



**MEDIA RELEASE: THURSDAY, 27 JUNE, 2019**

**Resignation of Strathbogie Shire CEO and Council's response to VAGO Report**

Strathbogie Shire Council has met to discuss and finalise its proposed action plan in response to the Victorian Auditor-General's Office's Audit Report (VAGO) into Fraud and Corruption Controls tabled in Victorian Parliament last Thursday.

This action plan includes accepting the resignation of the Chief Executive Officer, Steve Crawcour, effective of Thursday, 27<sup>th</sup> June, 2019.

Council would like to thank Mr Crawcour for his eight years as CEO and 10 total years of service to the Strathbogie Shire, where he has made a significant contribution to delivering the services and infrastructure needs of the community.

Strathbogie Shire Mayor Cr Amanda McClaren said during his time in the role, Steve has been pivotal in steering Council into a sustainable financial position and closing the infrastructure renewal gap.

"Steve has led the organisation to deliver significant capital works programs which have brought infrastructure in the shire up to a much higher standard," Cr McClaren said.

"He has also led significant improvements in performance levels in areas such as Customer Service, tourism development and waste management."

"On behalf of Council, I'd like to thank Steve for his 10 years' service to the Strathbogie Shire and wish him all the very best for his future."

Council will be calling a Special Council Meeting on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July where it will consider the organisation's response to the 12 recommendations of VAGO.

It will also consider further actions above and beyond the organisational response, including strengthening the role of the Audit Committee, enhancing controls over expenditure of Councillors, Mayors and CEO, prohibiting the purchasing of gifts and alcohol as valid reimbursements and revising the policy for the private use of Council vehicles.

At this meeting, Council will look to appoint Mr Phil Howard as Interim CEO while the recruitment process for a permanent CEO takes place.

Council will keep the community informed about the CEO recruitment process, which will commence soon.

-ENDS-

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