

Strathbogie Shire Council

# **Extraordinary Council Meeting Minutes/Decisions**

**Tuesday 25 June 2024**

## **Minutes/Decisions**

### **Extraordinary Council Meeting**

**Tuesday 25 June 2024 at 6pm**

**Meeting to be held at the Euroa Community Conference Centre and  
livestreamed on Council's website:**

<https://www.strathbogie.vic.gov.au/council/our-council/council-meetings-and-minutes/>

**Administrator:**

Peter Stephenson

**Officers:**

Julie Salomon – Chief Executive Officer

Amanda Tingay – Director People and Governance

Rachael Frampton – Director Community and Planning

Rosemary Scott – Executive Manager Communications, Engagement and Advocacy

Sarah Williams – Chief Financial Officer

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## Meeting Procedure

### 1. Welcome

### 2. Acknowledgement of Country

*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.*

### 3. Privacy Notice

*This public meeting was streamed live via our website ([Council Meetings and Minutes | Strathbogie Shire](#)) and is made available for public access on our website along with the official Minutes/Decisions of this meeting. All care is taken to maintain your privacy; however, as a visitor in the public gallery, it is assumed that your consent is given in the event that your image is broadcast to the public. It is also assumed that your consent is given to the use and disclosure of any information that you share at the meeting (including personal or sensitive information) to any person who accesses those recordings or Minutes.*

### 4. Governance Principles

*Council considers that the recommendations contained in these Minutes/Decisions gives effect to the overarching governance principles stated in Section 9(2) of the Local Government Act 2020. These principles are as follows:*

- 1. Council decisions are to be made and actions taken in accordance with the relevant law;*
- 2. priority is to be given to achieving the best outcomes for the municipal community, including future generations;*
- 3. the economic, social and environmental sustainability of the municipal district, including mitigation and planning for climate change risks, is to be promoted;*
- 4. the municipal community is to be engaged in strategic planning and strategic decision making;*
- 5. innovation and continuous improvement is to be pursued;*
- 6. collaboration with other Councils and Governments and statutory bodies is to be sought;*
- 7. the ongoing financial viability of the Council is to be ensured;*
- 8. regional, state and national plans and policies are to be taken into account in strategic planning and decision making;*
- 9. the transparency of Council decisions, actions and information is to be ensured.*

### 5. Apologies / Leave of Absence

John Harvey – Director Sustainable Infrastructure

### 6. Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest

Nil

### 7. Public Question Time

Nil

**8. Officer Reports**

- 8.1 Strategic and Statutory
- 8.2 Community
- 8.3 Infrastructure
- 8.4 Corporate
- 8.5 Governance and Customer Service
- 8.6 Executive

6.08 pm

*Standing Orders were suspended at the request of a community member who wished to make a presentation to the Chief Executive Officer*

6.10 pm

*Standing Orders were resumed*

## Reports Index

<b>8.</b>	<b>OFFICER REPORTS</b>	
<b>8.1</b>	<b>Strategic and Statutory</b> Nil	
<b>8.2</b>	<b>Community</b> Nil	
<b>8.3</b>	<b>Infrastructure</b> Nil	
<b>8.4</b>	<b>Corporate</b>	
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<b>8.5</b>	<b>Governance and Customer Service</b> Nil	
<b>8.6</b>	<b>Executive</b> Nil	

## **8. OFFICER REPORTS**

### **8.4 CORPORATE**

#### **8.4.1 Pitch My Project – Recommendations for Funding**

Author: Executive Manager Communications, Engagement and Advocacy

Responsible Director: Chief Executive Officer

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

Now in its fourth year, Council's Pitch My Project initiative is ensuring our Budget includes the projects and plans that matter to our community.

Since its inception, Council has funded more than 20 community projects throughout the Shire.

This year, Council has allocated \$300,000 for Pitch My Project as part of the draft 2024-25 Budget with \$50,000 available across each of the six strategic focus areas in the Council Plan:

1. Engage. Create. Unite.
2. Live. Access. Connect.
3. Protect. Enhance. Adapt.
4. Inclusive. Productive. Balanced.
5. Strong. Healthy. Safe.
6. Accountable. Transparent. Responsible.

After the assessment period, 15 projects were presented to the community to prioritise at voting stations across the Shire and on the Share Strathbogie consultation platform.

Council received 452 community contributions to the project, with 221 submitted online and the remainder coming from survey stations in Avenel, Euroa, Longwood, Nagambie, Ruffy, Strathbogie and Violet Town.

Factoring in a weighting for population, the projects scoring the highest were identified for each category. Projects were then assessed against the six strategic focus areas with a weighting for population of the project area and participation. To further differentiate between shortlisted projects, consideration was also given to the balance of projects across the shire by population served.

#### **The Administrator adopted the Motion**

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

1. ***Allocate \$300,000 to the Pitch My Project initiative in the 2024/25 Budget;***
2. ***Fund six community projects, that align to the Strategic Focus Areas in the 2021/25 Council Plan. These being:***
  - a. ***\$50,000 for Euroa Strathbogie Shire Art Trail***

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**8.4.1 Pitch My Project – Recommendations for Funding (cont.)****MOTION (cont.)**

- b. \$50,000 for Strathbogie Walking Path (provisionally allocated based on seeking further advice and direction from the Department of Environment, Energy and Climate Action regarding Native Vegetation Impacts)**
  - c. \$50,000 for Euroa Branding Project Stage 2**
  - d. \$50,000 for Longwood Nature Play Space Stage 2**
  - e. \$50,000 for Avenel Memorial Hall**
  - f. \$50,000 for Ruffy Tablelands Centre Verandah; and**
- 3. Authorise Officers to write to all 15 Pitch My Project applicants to inform them of the outcome and thank them for their participation.**

**EM-07-23/24 CARRIED**

#### **8.4.2 Adoption of Budget, Fees and Charges and Declaration of Rates and Charges for the 12 Months ending 30 June 2025**

Author: Chief Financial Officer

Responsible Director: Director People and Governance

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

Following its resolution of 16 April 2024 to release the 2024-25 Draft Budget and 2024-25 Draft Fees and Charges (*the Draft Budget*) for public review and comment for a period of 28 days, Council has now fulfilled the legislative requirements for preparing the Draft Budget.

The Draft Budget was placed on public exhibition as part of a broad public engagement process around the Draft Budget's development with the IAP2 engagement level set at 'involve' for the overall budget engagement and 'collaborate' for the Pitch My Project initiative.

In total, 22 written submissions were received through Council's Share Strathbogie engagement portal, via email and mail. 18 submissions related to the 2024-25 Draft Budget and four submissions related to the 2024-25 Draft Fees and Charges.

All submitters had the opportunity to make a verbal presentation at an extraordinary meeting of Council on 4 June 2024; eight parties elected to take up this opportunity.

In addition, throughout the budget submission period, the need to make some modifications to the Draft Budget were identified to respond to newly acquired information, technical adjustments and shifts in assumptions.

The Draft Budget contained capital expenditure to undertake significant drainage improvements in Hovell Street, Avenel. This expenditure was included on the assumption and subject to the receipt of external funding. Unfortunately, due to the discontinuation of the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program, external funding for this program was unable to be realised. Therefore, the amount of \$2,000,000 in grant income and subsequently the project, has been removed from the final Draft Budget.

Immediate drainage issues will be investigated as part of regular maintenance work, whilst understanding that a long-term solution is still required to provide a more holistic approach to drainage management within this area. Officers will continue to advocate for funding in future years to support the ongoing need for this project.

As per Section 94 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, the Council is required to officially approve the Budget and Fees and Charges by June 30 and inform the community about the Budget's adoption.

For transparency and auditing purposes, a copy of the approved Strathbogie Shire Council 2024-25 Budget and 2024-25 Fees and Charges will be attached to the Minutes of this meeting.



8.4.2 Adoption of Budget, Fees and Charges and Declaration of Rates and Charges for the 12 Months ending 30 June 2025 (cont.)

**The Administrator adopted the Motion**

***That Council:***

1. ***Having completed the community engagement process prescribed by Council's Community Engagement Policy, adopt the Budget, Fees and Charges for the year ending 30 June 2025.***
2. ***Declare the Rates and Charges for the year ending 30 June 2025 in accordance with the following recommendations:***

1. ***Amount intended to be raised.***

***An amount of \$23,100,128 (or such other amount as is lawfully raised as a consequence of this resolution) be declared as the amount which Council intends to raise by general rates, annual service charges and environmental levy (described later in this Resolution), which amount is calculated as follows:***

<b><i>General Rates</i></b>	<b><i>19,964,214</i></b>
<b><i>Annual Service Charges (Waste Management Charge)</i></b>	<b><i>3,135,914</i></b>
<b><i>Total</i></b>	<b><i>23,100,128</i></b>

2. ***General Rates***

2.1 ***A general rate be declared in respect of the 2024-25 Financial Year;***

2.2 ***It be further declared that the general rate be raised by the application of differential rates;***

2.3 ***A differential rate be respectively declared for rateable land having the respective characteristics specified below, which characteristics will form the criteria for each differential rate so declared:***

***Residential Land***

***All land used primarily for residential purposes or obviously adapted to being used primarily for residential purposes but excluding farm land.***

***Vacant Residential Land***

***All vacant land which may be used primarily for residential purposes or obviously adapted to being used primarily for residential purposes but excluding farm land.***

***Farm Land***

***Any land zoned Farming under the Strathbogie Planning Scheme which is not less than 40 hectares in area and is not classified as having a commercial or industrial use.***

8.4.2 Adoption of Budget, Fees and Charges and Declaration of Rates and Charges for the 12 Months ending 30 June 2025 (cont.)

*MOTION (cont.)*

***Land situated within the Farming zone of less than 40 hectares in area may be considered for the farm differential rate, subject to satisfying Council's criteria for recognition as a bone fide farming activity.***

***Commercial / Industrial Land***

***All land used primarily for commercial or industrial purposes or obviously adapted to being used primarily for commercial/industrial purposes.***

***Vacant Commercial / Industrial Land***

***All vacant land which may be used primarily for commercial or industrial purposes or obviously adapted to being used primarily for commercial/industrial purposes.***

- 2.4** ***Each differential rate will be determined by multiplying the Capital Improved Value of each rateable land (categorised by the characteristics described in 2.3) by the relevant percentages indicated in the following table:***

<b><i>Category</i></b>	<b><i>Percentage</i></b>
<b><i>Residential Land</i></b>	<b><i>0.307631% (or 0.00307631 cents in the dollar of the Capital Improved Value)</i></b>
<b><i>Vacant Residential Land</i></b>	<b><i>0.646025% (or 0.00646025 cents in the dollar of the Capital Improved Value)</i></b>
<b><i>Farm Land</i></b>	<b><i>0.246105% (or 0.00246105cents in the dollar of the Capital Improved Value)</i></b>
<b><i>Commercial / Industrial Land</i></b>	<b><i>0.369157% (or 0.00369157 cents in the dollar of the Capital Improved Value)</i></b>
<b><i>Vacant Commercial / Industrial Land</i></b>	<b><i>0.646025% (or 0.00646025 cents in the dollar of the Capital Improved Value)</i></b>

- 2.5** ***It be recorded that Council considers that each differential rate will contribute to the equitable and efficient carrying of Council functions, and that:***

**2.5.1** ***the respective objectives of each differential rate be those specified in the Schedule to this Resolution;***

8.4.2 Adoption of Budget, Fees and Charges and Declaration of Rates and Charges for the 12 Months ending 30 June 2025 (cont.)

*MOTION (cont.)*

**2.5.2 the respective types or classes of land which are subject to each differential rate be those defined in the Schedule to this Resolution;**

**2.5.3 the respective uses and levels of each differential rate in relation to those respective types and classes of land be those described in the Schedule to this Resolution; and**

**2.5.4 the relevant:**

**(a) uses of;**

**(b) geographical locations of;**

**(c) planning scheme zoning of; and**

**(d) types of buildings on**

**the respective types or classes of land be those identified in the Schedule to this Resolution.**

**2.6 It be confirmed that no amount is fixed as the minimum amount payable by way of general rate in respect of each rateable land within the municipal district.**

**3. Municipal Charge - No Municipal charge be declared in respect of the 2024-25 Financial Year.**

**4. Annual Service Charge**

**4.1 An annual service charge be declared in respect of the 2024-25 Financial Year;**

**4.2 An annual service charge (Waste Management Charge) be declared for the collection and disposal of refuse from land;**

**4.3 The annual service charge (Waste Management Charge) be in the sum of, and be based on the criteria, set out below but dependent upon which option is chosen:**

**4.3.1 for the collection and disposal of recyclables, \$205 per annum (120 litre, 240 litre and 360 litre bins);**

**4.3.2 for the collection and disposal of waste and organics (80 litre and 120 litre bins), \$432 per annum; and**

8.4.2 Adoption of Budget, Fees and Charges and Declaration of Rates and Charges for the 12 Months ending 30 June 2025 (cont.)

*MOTION (cont.)*

**4.3.3 for the collection and disposal of waste and organics (240 litre bins), \$860 per annum.**

**in respect of each rateable land (or part) to which the service of collection and disposal is made available.**

**5. Rebates & Concessions**

***Pensioner Rebate***

**5.1 It also be recorded that Council grants to each owner of rateable land who is an "eligible recipient" within the meaning of the State Concessions Act 1986, a rebate as determined by the Victorian State Government, in respect of each rateable land; and**

**5.2 The rebate described in paragraph 5.1 be granted to assist the proper development of the municipal district, and to provide a concession to ratepayers whose circumstances may limit their capacity to pay.**

**6. Payment**

**6.1 All rates and charges to be paid in four instalments, in accordance with Section 167 (1) and (2) of the Local Government Act 1989 due on:**

**1st Instalment 30th September 2024**

**2nd Instalment 30th November 2024**

**3rd Instalment 28th February 2025**

**4th Instalment 31st May 2025**

**7. Consequential and Further Actions**

**7.1 It be confirmed that, subject to sections 171 and 172 of the Local Government Act 1989, Council will require a person to pay interest on any rates and charges which:**

**7.1.1 that person is liable to pay; and**

**7.1.2 have not been paid by the date specified for their payment.**

**7.2 The Director People & Governance be authorised to levy and recover the general rates and annual service charge in accordance with the Local Government Act 1989.**

8.4.2 Adoption of Budget, Fees and Charges and Declaration of Rates and Charges for the 12 Months ending 30 June 2025 (cont.)

*MOTION (cont.)*

**7.3 The Chief Financial Officer be authorised to write to all those who have made a written submission thanking them for their input and advising them of Council’s decision and the reason for its decision.**

**7.4 The adoption of the 2024-25 Budget and Fees and Charges be publicised through Council’s website, notices in local newspapers and through Council’s social media channels.**

*EM-08-23/24 CARRIED*

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, THE MEETING CLOSED AT 6.27 P.M.**

Confirmed as being a true and accurate record of the Meeting

.....  
Chair

.....  
Date