equipment**

Pack and set up all Council Equipment that is requested/required as identified on the Internal/Civic Events Equipment Checklist to ensure that everything is functioning correctly. At the completion of the event, pack away all Council equipment and assist where necessary with the bump out of the event, ensuring that all equipment is returned to where it was obtained from.

### **5.4 Event Execution**

Ensure that an up to date Running Sheet, Internal/Civic Event Management Plan and relevant notes is provided to key stakeholders the day prior to the event.

### **5.5 Risk Management**

Formal identification, quantification and management of risk must occur at the strategic and operational level throughout the event management planning.

The risk analysis section of the Civic/Internal Event Management Plan project plan will indicate risk mitigation strategies.

### **5.6 Procurement**

Procurement tasks must be carried out in accordance with Council's *Procurement Policy*, *Procurement Guidelines*, and *Instrument of Delegation*.

Any Goods, Services or Works required by Council for the execution of a Civic/Internal event shall be purchased through an approved purchase order, referencing the applicable terms and conditions.



### **5.7 Internal Communications**

Liaise with the Communications and Engagement Team (see Stakeholder Contact List) to ensure that a Communications Plan is developed for the event and all relevant stakeholders are kept informed.

### **5.8 Managing stakeholders**

Stakeholder management is key to event success and all civic/internal events must demonstrate that they have identified all stakeholders and have plans in place to ensure they consult, inform and generally communicate in a manner that contributes to overall event success and requirements of Council.

## **6 MONITORING AND REPORTING**

The success of most events is highly dependent on making sure that event paperwork addresses all potential risks. Monitoring of all documentation is completed through the online EventManage system, where the event notification is first enacted.

The Events Team review the event application and the documents supplied via the EventManage online portal. When the Events Team confirm that the documents supplied by the Event Organiser meet the required criteria they are then forwarded on to the appropriate departments (see *list of Internal Stakeholders in Section 11*) for approval through EventManage.

If the Events Team is not satisfied with the submitted event documentation, communication through EventManage is done to advise the applicant about what additional information and documentation may be required.

When a comment is sent through EventManage to the Event Organiser, the applicant has one (1) week to amend the documentation as per the instructions in the comments. If no amendment has occurred, the EventManage system will automatically send weekly reminders of amendments needed until they are amended. Once the amendment is made, the Event Team will receive a notification to review. This process will continue until all of the completed information required for an event approval has been received.

## **7 EVENT DEBRIEF & EVALUATION**

Once an event has been completed it is a requirement for an Event Debrief to be completed. The Event Debrief recognises the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT analysis) of the event and how this will be improved upon for the next event.

The table below outlines the requirements of a debrief for the various types of events:

**Table 10: Event Debrief Requirements**

Event Classification	Debrief Requirements	Stakeholder Involvement
High Impact Event	Formal meeting with an agenda and minutes to discuss event outcomes, learnings/ opportunities for improvement and future date requirements. Debrief should take place no later than two (2) months post event.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Director Community &amp; Planning (<i>optional</i>)</li> <li>• Manager Tourism &amp; Community Services</li> <li>• Visitor Economy &amp; Events Co-ordinator</li> <li>• Events &amp; Business Relationship Support Officer</li> <li>• VicPol</li> <li>• Other relevant stakeholders/departments as required dependant on requirements of event</li> </ul>
Medium Impact Event	Formal meeting with an agenda and minutes to discuss event outcomes, learnings/ opportunities for improvement and future date requirements. Debrief should take place no later than two (2) months post event.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Manager Tourism &amp; Community Services</li> <li>• Visitor Economy &amp; Events Co-ordinator</li> <li>• Events &amp; Business Relationship Support Officer</li> <li>• VicPol</li> <li>• Other relevant stakeholders/departments as required dependant on requirements of event</li> </ul>
Low Impact Event	Informal meeting or post event survey (dependant on complexity) to discuss event outcomes, learnings/ opportunities for improvement and likelihood of future events. Debrief should take place no later than one (1) month post event	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visitor Economy &amp; Events Co-ordinator</li> <li>• Events &amp; Business Relationship Support Officer</li> <li>• Other relevant stakeholders as required dependant on requirements of event</li> </ul>
Civic/Internal Events	Meeting with relevant stakeholders with an agenda and minutes to discuss event outcomes, learnings/ opportunities for improvement and future date requirements. Debrief should take place no later than two (2) weeks post event	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Manager Tourism &amp; Community Services (<i>optional</i>)</li> <li>• Visitor Economy &amp; Events Co-ordinator</li> <li>• Events &amp; Business Relationship Support Officer</li> <li>• Comms &amp; Engagement Department</li> <li>• Relevant internal stakeholders/ departments as required (dependant on the event)</li> </ul>

## **8 RECORD KEEPING**

### **8.1 Information Records Management Policy**

Complete and accurate records are an integral part of event management. This section sets the requirements that all event officers must follow to overcome inconsistencies in the level and type of records kept in both the hardcopy files and records management system.

### **8.2 Purpose**

All records (both hardcopy or electronic) created or received during all phases of an event must be captured in Council's record keeping system. This will enable Council to:

- ensure that evidence of event activities can be easily located
- provide accountable, efficient, and effective event outcomes
- ensure consistency, continuity, and productivity in managing stakeholders
- support policy formulation and management decision making
- ensure compliance with legislative and regulatory requirements
- ensure an audit trail is maintained to support the Council where litigation may be involved.

### **8.3 Records**

The records that must be retained (on the electronic records management system and/or hardcopy) for each event include (but are not limited to):

- all documents required in accordance with this framework from initiation to closure and evaluation, including copies of approved variation requests and approved event status reports
- documents developed as part of the event plan, such as Risk Assessment, TMP, POPE, Siting Approval, Waterways Closure, Public Liability Insurance, planning permits etc.
- relevant correspondence with event organisers (ie. emails, meeting minutes)
- correspondence and media relating to the event
- Events will be saved with unique naming conventions <year><town><event acronym> eg. 21EURSS

At the completion of the event, unnecessary working drafts of documents should be removed or deleted, and a set of final documents should be combined to create a complete file on the event.

### **8.4 Events calendar**

An events calendar will enable key information on events to be formally captured and used for reporting purposes. The calendar must be updated as required, to reflect event status following variations and reviews.

A calendar is maintained for all events that require approval by Council and will provide a full and comprehensive listing that can be used to generate reports about all of the events that are planned, currently in progress and/or that have been completed. It also allows management to assess potential sources and implication of risks caused by interdependencies between projects.

## **9 TRAINING AND SUPPORT**

Training for this Event Management Framework will be provided to all staff required to manage events.

Other training will be made available to relevant staff, where required, on the processes required for effective event management. Where relevant, event officers should have skills and knowledge in the following areas:

- event initiation and planning processes
- event management
- time management
- risk assessment and mitigation
- safe manual handling practices
- indigenous customs/requirements relating to events

## 10 DEFINITIONS OF TERMS OR ABBREVIATIONS USED

*Table 11: Definition Table*

Term	Definition
ELT	Executive leadership Team
Event	Includes, but not limited to any organised activity or function that requires specific planning where people congregate for a unique purpose, in any permanent or temporary structure, open area or road area, that will contain a number of persons greater than that normally found in that area or location at one time. The purpose may include but is not limited to community, cultural and environmental gatherings; commercial activities; celebrations and some sporting events
Event - Low-Impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1-100 estimated attendees</li> <li>• No caterers or food vendors</li> <li>• No temporary infrastructure</li> <li>• No amplification</li> <li>• No change to traffic conditions and parking</li> <li>• No impact to usual amenity of space</li> </ul>
Event – Medium Impact (includes one or more of the following):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 101-1500 estimated attendees (inclusive of staff, contractors, volunteers and artists)</li> <li>• Up to 7 caterers or food vendors</li> <li>• Moderate temporary infrastructure required, for example:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Single stage under 400mm high &amp; under 50sqm</li> <li>• Single Public Address system</li> <li>• Less than 6 marquees</li> <li>• Less than 6 portable toilets</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Low-mid noise impact</li> <li>• Moderate additional vehicle traffic to the event area</li> <li>• Moderate waterways closure</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some impact to amenity of space</li> <li>• Event has successfully been delivered in Strathbogrie Shire before and has no significant changes to the Event Plan</li> </ul>
<p>Event – High Impact (includes one or more of the following):</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1501+ estimated attendees (inclusive of staff, contractors, volunteers and artists)</li> <li>• 8+ caterers or food vendors</li> <li>• Substantial temporary infrastructure required, for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Multiple/large staging</li> <li>○ Public Address Systems</li> <li>○ Marquees</li> <li>○ Toilets</li> <li>○ Catering</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Moderate to high noise impact</li> <li>• Substantial additional vehicle traffic to the event area</li> <li>• Substantial waterways closures</li> <li>• Substantial impact to the usual amenity of space</li> <li>• Professional Risk Assessment may be required</li> <li>• Event is new or has significant changes to the Event Plan</li> <li>• Event has fireworks or any form of pyrotechnics</li> </ul>
<p>Event Approval</p>	<p>This allows for an event or market to operate on Council managed public space or waterway and outlines the conditions of this approval. It is only issued once all plans are approved and all requirements have been met.</p>
<p>Event Organiser</p>	<p>The individual or organisation responsible for producing the event. This will usually be the person/organisation listed on the event application form</p>
<p>Events Team</p>	<p>Event Officers responsible for the guidance of community and the approval of events:  Events &amp; Business Relationship Support Officer: Tiffany Nicholas  Visitor Economy and Events Co-ordinator: Libby Webster  Manager Tourism and Community Services: Claire Taylor  Director Community and Planning: Amanda Tingay</p>
<p>Internal Event Stakeholders</p>	<p>Officers across Council who have input into the event approval process.  See 'Stakeholder Contact List' for full details</p>

External Event Stakeholders	Individuals and groups who have input into and need to be keep informed of the event approval process: See 'Stakeholder Contact List' for full details
Maritime Safety Victoria (MSV)	Maritime Safety Victoria (MSV) is a division of the Department of Transport. MSV assists Waterways Managers (Strathbogrie Shire) to ensure safety on Victorian Waterways including the Goulburn River and Lake Nagambie. MSV assess all applications for on water events (including training camps).
Market	An event where a group of stalls convene for the purpose of selling goods. For the purposes of this policy markets can be one-off, or they can operate on a regular basis.
Memorandum on Authorisation (MOA)	The Memorandum of Authorisation (MOA) applies to the temporary use of Minor Traffic Control Devices (as per the authorised traffic management plans accompanying the MOA) as defined in the Road Safety (Traffic Management) Regulations 2009 on roads and road related areas (as defined in the Road Safety Rules 2009) for which Strathbogrie Shire is the responsible road authority.
Places of Public Entertainment (POPE)	An occupancy permit for Places of Public Entertainment is a requirement under the Building Act 1993. It is for large scale events (over 5,000 attendees) in a place larger than 500 sq. where the event is conducted in a enclosed or semi enclosed place, where entry and exit is controlled and where admission is gained by payment of a fee irrespective of whether they are conducted by a community based organisation or a commercial business. The areas covered by the Regulations include attendance of safety officers, fire safety equipment, numbers of toilets & handwashing, provision for evacuation procedures, safe storage of flammable materials and explosive items, etc.
Public Liability Insurance	Public Liability insurance is designed to provide protection for a business or community group in the event an event attendee, supplier or member of the public are injured or sustain property damage as a result of your negligent business activities. The event organiser has a responsibility to provide a safe environment for the event attendees and third party property. Financial consequences of a claim can be considerable and public liability cover will provide funds to cover legal costs and any compensation costs from such a claim. A policy for \$20 Million is required for events on Council land.
Risk Assessment	A risk assessment is the combined effort of identifying and analysing potential events that may negatively impact individuals, assets and or the environment and making judgements on the tolerability of the risk on the basis of a risk analysis. Risks are identified and rated (via the risk matrix) then risk controls that are to be implemented are

	<p>listed and the risk is them rerated to show how the control will minimize the risk.</p>
<p>Siting Approval (for a temporary structure)</p>	<p>Section 3 of the Building Act states that the following are prescribed classes of temporary structures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• tents, marquees or booths with a floor area greater than 100m<sup>2</sup></li> <li>• seating stands for more than 20 persons</li> <li>• stages or platforms (including sky borders and stage wings) exceeding 150m<sup>2</sup> in floor area</li> <li>• prefabricated buildings exceeding 100m<sup>2</sup> other than ones placed directly on the ground.</li> </ul> <p>Provided these structures do not form part of another building other than a temporary structure or temporary building.</p> <p>Section 57 allows occupancy permits for prescribed temporary structures to be issued on the condition that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the siting of the temporary structure is subject to the approval of the municipal building surveyor of that district</li> <li>• the erection of the temporary structure is carried out by registered building practitioners.</li> </ul>
<p>Sponsorship (Cash &amp; In-kind)</p>	<p>A formal, reciprocal arrangement between groups or event organisers and Council, which the benefits for both parties are documented. It can cover both cash and in-kind considerations. The arrangement is clearly understood by both parties, with clear outcomes and timelines, and the rights and responsibilities of both sides. These outcomes are deliverable and measurable and align with the goals and aspirations of Council Plan objectives</p>
<p>Traffic Management Plan (TMP)</p>	<p>A traffic management plan (TMP) covers temporary changes to traffic conditions, speed limits, road and footpath closures and traffic detours. Also implementation of Visual Messaging Boards (VMS). This requirement is in accordance with the Road Management Act 2004 and Roads Safety Act 1986 and Aust. Standard AS 1742.3 2009 Traffic control devices for works on roads. TMP must be prepared by a qualified person as required by the Road Management Act and in accordance with Aust Standard AS 1742.3. The plan must be site specific and include the details of the proposal to place, erect, dismantle and / or undertake the changes to traffic conditions.</p>
<p>VMS Board</p>	<p>Variable Message Signs (VMS) can be used for traffic management, roadworks, advertising and events. VMS Boards can be used to display information, provide warnings and safely guide motorists on public roadways.</p>

## 11 TEMPLATES AND FORMS

<b>EVENT MANAGEMENT</b>			
<b>Category</b>		<b>Form</b>	<b>Link to Form on Infowise/website</b>
EVENTS	1.	Event Application Form	<a href="#">Event Application Form</a>
	2.	Weddings and Family Gatherings in Parks	<a href="#">Gatherings in the Park Form</a>
	3.	Risk Assessment	<a href="https://magiq.edrms/docs/~D13415?Login=True">https://magiq.edrms/docs/~D13415?Login=True</a>
	4.	Tourism/Event Signage Application	<a href="#">Tourism/Event Signage Application Form</a>
	5.	Social Media Application	<a href="#">Social Media Application Form</a> (situated within Event Application Form)
	6.	Request for Supply and / or Emptying of Bins for Special Events	<a href="#">Supply of Bins Form</a>
HIRE FORMS	7.	Euroa Cinema Hire	<a href="#">Euroa Cinema Hire Form</a>
	8.	Nagambie Regatta Centre Hire	<a href="#">Regatta Centre Hire Form</a>
	9.	Community Facilities Hire	<a href="#">Community Facility Hire Form</a>
	10.	Loan of Shire Equipment	<a href="#">In Kind Equipment Hire</a>
PERMITS	11.	Events on waterways and exclusion zones (MSV)	<a href="#">Boating activity and exclusion zones on waterways</a>
	12.	Total Fire Ban Permit (CFA)	<a href="#">Total fire ban permit</a>
	13.	Cycling Events Permit (VicRoads)	<a href="#">Cycling events permit</a>
	14.	Occupancy Permit (POPE)	<a href="#">Occupancy permit application</a>
	15.	Siting Permit for Prescribed Structures	<a href="#">Siting Approval for Prescribed Structures Application</a>
	16.	Filming and Photography	<a href="#">Filming and photography permit application</a>
	17.	Victorian Screen Industry Code of Conduct	<a href="#">Victorian Screen Industry Code of Conduct</a>
	18.	MOA Requirements	<a href="#">Memorandum of Authorisation guide</a>
	19.	MOA Application Form	<a href="#">Memorandum of Application Form</a>



HOW TO GUIDES	20.	Event Application Guide	<a href="#">Event Application Guide</a>
	21.	Event Planning Toolkit	<a href="#">Event Planning Toolkit</a>
	22.	Sustainable Events - Waste Wise Events Guide	<a href="#">Waste Wise Events Policy</a>
	23.	Register on Streatrader (Food Stalls)	<a href="#">Lodging a Statement of Trade on Streatrader</a>
	24.	First Aid at Event	<a href="#">St Johns Ambulance services for events</a>
INTERNAL COUNCIL DOCUMENTS	25.	Event Approval Letter Template	<a href="https://magiq.edrms/docs/~D740939?Login=True">https://magiq.edrms/docs/~D740939?Login=True</a>
	26.	Internal/Civic Event Approval Form Template	<a href="https://magiq.edrms/docs/~D744716?Login=True">https://magiq.edrms/docs/~D744716?Login=True</a>
	27.	Filming Permit Approval Letter Template	<a href="https://magiq.edrms/docs/~D574381?Login=True">https://magiq.edrms/docs/~D574381?Login=True</a>
	28.	Wedding and Gatherings Approval Letter Template	<a href="https://magiq.edrms/docs/~D740953?Login=True">https://magiq.edrms/docs/~D740953?Login=True</a>
	29.	Event Application Progress Spreadsheet	<a href="https://magiq.edrms/docs/~D675551?Login=True">https://magiq.edrms/docs/~D675551?Login=True</a>
	30.	Tourism Signage Tracking Spreadsheet	<a href="https://magiq.edrms/docs/~D614805?Login=True">https://magiq.edrms/docs/~D614805?Login=True</a>
	31.	Event Code Naming Convention Form	<a href="https://magiq.edrms/docs/~D622417?Login=True">https://magiq.edrms/docs/~D622417?Login=True</a>
	32.	Councillor Invitation and Request	<a href="https://magiq.edrms/docs/~D741005?Login=True">https://magiq.edrms/docs/~D741005?Login=True</a>
	33.	Event Approval Checklist Template	<a href="https://magiq.edrms/docs/~D740959?Login=True">https://magiq.edrms/docs/~D740959?Login=True</a>
	34.	Internal/Civic Event Approval Checklist Template	<a href="https://magiq.edrms/docs/~D740959?Login=True">https://magiq.edrms/docs/~D740959?Login=True</a>
	35.	How to process and Event Application (EventManage Guide)	'In development' – EventManage is currently getting changes once these are made a Video and PDF with instructions will be created
	36.	Event Debrief Agenda Template	<a href="https://magiq.edrms/docs/~D742772?Login=True">https://magiq.edrms/docs/~D742772?Login=True</a>

	37.	Stakeholder Contact List	<a href="https://magiq.edrms/docs/~D742119?Login=True">https://magiq.edrms/docs/~D742119?Login=True</a>
	38.	Internal/Civic Events Equipment Checklist	<a href="#">Equipment Checklist</a>

### ORGANISATIONAL POLICES AND DOCUMENTS

Category	Form	Link to Form on Infowise/website
PROCUREMENT AND FINANCE	Cash Handling & Receipting	<a href="https://magiq.edrms/docs/~D595959?Login=True">https://magiq.edrms/docs/~D595959?Login=True</a>
	Creditor Payment	<a href="https://magiq.edrms/docs/~D325868?Login=True">https://magiq.edrms/docs/~D325868?Login=True</a>
	Purchasing Card Policy	<a href="https://magiq.edrms/docs/~D394722?Login=True">https://magiq.edrms/docs/~D394722?Login=True</a>
		<a href="https://magiq.edrms/docs/~D599287?Login=True">https://magiq.edrms/docs/~D599287?Login=True</a>
	Procurement Policy	<a href="https://magiq.edrms/docs/~D407023?Login=True">https://magiq.edrms/docs/~D407023?Login=True</a>
Privacy and Data Protection Policy	<a href="https://magiq.edrms/docs/~D11581?Login=True">https://magiq.edrms/docs/~D11581?Login=True</a>	
GOVERNANCE	Fraud and Corruption Policy	<a href="https://magiq.edrms/docs/~D18891?Login=True">https://magiq.edrms/docs/~D18891?Login=True</a>
	Fraud and Corruption Prevention Strategy	<a href="https://magiq.edrms/docs/~D377870?Login=True">https://magiq.edrms/docs/~D377870?Login=True</a>
	Fraud and Corruption Prevention Procedures	<a href="https://magiq.edrms/docs/~D376064?Login=True">https://magiq.edrms/docs/~D376064?Login=True</a>
	Gifts, Benefits and Hospitality Policy	<a href="https://magiq.edrms/docs/~D608496?Login=True">https://magiq.edrms/docs/~D608496?Login=True</a>
	Governance Rules	<a href="https://magiq.edrms/docs/~D655229?Login=True">https://magiq.edrms/docs/~D655229?Login=True</a>
	Public Transparency Policy	<a href="https://magiq.edrms/docs/~D636592?Login=True">https://magiq.edrms/docs/~D636592?Login=True</a>
COMMUNICATON MANAGEMENT	Communications and Engagement Policy	<a href="https://magiq.edrms/docs/~D578876?Login=True">https://magiq.edrms/docs/~D578876?Login=True</a>
		<a href="https://magiq.edrms/docs/~D624218?Login=True">https://magiq.edrms/docs/~D624218?Login=True</a>
	Records Management Policy	<a href="https://magiq.edrms/docs/~D24319?Login=True">https://magiq.edrms/docs/~D24319?Login=True</a>
	Social Media Policy	<a href="https://magiq.edrms/docs/~D428060?Login=True">https://magiq.edrms/docs/~D428060?Login=True</a>
Customer Service Charter 2019	<a href="#">Customer Service Charter</a>	
RISK MANAGEMENT	Risk Management Framework	<a href="https://magiq.edrms/docs/~D372270?Login=True">https://magiq.edrms/docs/~D372270?Login=True</a>
	Risk Management Policy	<a href="https://magiq.edrms/docs/~D12147?Login=True">https://magiq.edrms/docs/~D12147?Login=True</a>
	Child Safety Policy 2021	<a href="https://magiq.edrms/docs/~D433107?Login=True">https://magiq.edrms/docs/~D433107?Login=True</a>

EVENT MANAGEMENT	Events Policy	<a href="https://magiq.edrms/docs/~D729468?Login=True">https://magiq.edrms/docs/~D729468?Login=True</a>
	Arts & Culture Strategy 2019 – 2023 and Action Plan	<a href="#">Arts &amp; Culture Strategy Action Plan</a>
	Sponsorship Program Guidelines 2021 – 2022	<a href="https://magiq.edrms/docs/~D556357?Login=True">https://magiq.edrms/docs/~D556357?Login=True</a>
	Volunteer Management Guidelines	<a href="https://magiq.edrms/docs/~D394309?Login=True">https://magiq.edrms/docs/~D394309?Login=True</a>
	Waste Wise Events Guidelines	<a href="https://magiq.edrms/docs/~D662906?Login=True">https://magiq.edrms/docs/~D662906?Login=True</a>
	Australia’s Strategy for Protecting Crowded Places from Terrorism	<a href="#">Australia’s Strategy for Protecting Crowded Places from Terrorism   Australian National Security</a>
	Victorian Guidelines for Planning Safe Public Events – Edition 01	<a href="#">Guidelines for Planning Safe Public Events</a>

### **9.2.11 Mangalore Airport Inland Rail – Freight Intermodal Business Case**

Author: Economic Development and Projects Coordinator

Responsible Director: Director Planning and Community

#### ***EXECUTIVE SUMMARY***

Mangalore Airport was established in 1939 for training Royal Australian Air Force Pilots and is currently owned by the Mangalore Airport Corporation.

In late 2019, Strathbogie Shire successfully applied for funding under the Inland Rail Interface Improvement Program to prepare a business case for the construction of a freight intermodal at Mangalore Airport. This site is particularly attractive for such a facility given its location at the apex of the Hume and Goulburn Valley Freeways and the Inland Rail (Melbourne Sydney, Brisbane) and Goulburn Valley/Tocumwal line.

High profile accounting firm Ernst and Young was appointed to assist in the preparation of this business case. Mangalore Airport Corporation also joined the project and has been invaluable in providing technical advice throughout the discussions. In addition to owning and operating Mangalore airport, the operators also have considerable experience in the rail freight industry and own/operate the Ettamogah freight intermodal north of Albury.

The project requires that the business case achieve progression through five gateways. In November 2020 Ernst and Young submitted the project to gateway two. The project appears to have stalled at this point with only sporadic communications from Ernst and Young who advise that more senior government consultants are requesting further information.

The principal obstruction to further progress is the request by these consultants for Mangalore Airport Corporation to provide details of their customer base who may use a future freight intermodal at the site as well as other details of intellectual property held by them. Aside from the fact that it is not normal practice to predict customer numbers and identities prior to development of a project, Mangalore Airport Corporation has advised that it will not subject its current customers to interrogation by government consultants. They also have some concerns regarding the security of any information provided to these consultants. Mangalore Airport Corporation have sighted one instance where one of their customers was approached regarding this project and this approach has caused substantial damage in the relationship between Mangalore Airport and its customers who do not wish to be interviewed at this juncture of the project with such probing questions regarding their current and future business activity.

Despite ongoing discussions and meetings, the project has not progressed and there has been no further communication from government sources since early August 2021.

9.2.11 Mangalore Airport Inland Rail – Freight Intermodal Business Case (cont.)

**RECOMMENDATION**

***That Council write to the following Minister and Members of Parliament seeking their advocacy support for the urgent continuation of the Mangalore Freight Intermodal Business Case by ensuring that Mangalore Airport Corporation's intellectual property and commercial confidentiality is protected:***

- ***The Honourable Barnaby Joyce Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development***
- ***The Honourable Scott Buchholz Assistant Minister for Road Safety and Freight Transport***
- ***The Honourable Nola Marino Assistant Minister for Regional Development and Territories***
- ***Senator The Honourable Bridget McKenzie Minister for Regionalisation, Regional Communications and Regional Education***
- ***The Honourable Damian Drum Member for Nicholls***
- ***Dr Helen Haines Member for Indi***

**PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND**

The purpose of this report seeks for Council to provide further advocacy for the development of a business case to support a freight intermodal at Mangalore by writing to Federal Members of Parliament. This written correspondence would request their support to ensure that the business case is given fair consideration and that Mangalore airport not be required to divulge sensitive/commercial in confidence information in the formulation of this business case.

Mangalore Airport is approximately 1000 acres in area and is located at the apex of the Hume and Goulburn Valley Freeways and the Inland Rail (Melbourne Sydney, Brisbane) and Goulburn Valley/ Tocumwal line. There is approximately 800 metres of railway line frontage (Goulburn Valley line) that traverses through the south-west corner of the site which could form part of a rail/road freight intermodal.

Furthermore, it sits at the apex of the Goulburn Valley Freeway and the Hume freeway. With approximately 3.5 km of road running from the main entrance to the Goulburn Valley Freeway interchange. It is understood this road is currently classified as class B, however there does not appear to be any impediment to upgrading to section of road.

A Council planning overlay prohibits urban encroachment and Mangalore has long been recognised as an ideal site for development as a transport hub and industrial park.

There are two runways which with some upgrades would be capable of taking large commercial freight aircraft and passenger jets.

### 9.2.11 Mangalore Airport Inland Rail – Freight Intermodal Business Case (cont.)

#### ***ISSUES, OPTIONS AND DISCUSSION***

The construction of a freight intermodal at this site would enable the transfer of containerised freight between road and rail transport with potentially the option to facilitate transfer to and from aircraft. The size of the site is such that there is ample area available for further development as a transport heart and industrial estate.

Currently rail freight particularly fresh produce is restricted in its entry to the Melbourne metropolitan area due to the high demand of the metropolitan passenger rail network. In effect this means that the vast majority of land-based freight entering or leaving the Port of Melbourne needs to be transferred to rail from road transport.

Similarly, rail freight destined for shipment from the Port of Melbourne needs to be transported to the docks by road. It is understood that this situation will remain the case for at least the next 15 to 20 years pending construction of a dedicated rail terminal within the port precinct.

The federal government has recognised the need for intermodal to form part of the Inland Rail Project and given its connections to both road and rail and its proximity to Melbourne there are strong reasons for the government to consider Mangalore as a suitable site.

In 2019 federal government allocated funds and appointed Ernst & Young to assist in the preparation of a business case through the Inland Rail Interface Improvement Program. The Mangalore project reached gate two of five gateways in November 2020 and now appears to have stalled.

Mangalore Airport Corporation are considering withdrawing their support primarily based on what they believe to be unrealistic demands from federal government consultants regarding disclosure of the intellectual property and identification of the potential clients.

Whilst Strathbogie Shire is the appointed applicant for this project it would be extremely difficult to continue without the assistance of Mangalore Airport Corporation.

It is proposed that Council write to the Honourable Barnaby Joyce Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development, the Honourable Scott Buchholz Assistant Minister for Road Safety and Freight Transport, the Honourable Nola Marino Assistant Minister for Regional Development and Territories, The Honourable Bridget McKenzie Minister for Regionalisation, Regional Communications and Regional Education and local Members of Parliament, the Honourable Damian Drum Member for Nicholls and Dr Helen Haines Member for Indi seeking their advocacy support for the urgent continuation of the Mangalore Freight Intermodal Business Case by ensuring that Mangalore Airport Corporation's intellectual property and commercial confidentiality is protected.

#### ***COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT***

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.

### 9.2.11 Mangalore Airport Inland Rail – Freight Intermodal Business Case (cont.)

Whilst no formal broader community engagement has been undertaken in relation to this issue, Council officers have met with the owners of Mangalore Airport Corporation who have requested that Council advocate for the continuation of this project without a need for them to disclose their intellectual property or client information.

#### **POLICY CONSIDERATIONS**

##### **Council Plans and Policies**

Council Plan:

Action 4.1.4 - continue to advocate for the development of the Mangalore Airport as a freight intermodal and transport/industrial hub.

##### **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 Mangalore Freight Intermodal Business Case is being developed as a part of the Federal Government's Inland Rail Project.

#### **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.

Whilst there are no legal considerations forming part of this report, Mangalore Airport Corporation are considering withdrawing their support primarily based on what they believe to be unrealistic demands from federal government consultants regarding disclosure of the intellectual property and identification of the potential clients.

##### **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 interests of transparency and open and honest communication with our community this advocacy report is to be publicly heard and considered before Council.

## 9.2.11 Mangalore Airport Inland Rail – Freight Intermodal Business Case (cont.)

### **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 federal government has provided funding to engage the services of Ernst & Young in the preparation of a business case. There is no cost to Council other than the investment of Officers time.

### **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 is to be promoted.

#### **Economic**

The potential of Mangalore airport has long been recognised and the establishment of a freight intermodal at this facility would bring a major economic benefit to the community. The presence of an intermodal would also stimulate further investment in the fields of transport and logistics at the site resulting in further development and employment.

#### **Social**

The establishment of a freight intermodal would create greater employment opportunities throughout the area.

#### **Environmental**

The development of the freight intermodal would decrease the use of trucks on the road network. In some instances, this may also reduce the deterioration of the road surface, therefore maintenance interventions would not be as regular.

#### **Climate change**

It is anticipated that the provision of a freight intermodal at Mangalore as a part of the Inland Rail project will significantly decrease the use of trucks for long distance freight haulage which will in turn result in a significant decrease in greenhouse gas emissions from heavy transport.

### **HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS**

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

### **CONCLUSION**

The development potential of the Mangalore airport site as a intermodal transport hub has been long recognised by Council and the local community.

Its proximity to Melbourne and the transport infrastructure surrounding it are such that it is very well suited as a freight intermodal as a part of the Inland Rail Project.

The federal government has allocated funds to develop a business case, however progress has stalled, and future progress is being jeopardised by the apparent expectation amongst some federal government consultants that Mangalore Airport Corporation divulge its intellectual property and customer information.

Mangalore Airport is arguing that it is unrealistic expectation and has requested the assistance of Strathbogie Shire in further advocacy on the project.



### **9.2.12 Regional Co-Investment Fund**

Author: Economic Development Coordinator

Responsible Director: Director Community & Planning

#### ***EXECUTIVE SUMMARY***

The short falls in digital connectivity across Strathbogrie Shire have previously been identified and recorded by Strathbogrie Shire Council. Accessible and capable digital infrastructure is recognised as a fundamental infrastructure need for future development of the region as well as an essential requirement for public safety and community well-being as recognised and in place in Melbourne metropolitan cities.

During the last 12 months, Strathbogrie Shire Council has undertaken considerable advocacy and negotiation on this issue with NBN Co and other levels of government. Details of this advocacy has previously been reported to Council. This advocacy has highlighted that lack of digital connectivity limits business growth and the implementation of contemporary business practice across the Shire, essential emergency resilience is significantly compromised as highlighted by the recent bushfire experiences with the region and highlights the ongoing inequity between rural and metropolitan Victoria and Australia more broadly.

In September 2020, the federal government announced the introduction of the \$300 million NBN's Regional Co-investment Funding scheme to improve broadband services for Australia's rural, regional and remote communities. Under this scheme it is expected that co investors such as local government will seek funding from other levels of government such as the Commonwealth Regional Connectivity Fund and the state government's Connecting Victoria scheme.

In July 2021 Strathbogrie Shire was invited to make submissions under the scheme. Under these guidelines two eligible projects under the "fibre to the premises" stream were identified for the towns of Avenel and Violet Town. Both towns currently rely on wireless technology for connection and were considered the highest priority for the provision of fibre to the premises as they offer the most community and economic benefit and would significantly reduce pressure on the wireless network.

The next step in the process is the signing of a funding agreement with NBN which will be premised on the basis that that Council and ratepayers do not have to commit funds for this base infrastructure but would seek to leverage funds from other sources.

Council firmly believes that apart from the obvious cost and burden shift to small rural Councils and their communities, we must also question why Councils are being asked to make up the gap in the base NBN service just to bring us closer to a level that the metropolitan Melbourne communities enjoy for granted. This arrangement clearly highlights the ongoing inequity of service levels between regional and metropolitan Victoria.

Following the receipt of these confidential build quotations, further discussions were held with representatives from NBN Co who advised that it is unlikely that both projects would receive funding and that a priority town would need to be determined in the event that funding was only made available for one. This report seeks Councils endorsement to prioritise Avenel and then Violet Town for possible funding.

### 9.2.12 Regional Co-Investment Fund (cont.)

Furthermore, officer recommend that these projects are fully funded through grants sources from State and Federal sources and should not come at any cost to Council and ratepayers.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

##### ***That Council:***

- 1. Note the details of the regional co-investment fund proposal and prioritise Avenel then Violet Town should funding become available to improve broadband services and connectivity;***
- 2. Endorse that this partnership with NBN Co be progressed on the firm premise that project/s are fully funded through external sources and not at any cost to Council and ratepayers; and***
- 3. Authorise officers to continue ongoing advocacy for improved digital connectivity by writing to Local and Federal Members of Parliament seeking their support for funding to improve digital connectivity for the Shire whilst highlighting the ongoing inequity of the co-contribution requirements of this scheme and disproportion of service levels between Regional and Metropolitan Melbourne.***

#### **PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND**

In December 2020 the Honourable Paul Fletcher, Minister for Communications, Urban Infrastructure, Cities and the Arts of Australia announced that the NBN build was "Complete". With the build complete, 66% of the shire including the towns of Avenel and Violet Town are reliant upon either wireless or satellite connections.

The purpose of the Regional Co-Investment Fund (the Fund) is to further enhance broadband services for rural and regional households, businesses and communities to help meet the growing and diverse needs of Australians living in regional areas.

The \$300 million (GST exclusive) fund invites federal, state and territory and local governments to co-invest alongside NBN, to help deliver improved broadband services to communities where those investment would otherwise be sub-commercial.

The Fund aims to:

- improve broadband services for Australia's regional rural and remote communities;
- strengthen relationships with government, industry and communities to optimise customer benefits,
- provide immediate economic stimulus through infrastructure enhancements; and
- help regional and rural communities realise the socioeconomic benefits that access to high-speed broadband can unlock.

### 9.2.12 Regional Co-Investment Fund (cont.)

The Fund is intended to deliver access to higher speed wholesale broadband services over the NBN™ network to households and businesses in regional and remote areas of Australia and, in turn, promote socioeconomic benefits such as improvements in regional digital inclusion and capability which lead to better outcomes for health and education.

The design of the Regional Co-Investment Fund incorporates the following four principles:

1. Projects to deliver enhanced broadband infrastructure in NBN's regional footprint.
2. Funded applications are required to deliver a threshold commercial rate of return to NBN.
3. Projects to deliver socioeconomic benefits for the target localities.
4. Equitable access to the Regional Co-investment Fund for all states and territories. In addition, as part of the proposal application, NBN will retain 100% ownership of the infrastructure asset and as such, will be responsible to maintain the asset and be the sole recipient of any revenues derived from the asset. It is a condition of this fund that any project undertaken provide a commercial threshold of return to the NBN.

In essence NBN is requesting that third parties assist in funding foundational infrastructure that will remain the sole property of NBN and generate a commercial return for NBN, a request that is not required from Metropolitan Melbourne Councils and ratepayers.

The rationale and incentive for third-party investment is that local communities will receive a benefit through more efficient and capable broadband connections which highlights the ongoing inequity between rural and metropolitan Victoria.

#### ***ISSUES, OPTIONS AND DISCUSSION***

The short falls in digital connectivity across Strathbogrie Shire have previously been identified and recorded by Strathbogrie Shire Council. Accessible and capable digital infrastructure is recognised as a fundamental infrastructure need for future development of the region as well as an essential requirement for public safety and community well-being as recognised and in place in Melbourne metropolitan cities.

During the last 12 months, Strathbogrie Shire Council has undertaken considerable advocacy and negotiation on this issue with NBN Co and other levels of government. Details of this advocacy has previously been provided to Council in reports in January 2021 and regular briefings with the mayor each fortnight in recent months. In addition, submissions have been made to the Joint standing committee on the NBN and the pedal review into regional telecommunications.

In September 2020, the federal government announced the introduction of the NBN's Regional Co-investment Funding scheme.

### 9.2.12 Regional Co-Investment Fund (cont.)

The basic principle of the funding scheme is that the NBN provided \$300 million to establish a dedicated fund from which NBN can co-invest with all levels of government to continue to improve broadband services for Australia's rural, regional and remote communities – the Regional Co-investment Fund (the Fund). Under this scheme it is expected that co investors such as local government will seek funding from other levels of government such as the Commonwealth Regional Connectivity Fund and the state government's Connecting Victoria scheme.

In July 2021 Strathbogie Shire was invited to make submissions under the scheme.

The types of projects were eligible under the fund:

1. Satellite or Fixed Wireless to Fibre to the Premises
2. Satellite to Fixed Wireless.

Under these guidelines two eligible projects under the “fibre to the premises” stream were identified for the towns of Avenel and Violet Town. Both towns currently rely on wireless technology for connection and were considered the highest priority for the provision of fibre to the premises as they offer the most community and economic benefit and would significantly reduce pressure on the wireless network. The alternative of identifying individual sites that could be upgraded from a satellite to wireless was considered to be costly and offering a minimal benefit to sections of the community. It is important to note that whilst these two towns have been identified, Council will continue its ongoing advocacy to secure funding to upgrade all other towns, townships and identified blackspot areas within the Shire.

The next step in the process is the signing of a funding agreement with NBN which will be premised on the basis that that Council and ratepayers do not have to commit funds for this base infrastructure but would seek to leverage funds from other sources. Council firmly believes that apart from the obvious cost and burden shift to small rural Councils and their communities, we must also question why Councils are being asked to make up the gap in the base NBN service just to bring us closer to a level that the Melbourne city communities enjoy for granted. This arrangement clearly highlights the ongoing inequity of service levels between regional and metropolitan Victoria.

Under the terms and conditions of this scheme applicants are asked to sign a confidentiality agreement and request that quotation for the build costs of these infrastructure projects be provided. This procedure was followed, and the quotations received form the confidential attachment to this report.

In summary, the following key points need to be considered:

- There is a recognised need to improve digital connectivity and capacity across the shire.
- The provision of fibre to the towns of Avenel and Violet Town would greatly enhance the ability of residents to access the Internet and would also make both towns more attractive to prospective residential and commercial investors.
- Despite the fact that external sources of funding will be provided to NBN to complete these projects the NBN will retain control of the new assets and receive any income generated by them.

### 9.2.12 Regional Co-Investment Fund (cont.)

- Under the Regional Co-investment Fund proposal, it appears Council is now being asked to take a level of responsibility for the provision of digital services in the region, a role that has typically been the province of state and federal governments and should remain that way.

Growth predictions for the Shire indicate that substantial population growth is expected in the short to medium term in Avenel due to its proximity to Nagambie and Seymour whereas only minor growth is expected in Violet Town over a similar period. Regrettably should the choice be necessary the prioritising of Avenel over Violet Town, officers propose that Avenel should be prioritised as the town offers the greatest economic and community development benefits.

#### **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.

Over the past 12 months Council Officers and Councillors have engaged with the community hearing about their frustrations with the level of supply and unreliability of digital services in the Shire.

#### **POLICY CONSIDERATIONS**

##### **Council Plans and Policies**

The 2017-2021 Council Plan goal 6 :

- "Advocate for improved telecommunications infrastructure and connectivity in the Strathbogie Shire."

#### **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.

It should be noted that the shire has signed a confidentiality agreement that requires that the build quotes and associated documentation remain commercial in confidence and form the confidential attachment to 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.

## 9.2.12 Regional Co-Investment Fund (cont.)

This report is tabled at Council to achieve public transparency to provide Council and our community with high level details of the Shire's Application under Regional Co-investment Fund and to provide notice that there may be a requirement to prioritise projects within this application.

### **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.

There is no financial impact to Council in relation to this report. Any funding agreement signed by Council will be strictly conditional upon obtaining external funding such as State and federal government grants and Council will not be required to commit ratepayer funding to the project.

### **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 economic development and productivity benefits of improved capacity of our digital infrastructure to the Strathbogie community are considerable and would enhance the ability of the shire to attract residential and commercial investment. The funding of this proposed infrastructure is outside the scope and ability of Council to provide through its own revenue so it is necessary to seek external funding if these improvements are to occur.

#### **Social**

Social inclusion, wellbeing, and personal connections are enhanced by good reliable, fast broadband that can support video conferencing and social connection. During Covid- 19 lock downs use of digital social networks has become even more important to maintain personal connections.

In rural locations where mobile signals are weak or intermittent more could be done by Telcos and NBNCO to assist residents to become connected, therefore adding to social inclusion, wellbeing, and safety.

#### **Environmental**

In general improvements to digital connectivity and capacity are seen be beneficial to the environment as it will enhance the ability of residents and businesses to operate remotely and reduce the use of motor vehicles for commuting and commercial purposes.

#### **Climate change**

The GeSI and Deloitte's Digital with Purpose report suggests that digital technologies can help combat climate change through reducing emissions, strengthening resilience to climate related natural hazards, and improving our capacity to act.

### 9.2.12 Regional Co-Investment Fund (cont.)

It is estimated that information and communications technology (ICT) can reduce Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions contributing to climate change by 1.34Gt versus a business as usual scenario by 2030. And within the ICT sector, digital technologies could enable reductions in carbon emissions equivalent to almost seven times the amount that emissions of the ICT sector will grow by 2030.

#### ***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

#### ***CONCLUSION***

Subject to securing full and adequate funding from state and federal government, the NBN's Regional Co-investment Fund is an opportunity to improve digital infrastructure within the shire and specifically the towns of Violet Town and Avenel. Whilst this model highlights cost shift and inequities between rural and metropolitan Melbourne, the addition of this improved infrastructure would provide a substantial community benefit, improve community safety enhance the region's ability to attract commercial and residential investment.

#### ***APPENDICES***

**Appendix 4:** Regional Co-Investment Fund - CONFIDENTIAL

### **9.2.13 Regional Telecommunications Advocacy**

Author: Economic Development Coordinator

Responsible Director: Director Community & Planning

#### ***EXECUTIVE SUMMARY***

Telecommunications and digital connectivity have been identified by Strathbogie Shire Council as an important and fundamental infrastructure issue in need of action and advocacy. This advocacy has highlighted:

- the lack of digital connectivity significantly limits business growth and the implementation of contemporary business practice across the Shire,
- that essential emergency resilience is significantly compromised as highlighted by the recent bushfire experiences with the Hume region; and
- the ongoing inequity between rural and metropolitan Melbourne.

The Council Plan 2017-2021 identified the need to advocate for improved telecommunications infrastructure and connectivity in the Strathbogie Shire. As a result, there has been a significant amount of effort applied to the task of telecommunications advocacy by Council over the past 13 months. These advocacy approaches have included:

- A submission in September 2020 to the **Joint Standing Parliamentary Inquiry** regarding into the business case for the NBN and experiences of small businesses;
- An application in September 2021 to NBNCO under the terms of their own **Regional Co-investment Fund (RCIF)** seeking build cost estimates for extension of broadband Fibre to Avenel and Violet Town (refer Attachments 1 and 2); and
- A submission in September 2021 to the Victorian Government's **Connecting Victoria** initiative. This \$550 Million programme sought submissions on the funding of improvements and efficiencies in delivery of telecommunications at specific locations in regional Victoria;

Most recently, on 30 September 2021, Strathbogie Shire made a submission to the Federal Government Regional Telecommunications Review 2021. This Commonwealth review process is undertaken every three years. The basis of the submission was that whilst some new investments under the Commonwealth's Regional Connectivity Programme have been announced, they do not address the real and significant short falls of the National Broadband Network (NBN) in the region. It is important to note that 66% of NBN connections are by Satellite or Fixed wireless. Fibre and business grade fibre connections do not extend to many areas within Strathbogie Shire. Weak and intermittent mobile phone signals do not support modern communications access particularly for our strong agriculture industry which is the largest and most significant industry within the Shire.

Through our advocacy efforts, the Council is in pursuit of greater investments by Telstra, NBNCO and for support by State and Federal governments. This report is to inform our community of our continued advocacy for better telecommunications and digital connectivity telecommunications in Strathbogie Shire.



9.2.13 Regional Telecommunications Advocacy (cont.)

**RECOMMENDATION**

***That Council note the report and the Strathbogie Shire submissions made to the Regional Telecommunications Review 2021 and Connecting Victoria programme.***

**PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND**

This purpose of this report is to inform our community of our continued advocacy for better telecommunications and digital connectivity telecommunications in Strathbogie Shire.

Strathbogie Shire has recognised the social and community benefits of fast and reliable telecommunications. Unfortunately, despite the years of development, many areas of the Shire continue to experience poor quality mobile telephone and internet services and as a result the shire remains at a disadvantage when seeking to improve services and to attract new residential and commercial investment.

The Shire's goal is for residents, businesses, and visitors to have access to fast and reliable telecommunications services regardless of the location of their home or business enterprise and as highlighted in the 2017-2021 Council Plan, advocate for improved telecommunications infrastructure and connectivity in the Strathbogie Shire.

Advocacy on this issue has been ongoing and will continue. The digital inequity gap between rural Victoria and metropolitan Melbourne needs to be narrowed if not closed altogether. This will best be achieved by consistent and persistent advocacy with State and Federal representatives so that the Shire can maintain focus on this important regional issue.

In late 2020 Strathbogie Shire submitted to the Joint Standing Committee on the NBN and representing Council the Mayor presented at the public hearing to reinforce the submission. The submission sought cooperation, collaboration, and investment. The findings from the Joint Standing Committee are yet to be received.

On 30 September 2021 Strathbogie Shire made a submission to the Federal Government Regional Telecommunications Review 2021. This Commonwealth review process is undertaken every three years. The review is undertaken by a government appointed panel of people with considerable experience and expertise in the field. Essentially, the review will examine the adequacy of telecommunications services in regional, rural and remote Australia. It will also consider particular issues including the impact of Government policies, programs and investment, insights from COVID-19, emerging technologies, service reliability, regional development, and improving coordination between tiers of government.

The Committee must prepare a report of the review by 31 December 2021 or earlier and give it to the Minister for Regional Communications. In formulating any recommendation that the Australian Government should take a particular action, the Committee must assess the costs and benefits of that action.

### 9.2.13 Regional Telecommunications Advocacy (cont.)

#### **ISSUES & DISCUSSION:**

Telecommunications is a fundamental infrastructure a vital tool in modern life span it across health, education, community well-being, employment and business:

- There is now widespread recognition that broadband, mobile phone signals, and handheld devices are here to stay and are creating many new opportunities for productivity via digitisation across the whole community, in all industries, occupations, and locations.
- Social inclusion is assisted by good reliable and fast connections.
- Internet supplied health and wellbeing services are available to cover great distances and allow the many advantages of telehealth consultations.
- Currently, Strathbogie Shire is not well served by the best telecommunications services available.
- Many Strathbogie Shire residents have expressed their frustration and dissatisfaction with telecommunications services.
- Strathbogie Shire needs to be competitive as a residential and commercial investment destination and should not be disadvantaged because telecommunications services is not up to the expectations of residents and business owners.
- A decentralisation movement to regions is underway. Movers will be assessing connectivity in the Strathbogie region and will decide if services here can consistently support working from home arrangements.

Telecommunications and digital connectivity have been identified by Strathbogie Shire Council as an important and fundamental infrastructure issue in need of action and advocacy. This advocacy has highlighted:

- the lack of digital connectivity significantly limits business growth and the implementation of contemporary business practice across the Shire,
- that essential emergency resilience is significantly compromised as highlighted by the recent bushfire experiences with the Hume region; and the ongoing inequity between rural and metropolitan Melbourne.

The Council Plan 2017-2021 identified the need to advocate for improved telecommunications infrastructure and connectivity in the Strathbogie Shire. As a result, there has been a significant amount of effort applied to the task of telecommunications advocacy by Council over the past 13 months. These advocacy approaches have included:

- A submission in September 2020 to the **Joint Standing Parliamentary Inquiry** regarding into the business case for the NBN and experiences of small businesses;
- An application in September 2021 to NBNCO under the terms of their own **Regional Co-investment Fund (RCIF)** seeking build cost estimates for extension of broadband Fibre to Avenel and Violet Town (refer Attachments 1 and 2); and
- A submission in September 2021 to the Victorian Government's **Connecting Victoria** initiative. This \$550 Million programme sought submissions on the funding of improvements and efficiencies in delivery of telecommunications at specific locations in regional Victoria;

### 9.2.13 Regional Telecommunications Advocacy (cont.)

Every three years the Federal Government appoints the Regional Telecommunications Independent Review Committee to conduct the review. Committee reports are important in setting the regional communications policy agenda in the following years. The Regional Telecommunications Review is an opportunity for people living and working in regional, rural and remote areas of Australia to share their views and experiences using telecommunications services in their area.

- **Submission:** *Federal Government Regional Telecommunications Review 2021*

Given the importance of this issue for Council and our community, Strathbogrie Shire Council made a submission to the Federal Government Regional Telecommunications Review 2021 on 30 September 2021 in line with the submission timelines (refer Attachments 1 and 2). The basis of the submission was that whilst some new investments under the Commonwealth's Regional Connectivity Programme have been announced, they do not address the real and significant short falls of the National Broadband Network (NBN) in the region.

.A summary of the key issues highlighted in our submission to this review includes:

- Regardless of investment to date, the current telecommunications services in our region do not meet with the expectations of those who live and/or operate a business. Furthermore, the inequity between regional and metropolitan/urban Victoria continue.
- In 2020 Regional Development Victoria reported significant short falls in supply of telecommunications services in the Goulburn region (including Strathbogrie Shire).
- In the Goulburn Regional Digital Plan, the Committee Chairman reported that:
  - *"The Partnership has heard from Goulburn's communities and industries about the challenges that they face in the areas of digital connectivity, technologies and skills. These challenges are reflected in the evidence highlighted in this Plan which shows that the Goulburn region experiences significantly lower levels of digital access than other regional areas of Victoria and in particular Metropolitan Melbourne – creating a digital divide between communities and businesses."*
- There are system wide impediments to delivery of superfast internet and mobile signals across the Strathbogrie Shire - 66% of NBN connections in Strathbogrie Shire are supplied by the slower and less reliable satellite or fixed wireless services. See Strathbogrie Shire mapping attached.
- Other than Euroa and Nagambie (which remains substandard to the metro Melbourne counterparts), other towns/townships within the Shire are not supplied by fibre connections.
- Mobile signals are poor or intermittent outside towns, some localities and properties are not served by a mobile service signal – this has significant implications for business and emergency resilience.
- Sections of crucial roads are not serviced by good reliable mobile signals.
- Some residents must drive away from their homes to find a useful mobile phone signal.

### 9.2.13 Regional Telecommunications Advocacy (cont.)

- In comparison, suburbs of metropolitan Melbourne where most connections are Fibre to the premises capable of 1000MBPS down, there is potential to connect at speeds which are 40 times faster than the restricted 25MBPs available by satellite in Strathbogie Shire.

Council has and will continue to strongly advocate that telecommunications services in the regions should be reliable and available at the same level as in urban areas at no additional cost to Council or ratepayers.

- **Submission:** *Connecting Victoria – Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions (DJPR)*

The Victorian Government has budgeted \$550 Million over 4 years to support and improve regional connectivity. With an emphasis on economic development, new development, and social inclusion, the Connecting Victoria initiative aims to enable more businesses to take advantage of digital opportunities with more reliable, better value broadband in more places, including popular shopping streets and business parks. Further, the program will focus on getting more Victorians access to business-grade broadband and upgrading mobile coverage, improving 4G mobile coverage, helping more places become 5G ready, and improving access to safety information during bushfires and other emergencies.

The State Government invited community to make submissions to this process on their Engage Victoria platform. Council also publicised the opportunity for the community to engage with Connecting Victoria on their website. Based on community engagement over the past 12 months on this matter, Council's submission identified possible projects including:

- Extensions of fibre connections not currently available in the towns of Avenel and Violet Town.
- Mobile black spots and black lengths of roads where signals drop out.
- A description of new and approved residential development adding dwellings and population to the Shire therefore also increasing demand for digital connections and capacity now and in the future.
- Other specific place-based locations included were, Mangalore Aerodrome, Nagambie, Mitchellstown, Mitchelton Hotel, Strathbogie, Ruffy, Boho, Boho South, Creightons Creek and Violet Town.

Whilst it is not known when the next round of successful projects will be announced, it is likely that projects selected by the Victorian government will be developed as co-investments with a Telco or NBNCO.

#### **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.

Over the past 12 months Council Officers and Councillors have engaged with the community hearing about their frustrations with the supply of telecommunications services in the Shire.

### 9.2.13 Regional Telecommunications Advocacy (cont.)

A survey of Strathbogie Shire businesses undertaken last year showed significant dissatisfaction with the speed and reliability of Broadband and concern about mobile phone signals. The survey results were used to inform our submissions last year to the Parliamentary Joint Standing Committee on the NBN and in the recent submission to the Regional Telecommunications review.

In cooperation with Strathbogie Shire both Telstra and NBNCO arranged for community consultation sessions at which community members were able to seek advice, assistance and talk directly with local representatives. When attending these drop-in sessions Council Officers and Councillors also heard of the difficulties that community members encounter when connecting to and maintaining good reliable digital connectivity.

Council Officers have met regularly with Telstra and NBNCO Local to engage and discuss concerns raised by the community.

#### ***POLICY CONSIDERATIONS***

##### ***Council Plans and Policies***

Preparation of a written submissions to the Regional Telecommunications Review 2021 supports advocacy as depicted in goal 6 of the 2017-2021 Council Plan.

##### ***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 negative legal considerations associated with 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.

The purpose of this report is to outline how Council has and will continue to advocate on behalf of Strathbogie Shire residents and business owners by submitting to Government reviews for further targeted investments in Broadband and telecommunications infrastructure.

Further advocacy is likely by writing to State and Federal Members of Parliament requesting their support for the Strathbogie Shire submissions.

This report is tabled at Council to achieve public transparency and to keep our community informed on the advocacy that has and will continue to achieve equity access to telecommunication services enjoyed by metropolitan/urban Melbourne.

### 9.2.13 Regional Telecommunications Advocacy (cont.)

#### **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.

There is no financial impact to Council in relation to this report.

#### **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 economic development and productivity benefits of good reliable and fast telecommunications to the Strathbogie community are considerable. Being an active advocate and lodging submissions seeking further investments is designed to enhance and promote development of viable and sustainable communities.

##### **Social**

Social inclusion, wellbeing, and personal connections are enhanced by good reliable, fast broadband that can support video conferencing and social connection. During Covid- 19 lock downs use of digital social networks has become even more important to maintain personal connections.

In rural locations where mobile signals are weak or intermittent more could be done by Telcos and NBNCO to assist residents to become connected, therefore adding to social inclusion, wellbeing, and safety.

##### **Environmental**

It could be argued that better communications can serve to protect the environment and people from adverse events like bushfires, storms, and floods. Quick notification and attention to emergencies can mitigate against the most severe effects.

Absences of a reliable mobile phone signal in a rural location is a communications problem during an emergency particularly for those unfamiliar with the location. Recent bushfires within the region highlighted the important issue of ensuring emergency resilience through reliable telecommunications.

##### **Climate change**

Improvements in telecommunications and digital connectivity will most likely have a positive benefit on climate change by reducing the need for travel for work, health and education purposes.

#### **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

### 9.2.13 Regional Telecommunications Advocacy (cont.)

#### **CONCLUSION**

The recent Council submissions to the regional telecommunications review advocate that the telecommunications network, including NBN, a publicly built foundation infrastructure, must continue to grow, improve, and contribute to greater development, productivity, and wellbeing of our community. The submission also emphasised the need to accommodate facilitate development of the regions as well as planned for and accommodate increases in population as people decentralise from the cities.

It is important that Strathbogie Shire Council continues to advocate for improved telecommunications and digital infrastructure if our Shire is to be seen as an attractive prospect for residential and commercial investment.

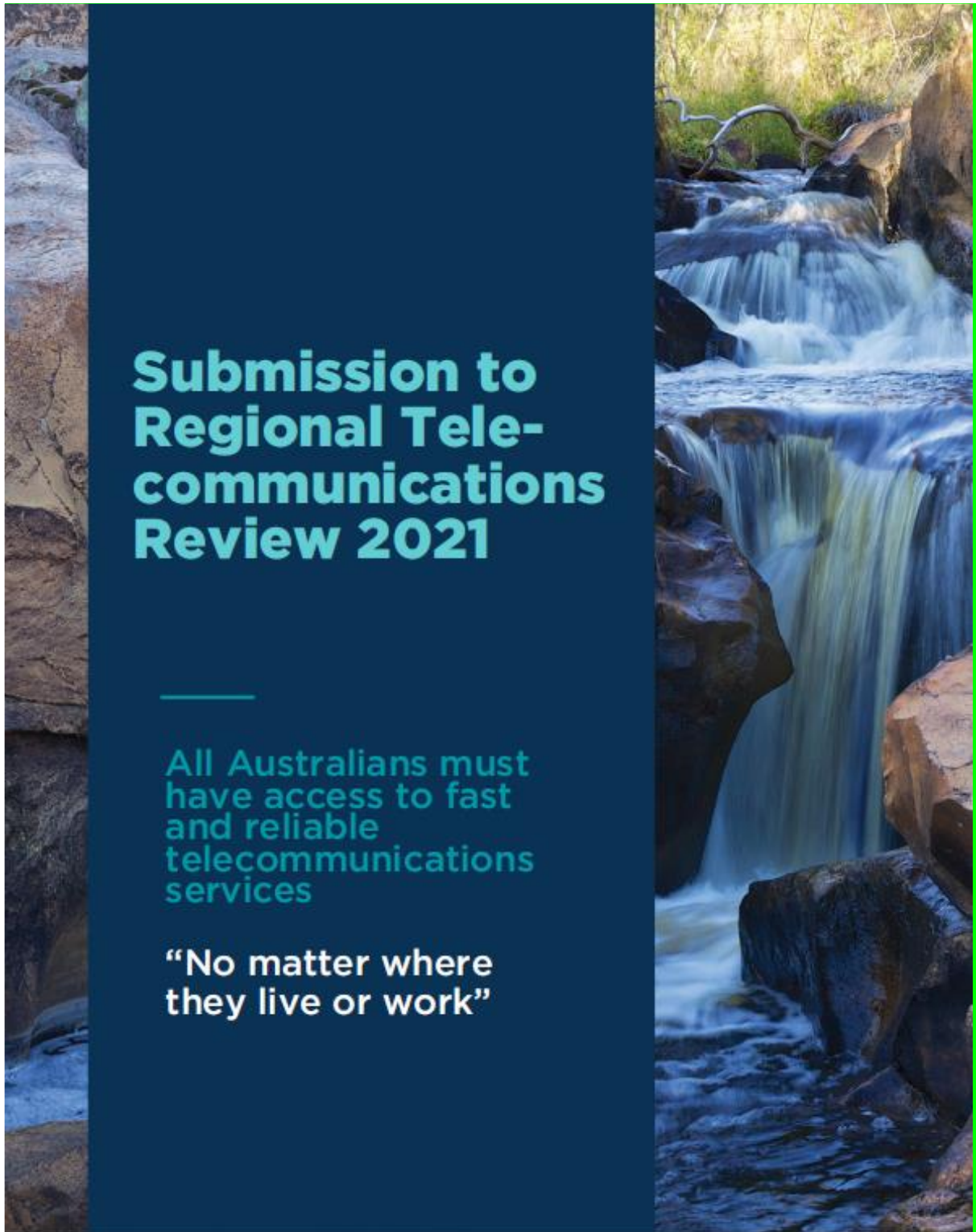
#### **ATTACHMENTS**

**Attachment 1:** Strathbogie Shire Submission Regional Telecommunications Review 2021

**Attachment 2:** Strathbogie Shire NBN Connections mapping (*a copy of this map is available on request*)

**Attachment 3:** Connecting Victoria

**ATTACHMENT 1:**







### Introduction

At Strathbogrie Shire we appreciate the forum provided by the Regional Telecommunications Review 2021 to submit, express opinions from our region, explain the lived experiences here, and become involved in the review process. Thank you for the opportunities.

Strathbogrie Shire Council has resolved that digital connectivity is an important fundamental infrastructure requisite in need of attention, further development, investment, and advocacy for improvement.

It was a pleasure to read the Regional Telecommunications Review 2021 Issues Paper. The paper addressed the regional issues and raised many of our questions and concerns. In this submission we will follow the sequence of regional telecommunications topics raised in the Issues Paper.

**We Could not Agree more** with paragraph 3 on page 5, where it says:

*“Connectivity is also a big part of encouraging people to live, work and invest in regional areas. The regions offer attractive lifestyle amenity for many people and regional Australia is experiencing renewed interest from business and government. Taking advantage of this opportunity for regional growth requires residents and businesses to be able to access the same level of telecommunications services available in urban areas”*

**That is what we want...Access to the same level of telecommunications services available in urban areas!**

**In their 2020 Annual Report... NBNCO agree:**

*“But more importantly, rolling out this network to more than 11.7 million homes and businesses has been critical for maintaining business productivity, employment and social cohesion during the COVID-19 pandemic and a boon for customer choice and competition within the broader telecommunications industry. **It has fundamentally changed the way Australians live and work by offering fast, secure and reliable broadband services no matter where they live or work.** And it has helped lay the foundations for the thriving digital economy we need to remain productive, prosperous and connected through the impacts of COVID-19”*

**Fast, secure and reliable Broadband services no matter where they live or work!**

### **Statements, expectations, guarantees... and the lived experience**

Lived experiences in our region do not meet the nice words in corporate plans, or the Statements of Expectations and Universal Service Guarantees.

Announcing the new Statutory Infrastructure Provider (SIP) arrangements in July 2020, Minister Paul Fletcher agreed that all Australians can access high-speed broadband, he said:

***“These historic laws mean that all Australians can access high-speed broadband, no matter where they live or work,”***

***“Under the new SIP laws, NBN Co will have a statutory obligation to provide broadband services that are able to achieve peak download and upload speeds of at least 25/5 Megabits per second.”***

***“NBN Co must also provide at least 90 per cent of premises on its fixed-line network with peak broadband speeds of 50/10 Megabits per second.”***

The 25 down and 5 up is often not realised by Satellite or Fixed Wireless connections in our region. Telecommunications service delivery is not up to par because:

- Congestion, slow speeds, and dropouts commonly diminish quality of service
- The alternative of using a 4G mobile signal also has reliability issues.
- There is an over reliance on Satellite and Fixed Wireless connectivity in Strathbogie Shire which does not nearly meet the expectations expressed by the Minister.
- Mobile phone signals are often patchy when away from the Hume Highway.

Strathbogie Shire, in making this submission, continues to actively pursue improvements to the telecommunications services available in our region.

We will be proactive and seek that the commitments and guarantees in speeches, statements, corporate plans are met with performance in Strathbogie Shire.

Telecommunications in all forms must be available to all Australians in the regions.

### **No matter where they live or work!**

#### **Lived experiences are disappointing**

Accepting these foundation statements and guarantees above as a base for measurement of telecommunications services in our Shire, we can only be disappointed by the current supply of services and the mixed results experienced by consumers in our community.

Despite all the development costs, paid for by taxpayers over many years, and all the contributions of consumers and Governments, telecommunications services in our Shire do not meet with the expectations of those who have paid and continue to pay.

In 2020 Regional Development Victoria reported significant short falls in supply of telecommunications services in the Goulburn region (including Strathbogie Shire).

In the Goulburn Regional Digital Plan, the Committee Chairman reported that:

*The Partnership has heard from Goulburn’s communities and industries about the challenges that they face in the areas of digital connectivity, technologies and skills. These challenges are reflected in the evidence highlighted in this Plan which shows that the Goulburn region experiences significantly lower levels of digital access than other regional areas of Victoria and in particular Metropolitan Melbourne – creating a digital divide between communities and businesses.*

There are system wide impediments to delivery of superfast internet and mobile signals across the Strathbogie Shire.

- 66% of NBN connections in Strathbogie Shire are supplied by the slower and less reliable satellite or fixed wireless services. See Strathbogie Shire mapping attached.
- Satellite 27%, Fixed Wireless 39%, Fibre to the Node 27.7%, Fibre to the Curb 5%,
- Only 1.3% is supplied as Fibre to the Premises (FTTP)

- The towns of Violet Town and Avenel are not supplied by fibre connections
- Mobile signals are poor or intermittent outside towns, some localities and properties are not served by a mobile service signal.
- Sections of crucial roads are not serviced by good reliable mobile signals.
- Some residents must drive away from their homes to find a useful mobile phone signal.

If our residents lived in Brunswick, where all connections are Fibre to the premises capable of 1000MBPS down, we would have the potential to connect at speeds which are 40 times faster than the restricted 25MBPs available by satellite in Strathbogie Shire.

How is this equitable? Telecommunications services in the regions should be reliable and available at the same level as in urban areas.

#### **In our communities own words...**

Our 2020 Strathbogie Shire Survey of lived broadband experience showed that local business owners are frustrated by telecommunications services in our region.

Here is a typical comment on the experience of using broad band for video conferencing in Strathbogie Shire...

***“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.”***

Clearly this customer is not benefitting of the speeds and telecommunications services to which the Minister and NBNCO aspire.

And another one:

***“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 dropouts 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.”***

To the point:

***“Speeds can vary depending on the day, time & weather. Our NBN based phones are AWFUL, we have regular dropouts that make us look incompetent!”***

More direct:

***“Don't bother as it is too slow.”***

A copy of the Survey results is included with this submission.

Supply of telecommunications services in Strathbogie Shire should be developed to be equal to those supplied in the Metropolis of Melbourne, or Sydney, and regional centres

like Shepparton, Bendigo, and Wagga Wagga where mobile phone and broadband services are generally reliable and readily available.

### Strathbogie Shire is in the “Goldilocks Zone”

Strathbogie Shire is within the golden circle of two hours travel north of Melbourne via the Hume Highway or by train.

The Strathbogie Shire towns of Nagambie, Euroa, Avenel, Violet Town, Strathbogie, Longwood, and adjacent districts are productive in agriculture, attractive to tourists, and popular with tree changers and retirees seeking a country lifestyle.

There is significant residential development planned for Strathbogie Shire based on the natural attractions of the region. Residential development in Nagambie, Avenel and Euroa is growing and the region is experiencing demand for homes and development.

Demographer Bernard Salt has described locations within 150kms of a metro CBD as being,

***“in a Goldilocks Zone that delivers just the right balance between an affordable and laidback lifestyle and weekly or fortnightly visit access to the city.”***

Strathbogie Shire is in the “Goldilocks Zone.”

Bernard Salt also predicts that 1.5 Million workers will want to work from home in hybrid arrangement in the Post Covid era (up from 506,000 in the 2016 census).

Migration to the country is growing and working from home (WFH) is more than a fad, as Bernard Salt says about Covid -19...

***“It has hastened the digitisation of business... and it has revolutionised the way we work”***

### Zoom with a View

Access to fast and reliable telecommunications is critical to meet the technical requirements of working from home (WFH).

Living in Strathbogie Shire brings space, peace and quiet, but with the arrival of modern communication it does not mean remoteness, or isolation, because, as Bernard Salt has observed, the internet covers great distances quickly and as the circumstances caused by Covid-19 have demonstrated, that many Australians now work from home (WFH) using a reliable connection.

Zoom, and all the benefits associated with the rapid development of telecommunications are available only when the digital connection is good and reliable.

The upside of working from home has been described by the Productivity Commission in their recent report “Working from Home” Research Paper September 2021.

The Productivity commission say:

*“Working from home can improve employment opportunities Avoiding the commute reduces the ‘cost’ of working, and this is expected to induce an increase in labour supply. This may include more work opportunities for people who face barriers to labour force participation. This includes carers, parents of young children, some people with disabilities, as well as people living in remote or regional areas where there are often fewer job opportunities in close physical proximity. Working from home policies can also promote a more gender-balanced workforce.”*

The Productivity Commission recommend that:

***“Policy should support the transition to working from home.”***

*“The shift to working from home caused by the pandemic is a large and material change in the way many people work. Even if half of the people who could work remotely do so an average of two days per week, overall hours worked from home would increase from a pre-pandemic level of just under 2% of all work hours to just under 7%. This is a large change that has happened very quickly but should be kept in perspective. The central workplace will remain the dominant model for the foreseeable future. But the increase in working from home is potentially of great benefit to a substantial portion of the Australian workforce.”*

Investments in the infrastructure must continue in Strathbogie Shire to keep pace with this change and the expectations of Governments and consumers. The prospect of commuting to work via the internet and connection and a mobile phone is entirely reliant on the quality and reliability of telecommunications.

Strathbogie Shire in Northern Victoria is currently lagging well behind in the Australian Digital Inclusion Index. (ADII)

The Northern Victoria index score for digital inclusion in 2020 was 56, which was 13.5 index points below inner Melbourne and 8.4 index points below the Victorian average. The comprehensive ADII report is instructive and illustrates how regional areas are lagging.

The ADII report recommends:

*“Better outcomes will depend on collaboration across sectors and all levels of government. The COVID-19 pandemic has reinforced the importance of digital inclusion for social resilience and economic security.*

*Digital inclusion should take a central role in national policy making and planning, with a greater degree of coordination across sectors and the different levels of government. With the NBN now substantially completed, and the economic and social effects of the pandemic becoming clearer, Digital Ability and Affordability are critical areas for attention. Collaboration across business, the not-for-profit sector, and government will be needed to improve outcomes for vulnerable communities.”*

**What we need is recognition that the digital divide exists and the inequity of it can be corrected by planning and decisions to invest in the right places in regional Australia.**

**Strathbogie Shire is one of those right places.**

## Key Issues in Response to the Regional Telecommunications Review 2021 Issues Paper

### Changing Demand

The demand for telecommunications services in Strathbogie Shire is increasing just as it is in many places in the country and in cities. Regional development is being promoted by Governments as a positive policy in need of support. There is therefore a need and desire for us all to keep pace with digital connectivity developments.

Demand is also driven by users seeking faster, better, and more reliable services to meet their requirements and to match expectations.

The comparison to services available in Metropolitan locations is inevitable also drives demand.

#### **Regional development is important.**

Strathbogie Shire Council supports the benefits of regional development, population increase in our region, increased employment opportunities, and economic and social development.

The Strathbogie Shire Council has resolved that digital connectivity is an important development issue and a fundamental infrastructure.

Improving digital connections is a Council objective and identified as a priority for the whole Shire.

#### **Parliamentary Joint Standing Committee on the NBN**

In 2020 Strathbogie Shire Council submitted to the Joint Standing Committee on the NBN: [Inquiry into the business case for the NBN and the experiences of small businesses](#)

In our submission we concluded that the suppliers of telecommunications services (wholesalers and retailers) need to collaborate with local government on their plans for development in our Shire.

Since we submitted last year, little has changed, services have not noticeably improved.

The Parliamentary Committee has yet to report and the outcome is not known. When available, the outcome should be used to also inform the Regional Telecommunications Review 2021.

#### **Support for regional development and the 'Move to More' campaign**

What we do know is that Commonwealth and Victorian governments support regional development and are actively seeking to encourage people to move to regions, creating demand for telecommunications services in the regions.

There is a 'Move to More' campaign promoted by the Regional Institute of Australia (RIA). The RAI is funded and supported by Governments and by NBNCO.

Therefore, NBNCO, and others, should readily recognise that regional telecommunications in Strathbogie Shire must be supported with planned and publicised investment decisions, if the region is to attract migration and future economic development.

The campaign: <https://www.movetomore.com.au/> promotes liveability in the regions. Since so many people have been forced by the circumstances of Covid-19 to work from home, digital connectivity in all forms has become a fundamental infrastructure requirement and demand has increased.

Work, Education, telehealth, social inclusion, personal wellbeing, and liveability are supported... when good connections are available.

People consider digital connectivity an important infrastructure that must be available to support their decision to move to the country.

#### **Victoria's Draft 30-year Infrastructure Strategy supports regional connectivity**

A draft released by Infrastructure Victoria in December 2020 has a focus on bridging the digital divide and includes:

- *To improve resilience of regional telecommunications infrastructure and to continue to address regional Victoria's digital connectivity gaps. (Recommendation 80)*

and

- *Continue to address regional Victoria's digital connectivity gaps in the next five years, continue delivering regional digital connectivity improvements, and review the need for further government investment following the roll-out of the Digital Future Now initiative. (Recommendation 86)*

Within the Draft 30 Year strategy and regional priorities for Goulburn there is a clear recognition that continuous improvement of digital connectivity is a necessity.

**Infrastructure Australia has identified regional telecommunications as a priority issue over the next 1 to 5 years.**

Infrastructure Australia has reported that potential options to address the initiative include:

- increasing shared use of the existing transmission network
- upgrading existing regional networks to allow faster digital connections
- investing in new transmission networks.

### **Regions, distance, topography, and no excuses**

There can be no excuses for not investing in regional telecommunications and leaving behind a region like Strathbogie Shire in the supply of broadband, mobile phone services and access to the internet.

We do not accept...

- **"You're up the bush, too far away"**  
"The trees get in the way"  
**"Move further up the hill"**
- Topography should not be an excuse
- **Close enough... is not good enough**
- We do not accept constant dropouts or failures
- **We do not accept: "Yer' get that up the country"**

We do not underestimate the demand that our community has for all things internet and the social and economic power of superfast broadband access.

What we seek is the commitment of Governments, NBNCO and Telcos to ensure that the best possible services are made available in Strathbogie Shire, services that metropolitan Melbourne residents and business alike enjoy as a given and...

**Please show us the plans for future regional development and investment.**

### **Mobile**

**Many locations in Strathbogie Shire suffer from poor or no mobile phone signal.**

Mapping provided by telecommunications retailers is not always accurate on the ground. When away from towns, towers, boosters, or highways signals drop out or deteriorate to the point of being useless. Our small villages often suffer from inferior mobile services. By comparison, this is not the experience of people in Brunswick village in the metropolis of Melbourne.

Expectations are that mobile phone services will improve in Strathbogie Shire.

Mobile phones are used extensively to stay connected via internet provided social media. Text messages, emails, Facebook, voice calls, etcetera are all possible on a range of handheld smart devices.

Where NBN broadband is of poor quality and (not up to the 25Mbps down and 5Mbps up commitment) then a mobile signal becomes the carrier and much more important to the customer.

**All types of digital connectivity are now bundled together.**

How we connect is not as important as being readily and reliably connected.

Mobile signals are often easier to use. The smart device is handheld, take it outside, on the driveway, to the shed, or walk to the top of the hill.

We hear of many places where a mobile signal at the home or on the farm is unavailable unless standing still on a spot.

We also hear of the homes and properties where there is no useful mobile signal, or only at the house with amplification provided by the addition of an expensive CELFI antenna.

Where signals are poor, and NBN is also at the low end of performance, some residents and business owners have been obliged to purchase a YAGI or CELFI booster antenna. The cost, over a thousand dollars, rubs salt into the wound of disadvantage caused by poor service in the region. The additional cost is a penalty and runs counter to the supply of a universally available reliable service.

**It is recommended that where 4G signals are poor a subsidy should be made available to allow customers to access a booster antenna at low cost.**

4G is far from universally available in Strathbogie Shire. 3G is often the only signal available.

**It is recommended that 3G services be maintained beyond the planned 2024 switch over.** 4G & 5G have yet to provide full cover. Locations where 4G drops out may be covered by 3G. Great care should be taken with the removal of 3G mobile services.

Responsible authorities and Government must be convinced that mobile services will not be diminished by removal of 3G signals, particularly in light of the recent Victorian bushfires where emergency resilience of communities was severely impacted.

#### **Mobile phone and Broadband audits**

**It is recommended that where a mobile 4G signal is the better option for broadband connection, NBN should supply a technical onsite audit to assist the customer to achieve the best possible connection. It may be that there is an equipment fault, a simple fix or an alternative not known to the customer. But the question is – who should bear this cost?**

The operation of Broadband and mobile services is not easily understood by customers and assistance is needed. Call centres can only provide information, and onsite analysis in the regions is preferred.

Where a mobile signal is unavailable a similar onsite audit should be applied, also to fully assess options. The ubiquity of handheld devices purchased by Australians demands that the system of signal supply is capable of delivery of the service on the ground in regional locations like Strathbogie Shire.

#### **Black spot funding**

Mobile black spot funding is appreciated.

The Regional Connectivity Programme has also been applied to fund mobile 4G improvements and add one 5G site in Strathbogie Shire.

The Mobile Black spot funding programme should be funded to continue and allocate funds to improve mobile signal cover. There are sections of roads, locations, and waterways in Strathbogie Shire where mobile signals are poor or unavailable.

Continuous improvement should be applied to target locations. Examples include: the Mitchellstown area, including Mitchelton Hotel, Tahbilk Winery, and the Goulburn River.

Violet Town also suffers from congestion where mobile phone services appear to be unable to meet demand on Market days and at peak trading times where retailers report failures of EFTPOS systems to connect.

Other roads with mobile phone black spots:

- Euroa-Mansfield Rd - Gooram
- Euroa-Shepparton Rd - Euroa
- Church Rd – Boho South
- Tarcombe Rd – Ruffy
- Buntings Hill Road - Ruffy
- Creighton's Creek Rd Creighton's Creek
- Murchison - Violet Town Rd – Violet Town
- Hume Freeway – Violet Town



Strathbogie Shire supports further investigation of shortfalls of signals and black spot removal plans by telecommunications retailers in our region. Local knowledge and cooperation are the key to making best use of opportunities to improve mobile signals locally.

**Please tell us about plans to reduce the number of mobile black spots.**

### **Broadband and the NBN**

NBN broadband arrived in Strathbogie Shire in 2018, the benefits were evident, and an expectant community engaged well with the opportunity to connect to broadband via the NBN.

However, 66% of NBN address points in Strathbogie Shire were allocated by NBNCO to fixed wireless or satellite connections. These wireless options are sub-optimal when compared to the fibre to the premises (FTTP) connections available to most customers in Melbourne, or Sydney, or Shepparton or Wagga Wagga or in Business Fibre Zones.

Fibre to the Node (FTTN) connections predominate in the towns of Nagambie and Euroa. However, fibre connections do not extend to Avenel, Violet Town, Longwood, Strathbogie, or any of the small villages in Strathbogie Shire.

In 2020 a Strathbogie Shire Submission to the Joint Standing Committee on the NBN identified the shortcomings of telecommunications services in the Shire. Our submission was well received, a copy is included with this submission. Since September 2020 little has changed on the ground, the issues remain unresolved, and the submission remains relevant to the debate about regional telecommunications services.

The 2021 NBNCO Corporate plan includes a \$4.5 Billion network investment plan to *“bring forward the next phase of planned network investment to help meet future demand for higher speed broadband services”*. NBNCO also announced that the Enterprise Ethernet product will be available without connection charges in 240 new Business Fibre Zones.

However, there is no evidence published that the telecommunications industry or NBNCO has a coherent plan to improve telecommunications locally in Strathbogie Shire.

And to make the market more interesting in April 2021, a game changing competitor arrived in Strathbogie Shire.

Star-Link is now here in Northern Victoria with beta testing of alternative internet connection option via low orbit satellites. So far, the Star-Link service is very good, at least five times faster than the widely distributed but slow NBN Skymuster.

Will NBNCO and broadband retailers react to this new low orbit satellite competitor?

### **Access to broadband is a fundamental infrastructure**

Digital technology and the digital economy are moving forward fast, there are some huge economic levers driving change and causing the Strathbogie community to ask questions like these:

- How are we placed in Strathbogie Shire to keep up with the speed that the internet is developing?
- Now that the NBN rollout has been declared complete! What are the immediate plans to improve connections in Strathbogie Shire?
- When will there be an upgrade to fibre in Avenel and Violet town and then a flow on to other smaller townships within our Shire?
- When will all residents of Strathbogie Shire see improvements to the performance of NBN connections?

We do not underestimate the demand that our community has for all things internet and the social, economic, and inclusive power of fast broadband access.

We are encouraged by the statements made by Minister Fletcher when he said:

***“the declaration of completion, a critical step in the planned privatisation of the NBN, shouldn't be seen as a signal for NBN Co to rest on its laurels.”***

***“This declaration doesn't mean that NBN Co will stop developing.”***

***“I fully expect that the company will operate as a mature entity through continual improvement in the provision of quality services to its broadband retail customers,***

**and ultimately to Australian households and businesses, as well as driving efficiency in its operations,"** said Minister Fletcher.

We are encouraged by the NBNCO \$4.5 Billion investment in the network.

Now we are most interested in how the investment will be applied to continuously improving the broadband service for residents and businesses in the Strathbogie Shire.

**It is recommended that where a property has no mobile signal available and or poor satellite or fixed wireless the resident should be eligible for an onsite audit of the service to determine if there is a fault in need of repair or a report on how to improve performance of communications at the property.**

### Fixed Voice

Supply of fixed voice services remain important where other options, mobile and broadband are of poor quality or un-serviceable. Locations where mobile signals are poor can rely heavily on the fixed line and upon maintenance. Unfortunately, we often hear that fixed lines are out of service and remain unrepaired for days and weeks on end. Out in rural areas lines are vulnerable to faults.

Customers often report that faults take far too long to locate and repair.

Residents have commented that fixed voice services via land line are problematic.

In their own words from our survey:

***"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."***

### Service Reliability

Residents and business operators living and/or working in Strathbogie Shire contribute taxes, charges, fees, pay telecommunications contract payments, data use payments, Broadband charges, services fees, connection fees, etcetera, as do most Australians living in a variety of city, country, rural, regional and remote locations.

However, having contributed funding via taxes for services, there is a reasonable expectation of good service and reliability, indeed there are Government Service Guarantees in place set as minimum standards.

**This site can't be reached. H'mmm, can't reach this page. Aw' Snap**

The lived experiences in our Shire is that Mobile and Broadband telecommunications services do not meet reasonable expectations and getting something done about it by retailers or wholesalers is very difficult. Try calling to complain about a mobile service or Broadband connection.

**Complaint resolution must be addressed**

Getting through to resolve a complaint with telecommunications suppliers is almost at the point of failure. Almost all consumers have been frustrated by the time and effort it takes to resolve service faults and or complaints about service. Complaints about Broadband services and contacting the NBN wholesaler are particularly difficult to resolve.

**It is recommended that telecommunications faults and complaints of poor service should be addressed by a one stop shop which provides a reference number and allocates the issue to the appropriate provider.** Too many complaints are bounced back and forth between retailer and wholesaler or company and company. The complaint must land where it will be addressed.

When a consumer has an issue and requests assistance a reference number should be applied to the task of assistance and followed through to completion within an acceptable time frame. Failure to address the complaint reference should cause a penalty to be applied.

It is not acceptable that complaints of supply or service faults go to the Telecommunications Ombudsman for resolution. All avenues of timely rectification or conciliation should be exhausted by the body to whom the complaint is referred first.

### **Essential (foundation) Infrastructure**

Strathbogie Shire Council has identified digital connectivity in the region as an essential and foundational infrastructure which must be advanced just to keep up with our metropolitan/urban counterparts. Standing still with technology means that rural Victorians and Australians just keep falling behind.

To address the expectations in the Broadband supply, NBNCO should meet its commitments as described in their 2021 Corporate plan.

***“As a Government Business Enterprise (GBE), the principal responsibility of NBN Co is to build and operate the National Broadband Network in accordance with the Commonwealth Government’s Statement of Expectations, 24 August 2016. The Company’s key objective is to ensure that all Australians have access to fast broadband, at affordable prices, and at least cost to taxpayers. In addition to building and operating a network that is resilient and secure, NBN Co is committed to delivering access to peak wholesale download speeds of at least 25 megabits per second (Mbps) to all eligible premises, and at least 50Mbps to 90 per cent of fixed-line premises.”***

<https://www.nbnco.com.au/content/dam/nbnco2/2020/documents/media-centre/corporate-plan-2021/nbnco-corporate-plan-2021.pdf>

All looks good in the NBNCo annual report for 2021, but what is the lived experience of broadband access in Strathbogie Shire?

The first distinction to make is that in Strathbogie Shire 66% of eligible premises are served by either Fixed Wireless or Satellite broadband. 27.7 % are Fibre to the node and 1.3% Fibre to the premises.

Fixed line serviced premises should enjoy a better service, up to 50Mbps to 90% of fixed line services, however in Strathbogie Shire, two thirds of properties are served by the inferior Fixed wireless and satellite.

The towns of Avenel and Violet Town are not offered fibre connections, our smaller townships also have no connections.

**It is recommended that fibre connections are installed for Avenel and Violet Town as our priority.**

In locations away from towns using a mobile 4G signal as an alternative to access the internet is often not possible.

**Locations not served by NBN fibre are on an inferior and slower NBN service.**

Some customers have been driven away to pay extra for services provided by others, for example Star-Link. This may be to their advantage, however the reason for swapping is often that the original service via Skymuster was not up to speed and frustrating.

Regional customers have been forced to move and pay more.

Once again, the guarantees of service have not been met in the regions.

### **Covid – 19**

With little or no alternative during Covid - 19 many people have battled with their telecommunications connections.

Working from home has become a necessity, schooling from home, telehealth, and many forms of face to face communications are processed over the phone or internet because of Public Health driven restrictions of movement.

Transactions with Government are increasingly driven by digital connection, for example My Gov.

Dramatic changes to work and interactions have developed during Covid -19, all reliant on good reliable telecommunications. Most of the time good results have been achieved however many frustrations have also resulted from poor service, and or, a connection incapable of driving a Zoom call or syncing voice conversations.

The connectivity test that was Covid-19 over 2020 and 2021 has been passed by Broadband access, but only just. Many working from home tasks were not readily supported on a home-based internet connection available in Strathbogie Shire.

Business level fibre connections do not extend to Strathbogie Shire.

Last year, during Covid-19 lockdown conditions, we surveyed business owners with the following results:

- 77% of businesses surveyed used video conferencing during Covid-19.
- **61% of businesses surveyed experienced dropouts, slow speed, and time delays during Covid**
- 62% of businesses surveyed experienced Daily dropouts, 24% Weekly dropouts and 14% Monthly dropouts.
- **68% of businesses surveyed experienced poor internet coverage which had a negative effect on their business.**

Frustration with the supply of telecommunications services is common in Strathbogie Shire.

The results of our survey may be best described as unsatisfactory, and those dissatisfied respondents as unhappy and frustrated.

Many survey respondents described poor services, poor connections, slow speeds, and drop-outs. Waiting, disruption of processes, and time lost are major frustrations.

### Indigenous Australia

Strathbogie Shire does not have a particular insight into supply of telecommunications services to indigenous Australians. We observe that the same issues described above in our submission apply to all households, businesses, and communities in Strathbogie Shire inclusive of all.

### Regional Development

Strathbogie Shire is expected to experience further substantial increases in development and population. Estimates of population increase in Strathbogie Shire predict growth from just under 11,000 residents now to over 15,000 in the next 15 years.

As submitted above, residential development in Strathbogie Shire is growing. Support for Regional Development by many Government policies and programmes is appreciated and there is recognition of the benefits of further diversification economically and socially, however, as investment in development occurs both public and private, the supply of telecommunication infrastructure must keep up.

#### **Telecommunications is an essential foundation infrastructure.**

The Commonwealth Regional Connectivity Programme (RCP) has recently approved three mobile phone projects in Strathbogie Shire, one 3G upgrade at North Euroa, upgrades to 4G at Avenel and at Avenel South. These Telstra upgrade projects promise improvements. However, there is no comprehensive published plan for further telecommunications infrastructure developments in Strathbogie Shire.

There have been some other suggestions... NBNCO has established a regional co-investment fund!

#### **NBNCO Regional Co - Investment Fund (RCIF)**

NBNCO is engaging with Councils on the prospect of Co-investments for further regional broadband infrastructure.

The structure of the RCIF is breathtaking.

How does the NBNCO Board see this as an equitable ask of rural local government when they are being asked to step outside of their traditional role and shoulder the further responsibility of seeking funding for telecommunications and digital connectivity?

This activity has previously been the province of the federal government and it seems that there is a clear attempt to cost and responsibility shift.

The incentive for LGAs to participate is clear, yes, we want investments in local telecommunications infrastructure.

But where will the Council Co-investment funding come from?

There is not a bucket of Council funds available to buy telecommunications infrastructure.

This is not in our remit and why is this expectation of co-funding reserved just for rural Councils? How can this be equitable when compared with metropolitan/urban Victoria and Australia?

**Tell 'em they are dreamin'**

### Emerging Technologies

Of the emerging technologies, the StarLink low earth orbit satellites (LEOs) is showing a great deal of promise in the Beta phase operating in the Strathbogie Shire area. The low orbit reduces latency and experience so far is that StarLink will be a fast and strong player in the market.

StarLink, and others that may follow, could fill gaps in the supply of good reliable satellite-based internet service. But it comes at additional cost to the consumer and is not part of the taxpayer paid for NBN system which promised universal cover.

Impediments should not be put in place that would restrict LEOs or other developments.

All the possible options should be available for regional Australians.

### Maximising outcomes

To maximise the opportunities and outcomes a much-improved rate and clarity of communication and collaboration with local government is required.

Currently ad-hoc arrangements exist and do not meet the communications and collaboration effort required.

It should not be expected that Strathbogie Shire, or similar rural Councils, can take on the responsibility of planning and investing in telecommunications in our area. It is however in our interests to support improved telecommunications and digital connectivity and we do endeavour to be a participant as often as we can in forums, debates, reviews, inquiries, and the related research efforts.

There should be a regional telecommunications forum for the Strathbogie Shire to collaborate and cooperate with State and Federal Governments and representatives of the telecommunications industry.

A local forum would be capable of developing a plan for digital connectivity and telecommunications investment in Strathbogie Shire.

Communicating directly with Local Governments consistently and persistently will bring with it a focus on the real issues and fulsome discussion on the regional issues.

Leaving the discussion to higher levels does not access local knowledge directly or engage with the users of the services.

**It is recommended that a formal, regular localised communication with Strathbogie Shire and regional survey of needs should be established.**

### Conclusion

In Strathbogie Shire **we expect** that the telecommunications network, including NBN, **a publicly built foundation infrastructure**, will continue to grow, improve, and contribute to greater productivity and wellbeing of our community.

We want to work more closely with telecommunications providers, wholesalers, NBNCO, Retailers, Telstra, Optus, and others who supply into Strathbogie Shire.

We need **a plan for the future**, and not to play catch up...

We seek **equity of funding and service provision** as enjoyed by metropolitan/urban Victorians and Australians.

Right now, it appears there is no plan to allow for future economic and community development in the regions. Telecommunications capacities need to be improved now to facilitate development of the regions and increases in population as people decentralise from the cities.

There is mounting evidence that decentralisation is taking place now because of the Covid 19 pandemic and we should not wait and play "catch up". It is more cost-effective to make the extra investment now rather than wait as costs rise into the future

Strathbogie Shire cannot be reactive, must be proactive, is not prepared to wait, must see that action is taken now, and plans are in place for the future...we don't accept that the broadband rollout is complete, job done, and will not be developed further.

Strathbogie Shire has recently submitted a list of telecommunications issues to the Connecting Victoria Project, listing locations for priority attention.

We have recommended projects for development that would improve services, mobile, broadband and place based. They are described briefly in an attachment to this submission.

But the point is that all these matters require a positive attitude to communication, planning and collaboration that includes Strathbogie Shire in plans that will deliver good quality, reliable and up to date telecommunications services to people. **“No matter where they live or work”**.

For further information please contact

Steve Cooper  
Economic Development & Project Coordinator  
Strathbogie Shire Council

References and quotes:

### **Introduction**

Regional Telecommunications review Issues paper

<https://www.rtrc.gov.au/>

NBNCO and SOE

<https://www.nbnco.com.au/content/dam/nbn/documents/about-nbn/policies/soe-shareholder-minister-letter-2021.pdf>

Universal Service guarantees

<https://www.zdnet.com/article/nbn-now-obligated-to-provide-a-minimum-25mbps-connection-to-australians/>

<https://www.infrastructure.gov.au/media-technology-communications/phone/phone-services/universal-service-guarantee-telecommunications>

Initial build complete, NBN Co announces next phase of network investment to meet future demand

<https://www.nbnco.com.au/corporate-information/media-centre/media-statements/Initial-build-complete-NBNCo-announces-next-phase>

### **Statements, expectations, guarantees... and the lived experience**

Minister Fletcher-Broadband access guaranteed for all

<https://minister.infrastructure.gov.au/fletcher/media-release/broadband-access-guaranteed-all-australians>

### **Lived Experiences are disappointing**

Strathbogie Shire Mapping of NBNCO connections

Goulburn Region Digital Plan – Regional Development Victoria

### **In their own words...**

Strathbogie Shire Survey of businesses results 2021

Submitted to Joint Standing Committee NBNCO September 2021

[Inquiry into the business case for the NBN and the experiences of small businesses](#)

### **Strathbogie Shire is in the “Goldilocks Zone”**

Bernard Salt - Weekend Australian magazine, 18 Sept 2021 page 29 – “ZOOM with a View”

## **Zoom with a View**

Productivity Commission Report – Working from Home

<https://www.pc.gov.au/research/completed/working-from-home/working-from-home.pdf>

Australian Digital Inclusion Index report 2020

[https://digitalinclusionindex.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/TLS\\_ADII\\_Report-2020\\_WebU.pdf](https://digitalinclusionindex.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/TLS_ADII_Report-2020_WebU.pdf)

## **Changing Demand**

Strathbogie Shire submission to the Joint Standing Committee NBN

[Inquiry into the business case for the NBN and the experiences of small businesses](#)

Support for regional development and the 'Move to More' campaign

<https://www.movetomore.com.au/>

[http://www.regionalaustralia.org.au/home/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/RAI\\_SIP2019-1-2-1\\_UnderstandingRegionalLiveabilityDiscussionPaper.pdf](http://www.regionalaustralia.org.au/home/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/RAI_SIP2019-1-2-1_UnderstandingRegionalLiveabilityDiscussionPaper.pdf)

Victoria's Draft 30 - year Infrastructure Strategy

<https://www.infrastructurevictoria.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Victoria-s-Draft-30-Year-Infrastructure-Strategy-Volume-1.pdf>

Victoria's Draft 30 – year Infrastructure Strategy Goulburn Region Plan

<https://www.infrastructurevictoria.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Goulburn-regional-brochure.pdf>

2021 Infrastructure priority list

[https://www.infrastructureaustralia.gov.au/sites/default/files/2021-02/IFA\\_301237\\_2021%20Infrastructure%20Priority%20List%20FA2%20Navigable%20W-EB%20Flat%20EXT%20FINAL.pdf](https://www.infrastructureaustralia.gov.au/sites/default/files/2021-02/IFA_301237_2021%20Infrastructure%20Priority%20List%20FA2%20Navigable%20W-EB%20Flat%20EXT%20FINAL.pdf)

<https://www.infrastructurevictoria.com.au/project/30-year-strategy/>

## **Mobile**

Mobile only phone use

<https://www.acma.gov.au/publications/2020-12/report/mobile-only-australia-living-without-fixed-line-home>

## **Broadband**

Starlink

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/science/2021-04-14/elon-musk-starlink-operating-australia-what-is-it/100062862>

[https://www.speedtest.net/insights/blog/starlink-hughesnet-viasat-performance-q2-2021/?utm\\_source=Ookla%20Insights&utm\\_medium=e](https://www.speedtest.net/insights/blog/starlink-hughesnet-viasat-performance-q2-2021/?utm_source=Ookla%20Insights&utm_medium=e)

## **Service Reliability**

Minister Fletcher

<https://www.paulfletcher.com.au/media-releases/nbn-declared-built-and-fully-operational>  
Essential Infrastructure

<https://www.nbnco.com.au/content/dam/nbnco2/2020/documents/media-centre/corporate-plan-2021/nbnco-corporate-plan-2021.pdf>

## **Regional Development**

Regional connectivity fund

<https://www.infrastructure.gov.au/media-technology-communications/internet/regional-connectivity-program>

#### NBNCO RCIF

<https://www.nbnco.com.au/corporate-information/media-centre/media-statements/nbn-co-invites-applications-for-regional-co-investment-fund>

#### Paul Budde - articles

<https://independentaustralia.net/business/business-display/how-technology-can-help-australias-agricultural-sector-thrive,14429>

<https://www.leadingedgedc.com/insights/smart-regional-towns>

#### NBNCO “Future Technology Roadmap”

<https://www.nbnco.com.au/blog/the-nbn-project/evolving-the-nbn-network-to-meet-future-demand>

#### SEGRA strategic directions for regional, rural, and remote Australia in 2021

<https://segra.com.au/perch/resources/segra-2021-special-communicue-1.pdf>

#### Telsoc

[https://telsoc.org/sites/default/files/journal\\_article/372-article\\_text-3295-1-11-20201229.pdf](https://telsoc.org/sites/default/files/journal_article/372-article_text-3295-1-11-20201229.pdf)

#### Telstra Annual Report 2021

<https://www.telstra.com.au/content/dam/tcom/about-us/investors/pdf-g/0821-TEL-AR-2021-FINAL-Interactive.pdf>

<https://www.telstra.com.au/aboutus/our-company/future/Ourcorporatestrategy>

#### Attachments to this Submission

1. Strathbogie Shire Submissions – Joint Standing Committee – NBN

[https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary\\_Business/Committees/Joint/National\\_Broadband\\_Network/smallbusinessandcase/Submissions](https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Joint/National_Broadband_Network/smallbusinessandcase/Submissions)

2. Strathbogie Shire Survey

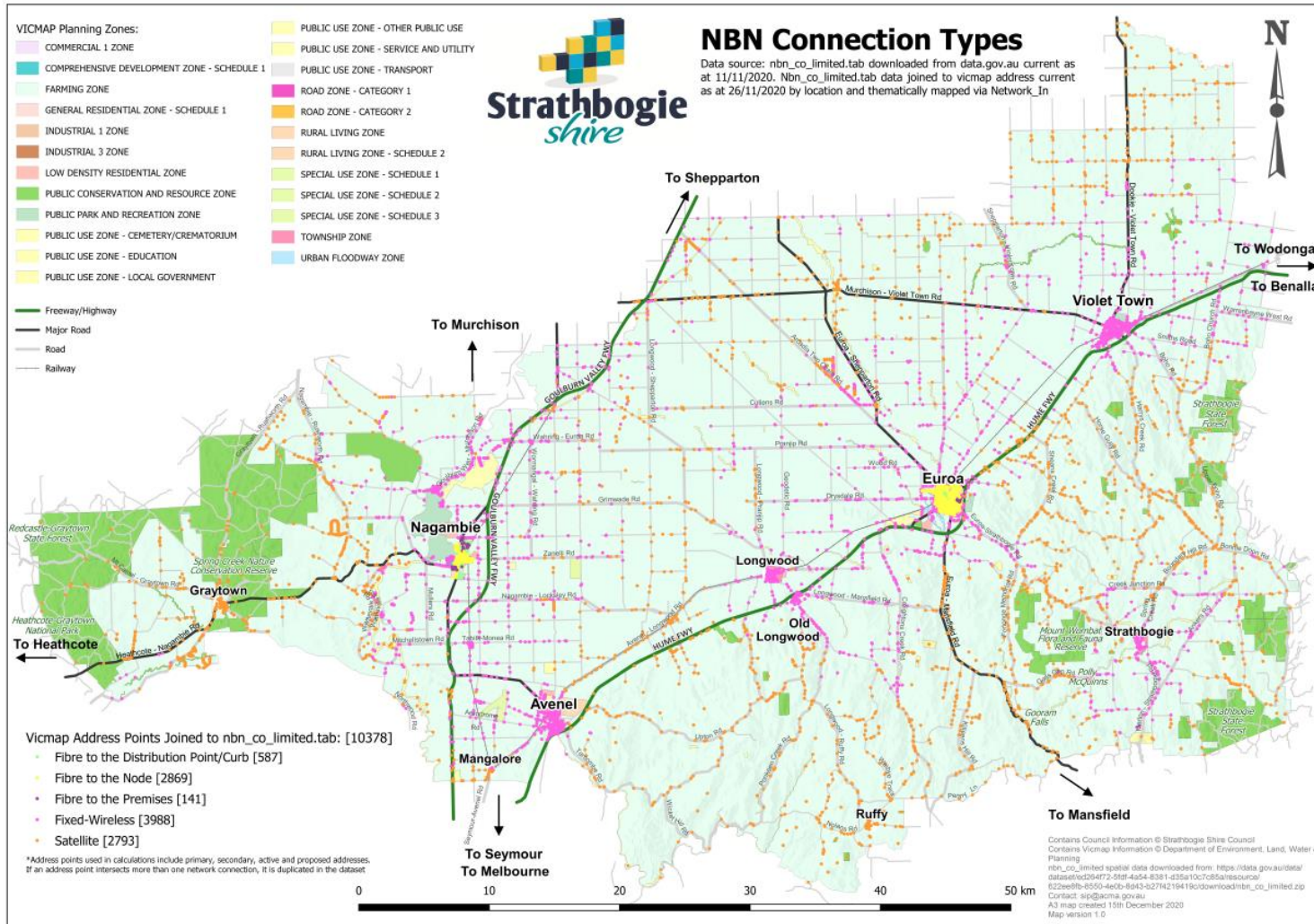
[https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary\\_Business/Committees/Joint/National\\_Broadband\\_Network/smallbusinessandcase/Submissions](https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Joint/National_Broadband_Network/smallbusinessandcase/Submissions)

3. Strathbogie Shire NBN Connections mapping.

DVR299221



**ATTACHMENT 2:**



## **ATTACHMENT 3:**



### **Connecting Victoria submission**

#### **Summary and description of locations in need of digital connectivity investment and attention**

The detail provided below was submitted, in September 2020, in an Excel spreadsheet data format as required by the Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions (DJPR). The same information is presented here in a word document.

For consideration in their Connecting Victoria funding programme, DJPR were interested in surveying the lived experiences of people living in regional locations or specific places where broadband and mobile connection is a problem. Economic, social and development issues were included.

#### **Part one – Connectivity Problems**

##### **Avenel township - 3664**

All of the Avenel locality including the residential, shops, and nearby rural areas.

**Problem: Broadband / Internet Access - Currently NBN Fixed Wireless & Satellite**

Avenel is a town of over 1000 people served by Fixed wireless NBN Broadband and NBN satellite. Fibre connections are not available. Residents report congestion of Broadband and slow services.

Business and personal use is less than satisfactory, not up to expectations and hinders access to services and connectivity now considered essential. Working from Home is inhibited and difficult when congestion occurs. Therefore, improved Broadband would actually support community members working and living regionally. Covid 19 lockdowns have forced people to stay at home and use inferior broadband from home.

However, the impact of poor connectivity is greater now because of Working from Home arrangements. If working from home is to grow and be of benefit in Avenel, then improved broadband connections will assist to facilitate desirable digital working arrangements.

New residential growth should use the best level of FTTP connections, but Fibre connections are not available in Avenel. Expectations are that best level NBN services should be provided in the region.

##### **Social Inclusion**

Best level of broadband consistent with that supplied in metropolitan areas would meet expectations and deliver equity to the region. Improved broadband connections would assist residents to maintain contacts and make contacts with providers of services (for wellbeing) therefore improving social inclusion.

Poor quality of service discourages use of broadband services. During the Covid-19 pandemic internet connections have become essential.

All manner of assistance can be provided using Zoom, Teams, Skype, Facebook, etcetera to stay in touch.

The Commonwealth Regional Connectivity Programme (RCP) has approved funding to improve 4G and 5G services in North and South Avenel. But no plans are announced for Fibre Broadband in Avenel.

## **Violet Town township - 3669**

All of Violet Town locality including residential, shops, and nearby rural areas.

**Problem: Broadband / Internet Access - NBN Fixed Wireless**

Violet Town is not served by Broadband Fibre. Fixed wireless NBN services in and around Violet Town do not provide the expected quality of service. Speeds are slower.

Business and personal use is less than satisfactory, not up to expectations and hinders access to services and connectivity now considered essential. Working from Home is inhibited and difficult when congestion occurs. Therefore, improved Broadband would actually support community members working and living regionally.

Covid 19 lockdowns have forced people to stay at home and use inferior broadband from home. The impact of poor connectivity is greater now because of Working from Home arrangements.

If working from home is to grow and be of benefit in Violet Town, then improved broadband connections will assist to facilitate desirable digital working arrangements.

New residential growth should use the best level of FTTP connections, but Fibre connections are not available in Violet Town. Expectations are that best level NBN services should be provided in the region.

**Population is 874**

**Social Inclusion**

Best level of broadband consistent with that supplied in metropolitan areas would meet expectations and deliver equity to the region.

Improved broadband connections would assist residents to maintain contacts and make contacts with providers of services (for wellbeing) therefore improving social inclusion.

Poor quality of service discourages use of broadband services. During the Covid-19 pandemic internet connections have become essential. All manner of assistance can be provided using Zoom, Teams, Skype, Facebook, etcetera, to stay in touch.

## **Boho & Boho South - 3669**

### **Farm / Production Area**

All the rural locality of Boho & Boho South and surrounds, including homes, farms, and roads.

### **Problem: Mobile Coverage**

#### **Mobile / Mobile Broadband (3G or 4G)**

#### **Poor mobile signals hamper connectivity in Boho & Boho South.**

4G connections can be used for Broadband connections in the field. Where mobile cover is poor then locations like Boho & Boho South miss out, see Telstra mapping here <https://www.telstra.com.au/coverage-networks/our-coverage>

Mobile coverage is far from universally available in this area, many places have no service. Disconnection is debilitating for business and personal use. Not having a reliable mobile connection puts you personally in a category of the 1% not readily digitally connected, as opposed to the 99% of where connection is almost automatic. If you live outside of mobile cover you are disadvantaged and disconnected. Not being connected means that transactions of all kinds must be done from a fixed line or an NBN service. This is frustrating and inefficient. NBN services in the Boho districts are almost all satellite provided and less efficient than fibre connection. No 4G connection means that only the satellite is available for broadband. Many locations in Strathbogie Shire suffer from poor or no mobile phone signal.

Mapping provided by telecommunications retailers is not always accurate on the ground. When away from towns, towers, boosters, or highways signals drop out or deteriorate to the point of being useless. Our small villages often suffer from inferior mobile services. This is not the experience of people in Brunswick village in the metropolis of Melbourne.

Expectations are that mobile phone services will improve in Strathbogie Shire.

Mobile phones are used extensively to stay connected via internet provided social media. Text messages, emails, Facebook, voice calls, etcetera are all possible on a range of handheld smart devices.

Where NBN broadband is of poor quality and (not up to the 25Mbps down and 5Mbps up commitment) then a 4G mobile signal becomes the carrier and much more important to the customer.

Population is estimated to be 200 in this farming district

### **Social Inclusion**

As mobile phones and smart devices are now ubiquitous in our society leaving some people in the country out of the loop removes them from vital and useful communications. During the Covid-19 pandemic internet connections have become essential. All manner of assistance can be provided using Zoom, Teams, Skype, Facebook, etcetera to stay in touch.

## **Ruffy 3666**

### **Farm / Production Area**

All of the rural locality including Ruffy village and approaching roads from Longwood, Terip, Yarck, Creighton's Creek and Tarcombe

### **Problem: Mobile Coverage**

#### **Mobile / Mobile Broadband (3G or 4G)**

Poor mobile signal strength is common at many locations, on roads and on properties in Ruffy, therefore creating communications issues in the farming district. Customers that rely on 4G mobile to connect to Broadband are at risk of disconnection during emergency situations ie fires impacting on mobile towers.

**Locals are forced to purchase booster antennae fitted to homes and buildings to enhance signals.**

Reliability of 4G mobile is an issue. Boosters require additional cost, installation, and assistance from technicians. Boosting is only effective in the area immediately around the antenna. Working on properties, in sheds, and away from a home base can mean no connection.

Farm businesses and home-based businesses should have the best possible opportunities to connect.

"Most people in regional and rural Australia have an even better understanding of the digital society and economy as well as the underlying technologies simply because they far more rely on this than many of their counterparts in suburbia." - Paul Budde - Telecommunications consultant.

A population of 100 is estimated

### **Social Inclusion**

As mobile phones and smart devices are now ubiquitous in our society leaving some people in the country out of the loop removes them from vital and useful communications. During the Covid-19 pandemic internet connections have become essential. All manner of assistance can be provided using Zoom, Teams, Skype, Facebook, etcetera to stay in touch.

## **Mitchellstown 3608**

Mitchellstown is a locality along the Goulburn River with popular Tourist attractions, accommodation, wineries, cafes, parks, and equine Industry businesses.

### **Problem: Mobile Coverage**

Mobile / Mobile Broadband (3G or 4G)

**Mobile signals are poor.** Fixed wireless broadband not up to the standard required for residents, businesses, farms, and visitors to the area.

Tourism based business in locations with poor service are at a disadvantage. Expectations are that the mobile service will be available at tourist locations. Safety in parks and recreation areas and on waterways during any emergency situations is improved by reliable mobile services.

Improved mobile connection would add to the tourist experience in local businesses. Visitors expect good connectivity and are disappointed by dropouts and failures. Business outcomes and customer satisfaction of the visitor experiences would be improved by good reliable mobile and mobile Broadband access.

Population is estimated at 200

Visitors, guests, and tourists to the area are estimated up to 50,000 people per annum

### **Social inclusion**

Access to a mobile phone signal is a social inclusion issue for all locations. No signal means no connection.

## **Creighton's Creek Rd**

Creighton's Creek 3666

### **On the Road / Out and About**

Creighton's Creek Road runs from Euroa to Terip Terip (approximately 25 kilometres) and mobile service is intermittent. The road is an important route in the district. Along the road, the Creighton's Creek CFA station receives a very poor mobile signal.

### **Problem: Mobile Coverage**

Mobile / Mobile Broadband (3G or 4G)

**No Service or frequent dropouts of service on a key local route.**

No mobile connection on a long section of road is a problem in emergency incidents, during extreme weather events, fires, storms & floods. Poor cover inhibits business and farm activities.

Major suppliers of mobile phone services claim up to 99% cover of the Australian population, not so here in the regions. Large areas miss out on reliable cover. The mapping of service is also inconsistent with the lived experiences of residents. Cannot be sure that signal works today as it did in the same location yesterday. 99% does not apply here!

Farm businesses and home-based businesses use this route. This route connects Ruffy, Terip Terip, Creighton's Creek and Euroa. Travelled often by many locals the gaps in reception are frustrating, annoying and dropouts hamper business communications while on the road.

Population 250 estimated.

Not aware of any plans for new infrastructure.

A proposed mobile tower at the Creighton's Creek CFA station appears to have been shelved. Black spot funding was a possibility but no action so far.

## Violet Town 3669

### Town Centre / Shopping Centre

Violet Town is a regional town with a population of 874. Shops and businesses in Cowslip St serve the town and agricultural district. The town hosts a very popular and well attended community market each month supplied by 250 stall holders. It is one of the Premier Country markets in Victoria.

#### **Problem: Mobile Coverage**

Mobile / Mobile Broadband (3G or 4G)

**Frequent failure of mobile signal to cope with demand for EFTPOS services in retail shops and at the popular Violet Town Community Market.** During Covid-19 the requirement for market customers to Q code in and out of the venue failed to cope. There have been other occasions when the mobile network is congested and unable to cope with traffic. NBN Broadband fibre service is not available to businesses or residents of Violet Town.

Poor or inconsistent signal causes frustration for local businesses and residents. There is no certainty that mobile phone/broadband will work at peak periods of use.

Paul Budde, a well-regarded and oft quoted consultant has said:

"The problem is no longer a lack of understanding but a lack of good quality infrastructure that people and businesses in rural and regional Australia can use to connect."

"I can tell you there is absolutely no lack of understanding on the importance of the digital society and the digital economy, be it in relation to smart farming, smart towns, connected communities, e-education, e-health and so on."

**"What these regions are screaming for is reliable, quality infrastructure and this requires broadband networks with sufficient capacity, think about highways and freeways rather than dirt roads and goat tracks."**

Exactly... and these comments apply equally to Strathbogie Shire.

What we seek is the commitment of Governments, NBNCO and Telcos to ensure that the best possible services are made available in Strathbogie Shire and... show us the plans for the future.

30 local businesses and the 250 Market stall holders (Businesses)

874 people live in Violet Town 461 private dwellings (ABS 2016 census)

Estimated visitors 24,000 per annum

## **Violet Town 3669**

### **Farm / Production Area**

The localities close to Violet Town include many farms and agricultural businesses. However once away from the town Broadband and mobile services diminish or disappear.

### **Problem: Mobile Coverage**

#### **Mobile / Mobile Broadband (3G or 4G)**

Property owners situated just a short distance from town have experienced poor quality mobile and broadband services. Fixed wireless Broadband is not up to the standard that fibre or 4G can supply if available. Mobile phone cover drops out in valleys and on the other side of the hill despite being quite close to town and Broadband infrastructure.

Service expectations should be met by improving supply.

On properties no mobile signal means that transactions over the phone must be done from home and IOT enabled equipment is not available. Farming work is outdoor work and mobile cover with access to broadband is now an essential tool.

Safety is compromised when communications are unavailable. Farmers frequently work alone outdoors.

In emergency situations a mobile connection is important to stay connected to emergency service warnings.

Where signals are poor or inconsistent in an area it is difficult for customers to obtain information or advice on how to get the best service. If no signal equals no service at home where to then?

Population - 200 estimated

## **Hume Freeway**

### **North of Violet Town**

Violet Town 3669

#### **On the Road / Out and About**

The Hume Freeway passes close by Violet Town, Mobile access drops out.

### **Problem: Mobile Coverage**

#### **Mobile / Mobile Broadband (3G or 4G)**

Mobile phone access frequently drops out on the Hume Freeway just to the north of Violet Town.

Dropouts are frustrating. Inadequate signal cover in the area causes local customers to believe (for good reason) that they are not getting the level of service that they expect and pay for.

When calls drop out or fail and even a test message will not send.... connectivity is broken.



**Social inclusion** issues are not known, impact is on traffic on the Hume Freeway

Populations is not known. Impact is on traffic on the Hume Freeway - major connection between Melbourne and Sydney and all regional areas in between.

## **Strathbogie (Town and district) 3669**

### **Farm / Production Area**

All of the village of Strathbogie and local farms

### **Problem: Mobile Coverage**

Mobile / Mobile Broadband (3G or 4G)

4G and 3G mobile signals are poor and service from the local tower has at times exhibited poor performance. Residents report that the performance of the tower has changed... not for the better.

Strathbogie village and district is up in the hills and among the trees but that is not an acceptable excuse for not being served with an adequate mobile phone signal.

There can be no excuses for leaving behind a region like Strathbogie Shire in the supply of telecommunications services.

We do not accept the excuses that we hear...

•“You’re up the bush and too far away”.

•“It’s all hills and valleys, and in the trees”

•“ It is not commercial to address the issues in the Strathbogie Ranges”

Topography should not be an excuse

- Close enough... is not good enough
- We do not accept frequent dropouts or failures
- We do not accept: “Ya’ get that in the country”

Population is estimated at 150

Social inclusion is an issue.

## Part 2 - Future Growth Plans

Part 2 requested the Shire to identify specific locations where new developments are planned in the region or sector.

### Nagambie 3608

#### Business / Industrial Area

- A new factory is planned to be built by Jayco Pty Ltd in Nagambie to manufacture transportable homes.
- Several new accommodation, tourism related, and hospitality business developments are planned for Nagambie.
- Various private developers have plans and or planning approvals

Both Mobile & Broadband

**Recommended Solution:** NBN Enterprise Ethernet high-speed fibre connection.

Fibre to the premises (FTTP) will be in demand at new commercial development locations in Nagambie

### Nagambie 3608

#### Home / Residential Area

- The population of Nagambie is forecast to grow quickly as a range of new residential developments are planned and approved.
- 1254 new dwellings at several major development sites in Nagambie have been approved.
- An increase in population of 2642 people is estimated over the next 15 years.
- Various private developers have plans and or planning approvals

Whilst some sections of Nagambie have fibre to the node others are reliant upon Mobile phone access & Wireless Broadband technology

**Recommended Solution:** NBN fibre to the premises/fibre to the node technology

As residential dwellings and population grows there will be increased demand for FTTP and a need to plan for growth in location and capacity of NBN & mobile services. Moving to the country and working from home options are becoming increasingly popular. Growing populations will support further economic development. The fundamental infrastructures must be in place to support. Therefore, good reliable digital connections are essential.

1254 dwellings in total to be developed

### Euroa 3666

#### Home / Residential Area

- Euroa is attracting interest of tree changers and is attractive as a location for new development.
- 145 new dwellings have been approved for development. Dates for commencements are not known.
- Various private developers have plans and or planning approvals

As with Nagambie some sections of the town have access to fibre to the node technology whilst others are reliant upon either wireless or mobile telephone access for Internet services

**Recommended Solution:** NBN fibre to the node/fibre to the premises to be extended across the entire township.

As residential dwellings and population grows there will be increased demand for FTTP and a need to plan for growth in location and capacity of NBN & mobile services. Moving to the country and working from home options are becoming increasingly popular. Growing populations will support further economic development. The fundamental infrastructures must be in place to support. Therefore, good reliable digital connections are essential.

145 dwellings in total

## **Avenel 3664**

### **Home / Residential Area**

- Avenel is attracting new residents and developers.
- 118 new dwellings have been approved for development. Dates for commencement are not known.
- Various private developers have plans and or planning approvals

### **Broadband / Internet Access**

#### **NBN FTTP/FTTN**

Moving to the country and working from home options are becoming increasingly popular. Avenel is well placed and attractive. Growing populations will support further economic development. The fundamental infrastructures must be in place to support. Therefore, good reliable digital connections are essential.

118 dwellings in total

Avenel and Violet Town are currently serviced by wireless technology which has limited capacity and connectivity issues. Residents are already experiencing difficulty due to the limitations of this technology and with the projected population growth particularly in Avenel, it is expected that these problems will increase. The provision of fibre to the premises in both towns will greatly improve both connectivity and capacity whilst at the same time "freeing up" the capacity will "free up" surrounding wireless network for those who are unable to connect to fibre. The availability of fibre network services will also create greater incentive for residential and commercial investment in these towns surrounding localities.

## **Mangalore Aerodrome 331 Aerodrome Rd Mangalore 3663**

### **Business / Industrial Area**

The Mangalore Aerodrome is a prospective location for a transport intermodal linking up with the nearby Hume Freeway, Shepparton Railway line and Airfield. Currently an international commercial pilot training centre operates at the Aerodrome along with some private aircraft. In addition Kestrel Aviation operates Victorias aerial firefighting fleet from an adjacent site.

The Mangalore Aerodrome is a prospective location for a transport intermodal/ transport hub for the Inland Rail project. linking up with the Hume Freeway, Goulburn Valley freeway Shepparton Railway line and Airfield. There is also potential for it to be developed as an

industrial hub. A business case study is being undertaken. Strathbogie Shire supports the transport intermodal plan.

Mangalore Aerodrome is privately owned and currently relies upon access to the Internet via wireless technology. The adjacent Kestrel Aviation service has advised that its wireless technology service was so poor they have reverted to access using 4G mobile telephone services. This reliance would appear to create considerable risk to firefighting data services in the event of 4G failure during an emergency.

**Recommended Solution:** NBN Enterprise Ethernet high-speed fibre technology

Any development of the Aerodrome into a industrial/freight hub and or an intermodal would require an upgrade to Fibre.

## New developments in Avenel and Nagambie

The following developments in Avenel and Nagambie are currently being offered access to the Internet via wireless technology within some cases the option of accessing the Internet through mobile telephone networks. Both towns are predicted to grow rapidly in the short to medium term. The reliance upon wireless technology will be a disincentive for those considering investment in these towns and is important that the Shire advocate to rectify the situation at the earliest possible time. We have not been made aware of any intent by NBN to work with the developers regarding the provision of fibre to these developments.

### 175 High St Nagambie 3608

Home / Residential Area

New subdivision 78 dwellings

**Current Broadband proposed / Internet Access:** wireless technology

**Recommended Solution:** NBN fibre to the premises/node.

### 401 High St Nagambie 3608

Home / Residential Area

New subdivision 388 dwellings

**Current proposed Broadband / Internet Access :** wireless technology

New development

**Current Proposed Broadband / Internet Access:** wireless technology

**Recommended Solution:** NBN fibre to the premises/node.

## **21 Lobbs Lane Nagambie 3608**

Home / Residential Area

New subdivision 200 dwellings

**Broadband / Internet Access**

**Current Proposed Broadband / Internet Access:** wireless technology

**Recommended Solution:** NBN fibre to the premises/node.

## **Murray St Nagambie 3608**

Home / Residential Area

New Subdivision 23 dwellings

**Current Proposed Broadband / Internet Access:** wireless technology

**Recommended Solution:** Fibre to the node/premises

## **Elloura Drive Nagambie 3608**

Home / Residential Area

Lifestyle and subdivision 428 dwellings

First stage of lakeside estate homes sold and or built. Further releases of lots, including lifestyle villages. Significant site on Lake Nagambie.

Private development

**Current Proposed Broadband / Internet Access:** wireless technology

**Recommended Solution:** NBN fibre to the premises/node.

## **McGregor Drive Nagambie 3608**

**Current Proposed Broadband / Internet Access:** wireless technology

**Recommended Solution:** NBN fibre to the premises/node.

New Development.

Residential Area

Subdivision 82 dwellings

## **Bank St Avenel 3664**

Home / Residential Area

Subdivision 76 dwellings

Current Proposed Broadband / Internet Access: Wireless/ 5G mobile services

Recommended Solution: Fibre to premises

## **72 Golf Course Rd Avenel 3664**

Home / Residential Area

Subdivision 145 dwellings

Broadband / Internet Access

Current Broadband / Internet Access: wireless technology

Recommended Solution: NBN fibre to the premises.

## **Part 3 – Enhance Connectivity**

### **Specific locations that could benefit from enhanced connectivity (not included in part 1)**

#### **325 Aerodrome Rd Mangalore 3663**

##### **Kestrel Aviation**

Business / Industrial Area

Base location for Kestrel Aviation, located adjacent to the Mangalore Aerodrome, providers of air-based bushfire fighting services throughout Victoria.

**Current Broadband / Internet Access.** 4G mobile telephone service

**Recommended Solution** NBN Enterprise Ethernet

A vital emergency response service is not supplied with a fibre-based internet service. Currently relies on 4G! An upgrade to Business grade fibre is needed.

#### **470 Mitchellstown Road Nagambie 3608**

##### **Mitchelton Hotel & Winery**

Tourist / Recreation Area

Located on the Goulburn River, the Mitchelton Hotel is a tourist and visitor destination with an International class Hotel, winery, cellar door, indigenous art gallery, restaurant, cafe, conference facilities, and famous Ashton Tower. This is a destination worthy of a reliable mobile phone signal. Not available currently 4G or 5G in the future?

##### **Mobile Coverage**

**Current Mobile / Mobile Broadband (3G or 4G)**

Many visitors are disappointed and dismayed that mobile phones do not work at the Mitchelton property and around the area. Internet access on personal devices is curtailed. The expectation of many Guests, tourists, visitors, diners is that connection is an essential service.

#### **46 Cowslip St Violet Town 3669**

##### **Honeysuckle Regional Health**

Town Centre / Shopping Centre

Honeysuckle Medical Centre and Nursing Home

**Broadband / Internet Access**

## **NBN Enterprise Ethernet**

**Poor and interrupted services hamper provision of Nursing home services and medical attention to locals.**

Nursing home residents = 64 the principal health service and major employer in Violet Town

Improved services at a location can be used for inclusion, telehealth, wellbeing, contact with many social services. Economic benefits are apparent however internet connectivity is a foundation infrastructure that benefits all who have access in all manner of activities.

## **Part 4 - Additional Information**

Also attached to the above were the following Strathbogie Shire submission documents:

File Attachment one: **Strathbogie Shire survey 2020**

File Attachment Two: **Strathbogie Shire Submission - Parliamentary Joint Standing Committee Inquiry in to NBN 2020**

File Attachment Three: **Mapping of Strathbogie Shire NBN Connections**

File Attachment Four: **Mapping of Strathbogie Shire NBN Connections**

DVR 1110221



## **9.2.14 Goulburn Broken Regional Catchment Strategy – Declaration of Support**

Author: Environment and Waste Coordinator

Responsible Director: Director Corporate Operations

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Over the last 12 months the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority (GBCMA) has been consulting with the community and government agencies on their updated Regional Catchment Strategy. This process is now complete and is ready to be submitted to the Minister for Water for its final endorsement. The Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority has requested that stakeholders in the region now pledge their support for the Strategy.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

***That Council pledge their formal support for the Goulburn Broken Regional Catchment Strategy.***

### **PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND**

As part of Victoria's catchment management framework each of the Catchment Management Authorities is required to produce a Regional Catchment Strategy (RCS). These strategies are the integrated planning framework for the management of land, water and biodiversity resources within each Catchment area. They seek to integrate community values and regional priorities with state and federal legislation of policies.

*Each strategy is required to identify:*

- The region's land, water and biodiversity resources and how they are used
- The natures, causes, extent and severity of land degradation of catchments
- A long term vision for the region
- Regionally significant land, water and biodiversity assets and landscapes
- Catchment condition objectives
- A program of management measures for the life of the strategy

Since late 2019 the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority (GBCMA) has engaged over 800 individual participants in 66 workshops to co-develop the strategy content. Stakeholders in this process have included the Taungurung Land and Water Council, Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporations, government agencies, councils, groups and individuals who make up the diverse range of people that live, work, invest in and visit the region.

This Strategy will guide actions to improve and protect the Goulburn Broke Catchment's land, water, biodiversity and community between 2021 and 2027.

### **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.

#### 9.2.14 Goulburn Broken Regional Catchment Strategy – Declaration of Support (cont.)

This Strategy looks at the current situation, principals to guide change, priority directions for the next 6 years and what success will look like in 2040. Declaring our support for the Strategy at this stage does not require Council to commit to delivering specific actions it just signals our support for the Regional Catchment Strategy and our commitment to delivering the overarching goals.

The other option for Council to consider at this time is to not declare their support for the Regional Catchment Strategy which is not recommended by officers as the strategy aligns with many of Councils priorities and goals.

#### **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 draft Strategy has undergone significant community consultation achieving a reach of over 800 participants.

#### **POLICY CONSIDERATIONS**

##### **Council Plans and Policies**

The draft Council Plan 2021 – 25 under Strategic focus area 3 is that we will minimise harmful impacts on our natural environment, we are reversing biodiversity decline and we are championing best practice environmental strategies. The declaration of support for the Regional Catchment Strategy will meet all of these focus areas.

##### **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 is a Strategy that has been developed by a Government body and is a requirement under the *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994*.

#### **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.

Pledging to support a local Strategy developed by a government body is within Council's decision making delegations.

#### **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.

## 9.2.14 Goulburn Broken Regional Catchment Strategy – Declaration of Support (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 report is being present to an open Council meeting and the draft version of the Regional Catchment Strategy is available online.

### ***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.

At this stage Council is not committed any funds to delivering projects that have been identified in the RCS. This may change in the future if there are projects within our Shire the GBCMA would like to partner in. All budget requests would follow Councils current process.

### ***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**

Priority 6 in the RCS is “Broaden investment and contributions to natural resource management “ and under this there is a range of actions that support the development of new renewable industries, nature based tourism and increasing resilience to climate change.

### **Social**

The Strategy will involve many different community groups, traditional owners, government to deliver the actions from the Strategy and to increase environmental stewardship amongst our diverse communities. One of the principals to guide change is that these actions are community led.

### **Environmental**

The RCS looks at the water, biodiversity, land and community and their current condition and how that can be reversed. The main aim of the strategy is to reverse the current decline in our natural resources in the Catchment.

### **Climate change**

The RSC has direct climate change implications. It is planned to increase the resilience of our communities and mitigate the impacts of climate change. It will also help the Catchment Management Authority plan for the impacts of climate change on our natural environment and mitigate and adapt to those impacts.

#### 9.2.14 Goulburn Broken Regional Catchment Strategy – Declaration of Support (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.

This RCS has been developed with the input of government bodies, Councils, the Taungurung Land and Water Council, Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation and community groups.

##### **HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS**

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

##### **CONCLUSION**

The Goulburn Broken Regional Catchment Strategy has undergone an extensive consultation process and is now ready to be endorsed by the Minister of Water. It is recommended that Council declare their support for this Strategy.

### **9.3 INFRASTRUCTURE**

#### **9.3.1 Tender for Contract No. 21/22-05: Major Culverts Renewal Program**

Author: Manager Projects Delivery, Project Officer

Responsible Director: Director Community and Planning

##### ***EXECUTIVE SUMMARY***

This project is being raised to address maintenance of Council Road assets to ensure that Strathbogie Shire has safe and quality local roads. The 2021-22 Major Culverts Renewal Program comprising of four (4) culverts on various Council roads were prioritized based on the outcome of third-party Road Conditions Assessments undertaken on behalf of Council. This project forms part of Council's adopted Capital Work Program for the 2021-22 financial year.

Through public advertisement in local and state-wide newspapers, Council invited tenders for the work under Contract 21/22-05, between 30/07/2021 and 01/09/2021. Ten (10) tenderers submitted tenders for the work. These tenders have been assessed and evaluated by Council Officers and a summary of results is shown in the attached table (Attachments 1 and 2). Having considered the results of the evaluation, it is recommended that Council award this contract to MACA Civil Pty Ltd.

##### **RECOMMENDATION**

###### ***That Council:***

- 1. Receives and notes the outcome of the tender assessment process for Contract No 21/22-05 Major Culverts Renewal Program- Lump Sum as set out in the confidential appendices attached to this report;***
- 2. Awards the tender for Contract No 21/22-05 Major Culverts Renewal Program - Lump Sum to MACA Civil Pty Ltd based in Dandenong for a total amount of \$263,752.00 + GST;***
- 3. Authorises officers to advise the unsuccessful tenderers; 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**

This report seeks Council approval of the recommendations on Tender Evaluation exercise on Contract No 21/22-05 Major Culverts Renewal Program, and to award the contract to the preferred tenderer as detailed in this report.

##### **TENDER PROCESS**

The public tender was released on "Tendersearch" via the Council website on the 30 July 2021. The tender was advertised in Saturday's The Age newspaper (state-wide reach), Shepparton News, and Seymour Telegraph, in the week following release. By the close of tenders at 4.00pm on 1 September 2021, ten (10) tender submissions had been received.

9.3.1 Tender for Contract No. 21/22-05: Major Culverts Renewal Program (cont.)

All tender submissions were accessed for their compliance including the contractual terms and conditions and the requirements of the response schedules, and all tender submissions were deemed conforming.

Table 1 below lists the tenders that were received at the close of the advertised tender period.

**Table 1: Tender Submissions Received**

<b>Tender Submissions Received at the close of Tender Period (in Alphabetical Order)</b>
Gradian Projects Pty Ltd
Ground Technique Excavations Pty Ltd
MACA Civil Pty Ltd
National Plant Group Pty Ltd
Seven Creeks Excavations Pty Ltd
S&R Engineering and Construction Pty Ltd
Parkinson Group Pty Ltd
JNR Civil Pty Ltd
W&L Birch Earthmoving Pty Ltd
Colger Civil Pty Ltd

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

**Table 2: Tender Offers Received (excl GST)**

<b>Tender Offers Received at Close of Tender Period (excl GST) in lowest to highest order</b>
\$263,752.00
\$305,517.00
\$318,939.00
\$324,300.00
\$327,076.00
\$350,998.00
\$351,120.00
\$386,292.83
\$420,515.00

**Panel Assessment Process**

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.

### 9.3.1 Tender for Contract No. 21/22-05: Major Culverts Renewal Program (cont.)

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

1. Project Officer, Community Assets & Planning
2. Manager Infrastructure
3. Senior Projects Officer, Community Assets & Planning, and
4. Procurement & Tender Officer, Finance (moderating).

The principle that underlies the awarding of all Council contracts is that a contract is awarded on the basis of providing the overall Best Value, offering the most benefit to the community and the greatest advantage to Council.

Strathbogrie Shire Council mandates 60% weighting on submitted tender pricing, ensuring that pricing is heavily prioritised in the tender evaluation decision. However, a 40% weighting allocated to qualitative tender ensures that decisions are not solely cost driven but on overall value offered by the tenderer. A tenderer must provide good qualitative submissions to be successful.

The tenders were assessed and evaluated against the following criteria and weightings:

- Tendered Price (60%)  
This criterion measures the price only – either lump sum or unit rates – submitted by the tenderer. In accordance with Council's Procurement Guidelines, a price weighting of 60% is applied, unless a Council exemption is sought.  
All submissions were given a weighted score for their submitted price based on a comparative assessment of pricing for all tenders. The comparative assessment awards the highest evaluation score (60%) to the lowest priced tender submission. The subsequent tender submissions received reduced evaluation scores based on the percentage difference between them and the lowest priced tender.
- Demonstrated Qualifications / Skills and Experience (10%)  
Due to the high level of technical skills required to provide this service, a weighting of 10% was allocated to this criterium.
- Compliance with Specification (10%)  
Due to the importance for the tender to meet the specification, a weighting of 10% was allocated.
- Project Methodology (5%)  
As the Work requires timely completion and elimination/mitigation of work-related risks, this criterium is considered important and therefore allocated a weighting of 5%.
- Management - Schedules (5%)  
Quality Management Systems, Policies, Relevant Certifications, and Insurance are likewise considered vital and therefore included with an allocated weighting of 5%.

### 9.3.1 Tender for Contract No. 21/22-05: Major Culverts Renewal Program (cont.)

- Local Content (10%)  
In accordance with Procurement Guidelines and being consistent with value for money principles, where different products are of comparable price, quality and equivalent value can be sourced either locally or regionally; preference will be given to local suppliers. A weighting of 10% was allocated to this tender.

**TABLE 3: Evaluation Criteria**

Criteria	Weighting (%)
Price	60
Qualifications / Skills & Experience	10
Compliance with Specification	5
Time Delivery, methodology and capacity to deliver	5
Management -Schedules	10
Local Content	10
Total	100

### **ISSUES, OPTIONS AND DISCUSSION**

#### **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 be put to the tenderers 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.

The Moderator (Procurement & Tender Officer) averaged the scores and highlighted scoring discrepancies larger than three (3) points. On Thursday 16 September 2021 the Panel members and the Moderator met for the tender moderation meeting.

#### **Panel Assessment Summary**

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.

Three (3) of the ten (10) tenders received were found to be non-conforming. One tenderer did not provide lumpsum breakdown, thus, their tender could not be evaluated. The Tender Evaluation Panel found evidence of collusion between two (2) parties and therefore excluded these two (2) tenderers from the evaluation process. Therefore, only seven (7) of the tenders received progressed to evaluation.



### 9.3.1 Tender for Contract No. 21/22-05: Major Culverts Renewal Program (cont.)

At the completion of the tender evaluation process, MACA Civil Pty Ltd attained the highest ranking with a total score of 85.79%. MACA Civil Pty Ltd offered the lowest tendered price and thereby received the highest score available on pricing (60%), they also received a good qualitative score of 25.79% out of 40%. The Tender Evaluation Panel was therefore satisfied that their tender represents the best value outcome for Council. The company is based in Dandenong, Victoria. They have ample experience in roadworks and general civil construction and have completed similar works for Strathbogie Shire Council in the past. They have demonstrated capability to complete Works in the tender with minimal supervision based on their submitted documents. Their references are good and consistent with their declared project history.

#### **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.

#### **Consultation**

The author of this report considers that the matter under consideration did not warrant a community consultation process.

#### **Community Implications**

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

#### **Risk Management**

The Tender Evaluation Panel considers early commencement of Work as vital to its successful delivery, to ensure work is completed before the unfavourable winter weather. The Panel therefore advise timely award and signing of Contract Agreement with the appointed contractor.

#### **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.

This report is consistent with the Strathbogie Shire Council Procurement Policy.

The *Council Plan* is relevant with the following:

- Goal 3 - To provide quality infrastructure.
- Key Strategy – Provide best practice management of all assets including roads, bridges and facilities.
- Approach – Target major capital works projects to seek government funding to reduce Council's costs.

##### *Asset Management Policy*

- Asset renewal – is the upgrading or replacement of an existing Asset, or a component, that restores the service capability of the Asset to its original functional condition and performance.

##### *Asset Management Strategy*

- Ensure the Shires infrastructure enhances efficiency for people and freight movement, service delivery and community amenities.

### 9.3.1 Tender for Contract No. 21/22-05: Major Culverts Renewal Program (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.

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**

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.

Decisions made by Council will be: -

- undertaken in accordance with the Act and the Governance Rules; and
- will be conducted in an open and transparent forum with information available via Council reports.

Council meetings will be open to the community or can be viewed on the livestream (and available as a recording) unless closed for reasons permitted by s.66(2) of the Act.

#### **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 budget allocated for Major Culverts Renewal Program in 2021-22 Capital Works Program is \$200,000.00. The recommended tender price of \$263,752.00 leaves a budget shortfall of \$63,752.00. To address the cost variance and additional works envisaged, it is recommended to re-allocate \$100,000.00 from savings anticipated from 2021/22 Reseal Program which is expected to be in excess of \$300,000.00.

#### **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**

By linking producers to markets, workers to jobs, students to school, and the like, roads are vital to supporting economic outcomes for the community.

9.3.1 Tender for Contract No. 21/22-05: Major Culverts Renewal Program (cont.)

**Social**

The proposed works will improve safety for all road users.

**Environmental**

The proposed works will give consideration to mitigating any environmental impacts to wildlife and the roadside reserves.

**Climate change**

The proposed works will support improved flood mitigation through more severe storms and flooding, and higher storm surges.

***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.

***CONCLUSION***

Council invited tenders for Contract No 21/22-05 – Major Culverts Renewal Program. 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 contract award for the Major Culverts Renewal Program to MACA Civil Pty Ltd.

***APPENDICES***

**Appendix 1:** Tender Evaluation for Contract No. 21/22-05: Major Culverts Renewal Program – CONFIDENTIAL

### **9.3.2 Tender for Contract No 21/22-06: 2021-22 Roads Reseal Program**

Author: Project Officer Projects Delivery

Responsible Director: Director Community & Planning

#### ***EXECUTIVE SUMMARY***

As part of the Strathbogie Shire Council's approved budget, selected municipal roads require resealing to improve safety, increase life of the roads, to lower ongoing maintenance costs and decrease frequency of maintenance activities. To implement the resealing program, tender documentation was prepared for the public advertisement.

Under this contract for 2021/22, it is planned to reseal approximately 19 sections of the Council roads which were prioritised based on the road conditions assessment. This reseal program also includes line marking, installation of Raised Reflective Pavement Markers (RRPMs) and guideposts as required.

Through public advertisement in local and state newspapers, Council invited tenders for the work under Contract No. 21/22-06, Roads Reseal Program between 30/07/2021 and 01/09/2021. Six (6) tenderers submitted tenders for the work. These tenders have been assessed and evaluated by Council Officers and a summary of results is detailed in the report.

Having given consideration to the results of the evaluation, it is recommended that Council awards the lump sum contract to Rich River Asphalt Pty Ltd for a total amount of \$419,953.27 + GST. Council have approved a capital budget of \$794,000.00 for the reseal program achieving a potential saving of \$374,000.00.

#### ***RECOMMENDATION***

##### ***That Council:***

- 1. Notes the outcome of the tender assessment process for Contract No 21/22-06 Roads Reseal Program - Lump Sum as set out in the confidential appendices attached to this report;***
- 2. Awards the tender for Contract No 21/22-06 Roads Reseal Program - Lump Sum to Rich River Asphalt Pty Ltd based in Echuca for a total amount of \$419,953.27 + GST;***
  - 1. Authorises officers to advise the unsuccessful tenderers; and***
  - 2. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to execute the Contract by signing and affixing with the Common Seal of Strathbogie Shire Council.***

9.3.2 Tender for Contract No 21/22-06: 2021-22 Roads Reseal Program (cont.)

**PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND**

This report seeks Council approval of the recommendations on Tender Evaluation exercise on Contract No 21/22-06 Roads Reseal Program, and to award the contract to the highest scoring tenderer as provided in this report.

**TENDER PROCESS**

The public tender was released on <https://www.eprocure.com.au/strathbogie/> website on the 30 July 2021. The tender was advertised in Saturday's The Age newspaper (state-wide reach), and Shepparton News in the week following release.

The public tender was open for submissions for 34 days in total. By the close of tenders at 4.00pm on 1 September 2021, six (6) tender submissions had been received.

All tender submissions were accessed for their compliance including the contractual terms and conditions and the requirements of the response schedules, and all tender submissions were deemed conforming.

Table 1 below lists the tenders that were received at the close of the advertised tender period.

**Table 1: Tender Submissions Received**

Tender Submissions Received at the close of Tender Period (in Alphabetical Order)
Boral Resources P/L
Downer EDI Works Pty Ltd
GW & BR Cramer Pty Ltd
Primal Surfacing
Rich River Asphalt Pty Ltd
Sprayline

Table 2 below lists the tender offer (excluding GST) at the close of the advertised tender period. The differences in prices within the supplied tables 2 and 4 are due to tenderers' error within the submitted documentation.

**Table 2: Tender Offers Received (excl GST)**

Tender Offers Received at Close of Tender Period (excl GST) in lowest to highest order
\$415,920.74
\$420,953.27
\$430,249.00
\$436,486.85
\$500,898.61
\$653,482.57

### 9.3.2 Tender for Contract No 21/22-06: 2021-22 Roads Reseal Program (cont.)

#### **Panel Assessment Process**

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 officers as follows:

1. Senior Project Officer, Project Delivery
2. Project Officer, Project Delivery
3. Manager, Asset Planning

The principle that underlies the awarding of all Council contracts is that a contract is awarded on the basis of providing the overall Best Value, offering the most benefit to the community and the greatest advantage to Council.

Strathbogie Shire Council mandates 60% weighting on submitted tender pricing, ensuring that pricing is heavily prioritised in the tender evaluation decision. However, a 40% weighting allocated to qualitative tender ensures that decisions are not solely cost driven but on overall value offered by the tenderer. A tenderer must provide good qualitative submissions to be successful.

The tenders were assessed and evaluated against the following criteria and weightings:

- Tendered Price (60%)  
This criterion measures the price only – either lump sum or unit rates – submitted by the tenderer. In accordance with Council's Procurement Guidelines, a price weighting of 60% is applied, unless a Council exemption is sought.  
All submissions were given a weighted score for their submitted price based on a comparative assessment of pricing for all tenders. The comparative assessment awards the highest evaluation score (60%) to the lowest priced tender submission. The subsequent tender submissions received reduced evaluation scores based on the percentage difference between them and the lowest priced tender.
- Capability - Experience, Proposed Personnel, CVs, Methodology, Traffic Management Plan (10%)  
Due to the high level of technical skills required to provide this service, a weighting of 10% was allocated to this criterium.
- Capacity – resources, plants and equipments, financial (10%)  
As the Work requires timely completion and elimination/mitigation of work related risks, this criterium is considered important and therefore allocated a weighting of 5%.

### 9.3.2 Tender for Contract No 21/22-06: 2021-22 Roads Reseal Program (cont.)

- Business and Management Requirements – OHS, EMS, Quality, Risk, Management schedules, HR, QMS, ISO (10%)  
Quality Management Systems, Policies, Relevant Certifications and Insurance are likewise considered vital and therefore included with an allocated weighting of 5%.
- Local Content (10%)  
In accordance with Procurement Guidelines and being consistent with value for money principles, where different products are of comparable price, quality and equivalent value can be sourced either locally or regionally; preference will be given to local suppliers. A weighting of 10% was allocated to this tender.

**TABLE 3: Evaluation Criteria**

Criteria	Weighting (%)
Price	60
Business and Management Requirements – OHS, EMS, Quality, Risk, Management schedules, HR, QMS, ISO	10
Capacity – resources, plants and equipments, financial	10
Capability - Experience, Proposed Personnel, CVs, Methodology, Traffic Management Plan	10
Local Content, Regional Benefit, Social Procurement	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>

### **ISSUES, OPTIONS AND DISCUSSION**

#### **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 be put to the tenderers 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. The Moderator (Procurement & Tender Officer) averaged the scores and highlighted scoring discrepancies larger than three (3) points. On Wednesday 22 September 2021 the Panel members and the Moderator met for the tender moderation meeting.

#### **Panel Assessment Summary**

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 the completion of the tender evaluation process, Rich River Asphalt attained the highest ranking with a total score of 89.97%. Rich River Asphalt Pty Ltd offered the second lowest tendered price giving them the second highest score available on pricing of 59.42%, and received a highest qualitative score of 30.55% out of 40%. The Tender Evaluation Panel was therefore satisfied that their tender represents the best value outcome for Council.

### 9.3.2 Tender for Contract No 21/22-06: 2021-22 Roads Reseal Program (cont.)

The company is based in Echuca, Victoria. They have ample experience in roadworks and general civil construction, and have completed similar works for Strathbogie Shire Council in the past. They have demonstrated capability to complete Works in the tender with minimal supervision based on their submitted documents. They advised that there will be 12-15 full time equivalent local jobs will be created for the contract term if they are awarded.

#### **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 matter under consideration does not require community consultation process at this time.

#### **Risk Management**

The Tender Evaluation Panel considers early commencement of Work as vital to its successful delivery, to ensure work is completed before the unfavourable winter weather. The Panel therefore advise timely award and signing of Contract Agreement with the appointed contractor.

#### **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.

This report is consistent with the Strathbogie Shire Council Procurement Policy.

The *Council Plan* is relevant with the following:

- Goal 3 - To provide quality infrastructure;
- Key Strategy – Provide best practice management of all assets including roads, bridges and facilities;
- Approach – Target major capital works projects to seek government funding to reduce Council's costs.

##### *Asset Management Policy*

- Asset renewal – is the upgrading or replacement of an existing Asset, or a component, that restores the service capability of the Asset to its original functional condition and performance.

##### *Asset Management Strategy*

- Ensure the Shires infrastructure enhances efficiency for people and freight movement, service delivery and community amenities.

##### **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.

There are no regional, state and national plans or policies relevant to the report.



### 9.3.2 Tender for Contract No 21/22-06: 2021-22 Roads Reseal Program (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.

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**

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 this report meets Council's Procurement Policy which ensures transparency in the process.

Decisions made by Council will be: -

- undertaken in accordance with the Act and the Governance Rules;
- will be conducted in an open and transparent forum with information available via Council reports,

Council meetings will be open to the community or can be viewed on the livestream (and available as a recording) unless closed for reasons permitted by s.66(2) of the Act.

#### **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**

By linking producers to markets, workers to jobs, students to school, and the like, roads are vital to supporting economic outcomes for the community.

#### **Social**

The proposed works will improve safety for all road users.

#### **Environmental**

The proposed works will give consideration to mitigating any environmental impacts to wildlife and the roadside reserves.

#### **Climate change**

Climate change can have direct and indirect impacts on road infrastructure. The direct impacts are due to the effects of the environment. Rainfall changes and temperature can alter moisture balances and influence pavement deterioration and affect the aging of bitumen. The indirect impacts of climate change on roads are due to the effects on the location of population and human activity altering the demand for roads.

9.3.2 Tender for Contract No 21/22-06: 2021-22 Roads Reseal Program (cont.)

***HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS***

**Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006**

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

***CONCLUSION***

Council invited tenders for Contract No 21/22-06 Roads Reseal Program. 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 contract for the 2021-22 Roads Reseal Program to Rich River Asphalt Pty Ltd.

***APPENDICES***

**Appendix 2:** Tender Evaluation for Contract No. 21/22-06: Roads Reseal Program  
– CONFIDENTIAL

### **9.3.3 Tender for Contract No. 21/22-13: Design and Construction of Nagambie Water Splash Park**

Author: Manager Projects Delivery, Senior Project Officer

Responsible Director: Director Community and Planning

#### ***EXECUTIVE SUMMARY***

The opportunity to build a water-based playground on the Nagambie Lake's edge as an alternative to a traditional pool found strong support during consultation with the community in 2017. It was considered that this would be an additional drawcard feature in this popular location that would support local economic development and tourism planning. Therefore, provision of a purpose designed Nagambie Splash Park at Buckley Park through this contract has been proposed and included in Council Capital Work Program for the Financial Year 2021-22.

Through public advertisement in local and national newspapers, Council invited tenders for Design and Construction of the Water Splash Park under Contract 21/22-13, between 20/08/2021 and 15/09/2021. Six (6) tenderers submitted tenders for the work. These tenders have been assessed and evaluated by Council Officers and a summary of results is shown in the attached table (Attachments 1 and 2). Having considered the results of the evaluation, it is recommended that Council awards tender, contract number 21/22-13 Design and Construction of Nagambie Water Splash Park to Exco Construct Pty Ltd.

#### ***RECOMMENDATION***

##### ***That Council:***

- 1. Receives and notes the outcome of the tender assessment process for Contract No 21/22-13 Design and Construction of Nagambie Water Splash Park - Lump Sum as set out in the confidential appendices attached to this report;***
- 2. Awards the tender for Contract No 21/22-13 Design and Construction of Nagambie Water Splash Park - Lump Sum to Exco Construct Pty Ltd for a total sum of \$849,410.00 + GST;***
- 3. Authorises officers to advise the unsuccessful tenderers;***
- 4. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to execute the Contract by signing and affixing with the Common Seal of Strathbogie Shire Council; and***
- 5. Note that construction will commence on 29 November 2021 with an anticipated completion date of 31 August 2022.***

#### ***PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND***

This report seeks Council approval of the recommendations on Tender Evaluation exercise on Contract No 21/22-13 Design and Construction of Nagambie Water Splash Park, and to award the contract to the tenderer as provided in this report.

9.3.3 Tender for Contract No. 21/22-13: Design and Construction of Nagambie Water Splash Park (cont.)

**TENDER PROCESS**

The public tender was released on “Tendersearch” via the Council website on the 20 August 2021. The tender was advertised in The Age Saturday newspaper (state-wide reach), Shepparton News, and Nagambie Community Voice in the week following release. By the close of tenders at 4.00pm on 15 September 2021, six (6) tender submissions had been received.

All tender submissions were accessed for their compliance including the contractual terms and conditions and the requirements of the response schedules, and all tender submissions were deemed conforming.

Table 1 below lists the tenders that were received at the close of the advertised tender period.

**Table 1: Tender Submissions Received**

Tender Submissions Received at the close of Tender Period (in Alphabetical Order)
BPC Projects Pty Ltd
Dynamos Pools Australia Pty Ltd
Exco Construct Pty Ltd
Farley Pools Australia Pty Ltd
Naturform Pty Ltd
Water Features By DESIGN

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

**Table 2: Tender Offers Received (excl GST)**

Tender Offers Received at Close of Tender Period (excl GST) in lowest to highest order
\$815,000.00
\$849,410.00
\$862,660.00
\$879,000.00
\$884,262.00
\$900,000.00

**Panel Assessment Process**

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.

### 9.3.3 Tender for Contract No. 21/22-13: Design and Construction of Nagambie Water Splash Park (cont.)

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

1. Project Officer, Community Assets & Planning
2. Technical Officer, Asset Planning
3. Senior Project Officer, Community Assets & Planning, and
4. Procurement & Tender Officer, Finance (moderating).

The principle that underlies the awarding of all Council contracts is that a contract is awarded on the basis of providing the overall Best Value, offering the most benefit to the community and the greatest advantage to Council.

Strathbogie Shire Council mandates 60% weighting on submitted tender pricing, ensuring that pricing is heavily prioritised in the tender evaluation decision. However, a 40% weighting allocated to qualitative tender ensures that decisions are not solely cost driven but on overall value offered by the tenderer. A tenderer must provide good qualitative submissions to be successful.

The tenders were assessed and evaluated against the following criteria and weightings:

- Tendered Price (60%)  
This criterion measures the price only – either lump sum or unit rates – submitted by the tenderer. In accordance with Council's Procurement Guidelines, a price weighting of 60% is applied, unless a Council exemption is sought.  
All submissions were given a weighted score for their submitted price based on a comparative assessment of pricing for all tenders. The comparative assessment awards the highest evaluation score (60%) to the lowest priced tender submission. The subsequent tender submissions received reduced evaluation scores based on the percentage difference between them and the lowest priced tender.
- Demonstrated Qualifications / Skills and Experience (10%)  
Due to the high level of technical skills required to provide this service, a weighting of 10% was allocated to this criterium.
- Compliance with Specification (10%)  
Due to the importance for the tender to meet the specification, a weighting of 10% was allocated.
- Project Methodology (5%)  
As the Work requires timely completion and elimination/mitigation of work-related risks, this criterium is considered important and therefore allocated a weighting of 5%.
- Management - Schedules (5%)  
Quality Management Systems, Policies, Relevant Certifications, and Insurance are likewise considered vital and therefore included with an allocated weighting of 5%.

9.3.3 Tender for Contract No. 21/22-13: Design and Construction of Nagambie Water Splash Park (cont.)

- Local Content (10%)  
In accordance with Procurement Guidelines and being consistent with value for money principles, where different products are of comparable price, quality and equivalent value can be sourced either locally or regionally; preference will be given to local suppliers. A weighting of 10% was allocated to this tender.

**TABLE 3: Evaluation Criteria**

Criteria	Weighting (%)
Price	60
Qualifications / Skills & Experience	10
Compliance with Specification	5
Time Delivery, methodology and capacity to deliver	5
Management -Schedules	10
Local Content	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>

**ISSUES, OPTIONS AND DISCUSSION**

**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 be put to the tenderers 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.

The Moderator (Procurement & Tender Officer) averaged the scores and highlighted scoring discrepancies larger than three (3) points. On Tuesday 28 September 2021 the Panel members and the Moderator met for the tender moderation meeting.

**Panel Assessment Summary**

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 the completion of the tender evaluation process, Exco Construct Pty Ltd attained the highest ranking with a total score of 84.01%. Exco Construct Pty Ltd offered the second lowest price and thereby received a score of 57.57% out of possible 60% on pricing. The price offer of \$849,410 by Exco Construct was 4.2% higher than the lowest tender. However, they received the highest score under qualitative evaluation, scoring 26.44% out of 40%. The Tender Evaluation Panel was therefore satisfied that their tender represents the best value outcome for Council. The company is based in Melbourne, Victoria.

9.3.3 Tender for Contract No. 21/22-13: Design and Construction of Nagambie Water Splash Park (cont.)

Exco Construct has proposed to undertake the work through their trading name Wacky Water Play if their tender is successful. Wacky Water Play is a renowned name in water-based playground development and highly reputable, having previously delivered similar works that are verifiable across Australia. They have demonstrated capability to complete the works in the tender with minimal supervision based on their submitted documents.

**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.

**Consultation**

The author of this report considers that the matter under consideration did not require further community consultation process.

**Community Implications**

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

**Risk Management**

Project Risks Assessment has been undertaken on project with adequate mitigation plans in place. The Risk Register would be maintained to manage emerging risks in the course of project execution.

**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.

This report is consistent with the Strathbogie Shire Council Procurement Policy.

The *Council Plan* is relevant with the following:

- Goal 3 - To provide quality infrastructure.
- Key Strategy – Provide best practice management of all assets including building infrastructure and water park facilities.
- Approach – Target major capital works projects to seek government funding to reduce Council's costs.

*Asset Management Policy*

- Asset Creation/Acquisition – provision of, or an improvement to, an asset where the outlay will reasonably provide benefits beyond the year of outlay. A value management approach has been adopted to produce the most economic and creative solutions.

*Asset Management Strategy*

- Ensure the Shires infrastructure enhances efficiency for people and freight movement, service delivery and community amenities.

**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.

9.3.3 Tender for Contract No. 21/22-13: Design and Construction of Nagambie Water Splash Park (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.

Decisions made by Council will be:

- undertaken in accordance with the Act and the Governance Rules.
- will be conducted in an open and transparent forum with information available via Council reports.

Council meetings will be open to the community or can be viewed on the livestream (and available as a recording) unless closed for reasons permitted by s.66(2) of the Act.

***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

**Financial / Budgetary Implications**

Budget allocated for Nagambie Splash Park Development in 2021-22 Capital Works Program is \$1,000,000.00. The recommended tender price of \$849,410.00 is under budget with adequate allowance for contingencies.

***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**

It is anticipated that the proposed works will attract tourism and promote economic growth in Nagambie area and by extension Strathbogrie Shire region.

**Social**

The proposed works provide for free and inclusive *water* play activity that caters to all ages and abilities. Overall, *the splash park can benefit* community both *socially (bringing people together) and economically.*

**Environmental**

The proposed works will not have a negative impact on the natural environment.

**Climate change**

Splash Parks can help cool the neighbourhood and reduce heat stress for residents.



9.3.3 Tender for Contract No. 21/22-13: Design and Construction of Nagambie Water Splash Park (cont.)

***HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS***

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

***CONCLUSION***

Council invited tenders for Contract No 21/22-13 – Design and Construction of Nagambie Water Splash Park. 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 contract award for Design and Construction of Nagambie Water Splash Park to Exco Construct Pty Ltd.

***APPENDICES***

**Appendix 3:** Tender Evaluation for Contract No. 21/22-13: Design and Construction of Nagambie Water Splash Park – CONFIDENTIAL

### **9.3.4 Contracts Awarded Under Delegation (as approved in Council's 2021/22 Capital Works Budget)**

Author: Manager Projects

Responsible Directors: Director Community & Planning / Director Corporate Operations

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The purpose of this report is to inform Council and the community of the status of request for tenders that have been awarded under delegation and those that have been publicly advertised but are yet to be awarded as of 1 October 2021. This report specifically relates to works that form part of Council's 2021/22 capital works budget.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

***That Council note:***

- 1. Contracts awarded under delegated authority by Director; and***
- 2. Contracts awarded under delegated authority by Manager.***

#### **PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND**

In line with Council's approach to transparency and good governance, the Contracts Awarded Under Delegation report will be tabled for information purposes at each Council Meeting. The report details any contracts that have been awarded under delegated authority by the Chief Executive Officer, a Director, or a Manager within their approved financial threshold. This report specifically relates to works that form part of Council's approved 2021/22 capital works budget.

The report also details an update on the commencement time of projects that have previously been awarded by Council.

#### **ISSUES, OPTIONS AND DISCUSSION**

Any contract awarded under delegation is undertaken in line with Council's Procurement Policy. Through the *Instrument of Delegation to the Chief Executive Officer* the Council has delegated authority to the following:

- Chief Executive Officer – award a contract up to the value of \$150,000 for Goods and Services and \$200,000 for Works
- A Director – award a contract up to the value of \$50,000 for Goods and Services and \$50,00 for Works
- A Manager – award a contract up to the value of \$15,000 for Goods and Services and \$15,000 for Works.

9.3.4 Contracts Awarded Under Delegation (as approved in Council's 2021/22 Capital Works Budget) (cont.)

**Tendered Contracts Awarded under Delegated Authority by a Director**

<b>Contract No.</b>	RFQ
<b>Contract Name</b>	<b><i>Survey and detailed design, sealing Weir Road/Reedy Lake Road Kirwans Bridge</i></b>
<b>Contract Details</b>	Lump Sum Contract for the survey and detailed design for the sealing of Weir Road/Reedy Lake Road Kirwans Bridge
<b>Value Excluding GST</b>	\$39,321.70
<b>Awarded to</b>	CAF Consulting Services Pty Ltd
<b>Scheduled Commencement</b>	October 2021
<b>Scheduled Completion Date</b>	December 2021

<b>Contract No.</b>	RFQ
<b>Contract Name</b>	<b><i>Solar Battery System Avenel Memorial Hall</i></b>
<b>Contract Details</b>	Lump Sum Contract for the supply and installation of solar batteries
<b>Value Excluding GST</b>	\$27,001.00
<b>Awarded to</b>	Cosmic Energy Australia
<b>Scheduled Commencement</b>	October 2021
<b>Scheduled Completion Date</b>	December 2021

<b>Contract No.</b>	RFQ
<b>Contract Name</b>	<b><i>Cylindrica Mower Friendlies Oval Euroa</i></b>
<b>Contract Details</b>	Lump Sum Contract for supply of mower
<b>Value Excluding GST</b>	\$12,000.00
<b>Awarded to</b>	John Sanderson Machinery
<b>Scheduled Commencement</b>	November 2021
<b>Scheduled Completion Date</b>	December 2021

9.3.4 Contracts Awarded Under Delegation (as approved in Council's 2021/22 Capital Works Budget) (cont.)

**Contracts awarded under delegated authority by Manager**

<b>Contract No.</b>	RFQ
<b>Contract Name</b>	<i>Violet Town Lions Park Accessible Toilet Scoping &amp; Design</i>
<b>Contract Details</b>	Lump Sum Contract for scope and design
<b>Value Excluding GST</b>	\$9,700.00
<b>Awarded to</b>	NEAD Architects
<b>Scheduled Commencement</b>	October 2021
<b>Scheduled Completion Date</b>	December 2021

***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.

**Consultation**

Where required, external stakeholders have been engaged providing input on relevant projects.

**Community Implications**

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

**Conflict of Interest Declaration**

All offices, and/or contracts 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 by providing information to the community regarding the awarding of any capital works contract.

***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 contracts awarded under delegation are projects that have formed part of Council's adopted 2021/22 budget.

9.3.4 Contracts Awarded Under Delegation (as approved in Council's 2021/22 Capital Works Budget) (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**

Works awarded under delegation provide an opportunity to generate great economic benefit using local contractors and the purchasing of materials and supplies. In addition, the enhancement of infrastructure continues to make our municipality a place of destination, one where people choose to live, work and play.

**Social**

Each project includes several social benefits to our community. Some of these benefits include enabling improve traffic flow, infrastructure that encourages health and wellbeing activities and amenity improvements.

**Environmental**

The works will be undertaken in line with an approved scope of works and ensure that the site is made good upon completion of the works.

**Climate Change**

The author of this report considers that the recommendation has no significant implications on Climate Change and on the general environment.

***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 important that decisions and actions taken under delegation be properly documented and transparent in nature. The report details the publicly advertised contracts awarded by the Chief Executive Officer, Directors and Managers under delegated authority of the Council during the period 1 September 2021 to 1 October 2021.

## **9.4 CORPORATE**

### **9.4.1 Municipal Association of Victoria Workcare Scheme**

Author: Director Corporate Operations

Responsible Director: Director Corporate Operations

#### ***EXECUTIVE SUMMARY***

This report informs Council of the potential financial impost on Council, following a decision by Worksafe not to renew the licence of the Municipal Association of Victoria's (MAV) WorkCare Scheme.

Strathbogie Council was a member of the WorkCare Scheme (the Scheme) from 2017 until the Scheme ceased operations on 30 June 2021.

With the Scheme having now come to an end, its council members and their communities, the majority of whom are regional and rural councils, will be required to absorb significant financial cost as required by WorkSafe. It is an ongoing financial burden that will be felt by members potentially until the latter half of 2027.

As of 30 June 2021, WorkSafe's valuation estimated the scheme members' unpaid claims was \$74 million, of which \$59.6 m is funded by existing assets held by MAV.

#### ***RECOMMENDATION***

##### ***That Council:***

- 1. Note the decision not to renew the licence of the MAV Workcare Scheme;***
- 2. Note that Council liability is \$306,300 of which \$276,000 has been invoiced and is due for payment by 31 October 2021; and***
- 3. Make provision for Council's liability of in the mid-year budget review and subsequent budgets as required.***

#### ***PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND***

This report informs Council of the potential financial impost on Council, following a decision by Worksafe not to renew the licence of the Municipal Association of Victoria's (MAV) WorkCare Scheme.

The MAV WorkCare Scheme (the Scheme) was Victoria's only local government workers' compensation self-insurance scheme which at its peak, had 31 members.

Strathbogie Council was a member of the Scheme from 2017 until the Scheme ceased operations on 30 June 2021.

#### 9.4.1 Municipal Association of Victoria Workcare Scheme (cont.)

The decision to cease the operation of MAV WorkCare followed WorkSafe Victoria's refusal of the MAV's application for renewal of approval as a self-insurer.

With the Scheme having now come to an end, its council members and their communities - the majority of whom are regional and rural councils - will be required to absorb significant financial cost as required by WorkSafe. It is an ongoing financial burden that will be felt by members potentially until the latter half of 2027.

As of 30 June 2021, WorkSafe's valuation estimated the scheme members' unpaid claims was \$74 million, of which \$59.6 m is funded by existing assets held by MAV.

#### ***ISSUES, OPTIONS AND DISCUSSION***

Outstanding claims liabilities have significantly increased as a consequence of the cessation of the Scheme and the related funding gap has escalated materially.

Among the reasons for the higher claims' liabilities include:

- The impairment of the scheme's reinsurance assets due to WorkSafe not recognising these contracts despite purchasing this reinsurance being a condition of the self-insurance licence;
- A higher cost of claims management within the WorkSafe Victoria system; and
- Significant costs associated with the closure and transition of the scheme to a ceased self-insurer.

Obligations now exist for the MAV as a ceased self-insurer and the 31 members of the scheme until June 2027. These obligations are significant and will impose significant obligations and risks to the MAV and the Scheme's constituent members. These risks are particularly acute as WorkSafe has now assumed control of the outstanding claims.

The Scheme was constituted as a mutual which was formalised via a Participation Agreement between the MAV and each of its members. A mutual is a mechanism to operate collaboratively and share risk to reduce the overall harm to participants' workers and ultimately reduce costs.

As part of this structure, there exist a range of obligations on each participants, the most relevant of which is that any deficiency in funding is required to be paid by those members.

The WorkSafe Victoria obligations are set out in the Workplace Injury Rehabilitation and Compensation Act, which requires:

- Valuations of claims liabilities to occur annually by the WorkSafe appointed actuary.
- Any increase in the value of claims at the three and six-year period will be funded by the ceased self-insurer, which in this case is MAV
- Any reduction in the value of claims at the three and six-year period will be refunded to the ceased self-insurer by WorkSafe Victoria
- The ceased self-insurer is required to hold a bank guarantee of 50 per cent of the outstanding claims liabilities at all times until June 2027
- The ceased self-insurer is required to meet the cost of the actuarial review and audits for this six-year liability period.

#### 9.4.1 Municipal Association of Victoria Workcare Scheme (cont.)

The MAV has held briefing sessions for member councils to inform Council of the winddown of MAV WorkCare and forecast potential financial implications.

The MAV has advocated for a range of solutions to reduce the financial consequence on councils. Among genuine solutions it had pursued - through meetings and correspondence with Work Safe Victoria, the Victorian Government and the State Opposition - to mitigate the financial consequences for members are:

- Calling on WorkSafe agree to recognise the MAV's re-insurance in the transfer of scheme assets;
- Deferral or waiver of the bank guarantee
- Recognition of WorkSafe's underfunding of the Scheme at its commencement, and
- Recognition of WorkSafe's investment income that it will earn on the returned scheme assets.

As a result of consultation with Scheme members, the MAV has ceased its advocacy efforts and has requested more modest forms such as recognising the high credit rating of participating members by seeking a waiver of the bank guarantee requirement, or alternatively for the guarantee to be provided by the Treasury Corporation of Victoria and for an extension to the payment terms.

To date, there has been little acknowledgement of the significance of the cost to councils despite previous WorkSafe Victoria public concerns about the financial consequence to scheme members in its consideration of the licence.

WorkSafe has determined and is invoicing the liabilities to the MAV. Full payment is due to WorkSafe Victoria on 12 November 2021. The initial payment of \$59 million will be made by the MAV on 11 October 2021. The MAV have funds available to make this payment. At its meeting of 1 October 2021 MAV determined to contribute an additional \$1.26 million.

In line with advice from the MAV's actuary, the shortfall in funding has been allocated between members based on their share of the unpaid claims' costs. Given that not all claims' costs are known as yet, the allocation methodology will use the estimates of unpaid, open claims ("case estimates") and member premiums to estimate each member's share of the financial shortfall.

Based on this calculation, Council's share is \$306,300 of which \$276,000 has been invoiced and is due for payment by 31 October. There has been no response to a request for deferral.

It is proposed that Council fund this obligation in its midyear review with some offsetting savings already having been identified elsewhere in the Budget.

There may be some additional obligations on Council until 2027 although it is believed that the bulk of the liability has been addressed by the proposed payment. Council is now with another Workcare insurer.



#### 9.4.1 Municipal Association of Victoria Workcare Scheme (cont.)

##### **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

This matter relates to a legal obligation and Community Engagement is not considered necessary

##### **POLICY CONSIDERATIONS**

###### Council Plans and Policies

###### *Council Plan 2020 Strategy*

- *Continue to explore opportunities through collaboration with other Councils in service delivery*

Council Plan 2021/25 Strategic focus area 6 :

- Accountable.Transparent.Responsible

##### **LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS**

The WorkSafe Victoria obligations are set out in the Workplace Injury Rehabilitation and Compensation Act , which outlines a process to be followed in a situation such as currently being experienced.

##### **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 being considered at a public Council meeting.

##### **FINANCIAL VIABILITY CONSIDERATIONS**

The liability incurred by Council means that the funds required are not available for other purposes . At this stage the overall budget outcome is not compromised with offsetting savings already identified in the current year

##### **SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS**

###### **Economic**

Other than financial implications outlined above there are no additional economic impacts.

###### **Social**

There are considered to be no social considerations

###### **Environmental**

There are considered to be no environmental considerations

###### **Climate change**

No climate change impacts

##### **INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT**

With a change of insurer there is an opportunity to pursue further improvements to OHS and Workcover processes with potential wellbeing and financial benefits

9.4.1 Municipal Association of Victoria Workcare Scheme (cont.)

***COLLABORATION***

This is one example where collaboration has not provided a benefit.

***HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS***

Not considered an issue with welfare of staff continuing to be addressed appropriately.

***CONCLUSION***

It is considered that Council has an obligation to make a payment as proposed in the recommendation.

## **9.5 GOVERNANCE AND CUSTOMER SERVICE**

### **9.5.1 Draft Chief Executive Officer Employment and Remuneration Policy**

Author: Executive Manager, Governance & Customer Service

#### ***EXECUTIVE SUMMARY***

Section 45 of the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act) requires Council to prepare and adopt a Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Employment and Remuneration policy.

The Policy must set out provisions for the recruitment and appointment process, setting of contract provisions, performance monitoring and the annual review process. The Act also mandates that the policy must set out how Council will seek independent advice for these processes.

Independent input will be sought through the creation of a CEO Employment and Remuneration Committee (the Committee). The committee is to be comprised of the Mayor, two Councillors and an independent member. The independent member is to have experience in human resources or the law, experience in senior executive performance reviews, an understanding of the Strathbogie Shire and its community, along with an understanding of good governance practices.

Further independent advice will be provided to the Committee and Council for the recruitment of any future CEOs through the appointment of an experienced executive recruitment consultant.

The Committee will be responsible for the administration of the policy and will provide recommendations to Council around remuneration, performance reviews, setting key performance indicators and the recruitment of a CEO.

A new requirement is that remuneration is to be in line with determinations by the *Victorian Independent Remuneration Tribunal and Improving Parliamentary Standards Act 2019* for executives within the public service.

The policy requires an annual review to be conducted by Council's Audit and Risk Committee. Any recommendations in relation to changes will flow through to Council accordingly.

It is recommended that the independent member position on the Committee be filled by the Municipal Monitor, Janet Dore, for the next 12 months. An open expression of interest process should then be undertaken at the end of Ms Dore's term to fill the independent member's position for a term of up to four (4) years.

It is also recommended that Council appoint the two Councillor members and the Mayor to the Committee immediately so that the CEO Employment and Remuneration Committee can commence preparations for the annual review of the CEO in January 2022.

The policy requires a stipend for the independent member to be set, which is proposed to be in line with that of Audit and Risk Committee members, which is currently \$356 per meeting.

9.5.1 Draft Chief Executive Officer Employment and Remuneration Policy (cont.)

**RECOMMENDATION**

***That Council:***

1. ***Adopt the draft Chief Executive Officer Employment and Remuneration Policy, which has been prepared in accordance with section 45 of the Local Government Act 2020;***
2. ***Appoint the Mayor and two Councillors to sit on the CEO Employment and Remuneration Committee for the next 12 months, being the Mayor and Councillors XX and XX;***
3. ***Appoint the Municipal Monitor, Janet Dore, as the independent member of the CEO Employment and Remuneration Committee for the next 12 months;***
4. ***Set the stipend for the Independent Member of the CEO Employment and Remuneration Committee to be \$356 per meeting, to be indexed in accordance with the rate cap percentage for local councils set by the State government each year;***
5. ***Undertake an open expression of interest process for suitably qualified independent member to sit on the CEO Employment and Remuneration Committee for a term of up to four (4) years once the Municipal Monitor's term has ended; and***
6. ***Make the adopted CEO Employment and Remuneration Policy available to the public through the Council's website.***

**PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND**

The adoption of a CEO Employment and Remuneration Policy is a requirement under the new Local Government Act 2020 as part of its governance and integrity drive and sets out minimum standards for its content.

The draft policy has been developed in accordance with the Act.

**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 development of the policy has been informed through:

- attendance by Officers at workshops provided by Local Government Victoria (LGV) around the requirements of the new Local Government Act 2020;
- a review of best practice policies posted on LGV's Engage Victoria portal; and
- reviewing models for independent input into the procedures outlined in the policy adopted by other Councils.

### 9.5.1 Draft Chief Executive Officer Employment and Remuneration Policy (cont.)

#### **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.

Development of procedures around the recruitment and performance monitoring of the CEO is an internal matter. Community input has not been sought given its operational nature.

#### **POLICY CONSIDERATIONS**

##### **Council Plans and Policies**

The development of this policy is consistent with the values outlined in the Council Plan 2017-21 of being ethical, open and transparent.

The new policy requires a gender equity lens to be applied by Council and the Committee and requires adherence to Council's Gender Equity Policy.

Council and the Committee must also ensure any actions or decisions are in accordance with the Procurement Policy in relation to the engagement of independent recruitment or legal experts and the Staff Code of Conduct.

##### **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 Act now requires CEO remuneration to be in line with decisions made by the Victorian Independent Remuneration Tribunal and therefore aligns local government CEO salaries with those of State government executives.

#### **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.

While being a principles-based Act, the new Local Government Act 2020 sets out the following minimum requirements for the CEO remuneration and employment policy under section 45(2). The policy must include:

- provisions for how Council will seek independent professional input to assist with the implementation of the policy.
- procedures for the:
  - recruitment and appointment process;
  - provisions that should be included in the contract of employment;
  - how performance is to be monitored;
  - annual review of performance; and
  - other matters set out by the State through regulations (there are none at present).

### 9.5.1 Draft Chief Executive Officer Employment and Remuneration Policy (cont.)

- requirements for State government wages policy and the determinations of the Victorian Independent Remuneration Tribunal to be taken into account when reviewing remuneration.

The Act requires a policy to be adopted by 31 December 2021 under section 45(4) of the Act.

The provision for independent advice, as required by the Act, will be satisfied by the recommended appointment of the Municipal Monitor, Janet Dore, to guide the Committee and Council through its first performance review under this policy in January 2022.

Following the end of Ms Dore's term on the Committee, a public expression of interest process will be undertaken to appoint a new independent member for a period of up to four (4) years.

#### **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.

Setting out how the CEO will be recruited, how remuneration will be set and reviewed and how performance will be monitored in a policy available to the public via Council's website is in keeping with Council's Public Transparency Policy and the principles of the Act.

The input of independent advice through the use of an experienced consultant for the recruitment process, and through an expert sitting on the Committee, ensures professional advice is available to Council and the Committee when discharging their roles and responsibilities under the 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.

It is proposed that the stipend to be paid to the Independent member of the Committee to be in line with that for Audit and Risk Committee members, which is currently \$356. This figure is to be indexed to the rate cap applied to councils by the State government.

Under the policy and Act, CEO contract provisions and remuneration are required to be benchmarked against State policy and the determinations by an independent tribunal. It is important to note that benchmarking with like councils across Victoria was undertaken for the existing CEO contract.

The contract provisions will be funded through annual budget allocations.

### 9.5.1 Draft Chief Executive Officer Employment and Remuneration Policy (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.

The setting of performance criteria and ongoing performance monitoring of the CEO by the Committee and Council is an important way through which Council ensures the administration implements the Council Plan, the annual budget and other key strategic plans. This helps drive the execution of ongoing social, economic, environmental and climate change initiatives.

#### **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 adoption of this policy is a continuation of the implementation of good governance and transparency principles under the new Act.

While it is fair to say that recent recruitment and performance reviews of our current CEO have been rigorous and informed by independent advice, this policy provides for additional formal structures and procedures around recruitment and performance monitoring.

#### **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.

This policy has been informed by information provided by LGV and through reviewing a wide range of similar policies recently adopted by other Councils across Victoria.

#### **HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS**

The adoption of this policy is consistent with the substantive rights set out by the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006, including:

- recognition and equality
- privacy and reputation
- fair hearing.

The policy requires the Committee and Council to adhere to the Gender Equity Policy and to apply a gender equity lens when recruiting a CEO.

#### **CONCLUSION**

The adoption of the CEO Employment and Remuneration Policy ensures Council is compliant with the *Local Government Act 2020*.

The appointment of Ms Janet Dore, Municipal Monitor, to be the independent member of the Committee for the first 12 months will ensure expert guidance is at hand to conduct the first performance review under this new policy in January 2022.

9.5.1 Draft Chief Executive Officer Employment and Remuneration Policy (cont.)

Overall, the policy provides a consistent, fair and transparent framework for employment matters to guide Council, the Committee and the CEO.

**ATTACHMENTS**

**Attachment 1:** *Draft Chief Executive Officer Employment and Remuneration Policy*



**ATTACHMENT 1:**

# CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER EMPLOYMENT AND REMUNERATION POLICY

<b>COUNCIL POLICY</b>	
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Effective Date:	(to be updated) 2021
Last Review:	-
Current Review	-
Adopted by Council:	(to be updated) 2021
Next Review Date:	(to be entered) 2022
Responsible Officer/s:	Executive Manager People & Culture

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

This policy applies to the Council in its management of the employment and performance of the Chief Executive Officer.

The purpose of this policy is to support the requirements of section 45 of the *Local Government Act 2020* by providing direction and guidance on the management of the life cycle of the Chief Executive Officer's (CEO) employment including recruitment, appointment, performance review and end of contract processes.

This policy also sets out the terms of reference for the CEO Employment and Remuneration Committee (the Committee), which provides advice to Council on the implementation of this policy.

## 2. POLICY POSITION

The elected Council is responsible for the appointment of the Chief Executive Officer, determining performance criteria in partnership with the CEO, assessing the CEO's performance against the criteria set and determining the CEO contract conditions, including remuneration.

This policy has been developed in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act 2020 relating to CEO employment and remuneration.

The Council and the CEO Employment and Remuneration Committee will carry out functions related to the appointment, remuneration and performance appraisal of the CEO in accordance with the following principles:

- fair and transparent decision-making principles that are applied consistently
- decision making criteria that are relevant, objective and available to the person subject to decisions made under this policy
- decisions and actions that achieve the highest standards of good governance
- use of clear and comprehensive documentation to ensure decisions are capable of independent review
- basing employment decisions on the proper assessment of an individual's work-related qualities, abilities and potential against the genuine requirements of the role
- decisions to appoint a CEO are based on merit
- decisions are made through an equal opportunity lens.

The CEO is responsible for:

- attending Committee meetings
- participating in regular performance reviews
- providing relevant information to the Committee in a timely manner
- advising the Council of the appointment of an Acting CEO under delegation during the temporary absence of the CEO.

## 3. DEFINITIONS

CEO means the natural person appointed as the Chief Executive Officer of the Strathbogie Shire Council under section 44 of the Local Government Act 2020.

CEO Employment and Remuneration Committee (the Committee)	means the committee created under this policy to oversee its implementation and compliance with the Act and the Regulations.
Employment matters	means, in regard to the CEO, issues relating to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• the recruitment of the CEO, including re-appointment, as appropriate</li><li>• contractual and remuneration matters</li><li>• establishing performance objectives and undertaking performance monitoring and reviews</li><li>• any other matters set out in the Local Government Act 2020.</li></ul>
Independent advice	means any human resources, recruitment, management or legal expert that is engaged by Council to support the work of the CEO Employment and Remuneration Committee.
Temporary absence	means when the CEO is absent on approved leave, up to a maximum of four (4) weeks.
Term of appointment	means the term of the CEO's contract of employment, which must not exceed five (5) years in accordance with the Act (section 44).
the Act	means the Local Government Act 2020.
the Regulations	means regulations supporting the Local Government Act 2020 relating to the employment and remuneration of the CEO.
Vacancy	means the office of CEO is vacant as a result of the resignation, retirement, termination, including the end of the term of appointment, or death of the incumbent.

#### **4. EXTERNAL REFERENCES**

*Local Government Act 2020*

Local Government Regulations 2020

*Fair Work Act 2009*

*Freedom of Information Act 1982*

*Gender Equality Act 2020*

*Equal Opportunity Act 2010*

*Victorian Independent Remuneration Tribunal & Improving Parliamentary Standards Act 2019*

*Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006*

Victorian Government Public Entity Executive Remuneration Policy

#### **5. RELATED COUNCIL DOCUMENTS**

Chief Executive Officer's Employment Contract

Chief Executive Officer Position Description

Public Transparency Policy

Gender Equity Policy

Procurement Policy

Audit and Risk Committee Charter

Staff Code of Conduct

## **6. POLICY OBJECTIVES**

This policy aims to:

- reinforce Council's commitment to good governance practices
- provide a consistent, fair and transparent framework for employment matters relating to the CEO including recruitment, contract terms, performance monitoring and annual review
- provide Terms of Reference for a CEO Employment and Remuneration Committee to assist Council in administering this policy
- ensure independent advice and input helps to guide Council and the Remuneration and Employment Committee in the implementation of this policy.

## **7. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CEO EMPLOYMENT AND REMUNERATION COMMITTEE**

Council will establish a committee, known as the CEO Employment and Remuneration Committee (the Committee).

The role of the Committee is to:

1. Recommend a Position Description for the CEO to Council for adoption.
2. Oversee the appointment of a recruitment consultant to oversee CEO recruitment, after undertaking a competitive process under Council's Procurement Policy.
3. Oversee the recruitment process, leading to a recommendation to Council of a preferred candidate for the CEO position.
4. Recommend to Council employment contract conditions, including a remuneration package and performance criteria for the first 12 months of the contract.
5. Oversee the assessment of the CEO's performance against the prescribed performance criteria and key performance indicators through the completion of an annual review, guided by an independent facilitator.
6. Provide a report on the annual review process, including recommendations relating to remuneration adjustments, key performance indicators for the 12 months ahead and professional development to be completed by the CEO prior to the next review.
7. Oversee the process for managing the end of a CEO's contract and the transition to a new CEO, ensuring compliance with the contract of employment.
8. Ensure the Committee adheres to statutory obligations and Council's policies and procedures, including equity and fairness.

## **8. MEMBERSHIP OF THE CEO EMPLOYMENT AND REMUNERATION COMMITTEE**

The membership of the Committee, to be appointed by Council, will be:

- The Mayor, who is the Chair
- Two Councillors
- An independent member.

A quorum will consist of the Mayor (the Chair), the independent member and one Councillor. A quorum must be reached to transact any business under this policy.

Councillor members (excluding the Mayor/Chair) will be appointed every 12 months as part of the appointment to committees process through the annual statutory Council meeting.

The Committee is bound by the:

- confidential information provisions under sections 3 and 125
- conflict of interest obligations under sections 127 and 128

of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

The Committee will determine the meeting procedures at the first meeting of the Committee, and minutes will be prepared and distributed to the Committee once received from the Chairperson and within five (5) working days of the meeting.

The Committee will meet as required and will provide a report to the next available scheduled public meeting of the Council following each Committee meeting.

#### **9. RECRUITMENT, DUTIES, TERM AND REMUNERATION OF THE INDEPENDENT COMMITTEE MEMBER**

The independent committee member will be appointed by the Council following a public process seeking expressions of interest from suitably qualified and experienced candidates.

The independent member must have:

- human resources related qualifications
- demonstrated management skills, senior business experience, preferably with experience in local government and/or an employment law
- demonstrated experience in undertaking executive level performance appraisals, setting key performance indicators and negotiating remuneration packages
- significant experience working with executives and board members in a similar professional advisory role
- an understanding of good governance and previous experience working with Governance bodies or Boards
- Ability to work effectively with Councillors and the CEO
- Knowledge and understanding of the issues affecting Strathbogrie Shire.

The independent member will be appointed for a term of up to 4 years.

At the conclusion of the term of appointment, the independent member will be eligible to apply to be reappointed at the discretion of Council for a second four-year term.

The duties of the independent member are to:

- actively participate as a member of the Committee's review of the CEO's performance against the performance criteria set out in the annual performance review
- take notes and prepare minutes for all meetings.

#### **10. PAYMENT OF A STIPEND TO THE INDEPENDENT COMMITTEE MEMBER**

The remuneration of the independent member will be based on a sitting fee per meeting in line with the Victorian Government guidelines for like committees and will be paid within 30 days of attendance at the meeting.

This stipend will be based on a per annum amount, determined by the Council, which will be indexed in alignment with the rate cap percentage applied to councils by the State government each 1 July.

Once every three years Council will benchmark the stipend paid to the independent member against other small rural councils in the Hume region to inform the review of stipend amounts by the Council.

Travel costs will be reimbursed in accordance with Australian Tax Office mileage allowances, however there is an option of attending meetings virtually with the agreement of the other committee members.

## **11. PROCESS FOR THE RECRUITMENT OF THE CEO**

Council and the Committee must seek and appoint a suitably qualified executive recruitment consultant (in accordance with Council's procurement policy), as required upon the vacancy of the CEO position to:

- manage and assist in the process of selecting suitable candidates
- arrange and manage the interview process
- provide advice on remuneration
- provide advice on contract conditions
- provide advice on performance criteria for the probation period of employment and beyond.

## **12. RECRUITMENT AND APPOINTMENT PROCESS**

### **Step 1**

In conjunction with the recruitment consultant, the Committee will develop and agree upon:

- the key factors that the consultant must consider when preparing a list of candidates to recommend to the Committee for interview
- the proposed remuneration and other employment conditions based on industry benchmarks, any statement of wages policy issued by the Victorian Government and any determination in effect under section 21 of the *Victorian Independent Remuneration Tribunal and Improving Parliamentary Standards Act 2019*
- the remuneration arrangements that will be sufficient to attract, retain and motivate senior executives of the quality required, while not paying more than is necessary for this purpose.

Such arrangements will include

- a contract of employment for up to five years
- the responsibilities of the position
- leave and other terms and conditions of employment
- total remuneration package including salary, motor vehicle, superannuation, income protection and other employment benefits including all associated fringe benefits tax
- conflict of interest management requirements
- a probationary period of 6 months
- assessment parameters for annual remuneration increases based on CPI adjustments, performance and prevailing industry standards
- requirements for ongoing professional development
- termination or renewal of contract provisions by the Council or CEO
- key accountabilities for the role, with succinct statements about the most important things upon which the CEO must focus
- selection criteria based on the key accountabilities
- an agreed recruitment and selection process and timeframe.

### **Step 2**

The Committee will seek approval from Council by way of resolution for the preparatory work completed under Step 1.

Once resolved by Council, the Committee, in partnership with the appointed recruitment consultant, will:

- oversee the development of the candidate pool by the consultant, providing feedback on the quality of the candidates being identified

- review the consultant's report on the candidate pool and make decisions regarding which candidates should be carried forward to interviews by the Committee
- interview the leading candidates identified by the consultant and develop a shortlist of 3 candidates for a second-round interview.

### **Step 3**

The recruitment consultant will arrange interviews for shortlisted candidates with the Committee.

Candidates will be interviewed, at the conclusion of which a preferred candidate will be selected.

The recruitment consultant will then undertake reference checks for the preferred candidate and report back to the Committee on the referee outcomes, making a final recommendation to the Committee on the suitability of the preferred candidate.

### **Step 4**

Once the Committee have reviewed the final recommendations from the recruitment consultant on the preferred applicant, the Committee shall, through the consultant, negotiate draft the terms of employment within the general framework and policies of the Council.

### **Step 5**

Once negotiations on the draft terms of employment have concluded, the Committee shall submit a report to the next scheduled meeting of Council to recommend the appointment of the preferred candidate.

### **Step 6**

Once new CEO is determined by way of resolution by Council, the Committee, through the consultant, shall:

- ensure that all candidates are updated on the outcome of the process
- develop and recommend to the Council an onboarding program for the new CEO.

## **13. REVIEW OF CEO PERFORMANCE**

The Council is responsible for determining the CEO's performance criteria in partnership with the CEO on an annual basis, assessing the CEO's performance against those criteria and determining the annual remuneration package for the CEO.

Following the CEO's appointment, the Committee's ongoing role is to:

- prepare draft annual performance criteria with the CEO for the Council's consideration
- seek advice on remuneration benchmarks, while taking into account any legislative requirements including any determination in effect under section 21 of the *Victorian Independent Remuneration Tribunal and Improving Parliamentary Standards Act 2019*
- conduct the performance review of the CEO and make recommendations to the Council on matters including whether:
  - the CEO meets the performance criteria
  - the CEO has undertaken the required personal and professional development
  - to vary the performance criteria, professional and personal development plan, remuneration, or other terms and conditions of the contract.



In discharging these duties, the Committee will:

- ensure that the CEO is actively engaged in the process
- in consultation with the CEO, identify and agree the performance criteria, including any goals and objectives that the CEO should work towards achieving over a 12-month period
- ensure the CEO submits a performance criteria report and is given the opportunity to present their self-assessment to the Council
- ensure all Councillors are invited to provide comments of appraisal on the CEO's performance to the Committee
- attend to the collection and collation of the Councillor feedback in relation to the CEO's performance as measured against the performance criteria approved by the Council
- review the CEO's remuneration package as a component of the annual performance review in accordance with the contract conditions
- provide feedback to the CEO about their performance and proposed outcome of the remuneration review
- report to Council seeking decisions on outcomes of the review process in relation to:
  - the CEO's achievement of the performance criteria and objectives
  - any proposed variation in remuneration
  - setting the performance criteria for the measurement of the CEO's performance for the next 12-month period
  - setting the personal and professional development plan for the next 12-month period, as agreed with the CEO
  - whether any options of the CEO's contract should be exercised in accordance with the contract.

#### **14. END OF CONTRACT**

The Committee will be responsible for advising the Council on its obligations and options when approaching the expiry date of the contract, within six (6) months prior to the expiry of the CEO Contract.

These obligations and options should cover renewal of the contract for a further term, or termination in accordance with the existing contract.

Where necessary, the Committee should seek independent professional advice to ensure compliance with the contract terms and the Local Government Act 2020.

#### **15. INDEPENDENT ADVICE**

At any time the Council, including through the Committee, may seek independent professional advice to ensure that its management and administration of the recruitment, employment, performance review and contract management for the CEO accords with the law and good employment practices.

#### **16. CONFIDENTIALITY**

All information relating to the recruitment, selection, performance review, and contract management must be kept strictly confidential under the confidential information provisions of the Local Government Act 2020.

Councillors, Committee members and staff involved in the process must take all reasonable steps to maintain that confidentiality and respect the privacy of all persons concerned.

Any breach of confidentiality may constitute a breach of the Councillor or Staff Code of Conduct, or grounds for termination of contract for the independent member.

Notwithstanding anything provided in this clause, disclosure of the CEO total remuneration package will be made in the Council's annual report and otherwise to comply with legislative requirements.

## **17. REVIEW OF THIS POLICY**

This policy must remain in force until it is revised or revoked by a resolution of Council.

The Audit and Risk Committee will undertake an annual review of the policy in accordance with its Charter, in accordance with section 54 (2) (a) of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

The policy will also be reviewed within the six (6) months of each general Council election.

It is recognised that, from time to time, circumstances may change leading to the need for minor administrative changes to this document.

Where an update does not materially alter this document, such a change may be made administratively. Examples include a change to the name of a Council department, updated council policy references or a minor update to legislation which does not have a material impact. However, any change or update which materially alters this document must be by way of Council resolution.

### **9.5.2 Monthly Performance Report**

The October 2021 Monthly Performance Report includes reports as follows:-

- Building Department – September 2021 Statistics
- Planning Department – Planning Application Approvals – Development Cost (Capital Improved Value) - September 2021
- Customer Enquiry Analysis Report – Report for September 2021
- Waste Management Reporting ~ Year to Date – September 2021
- Actioning of Council Reports Resolutions – Council Meeting 21 October 2021
- Outstanding Actions of Council Resolutions to 30 September 2021
- Review of Council Policies and Adoption of new Policies – September/October 2021
- Records of Informal Council Briefings / Meetings – 1 to 30 September 2021

***RECOMMENDATION***

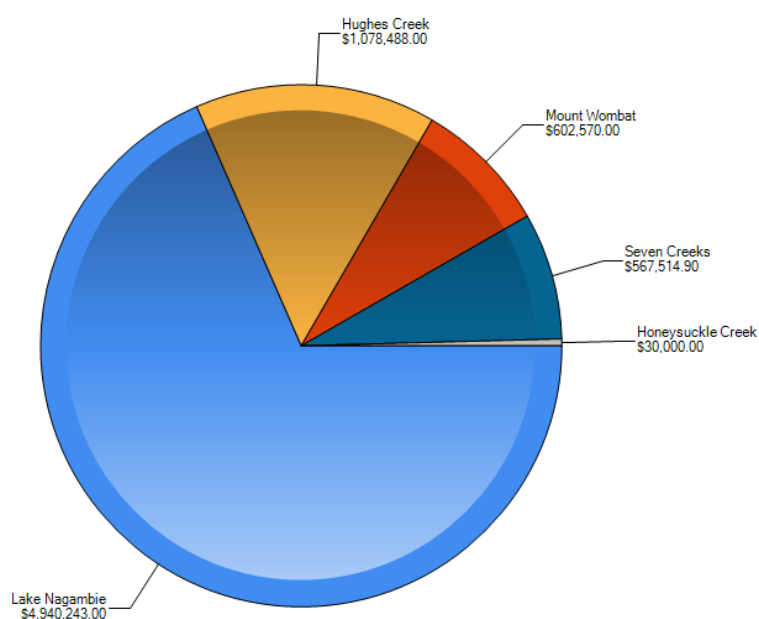
***That the report be noted.***

## BUILDING ACTIVITY

### SEPTEMBER 2021

#### A report on new building permits recorded in Council's building permit register in September 2021

Council ward	Number of lodgements	Total works value
Honeysuckle Creek	1	\$30,000.00
Hughes Creek	9	\$1,078,488.00
Lake Nagambie	17	\$4,940,243.00
Mount Wombat	3	\$602,570.00
Seven Creeks	6	\$567,414.90
	<b>36</b>	<b>\$7,218,815.90</b>



#### Honeysuckle Creek

Permit Number	Permit Date	Works	Building Use	Town	Cost of Works
5421134630718	30/08/2021	Construction of	Shed	Marraweeneey	\$30,000.00

#### Hughes Creek

Permit Number	Permit Date	Works	Building Use	Town	Cost of Works
1572997505468	26/08/2021	Construction of	Dwelling & Garage	Avenel	\$464,530.00
2714360751356	30/09/2021	Construction of	Horse arena cover	Mangalore	\$144,089.00
2926640172372	3/09/2021	Construction of	Dwelling & Carport	Avenel	\$9,800.00
3047283299974	29/08/2021	Construction of	Dwelling & Garage	Longwood	\$317,242.00
3194560347122	14/09/2021	Construction of	Shed	Avenel	\$15,822.00
4365029119753	1/09/2021	Construction of	Garage	Avenel	\$35,705.00
7307067505145	28/06/2021	Construction of	Carport x2	Mangalore	\$9,800.00
9232386479557	8/09/2021	Construction of	Dwelling & Garage	Longwood	\$66,000.00
9372068527454	16/09/2021	Construction of	Shed	Avenel	\$15,500.00

**Lake Nagambie**

Permit Number	Permit Date	Works	Building Use	Town	Cost of Works
140985443415	26/08/2021	Construction of	Shed	Nagambie	\$12,200.00
1926778403161	9/09/2021	Construction of	Shop	Nagambie	\$200,000.00
3042909569172	13/09/2021	Construction of	Shed	Nagambie	\$24,370.00
3177519175504	29/08/2021	Construction of	Dwelling & Garage	Nagambie	\$525,281.00
3412304895739	31/08/2021	Construction of	Dwelling & Garage	Nagambie	\$372,033.00
3748662617725	20/08/2021	Construction of	Dwelling & Garage	Nagambie	\$220,000.00
4431692960201	18/09/2021	Additions to	Shed	Arcadia South	\$58,000.00
4443527424517	2/09/2021	Construction of	Dwelling & Garage, Retaining Wall	Nagambie	\$430,316.00
4455027700545	16/09/2021	Additions to	Dwelling	Bailleston	\$147,150.00
451814969383		Construction of	Dwelling & Garage	Nagambie	\$220,000.00
5455045188152	17/09/2021	Construction of	Swimming Pool and Fence	Bailleston	\$85,600.00
6526247924237	6/09/2021	Construction of	Dwelling & Garage	Nagambie	\$1,560,993.00
6820653538321	20/08/2021	Construction of	Dwelling & Garage	Nagambie	\$220,000.00
7868472614294	20/08/2021	Construction of	Dwelling & Garage	Nagambie	\$220,000.00
8050987084702		Construction of	Dwelling & Garage	Nagambie	\$220,000.00
9317645412842	23/09/2021	Demolition of	Dwelling	Tabilk	\$24,300.00
9870951200963	10/09/2021	Construction of	Community / Recreation Centre, Swimming Pool	Nagambie	\$400,000.00

**Mount Wombat**

Permit Number	Permit Date	Works	Building Use	Town	Cost of Works
1320614393834	3/09/2021	Construction of	Shed	Strathbogie	\$32,570.00
5928905209425	16/09/2021	Construction of	Dwelling & Shed	Gooram	\$550,000.00
6835057764232	14/09/2021	Construction of	Shed	Euroa	\$20,000.00

**Seven Creeks**

Permit Number	Permit Date	Works	Building Use	Town	Cost of Works
1774685374218/0	25/09/2021	Construction of	Dwelling	Euroa	\$487,309.90
1875169338166	22/09/2021	Restump of	Dwelling	Euroa	\$2,000.00
2678173411616	29/09/2021	Construction of	Garage	Euroa	\$11,950.00
3741796261921	21/09/2021	Restump of	Dwelling	Euroa	\$12,100.00
5319965841565	7/09/2021	Construction of	Carport	Euroa	\$9,155.00
8820480812342	28/09/2021	Alteration to	Dwelling	Euroa	\$45,000.00

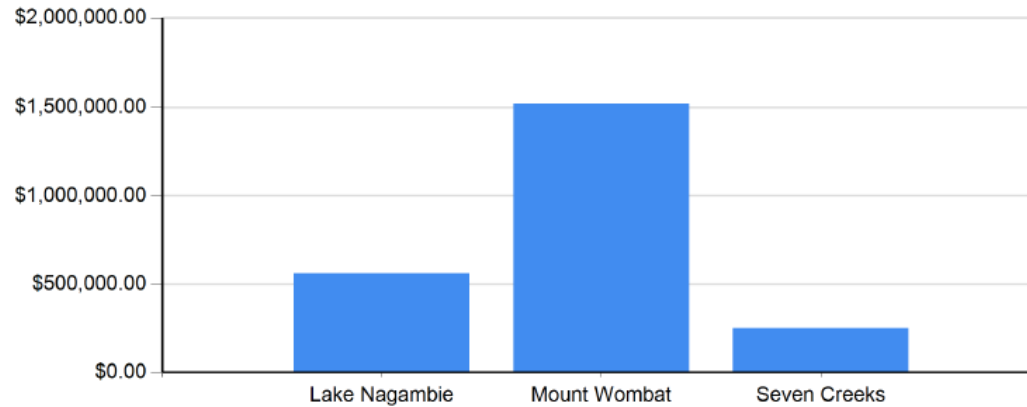
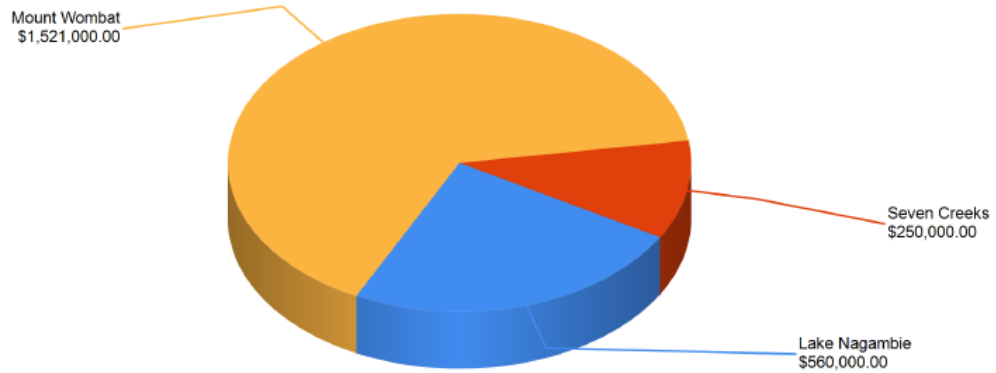
**PLANNING APPLICATION APPROVALS – DEVELOPMENT COST (CAPITAL IMPROVED VALUE)**  
**SEPTEMBER 2021**



## Planning Applications Determined

September 2021

<b>Lake Nagambie</b>	<b>\$560,000.00</b>
Bailieston	\$500,000.00
Nagambie	\$60,000.00
<b>Mount Wombat</b>	<b>\$1,521,000.00</b>
Creightons Creek	\$791,000.00
Gooram	\$10,000.00
Ruffy	\$70,000.00
Strathbogrie	\$200,000.00
Strathbogrie	\$450,000.00
<b>Seven Creeks</b>	<b>\$250,000.00</b>
Miepoll	\$250,000.00
<b>Total Value</b>	<b>\$2,331,000.00</b>



**CUSTOMER ENQUIRY ANALYSIS REPORT  
- REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER 2021**



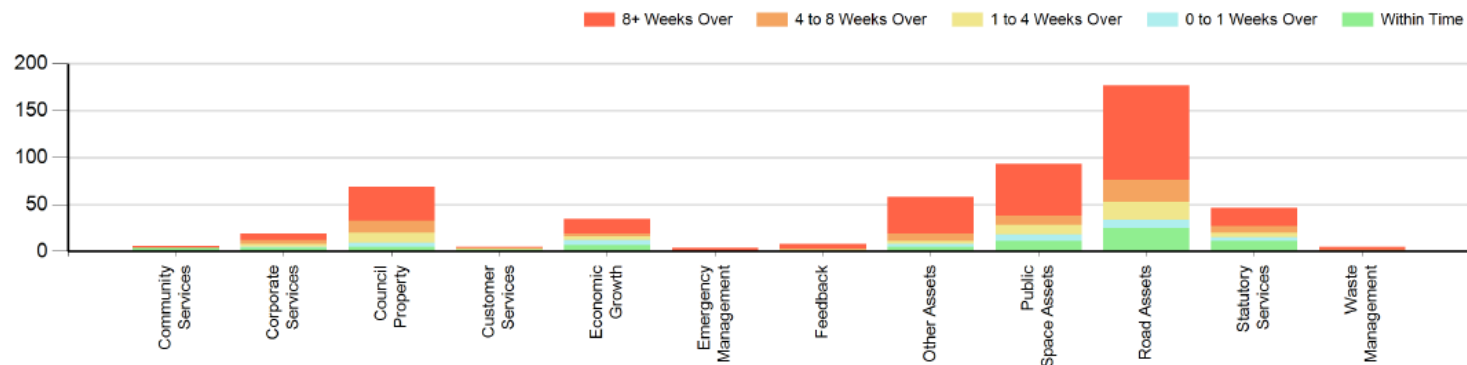
**Request Throughput Analysis**

01/09/2021 to 30/09/2021

✔ Complete / New > 80%  
⚠ 50-80%  
✘ < 50%  
✘ Overdue / Remaining < 33%  
⚠ 34-70%  
✔ > 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	4	41	37	8	✔	4	4	⚠	0	
Corporate Services	27	85	92	19	✔	4	15	✘	1	
Council Property	63	47	40	69	✔	5	64	✘	1	
Customer Services	5	13	13	5	✔	2	3	⚠	0	
Economic Growth	46	226	235	37	✔	7	30	✘	0	
Emergency Management	5	25	26	4	✔	0	4	✘	0	
Feedback	7	6	4	9	⚠	0	9	✘	0	
Other Assets	66	27	34	59	✔	5	54	✘	0	
Public Space Assets	91	64	50	97	⚠	11	86	✘	8	
Road Assets	181	85	88	177	✔	25	152	✘	1	
Statutory Services	57	134	143	48	✔	11	36	✘	0	
Waste Management	8	16	19	5	✔	0	5	✘	0	
<b>Total</b>	<b>560</b>	<b>769</b>	<b>781</b>	<b>537</b>		<b>74</b>	<b>462</b>		<b>11</b>	

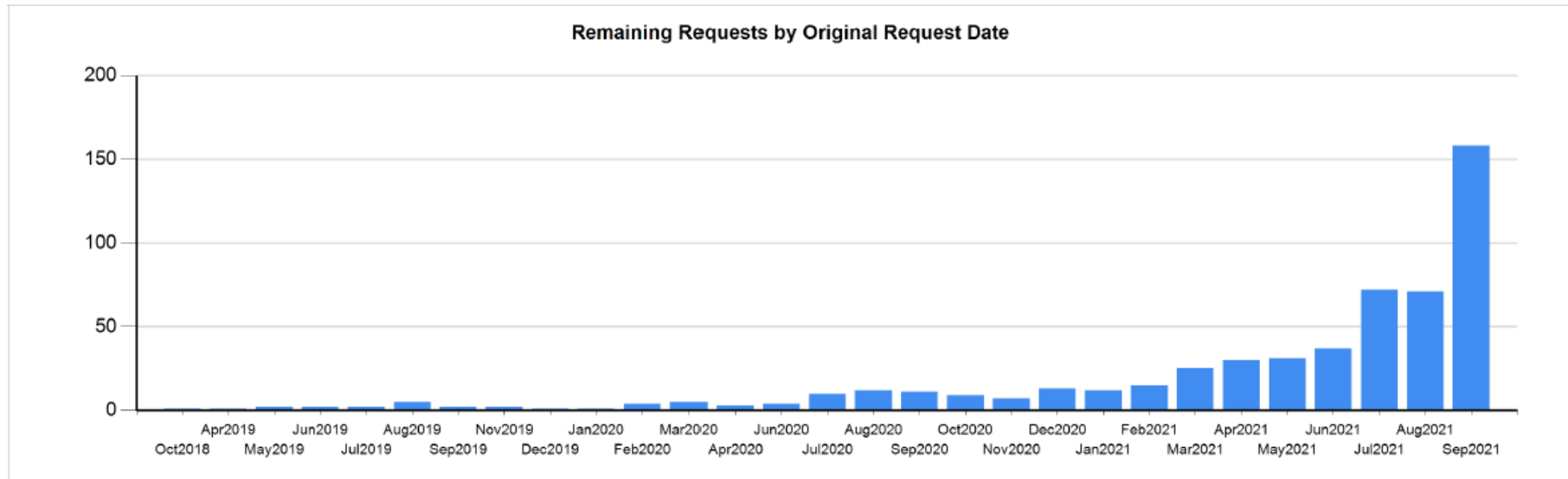
**Request Ageing**



### Service Usage







		Community Services	Corporate Services	Council Property	Customer Services	Economic Growth	Emergency Management	Feedback	Other Assets	Public Space Assets	Road Assets	Statutory Services	Waste Management	
2018	October										1			
2019	April									1				
	May									1	1			
	June									1	1			
	July									2				
	August			1						1	3			
	September									2				
	November									2				
	December									1				
	2020	January									1			
		February									1	2		1
March				1						1	3			
April											2	1		
June								1		2		1		
July				2						4	3	1		

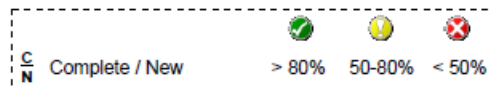
2020	August			1		2			1	4	3		1
	September			2						3	6		
	October		1			2				1	5		
	November			3						2	2		
	December	1		2						6	3	1	
2021	January		3	3		1				2		2	1
	February			2						6	4	3	
	March	1		5		2			4	4	7	2	
	April		1	3	1				7	2	15	1	
	May			3		2	2	1	5	3	11	4	
	June		1	5		1	1	1	10	5	11	2	
	July		1	7		7		2	16	6	28	4	1
	August		4	14	1	3		2	5	12	23	6	1
	September	6	9	16	3	17	1	2	11	29	44	20	
Total		8	20	70	5	37	4	9	59	105	178	48	5

**Definitions**

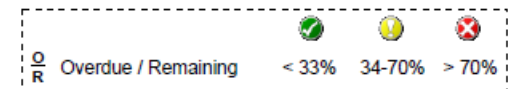
Service Area	Grouping of services by area of responsibility
Existing	Requests open prior to reporting period
New	Requests made during reporting period
Within Time	Remaining Requests where defined deadline is after reporting period
Pending Resources	Requests where additional resources are required to 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

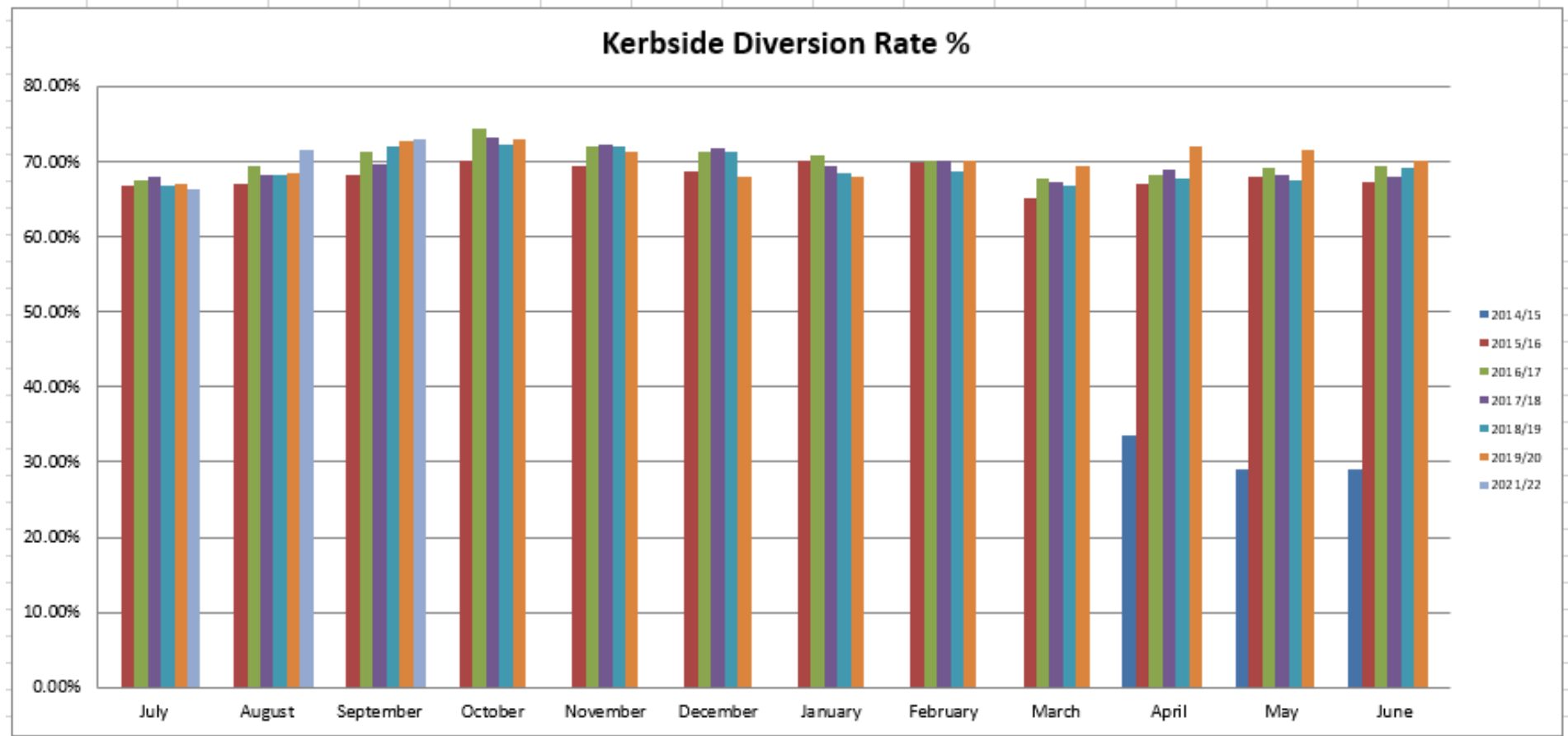
**Complete  
New** An indicator showing the ratio of Completed requests and New requests. Designed to represent how well we are keeping up with the demand for a service.

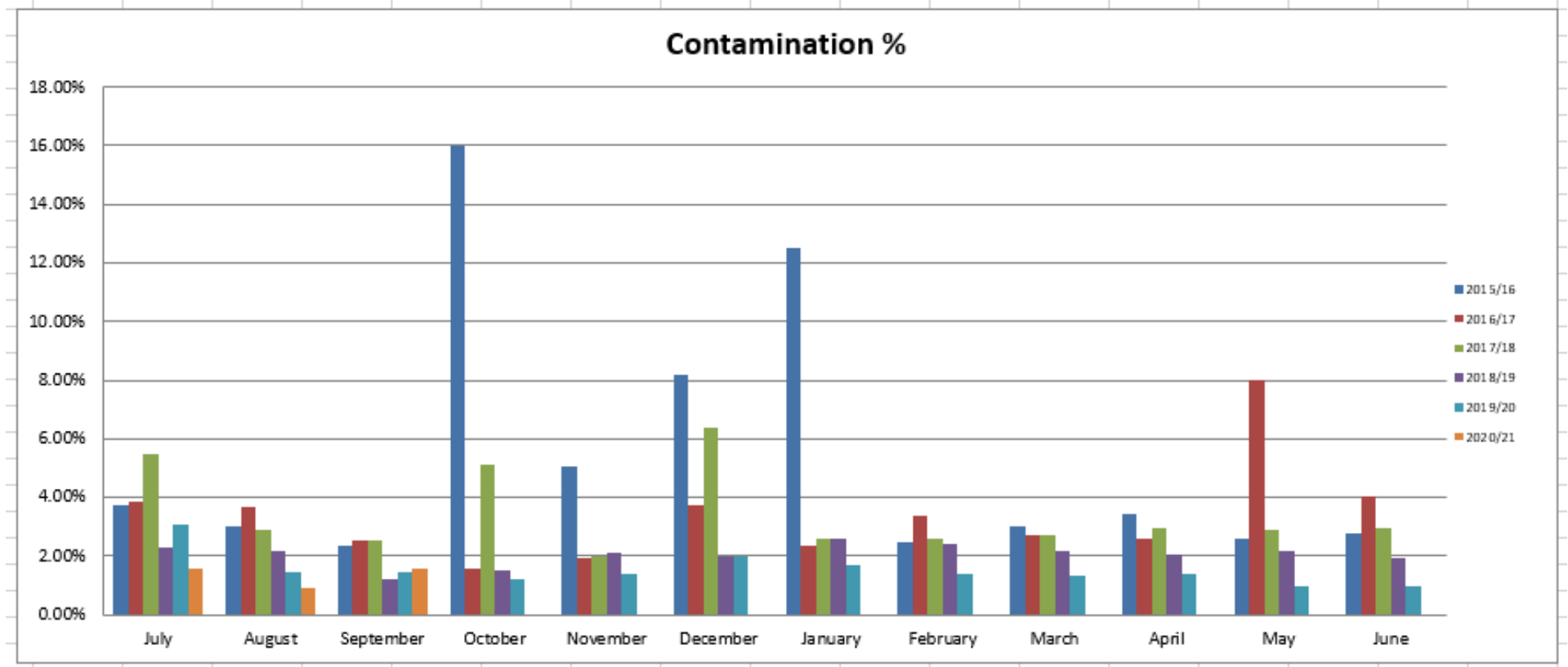


**Overdue  
Remaining** An indicator showing the ratio of Overdue requests and Remaining requests. Designed to represent how well we are keeping to the defined deadlines.

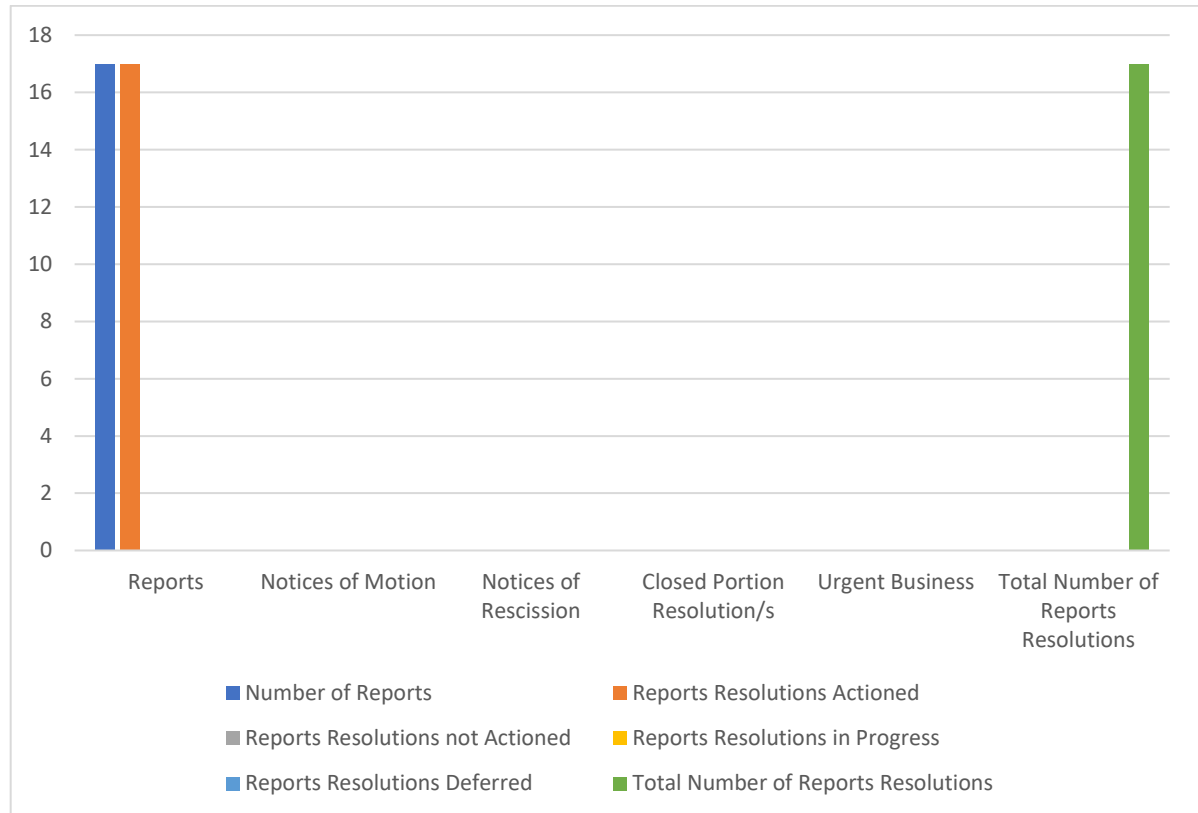








**ACTIONING OF COUNCIL REPORTS RESOLUTIONS**  
**COUNCIL MEETING – TUESDAY 21 SEPTEMBER 2021**



**OUTSTANDING ACTIONS OF COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS TO  
30 SEPTEMBER 2021**

*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.*

<b>Council Meeting Date</b>	<b>Item No.</b>	<b>Description</b>
16 March 2021	9.15	Reduction in Load Limit for Kirwans Bridge <i>Recommendation 5 –</i>  <i><u>Officer Update:</u></i> <i>Quotes being sought for installation of a camera system</i>
20 April 2021	10.1	Notice of Motion - Climate Emergency Declaration  <i><u>Officer Update:</u></i> <i>Due to the implications of COVID-19 and the postponement of the originally scheduled Climate Change Forum the decision was made to change it to an online forum. This will include videos from our speakers, an interactive Q and A monitored by Communications and Environment Teams and a prioritization exercise to gauge people's areas of interest.</i>  <i>Once this work had been completed, the Climate Change Action Plan will be developed for Council and the Community to endorse.</i>

**REVIEW OF EXISTING COUNCIL POLICIES  
AND ADOPTION OF NEW POLICIES**

<b>Review of Policy / New Policy</b>	<b>Policy Name</b>	<b>Details</b>
<i>Nil</i>		



## **RECORDS OF INFORMAL COUNCIL BRIEFINGS / MEETINGS**

### **For period 1 to 30 September 2021**

Record in accordance with Council's Public Transparency Policy 2020

*Note: Details of matters discussed at the meeting that have been designated confidential under Rule 103 of the Governance Rules and sections 3 and 125 of the LG Act 2020 are described in a separate "confidential addendum" that will be reported to the next closed Council meeting*

**Name of Meeting:** Informal Council Briefings / Meetings

**Date of Meeting:** Tuesday 7 September 2021

**Time:** 9.30 a.m. – 5.00 p.m.

**Attendees:**

Councillors

Chris Raeburn

Laura Binks

Reg Dickinson

Sally Hayes-Burke

Kristy Hourigan

Paul Murray

Officers

David Roff (Acting CEO / Director, Corporate Operations)

Amanda Tingay (Director, Community and Planning)

Dawn Bray (Executive Manager, Governance and Customer Service)

Kristin Favaloro (Executive Manager, Communications and Engagement)

Apologies

Julie Salomon (Chief Executive Officer)

1. Planning Permit P2020-124: 82 Kirwans Bridge Road, Kirwans Bridge
2. Sexual Harassment Training for Councillors
3. Councillors Only Discussions
4. Project EDGE
5. 'Totally Renewable Energy' Yackandandah Energy Project
6. Draft Mutual Respect Charter
7. People Matter Survey Results
8. Briefing on Planning Applications for presentation to September Council Meeting

Declaration of Interest/s under Local Government Act 2020 (General Conflict of Interest - Section 127 / Material Conflict of Interest – Section 128)

Councillor/s - NIL

Officer/s – NIL

## Record of Informal Council Briefings / Meetings

Record in accordance with Council's Public Transparency Policy 2020

*Note: Details of matters discussed at the meeting that have been designated confidential under Rule 103 of the Governance Rules and sections 3 and 125 of the LG Act 2020 are described in a separate "confidential addendum" that will be reported to the next closed Council meeting*

**Name of Meeting:** Informal Council Briefings / Meetings

**Date of Meeting:** Tuesday 14 September 2021

**Time:** 11.45 a.m. – 4.45 p.m.

**Attendees:**

Councillors

Chris Raeburn

Laura Binks

Reg Dickinson

Sally Hayes-Burke

Kristy Hourigan

Paul Murray

Municipal Monitor

Janet Dore

Officers

David Roff (Acting CEO / Director, Corporate Operations)

Amanda Tingay (Director, Community and Planning)

Dawn Bray (Executive Manager, Governance and Customer Service)

Kristin Favaloro (Executive Manager, Communications and Engagement)

Bruce Rowley (Manager, Project Delivery) *(Item 4)*

Apologies

Julie Salomon (Chief Executive Officer)

1. Councillors and Municipal Monitor – Introductions
2. Councillors Only Discussions
3. Review of draft Agenda for September 2021 Council Meeting
4. Projects Update
5. Native Vegetation Offsets

Declaration of Interest/s under Local Government Act 2020 (General Conflict of Interest - Section 127 / Material Conflict of Interest – Section 128)

Councillor/s - NIL

Officer/s – NIL

## Record of Informal Council Briefings / Meetings

Record in accordance with Council's Public Transparency Policy 2020

*Note: Details of matters discussed at the meeting that have been designated confidential under Rule 103 of the Governance Rules and sections 3 and 125 of the LG Act 2020 are described in a separate "confidential addendum" that will be reported to the next closed Council meeting*

**Name of Meeting:** Informal Council Briefings / Meetings

**Date of Meeting:** Tuesday 21 September 2021

**Time:** 3.00 p.m. – 4.15 p.m. / 6.00 p.m. – 8.05 p.m.

### **Attendees:**

#### Councillors

Chris Raeburn

David Andrews

Laura Binks

Reg Dickinson

Sally Hayes-Burke

Kristy Hourigan

Paul Murray

#### Municipal Monitor

Janet Dore

#### Officers

Julie Salomon (Chief Executive Officer)

David Roff (Director, Corporate Operations)

Amanda Tingay (Director, Community and Planning)

Dawn Bray (Executive Manager, Governance and Customer Service)

#### Apologies

Kristin Favaloro (Executive Manager, Communications and Engagement)

1. Councillors / CEO Discussions
2. Councillors Only Discussions
3. September 2021 Council Meeting

Declaration of Interest/s under Local Government Act 2020 (General Conflict of Interest - Section 127 / Material Conflict of Interest – Section 128)

Councillor/s –

Matter No.	LGA 2020 Interest Section	Names of Councillor/s who disclosed interest	Did the Councillor/s leave the meeting?
Item 3 / 6 – Petitions	128	Cr Hourigan	Yes <i>(Left meeting at 6.24 p.m. / returned at 6.29 p.m.)</i>

Officer/s – NIL

## Record of Informal Council Briefings / Meetings

Record in accordance with Council's Public Transparency Policy 2020

*Note: Details of matters discussed at the meeting that have been designated confidential under Rule 103 of the Governance Rules and sections 3 and 125 of the LG Act 2020 are described in a separate "confidential addendum" that will be reported to the next closed Council meeting*

**Name of Meeting:** Informal Council Briefings / Meetings

**Date of Meeting:** Tuesday 28 September 2021

**Time:** 1.00 p.m. – 4.30 p.m.

**Attendees:**

Councillors

Chris Raeburn

David Andrews

Laura Binks

Reg Dickinson

Sally Hayes-Burke

Kristy Hourigan

Paul Murray

Municipal Monitor

Janet Dore

Officers

Julie Salomon (Chief Executive Officer)

David Roff (Director, Corporate Operations)

Amanda Tingay (Director, Community and Planning)

Dawn Bray (Executive Manager, Governance and Customer Service)

Kristin Favaloro (Executive Manager, Communications and Engagement)

Apologies

Nil

1. Councillors and Municipal Monitor Only  
- Review of draft Chief Executive Officer Employment and Remuneration Policy /  
Options for composition of Panel
2. Governance Rules Review
3. Zanelli Road
4. Councillors and Municipal Monitor Discussions

Declaration of Interest/s under Local Government Act 2020 (General Conflict of Interest -  
Section 127 / Material Conflict of Interest – Section 128)

Councillor/s – NIL

Officer/s – NIL

**10. NOTICES OF MOTION**

**11. NOTICES OF RESCISSION**

**12. URGENT BUSINESS**

**13. CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS**

**Confidential Appendices**

These appendices have been classified as being confidential in accordance with section 66(2)(a) and Part 1, section 3 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—*
- (ii) *if released, would unreasonably expose the business, commercial or financial undertaking to disadvantage*

- C.A. 1 (g) Tender for Contract No. 21/22-05: Major Culverts Renewal Program
- C.A. 2 (g) Tender for Contract No 21/22-06: 2021-22 Roads Reseal Program
- C.A. 3 (g) Tender for Contract No. 21/22-13: Design and Construction of Nagambie Water Splash Park
- C.A. 4 (g) Regional Co-investment Fund

**NEXT MEETING**

The next Meeting of the Strathbogie Shire Council will be the Annual Statutory Meeting, which is scheduled to be held on Tuesday 16 November 2021, commencing at 6.00 p.m.

The next monthly Meeting of the Strathbogie Shire Council is also scheduled to be held on Tuesday 16 November 2021, and will commence at the conclusion of the Annual Statutory Meeting.

It is intended that these meetings be held at the Euroa Community Conference Centre, however, it should be noted that if coronavirus restrictions are in force, the meetings will be held virtually.

Please Note: The December Meeting of the Strathbogie Shire Council will be held on Tuesday 14 December 2021, a week earlier than the usual schedule for Council meetings.

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