



Notice is given that an Ordinary Meeting of Council will be held on:

Date: Tuesday, 11 December 2018
Time: 3pm
Location: Council Chambers, Serpentine

AGENDA

Ordinary Council Meeting

11 December 2018

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1 OPENING PRAYER

“Almighty God, we humbly ask you to bless this Council, direct and prosper its deliberations towards the true welfare of your people of the Shire of Loddon.”

2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

“The Loddon Shire Council acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we are gathered and pays its respects to their Elders both past and present.”

3 APOLOGIES

4 DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

5 PREVIOUS MINUTES**5.1 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

File Number: 02/01/001

Author: Lynne Habner, A/Manager Executive and Commercial Services

Authoriser: Phil Pinyon, Chief Executive Officer

Attachments: Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That Council confirm:

1. The minutes of the Council Briefing of 27 November 2018
2. The minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting of 27 November 2018

REPORT

Seeking approval of the unconfirmed minutes of the previous meetings.

6 REVIEW OF ACTION SHEET

6.1 REVIEW OF ACTIONS

File Number: 02/01/002
Author: Lynne Habner, Manager Executive and Commercial Services
Authoriser: Phil Pinyon, Chief Executive Officer
Attachments: 1. Action sheet

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and note the action sheet.

REPORT

Refer attachment.

Outstanding	Division: Committee: Officer:	Date From: Date To:
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Outstanding actions from previous meetings

ACTION NUMBER	COUNCIL MEETING	REF	DIRECTORATE	OFFICER
9	28/5/12	9.2	Operations	Manager Technical Services

ACTION

That Council:

1. Develop a process for the identification and prioritisation of minor community infrastructure projects which will allow for a structured approach in providing in-principle or financial support for external funding applications.

COMMENTS

12/11/14: Action item has been amended following completion of the BRIC gymnasium development project utilising "Putting Local's First" funding. Elements of this action have been simplified to exclude those relating to the BRIC project and focusing now on the remaining action element being the development of operational guidelines for receiving, prioritising and applying for external funding in respect to minor community infrastructure projects.

11/6/2015: Manager Infrastructure has commenced development of a draft project identification template and scoping document along with associated prioritisation criteria and explanatory notes.

11/09/2015: Progress on development of assessment and prioritisation criteria for minor community Infrastructure projects has been delayed due to competing operational priorities. Delivery of this action item shall be raised with the Manager of Infrastructure as a matter of urgency.

11/02/2016: Matter has been raised with the responsible officer however no further progress has been made on development of the required process and guideline.

12/05/2016: Development of minor community infrastructure project assessment and prioritisation guidelines has been incorporated into the 2016/17 performance objectives of the new Manager Technical Services.

10/6/2016: No progress to date - will be considered with review of building assets

11/08/2016: Review of methodology for identification and prioritisation of community infrastructure projects has commenced. Consideration is currently being given to frameworks which have been adopted by other LGA's (i.e. City of Greater Bendigo Capital Investment Assessment Framework).

20/02/2017: Progress on developing community infrastructure project prioritisation guideline has been delayed due to competing priorities and resource constraints. Project is being handed over to the recently appointed Project/Contract Officer for further progression.

19/04/2017: The Manager Technical Services and Project/Contract Officer are working together to progress the establishment of an Assessment Framework based upon the 2017/18 projects.

13/07/2017: No further action has been taken due to staff resource constraints.

02/08/2017: No further action. Benchmarking with other neighbouring Councils will be undertaken subject to successful recruitment of Assets and Buildings Coordinator.

11/09/2017: New Assets and Building Co-ordinator has commenced and will prioritise as matter of urgency.

17/10/2017: Process for evaluation and prioritising of minor community projects is being developed and a draft is planned to be reported early in 2018.

14/11/2017: Work has commenced and is continuing in developing this process.

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06/12/2017: Manager Technical Services is developing project identification and prioritisation process.

10/01/2018: No further progress has been made since the last update due to competing priorities. Officers are currently working towards the development of Annual Infrastructure Program and the action will resume upon completion of Annual Infrastructure Program.

09/02/2018: Project identification and assessment flowchart is being developed and will be progressed as a priority following the development of the 2018 – 2019 Annual Infrastructure Program.

19/03/2018: Due to a recent staff departure, this action will be delayed.

03/05/2018: Recruitment of the Assets and Buildings Coordinator is in progress and the action will be progressed as a priority following the adoption of 2018-2019 Annual Infrastructure Program.

04/06/2018: Assets and Buildings Coordinator recruitment process is now complete and expected to start on 10 July 2018. This action will be addressed as a priority.

09/07/2018: Assets and Buildings Coordinator recruitment process is now complete and with the officer commencing on 10 July 2018. This action will be addressed as a priority.

03/08/2018: A workshop session has been scheduled for 13 August 2018 to engage Loddon Leaders and MEG in the process. The session will lay the foundation towards the development of the procedure.

14/09/2018: The planned workshop session took place on Monday 13 August 2018. The information and ideas from this session have been collated for consideration. Preparation on a documented procedure has commenced.

09/10/2018: The collated list drafted after discussions with the Loddon Leaders is now being rationalised and categorised towards formulation of the procedure.

15/11/2018: A draft procedure has been prepared by the Assets and Buildings Coordinator and is being reviewed by the Manager Technical Services. Upon completion, the draft will be forwarded to the Policy Review Group and subsequently to MEG and Council for adoption. It is expected to be presented to the Council Forum in March 2019 for discussion.

03/12/2018: The draft has been reviewed and is being finalised for the Policy Review Group to consider. It is expected to be presented to the Council Forum in March 2019 for discussion.

ACTION NUMBER	COUNCIL MEETING	REF	DIRECTORATE	OFFICER
66	25/2/14	7.4	Operations	Manager Technical Services

ACTION
That Council look at the future needs of buildings under Council control but 'not currently covered by the Building Asset Management Plan and report to Council.

COMMENTS
8/4/14: All buildings identified within the shire are currently covered in the BAMP. Council have requested that the BAMP be reviewed in relation to the buildings that receive no financial support. A review of the BAMP is scheduled to be undertaken later this calendar year. At this time a review of all provisions will be undertaken with a subsequent report provided for Council consideration.
11/11/14: Review of the BAMP has been rescheduled to later this financial year due to commitments of staff in preparing the Road Asset Management and Stormwater Asset

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management Plans as a matter of priority. Preliminary discussions and consideration on service levels for various building categories has commenced however e.g. public toilets.

11/6/15: Review of the BAMP has been rescheduled following completion of the annual asset valuation data. It is expected that commencement of the BAMP review will occur following the completion of the Stormwater Asset Management Plan in September 2015.

11/09/15: Manager Policy & Strategy is finalising both the Urban Drainage Asset Management and Road Asset Management Plans. Following completion of these strategies focus shall be placed upon the revision of the Building Asset management Plan. Due to delays in progress with the development of the UDAMP and RAMP, work on the BAMP is now scheduled to commence in November 2015.

11/02/16: Draft RAMP and UDAMP have been prepared. Final review of draft documents is occurring in preparation for discussion with Council in March. Enquiries are being made with appropriately qualified consultants to gather necessary building asset data in preparation of commencement on the BAMP review later this year.

10/6/2016: Consultants are currently being interviewed regarding building asset system and data capture. Consultant should be engaged July/August with data capture due by end of 2016.

5/7/2016: Consultants from Assetic has been engaged to perform condition assessment of all the Council owned/managed buildings. Additionally, Assetic system has been purchased as a new corporate asset management system for building assets with future inclusion of roads and drainage assets.

11/08/2016: Register of buildings for inspection has been finalised and consultants will be commencing on site inspections and data capture by the end of August. It is expected that the data capture process could take up to 60 days after which time processing and analysis will commence to inform investment scenario modelling within the revised BAMP

31/08/2016: Building audits have now commenced. A total of 178 Council buildings have been identified for audit. In addition to data capture on structure details, inspections will also identify immediate works required where building element conditions are below service level intervention standards. These works will then form the basis of future building capital works programs and inform preparation of the future investment demand for the LTFP and BAMP.

4/10/16: Building audits are approximately 80% complete. It is anticipated that full audit details and population of the Asset Management System which has been procured, will be complete by the end of October 2016. Data modelling within the Asset Management package will then be used to inform development of the new draft Asset Management Plan.

10/11/16: Audit of Council buildings has been completed. Condition profiles for building stock are now being compiled to inform preparation of draft BAMP. It is anticipated that presentation of initial audit results to Council will occur in either December or January.

20/2/17: Post audit processing of building data has been slightly delayed due to resource constraints. Officers are in the process of finalising to produce renewal gap modelling prior to presentation of audit findings to Council. Outputs from audit process are also being utilised in the preparation of a building component of the 2017-2017 Annual Infrastructure Program.

20/03/2017: Preliminary modelling of long term investment requirements across the portfolio of Council buildings has now been completed. Summary report for Council is being prepared to convey initial findings however detailed analysis and adjustment is still required to take into consideration the current policies contained within the BAMP as well as preparation of various scenarios if service levels are changed. Scenario models will be presented to Council as part of developing the revised BAMP.

19/04/2017: First Draft of BAMP is expected in the first quarter of 2017/18.

13/07/2017: Due to delay in successful recruitment to the vacant position of Assets and Buildings Coordinator, it is very likely that the first draft of BAMP will be delayed.

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02/08/2017: No further action.

11/09/2017: New Assets and Building Co-ordinator has commenced and will prioritise as matter of urgency.

17/10/2017: A draft of the Building Asset Management Plan is planned to be presented to Council December meeting.

14/11/2017: With the successful recruitment of Assets and Buildings Coordinator, revision of Council's Building Asset Management Plan is underway as per the recommendation of review undertaken in 2016/17. Financial information on Council owned buildings has been finalised and officers are currently working on the level of service for building assets. Once finalised, the data will be uploaded into the Asset Management system to identify Council's annual liability and renewal need and as such the draft BAMP will then be presented to Loddon Leaders and MEG for endorsement before presenting to Council for public comments.

06/12/2017: Draft preparation in progress.

10/01/2018: Preparation of draft BAMP is in progress.

09/02/2018: Council's Assets and Buildings Coordinator is currently working on the draft Building Asset Management Plan and Manager Technical Services and Director Operations will subsequently review the plan and then forward it to Loddon Leaders, MEG and with the intention of presenting it to Council at the May 2018 Forum .

19/03/2018: Due to a recent staff departure, this action will be delayed.

03/05/2018: Recruitment of the Assets and Buildings Coordinator is in progress and the action will be progressed as a priority.

04/06/2018: An update on progress of BAMP is being presented at the June 2018 Council forum.

09/07/2018: An update on the progress of BAMP was presented at the June 2018 Council forum. With the finalisation of recruitment of Assets and Buildings Coordinator, this action will be progressed as a priority.

03/08/2018: Newly recruited Assets and Buildings Coordinator has already started working on the draft BAMP and has engaged with the consultant to explore a number of different financial modellings. The project has been tasked to the Assets and Buildings Coordinator as a top priority.

14/09/2018: A draft of the BAMP has been completed and is now going through the editing process before presentation to Council.

09/10/2018: A draft of the BAMP has been circulated to the Loddon Leaders for review, with responses to be received by 2 November 2018.

15/11/2018: Comments received from the review by Loddon Leaders' is being collated. Once necessary changes are made, it will be forwarded to the Policy Review Group and then MEG for endorsement. It is expected to be presented to Council in February 2019.

03/12/2018: Comments received from the review by Loddon Leaders' are being collated. A paper is expected to be presented at the February 2019 Council Forum for preliminary discussion with the Council.

Meeting	Officer/Director	Section	Subject
Council 28/08/2018	Sporn, Peter Phillips, Steven	Decision Reports	Provision of Regional Asbestos and Hazardous Materials Audit Services

RESOLUTION 2018/117

Moved: Cr Colleen Condliffe

<p>Outstanding</p> <p>Action Sheets Report</p>	<p>Division:</p> <p>Committee:</p> <p>Officer:</p>	<p>Date From:</p> <p>Date To:</p> <p>Printed: Monday, 3 December 2018 1:44:58 PM</p>
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Seconded: Cr Gavan Holt

That Council

1. resolve to appoint City of Greater Bendigo as lead agent for Contract No CT000386 – Regional Asbestos & Hazardous Materials Audit Services on behalf of Loddon Shire Council
2. resolve to award the contract to Safety Systems Pty Ltd.
3. authorise the Chief Executive Officer to affix the common seal of the Council to related contract documentation.

CARRIED

17/09/2018 8:35:29 AM - Peter Sporn
 Contract documents being drawn up for signing. Due 1 October 2018

11/10/2018 4:17:24 PM - Christine Coombes
 Awaiting Contract documents from lead Council.

15/11/2018 4:28:38 PM - Christine Coombes
 Contracts awaiting signing by the awarded Contractors.

Meeting	Officer/Director	Section	Subject
Council 25/09/2018	Habner, Lynne Pinyon, Phil	Decision Reports	Bridgewater Ski Club request

RESOLUTION 2018/141

Moved: Cr Colleen Condliffe
 Seconded: Cr Neil Beattie

1. That Council request that the CEO develop a formal arrangement for the Bridgewater Ski Club to use the existing camp kitchen at the Bridgewater Caravan Park as a judging facility to assist in hosting water ski events, addressing the following:
 - (a) the arrangement will incur payment by the Ski Club to be determined as reasonable compensation for the use of the existing camp kitchen within the caravan park, on an ad hoc or permanent basis, as the case may be
 - (b) the terms of the arrangement will not restrict the viability of a future lease of the caravan park
 - (c) that a new camp kitchen be built for the caravan park to the same or higher standard as the existing one, on a cost-neutral basis for Council and that it be completed by 30 September 2020
 - (d) that until a new camp kitchen is built, the arrangement is not for exclusive use by the Ski Club, enabling caravan park patrons to have reasonable

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access to the existing camp kitchen

(e) that appropriate conditions be included with the arrangement that the Ski Club is accountable for ensuring that the caravan park managers/lessees and patrons are not disadvantaged by the presence of the Ski Club, its members or its associated events

(f) that the arrangement may be reviewed by either party with appropriate notice given.

2. That Council undertakes to the Bridgewater Ski Club to use its best endeavours to have appropriate arrangements for the use of the existing camp kitchen as a judging facility in place in order for the Club to host the Disabled World Titles in 2021 at Bridgewater.

3. That Council authorise the CEO to sign and seal any documentation required to put the arrangement in place.

CARRIED

2/10/2018 2:24:34 PM - Lynne Habner
Council's lawyer has been requested to prepare draft documents to put arrangements in place, for consideration and discussion with the Ski Club. DELWP has also been requested to advise what permission needs to be obtained for the arrangements involving Crown land.

14/11/2018 2:40:41 PM - Lynne Habner
Draft documentation for agreement has been reviewed by staff and returned for further legal drafting. Awaiting second draft, which will be sent to ski club for consideration.

30/11/2018 11:19:45 AM - Lynne Habner
Revised draft agreements expected from lawyer next week, then they will be sent to Ski Club for consideration.

Meeting	Officer/Director	Section	Subject
Council 23/10/2018	Southcombe, David Phillips, Steven	Decision Reports	Proposal to rename part of Queripel Lane to Toners Lane
RESOLUTION 2018/166			
Moved: Cr Geoff Curnow			
Seconded: Cr Neil Beattie			
That Council:			
1. rename the southern section of Queripel Lane, between Wedderburn Dunolly Rd and an unnamed road, to Toners Lane and advise the Registrar under the Geographic Place Names Act 1998 of the proposed renaming of this road			
2. advise the affected landholders and respondents to the proposal of Council's decision.			

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CARRIED

13/11/2018 3:12:59 PM - David Southcombe
 Letters have been drafted for respondents who made a submission either supporting or objecting the change of a section of Queripel Lane to Toners Lane. They will be given 30 days upon receipt of these letters to appeal to the Registrar of Geographic Names if they have any objections with the Council's decision. After this period a submission to change the name will be made to the Office of Geographic Names who will consider all supporting information and either accept or reject the proposal.

3/12/2018 10:23:05 AM - David Southcombe
 Letters have been sent to respondents who made a submission either supporting or objecting the change of a section of Queripel Lane to Toners Lane. They will be given 30 days upon receipt of these letters to appeal to the Office of Geographic Names if they have any objections with the Council's decision. A submission for the proposed change has been made with the Office of Geographic Names. They will wait the 30 days to receive any objections before considering all supporting information and either accepting or rejecting the proposed name change.

Meeting	Officer/Director	Section	Subject
Council 23/10/2018	Southcombe, David Phillips, Steven	Decision Reports	Amendment to the Register of Public Roads
RESOLUTION 2018/167			
Moved: Cr Gavan Holt			
Seconded: Cr Colleen Condliffe			
That Council add the following sections of road to the Register of Public Roads:			
1. Lintons Road – from Woolshed Road to the entrance to property 36300400			
2. Salathiels Road – from the entrance to property 23104800 to No 2 Weir Road			
3. Simpsons Creek Lane – from the end of the seal to Rheola Llanelly Road			
4. Borung Street – from Grant Street South to the entrance to property 52831410.			
CARRIED			
<i>13/11/2018 3:13:20 PM - David Southcombe</i> Letters have been drafted for residents affected by the proposal to recognise Lintons Rd, Salathiels Road, Simpsons Creek Lane, and Borung Street on the Register of Public Roads. They will be given 30 days upon receipt of these letters to appeal to the Registrar of Geographic Names if they have any objections with the Council's decision. After this period a submission to recognise the roads will be made to the Office of Geographic Names who will consider all supporting information and either accept or reject the proposal.			

<p>Outstanding</p> <p>Action Sheets Report</p>	<p>Division:</p> <p>Committee:</p> <p>Officer:</p>	<p>Date From:</p> <p>Date To:</p> <p>Printed: Monday, 3 December 2018 1:44:58 PM</p>
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Actions completed since last meeting

Meeting	Officer/Director	Section	Subject
Council 22/05/2018	Gladman, Wendy Gladman, Wendy	Decision Reports	LEASE AGREEMENT - STATE EMERGENCY SERVICE
<p>RESOLUTION 2018/53</p> <p>Moved: Cr Colleen Condliffe Seconded: Cr Gavan Holt</p> <p>That Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> enter into a long term lease agreement of 40 years with the Wedderburn VICSES unit for Lot 2 Nardoo Court, Wedderburn, at a rental cost per annum of \$1.00 plus GST. align the entering of this agreement with the removal of the subsidy provided to the Wedderburn SES Unit (currently \$2,500) from the 2018/19 budget and beyond pass on all related costs stipulated in the lease agreement to the Wedderburn SES Unit authorise the Chief Executive Officer to sign and affix the common seal of Loddon Shire Council on the lease agreement. <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED</p> <p><i>5/06/2018 8:08:00 AM - Wendy Gladman</i> This action has not yet been finalised, still awaiting contact with SES to initiate timing of lease agreement.</p> <p><i>3/07/2018 11:11:18 PM - Wendy Gladman</i> Some internal work to detail the terms and conditions outlined in the lease is being undertaken. It is then expected that initial meeting with SES to discuss these terms and conditions and how they will be implemented will be held prior to end of July.</p> <p><i>14/08/2018 12:13:26 PM - Wendy Gladman</i> Other commitments have meant that the meeting with the SES has not yet occurred. An initial meeting with the SES will be held prior to end August 2018</p> <p><i>17/09/2018 10:56:46 AM - Christine Coombes</i> Contact has been made with SES with the lease to be signed by the SES and then returned to Loddon for signing.</p> <p><i>11/10/2018 7:06:54 AM - Wendy Gladman</i> The SES has confirmed finalisation of lease will be completed shortly and the document will then be returned to Loddon for signing</p> <p><i>14/11/2018 1:52:49 PM - Wendy Gladman</i> Lease document has been signed by the SES and Council with a copy retained by each organisation. Action is now complete.</p> <p><i>14/11/2018 3:02:06 PM - Wendy Gladman</i> Action completed by: Coombes, Christine</p>			

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Complete

Meeting	Officer/Director	Section	Subject
Council 23/10/2018	Pinyon, Phil Pinyon, Phil	Decision Reports	Statutory Meeting and Election of Mayor
RESOLUTION 2018/162			
Moved: Cr Neil Beattie Seconded: Cr Geoff Curnow			
That Council nominate Cr McKinnon to be Mayor Elect of the Loddon Shire for a one year term in 2018/19.			
CARRIED			
<i>29/10/2018 8:22:03 AM - Phil Pinyon</i>			
The resolution has led to the arrangements for the time and place for the Statutory Meeting - completed 29 October 2018			
<i>13/11/2018 1:51:33 PM - Phil Pinyon</i>			
Action completed by: Coombes, Christine Complete			

Meeting	Officer/Director	Section	Subject
Council 23/10/2018	McKnight, Belinda Gladman, Wendy	Decision Reports	NEIGHBOURHOOD SAFER PLACES (PLACES OF LAST RESORT)
RESOLUTION 2018/168			
Moved: Cr Geoff Curnow Seconded: Cr Gavan Holt			
That Council adopt the attached Loddon Shire Council Neighbourhood Safer Places Plan - September 2018, which includes and confirms designated Neighbourhood Safer Places within the municipality in the townships of Boort, Bridgewater, Inglewood, Pyramid Hill, Serpentine and Wedderburn.			
CARRIED			
<i>14/11/2018 2:54:40 PM - Belinda McKnight</i>			
Action completed by: Coombes, Christine Plan adopted and published on Council's website.			

Meeting	Officer/Director	Section	Subject
Council 23/10/2018	Gladman, Wendy	Decision Reports	NORTH CENTRAL GOLDFIELDS REGIONAL LIBRARY AGREEMENT 2019-2023

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Gladman, Wendy

RESOLUTION 2018/171

Moved: Cr Gavan Holt
Seconded: Cr Geoff Curnow

That Council approve the Regional Library Agreement for the North Central Goldfields Regional Library Corporation 2019-2023 and authorise the Chief Executive Officer to sign and affix the common seal of Council to the document and any related documentation.

CARRIED

14/11/2018 2:34:35 PM - Wendy Gladman
The Regional Library Agreement and the Service Level Agreement have been signed and returned to the Library Corporation. This action is now complete.
14/11/2018 3:02:22 PM - Wendy Gladman
Action completed by: Coombes, Christine
Complete

Meeting	Officer/Director	Section	Subject
Council 23/10/2018	Gladman, Wendy Gladman, Wendy	Decision Reports	SUPPORT FOR 2018 MOLOGA REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE

RESOLUTION 2018/172

Moved: Cr Neil Beattie
Seconded: Cr Geoff Curnow

That Council

- provide \$150 sponsorship to the Mologa and District Landcare group in support of the 2018 Mologa Remembrance Day service
- source the funds required from Council's Sponsorships and Donations budget.

CARRIED

14/11/2018 2:38:43 PM - Wendy Gladman
The donation to the Mologa and District Landcare group has been processed, with funds drawn from the Sponsorships and Donations budget. This action is now complete.
14/11/2018 3:02:36 PM - Wendy Gladman
Action completed by: Coombes, Christine

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Complete

Meeting	Officer/Director	Section	Subject
Council 23/10/2018	Gladman, Wendy Gladman, Wendy	New Item	WEDDERBURN HAIRDRESSING COMMUNITY ENTERPRISE PROPOSAL
RESOLUTION 2018/178			
Moved: Cr Gavan Holt Seconded: Cr Colleen Condliffe			
That Council allocate \$10,000 from the Loddon Shire 2018/19 Community Grants scheme unallocated funds to the Wedderburn Community House in support of their application to establish a Community Enterprise Hair, Beauty and Massage Salon in Wedderburn.			
CARRIED			
<i>15/11/2018 7:08:13 PM - Wendy Gladman</i>			
The Wedderburn Community House has been notified that the grant application has been approved and once the signed grant agreement has been returned the funds will be forwarded to the organisation. This action is now complete.			
<i>16/11/2018 8:49:14 AM - Wendy Gladman</i>			
Action completed by: Gladman, Wendy This action has been completed.			

Meeting	Officer/Director	Section	Subject
Council 27/11/2018	Caserta, Deanne Morrison, Sharon	Decision Reports	Finance Report for the period ending 31 October 2018
RESOLUTION 2018/191			
Moved: Cr Colleen Condliffe Seconded: Cr Neil Beattie			
That Council			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. receives and notes the Finance Report for the period ending 31 October 2018 2. approves budget revisions included in the report for internal reporting purposes only 3. approves the supplementary valuations of rateable and non-rateable properties in respect of the 2018/19 financial year, as returned by the Shire Valuer, LG Valuations Pty Ltd, and endorses them being incorporated into the Register of Rateable and Non Rateable Properties and Rate Book 			

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for 2018/19.

CARRIED

29/11/2018 3:32:45 PM - Deanne Caserta
Action completed by: Caserta, Deanne
For information only

Meeting	Officer/Director	Section	Subject
Council 27/11/2018	Gladman, Wendy Gladman, Wendy	Decision Reports	APPLICATION FOR FUNDING FROM THE 2018-19 COMMUNITY GRANT PROGRAM
RESOLUTION 2018/192			
Moved: Cr Colleen Condliffe Seconded: Cr Gavan Holt			
That Council allocate \$3,500 from the Loddon Shire 2018/19 Community Grants scheme unallocated funds to the Wedderburn Community House in support of their application for the Scoop and Scuttlebutt Community Newsletter.			
CARRIED			
3/12/2018 12:43:06 PM - Wendy Gladman Council's Community Development Officer has been advised of the outcome of this report and will liaise with the Wedderburn Community Centre to complete the necessary grant approval documentation to allow the funds to be provided.			
3/12/2018 12:52:22 PM - Wendy Gladman Action completed by: Gladman, Wendy This item has commenced progress through the operational stages in place for allocation of funds relating to Community Grants approved by Council.			

Meeting	Officer/Director	Section	Subject
Council 27/11/2018	Yorston, Paula Gladman, Wendy	Decision Reports	ADVOCACY CAMPAIGN FOR FIFTEEN HOURS OF FUNDED KINDERGARTEN
RESOLUTION 2018/193			
Moved: Cr Gavan Holt Seconded: Cr Colleen Condliffe			

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Action Sheets Report		Printed: Monday, 3 December 2018 1:44:58 PM

That Council

1. participates in the Municipal Association Victoria and Early Learning Association Australia fifteen hours of kindergarten advocacy campaigns
2. includes the kindergarten funding advocacy in future versions of any 'Priorities' document, and raises the issue when meeting with state and commonwealth political representatives
3. utilises suitable resources to provide information to parents and the wider community about the fifteen hours of kindergarten advocacy campaign.

CARRIED

3/12/2018 12:08:27 PM - Paula Yorston
Action completed by: Coombes, Christine
Ongoing advocacy for 15 hours of funded kindergarten for each child in Loddon in consultation with Community, Educators, Manager Community Services, Early Years Coordinator and Council Executive.

Meeting	Officer/Director	Section	Subject
Council 27/11/2018	Morrison, Sharon Morrison, Sharon	Decision Reports	VOLUNTEER STRATEGY 2018-2022 FOR ADOPTION
RESOLUTION 2018/194			
Moved: Cr Colleen Condliffe			
Seconded: Cr Neil Beattie			
That the Volunteer Strategy 2018-2022 be adopted.			
CARRIED			
<i>3/12/2018 1:35:59 PM - Sharon Morrison</i> Action completed by: Coombes, Christine Complete: Strategy forwarded for uploading onto Council's website.			

Meeting	Officer/Director	Section	Subject
Council 27/11/2018	Gladman, Wendy Gladman, Wendy	Decision Reports	COMMUNITY PLAN ALLOCATIONS 2018/19
RESOLUTION 2018/195			

Outstanding	Division: Committee: Officer:	Date From: Date To:
Action Sheets Report		Printed: Monday, 3 December 2018 1:44:58 PM

Moved: Cr Colleen Condliffe
 Seconded: Cr Neil Beattie

That Council approves the 2018-19 Community Plan project allocations of \$255,908 in accordance with the attached report.

CARRIED

3/12/2018 12:54:22 PM - Wendy Gladman
 Council officers will notify all community plan applicants of the outcome of the 2018/19 Community Plan allocations and the projects will be added to the Community Support department work plans for delivery.

3/12/2018 12:57:43 PM - Wendy Gladman
 Action completed by: Gladman, Wendy
 The Community Plan projects allocated funding will now progress through the normal operational activities of the Community Support Department.

Meeting	Officer/Director	Section	Subject
Council 27/11/2018	Gladman, Wendy Gladman, Wendy	Decision Reports	SWIMMING POOLS IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2018-2022
RESOLUTION 2018/196			
Moved: Cr Colleen Condliffe Seconded: Cr Gavan Holt			
That Council endorse the Swimming Pools Improvement Plan 2018-22.			
CARRIED			
<i>3/12/2018 12:57:57 PM - Wendy Gladman</i> The swimming pools plan has been forwarded for uploading onto Council's website (replacing the Swimming Pool Development Plan 2014-2018) and the Community Support Staff will commence incorporating the actions identified into their operational work plans.			
<i>3/12/2018 1:00:44 PM - Wendy Gladman</i> Action completed by: Gladman, Wendy The plan will shortly be available on Council's website, and the actions within the plan will be incorporated into the Community Support department operational work plans.			

7 MAYORAL REPORT

7.1 MAYORAL REPORT

File Number: 02/01/001

Author: Lynne Habner, Manager Executive and Commercial Services

Authoriser: Phil Pinyon, Chief Executive Officer

Attachments: Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and note the Mayoral Report

REPORT

The Mayor will present a report at the meeting.

8 COUNCILLORS' REPORT

8.1 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

File Number: 02/01/001

Author: Lynne Habner, Manager Executive and Commercial Services

Authoriser: Phil Pinyon, Chief Executive Officer

Attachments: Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and note the Councillors' reports

REPORT

Each Councillor will present a report at the meeting.

9 DECISION REPORTS**9.1 PLANNING APPLICATION 5376- SOLAR FARM DEVELOPMENT (PRAIRIE)**

File Number:	22601600
Author:	Arvish Sharda, Town Planner
Authoriser:	Glenn Harvey, Manager Development and Compliance
Attachments:	1. Proposed site layout
	2. Proposed transmission line extension
	3. M & D Cunneen objection
	4. Pacific Hydro response to objection
	5. Applicant objector meeting notes
	6. Draft Permit Conditions

RECOMMENDATION

That Council resolves to issue a Notice of Decision to Grant a Planning Permit for application number 5376 for the use and development of land as a solar farm, including the following:

- use and development of land for a Renewable energy facility and associated ancillary infrastructure
- use of land for Utility installation
- creation/alteration of access to a Road Zone 1
- construction of buildings and works within the Floodway Overlay, Land Subject to Inundation Overlay and Public Conservation and Resource Zone
- removal of native vegetation.

Subject to the conditions as described in attachment 6 planning permit conditions.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There is no conflict of interest for any council staff member involved in writing this report, or involved in the subject matter of the report.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

There has been no previous discussion on this matter.

BACKGROUNDApplication summary

Planning permit application 5376 is for the use and development of land for a renewable energy facility (solar farm), utility installation, associated buildings and works including alteration of access to a Road Zone Category 1 and native vegetation removal. The application was lodged by Pacific Hydro on 29 June 2018.

The application is proposing the development of a 240 MW Solar farm which will produce power to be supplied to the Bendigo - Kerang 220 KV line.

The applicant has included a number of plans and written reports which cover in depth a number of topics.

The proposal includes the following development and works:

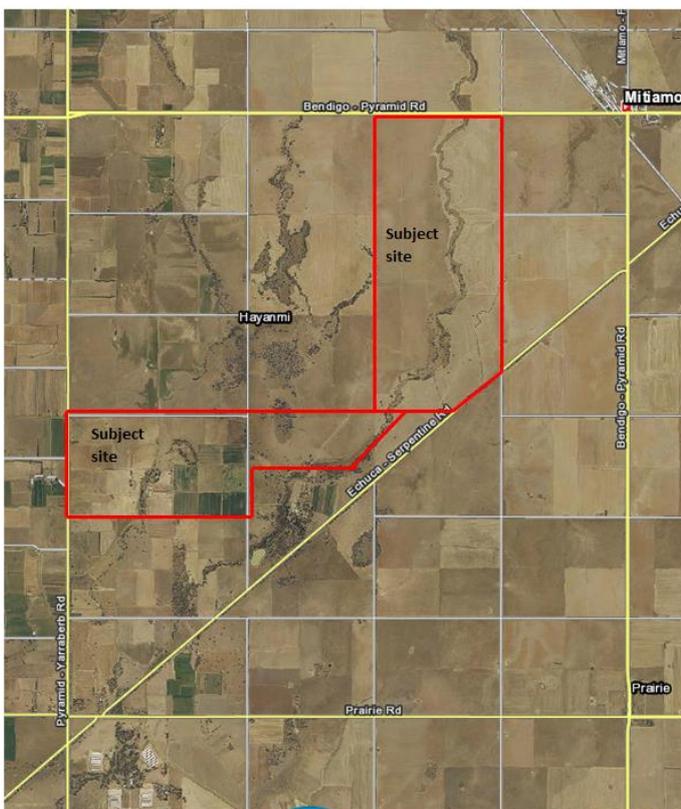
- the installation of approximately 1 million solar photovoltaic (PV) panels
- two x substations
- battery storage area
- transmission line extension (a number of transmission line towers)
- site offices
- the removal of 2.089 ha of native vegetation
- alteration of access to the Bendigo-Pyramid Road and the Echuca Serpentine Road
- a number of creek crossings, at this stage the Planning Permit allows for a maximum of three creek crossings with the locations to be determined in the detailed plans
- perimeter and security fencing

Subject site

The subject site includes 54 parcels of land and these parcels are held by a single land owner, DG & RE McGauchie. The land owner is not the applicant, the applicant has declared that the land owner has been notified about this application. The core development area (solar panels, substation and other associated buildings and works) is approximately 950 ha (see attachment 1: Proposed site layout) and the transmission line extension will be located on approximately 24 ha (see attachment 2: Proposed transmission line extension).

The subject site is bounded to the north by the Bendigo - Pyramid Road and to the south by the Echuca - Serpentine Road. The transmission line extension will extend in a westerly direction from the south west corner of the site and run parallel to McCraes Road. The transmission line will be located within the freehold land, set back 5 metres to the south of the McCraes Road reserve within a 40 metre wide transmission line easement. A substation is proposed to be located within the freehold land at the western end of the transmission line extension.

Figure 1: Location of subject site



The site is within the Farming Zone and the Public Conservation and Resource Zone. The site is covered by the Land Subject to Inundation Overlay, Floodway Overlay and partly covered by the Vegetation Protection Overlay. The site is also partly within an area of Cultural Sensitivity.

The Bullock Creek runs through the centre of the subject site. Two mapped wetlands (number 4725 and 44724) are located within the site boundaries.

The site is currently used for grazing purposes and has access a 4.5 km private irrigation channel that has in the past provided irrigation for part of the site. The site is not currently irrigated.

The site has been subject to historic vegetation clearance for the purposes of agriculture. Some scattered native trees remain within the freehold land with most native vegetation located along the Bullock Creek reserve.

The site is located on a large floodplain. During the 2011 floods the subject site was inundated with floodwaters to a depth of up to 1 metre.

The surrounding land is used for agricultural purposes. There are approximately 12 dwellings within 2 km of the subject site. The subject site is located approximately 2.5 km to the west of the township of Mitiamo.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

Planning approval is required for this land use and development under the provisions of the Loddon Planning Scheme. Planning approval for the proposal is triggered under the provisions of the Farming Zone, Public Conservation and Resource Zone and Road Zone 1, Floodway and Land Subject to Inundation Overlay and native vegetation protection controls. The planning approval process enables Council to consider the appropriateness of the proposed land use within the context of:

- planning zones that define the preferred land use
- environmental impacts of the development
- impact on public infrastructure (in particular the road network)
- effect on the amenity of the area (amongst other matters).

Loddon Planning Scheme

The Loddon Planning Scheme is made up of several components including the State Planning Policy Framework and Local Planning Policy Framework. The relevant components are discussed below.

State Planning Policy Framework

The State Planning Policy Framework includes policies that seek to:

- protect high quality agricultural land (Clause 14.01-1S)
- promote renewable energy in appropriate locations, in particular at the regional level, the opportunity for solar in Loddon Shire has been identified. (Clause 19.01-2S)
- protect biodiversity and native vegetation (Clause 12.01)
- protect water bodies and river corridors (Clause 12.03)
- maintain flood storage function of the floodplain and protect infrastructure from flood hazard (Clause 13.03).

Response

Although some agricultural land will be lost, the proposal is consistent with State and regional policy that seeks to provide for solar energy development. The site is not considered to be high quality agricultural land due to soil type and flood risk. The proposal has been designed to minimise impact on biodiversity, waterways and the floodplain, through avoiding development on sensitive and significant parts of the property.

Local Planning Policy Framework

The relevant sections of Local Planning Policy Framework is discussed below.

22.05 Development in Rural Areas

The objectives of 22.05 Development in Rural Areas are listed below.

- To protect the natural and physical resources upon which agricultural industries rely.
- To support the ongoing viability of existing farms.
- To maintain farmland in productive agricultural use.
- To promote the development of new and diverse agricultural industries, fulfilling the potential of existing infrastructure.
- To prevent land use conflicts between sensitive uses and agricultural uses.
- To ensure that new use and development in the Shire is not prejudicial to agricultural industries or the productive capacity of the land.
- To encourage the most productive and sustainable uses of water and soil in the Shire.
- To ensure that development in rural areas does not compromise landscapes of significant value.
- To encourage safety from structure fires and bushfires.

Clause 22.05 Development in Rural Areas specifically references renewable energy facilities as follows:

“Renewable energy facilities will be supported in Loddon Shire but should not be located on high quality agricultural land, in particular, not on land that is and is likely to remain irrigated (or may be irrigated in the future) due to soil type or access to irrigation infrastructure”.

Response

Although the subject property has access to private irrigation infrastructure, it is not part of the modernised system. An agricultural assessment conducted as a part of the permit application has identified that the site is not of high agricultural quality and the soils are not well suited to irrigation.

35.07 Farming Zone

The subject site is within the Farming Zone, its purpose is listed below.

- 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.

Planning approval is required for the use and development of land for a Renewable energy facility and Utility installation within the Farming Zone.

Response

Although the application is for a use and development that is not related to agriculture, the proposal is considered to meet the first purpose of the Farming Zone. As identified above, the proposal supports State and regional policy in relation to renewable energy.

The proposal will involve the removal of some of the subject land from agricultural use. Other parts of the site will be used for an agricultural use of lower productivity. The site will no longer be irrigated however it is proposed to reintroduce sheep grazing to manage pasture growth on the property once the development works are complete.

Given the large area of land as well as the condition of this land (cleared and flat) required for a solar farm, such developments will generally need to be located on agricultural land. As such, this impact of the proposal is considered to be unavoidable. Although the subject site has access to some irrigation, it is not considered to be high quality agricultural land. This is due to the soil type and it being subject to flooding.

The proposed use and development will not affect the use of the surrounding land for agriculture.

36.03 Public Conservation & Resource Zone

Part of the subject site (along the Bullock Creek) is within the Public Conservation Resource Zone, its purpose is listed below.

- To implement the Municipal Planning Strategy and the Planning Policy Framework.
- To protect and conserve the natural environment and natural processes for their historic, scientific, landscape, habitat or cultural values.
- To provide facilities which assist in public education and interpretation of the natural environment with minimal degradation of the natural environment or natural processes.
- To provide for appropriate resource based uses.

Response

The development proposed within the Public Conservation Resource Zone will consist of perimeter fencing, creek crossings, underground cabling and drainage. Council and the applicant have worked with Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) to ensure that any environmental impact is minimised through limiting the number of creek crossings and ensuring a sufficient setback from the waterway is maintained.

44.03 Floodway Overlay

The subject site is partly covered by the Floodway Overlay, its purpose is listed below.

- To implement the Municipal Planning Strategy and the Planning Policy Framework.
- To identify waterways, major flood paths, drainage depressions and high hazard areas which have the greatest risk and frequency of being affected by flooding.
- To ensure that any development maintains the free passage and temporary storage of floodwater, minimises flood damage and is compatible with flood hazard, local drainage conditions and the minimisation of soil erosion, sedimentation and silting.
- To reflect any declarations under Division 4 of Part 10 of the Water Act, 1989 if a declaration has been made.
- To protect water quality and waterways as natural resources in accordance with the provisions of relevant State Environment Protection Policies, and particularly in accordance with Clauses 33 and 35 of the State Environment Protection Policy (Waters of Victoria).
- To ensure that development maintains or improves river and wetland health, waterway protection and flood plain health.

This Loddon Planning Scheme provision is addressed in conjunction with 44.04 Land Subject to Inundation Overlay below due to the similarity of considerations.

44.04 Land Subject to Inundation Overlay

The subject site is partly covered by the Land Subject to Inundation Overlay, its purpose is listed below.

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

Response

Planning approval is required for buildings and works within the Floodway Overlay and Land Subject to Inundation Overlay.

The proposed development is not considered to significantly impact on floodwater flow or be impacted by floodwater flow. Modelling prepared has shown that the layout of the development will allow floodwater to move through the site with minimal impact on levels. The North Central Catchment Management Authority, as the relevant flood plain manager, has not objected to the proposal subject to conditions requiring development to be setback from the Bullock Creek, drainage lines and wetlands, infrastructure and facilities to be 300mm above the 1 in 100 year flood level and land surface levels to be primarily retained across the site to maintain water passage and not affect adjoining land.

52.17 Native Vegetation

The purpose of this clause is listed below.

- To ensure no net loss to biodiversity as a result of the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation. This is achieved by applying the following three step approach in accordance with the *Guidelines for the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation* (Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, 2017) (the *Guidelines*):
 1. Avoid the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation that cannot be avoided.
 2. Minimise impacts from the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation that cannot be avoided.
 3. Provide an offset to compensate for the biodiversity impact if a permit is granted to remove, destroy or lop native vegetation.
- To manage the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation to minimise land and water degradation.

Planning approval is required for the removal of native vegetation. Although the property is largely cleared, the development will require the removal of 2.089 ha of native vegetation. The vegetation removal consists of a number of scattered trees and some patches of lignum swampy woodland, plains grasslands and plains woodlands.

Response

The applicant has demonstrated that they have sought to minimise vegetation loss and will provide the appropriate offsets to compensate for biodiversity impacts. DELWP have not objected to the proposed removal. The siting of the solar panels is on a part of the property that is predominantly cleared, and the transmission line route has been selected to minimise vegetation impact. The majority of remnant vegetation on the property will not be affected.

52.29 Land Adjacent to a Road Zone Category 1

The purpose of this clause is:

- To ensure appropriate access to identified roads.
- To ensure appropriate subdivision of land adjacent to identified roads.

Planning approval is required to create or alter an access to Road Zone 1. An application must be referred to VicRoads as a determining referral authority. Bendigo Pyramid Road is zoned Road Zone 1 and the application proposes a number of access points to this road.

Response

VicRoads has provided conditional consent to the application. They have required that there be only one point of access to the Bendigo Pyramid Road. They have also required a Traffic Management Plan that will address the impact of construction vehicles on the broader road network and ensure any damage or safety risk is minimised and damaged is repaired by the applicant.

53.13 Renewable Energy Facility (other than wind energy or geothermal energy facility).

The purpose of this clause is to facilitate the establishment and expansion of renewable energy facilities, in appropriate locations, with minimal impact on the amenity of the area.

This clause requires that the responsible authority must consider, as appropriate:

- The effect of the proposal on the surrounding area in terms of noise, glint, light spill, vibration, smell and electromagnetic interference.
- The impact of the proposal on significant views, including visual corridors and sightlines.
- The impact of the proposal on the natural environment and natural systems.
- Whether the proposal will require traffic management measures.

Response

Following consideration of the above requirements the location is considered to be appropriate with the permit conditions as detailed in attachment 6, Draft Permit Conditions.

Referral authorities

The application has been referred to the following authorities under Section 55 of the Planning and Environment Act (1987):

Agency	Summary of response
North Central Catchment Management Authority (NCCMA) Recommending referral authority	The NCCMA were particularly concerned with minimising impact on the flood plain and issues associated with the proposed crossings of Bullock Creek. They have provided conditional consent including requiring limiting creek crossings to three, minimum setbacks from the water bodies, plans demonstrating that flood water flow path can

	be maintained, minimum floor levels for infrastructure and open style fencing that will not hold up flood water.
VicRoads Determining referral authority	VicRoads were concerned about impact on the road network by vehicles delivering infrastructure to the site. They have provided conditional consent, including requirements for a bond to address road damage.
Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning (DELWP) Recommending referral authority	DELWP reviewed the impact on native vegetation, birds and the waterway. They have provided conditional consent, including a requirement for a detailed environmental management plan and native vegetation offsets.
AusNet Determining referral authority	AusNet did not object to the application subject to conditions that will avoid impact on their easement.

The application was also sent to Goulburn Murray Water (GMW) under Section 52 of the Act. GMW did not object subject to conditions that will protect their infrastructure and assets, including requirements for setbacks.

Public notice

Notice of the application was sent to surrounding land owners, as well as a notice being placed in the Loddon Times on the 14 August 2018, pursuant to Section 52 of the Planning and Environment Act (1987).

Council received 1 objection to the proposal (see attachment 3: M & D Cunneen objection). The objection raised the following concerns:

- past flooding as a result of the subject site being irrigated
- increased flooding impact to the objectors' property as a result of any levelling or filling occurring on the subject site
- the transmission line being constructed within the McCraes Road reserve and the impacts that any closures of the road would have on their access to their property
- increased impacts of flooding as a result of raised pads proposed for the substations and battery storage area
- impacts of noise from the substation and battery storage facilities
- the general amenity impacts of the proposal on the surrounding landscape
- impacts from glare and light reflecting from the panels
- increase in traffic volumes, particularly during the construction phase
- removal of native vegetation.

The objection also raised concern about the lack of sufficient time given to those notified to review the documents at the Council offices. It is noted that the objectors received their notification letter on 16 August 2018. The application was placed on notification until 4 September 2018 which is in accordance with Section 52 of the Planning & Environment Act 1987 (the Act).

An applicant/objector meeting was held on 20 September 2018 to discuss the concerns of the objector. Both the applicant and objectors attended the meeting, along with Council staff. The notes taken by Council's planning officer from this meeting have been attached to this report. (See attachment 5: Applicant objector meeting notes).

The issues raised in the objection are addressed below.

Flooding issues

The applicant has advised that if no flood mitigation measures are implemented, during a 1 in 100 year or 1% probability flood there is likely to be a 2 - 5 cm increase in flood level on the objector's property. This increase in flood level would be a result of the raised pads required to avoid flooding of the substations.

The applicant has proposed that they will use rock blanketing of the raised pads to allow flood waters to flow through the base of the pad rather than being redirected around the pad.

The site will no longer be irrigated should the proposal proceed eliminating any potential impacts from this activity.

Transmission line within McCraes Road Reserve

The transmission line extension is not proposed to be constructed within the McCraes Road Reserve. The transmission line extension is proposed to be constructed approximately 5 metres from the boundary of the road reserve within the freehold property.

There may be some temporary closures of McCraes Road if the bridge over the Goulburn Murray Channel requires upgrade, however these works are considered to be temporary and the applicant will need to apply for the appropriate road closure permits from Council and communicate with surrounding land owners regarding to the impact of these works.

Noise impacts

The applicant has advised that the substation structures on the solar panels will only be audible within close proximity, and will comply with the relevant Environment Protection Act (EPA) guidelines. It is considered that there will be no noise impact at any surrounding dwelling (including the objector's dwelling). The objector's dwelling is approximately 2km from the nearest solar panel.

Adverse visual impact on surrounding landscape

The property is located within a sparsely developed, primary flat agricultural landscape. The applicant has advised that the height of the PV panels at up to 3.0 - 4.0 metres will mean that the views of the solar farm are likely only at close range where no screening vegetation is present (i.e. along the site's northern boundary). The applicant has submitted a visual impact assessment that concludes that the development can be adequately absorbed by the landscape.

The substation and battery storage area are considered to be consistent with other agricultural building development and therefore not be detrimental to the visual amenity of the area. As recognised by the applicant, the panels will be visible from the property boundary but due to distance to any surrounding dwelling (including the objector's dwelling) and existing vegetation in the landscape visual impact will be limited. The objector's dwelling is approximately 2km from the nearest solar panel, and there is some remnant mature vegetation between their property and the nearest panel.

Glare and reflection

The applicant has advised that the panels will not result in glare or reflection impacts. This is due to the type of construction material along with the nature of the panels. PV panels are designed to absorb maximum light in order to maximise energy production, and accordingly reflect only a minimal portion of the sunlight that falls on them. Reflective levels associated with PV panels are typically much less than those of other common materials in the landscape including steel, paint and standard glass (such as that found in a car windscreen). Any trim located around the panels is also of a non-reflective nature.

Native vegetation removal

Although some native vegetation will need to be removed as a part of the development, the applicant has demonstrated to the satisfaction of DELWP that they have sought to minimise this impact through the siting of the proposal. For a project of this size, the amount of vegetation loss is

considered to be small. The applicant will be required to secure the appropriate native vegetation offsets.

Cultural Heritage Management Plan

Land along the Bullock Creek is an area of cultural sensitivity, as such a Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP) was required to be prepared to document and manage any impact on Aboriginal cultural heritage. This plan has been approved by the Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation, in accordance with sections 63(1) and 148(d) of the Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006.

COST/BENEFITS

This proposal is a major development in the north of the Loddon Shire that could deliver significant benefits for the broader community in terms of renewable energy. It will also deliver economic benefits within the local area during the construction phase. It will result in some impact on agricultural land, with the loss of some productivity on the subject site. This site is not considered to be of high agricultural quality due to its soil type and flood risk. There will be some visual impact locally. However no residents will be subject to significant loss of visual amenity at their dwelling due to setbacks and existing remnant vegetation. Environmental impact will be limited to the loss of a small amount of native vegetation that will be offset. Impact on the waterway will be limited through the management of crossings and maintaining setbacks of developments.

RISK ANALYSIS

If Council is to overturn the officer's recommendation there is a risk of the applicant challenging Council at VCAT for refusal of the application.

Council also faces the risk of objector(s) challenging a notice of decision to approve an application.

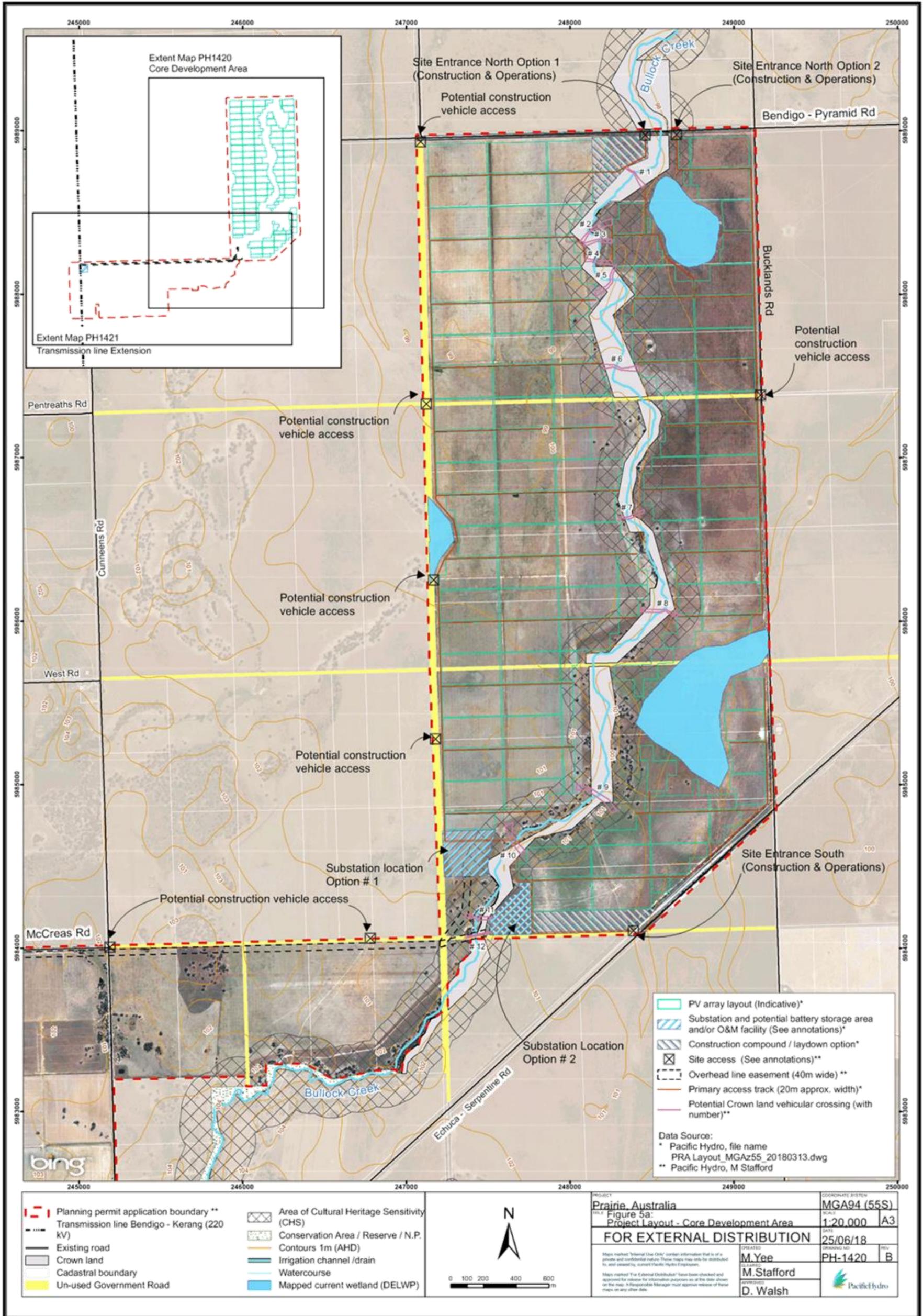
CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

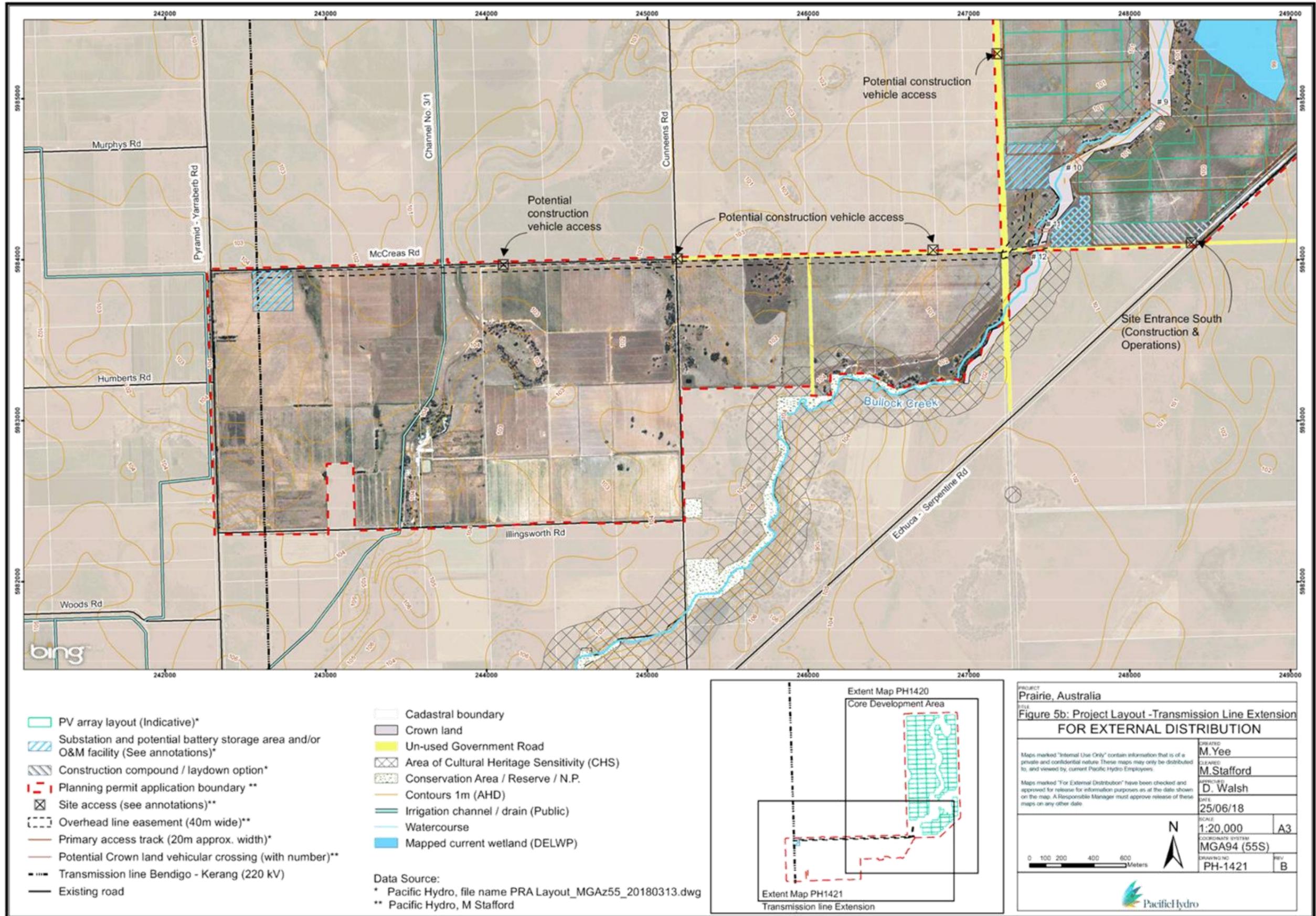
Consultation and engagement conducted as part of this application has involved:

- Notice and referral of the application to government agencies and stakeholders including facilitating consultation meeting with agencies and stakeholders
- Public notification of the application to 27 surrounding land holders that invited submissions and objections
- An advertisement in the Loddon Times newspaper on the 14 August 2018
- An applicant/objector meeting on 20 September 2018

Full details of this consultation and engagement is addressed in the issues and discussion section of the report as it formed part of the assessment and consideration of the application.

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RobertsonHyetts

SOLICITORS

protecting your interests

Your Ref: TS:aj
 Our Ref: TCK:VJL:588746-1
 Contact: Trevor Kuhle
 Email: verna.lewis@robertsonhyetts.com.au

3 September 2018

The Statutory Planner
 Loddon Shire
 PO Box 21
 WEDDERBURN VIC 3518

(BY POST & EMAIL)

Email: loddon@loddon.vic.gov.au

Dear Sir/Madam

Objection to Planning Permit Ref: 5376
Applicant: Pacific Hydro Australia Development Pty Ltd
Objectors & our clients: Donald Cunneen & Margaret Cunneen

We act for Donald Cunneen and Margaret Cunneen both of Corner of West and Cunneens Road, Mitiamo who wish to lodge an objection to the abovementioned application for a planning permit in relation to a property neighbouring the property which they occupy and which is owned by Mrs Cunneen comprising all those pieces of land being Crown Allotments 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54 and 55 and Crown Allotments 102, 103 and 104 Parish of Hayanmi.

The grounds of our clients' objections are as follows:

Flooding/Drainage

Our clients' property has experienced flooding from irrigation from the property the subject of the application ("the applicant's land") onto our clients' property as recently as the last irrigation season. After perusing documents held by your office supporting the application our clients are concerned that it is contemplated that there will be substantial filling and levelling of the applicants land as a part of the project. The applicant's land and our clients' property is near the Bullock Creek and is low lying and there is a concern in that flooding of our clients' property will be exacerbated if there is any levelling or filling of the applicants land and our clients would require an assurance and condition in the planning permit if it is granted that levee banks be constructed and drains be provided on the applicants land to prevent any possible future flooding from the applicant's land onto our clients' property.

Transmission Line

The application contemplates a transmission line being constructed from the applicant's land to the existing transmission line which runs through the applicant's land as well as our clients' property and our clients are concerned by its proposed location and size if photographs in the applicant's documents are to be relied upon. Our clients do not agree and object to the line being built on the road reserve on McCreas Road which is used by our clients for access to their

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Liability limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation

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 DX 55009 Bendigo
 P: 03 5434 6666
 F: 03 5434 6667

157 Barker St Castlemaine
 PO Box 206, Castlemaine 3450
 DX 35304 Castlemaine
 P: 03 5472 1588
 F: 03 5472 4808

Visit Office (by appointment)
 Level 1, 6 Riverside Quay
 Southbank, Melbourne 3006
 Fifty-First RH Nominees Pty Ltd
 ABN 30 085 681 349



Accredited Business Law
& Property Law Specialist

Loddon Shire

- 2 -

3 September 2018

property, and particularly during construction, will restrict our clients' access. The question should be raised as to whether the proposed transmission line should be underground to avoid the removal of trees and vegetation.

Substations and Other Improvements

Our clients are concerned about the impact of the construction of substations, battery storage areas and operation and maintenance buildings as envisaged in the information provided and it would seem that these will be substantial constructions on raised landings to avoid them being flooded. Such raised landings may contribute to flooding on our clients' property. No indication is given as to whether there will be noise from these structures and if so it may impact on our clients because of the relative closeness between, particularly, one proposed substation and our clients' residence.

Closure of McCreas Road

Our clients particularly object to any closure, either permanent or temporary, of McCreas Road either during the construction or an ongoing basis as our clients require uninterrupted use of the road to access their farming business.

Adverse Affect on General Amenity of Area

It is not difficult to contemplate the adverse affect of the applicant's project in which it envisaged there will be one million PV panels which will move following the angle of the sun and the associated substations, transmission line and other buildings and their maintenance. The project will detract from the general landscape of a farming community. It is assumed that there will be some noise associated with the project either from the substations and other buildings and/or the movement of the panels which may have an adverse affect on our clients and other people living in the vicinity of the applicant's land, together with livestock and animal life in the area. Further it is expected that there will be substantial glare and light reflecting from the panel structures which may have a personal and environmental effects. There will also be a substantial increase in traffic flow in the area during the project's construction and its ongoing operation.

It would seem that there will be a number of trees removed from the McCreas Road reserve and the applicant's property to allow the transmission line to be built which will have an affect on the environment.

Conclusion

Our clients generally object to the application and do not believe such a project is appropriate in the area. We are also instructed to confirm that whilst in the applicant's submission it is indicated that it has had face to face discussions with the parties affected, no such discussion or explanation has taken place with our clients. Further our clients are concerned by the lack of time between when they were notified of the application by a letter dated 15 August 2018 received after that date and the closure of the objection period on 4 September 2018, not allowing sufficient time for a properly prepared objection and obtaining the expert advice in relation to same.

Further our clients are concerned that if the project proceeds it will have an adverse affect on the future value of our client's property which has been in their family for generations.

Loddon Shire

- 3 -

3 September 2018

Please acknowledge receipt of this objection and keep us advised as to future developments.

Yours faithfully



ROBERTSON HYETTS



17 September 2018

Trevor Kuhle (on behalf of Donald Cunneen and Margaret Cunneen)

RobertsonHyetts Solicitors

By email: verna.lewis@robertsonhyetts.com.au

Dear Mr Kuhle,

Prairie Solar Farm Project – Pacific Hydro response to Objection to Planning Permit Application 5376 – Donald Cunneen and Margaret Cunneen

I write to acknowledge receipt of your submission to Loddon Shire Council dated 3 September 2018 prepared on behalf of Donald Cunneen and Margaret Cunneen in relation to Planning Permit Application No.: 5376 for the Prairie Solar Farm Project.

Thank you for this opportunity to respond to the matters set out in the Cunneen family's submission. Our responses are provided in the table overleaf.

We acknowledge that the proposed solar farm facility is a new form of development for the local area, and that there may be some residents in the local community that may not have had prior exposure to such projects. We are committed to work closely with the local community and make all reasonable attempts to address uncertainties or concerns related to the proposed solar farm development.

As a goodwill gesture to the Cunneen family, we would like to make an offer to undertake additional assessments of the proposed solar farm facility to specifically address concerns raised in the submission related to potential noise and visual impacts at the Cunneen homestead. This is detailed further in our response in the table below. We sincerely hope the Cunneen family accepts our offer and we can commence the assessments at the earliest convenience.

We welcome the opportunity to meet with the Cunneen family to discuss the project further and make all reasonable attempts to resolve any outstanding matters set out in the submission. We are happy to meet at a location convenient for your clients, if this will assist.

Please contact Matt Stafford, Senior Environment and Development Planner at this office on 1800 730 734 or email: enquiries@pacifichydro.com.au to discuss further and to arrange a suitable time for us to meet.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kim Derriman", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Kim Derriman

Environment and Development Manager

Pacific Hydro Pty Ltd ABN 31 057 279 508

Level 13, 700 Collins Street Docklands Victoria 3008 Australia | Telephone +61 3 8621 6000 | pacifichydro.com

Table 1: Pacific Hydro response to the Cunneen family's submission

Item	Matter raised in submission	Pacific Hydro Response
1	<p><u>Flooding/drainage</u></p> <p>Pacific Hydro understands that the key issues raised in the submission are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Concern that substantial filling and levelling is proposed by the project and that this will exacerbate flooding at the adjoining Cunneen property; - Request that a permit condition is imposed that requires levee banks to be constructed and drains provided on the project site to prevent flooding from the project site onto the adjoining Cunneen property. 	<p>Pacific Hydro engaged Watertech to undertake a surface water assessment that assessed the flooding risk resulting from the proposed solar farm. This report formed part of the planning permit application and can be downloaded from the project webpage here: http://www.pacifichydro.com.au/english/projects/development/prairie-solar-farm/</p> <p>To understand the worst-case flood risk scenario the Watertech report was prepared assuming raised earth pads at a height of 300 mm above the 1 in 100 year flood level are constructed at both the proposed Substation/Battery Storage/Operations and Maintenance Facility area and Terminal Station area. The major electrical infrastructure must be elevated at this height to meet the freeboard requirements specified by the North Central Catchment Management Authority (NCCMA).</p> <p>The Watertech report concludes that there is no additional inundation of the Cunneen property for the 1 in 20 year flood event (see Attachment 1). For the 1 in 100 year flood event and with no flood mitigation measures in place, the proposed raised earth pad for the Terminal Station will result in a minor increase in the depth of floodwaters across a portion of the Cunneen property adjacent to McCreas Road. For such flood events the estimated increase in the depth of flood water is between 2-5 centimetres on the Cunneen property north of McCreas Road and west of the existing irrigation channel (Channel No. 3/1) (see Attachment 2).</p> <p>Some increase in the depth of floodwaters is expected directly to the west of the proposed Substation/Battery Storage/Operations and Maintenance Facility</p>

Item	Matter raised in submission	Pacific Hydro Response
		<p>area on the west bank of Bullock Creek. This additional flooding does not occur on land owned by the Cunneen family (see Attachment 2).</p> <p>Several flood mitigation solutions are available to ensure no additional flooding occurs on the Cunneen property as a result of the solar farm development. These may include rock blanketing the raised earth pads (which allow floodwaters to pass through a base layer of rocks constructed under the raised pads), a levee system, or spoon drainage systems to divert floodwaters away from the Cunneen property.</p> <p>The detailed design phase of the project is yet to commence, and therefore Pacific Hydro is not currently in a position to identify which flood mitigation solution will be implemented to avoid any off-site flooding impacts. As such, Pacific Hydro proposed that the conditions of any permit are focused on achieving desired outcomes (i.e. no additional off-site flooding must occur as a result of the development) rather than mandating a particular flood mitigation methodology or solution. We expect any condition of this nature will require the consent of the NCCMA prior to works commencing such that the NCCMA can assess the mitigations proposed and ensure that the associated flooding impacts to any neighbouring property are appropriately addressed. We consider this approach appropriately addresses the flooding concerns raised in the Cunneen submission and allows a degree of flexibility for further assessments to be undertaken to determine which flood mitigation approach is most effective and viable.</p>
2	<p>Transmission Line Pacific Hydro understands that the key issues raised in the submission are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Concern about size and location of proposed transmission line extension - Object to the transmission line being built on 	<p><i>Size and location of transmission line</i></p> <p>Pacific Hydro engaged SMEC consultants to undertake a Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) for the project, which assessed the potential visual impacts associated with the proposed solar farm and associated infrastructure. This report formed part of the planning permit application and</p>

Item	Matter raised in submission	Pacific Hydro Response
	<p>the McCreas Road road reserve as it will restrict vehicular access to the Cunneen property</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Should consider placing the transmission line extension underground to avoid vegetation removal 	<p>can be downloaded from the project webpage here:</p> <p>http://www.pacifichydro.com.au/english/projects/development/prairie-solar-farm/</p> <p>As the project is currently in concept design phase, Pacific Hydro is unable at present to determine whether steel lattice towers or poles will be constructed at the site. However, to assess the potential “worst-case” visual impact scenario, the SMEC report was prepared on the assumption that 11 x 40 m high steel lattice transmission towers spaced at 450 m centres will be constructed between the proposed Substation and Terminal Station. The modelled towers are similar in size and design to the existing towers located further west along Pyramid-Yarraberb Road. Through the detailed design phase however, Pacific Hydro will undertake detailed electrical, engineering, and geotechnical studies to determine whether it is viable to construct the transmission line extension using poles rather than steel lattice towers.</p> <p>The SMEC report assessed the potential visual impact at a range of viewpoints, including at the corner of Cunneens Road and West Road. Pacific Hydro understands that this viewpoint is from the location of the Cunneen homestead looking towards the east and northeast. A photomontage of the proposed solar farm development as viewed from the road adjacent to the Cunneen homestead (Viewpoint 8) is included in the SMEC report (see extract at Attachment 3). The SMEC report concludes that the solar farm and associated infrastructure that is located towards the east and northeast would not be visible from this viewpoint due to the intervening vegetation, and therefore no visual impact is expected.</p> <p>Pacific Hydro acknowledges that a photomontage and impact assessment of the proposed transmission line extension as viewed from the Cunneen homestead to the south, was not prepared. Pacific Hydro notes that the</p>



Item	Matter raised in submission	Pacific Hydro Response
		<p>proposed transmission line extension is located approximately 1.6 kms away at the nearest point to the Cunneen homestead. A review of aerial imagery indicates that there are significant areas of intervening vegetation to the southeast, south, and south west of the Cunneen homestead. The separation distance and intervening vegetation is expected to reduce the visibility and visual prominence of the transmission towers to a barely perceptible level when viewed from the Cunneen homestead.</p> <p>In the absence of a suitable photomontage, for comparison purposes we draw your attention to the photomontage prepared for Viewpoint 4 taken from Pyramid-Yarraberb Road towards the east (see Attachment 4). This photomontage shows the expected visibility and prominence of the proposed transmission towers at comparable distances. The third nearest transmission tower is located approximately 1.63 kms from the point the photograph was originally taken (see annotation on Attachment 4). The Cunneen homestead is located a minimum of 1.6 kms from the proposed transmission line extension. The transmission tower located at 1.63 kms away as shown in the photomontage is slightly visible above the tree line.</p> <p>Notwithstanding this, to provide the Cunneen family with a greater degree of certainty, Pacific Hydro would like to make an offer to prepare a high resolution photomontage and associated visual impact assessment of the proposed transmission line extension as viewed from the Cunneen homestead towards the south.</p> <p>In addition, if the transmission line is visible from the Cunneen homestead, and visual screening is requested by the Cunneen family, Pacific Hydro will enter into negotiations in good faith to ensure visual screening is provided to minimise views of the proposed development from the Cunneen homestead. Visual screening is normally provided by way of tree planting at strategic locations either within the project site, or offsite (subject to the landholder's</p>



Item	Matter raised in submission	Pacific Hydro Response
		<p>agreement).</p> <p><i>Location of transmission line within McCreas Road</i></p> <p>Pacific Hydro confirms that the proposed transmission line extension (poles or steel lattice towers) will be constructed within a 40 m wide transmission easement on freehold land to the south of McCreas Road. Therefore, no part of the towers/poles or easement will encroach into McCreas Road road reserve. Indeed, the easement is offset to the south of the McCreas Road road reserve by 5 metres in an effort to protect native vegetation located within the road reserve.</p> <p>The siting and design of the solar farm and transmission line extension therefore will not adversely affect vehicular access between the Cunneen property and the surrounding road network.</p> <p><i>Placing transmission lines underground</i></p> <p>Pacific Hydro notes that the Cunneen submission highlights a preference for the transmission line to be placed underground. There are however a number of key reasons why an underground cabling solution is unlikely to be feasible in this instance, which include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Underground cabling is generally prohibitively expensive for high voltage transmission and often more complicated to construct than overhead lines due to their different physical, environmental and construction needs. • Safety and operational inspections and maintenance of high voltage transmission lines is significantly easier on overhead lines. • A larger construction footprint (i.e. than overhead line) is typically required to install infrastructure for high voltage underground cables due

Item	Matter raised in submission	Pacific Hydro Response
		<p>to the physical size of the cables and the requirement to dissipate the heat produced when the cables are operating.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where there are existing underground services or utilities, trenching or excavating on or near them can be quite onerous and cause potential for disruption to the community. • Following construction and installation of the high voltage underground cables, trees and large shrubs would need to be removed along the cable route due to potential problems with roots. • Following installation of the high voltage underground cables, consideration of potential cable repairs and easements / right-of-way will need careful consideration and planning. <p>Pacific Hydro has made significant attempts to avoid and minimise native vegetation removal in the siting and design of the solar farm and associated infrastructure including the transmission line extension. These are detailed in full in the Flora and Fauna Assessment prepared by GHD and the Planning Assessment Report prepared by Pacific Hydro, both of which can be downloaded from the project webpage here:</p> <p>http://www.pacifichydro.com.au/english/projects/development/prairie-solar-farm/</p> <p>To assess the potential worst-case scenario for impact to native vegetation, the GHD report assumed that 11 steel lattice towers and a 4 m wide access track would be constructed along the 4.5 km transmission line extension. As detailed above, through the detailed design phase Pacific Hydro will investigate the potential to construct poles along the full length of the transmission line extension, which will result in a smaller construction footprint and reduced removal of native vegetation than what would be required to construct steel lattice towers.</p>

Item	Matter raised in submission	Pacific Hydro Response
3	<p><u>Substations and Other Improvements</u></p> <p>Pacific Hydro understands that the key issues raised in the submission are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Concern about the potential flooding of the Cunneen property resulting from the raised earth pads/landings - Concern about the potential noise impacts associated with the operation of the major electrical infrastructure (e.g. substation and battery storage) 	<p><i>Potential flooding from the raised earth pads/landings</i></p> <p>A response to the potential for additional flooding of the Cunneen property has been addressed above (see Item 1 above).</p> <p><i>Potential noise impacts</i></p> <p>The Planning Assessment Report prepared by Pacific Hydro includes a brief section detailing the expected noise impacts associated with the operation of the proposed solar farm facility (see Section 5.9.1 of that report). The report can be downloaded from the project webpage here:</p> <p>http://www.pacifichydro.com.au/english/projects/development/prairie-solar-farm/.</p> <p>Noise generated at solar farms is typically below ambient/background noise levels and is expected to be less than that emitted during standard farming practices in the area. Pacific Hydro acknowledges that the proposed substations, terminal stations, battery storage systems, and power conditioning units (PCUs) (also known as inverters) generally operate at high voltages and therefore are expected to emit noise that may be audible at very close distances.</p> <p>Pacific Hydro will make a genuine effort to minimise the noise impact at the nearest residential properties and ensure that noise levels from the operation of solar farm facility are compliant with the relevant noise regulations. For this project, the Environment Protection Authority's (EPA) Publication 1411 <i>Noise from Industry in Regional Victoria</i> (NIRV) guideline is the relevant regulation. If a planning permit is granted, compliance with NIRV is expected to be one of the operational conditions. Where warranted, the proposed Substation, Terminal Station, Battery Storage System, and PCUs will include appropriately</p>

Item	Matter raised in submission	Pacific Hydro Response
		<p>designed acoustic barriers to reduce noise levels at any nearby residences.</p> <p>Pacific Hydro notes that the Cunneen homestead is located approximately 2.9 kms from the proposed Terminal Station, 2.3 kms from the proposed Substation, and in excess of 2 kms from the nearest solar panel array and PCUs (see Attachment 5). At these separation distances it is not expected that noise from the solar farm facility will be audible at the Cunneen homestead.</p> <p>Notwithstanding this, to provide the Cunneen family with a greater level of certainty, Pacific Hydro would like to make an offer to undertake a predictive noise assessment in accordance with the NIRV that will confirm the expected noise levels at the Cunneen homestead resulting from the proposed Substation, Terminal Station, Battery Storage System and PCUs. In addition, where recommended by the predictive noise assessment, Pacific Hydro will ensure that appropriately designed noise mitigation measures are implemented / installed.</p> <p>In addition, Pacific Hydro has a well-established and robust complaints handling procedure in place to ensure all reasonable attempts are made to resolve complaints that are received during construction and operational phases in a timely manner. As the project draws closer to construction, further detailed information about the complaints handling system will be provided to the local community, including the Cunneen family. In the interim, a summary of Pacific Hydro's complaints handling process is provided in Attachment 6.</p>
4	<p><u>Closure of McCreas Road</u></p> <p>Pacific Hydro understands that the Cunneen family object to any closure, temporary or permanent, of McCreas Road during construction or operation.</p>	<p>McCreas Road between Cunneens Road and Pyramid-Yarraberb Road is not proposed to be permanently closed.</p> <p>There may however be a requirement for the temporary closure of McCreas Road for a short period of time during the construction phase if McCreas Road</p>

Item	Matter raised in submission	Pacific Hydro Response
		<p>and/or the existing bridge over the irrigation channel (Channel 3/1) require upgrade. If planning approval is granted for the project, Pacific Hydro will undertake more detailed assessments to understand the existing condition of McCreas Road and the structural integrity of the existing bridge over Channel 3/1 to determine whether upgrades are required to support the movement of construction vehicles. Any works upon McCreas Road will require the approval of the responsible road authority (i.e. Loddon Shire Council) under the <i>Road Management Act 2004</i>, and through this process, we would work with Council to minimise the period of temporary closure.</p> <p>Pacific Hydro acknowledges that a temporary closure of McCreas Road may cause some inconvenience to the Cunneen family. Pacific Hydro is therefore committed to work closely with Loddon Shire Council and the Cunneen family to ensure they have adequate advanced notice of any upgrade works/temporary closures along McCreas Road (if required). In addition, Pacific Hydro will implement its Complaints Handling Procedure to ensure any issues or concerns that may arise during construction works along McCreas Road are addressed in a timely manner.</p> <p>Pacific Hydro notes that, in the event McCreas Road is closed temporarily for road and/or bridge upgrades, alternative access points to the surrounding road network are available to the Cunneen family, most notably along Cunneens Road and West Road.</p>
5	<p><u>Adverse Affect (sic) on General Amenity of Area</u></p> <p>Pacific Hydro understands that the key issues raised in the submission are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - concern that the project will detract from the general landscape of the farming community - concern that the noise from substations, other 	<p><i>Landscape Impacts</i></p> <p>The Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) prepared by SMEC (see Item 2 above) assessed the potential impacts to the landscape character of the area resulting from the proposed solar farm facility. The LVIA categorises landscape and visual impacts according to the following scale: Negligible, Negligible-to-Minor, Minor, Minor-to-Moderate, Moderate, Moderate-to-Major,</p>

Item	Matter raised in submission	Pacific Hydro Response
	<p>buildings, and movement of solar panels will have an adverse effect on the Cunneen family and others living nearby, and livestock and animals in the area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - concern that there will be substantial glare and light reflecting from the panel structures which may cause personal and environmental effects. - Concern that there will be substantial increase in traffic flow in the area during construction and operations - Concern that there will be trees removed from McCreas Road reserve and the Cunneen property to construct the transmission line extension, leading to adverse environmental effects. 	<p>or Major.</p> <p>The SMEC report concludes that the proposed solar farm has the potential to result in Minor direct impacts to the landscape character in the immediate area of the project site, and Negligible-to-Minor indirect impacts to the nearby landscape character types that surround the project site.</p> <p>The SMEC report concludes that the solar farm infrastructure is considered to be of a scale and form that is generally commensurate with the existing built form typology of the rural landscape and can be adequately absorbed by the landscape.</p> <p><i>Potential noise impacts</i></p> <p>Pacific Hydro's response to concerns related to the potential noise impacts resulting from the proposed Substation, Terminal Station, Battery Storage System and PCUs is detailed above (see Item 3 above).</p> <p>The project also proposes to use solar panel tracking systems to maximise the capture of energy from the sun. The tracking systems are designed to slowly rotate the solar panels to follow the movement of the sun across the sky. Typically, the tracking systems use relatively small self-powered direct current (DC) motors to rotate the panels.</p> <p>The panels are rotated throughout the day between sunrise and sunset at an extremely slow speed that is generally not perceptible to the human eye. At early evening the panels are rotated back to the starting position ready for the sunrise the following day. To rotate the panels approximately 120 degrees back to the starting position typically takes around 2 minutes.</p> <p>Throughout the evening the solar panels are not rotated and the DC motors are</p>



Item	Matter raised in submission	Pacific Hydro Response
		<p>disengaged.</p> <p>Based on the relatively small size of the DC motors and their inoperable state throughout the evening, the generally imperceptible speed of rotation throughout the day, and the separation distance between the solar panels and the Cunneen homestead, it highly unlikely that any noise that may be generated by the solar panel tracking systems will be audible at the Cunneen homestead.</p> <p>Notwithstanding this, Pacific Hydro would like to offer the Cunneen family a predictive noise assessment of the operation of the proposed electrical infrastructure proposed by the solar farm that includes the potential noise impacts resulting from the solar panel tracking systems.</p> <p>In relation to potential adverse impacts to livestock resulting from noise from the proposed solar farm, Pacific Hydro is not aware of any peer-reviewed research that confirms the risk of such impacts. Pacific Hydro notes that livestock currently graze under and near the high voltage transmission line along Pyramid-Yarraberb Road, and livestock graze under solar panels and near substations and battery storage systems on solar farms elsewhere in Australia and overseas. Furthermore there are numerous other noise sources across the landscape and within Rural Zones that cause greater noise than slowly rotating solar panels that are not known to have adverse impact on stock.</p> <p><i>Potential glare and glint impacts</i></p> <p>The Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) prepared by SMEC (see Item 2 above) also assessed the potential glare and glint impacts resulting from the proposed solar farm.</p>

Item	Matter raised in submission	Pacific Hydro Response
		<p>The SMEC report concludes that there is Nil risk of glint and glare related impacts being experienced by receptors around the project site and beyond as a result of the project. The glare analysis calculated zero minutes or that 'no glare' is expected to be experienced within the broader study area.</p> <p>Fundamentally, solar panels are designed to absorb light in order to maximise energy production, and accordingly reflect only a minimal portion of the sunlight that falls on them. Reflectivity associated with solar panels is typically much less than those of other common materials in the landscape including steel, paint and standard glass (such as that found in a car windscreen).</p> <p>Furthermore, the proposed use of a solar panel tracking system means that for the most part, the angle of any reflectance from the solar panels will be relatively close to perpendicular to the surface of the solar panel itself. At times when the tracking system has reached the limit of its range of movement and the angle of incidence shifts away from the perpendicular (i.e. at sunrise and sunset) the reflected light will be reflected up and away from the ground. Therefore, relative to ground level, reflected light will typically be reflected up and away from the ground at or near to a minimum of 30 degrees relative to the horizontal (see Attachment 7).</p> <p><i>Potential traffic impacts</i></p> <p>Pacific Hydro engaged Jacobs to undertake a Traffic Impact Assessment to assess potential impacts to surrounding roads resulting from the construction and operation of the solar farm project. This report formed part of the planning permit application and can be downloaded from the Pacific Hydro project webpage here: http://www.pacifichydro.com.au/english/projects/development/prairie-solar-farm/</p>

Item	Matter raised in submission	Pacific Hydro Response
		<p>The Jacobs report was prepared to account for a conservative or “worst-case” traffic impact scenario associated with the construction and operation of the project. The Jacobs report concludes that the project is unlikely to have an adverse impact on the operation of the existing road network adjacent to the site during construction or operation.</p> <p>The main off-site traffic impacts of the proposed solar farm are expected to arise during the construction period due to the transport of construction material and equipment to the site and the transportation of construction staff to/from the site.</p> <p>The surrounding road network currently experiences very low existing traffic volumes. The expected daily construction vehicle trips to site range from 99 to 343 trips per day, with an average of 212 daily trips across a 13 month construction period. Under the worst-case construction traffic scenario (which is highly unlikely) where the total number of daily trips are made in a single hour along Bendigo-Pyramid Road, the road would operate at approximately 40% of its capacity. As other access points are proposed (i.e. Echuca-Serpentine Road, McCreas Road and potentially Bucklands Road), the impact on Bendigo-Pyramid Road is expected to reduce significantly. The Jacobs report also finds there would be negligible impact on the other access roads due to their very low existing traffic volumes.</p> <p>Once the solar farm is operational, it is expected that an operational team of approximately eight (8) staff will be required. Routine maintenance activities will be ongoing throughout the operation of the solar farm, however there will be some irregular maintenance activities which will occur on a periodic basis, which may generate short term increases in staff and visiting maintenance trips to the solar farm. During operations Bendigo-Pyramid Road is likely to operate at less than 3% capacity and therefore, the impact from additional traffic generated by this project during the operational phase is considered negligible.</p>

Item	Matter raised in submission	Pacific Hydro Response
		<p>If a planning permit is granted for the project, a condition of the permit will require a detailed Traffic Management Plan (TMP) that details the traffic management measures to be implemented on all relevant roads during construction and operation of the project, including McCreas Road. The key purposes of the TMP are to minimise and mitigate impacts to road infrastructure (including bridges), and to ensure the project does not compromise the safe and efficient operation of the surrounding road network. It is expected that if approved, the condition will require the TMP to be approved by both VicRoads and Loddon Shire Council.</p> <p><i>Potential impacts to trees along McCreas Road</i></p> <p>Pacific Hydro confirms that no vegetation (e.g. trees, shrubs, or grasslands) is proposed to be removed from the Cunneen property or from within the McCreas Road road reserve between Cunneens Road and Pyramid-Yarraberb Road. All proposed removal (and retention) of native vegetation is set out in the Flora and Fauna Assessment prepared by GHD consultants that was submitted with the planning permit application. The GHD report can be downloaded here: http://www.pacifichydro.com.au/english/projects/development/prairie-solar-farm/</p> <p>All proposed tree removal near McCreas Road is constrained to within the proposed 40 m wide transmission line easement between the proposed substation and terminal station. The proposed easement is offset 5 m to the south of the McCreas Road road reserve, to avoid impacts to roadside vegetation.</p> <p>Pacific Hydro has made significant effort to avoid and minimise impacts to native vegetation, including trees and grasslands, in the siting and design of</p>

Item	Matter raised in submission	Pacific Hydro Response
		the proposed solar farm. If a permit is granted for the project, prior to any construction activity commencing, Pacific Hydro must obtain the required offsets for the proposed removal of native vegetation.
6	<p><u>Conclusion</u></p> <p>Pacific Hydro understands that the key issues raised in the submission are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consider the project is not appropriate in the area - Concern that no face to face discussion or explanation has taken place with the Cunneen family - Concern that the project will have an adverse effect on the future land value of the Cunneen property 	<p><i>Appropriateness of the proposed development</i></p> <p>Pacific Hydro considers the proposed solar project is an appropriate development in the area for a number of key reasons, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project site is not high quality/highly productive agricultural land due its' poor soils that do not drain well and the site has poor access to irrigation infrastructure. • The project involves minimal removal of native vegetation • The traffic predicted to be generated during construction and operational phases is relatively low and can be comfortably accommodated within the existing road network. • The project is unlikely to result in unreasonable visual impacts or impacts to the landscape character of the local area • The project will not result in a discernible impact to flood hazard in the area, due in part to the relatively flat topography of the project site and low flood water velocities. Furthermore any minor impacts can be mitigated through flood mitigations to be developed during detailed design and subject to NCCMA approval. • Detailed environmental management plans will be prepared and implemented during construction and operation of the project to ensure appropriate measures are in place to effectively manage, mitigate, and monitor potential environmental impacts. • The project is expected to result in a boost to the local and regional economy through the creation of new jobs, direct and indirect benefits for local businesses. <p><i>Consultation with the Cunneen family</i></p>

Item	Matter raised in submission	Pacific Hydro Response
		<p>Pacific Hydro has made several attempts to contact the Cunneen family to discuss the proposed solar farm project and to seek feedback. Unfortunately, despite multiple attempts, Pacific Hydro has not been able to speak directly with the Cunneen family to-date.</p> <p>For your records, Pacific Hydro has made the following attempts to consult with the Cunneen family:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pacific Hydro held a community information session at the Mitiamo Football and Netball Club on 24 April 2018. An advertisement for the session was placed in the East Loddon Community News on 16 April 2018. - A letter was sent to the Cunneen family by express post on 11 May 2018, to introduce the project and seek feedback. - Pacific Hydro staff visited the Cunneen homestead on 16 May 2018. Call-back cards were left on the front door and on vehicles parked on the front of the homestead. - Pacific Hydro attempted to contact the Cunneen family by telephone on 3 September 2018. <p><i>Potential impacts to land values</i></p> <p>Under planning legislation in Victoria the Responsible Authority (normally the local council) assessing a planning permit application must consider a range of matters when deciding to grant a planning permit. The potential impact to land values is not however a consideration that the Responsible Authority can take into account when deciding whether to grant a planning permit. Relevant matters include the significant social, economic and environmental effects that could potentially result from the proposed land use or development. These matters are typically limited to on- and off-site environmental impacts (e.g.</p>



Item	Matter raised in submission	Pacific Hydro Response
		<p>noise, cultural heritage, flooding, traffic etc.), amenity impacts (e.g. odours, overshadowing etc.), and economic impacts (e.g. job creation, protection of high quality agricultural land etc.).</p> <p>Notwithstanding this, Pacific Hydro is not aware of any reliable research that confirms that local land values are adversely affected by solar farm developments. Indeed, Pacific Hydro expects that the proposed investment of around \$430 million to deliver this solar farm project will result in wider economic benefits for the local community and broader region.</p> <p>Feedback from the community to-date suggest that there is a significant level of support for the proposed investment and the positive impacts this is likely to have for Mitiamo and the broader area.</p>

Attachment 1 – 1/20 year flood modelling results (Watertech report)

1 in 20 year flood event - additional flooding resulting from raised earth pads at the proposed Terminal Station and Substation/Battery Storage/Operations and Maintenance Facility area

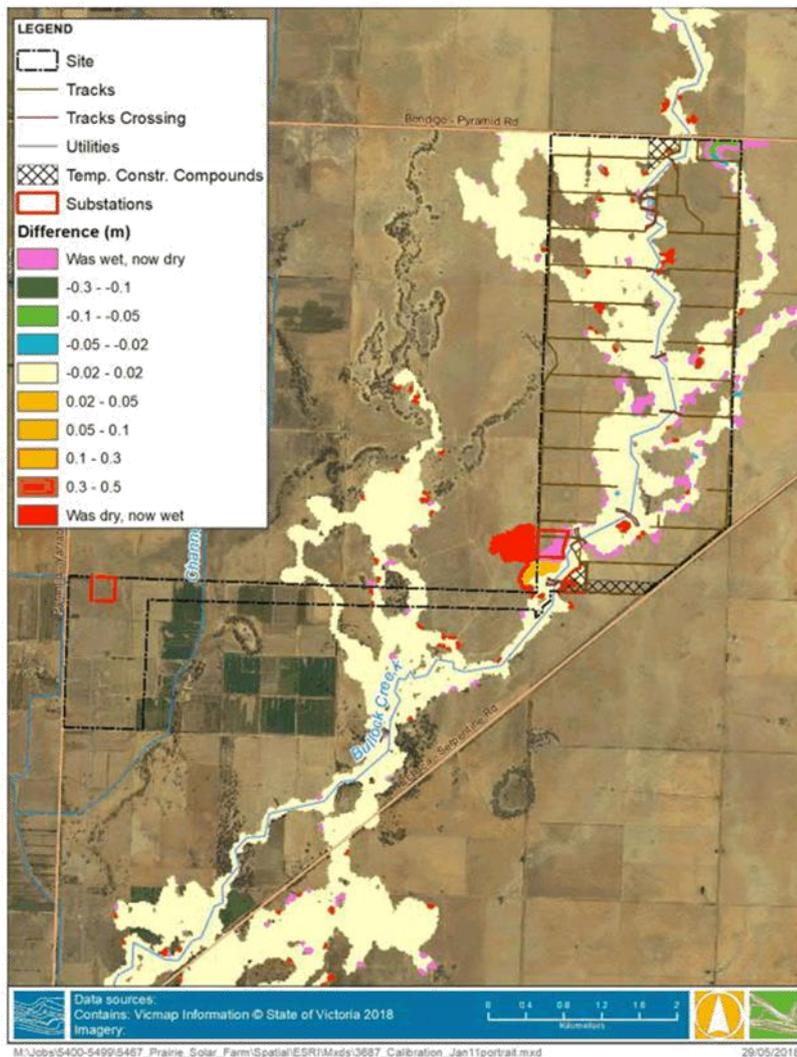
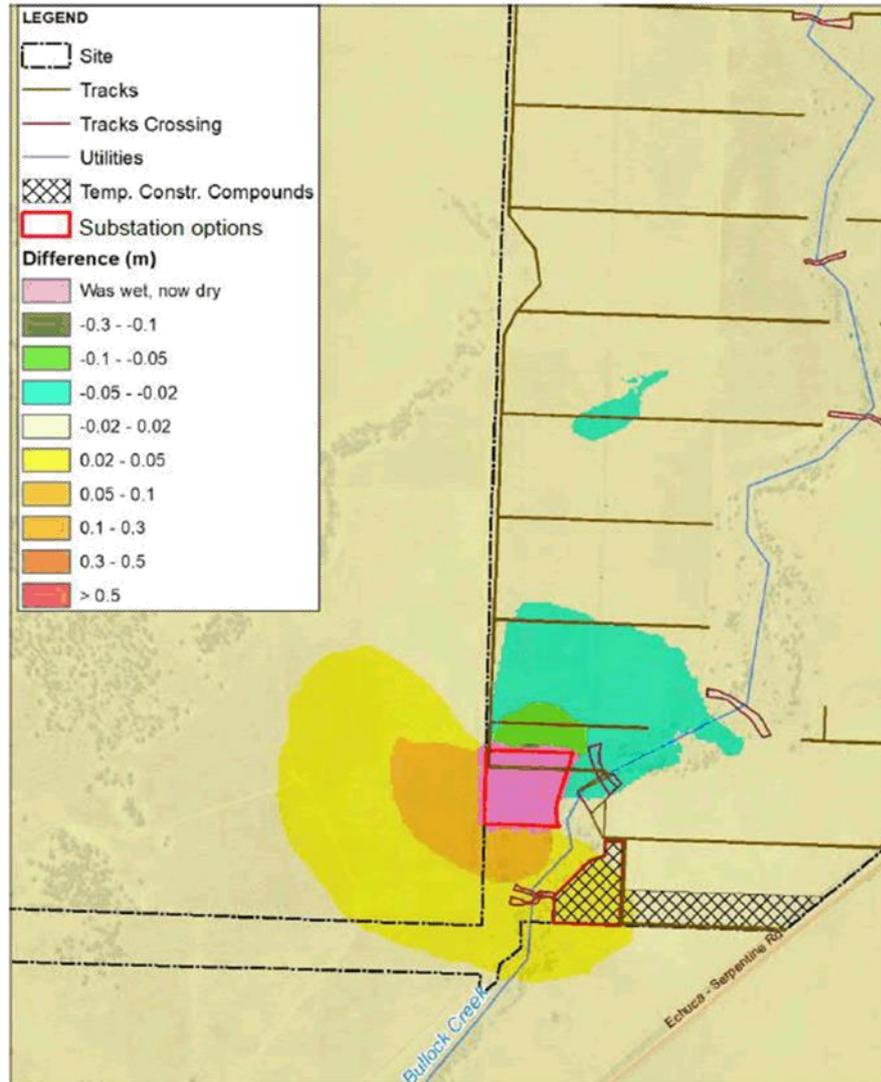


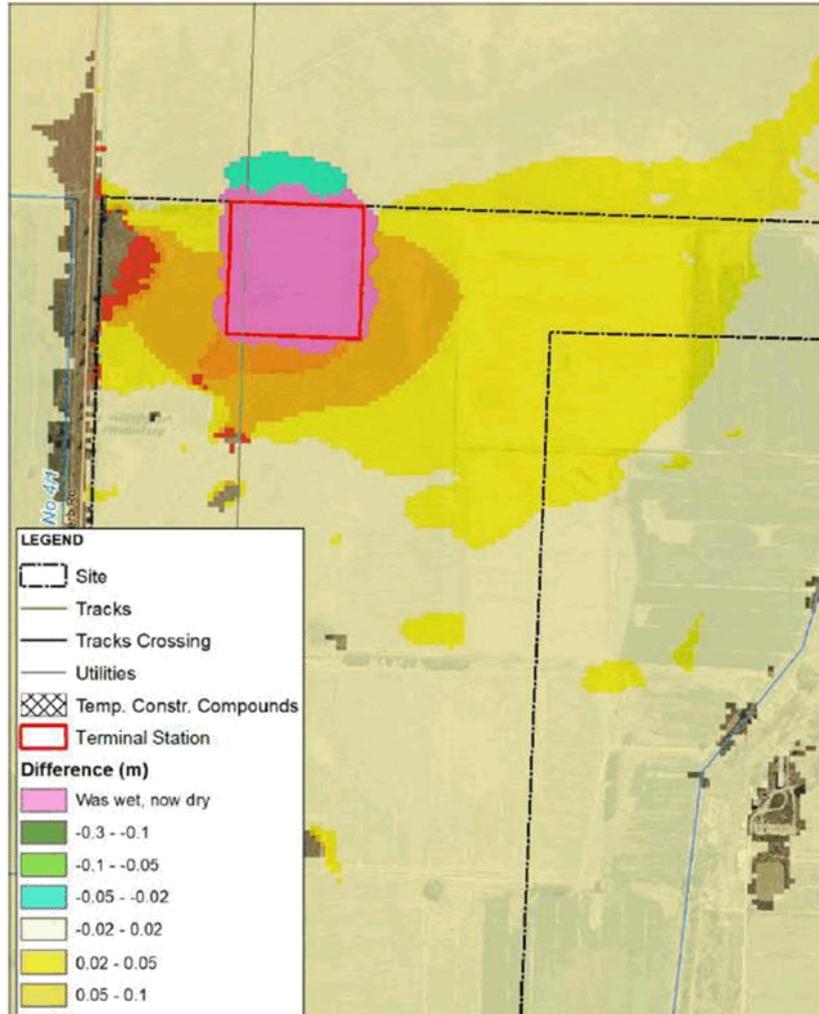
Figure 2-2 Difference map - 5% AEP flood event

Attachment 2 – 1/100 year flood modelling results (Watertech report)

1 in 100 year flood event - additional flooding resulting from raised earth pads at the proposed Substation/Battery Storage/Operations and Maintenance Facility area



1 in 100 year flood event - additional flooding resulting from raised earth pads at the proposed Terminal Station location



Attachment 3 – Photomontage Viewpoint 8 (SMEC report)

8.5. Viewpoint 8 – West Road and Cunneens Road



Figure 43 Viewpoint 8: Existing View

Table 18 Visual Impact Assessment - Viewpoint 8

Location	Distance to Solar Farm
Coordinates: E: 245126.7 N: 5985646.5 Elevation: 98m	Approximately 2.05 km
Existing viewing conditions	
<p>This view is from the end of West Road where it intersects with Cunneens Road, looking northeast towards Prairie Solar Farm. The view is considered representative of the worst-case view of a nearby dwelling.</p> <p>The foreground is the gravel Cunneens Road and midground is an open paddock. Native trees to the background follow a small seasonal creek, forming a screen to views beyond.</p>	
Visual Sensitivity (refer Table 28)	Magnitude of Visual Change (refer Table 28)
<p>This view is experienced by low numbers of local residents and workers in the area. The most sensitive visual receptors are expected to be local residents, whom have a familiarity with the local area and whom will typically experience this view often.</p> <p>Overall, this viewpoint is considered to be of up to negligible visual sensitivity.</p>	<p>The PV cells and associated infrastructure associated with the Project would not be visible on the horizon due to the intervening vegetation.</p> <p>Overall, the magnitude of change is considered to be of no impact.</p>
Expected Visual Impact Rating (refer Table 28)	
NO IMPACT	

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Attachment 4 – Photomontage Viewpoint 4 - Pyramid-Yarraberb Road (SMEC report)



VIEWPOINT 4 - Existing conditions



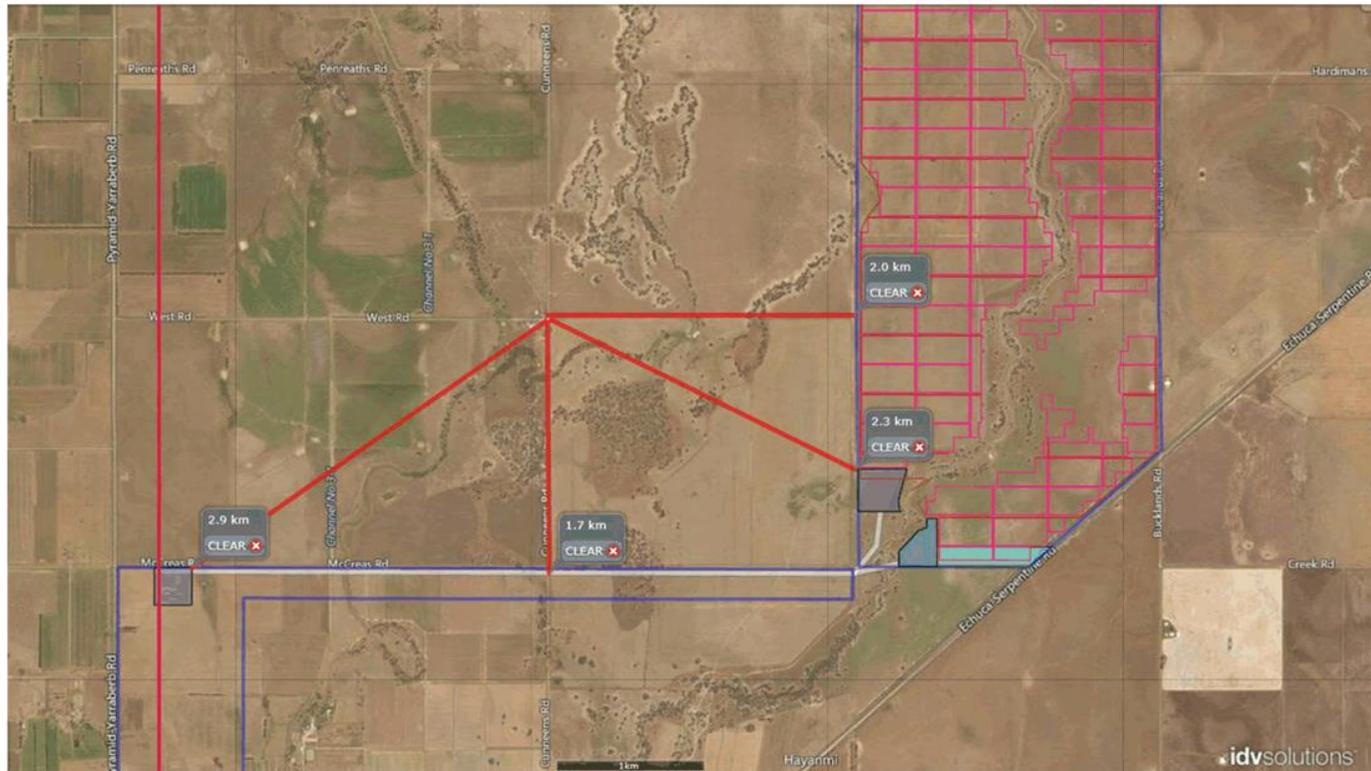
VIEWPOINT 4 - PHOTO MONTAGE: Option 1 - proposed substation location

Transmission tower located at 1.63 kms
from photograph point

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Attachment 5 – Separation distances from Cunneen homestead



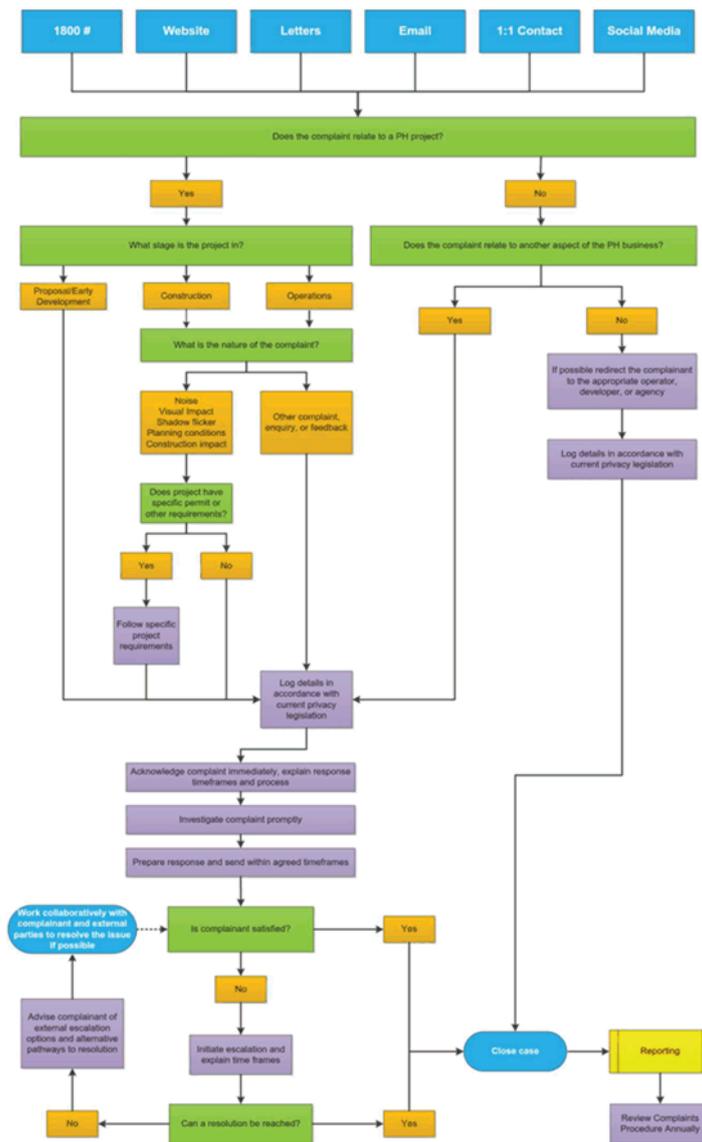
Pacific Hydro Pty Ltd ABN 31 057 279 508
Level 13, 700 Collins Street Docklands Victoria 3008 Australia | Telephone +61 3 8621 6000 | pacifichydro.com



Attachment 6 – Pacific Hydro Complaints Handling Process



Complaint Handling Process

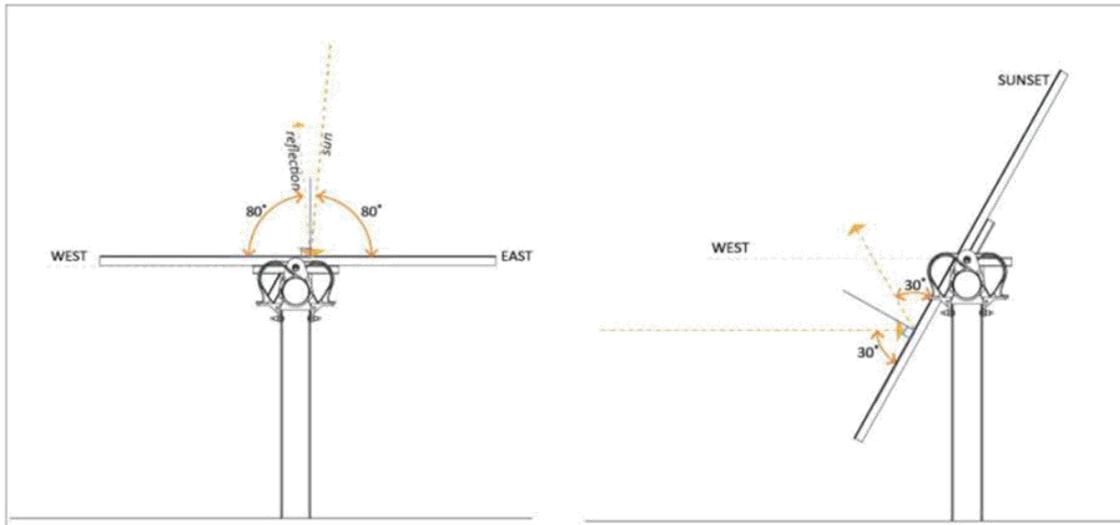


May 2018

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Attachment 7 – Reflection of sunlight from solar panels



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STATUTORY PLANNING
CONSULTATION MEETING

APPLICATION NUMBER: 5376

APPLICANT: Pacific Hydro

ADDRESS:

DATE:

PROPOSAL: Use and development of the land for
Solar farm

ZONE: Farming Zone

OVERLAY(S): LSIO, FO, VPO 1

ATTENDANCE:

Name	Notes: (ie; address, representative details)	Attended:
Margaret Cunneen	West Road, Mitiamo	Yes
Donald Cunneen	West Road, Mitiamo	Yes
Trevor Khule (solicitor for above)	Robertson Hyetts solicitors	Yes
Matt Stafford	Pacific Hydro	Yes
Adam Chandler	Pacific Hydro	Yes
Glenn Harvey	Loddon Shire- Manager Development & Compliance	Yes
Alexandra Jefferies	Loddon Shire- Planning Officer	Yes
Arvish Sharda	Loddon Shire- Planning Officer	Yes

AGENDA:

NO.	ITEM
	Introduction
1.	Housekeeping – phones on silent, be polite, process of meeting and not a decision making forum.
	Process of the meeting- To keep the meeting clear it is best to stick with the items as set out in Pacific Hydros response to the objection.
2.	Pacific Hydro has the option to address each item and objectors can then respond to each matter, Alexandra will note any outcomes.

STATUTORY PLANNING
CONSULTATION MEETING

NO.	ITEM
	Given time frame for meeting (one hour) please keep responses as short as possible- items may be set aside or moved forward if an outcome cannot be reached
	Item 1 Flooding drainage
	Item 2 Transmission line
3.	Item 3 Substation and other improvements
	Item 4 Closure of McCreas Road
	Item 5 Adverse amenity impacts
	Item 6 Conclusion
4.	Wrap up meeting- clarify any outcomes or further actions and decision making process from here

SUMMARY OF OBJECTIONS:

- Experiences of past flooding from irrigation
- Any fill or leveling of the land will result in flooding
- Location of transmission line within road reserve
- Explanation of why underground was not considered.
- Increased flooding as a result of substation pads
- Noise impacts from substation
- Closure of McCreas Road- negative impact on property access
- Detraction from visual landscape
- Glare from panels
- Increased traffic during construction
- Removal of native vegetation for transmission line and solar panels
- Time frame for review of application and to object- Council Officer to address is required

STATUTORY PLANNING
CONSULTATION MEETING

NOTES, AGREED OUTCOMES OR ACTIONS**Item 1-**

Clarified that there will be no further irrigation on the site
 Pacific hydro will not be looking to further laser level the site or topography
 Mr Cunneen asked about where water will go once substation is raised:
 Matt agreed some extra flooding will be felt if there is no drainage mitigation
 Discussed flooding mitigation options for the substation
 Discussion about 'no offsite flooding impact' condition as part of the proposal

Item 2-

Clarification that only the transmission line and terminal station only along McCreas road
 Footprint of 200 m x 200 m of substation pad to be raised 300 mm above the flood level
 Panels to also be elevated 300 mm above the flood level
 Mr & Mrs Cunneen would prefer poles if possible
 Noted that the poles could be larger than 1 meter in diameter
 Pacific Hydro agreed they would also prefer poles if technology allows

Item 3-

Substation are vertically silent- and are silent from 10-15 meters away
 Noise impact condition- EPA guidelines around regional industry
 Discussion regarding if noise was to become an issue after construction- council enforcement action would be taken along with the EPA if required
 Pacific Hydro would aim to undertake noise reduction measures as required to avoid further enforcement action from Council- it was noted Pacific Hydro does not expect noise to be an issue

Item 4-

McCreas road clarified not to be used for construction vehicles
 Some vehicle movement should be expected along McCreas road for the transmission line
 Any road closures will need to undergo Council road closure permits etc. with community consultation regarding when closures are required
 Access track to be constructed to allow for construction of transmission line timeframes
 Access track will not be raised, will be low spec to only allow for light vehicle movements for maintains
 Question regarding the existing bridge (GMW infrastructure) does need upgrade- this will be determined once the construction details begins
 Panels will be delivered on flatbed trucks
 Council to confirm to the ownership of the bridge
 When will bridge be upgrade- what month? (Mr Cunneen)- Community consultation will be undertaken, Pacific Hydro is agreeable to work out best time for neighbors if possible
 Council to forward on final GMW response to the application

Item 5-

Will there be removal of trees within RR- No
 No trees can be over 3 meters high within the transmission line easement
 5 meter Offset of the transmission line was incorporated to further reduce removal of vegetation
 Panels are dark in colors and designed to absorb light- not reflect it
 0 minutes of glare recorded from glare report
 Similar to solar panel which is on the roof of a house
 Vegetation screening proposed around the proposal
 Battery leak? What is in place to stop this?
 Environmental management plan- will include pollution management /prevention plan which sets out how to response to these kind of emergencies
 Currently in the Environmental Framework there is 'high level' outcomes which will be required to be incorporated into the pollution plan
 Pac hydro comments that rate of progress of technology is evolving at a rapid rate meaning detailed design plans can change
 What happens if the transmission line if full?
 Grid capacity study will cost half a million study- this would be done after planning approval if granted
 If there is enough to deliver e.g. part or half project this will be done- in the meantime if more demand is required the line

STATUTORY PLANNING
CONSULTATION MEETING

may be upgraded to make further capacity
Will the project expand?
Pacific Hydro said no- this is all the land they have access to
The panels may change- technology may allow for smaller panels but the footprint of the project will remain the same

Item 6 – conclusion

Are there health implications? – concerns around wind farm technology
Solar farms are not audible from 10-50 meters from the farm
Technology currently does not have moving parts apart from the bar which allows the panel to track the sun
CFA feedback?
There has been positive feedback from the CFA
They are not a referral authority due to no BMO on the site
CFA are invited onto site periodically in order to see the site and discuss access matters etc.
Question regarding the naming of the site a Pairie rather than Mitiamo?
Land owner requested the name and Pacific Hydro didn't see an issue at the time, agreed in hindsight has caused some confusion

DRAFT PERMIT CONDITIONS – PERMIT 5376 SOLAR FARM DEVELOPMENT (PRAIRIE)Plans to be provided and approved before commencement of use and development

- 1) Before the use and/or development start(s) (or stages thereof), detailed development plans must be submitted to and approved by the Responsible Authority. Once approved, the plans will be endorsed and will then form part of the permit. The plans must be drawn to scale with dimensions, be generally in accordance with the plans provided in the application submitted 29 June 2018 and three copies must be provided.

The detailed plans to be provided for each applicable stage (where applicable) are:

- a. a project layout plan (site plan) detailing the following:
 - ii. the location of all solar panels that are to be constructed showing a setback in accordance with the conditions of this permit
 - iii. location of substation, battery storage area and operation and maintenance facility (or facilities)
 - iv. construction compound(s)
 - v. location of the transmission line
 - vi. location of any earth pads
 - vii. setbacks of buildings and infrastructure from property boundaries and water bodies
 - viii. location of security/perimeter fencing
 - ix. location of creek crossings
 - x. vehicle access points to the property
 - xi. internal access tracks
 - xii. location of laydown areas
 - xiii. proposed finished surface levels of the site
 - xiv. location of native vegetation to be removed and retained.
 - b. elevation and floorplans of all buildings including, substation(s), battery storage area(s) and terminal station(s)
 - c. elevation plans of the transmission towers and solar panels to be constructed on site in accordance with the conditions of this permit
 - d. plans of all earth pads consistent with the conditions of this permit
 - e. vehicle access points to the property designed to accommodate the vehicles (size and type) to be accessing the site during construction and operation
 - f. plans showing wetland protection zones and native vegetation protection buffer zones, in accordance with the conditions of this permit
 - g. fencing details in accordance with the requirements of the North Central Catchment Management Authority (NCCMA).
- 2) Before the use and development allowed by this permit begins, a Traffic Management Plan (TMP) in accordance with Part 4 of the Road Safety (Traffic Management) Regulations 2009 and must be approved by the Responsible Authority. When approved, the TMP will be endorsed and will then form part of the permit. The TMP must identify the preferred construction vehicle route(s).

Plans not to be altered

- 3) The use and development as shown on the endorsed plans must not be altered without the written consent of the Responsible Authority.

Local Roads

- 4) Before construction commences a condition report of the existing council managed/owned infrastructure along the preferred construction vehicle route(s) identified

in the TMP required under Condition 2 of this permit, including but not limited to sealed surface, pavement, drainage, culverts and bridges and condition of such infrastructure must be recorded to Council's satisfaction. The pre-construction condition report must be facilitated and paid for by the applicant.

- 5) It will be the applicant's responsibility to inspect the roads (and the associated infrastructure) nominated for use during construction at a frequency no lesser than stipulated in Council's Road Management Plan 2017.
- 6) It will be the applicant's responsibility to maintain and repair throughout construction the sections of the road nominated for use during construction to a standard no lesser than that identified in the pre-construction condition report.
- 7) At the end of the construction period, a post-construction condition report of the council managed/owned infrastructure (including any new infrastructure constructed by Council during the construction period) along the preferred construction vehicle route(s) identified in the TMP required under Condition 2 of this permit, must be undertaken. The condition of such infrastructure must be recorded to Council's satisfaction. Any variation in the condition of the infrastructure must be identified within the post-construction condition report. The post-construction condition report must document how any variation in the condition of the infrastructure will be addressed. The post-construction condition report must be facilitated and paid for by the applicant.
- 8) Any repair work identified within the post-construction condition report required to re-instate local roads (to at least their pre-existing condition as per condition 4) must be addressed and repaired by the applicant at their cost to Council's satisfaction.
- 9) Any repair, maintenance and/or rehabilitation work on Council infrastructure identified within the post-construction condition report must be undertaken to current engineering standards and to the satisfaction of Council's Technical Services Department.

Construction management

- 10) During construction phase(s) appropriate dust suppression measures must be implemented to ensure that a nuisance is not caused to adjoining landowners or the general public to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.

General Amenity

- 11) The use permitted by this permit must not, in the opinion of the Responsible Authority, adversely affect the amenity of the locality by reason of the processes carried on; the transportation of materials, goods or commodities to or from the subject land; the appearance of any buildings, works or materials; the emission of noise, artificial light, vibration, smell, fumes, smoke vapor, steam, soot, ash, dust, waste water, waste products, grit, or oil, the presence of vermin, or otherwise.

Permit Expiry

This permit will expire if one of the following circumstances applies:

- The development is not started within 6 years of the date of this permit.
- The use is not commenced within 6 years of the date of this permit.
- The development is not completed within ten years of the date of this permit.

The responsible authority may extend the periods referred to if a request is made in writing before the permit expires, or within three months afterwards.

North Central Catchment Management Authority (NCCMA)

- 12) Unless otherwise agreed in writing with the NCCMA, the number of permanent access crossings over Bullock Creek must be limited to three (3) crossings.
- 13) All buildings (excluding any approved creek crossings, tracks and associated cabling) and solar panels must be setback a minimum of 30 metres from the top of bank of Bullock Creek.
- 14) All buildings, solar panels and works (excluding any approved crossings and associated cabling) must be setback a minimum of 20 metres from the centreline of the waterway/drainage path in the south eastern corner of the development site.
- 15) Unless otherwise agreed in writing with the NCCMA, all buildings and solar panels must be setback a minimum of 20 metres from the edge of the current mapped Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) wetland located in the south eastern corner of the development site.
- 16) Prior to the commencement of works, detailed design plans of the proposed development must be submitted to the Responsible Authority and the NCCMA for their approval. The design plans must detail the location of the proposed works in proximity to the waterways/wetland and proposed finished surface levels of the site. Existing land levels through the site should be maintained to preserve flood flow paths through the site. Any buildings and works must not alter the passage of flood waters through the site to the extent that neighboring properties are adversely affected.
- 17) The substation, battery storage area, O&M building, PCUs/inverters and terminal station must be raised to be a minimum of 300mm above the 1% AEP flood level. If sited on fill pads, the fill pads must be limited to the amount necessary to raise the structure and must not extend more than 2 metres from the walls of the structure.
- 18) The underside of the solar panels (in the horizontal position) must be a minimum of 300mm above the 1% AEP flood level.
- 19) Fencing within the floodplain must be of an open style construction up to the 1% AEP flood level to allow the passage of flood waters through the site. Prior to the commencement of works, plans of the proposed fencing style must be submitted to the NCCMA.

VicRoadsTraffic Management Plan

- 20) Before the commencement of any works on the subject land (or stages thereof) and before the engagement of any haulage contractors, a Traffic Management Plan (TMP) supported by an updated Traffic Impact Assessment Report (TIAR) must be approved by VicRoads and the Council in its capacity as road authority under the Road Management Act 2004 for local and arterial (public) roads used to transport material to/from and within the vicinity of the solar energy facility.

The TMP and TIAR must be prepared by a VicRoads pre-qualified consultant and shall identify the points of access (either direct or indirect) to the subject land from the arterial road network during all phases of the development (e.g. the construction phase and on-going operations and maintenance etc).

The TMP and TIAR may be prepared and submitted in stages.

The TMP (for each applicable stage), without limiting the generality of the plan, must include:

- a. Prior to commencement of any works, an existing conditions survey of public roads (not including M roads) and associated road infrastructure that may be used in connection with the solar energy facility (for access, delivery of material, pre-

construction or construction purposes etc), including details of the suitability of the proponent's use, design, condition and construction standard of the relevant public roads and bridges.

- b. The existing conditions survey must be undertaken for the following locations:
 - i. Bendigo-Pyramid Road from the:
 - (1) Echuca-Serpentine Road to the Echuca-Mitiamo Road; and
 - (2) Echuca-Mitiamo Road to the Boort-Mitiamo Road.
 - ii. Pyramid-Yarraberb Road from the Bendigo-Pyramid Road to the Echuca-Serpentine Road;
 - iii. Prairie West Road from the Pyramid-Yarraberb Road to the Echuca-Serpentine Road;
 - iv. Echuca-Serpentine Road from the Prairie Road to the Bendigo-Pyramid Road;
 - v. all internal roads bounded by the above arterial and local roads that will be used for delivery and construction of the proposed development as identified in the approved TMP;
- and
- vi. all arterial road intersections where delivery and construction routes intersect with local roads as identified in the approved TMP.
- c. The designation of all vehicle access points to the site from surrounding roads. Vehicle access points must be designed and located to ensure safe sight distances, turning movements, and avoid potential through traffic conflicts.
 - d. The designation and suitability assessment of appropriate pre-construction, construction and transport vehicle routes to and from the site. Any identified route(s) should avoid built up locations of towns (e.g. through the middle of Gisborne etc), wherever practicable.
 - e. Functional Layout Plans and reporting demonstrating whether, and if so, how truck movements to and from the site can be safely accommodated within the road reserve. Mitigation measures are to be developed by the proponent and agreed to by VicRoads and Council for all hazards including, but not limited to:
 - (1) Oversize and overmass haulage;
 - (2) Traffic management;
 - (3) Removal of roadside vegetation;
 - (4) Reduction in speed limits;
 - (5) Alteration to any road furniture or intersection;
 - (6) Emergency management; and
 - (7) Risk management.
 - f. Recommendations regarding the need for road, bridge and intersection upgrades to accommodate any additional traffic, oversize or overmass loads, or site access requirements (whether temporary or ongoing).

Where upgrades are required, the TMP shall include:

- i. Functional Layout Plans showing any mitigation works identified in the TIAR must be submitted and approved by VicRoads. The plans shall clearly show all mitigation works including (but not limited to);
 - (1) Proposed surface treatments;
 - (2) Signage locations (traffic and advertising);
 - (3) Line marking treatments;
 - (4) Swept path analysis for all b-double, oversize and overmass vehicles.
- g. The timing of when the works are to be undertaken.
- h. A program of regular inspections to be carried out during the construction of the solar energy facility to identify maintenance works necessary as a result of construction traffic.

- i. Works required by the TMP must be completed expeditiously to the satisfaction of VicRoads and the Council.
- j. The designation of operating hours and speed limits for trucks on routes accessing the site which:
 - i. avoid school bus routes and school bus times where relevant; and
 - ii. provide for resident safety.
- k. Measures to be taken to manage traffic impacts associated with the construction and ongoing operation of the solar energy facility on the traffic volumes and flows on surrounding roads.
- l. A program to rehabilitate existing public roads and associated road infrastructure to a safe and usable condition to the greater standard of either the:
 - i. Standard no less than what is required to support the proposed use; or
 - ii. The condition identified by the surveys required under the condition above.

During the following stages:

- i. The construction period;
 - ii. At the conclusion of the construction of the solar energy facility; or
 - iii. First two years during the operation of the solar energy facility.
 - m. The proponent is responsible for any damage caused to construction vehicles or other vehicles in the event that the safe and usable quality of any public road and associated infrastructure is degraded or compromised as a result of the development, and that VicRoads or Council will not accept liability for any such damage.
- 21) By no later than three (3) months after the date of completion of the solar energy facility, a post-construction conditions survey of public roads (not including M roads) as identified by the approved TMP that have been used in connection with the solar energy facility (for access, preconstruction or construction purposes etc.), must be submitted and approved by VicRoads and Council.

The report shall include details of any dilapidation or damage to the roads and a program of rehabilitation in accordance with the requirements of the approved TMP.

- 22) The traffic management and road upgrade and maintenance works identified in the endorsed TMP must be carried out in accordance with the endorsed TMP to the satisfaction of VicRoads and Council.
- 23) The provision of a security bond (or other legal agreement as agreed in writing by VicRoads) prior to the commencement of works on the subject land equal to the reasonable estimated costs of the rehabilitation/replacement of any road infrastructure identified as being at risk by the TMP to the satisfaction of VicRoads and Council. A contract between the Developer and the VicRoads must be prepared for the terms of use of the security bond (or other legal agreement) at no cost to, and to the written satisfaction of the Roads Corporation.
- 24) All roadworks and road associated works, reporting, contracts and the provision of VicRoads road escort vehicles and personnel are to be at no cost to VicRoads or Council, including but not limited to all additional:
 - a. Route survey work, together with all associated VicRoads bridge assessments for the over dimensional and overmass vehicles and their loads; and
 - b. Traffic management resources and equipment such as variable message signs.

Functional layout plan(s)

- 25) Prior to the commencement of any construction (or stages thereof) on the subject land hereby approved by this planning permit:

- a. The TMP and updated TIAR shall clearly identify where access to the subject land is to be.
- b. Demonstration that all necessary permits have been obtained for the removal of vegetation within the road reserve for the purpose of providing access to the site for material.
- c. Should vehicular access to the subject land be:
 - (i) Direct from the Bendigo-Pyramid Road, then:
 1. A functional layout plan (FLP) shall be submitted and approved by VicRoads. The FLP shall be drawn to scale by a VicRoads pre-qualified consultant, clearly dimensioned to show (but not be limited to) the following:
 - a. A single point of vehicular access shall be sealed from the Bendigo-Pyramid Road to the arterial road reserve boundary;
 - b. All other vehicular accesses to the Bendigo-Pyramid Road closed, all gates and crossover infrastructure removed and the nature strip area reinstated;
 - c. A Basic Right (BAR) and Basic Left (BAL) turn treatments at the access location in accordance with Austroads (2017) Guide to Road Design Parts 4 (Figure A28) and 4A (Figure 8.2) respectively.
 - d. Any proposed kerb and channel as required at the crossover with the Bendigo-Pyramid Road.
 - e. The swept path analysis of the following vehicles at 10 km/hr (min) and with 15 metres (min) radii:
 - i. Simultaneous 26 metre b-double trucks (one with 0.5 metre clearances on both sides of the vehicle) entering and exiting without overlapping each other or crossing into any opposing lanes; and
 - ii. The largest oversized or overmass vehicle as identified in the TMP (without clearances).
 - f. A pavement overlay on the Bendigo-Pyramid Road to the satisfaction of VicRoads and shall extend to the arterial road reserve boundary.
 - g. A flag light on the Bendigo-Pyramid Road opposite the proposed access.
 - h. All services, trees, line marking, signs, on-road lighting, other existing accesses and crossovers (on both sides of the arterial road) and other infrastructure (e.g. power poles etc) that are to remain in place or to be relocated or removed.
 - (ii) Indirect from the Bendigo-Pyramid Road via a local road:
 - (1) A FLP shall be submitted and approved by VicRoads. The FLP shall be drawn to scale undertaken by a VicRoads pre-qualified consultant, clearly dimensioned to show (but not limit to) the following:
 - i. The identified local road intersection(s) with the Bendigo-Pyramid Road; and
 - ii. A Basic Right (BAR) and Basic Left (BAL) turn treatments at the access location in accordance with Austroads (2017) Guide to Road Design Parts 4 (Figure A28) and 4A (Figure 8.2) respectively.
 - iii. Any proposed kerb and channel as required at the intersection with the Bendigo-Pyramid Road.
 - iv. The swept path analysis of the following vehicles at 10 km/hr (min) and with 15 metres (min) radii:
 - i. Simultaneous 26 metre b-double trucks (one with 0.5 metre clearances on both sides of the vehicle) entering and exiting without overlapping each other or crossing into any opposing lanes; and
 - ii. The largest oversized or overmass vehicle as identified in the TMP (without clearances).
 - v. A pavement overlay on the Bendigo-Pyramid Road to the satisfaction of VicRoads and shall extend to the arterial road reserve boundary.

- vi. Flag lighting on the Bendigo-Pyramid Road opposite the local road intersection(s).
 - vii. All services, trees, line marking, signs, on-road lighting, other existing accesses and crossovers (on both sides of the arterial road) and other infrastructure (e.g. power poles etc) that are to remain in place or to be relocated or removed.
- d. Upon VicRoads' approval of the FLP, a Road Safety Audit must be undertaken at the detailed design stage in accordance with VicRoads' Road Safety Audit Policy.
- i. The audit findings and the consultant's responses to the findings must be provided to VicRoads for review and approval.
 - ii. Any mitigating works arising out of the audit must be carried out by the applicant at no cost and to the Roads Corporations' satisfaction.
- e. The following roadworks shall be completed to the satisfaction of and at no cost to VicRoads:
- i. The BAR and BAL turn treatment(s);
 - ii. Pavement overlay(s) on the Bendigo-Pyramid Road;
 - iii. The Installation of flag lighting;
 - iv. Any service relocation and vegetation removal; and
 - v. Any other works as required by VicRoads within the arterial road reserve.

Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning (DELWP)

Final Design

- 26) Prior to the commencement of works, detailed design plans of the proposed development must be prepared to the satisfaction of DELWP in consultation with the NCCMA, Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation. The plans must be then submitted to and approved by the Responsible Authority. When approved, the plans will be endorsed and then form part of the permit. The design plans must be drawn to scale and include details of all infrastructure locations (including both temporary and permanent; stack sites; cable and panel locations) waterway crossings for both access and cable routing; wetland protection zones; native vegetation protection buffer zones and earthworks.

Waterway Crossings

- 27) Where a road or other access way crosses Bullock Creek, a suitable bridging structure must be constructed to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority upon the advice of DELWP and NCCMA.
- 28) The final layout design must show all cables crossings of Bullock Creek. The cable crossings may be delivered as an overhead line or directionally bored at locations agreed to by DELWP.

Buffer to Riparian Vegetation

- 29) The final layout design must include a buffer for the protection of riparian vegetation adjacent to Bullock Creek. The buffer must be a minimum of 30 metres from the base of the trunk of the trees of riparian vegetation adjacent to Bullock Creek or from top of bank, whichever is greater and must be approved by DELWP and the NCCMA. Access tracks, creek crossings and underground or overhead cables may be within the 30-metre buffer but must be outside Tree Protection Zones of native vegetation being retained.

Construction Environmental Management Plan

- 30) Before on-ground works commence, an environmental management plan for the construction of the solar farm which is to the satisfaction of DELWP, must be submitted

to and approved by the Responsible Authority. When approved, the plan is to be endorsed and will then form part of the permit. The development must be conducted in accordance with the endorsed plan. The construction environmental management plan is to include but is not limited to:

- a. overview of construction methods including management zones and construction zones, site preparation, environmental management, access, construction activities, schedule and timing of works, and contractor briefing
- b. management Structure and Roles including an environmental audit process
- c. applicable planning and legislative requirements
- d. summary of further plans to be developed
- e. procedures to ensure that vehicles and equipment use designated tracks and works areas to avoid impacts on native vegetation
- f. the removal of works, buildings and staging areas on completion of construction of the project.

Operational Environmental Management Plan

31) Before operation of the solar farm commences, an operational environmental management plan which is to the satisfaction of DELWP, must be submitted to and approved by the Responsible Authority. When approved, the plan is to be endorsed and will then form part of the permit. The operation of the solar farm must be conducted in accordance with the endorsed plan. The operational environmental management plan is to include but is not limited to:

- a. environmental considerations; management of and/or mitigation of impacts on:
 - i. surface water pollution
 - ii. erosion and sediment
 - iii. terrestrial ecology
 - iv. aquatic ecology
 - v. land management
 - vi. visual impacts
 - vii. dust, odour and air quality
 - viii. noise and vibration
 - ix. waste management
 - x. hazardous materials
 - xi. environmental incidents and emergencies
 - xii. fire hazards.
- b. summary of further plans to be developed
- c. procedures to ensure that vehicles and equipment use designated tracks and works areas to avoid impacts on native vegetation
- d. advice to all onsite staff and monitoring personnel to report to DELWP bi-annually for the first five years of operation any siting of dead birds or bats at the site during normal operations and maintenance inspections.

32) The operational environmental management plan must be reviewed every three years to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority and any consequential changes to the plan submitted to and approved by the Responsible Authority.

Native Flora and Fauna Management Plan

33) Prior to commencement of works a 'Wildlife Management Plan' must be submitted to and approved by DELWP. The requirements of the plan must be implemented during the preconstruction, construction and post-construction phases of the project. The plan must be to the satisfaction of the DELWP. The plan is to contain but not be limited to:

- a. salvage and translocation of threatened flora and fauna species and ecological communities
- b. methods to mitigate impacts on native fauna discovered during construction

- c. methods to handle and relocate any wildlife at risk of impact during construction including potential areas for relocation
- d. methods to mitigate the need for wildlife control during operation of the facility (addressing both threatened species and non-threatened species such as kangaroos and white cockatoos)
- e. process and timing of reporting of any inadvertent impacts to wildlife.
- f. advice to all onsite staff and monitoring personnel of correct procedure for assisting injured wildlife. Contact details of local veterinary staff and wildlife carers must be provided to ensure any injured wildlife found that cannot be released back to the wild are treated accordingly and in a timely manner.
- g. injured wildlife procedure must include an experienced and licensed wildlife carer and/or ecologist be present to supervise works and capture and relocate fauna if necessary.

Notification of permit conditions

- 34) Before works start, the permit holder must advise all persons undertaking works of the environmental conditions, including vegetation protection conditions, of the planning permit. A copy of the planning permit is to be made available to all employees working on the project.

Protection of native vegetation to be retained

- 35) Before works start, a native vegetation protection fence must be erected around all native vegetation to be retained within 15 metres of the works area. This fence must be erected at:
- a. A radius of 12 times the diameter of the tree trunk at a height of 1.4 metres to a maximum of 15 metres but no less than 2 metres from the base of the trunk of the tree; and
 - b. Around the patch(es) of native vegetation at a minimum distance of 2 metres from retained native vegetation.

The fence must be constructed of star pickets and paraweb or similar, to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority and the DELWP. The protection fence must remain in place until all works are completed to the satisfaction of DELWP. Existing farm fencing that is located around native vegetation identified for retention may be utilised as vegetation protection fencing subject to the appropriate no-go zone signage/flagging being placed on it.

- 36) Except with the written consent of the department, within the area of native vegetation to be retained and any tree protection zone associated with the permitted use and/or development, the following is prohibited:
- a. vehicular or pedestrian access;
 - b. trenching or soil excavation;
 - c. storage or dumping of any soils, materials, equipment, vehicles, machinery or waste products;
 - d. construction of entry and exit pits for underground services; or
 - e. any other actions or activities that may result in adverse impacts to retained native vegetation.

Native vegetation offsets

- 37) To offset the removal of 2.089 hectares of native vegetation the permit holder must secure a native vegetation offset(s) that meets all the following:

- a. A general offset of 1.273 general habitat units located within the NCCMA boundary or Council municipal district, and
 - i. have a Strategic Biodiversity Value score of at least 0.594 and
 - ii. provide protection for at least 11 large trees and
 - iii. is in accordance with the Guidelines for the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation (DELWP, 2017).

Offset evidence

38) Before any native vegetation is removed, evidence that the required offset for the project has been secured must be provided to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority. This evidence must be:

- a. an established first party offset site. This must include:
 - i. a security agreement signed by both parties, and
 - ii. a management plan detailing the 10-year management actions and ongoing management of the site;
 to the satisfaction of the DELWP and approved by the Responsible Authority.

Every year, for ten years, after the Responsible Authority has approved the offset management plan, the applicant must provide notification of the management actions undertaken towards implementing the offset management plan, to the department. An offset site condition statement, including photographs must be included in this notification;

and/or

- b. credit extract(s) allocated to meet the requirements of the permit from the Native Vegetation Credit Register.

A copy of the offset evidence must be endorsed by the Responsible Authority and form part of this permit.

Within 30 days of endorsement of the offset evidence by the Responsible Authority, DELWP at: loddonmallee.planning@delwp.vic.gov.au

39) Without the prior written consent of the department, there is to be no removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation (not included in *Native vegetation removal report Report ID: GHD_2018_016*) associated with the development from Crown land.

Erosion and Salinity Management

- 40) During construction no polluted and/or sediment laden run-off is to be discharged directly or indirectly into any watercourses. Pollution or litter traps must be provided on site.
- 41) All works must be designed and constructed to minimise soil erosion. All tracks/paths must be effectively groomed and compacted to minimise the risk of erosion and sediment run-off.
- 42) To avoid damage to understorey native vegetation; the waterway and adjoining freehold land, silt/sediment from the construction and operation of the solar farm must be retained on site during and after the construction stage of the project. This shall be achieved by:
 - a. Establishing workable sediment traps.
 - b. Designing and constructing table drains and cut-off drains in such a manner to reduce water velocity and subsequent soil erosion.
 - c. Avoiding 'V' shaped cross section drains.

- d. Constructing cut-off drains along the contour.
- e. Avoiding batters steeper than 3:1 (horizontal:vertical).

Weeds and Pathogens

- 43) To prevent the spread of weeds and pathogens all:
 - a. earth moving equipment and associated machinery must be made free of soil, seed and plant material before being taken to the works site and again before being taken from the works site on completion of the project
 - b. excavated material, including topsoil, taken from the works site to be returned later must be stored on a clean site free of weeds.

Rehabilitation Plan

- 44) A decommissioning and rehabilitation plan to the satisfaction of the DELWP, must be submitted to and approved by the Responsible Authority when operation of the solar farm ceases. The decommissioning and rehabilitation plan must include but is not limited to:
 - a. the timing for the removal of infrastructure and rehabilitation of the land to a suitable character and/or quality
 - b. soil stabilisation
 - c. re-vegetation works
 - d. the appropriate disposal, recycling or reuse of components.
- 45) Unless otherwise agreed in writing by DELWP, a maximum of three (3) crossings may be constructed over Bullock Creek. Additional temporary crossings during construction may be approved in consultation with the DELWP, NCCMA and the Responsible Authority.

Ausnet

- 46) No part of the proposed development is permitted on AusNet Transmission Group's easement other than interface works required for connection of the Solar Farms electrical system to the 220 kilovolt transmission line. Design plans for such work must be submitted to and approved in writing by AusNet Transmission Group prior to the commencement of construction.
- 47) Access to and along the easement must be maintained at all times for AusNet Transmission Group's vehicles, staff and contractors.
- 48) Natural ground surface levels on the easement must not be altered by the stockpiling of excavated material or by landscaping without prior written approval from AusNet Transmission Group.
- 49) The use of vehicles and equipment exceeding three (3) metres in height are not permitted to operate on the easement without prior written approval from AusNet Transmission Group.
- 50) Approval must be obtained from AusNet Transmission Group as to the position and/or suitability of any roads that are proposed within the easement.
- 51) Details of any proposed services within the easement must be submitted to AusNet Transmission Group and approved in writing prior to the commencement of work on site.

Goulburn Murray Water (GMW)

- 52) No buildings are to be constructed within 30 metres of Bullock Creek measured from the inside top edge of the bank. Access tracks, creek crossings and underground or overhead cables may be permitted within the 30 metre buffer zone in accordance with the requirements of the relevant NCCMA and/or works on a waterway licence.

- 53) No buildings are to be constructed within 30 metres of Goulburn Murray Water (GMW) open channel no. 3/1 measured from the inside top edge of the bank. All works associated with the upgraded to the bridge (structure no. 008614) are permitted within the 30 metre buffer zone in accordance with the requirements of an 'Construction and Use of Private Works Licence' from GMW.
- 54) A 10m vertical clearance must be provided from the top of channel bank no. 3/1 to the transmission lines for maintenance and works on the channel.
- 55) All solar panels must be setback five metres from GMW easements, freehold, or reserve boundaries containing GMW infrastructure.
- 56) No solar panels are to be located within 30 metres of Bullock Creek measured from the inside top edge of the bank.
- 57) Prior to the commencement of use, the bridge known as structure number 008614 must be upgraded fit for purpose in accordance with GMW's requirements. All costs associated with the upgrade to the bridge must be at the applicant's expense.
- 58) If applicable, all wastewater from the office must be treated and disposed of using an EPA approved system, installed, operated and maintained in compliance with the EPA Code of Practice – Onsite Wastewater Management, Publication 891.4, and to the satisfaction of Council's Public Health officer.
- 59) If applicable, the wastewater disposal area must be located in accordance with Table 5 of the EPA Code of Practice – Onsite Wastewater Management, Publication 891.4, July 2016, from any waterways, drainage lines, dams or bores.
- 60) Prior to commencement of works, the applicant must obtain a 'Construction and Use of Private Works Licence' from GMW for any works carried out on GMW freehold land, easement or reserves.
- 61) All construction and ongoing activities must be in accordance with sediment control principles outlined in 'Construction Techniques for Sediment Pollution Control' (EPA, 1991)

Permit notes

- Any works to be undertaken within the road reserve must require a Works Within Road Reserve permit from Council (for municipal roads only) and necessary permit fees must be paid before commencing any works within road reserve. It is the applicant's responsibility to submit a traffic management plan and implement such plan during the construction works within road reserve. Appropriate Memorandum of Understanding must be obtained from Council's Technical Services Department prior to installing any traffic management signs for such works.
- Any other Council and agency permits required to undertake works within road reserve must be obtained by the applicant and the applicant must adhere to the conditions specified in such permits.

NCCMA

- Prior to the commencement of works a separate works on waterway permit for any works within the bed and banks of any designated waterway must be obtained directly from the NCCMA.

DELWP

- DELWP advises that live capture and relocation of native fauna will require a Management Authorisation under the *Wildlife Act 1975*. A Management Authorisation can be obtained from DELWP (environmental.research@delwp.vic.gov.au).
- DELWP advises that works or other activities on public land, which may affect protected native plants, will require a Protected Flora Licence or Permit under the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee (FFG) Act 1988*. All native vegetation likely to be

affected should be checked against the *Protected Flora List* (DELWP 2017) to determine whether FFG approvals are required. Protected Flora Permits can be obtained from the regional DELWP office (loddonmallee.environment@delwp.vic.gov.au).

- Offset requirements are determined in accordance with DELWP (2017) *Guidelines for the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation*. Proposed offset sites must meet eligibility requirements including land use, bushfire risk, quality of vegetation and size of revegetation site. Please visit <https://www.environment.vic.gov.au/native-vegetation/native-vegetation> for further information.
- Prior to the commencement of works on Crown land, a licence must be obtained from DELWP over the government road and water frontage within the development; the licence must be in the name of the occupier and issued for a purpose related to the proposed use of renewable energy facility.

GMW

- GMW advises for the purposes of solar farm applications, solar panels are not treated as buildings. Where applicable, GMW will refer specially to either buildings or solar panels.
- For works on waterways, it is recommended that applicant contact the relevant Catchment Management Authority as a licence may be required to undertake these works.
- Applications for a 'Construction and Use of Private Works Licence' can be made by contacting GMW on 1800 013 357 or by following the link the <http://www.g-mwater.com.au/customer-services/forms>
- The subject property is located within an area of Cultural Heritage Sensitivity. Should the activity associated with proposed development require a Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP), planning permits, licences and work authorities cannot be issued unless a CHMP has been approved for the activity.

VicRoads

- The increase in discharge of any drainage onto the arterial road reserve from the subject land is not permitted unless approved in writing by VicRoads.
- Separate 'detailed design' approval (fees and charges apply) and the specifications of these are required under the Road Management Act. For the purposes of this application the works will include provision of:
 - i. Basic Right and Basic Left turn treatments
 - ii. Pavement overlay(s)
 - iii. Flag lighting installation and
 - iv. Any other works in the arterial road reserve.
- Please forward details marked attention to Team Leader Asset Maintenance on: nr.mailbox@roads.vic.gov.au
- Further information regarding VicRoads' consent to work within the road reserve can be found on the VicRoads Website: <https://www.vicroads.vic.gov.au/business-and-industry/design-and-management/working-within-the-road-reserve> or by or telephoning (03) 5434 5154.
- Once Council makes its decision, please forward a copy of the decision to VicRoads as required under Section 66 of the Planning and Environment Act 1987.

9.2 NORTHERN VICTORIA CLUSTER - MUNICIPAL HEATWAVE PLAN

File Number: 11/01/009

Author: Belinda McKnight, Emergency Management Coordinator

Authoriser: Wendy Gladman, Director Community Wellbeing

Attachments: 1. Northern Victorian Emergency Management Cluster Heatwave Plan

RECOMMENDATION

That Council endorse the Northern Victorian Cluster – Municipal Heatwave Plan as a sub plan of the Municipal Emergency Management Plan, as recommended by the Northern Victorian Integrated Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There is no conflict of interest for any Council staff member involved in the preparation of this report, or involved in the subject matter of the report.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

There has been no previous discussion with Council regarding this report. The Northern Victorian Integrated Municipal Emergency Management Plan (Loddon) was endorsed by Council in April 2017.

BACKGROUND

The duration, frequency and intensity of heatwaves in the future are projected to rise due to climate change. Indications are that we will be subject to longer, hotter periods of extended heatwave conditions which can have significant impacts on not only health but life. In the 2009 heatwave an estimated 374 deaths occurred, much greater than the 173 deaths arising from the Black Saturday bushfires the following week. In the 2014 heatwave there were 167 excess deaths. The Department Health Human Services defines excess deaths as above what would otherwise be expected and may have been a result of extreme heat.

Planning for the impacts of extreme heat and heatwave has been underway in Victoria for at least ten years. Three key documents outline this process:

- The State Heat Plan 2014 outlines arrangements for an integrated and whole-of-government approach to the emergency management of extreme heat in Victoria.
- The Heat Health Plan for Victoria 2015 outlines a coordinated approach to the prevention, preparation and management of extreme heat in Victoria, with a focus on health and community service providers and local and state government.
- State Extreme Heat Sub-Plan (Edition 2) outlines the Victorian arrangements for the coordinated response to the impacts and consequences of extreme heat events (including heatwaves) on the community, infrastructure, and services.

Each of these plans recognises the role of local government in working with local communities to prepare and plan for, respond to and recover from emergencies.

Management of extreme heat and heatwave straddles a number of local government areas of responsibility including emergency management, home care services, social wellbeing, infrastructure, economic development, sustainability and environment and town planning. A coordinated approach is required to deliver a high level of service to our community in times of heatwave to increase the benefits that the heatwave sub-plan can offer. The heatwave plan

outlines what will be done to assist the community to become more resilient to the effects of heatwaves.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

A cluster heatwave plan has been prepared by the Northern Victorian Integrated Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee and will form a sub-plan of the Integrated Municipal Emergency Management Plan which was endorsed by Council in April 2017.

This plan for heatwave will assist the community to prepare for, respond to and recover from heatwaves and extreme events.

Implementation of this Heat Plan (the Plan) will:

- ensure health information and support is available to our community
- increase the understanding and capacity of our community to respond during heat events
- manage a heat event emergency more effectively
- influence long term changes in behaviour to improve our health and wellbeing.

This will be achieved by:

- undertaking strategies and actions to increase the resilience of our community to extreme heat
- identifying and supporting vulnerable groups in the community and the risks they face during heat events
- developing partnerships with local organisations to better coordinate response to heat events
- promoting a community awareness and education component
- informing employees and community members on the dangers of heat events
- identifying, documenting and assigning tasks to be implemented during a heat event
- establishing governance arrangements to action the plan
- evaluating the ongoing effectiveness of the plan and its implementation.

A range of actions have been identified within the plan. These are suggested actions that councils within the cluster will use to inform their localise actions.

COST/BENEFITS

It is intended that the bulk of the actions contained within this plan will be undertaken within the current operational budget parameters. Where additional activities, such as community preparedness, require additional resources, external funding will be sought to support these.

RISK ANALYSIS

If we apply Council's risk assessment criteria, the risk matrix indicates a very high risk associated with extended heat events and heatwaves impacting the health and wellbeing of vulnerable groups within the community.

Risk	Likelihood	Consequence	Rating	Mitigation
Heatwave	Almost Certain	Catastrophic	Very High	Plan

While the risk will remain very high by the very nature of the consequential outcomes; with the increased awareness, and community understanding and preparedness that will be derived through delivery of this plan, it is hoped the impact on the wellbeing of the community will be reduced.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

The Heatwave sub plan has been developed by the Integrated Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee with input from all agencies included on the committee. The sub-plan for Heatwave has been recommended to Loddon Shire Council for endorsement from the Integrated Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee.



Northern Victorian Emergency Management Cluster



Northern Victorian Emergency Management Cluster

Heatwave Plan

Issue 4 - November 2018

Template Prepared by Central Victorian Greenhouse Alliance for Buloke, Central Goldfields, Gannawarra, Loddon, Macedon Ranges and Mount Alexander shire councils who participated in the Resilient Community Assets Heat Health project and City of Greater Bendigo who was involved in the early stages of the project.

The Resilient Community Assets Project — a partnership between the Victorian Government and six local councils.

Version Control

Date	Version	Details	Officer
April 2016	2	New Municipal Heatwave Plan template developed	Central Victorian Greenhouse Alliance
July 2016	2.1	Draft Municipal Heatwave Plan developed for Heatwave Working Group	Mount Alexander Shire - Emergency Management Coordinator
October 2016	2.2	Further devp.	Mount Alexander Shire - Climate Change Coordinator
November 2016	2.3	Municipal Heatwave Workshop held – further development	Mount Alexander Shire - Climate Change Coordinator and Emergency Management Team
November 2016	3.0	Final Version	Mount Alexander Shire - Emergency Management Coordinator
May 2017	3.1	Additional developments and transition to Northern Victorian Cluster Sub Plan	Mount Alexander Shire - Emergency Management Coordinator
June 2017	3.2	Campaspe Shire information added	Mount Alexander Shire - Emergency Management Coordinator
February 2018	3.3	Document put to Northern Victorian Integrated MEMPC	Mount Alexander Shire - Emergency Management Coordinator
November 2018	4	Document updated and put to Northern Victorian Integrated MEMPC	Cluster Coordinator

Abbreviations

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
AV	Ambulance Victoria
BOM	Bureau of Meteorology
CDCH	Castlemaine District Community Health
CH	Castlemaine Health
CSU	Councils "Customer Service Unit"
DHHS	Department of Health and Human Services
DoJ	Department of Justice
EMCOP	Emergency Management Common Operating Picture
EMC	Emergency Management Commissioner
EMV	Emergency Management Victoria
HACC	Home and Community Care
MERC	Municipal Emergency Response Coordinator
MERO	Municipal Emergency Resource Officer
MRM	Municipal Recovery Manager
OH&S	Occupational Health and Safety
SC-H	State Commander - Heat
SCoT	State Coordination Team
SEIFA	Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas
VicPol	Victoria Police
VPR	Vulnerable Persons Register

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1. Introduction

The impacts of extreme heat have been assessed as a significant risk facing the State of Victoria (DoJ 2014). In the last 200 years, extreme heat events have taken more lives than any other natural hazard in Australia (BoM 2015). In Victoria, the duration, frequency and intensity of heatwaves are expected to increase as a result of climate change. (Steffen et al 2014).

It is getting warmer and drier. Over the past 100 years, global surface air temperatures have risen by almost 1°C. Both the atmosphere and the oceans have warmed. Human activity is causing climate change, through our release of greenhouse gases from the burning of fossil fuels, land use change and agriculture. Atmospheric concentrations of carbon dioxide are now more than 40% higher than they were before industrialisation. In the Loddon Mallee region, the rate of warming has increased since the 1960s. On average, rainfall has declined since the 1960s, especially in autumn. The harsh Millennium Drought (1996 to 2009) ended with two of the wettest years on record in 2010–11. (This statement is from the following website: <https://www.climatechange.vic.gov.au/information-and-resources>).

'Three days or more of high maximum and minimum temperatures that are unusual for that location' constitute a heatwave according to the Bureau of Meteorology in their *Heatwave service for Australia*. However the risks of high temperature extremes occur in any extreme heat event.

Heatwaves or extreme heat events can have significant impacts on human health and life. Two recent heat events in Victoria resulted in large numbers of deaths. In the 2009 heatwave an estimated 374 excess deaths occurred, much greater than the 173 deaths arising from the Black Saturday bushfires the following week. In the 2014 heatwave there were 167 excess deaths. Excess deaths are above what would otherwise be expected and may have been a result of extreme heat (DHHS 2015).

Extreme heat can affect anyone; however there are some sectors of the population that are more susceptible to its impacts. These include the elderly, the very young, those with some pre-existing medical conditions, those on particular medications and the socially isolated.

Heat events have the greatest impact on health when there are several consecutive days of extreme temperatures in association with high night time temperatures.

Extreme heat can also affect infrastructure by creating increased demand and/or failure of essential services such as power, transport and water. Failure of such infrastructure can further affect the functioning of government and community services, business and industry.

The aim of this Heat Health Plan is to support the community to prepare for, respond to and recover from heatwaves and extreme heat events.

Implementation of this Heat Plan (the Plan) will:

- ensure health information and support is available to our community
- increase the understanding and capacity of our community to respond during heat events
- manage a heat event emergency more effectively
- influence long term changes in behaviour to improve our health and wellbeing.

This will be achieved by:

- undertaking strategies and actions to increase the resilience of our community to extreme heat
- identifying and supporting vulnerable groups in the community and the risks they face during heat events
- developing partnerships with local organisations to better coordinate response to heat events
- promoting a community awareness and education component
- informing employees and community members on the dangers of heat events
- identifying, documenting and assigning tasks to be implemented during a heat event
- establishing governance arrangements to action the plan
- evaluating the ongoing effectiveness of the plan and its implementation.

2. Why have a plan?

State context and guidelines

Planning for the impacts of extreme heat and heatwave has been underway in Victoria for at least ten years. Three key documents outline this process:

- The State Heat Plan (DoJ 2014) outlines arrangements for an integrated and whole-of-government approach to the emergency management of extreme heat in Victoria.
- The *Heat Health Plan for Victoria* (DHHS 2015) outlines a coordinated approach to the prevention, preparation and management of extreme heat in Victoria, with a focus on health and community service providers and local and state government.
- State Extreme Heat Sub-Plan (Edition 2) outlines the Victorian arrangements for the coordinated response to the impacts and consequences of extreme heat events (including heatwaves) on the community, infrastructure, and services.

Each of these plans recognise the role of local government in working with local communities to prepare and plan for, respond to and recover from emergencies. They also acknowledge that each council should develop a multi-agency heat health plan as a sub-plan of the Municipal Emergency Management Plan. To support this, the then Department of Health developed a *Heatwave Planning Guide* (DHS 2009) to assist local government to develop heat health management plans.

Heatwave and heat health within local government planning framework

Management of extreme heat and heatwave straddles a number of local government areas of responsibility including emergency management, home care services, social wellbeing, infrastructure, economic development, sustainability and environment and town planning.

The Community Emergency Risk Assessment (CERA) process for the Northern Victorian IMEMPC has identified Extreme Temperature – Heatwave, as having a “high” residual risk rating. As a result of this rating, this Heatwave Plan was developed.

3. Heatwave terminology

There have been recent changes in the terminology defining heat and heatwaves and the following terms are currently in general usage.

Heatwave

The Bureau of Meteorology's *Heatwave service for Australia* defines heatwave as 'three days or more of high maximum and minimum temperatures that are unusual for that location'. Heatwave as an emergency requiring a control agency is defined as three or more days in excess of the heat health threshold for a particular weather district.

Heat Event

The State Heat Plan uses the term heat event for periods of high temperatures regardless of duration as even one day of high temperature may result in impact and consequences on the community, infrastructure and services, with these effects compounding over successive days of high temperature (DoJ 2014).

Extreme heat

The term extreme heat is used to describe:

- A sustained period of high temperatures (heatwave) and;
- A single day of higher than average temperature that for that time of year (a temperature that occurs infrequently or highest on record) as classified by the Bureau of Meteorology (BoM)

Heat health temperature thresholds

DHHS has identified heat health temperature thresholds for each weather forecast district in Victoria (which align with the Victorian Country Fire Authority districts). Above these thresholds heat-related illness and mortality increase substantially.

The heat health temperature threshold is based on the forecast average temperature for any given day; that is the average of the forecast daily maximum temperature and the forecast overnight temperature (the daily minimum for the following day (see Appendix 1).

Heat health alerts

Heat health alerts are issued by the Chief Health Officer for a particular district once the forecast average temperatures reach or exceed the heat health threshold for that district (see Section 5).

4. How heat affects our health and communities

Health impacts of heatwaves

As temperatures rise, so does the risk of developing a heat related illness — a medical condition that results from the body’s inability to cope with heat and cool itself. If left untreated, a heat illness can lead to serious complications, including death.

Heat related illness can make people feel uncomfortable, not so much because they feel hot, but rather because they sense how difficult it has become to lose body heat at the rate necessary to keep their inner body temperature close to 37°C. The body responds to heat stress progressively through three stages:

	Symptoms
Heat Cramps	Muscle pains Spasms in the abdomen, arms or legs
Heat Exhaustion	Pale complexion and sweating Rapid heart rate Muscle cramps, weakness Dizziness, headache Nausea, vomiting Fainting
Heatstroke (a life-threatening emergency)	Same symptoms as heat exhaustion except sweating stops Mental condition worsens, confusion Seizure Stroke-like symptoms or collapsing Unconsciousness

Source: *How to cope and stay safe in extreme heat* brochure (DHHS 2015)

Impacts of heat wave

Heatwave place significant strain on medical services such as hospitals and ambulance services.

Statistics show that across Victoria in the January 2014 Heatwave there was 621 heat-related presentations to emergency departments. This represented a fivefold increase (105 expected) in heat related presentations for this period. Overall there was a 7% increase in (all cause) public hospital emergency departments presentations during the same period.

Ambulance Victoria also recorded a 25% increase in the case load in the metropolitan area during the January 2009 and 2014 Heatwave. However the 2014 heatwave represents a reduction of 47% case load that was experienced in the January 2009 Heatwave.

Heatwaves also place excessive strain on Victoria’s power supplies. On 29 January 2014 (during the January 2014 heatwave) the then known Energy Retailers Association of Australia (ERAA) reported that in Victoria 10,576 megawatts (MW) of power was used this was an increase of just under 4,000MW from a typical January day - the number one cause for this increase was the use of air conditioners.

The ERAA advises that historically, the risk of interrupted electricity supply has increased for two main reasons:

- a shortage of supply of electricity (too much demand/not enough power stations) resulting in planned and managed load shedding to supply
- Spikes in demand in specific parts of the network tripping the equivalent of fuses resulting in localized outages until the fault or fuse can be repaired or re-set.

Heatwaves increase the risk of both events occurring. The Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) advises that when there is a shortfall in the electricity supply, there can be a need to reduce demand very quickly to an acceptable level, or risk the entire electricity network becoming unstable. Load shedding generally commences with industrial and commercial customers prior to any residential customers.

Additional impacts of extreme heat exist across the range of Local Government responsibilities and other systems affecting our communities:

Personnel and staffing	Fire Danger days often occur at the same time as heat waves – leading to lower staff levels Higher levels of stress Poor rest and sleeping patterns
Infrastructure	Buildings designed for lower heat stress levels Bitumen and road-seals may lose integrity at high temperature Railways shift and buckle at high temperature Higher levels of use of public places like pools and shopping centres
Utilities	Planned power outages Potential for disruption from other emergencies – e.g. fire
Economic development	Less active consumption patterns in extreme heat Less mobility in extreme heat Less interest in destination visitation in high fire-danger periods
Emergency Services	Multiple demands and stressors on these services in extreme heat periods

For emergency services the stresses on services are compounded in the context of heatwaves, particularly where they occur simultaneously with other emergencies. An example is the connection between local, neighbouring ambulance, nurse-on-call and patient transport services. Each of these services is set up to complement the other. However in extended extreme circumstances with direct health impacts the process of prioritisation and communication between patients and agencies can become fraught.



Figure 1 – Future Climate Projections. Under climate change projections, The Northern Victorian Cluster municipalities is expected to become hotter and drier

Images from Climate-Ready Victoria: Loddon Mallee

http://www.climatechange.vic.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0003/320889/Loddon-Mallee.pdf

If carbon mitigation is not addressed as part of a response to climate change, and a 4-6°C increase in temperature is experienced, then Castlemaine is expected to have a climate more like Nyngan in New South Wales, Bendigo will have a climate more like Shepparton and Echuca will have a climate more like Swan Hill.

An example is: If Castlemaine's temperature was to increase 4-6°C, it would result in an average summer temperature of 33°C (compared with around 27°C now) and annual rainfall of 481mm (compared with 591mm now).

Under a climate change scenario of around 2°C temperature increases, Castlemaine is expected to have a climate more like Gawler in SA, with an average summer temperature of 29.9°C and annual rainfall of 451mm. (CSIRO, 2015)

5. Roles and Responsibilities

The responsibility for preparing and protecting vulnerable population groups is shared across state and local governments, health and community service providers and emergency management agencies.

DHHS, along with other agencies, has responsibility for reducing the impact of extreme heat on public health by preparing for, and responding to, heat events. It does this by:

- developing the *Heat health plan for Victoria* to raise awareness of the impacts of extreme heat and actions to minimise the risks
- developing the *Heatwave Planning Guide*
- issuing heat health alerts
- maintaining the heat health information surveillance system
- developing a communication strategy with a range of resources
- providing support and guidance to other agencies.

Local government, as the closest tier of government to communities, has a central role in building community capacity and resilience to prepare, plan for, respond to and recover from extreme heat events (DoJ 2014).

Heat health alerts

The Chief Health Officer issues heat health alerts for relevant weather districts when forecast average temperatures reach or exceed threshold levels. The purpose of heat health alerts is to notify relevant agencies of forecast extreme heat conditions in preparation for enacting heat health plans (DHHS 2015). While alerts are targeted at departmental areas, health services, local government, agency partners and service providers they are available to everyone and accessible at www.health.vic.gov.au/environment/heatwaves-alert. (See Appendix 1.)

When a heat health alert is issued for the **North Central or Northern Country** weather district the relevant MRM (Municipal Recovery Manager) will make the decision to activate council's Heat Health Plan.

Subscription to the heat health alert service can be made at <https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/public-health/environmental-health/climate-weather-and-public-health/heatwaves-and-extreme-heat/heat-health-alerts-subscribe>

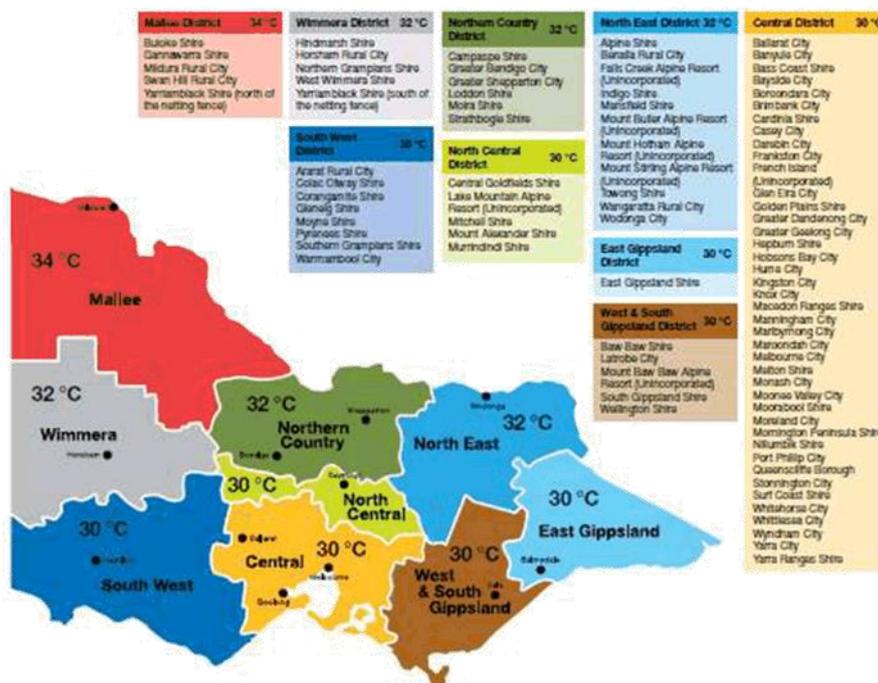


Figure 2 - Average Min + Max temperature heatwave thresholds across the state from Victorian Heat Health Plan

Emergency management

The *State Emergency Response Plan - Extreme Heat Sub-Plan* (Edition 2) outlines the Victorian arrangements for the coordinated response to the impacts and consequences of extreme heat events (including heatwaves) on the community, infrastructure, and services.

In November 2016 the control agency for heatwaves transferred from Victoria Police to the EMC.

Heatwave is a Class 2 emergency under the *Emergency Management Act 2013* and during extreme heat events the main emergency management tasks are:

- ensuring the messages to the public are coordinated, consistent and complementary
- ensuring the impact and consequences of extreme heat on the community are identified and managed in an integrated and coordinated manner
- coordinating the whole-of-government response to the varied emergencies caused by the heat.

The EMC is the Control Agency for extreme heat events under the EMMV Part 7 – Emergency Management Roles and Responsibilities.

The response to the management of consequences of an extreme heat event will be led from State with the EMC as the Control Agency, in partnership with Chief Health Officer (CHO), Ambulance Victoria - Director Emergency Management, and key infrastructure leaders, as required.

The activation of the state tier arrangements will be at the discretion of the EMC, having considered the advice of the SCOT.

Based on processes outlined in the State Operational Arrangements – Extreme Heat, the EMC may appoint a SC-H, to lead the whole of government for the management.

The Emergency Management Commissioner has set in place a number of triggers to identify when the establishment of the State Control function and appointment of the SC-H is required. This is based on the potential or actual significant consequence and may include but is not limited to;

Heat Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three or more consecutive days of Heat Health Alerts issued in a weather district • Where Heat Health Alerts provide advice to the community of a single day of extreme heat that the general population may have difficulty coping with.
Warnings to the Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Warnings or Emergency Warnings are likely to be required, requiring SC-H approval for issue.
Weather Forecast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One or more weather district forecast to experience more than 20% of the district in extreme intensity heatwave conditions • Majority of the State predicted or being impacted by severe intensity heatwave • Multiple Days of severe intensity heatwave forecast or occurring.
Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Temperatures are greater than 38°C for one day • Train Infrastructure: Day/night temperatures average more than 30°C for more than two consecutive days • Tram infrastructure: Forecast maximum temperature of 40°C degrees or more, or three or more consecutive days of 36°C
Energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If temperature is anticipated to exceed 42°C for a period of more than 12 hours. • High potential for the requirement to load shed.
Animal Welfare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multiple days of extreme intensity heatwave forecast in one or more weather districts

The *Heat Health Plan for Victoria* sets out the actions DHHS takes to prepare for and respond to heat events to reduce negative health impacts, including issuing heat health alerts and communicating how to survive in the heat.

Under the Local Government Act 1989 local government has a responsibility to protect public health in emergencies (DoJ 2014). The *Heat health plan for Victoria* encourages local government to address this responsibility by planning for heat events, enacting arrangements to support vulnerable members of the community, communicating heat health messages and coordinating ongoing support and local recovery activities as required (DHHS 2015).

Local Government has a range of statutory responsibilities that are impacted by heatwaves. Clear communications to staff and recipients of these services are essential in heat events. Messaging for these communications should be consistent and clear in addressing effects on services and the community.

6. Prevention, Preparedness, Response and Recovery

Prevention, preparedness, response and recovery are commonly employed phases of emergency management and are promoted in the *Heatwave Planning Guide* (DHS 2009) as an option for planning for heat event management.

In this plan:

- Prevention refers to eliminating or minimising the impacts of extreme heat on communities and individuals.
- Preparedness refers to planning and raising community awareness in the lead up to summer and heat events.
- Response refers to implementation of pre-determined actions in the event of extreme heat and providing relief and recovery services
- Recovery refers to follow up actions to support persons affected by the event to achieve proper and effective levels of functioning.

This plan groups actions into the following themes:

- **Planning:** Longer term planning and environmental interventions will be relevant in reducing the ongoing effects of extreme heat.
- **Organisational capacity:** Training of council staff to deliver care and support to individuals during extreme heat events, assisting service providers and ensuring that crucial council services continue to be run during a heat event.
- **Stakeholder partnerships:** Actions to engage, support and work with partner agencies in preparing for and responding to heat events.
- **Community support:** A strategy and set of actions to identify, prepare and support vulnerable or isolated individuals and sectors of the community in preparation for, or in response to, an extreme heat events.
- **Communications:** Educational information that can be distributed to the community and service providers, describing the risks of extreme heat and personal steps to reduce the effects.

7. How this plan was developed

Building on a Heat Health Plan template, this plan was adapted for the needs of Council and referred to relevant personnel internally.

A draft plan was developed by the Emergency Management and Climate Change Coordinators. This was approved by managers and then circulated as a draft to key external and internal stakeholders.

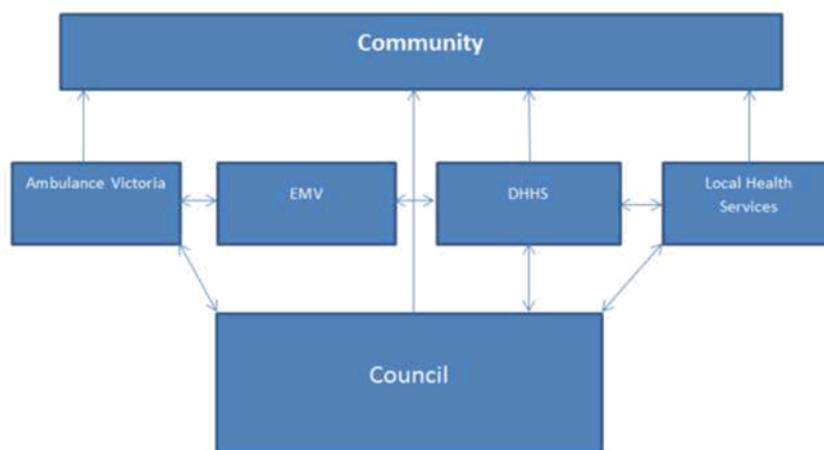
These key stakeholders met as a group to discuss and modify the plan. In conducting this process they shared current heatwave practices and experience and compared plans and levels of awareness around heatwave management.

The plan was reviewed in order to understand how best it could serve the needs of Council, but also complement other agencies and account for the interests of the community more broadly. This was vital to gaining clarity of definitions responsibilities in extreme heat events.

The stakeholders consisted of:

<u>Internal to Council</u>	<u>External agencies</u>
Municipal Emergency Management Coordinator (or similar)	Local hospital representative
Climate Change Coordinator (or similar)	Local hospital representative
Manager that covers HACC teams	Manager Public Health (DHHS)
	Group Manager Ambulance Victoria(AV)

While Council has a key coordination and facilitation role in extreme heat events, it is one of a number of agencies responsible for minimising the impact of heat on the community. Council can contribute to greater community capacity and resilience in addressing heat events by providing input into the heat health plans developed by other stakeholders and also by engaging stakeholders in the development and review of council's heat health plan.



8. Local weather / climate statistics

Table 1 below identifies the number of days over 32 degrees in Castlemaine, Maryborough and Echuca since 2006/2007FY (not representative of heat health alerts). Note that some data missing on BOM records and very limited data avail Q1/2012 for Echuca resulting in non-useable statistic for Echuca in 2011/12 FY

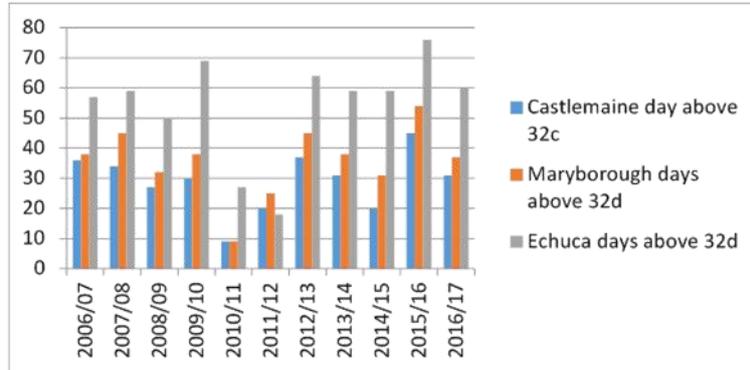


Table 2 below identifies historic and projected average heatwave days from 1974 – 2030.

Location	Average heatwave days / year			Average consecutive heatwave days / year		
	Historic (1974 - 2003)	Projected (2030)	% Change	Historic (1974 - 2003)	Projected (2030)	% Change
Greater Bendigo	2.60	5.23	100%	0.03	1.87	6,200%
Mildura	4.33	8.00	85%	1.80	3.20	78%
Whitehorse	2.20	3.36	63%	0.03	0.40	330%
Yarra Ranges	0.07	0.70	900%	0.03	0.10	230%

North Central District

North Central has a typically Mediterranean climate, with cool damp winters and hot dry summers. Between Castlemaine and Maryborough the month with the highest average temperatures is February with a mean maximum of approximately 28.5°C and a mean minimum of 13.5°C. The other summer months also have average maximum temperatures over 25°C and mean minimums of over 10°C – indicating that these months are periods in which heatwaves are likely.

The average annual rainfall in Castlemaine is 591mm and Maryborough 528mm. (BOM, 2017)

Up-to-date and live weather reports and predictions can be found at the Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) website and app (web addresses in Part 20). It should be noted that local weather conditions may vary to reported statistics.

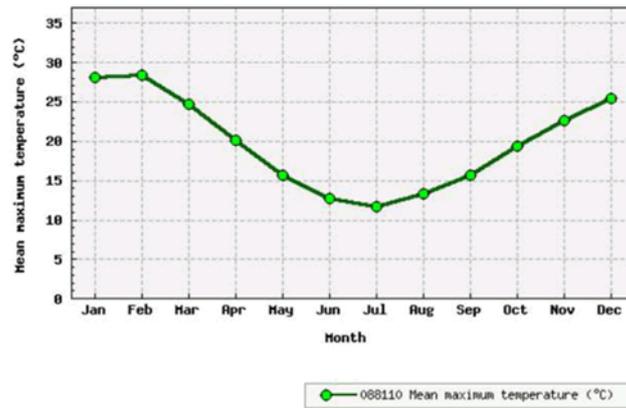


Figure 3 - Average daily maximum temperatures recorded at Castlemaine Prison (BOM, 2016)

Table 3 below identifies the number of days where a heat health alert was issued for North Central Weather District.

Year	Month	Number of heat health alerts issued	Comments
2012/13 – 8 Heat Health Alerts issued across Victoria with 6 issued in North Central District	November	1	
	December	1	
	January	4	
2013/14 – 11 Heat Health Alerts issued across Victoria with all 11 issued in North Central District	December	1	North Central District had 5 consecutive days over Jan/Feb of Heat Health Alerts
	January	7	
	February	3	
2014/15 – 3 Heat Health Alerts issued across Victoria with 2 issued in North Central District	January	2	
2015/16 – 9 Heat Health Alerts issued across Victoria with all 9 issued in North Central District	December	3	Three consecutive days of Heat Health Alert in March – Heatwave declared
	January	2	
	February	1	
	March	3	
2016/17	December	1	
	January	1	
	February	2	

Northern Country District

The Northern Country district climate ranges from cold winters with occasional frosts through to arid summers that peak with an average high temperature of 35°Cs in the months of January, February and March, making these the most likely months for heatwaves to occur.

The average annual rainfall in Echuca is 400mm. (BOM, 2016)

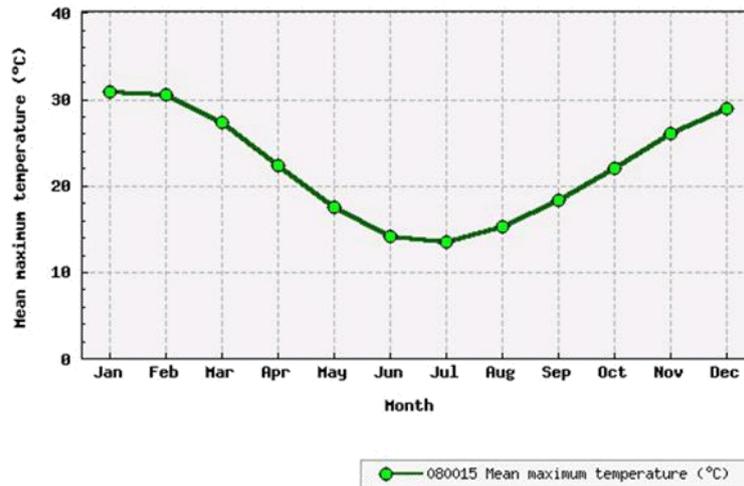


Figure 4 - Average daily maximum temperatures recorded at Echuca Aerodrome (BOM 2017)

Up-to-date and live weather reports and predictions can be found at the Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) website and app (web addresses in Part 20). It should be noted that local weather conditions may vary to reported statistics.

Table 4 below identifies the number of days where a heat health alert was issued for Northern Country Weather District.

Year	Month	Number of heat health alerts issued	Comments
2012/13 – 8 Heat Health Alerts issued across Victoria	November	1	
	January	2	
2013/14 – 11 Heat Health Alerts issued across Victoria	January	3	
	February	2	
2014/15 – 3 Heat Health Alerts issued across Victoria	January	2	
2015/16 – 9 Heat Health Alerts issued across Victoria	December	2	
	January	1	
	February	1	
	March	1	
2016/17 - 9 Heat Health Alerts issued across Victoria	December	1	
	January	1	
	February	1	

9. What we are going to do

To be better prepared for extreme heat each summer council will undertake a range of actions to:

- Include heatwave mitigation, preparation, response and recovery into existing municipal plans
- Work with our community, agencies and organisations to support vulnerable populations
- Develop a communication strategy using heat health alert messages consistent with DHHS materials.
- Continued promotion of the Heatwave Help website (www.heatwavehelp.com.au) and supporting publications.
- Respond to state activated heat health alert system in a planned and considered way.

Our action plan provides year round guidance to preventing, preparing, responding to and recovering from extreme heat events. The actions are divided into five stages of prevention, preparation, response and recovery.

Stage 1: Long term prevention actions

Stage 2: Pre summer preparation

Stage 3: Preparation immediately before forecast extreme heat events

Stage 4: Extreme heat event response

Stage 5: Post event recovery.

There are a range of corporate and stakeholder plans that should take into account the concerns raised in this document.

Relevant Municipal Emergency Management Plan and Sub Plans	Relevant agency plans
Northern Victorian Integrated Municipal Emergency Management Plan	State Health Emergency Response Plan
Municipal Relief and Recovery Plan (where applicable)	Regional Climate Adaptation Plan
Municipal Public Health Emergency Management Plan (where applicable)	Community Health Emergency Plans
	Hospital Emergency Plans

10. Stage 1: Longer term prevention and mitigation actions

The following actions are anticipated to be those relevant to minimising the impacts of heatwaves. They are **suggested rather than directed actions** and should be reviewed in the context of actual heatwaves in order to ensure they are as relevant as possible.

Actions recommended by the State Heat Health Plan are marked in orange

PLANNING	
Action	Suggested lead agency or personnel
Advocate for a of review planning scheme and building codes to increase thermal efficiency of homes and buildings	Council and relevant agencies
Advocate for support to install climate mitigating measures in vulnerable people's homes e.g. Solar and AC	Council and relevant agencies
Undertake assessment of heat island effect of urban areas	Council
Increase shade in public spaces	Council
Ensure planting of suitable street trees	Council
Improve public access to drinking water	Council
Heat proofing of public buildings	Council

ORGANISATIONAL CAPACITY	
Action	Suggested lead agency or personnel
Ensure power supply back up for critical services	Health Services and relevant agencies
Advocate for better power disruption notifications and services	Council and Health Services
Undertake risk assessment and planning for Council's ability to maintain adequate staffing and delivery of services in extreme heat events	Council and Health Services

COMMUNITY SUPPORT	
Action	Suggested lead agency or personnel
Seek opportunities for funds to retrofit dwellings for thermal efficiency, particularly those of vulnerable and low income residents	Council and relevant agencies
Develop community social capital by fostering neighbourhood connections	Council and community agencies
Encourage incorporation of extreme heat issues and management in Community Planning Projects and community plans	Council
Develop or link into existing all hazards look after your neighbours campaign	Council and relevant agencies

11. Stage 2: Pre summer preparation actions

Actions recommended by the State Heat Health Plan are marked in orange

PLANNING	
Action	Suggested lead agency or personnel
Review and update the heat health plan and other relevant heat plans, including business continuity plans	All agencies
Develop and document a clear process for responding to heat health alerts including clearly identified responsible officers and contact details for all relevant staff and agencies (see Part 20)	All agencies
Develop extreme heat event checklists for council staff and facilities	Council
Review council Extreme Heat / Heatwave Policy for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Community use of council facilities ○ Rescheduling of Planned Activity Group activities 	Council and relevant agencies

ORGANISATIONAL CAPACITY	
Action	Suggested lead agency or personnel
Participate in exercises and forums to discuss and improve individual and collective responses to extreme heat events	All agencies
Train Council staff and service providers to support individuals during extreme heat events	Council
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure service provider staff are appropriately trained to identify clients who may need assistance 	Council
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide heat health information to staff engaged in delivering client services so they can raise awareness 	Council and relevant agencies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage staff to download the Better Health Channel app from www.vic.gov.au/social-media/mobile-apps/betterhealth-channel-health-information-and-services.html 	All agencies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage staff to download the BOM app 	All agencies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage staff to subscribe to receive heat health alerts from www.health.vic.gov.au/environment/heatwaves-alert.htm 	All agencies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a cancellation policy for outdoor sport and recreation events and other events with large gatherings of people during extreme heat events 	All agencies

STAKEHOLDER PARTNERSHIPS	
Action	Suggested lead agency or personnel
Engage with key stakeholders and community members to raise awareness about the risks of extreme heat	Council and appropriate agencies
Convene an annual heat event roundtable or exercise of relevant stakeholders	Council
Encourage and support other stakeholders (e.g. health services providers, medical clinics, aged care facilities) to develop heat health plans and ensure their plans are integrated with this plan	Council

COMMUNITY SUPPORT	
Action	Suggested lead agency or personnel
Determine the level of service that council will provide to vulnerable persons in extreme heat events e.g. check-up via phone calls, welfare visits	Council
Identify established and informal networks to connect and engage with Aboriginal and culturally and linguistically diverse communities	Council and relevant agencies
Identify and assess at risk populations and individuals	Council and relevant agencies
Determine the most appropriate list or register for vulnerable and at risk residents. It has been identified that the Vulnerable Persons Register doesn't necessarily capture those most at risk from extreme heat	All agencies
Action	Suggested lead agency or personnel
Use and update relevant lists of people who may be at risk of extreme heat that are current, including people who receive HACC services or Meals on Wheels, in heat health planning	Council
Review and update council residents listed on the Vulnerable Persons Register	Council
Develop and document a clear process for providing support and contact to vulnerable clients on days of extreme heat e.g. phone checks or welfare visits	Council
Community Care workers will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Provide heat help action kits to vulnerable clients. ○ Assess vulnerable client's homes for the ability to cope with extreme heat. ○ Provide advice to vulnerable clients on how to manage their homes in extreme heat events 	Council
Update individual heat health plans for clients and vulnerable-client lists	Council
Talk with clients, family and carers about downloading the Better Health Channel app and subscribing to receive heat health alerts	Council
Encourage / support households and individuals to prepare all hazards plans e.g. Red Cross Rediplan	All agencies
Promote www.heatwavehelp.com.au and heatwave guides (How to beat extreme heat – Your guide, Heatwave Action Plan and Heatwaves and Health – staff guides)	Council

COMMUNICATIONS	
Action	Responsible agency or personnel
Develop and annually update a heat health communication plan. (see section 15) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The communication strategy will cover both internal and external audiences ○ Annually prepare communication resources, draft media releases, contact lists ○ Identify target groups for awareness campaigns (vulnerable, aged care facilities, sporting clubs, caravan parks, tourism operators) ○ Identify appropriate communications methods and materials for different target audiences, age groups and culturally and linguistically diverse communities as relevant 	Council with support from Agencies
Engage staff across Council to identify opportunities to promote heat health and enhance activities to respond to extreme heat	Council
Order and display the department’s heat health brochure in the lobby and other council venues and distribute to clients	Council
Distribute the department’s heat health brochures and other communication materials to other service providers e.g. senior citizens centres, medical clinics and pharmacies.	All agencies



12. Stage 3: Preparation immediately before forecast extreme heat events

Actions recommended by the State Heat Health Plan are marked in orange

ORGANISATIONAL CAPACITY

Action	Responsible agency
Take action in accordance with heat health plans or other plans containing heat-related actions such as service continuity plans, emergency management plans and occupational health and safety plans	Relevant staff
Activate heat health alert process – internal and external (see Part 20)	Municipal Recovery Manager
Monitor local weather conditions on the Bureau of Meteorology's website	All agencies
Reschedule services to the cooler part of the day	All agencies
Ensure appropriate staffing levels and consider staff and client safety in hot weather	Managers
Coordinate staff to implement Council support process for identified vulnerable clients	Council
Ensure Council and other agency display stands etc. are stocked with extreme heat event information and brochures such as those produced by DHHS	Council
Review organisational service delivery changes for Extreme Heat &/or Total Fire Ban days	All agencies

STAKEHOLDER PARTNERSHIPS

Action	Responsible agency or personnel
Work with partner agencies as identified in this plan and the MEMPC to undertake preparation activities	MEMPC / Heatwave Committee

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Action	Responsible agency or personnel
Alert clients on vulnerable persons register or other council registers of upcoming extreme heat events	Council
Provide consistent heat health messages during client visits or telephone calls	Agencies
Ensure staff engaging with the public are aware of what the council is doing to support and protect those at risk such as where people can go to stay cool	Council

Action	Responsible agency or personnel
Advise organisers of outdoor and sporting events to consider postponing or cancelling events - this applies to events organised by council	Council
Encourage organisers of outdoor and sporting events to register for heat health alerts	All agencies
Provide information to the community regarding cool spaces (including pool and library opening and closing times)	Council
Consider providing free pool passes to disadvantaged or vulnerable persons	Council
Advise food premises re extra caution with food hygiene during heat event	Council
Contact clients in the event of known power failures to check for welfare of vulnerable clients.	Council

COMMUNICATIONS

Action	Responsible agency or personnel
Utilise the media kit developed by DHHS as a basis for all media and communications with adaptations for local conditions	All agencies
Instigate consistent community messages through local media or other communication channels	All agencies
Update the Council website with consistent heat health information or message from the mayor or CEO	Council

13. Stage 4: Extreme heat event response actions

Actions recommended by the State Heat Health Plan are marked in orange

ORGANISATIONAL CAPACITY	
Action	Responsible agency or personnel
Undertake council activities in the Municipal Emergency Management Plan if required	Council
Reschedule any non-essential events, meetings and services to another day or in the cooler part of the day	All agencies

STAKEHOLDER PARTNERSHIPS	
Action	Responsible agency or personnel
Work with partner agencies as identified in this plan and the MEMP to activate designated roles and activities.	MEMPC and Heatwave Committee

COMMUNITY SUPPORT	
Action	Responsible agency or personnel
Instigate council support process for identified vulnerable clients e.g. phone checks or welfare visits	Council
Remind vulnerable clients of key actions to take in extreme heat events	All client service agencies
Monitor temperatures in client areas of agency buildings	All agencies
Ensure adequate drinking water is available for clients, visitors and staff	All agencies

COMMUNICATIONS	
Action	Responsible agency or personnel
Increase community messaging through local media and standard communication channels	All agencies

14. Stage 5: Post event recovery actions

Actions recommended by the State Heat Health Plan are marked in orange

ORGANISATIONAL CAPACITY	
Action	Responsible agency or personnel
Convene a post event debriefing session	Council with support from Heatwave Committee
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Review the impact of the event including information collated by DHHS, council and other agencies: the number of ambulance call outs, hospital admissions and fatalities, the number of vulnerable persons contacted by council staff, impacts of power blackouts (if any), use of cool spaces / refuges (official and unofficial) 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Consider what worked well and what could be improved in preparation for further heat 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Evaluate the effectiveness of internal communications and processes 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Evaluate the effectiveness of community education and awareness campaigns 	
Notify DHHS (as central agency) of any staffing changes due to heat or fire danger days	
Annually review and update this plan	Council with support from Heatwave Committee

COMMUNITY SUPPORT	
Action	Responsible agency
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider local recovery activities if required 	Council
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact and assess vulnerable persons in days immediately after the event 	All client services agencies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talk with clients about how they are recovering from the heat 	All client services agencies

15. Communications plan

Diagram 1 - Heat Health Alert notification for up to two consecutive days

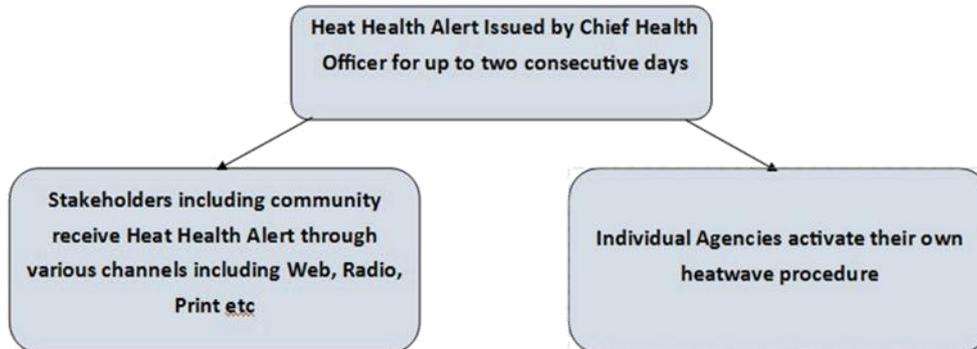
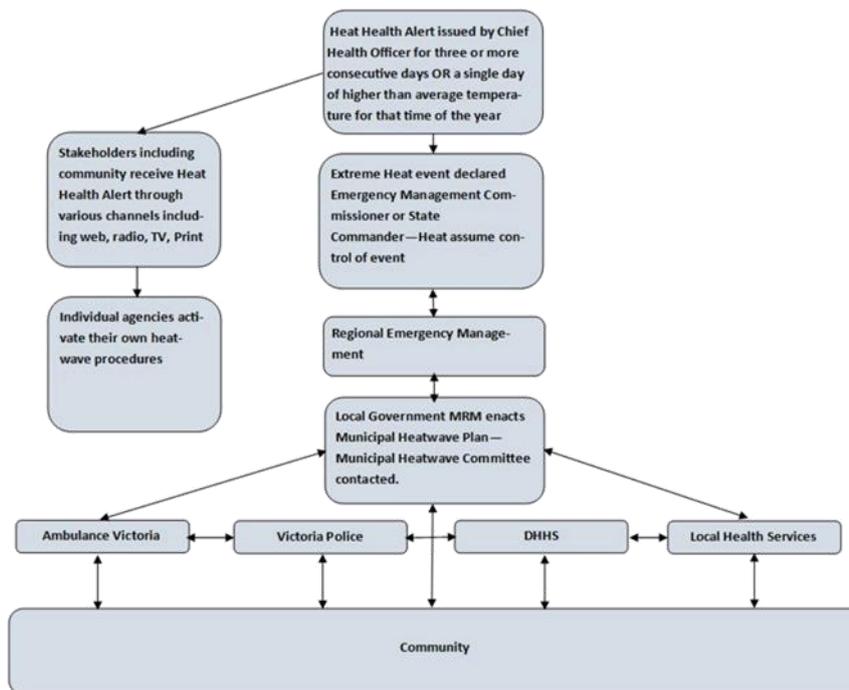


Diagram 2 - Heat Health Alert notification for three consecutive days or more OR single day with higher than average temperature for that time of year



Heatwave Communications Package – Department of Health and Human Services

Each year in the lead up to the summer season, the Department of Health and Human Services will provide a Heatwave Communication Package to Local Government.

Typically this package will contain:

- Template media releases
- Key messages
- Social media messaging

These resources are available from:

- <https://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/council-media-kit-survive-the-heat>
- <https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/public-health/environmental-health/climate-weather-and-public-health/heatwaves-and-extreme-heat/heatwave-community-resources>

Heatwave Help Project – Communication/education tools.

The Central Victorian Greenhouse Alliance in partnership with Mount Alexander, City of Greater Bendigo, Buloke, Loddon, Central Goldfields and Gannawarra Councils has developed a Heatwave Action Kit to assist with community education of the impacts of heatwave and to build community resilience in dealing with heatwave.

This Kit contains:

- How to beat extreme heat – your guide
- Magnetic Thermometer
- Fan
- Magnetic Heatwave Action Plan

Additional products have also been developed through this project including:

- Heatwave Health in Community Care – education video
- Heatwave Help: Local stories on dealing with heatwaves – educational video

Electronic copies of these resources are available from <https://heathealth.cvga.org.au/>



16. Evaluation process

Undertake an annual evaluation of this plan at the end of each summer season. The evaluation will:

- Involve all relevant stakeholders
- Be evidence based and conducted against clear and measurable goals
- Review whether actions contained in the plan occurred in reasonable timelines with effective outcomes
- Inform revision and improvement of the plan.

Reviews can be carried out:

- early in the summer season, for example, after the first heat health alert is issued
- following a major heatwave event, such as a prolonged period of extreme heat or an emergency-level heatwave
- at the end of each summer.

The State Government's Heatwave Plan review tool suggests practical steps to manage reviews at all stages.

Mini review

Trends show that heat health alerts are likely to be issued several times during summer. Currently, major heatwave events occur less frequently, perhaps every few years (though climate experts predict increasing frequency).

Regular mini-reviews of this plan will ensure that it is current and relevant. These should be held twice a year in November and April, before and after the main heatwave season.

This type of review targets specific aspects such as:

- whether you distributed the Department of Health's heat health alert to internal and external stakeholders successfully
- whether your services were appropriately adapted and delivered as planned.

A smaller review could be conducted:

- early in the summer season, for example, after the first heat health alert is issued
- following a major heatwave event, such as a prolonged period of extreme heat or an emergency-level heatwave.

The information gathered from the mini review will typically provide direct benefit in supporting your planning and preparation processes, so you might consider updating the plan immediately rather than waiting until the end of summer.

Full review

Following summer, the Heatwave stakeholder group should review this heatwave plan in its entirety. The review should look at how well local processes worked and explore ways of improving your plan.

The review will identify how well your heatwave plan:

- worked with other plans and strategies
- addressed the needs of clients and community members most at risk to extreme heat
- engaged internal and external stakeholders and community partners
- actioned heatwave-related activities before, during and after extreme heat
- adapted services in response to forecasted conditions
- provided key health messages to clients, staff and local community members
- distributed to internal and external stakeholders and community partners
- outlined its review strategy.

For a comprehensive investigation of best practice around reviewing heatwave plans you can access the Department of Health - Heatwave Review Tool (2011) at <https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/public-health/environmental-health/climate-weather-and-public-health/heatwaves-and-extreme-heat/heatwave-planning>

Relevant agencies

The following agencies have been party to the formation of this document.

- Integrated Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee members
- Local health providers.

17. Items for future reviews

A number items have been identified through the heat wave planning process that warrant further consideration in later iterations of the plan:

- Further effects on community, infrastructure and environment
- Community support – internal and external responsibilities
- Outreach to CALD communities
- Sharing vulnerable persons register information across agencies
- Review sections 10-15 with relevant staff and unit buy-in, clarify and streamline these sections
- Email distribution list in Communications plan section (Part 15).

18. Appendices

Heat health temperature thresholds.



Introduction

The Department of Health and Human Services Heat Health Alert System notifies councils, departmental program areas, hospitals, health and community service providers and the public of forecast extreme heat conditions which are likely to impact on human health.

A heat health alert is issued when mean temperatures are predicted to reach and exceed heat health thresholds. It is recommended that recipients continue to monitor local conditions and take action in accordance with their own heat plans, service continuity plans and occupational health and safety (OH&S) plans.

The Heat Health Alert System operates each year from December to the end of February of the following year.

Figure 1: Weather forecast districts and corresponding heat health temperature thresholds
Image adapted from the Country Fire Authority's 'Know your total fire ban district'.

Weather forecast districts

The Heat Health Alert System is based on the Bureau of Meteorology weather forecast districts and boundaries (Figure 1).

Heat health temperature thresholds

The Department of Health and Human Services has identified heat health temperature thresholds for Victoria, above which heat-related illness and mortality increases substantially.

These thresholds differ across the state to recognise the higher temperatures experienced in northern parts of Victoria. A heat health temperature threshold has been established for each of the nine weather forecast districts as shown in Figure 1.



The department monitors the Bureau of Meteorology forecast daily minimum and maximum temperatures and calculates the daily average temperature for each weather forecast district (Figure 2).

Figure 2: Example calculation of the daily average temperature

Calculating the average temperature

The average temperature is calculated from the forecast **daily maximum** (in this case Tuesday) and the forecast overnight temperature, which is the **daily minimum for the following day** (in this case Wednesday).

An example of this calculation is demonstrated below:

Melbourne	
Tuesday	Average calculation for Tuesday
Min: 20 °C	$(38+25)/2 = 31.5^{\circ}\text{C}$
Max: 38 °C	The threshold for Melbourne = average of 30°C.
Wednesday	The temperature forecast indicates that the threshold will be exceeded.
Min: 25 °C	
Max: 31 °C	

This calculation will be repeated for each of the seven days included in the daily forecast.

The average temperature for any given day is the average of the forecast daily maximum temperature and the forecast overnight temperature (which is the daily minimum for the following day).

When forecast average temperatures are predicted to reach or exceed the heat health temperature threshold for a specific weather forecast district, the department will issue a heat health alert for that district.

Heat health alerts

Heat health alerts are issued via the departments' subscription service. To subscribe to receive heat health alerts and other emergency advice from the department go to <http://www.health.vic.gov.au/subscribe/>.

The departments' subscription service is available to organisations and individuals. Generic email inboxes or individual email addresses should be used to subscribe. Please note that an email will be sent requesting confirmation of the subscription. **Please ensure the email requesting confirmation is actioned as the subscription will not be activated.**

Once a heat health alert is issued, local councils, departmental program areas and health and community service providers should respond in accordance with their heat plans. Individuals should also take action to prepare for extreme heat to protect themselves and those in their care from the impact of extreme heat particularly those most at risk.

The department may also be considering other factors that may influence vulnerability, such as very high maximum or minimum temperatures and high temperatures over a prolonged consecutive period. High temperature alerts may be issued in these circumstances even if the average temperature threshold is not exceeded. Prolonged high temperatures below threshold levels can still impact on health services.

Where possible, heat health alerts will be issued 3-4 days prior to forecast extreme heat conditions providing recipients with an early warning. Whilst the department will be monitoring forecast temperatures across the state, it is important for councils and other organisations to continue to monitor local conditions. **It may be necessary for councils to activate heat plans in the absence of a heat health alert being issued.** Council contacts are encouraged to monitor local conditions using the Bureau of Meteorology at <http://www.bom.gov.au/>

The heat health alerts are available from the Department of Health website at <http://www.health.vic.gov.au/heat-health-alert-system/index.htm>

Authorised and published by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne.
 © State of Victoria, Department of Health and Human Services, December 2015.
 Available at <https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/public-health/environmental-health>



Source: Department of Health and Human Services. <https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/public-health/environmental-health/climate-weather-and-public-health/heatwaves-and-extreme-heat/heat-health-alerts>

Mount Alexander Municipal Profile

Mount Alexander Shire covers 1529km² incorporating the townships of Nuggetty, Baringhup, Maldon, Walmer, Ravenswood South, Harcourt, Sutton Grange, Welshmans Reef, Newstead, Sandon, Yapeen, Guildford, Castlemaine, Chewton, Elphinstone, Metcalfe, Fryerstown and Taradale.

Mount Alexander Shire is a predominantly rural area with many townships and communities located amongst bush and grass landscapes. The municipality still has significant residential areas such as the township of Castlemaine. The Shire's topography varies with undulating country in the centre of the shire surrounded by grasslands in outer areas of the shire. The municipality also has elevated areas consisting of Mount Tarrengower and Mount Alexander.

Climate is mild with hot dry summer periods.

Demographics

The population of the Shire is estimated at 18,761 (ABS Census 2016).

Estimated residential population¹:

• Maldon – Tarrengower – Nuggerty	1734
• Rural West – Newstead	2885
• Rural East – Taradale	3710
• Campbells Creek	1692
• Castlemaine South – Chewton	2833
• Castlemaine East	2465
• Castlemaine West – McKenzie Hill	2768

¹ <http://profile.id.com.au/mount-alexander/population-estimate?WebID=160&DataType=en>

Vulnerable Groups (2016 Census data)

Some groups are more susceptible to the health effects of heatwave

Group	Local Context and heatwave effects
Babies and Pre-schoolers (0 – 4)	At the 2011 Census, there were 839 people (4.5% of the population) living within Mount Alexander.
Young People (5 – 14)	At the 2016 Census, there were 1,985 people (10.6% of the population) living within Mount Alexander.
People over 65	At the 2016 Census, there were 4,356 people (24% of the population) living within Mount Alexander. There were 6,630 presentations of people over 65 at hospitals across Victoria during the 2014 heatwave. This was higher than the 5,627 presentations expected. This is a 33% increase when compared to non-heatwave events presentations
Overweight and obese, and those with poor cardio-vascular fitness	The Department of Human Services Burden of Disease report (2001) estimates that 2.9% of males and 2.4% of females in Mount Alexander suffer from cardiovascular disease. This is a higher proportion than the Victorian population more generally.
Pregnant and breastfeeding mothers	Maternal and Child Health (MCH) statistics show that there approximately 150 births annually in the municipality in recent years.
People with chronic medical illnesses or conditions	The Department of Human Services Burden of Disease report (2001) estimates that 15.8% of males and 13.9% of females in Mount Alexander suffer from some form of disease. This is a higher proportion than the Victorian population more generally.
People with a physical or cognitive disability	At the 2016 Census, 933 residents in Mount Alexander were described as requiring assistance. Of these residents 10 were 0-4 years of age and 514 were 65 years or older.
People who live alone or are socially isolated	At the 2016 Census, Mount Alexander had a high proportion of single person households 2,426 people
Low-socio economic groups, including homeless people	The ABS Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage (SEIFA) suggests the Mount Alexander community is more disadvantaged than the state more generally. There are particular pockets of disadvantage in Chewton, South Castlemaine and McKenzie Hill. CDCH advises that they have an annual client intake of approximately 36 people who have been sleeping rough. They estimate that the real number may be in vicinity of 120 people however.
Those living or camping in caravans and tents	At the 2016 Census, 72 people were living within 43 other types of dwellings such as caravans, tents or similar type of accommodation.

Loddon Municipal Profile

The Shire of Loddon is located in North Central Victoria. It has a total area of almost 7000km² and is largely comprised of agricultural land, both irrigated and dry land, but also contains large areas of State Forest. The Shire is interspersed with approximately 27 small townships and hamlets, none of which having a population in excess of 1,000 people.

The Shire extends from Eddington in the south to Pyramid Hill in the north, from Wychitella in the west to Leichardt in the east. The northern section of the Shire is predominantly agricultural land. This area is largely flat cleared land, with few remaining forest areas.

The southern area of the Shire is hillier country which consists of a mix of dry land agricultural land, rural residential properties and large tracts of State Forest.

Demographics

The population of the Shire is estimated at 7,516(ABS ERP 2016).

Estimated residential population²:

• Boort	873
• Wedderburn	941
• Inglewood	855
• Pyramid Hill	558
• Bridgewater	142
• Tarnagulla	133
• Serpentine	192
• Korong Vale	168
• Newbridge	192
• Mitiamo	117
• Eddington	196

(Figures based on ABS 2016data)

In addition to the above towns the following small Hamlets are located within the Shire; Kingower, Rheola, Wychitella, Logan, Arnold, Bears Lagoon, Jarklin, Durham Ox, Mincha, Calivil, Dingee, Mysia, Borung, Eastville and Fernihurst.

² <http://profile.id.com.au/loddon/population-estimate?WebID=10>

Vulnerable Groups (2016 Census data)

Some groups are more susceptible to the health effects of heatwave

Group	Local Context and heatwave effects
Babies and Pre-schoolers (0 – 4)	At the 2016 Census, there were 335 people (4.5% of the population) living within Loddon.
Young People (5 – 14)	At the 2016 Census, there were 856 people (11.4% of the population) living within Loddon.
People over 65	At the 2016 Census, there were 2,012 people (26.8% of the population) living within Loddon. There were 6,630 presentations of people over 65 at hospitals across Victoria during the 2014 heatwave. This was higher than the 5,627 presentations expected. This is a 33% increase when compared to non-heatwave events presentations
Pregnant and breastfeeding mothers	Maternal and Child Health (MCH) statistics show that there approximately 62 births annually in the municipality in recent years.
People with a physical or cognitive disability	At the 2016 Census, 553 residents in Loddon were described as requiring assistance, equating to 7.3% of the population. Of these residents 3 were 0-4 years of age and 329 were 65 years or older.
People who live alone or are socially isolated	At the 2016 Census, Loddon had a high proportion of single person households (32%) this equates to 1,015 persons.
Low-socio economic groups, including homeless people	The ABS Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage (SEIFA) suggests the Loddon community is more disadvantaged than the state more generally. Inglewood and Districts Health Service advises that they have no annual client intake of people who have been sleeping rough. In no way does this affirm no people are sleeping rough within the municipality however.
Those living or camping in caravans and tents	At the 2016 Census, 62 people were living within other types of dwellings such as caravans, tents or similar type of accommodation.

Central Goldfields Municipal Profile

The Central Goldfields Shire covers an area of 1534 square kilometres and is either forested or used for mixed farming purposes. There has been extensive rural residential development in the Shire and many of these rural residential areas abut State Forest.

The Shire is bounded by the Avoca River in the North West, the Bet Bet Creek in the South West, the Joyces Creek, Cairn Curran Reservoir and Deep Creek in the East. The Bet Bet Creek traverses the Shire in the central north of the shire. The Eastern and Western edges of the Shire are basalt plain, while the central portion of the Shire is undulating to hilly country.

Demographics

In the 2016 census the Central Goldfields Shire had a total population of 12,995.

Population figures:

Township Population

• Maryborough	7921
• Dunolly	893
• Bealiba	206
• Moliagul	88
• Carisbrook	1115
• Bowenvale	181
• Majorca	211
• Talbot	442

Vulnerable Groups (2016 Census data)

Some groups are more susceptible to the health effects of heatwave

Group	Local Context and heatwave effects
Babies and Pre-schoolers (0 – 4)	At the 2016 Census, there were 586 people living within Central Goldfields.
Young People (5 – 11)	At the 2016 Census, there were 924 people living within Central Goldfields.
People over 60	At the 2016 Census, there were 4,686 people living within Central Goldfields. This is an increase from 3,656 from the 2006 Census. There were 6,630 presentations of people over 65 at hospitals across Victoria during the 2014 heatwave. This was higher than the 5,627 presentations expected. This is a 33% increase when compared to non-heatwave events presentations
Pregnant and breastfeeding mothers	Maternal and Child Health (MCH) statistics show that there are approximately 115 births annually in the municipality in recent years.
People with a physical or cognitive disability	At the 2016 Census, 1,161 residents in Central Goldfields were described as requiring assistance. Of these residents 7 were 0-4 years of age and 582 were 65 years or older.
People who live alone or are socially isolated	At the 2016 Census, Central Goldfields had a1,906 single person households.
Low-socio economic groups, including homeless people	The ABS Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage (SEIFA) suggests the Central Goldfields community is more disadvantaged than the state more generally. Maryborough District Health Service advises they have no annual client intake for people who have been sleeping rough. In no way does this affirm no people are sleeping rough within the municipality however.
Those living or camping in caravans and tents	At the 2016 Census, 106 people were living within other types of dwellings such as caravans, tents or similar type of accommodation.

City of Greater Bendigo Municipal Profile

The City of Greater Bendigo is located in the geographic centre of Victoria. Greater Bendigo has a population of just over 111,000 and covers almost 3,000 square kilometres of the Central Victorian landscape of which a significant proportion is national park, regional park, reserve or bushland. Smaller townships are located at Axedale, Elmore, Goornong, Heathcote, Marong and Redesdale.

Today, Bendigo is the major regional centre for North Central Victoria and the fourth largest urban area in Victoria. Bendigo features a major public hospital (Bendigo Health) and several smaller health services (Anne Caudle Centre, Eaglehawk Day Hospital, Heathcote Hospital and private hospital St. John of God).

Demographics

The City of Greater Bendigo had a population of 110,477 in the 2016 Census.

Population figures:

Township Population

• Bendigo	5,616
• Eaglehawk - Eaglehawk North - Sailors Gully	6,516
• East Bendigo	2,151
• Elmore - Rural North	3,481
• Epsom - Ascot	6,233
• Flora Hill - Quarry Hill - Spring Gully - Golden Gully	9,595
• Golden Square	8,996
• Heathcote and District	3,910
• Huntly	2,490
• Kangaroo Flat - Big Hill	10,799
• Kennington	5,728
• Long Gully - West Bendigo – Ironbark	4,905
• Maiden Gully	5,095
• Marong - Rural West	4,456
• North Bendigo - California Gully	8,531
• Axedale – Sedgwick - Longlea - Junortoun	7,705
• Strathdale	5,722
• Strathfieldsaye	5,490
• White Hills - Jackass Flat	4,369

Vulnerable Groups (2016 Census data)

Some groups are more susceptible to the health effects of heatwave

Group	Local Context and heatwave effects
Babies and Pre-schoolers (0 – 4)	At the 2016 Census, there were 7,075 people (6.4% of the population) living within City of Greater Bendigo.
Young People (5 – 11)	At the 2016 Census, there were 10,041 people (9.1% of the population) living within City of Greater Bendigo.
People over 60	At the 2016 Census, there were 26,410 (23.9% of the population) living within City of Greater Bendigo. There were 6,630 presentations of people over 65 at hospitals across Victoria during the 2014 heatwave. This was higher than the 5,627 presentations expected. This is a 33% increase when compared to non-heatwave events presentations
Pregnant and breastfeeding mothers	Maternal and Child Health (MCH) statistics show that there has been an average of 1,369 births annually in the municipality in past 3 years.
People with a physical or cognitive disability	At the 2016 Census, 6,546 residents in City of Greater Bendigo were described as requiring assistance, equating to 5.9% of the population. Of these residents 109 were 0-4 years of age and 3,505 were 65 years or older.
People who live alone or are socially isolated	At the 2016 Census, City of Greater Bendigo had 11,567 people living alone.
Low-socio economic groups, including homeless people	The ABS Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage (SEIFA) suggests the City of Greater Bendigo had a lower score (983.1) than the Victorian state average (1010) and higher than the Regional Victoria average (977.7). There are particular pockets of disadvantage in Long Gully, West Bendigo, Ironbark, North Bendigo and California Gully. Using Homelessness Australia data it states that 'on any given night 1 in 200 people are homeless'. In City of Greater Bendigo it is estimated at any one time over 500 people are homeless or living rough. Some significant reasons for homelessness/living rough include domestic violence and relationship issues, accommodation issues, financial difficulties and health reason.
Those living or camping in caravans and tents	The 2016 Census shows, 233 people were living within other types of dwellings such as caravans, tents or similar type of accommodation.

Campaspe Municipal Profile

The Shire of Campaspe is a predominantly rural area, but has significant residential areas in the townships of Echuca and Kyabram. The largest town is Echuca, followed by Kyabram. Smaller townships include Gunbower, Lockington, Rochester, Rushworth, Stanhope and Tongala. The Shire encompasses a total land area of about 4,500 square kilometres. Land is used mainly for agriculture, particularly dairy farming, cereal and grain growing and sheep grazing. Tourism is also an important industry.

Demographics

The Campaspe Shire a population of 37,061 in the 2016 Census.

Population figures:

Township Population

• Echuca (Central - East)	5,598
• Echuca (South - East)	2,823
• Echuca (West)	5,338
• Kyabram (East)	3,255
• Kyabram (West)	4,204
• Lockington - Gunbower and District	3,990
• Rochester	3,077
• Rushworth and District	2,438
• Stanhope and District	2,496
• Tongala and District	3,564

Vulnerable Groups (2016 Census data)

Some groups are more susceptible to the health effects of heatwave

Group	Local Context and heatwave effects
Babies and Pre-schoolers (0 – 4)	At the 2016 Census, there were 2,075 people (5.6% of the population) living within Campaspe.
Young People (5 – 14)	At the 2016 Census, there were 4,561 people (12.3 of the population) living within Campaspe. This is a decrease from 3,775 (10.4%) from the 2006 Census.
People over 60	At the 2016 Census, there were 11,099 (30.1% of the population) living within Campaspe. There were 6,630 presentations of people over 65 at hospitals across Victoria during the 2014 heatwave. This was higher than the 5,627 presentations expected. This is a 33% increase when compared to non-heatwave events presentations
Pregnant and breastfeeding mothers	Maternal and Child Health (MCH) statistics show that there approximately 422 births annually in the municipality in recent years.
People with a physical or cognitive disability	At the 2016 Census, 2,357 residents in Campaspe were described as requiring assistance, equating to 6.4% of the population. Of these residents 20 were 0-4 years of age and 1,482 were 65 years or older.
People who live alone or are socially isolated	At the 2016 Census, Campaspe had 3,908 people living alone.
Low-socio economic groups, including homeless people	The ABS Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage (SEIFA) suggests the Campaspe Shire community had a lower score (967) than the Victoria (1010) and regional Victoria (977) average scores, indicating a higher level of relative socio-economic disadvantage. Campaspe Shire was ranked 22nd lowest out of 79 Victorian LGAs
Those living or camping in caravans and tents	At the 2016 Census, 133 people were living within other types of dwellings such as caravans, tents or similar type of accommodation

19. Heatwave planning and response partner contact details

Please refer to the Northern Victorian Emergency Management Cluster Contacts, Suppliers and Facilities Database at <http://contacts.regional.em.vic.gov.au/>

Emergency Management Agencies can request access to the database by contacting the relevant Council - Emergency Management Coordinator.

20. References and Resources

Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) 2015. *About the Heatwave Service for Australia*, <http://www.bom.gov.au/australia/heatwave/about.shtml>

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Steffen, W., Hughes, L. and Perkins, S. 2014. *Heatwaves: Hotter, Longer, More Often*. Climate Council of Australia Limited.

Victorian Auditor-General 2014. *Heatwave Management: Reducing the Risk to Public Health*. State Government of Victoria, Melbourne.

Wellington Shire Council 2015. *Wellington Municipal Heatwave Plan V2.1*. Wellington Shire Council, Sale, Victoria.

Emergency Management Victoria (EMV) 2017. *Interim State Extreme Heat Health Sub-Plan, Emergency Management Victoria, Melbourne*

Resources

Bureau of meteorology

Website - <http://www.bom.gov.au/>

App - <http://www.bom.gov.au/app/>

Regional Climate Change Explorer - <http://www.climatechangeinaustralia.gov.au/en/climate-projections/future-climate/regional-climate-change-explorer/super-clusters/>

Climate Ready Victoria – Loddon Mallee Region

Website - http://www.climatechange.vic.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0003/320889/Loddon-Mallee.pdf

Heatwave Planning Resources – Department of Health and Human Services

Website - <https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/public-health/environmental-health/climate-weather-and-public-health/heatwaves-and-extreme-heat/heatwave-planning>

State Heat health plan - <https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/Api/downloadmedia/%7B5151AA4E-D2FD-4DD8-AA58-3F74A63F2066%7D>

Central Victorian Greenhouse Alliance

Heatwave training video - <https://heathealth.cvga.org.au/heatwave-help-downloads/>

Central Victorian Greenhouse Alliance: Heatwave Help- <https://heathealth.cvga.org.au/>

Emergency Management Victoria

Website - <https://www.emv.vic.gov.au/>

State Heat Plan - <http://files.em.vic.gov.au/EMV-web/State-Heat-Plan.pdf>

Interim State Emergency Response Plan Extreme Heat Sub-Plan - <http://files.portal.em.vic.gov.au/refdocs/EMK-01.19-HeatSubplan.pdf>

Emergency Management Common Operating Picture (EMCOP) - <http://app.prod.cop.em.vic.gov.au/sadisplay/nicslogin.seam>

Vic Emergency Website - Public emergency warning service - <http://emergency.vic.gov.au/respond/>

9.3 SECTION 173 AGREEMENT SEWER CONNECTION 3616 BRIDGEWATER DUNOLLY ROAD, BRIDGEWATER

File Number: 13/01/003
Author: Carolyn Stephenson, Statutory / Strategic Planner
Authoriser: Glenn Harvey, Manager Development and Compliance
Attachments: Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That the following document be executed under the Common Seal of the Council:

“Loddon Shire Council and Coliban Region Water Authority and Mark Andrew Trembath and Lynette Maree Park Agreement Made Pursuant to Section 173 of the Planning and Environment Act 1987 Property: 3616 Bridgewater Dunolly Road, Bridgewater.”

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There is no conflict of interest for any council staff member involved in writing this report, or involved in the subject matter of the report.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Nil

BACKGROUND

In November 2017, a planning permit was granted for a two lot subdivision at 3616 Bridgewater Dunolly Road, Bridgewater. This property is located on the southern fringe of Bridgewater on the west side of the Loddon River. The land is just beyond the extent of the reticulated sewerage system in Bridgewater. As a condition of supporting the subdivision, Council and Coliban Water required that the land be connected to the sewerage system due to the size of the proposed lots and the proximity to the Loddon River.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

A Section 173 Agreement under the Planning and Environment Act is a legal agreement between the land owner and Council registered on the title. In this case the agreement requires that the land owner and any subsequent land owners connect to the sewerage system, and maintain this connection. The agreement has been reviewed by Beck Legal on behalf of Council.

COST/BENEFITS

The cost of preparing and registering the agreement, and the cost of the sewer connection is met by the land owner. The benefit of this agreement is that this development will support the growth of Bridgewater, and effluent will be managed effectively.

RISK ANALYSIS

Council must monitor the site, in conjunction with Coliban Water, to ensure that the agreement is complied with.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

The land owner supports connection to the sewer as a part of this development.

9.4 STOP MENTAL ILLNESS STIGMA CHARTER

File Number: 03/01/001
Author: Sharon Morrison, Director Corporate Services
Authoriser: Phil Pinyon, Chief Executive Officer
Attachments: 1. Stop Mental Health Stigma Charter and Pledge

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. adopt the Stop Mental Illness Stigma Charter and
2. authorise the Chief Executive Officer to sign the Pledge to Stop Mental Illness Stigma.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There is no conflict of interest for any Council staff member involved in the preparation of this report, or involved in the subject matter of the report.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

A discussion on the Stop Mental Health Stigma Charter was held at the Council Briefing on 27 November 2018.

BACKGROUND

The “Stop Mental Illness Stigma” Charter (the Charter) has been developed through a joint project with the Hume and Loddon Mallee Murray, Partners in Recovery (PIR) program, led by Murray Primary Health Network (PHN).

A survey of the community conducted to inform the development of the Council’s Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2017-2021 told us that 76% of those surveyed said that improving mental health was very important or important to them.

The Council Plan 2017-2021 also commits to actively promoting policies and activities which facilitate community health, harmony and engagement, and building relationships and fostering community engagement

The Loddon Healthy Minds Strategic Plan 2017-2022 adopted by Council 22 May 2018 envisions an inclusive, resilient and stigma free Loddon community with access to appropriate mental health services. Part of its mission is to promote optimal mental health and reduce stigma through awareness, advocacy and education.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

The Charter is about working towards reducing mental illness stigma through a series of commitments which are seen as the major components to address in reducing stigma.

A copy of the Charter is attached and includes seven key commitments:

- We will be informed.
- We will listen.
- We will be mindful of our language.
- We will be inclusive.
- We will challenge the stereotypes.
- We will be supportive.

- We will promote recovery.

Following the adoption of the Charter it is necessary for the Pledge to be signed.

It is proposed that the following actions would then be taken:

- Display the signed Pledge certificate to indicate Council's commitment to implementing the Charter
- Place the Charter on the internet
- Place the Charter and the Stop Mental Illness Stigma documents on the intranet and in staff induction packs
- Consider implementations of "suggestions on how to implement this commitment" outlined in the "Stop Mental Illness Stigma - How to Use the Charter in Your Organisation" booklet produced by Murray PHN
- Monitor the Murray PHN website for updates on the Stop Mental Illness Stigma website
- Send a copy of the signed certificate to Murray PHN, along with Council's logo, so that Council can be listed as an organisation committed to Stop Mental Illness Stigma
- Periodically review how the charter is being implemented in Council
- Share stories with other organisations on how the Charter has been implemented or changed practice in Council
- Encourage other organisations to adopt the Charter

The adoption of this Charter by Council would demonstrate a clear commitment by Council to the vision and mission of Loddon Healthy Minds Network and provides a strong link to fulfilling related commitments in Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan and the Council Plan.

COST/BENEFITS

There are minimal costs associated with the implementation of the recommendation.

RISK ANALYSIS

By adopting the Charter, Council is helping to reduce the risks associated with mental health stigma by: creating a supportive and inclusive environment for all; improving the lives of people who have, or have had an experience of mental illness; and becoming part of a movement that is actively working towards halting the debilitating impact of mental illness stigma in the community.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

The Charter has been co-designed by people who have experienced mental illness and mental health professionals

Pledge to

STOP MENTAL ILLNESS STIGMA

This charter is our
commitment to end
mental illness stigma
and discrimination.



Workplace:

We will be informed.

We will learn the facts about mental illness to educate ourselves and others around us.

We will listen.

We will seek opportunities to hear from people who have experienced mental illness.

We will be mindful of our language.

We will choose our words carefully.

We won't reduce people to a diagnosis. Instead of "he is a schizophrenic," we will say "Frank has schizophrenia". We will correct people who use hurtful language to describe people with mental illness, such as "psycho" or "crazy".

We will be inclusive.

We will not exclude people on the basis of a mental illness, and will look for ways to involve people who have experienced mental illness in a meaningful and supportive way.

We will challenge the stereotypes.

We will stop to discuss alternative phrasing, or challenge myths with facts, when we hear comments that contain inaccurate representations of a person with a mental illness, in a respectful and positive manner.

We will be supportive.

We will treat people who have experienced mental illness with respect and dignity.

We will promote recovery.

Recovery or regaining a level of wellness is possible for anyone with a mental illness. Stigma is identified as a major barrier to recovery. When discussing mental illness, we will provide a sense of hope and future.

By signing this pledge, it demonstrates the commitment of the undersigned organisation to implement the
Stop Mental Illness Stigma Charter

Signature:

Position:

Date:

**MENTAL ILLNESS DOES NOT DISCRIMINATE,
BUT SOMETIMES PEOPLE DO.**

9.5 MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT FOR 191-121 GODFREY STREET BOORT (KNOWN AS BOORT RESOURCE AND INFORMATION CENTRE)

File Number: 08/04/001
Author: Sharon Morrison, Director Corporate Services
Authoriser: Phil Pinyon, Chief Executive Officer
Attachments: Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Not endorse BRIC Inc.'s management agreement counter offer.
2. Agrees to offer the standard management agreement to BRIC Inc.
3. Authorises the CEO to counter sign the management agreement if returned within three months.
4. In the event that the standard management agreement is not signed by BRIC Inc within three months, consider the matter further with a view to putting in place alternative management arrangements.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There is no conflict of interest for any Council staff member involved in the preparation of this report, or involved in the subject matter of the report.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

In September 2017 Council endorsed a draft management agreement to be offered to incorporated associations managing council assets.

In February 2018, following feedback from various committees, an updated management agreement was endorsed by council and the allocation of responsibilities set out in appendix 2 of the management agreement was confirmed. Appendix 2 recognises Council's commitments in the Building Asset Management Plan (BAMP).

BACKGROUND

It is understood that during local government amalgamations in the mid 1990's, there were commitments made by the Commissioners regarding access to and ongoing maintenance of the former Shire of Gordon Council Offices (the building) to offset perceived inequity in the amalgamation of the Shire of Gordon into the Loddon Shire Council.

No written record of this agreement can be found.

At the Council meeting on 28 September 2009, a report noted that Council had an agreement with the Boort Resource and Information Centre (BRIC) for use of the building. The report went on to state that under the agreement, Council's financial commitment at the site included:

- Maintenance of the exterior of the building, grounds and permanent fixtures in the building
- Power costs, up to \$3,000 per annum
- Sewerage charges
- Building and contents insurance

It was resolved that Council enter into a varied agreement with BRIC for the period 1 January 2010 to 31 December 2012 and delete the clause giving Council responsibility for power costs up to \$3,000, and sewerage costs, effective 31 December 2010. The justification for this variation was

based upon: similar arrangements with Council's three other neighbourhood houses/community centres in the Shire at the time (Inglewood, Pyramid Hill and Wedderburn); and providing for conformance with the draft Building Asset Management Plan at the time which stated that "under this plan Committees of Management fully fund operations and maintenance expenditure from their own resources.

An agreement was put in place which reflected the resolution of Council.

The latest version of the management agreement was signed in July 2016 and was due to be reviewed on 31 October 2016.

Over the past two years Council has been working on reviewing and standardising committee of management agreements.

Since September 2017 Council has been in negotiations with BRIC Inc. regarding the management of the building and grounds under the terms of a standardised management agreement. Council offered to continue to maintain the grounds, as a compromise. BRIC Inc. counter-offered by seeking a commitment from Council for the continued maintenance of the building.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

The background to this report shows a clear intention by Council to transition the management of the building from an informal agreement entered into with the Commissioners to the same terms and conditions as a section 86 committee of management.

Variations to the agreement have been made over time to reflect changes to the BAMP (which help to ensure consistency across all buildings managed on behalf of Council by a committee of management) and changes to the legal status of the committee management (instrument of delegation for a section 86 committee versus a management agreement with an incorporated body).

Section 3C(e) of the Local Government Act 1989 states that one of the objectives of Council is to ensure that services and facilities provided by the Council are accessible and equitable.

The terms and conditions offered by BRIC are inconsistent with the terms and conditions of agreements with committees of management for similar facilities. It is therefore considered that if the offer was accepted, it would result in the inequitable provision of a facility.

Therefore it is recommended that the standard management agreement be offered to BRIC Inc. for acceptance for a limited period. Should the offer not be accepted within this limited period, alternative management arrangements will be considered.

COST/BENEFITS

The benefit of putting in place standard management agreements is transparency and equity in the provision of services and facilities and Council's improved capacity to effectively manage Council assets in a financially sustainable way.

RISK ANALYSIS

There is a risk that BRIC Inc. will refuse to sign the standard management agreement. This risk has been mitigated by proposing alternative management arrangements.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

Council staff have consulted with members of BRIC Inc. and Councillors regarding the content of the Management Agreement, including most recently, a discussion at the November Council Briefing.

9.6 DONALDSON PARK WATER BILL

File Number: 02/01/018
Author: Sharon Morrison, Director Corporate Services
Authoriser: Phil Pinyon, Chief Executive Officer
Attachments: Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That Council request Coliban Water to investigate the accuracy of the water bill invoiced to Council for Donaldson Park as outlined in this report and that on receipt of a response from Coliban Water the matter be again referred to Council for further consideration.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There is no conflict of interest for any Council staff member involved in the preparation of this report, or involved in the subject matter of the report.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

At the Council meeting on 27 November 2018 Councillor Holt referred to an issue for the Donaldson Park Committee of Management where it has inadvertently been using potable Coliban Water for its irrigation, in addition to water from the Skinners Flat pipeline, which has incurred a significant unexpected expense.

Cr Holt undertook to ask the Committee of Management to write a letter to Council requesting financial assistance, and asked that Council agree to consider any request from the Donaldson Park Committee of Management for assistance with its unusual Coliban Water bill.

BACKGROUND

On 28 November 2018 Council received an email from the Secretary/Treasurer of the Donaldson Park Committee of Management asking that Council assist the Committee by contributing to the cost of the water bill.

Water used to irrigate the recreation grounds at the Donaldson Park facility is accessible from both Coliban Water and Skinners Flat sources.

Skinners Flat is the preferred option, when available, as the charge is \$0.50 per kL compared to that charged by Coliban Water of \$2.2554 per kL.

Water sourced from the Coliban Water supply used at the Donaldson Park facility is invoiced and paid by Loddon Shire Council. The amount is then on-charged to either the Donaldson Park Committee of Management (6 months of the year) or the Wedderburn Redbacks (remaining 6 months of the year).

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

Skinners Flat water used by the Donaldson Park facility is sourced from the Skinners Flat Reserve which gathers and stores natural rain run-off from the surrounding area.

In April 2018 a large Skinners Flat meter reading was provided to finance staff for invoicing. This issue was then passed on to the relevant responsible staff member for investigation due to the large difference observed to previous water usage patterns. It was also observed at this meter reading that a new Coliban water meter had been installed.

A large Coliban Water invoice was also received around the same time.

The meter for the Coliban water source had previously been turned off while water has been available from the Skinners Flat Reserve.

Invoices have been raised for these charges to the Donaldson Park Committee of Management and they have requested an investigation be undertaken prior to payment as they believe the costs to be excessive and incorrect.

There are a number of complexities involved in arriving at a solution to this matter. There appears to have been a potential for water used to have been recorded twice – once going into the holding tank (Coliban water) and once going out of the holding tank (Coliban water and Skinners Flat water). In the short term, the control valve for the Coliban water meter has been padlocked to prevent any inappropriate interference. It is now proposed to raise the matter with Coliban Water for investigation and resolution. In the meantime, the requirement for payment by the Donaldson Park Committee of Management of the on-charged water use will be placed on hold.

Ultimately, there may be a need to examine historical water usage patterns to determine fair and equitable payments. This may be part of the investigation process undertaken with Coliban Water.

COST/BENEFITS

The cost associated with the use of water by the Donaldson Park Committee of Management should be fairly attributed. The use of both Coliban Water and Skinners Flat water need to be properly accounted for and effectively managed into the future.

RISK ANALYSIS

The risks associated with a recurrence of similar circumstances in the future have been mitigated by the installation of a padlock on the control valve for the Coliban water meter.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

Previous discussion has occurred at the Council Briefing and Meeting held on 27 November 2018 and there has been communication with the Donaldson Park Committee of Management.

10 INFORMATION REPORTS**10.1 STRATEGIC PLANNING ACTIVITY REPORT**

File Number: 13/01/002
Author: Carolyn Stephenson, Statutory / Strategic Planner
Authoriser: Glenn Harvey, Manager Development and Compliance
Attachments: Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and note the Strategic Planning Activity report.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There is no conflict of interest for any council staff member involved in writing this report, or involved in the subject matter of the report.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

This is the first report for the 2018 – 2019 financial year summarising the strategic planning activities undertaken within the Development and Compliance Department.

BACKGROUND

Council undertakes strategic land use planning projects to ensure that its planning scheme is robust, relevant and is consistent with the Council Plan.

This report provides an overview of the current activities of the Strategic Planner. The Strategic Planner's time is divided between statutory planning (10 hours per week) and strategic planning (8 hours per week) activities. It is the strategic planning activities that are the subject of this report.

ISSUES/DISCUSSIONCurrent Strategic Planning Projects

Table 1 provides a summary of current strategic planning projects and the activities undertaken as part of these projects during the first quarter of the 2018 – 2019 financial year.

Table 1: Current Strategic Planning Projects

Quarter 1 (1 July 2018 – 30 September 2018)			
Project	Tasks undertaken during the quarter	Future tasks	Estimated project completion
Settlement Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft report prepared 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The report is to be reviewed through the strategic document approval process in preparation for 	The report will be presented to Council early 2019

		presentation to Council.	
Serpentine Industrial Estate – INZ3 Planning Scheme Amendment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exhibition (July/August) • Preparation and submission of adoption report to Council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lodgement with Minister for Planning for approval 	December 2018
Boort Park Housing Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft project brief prepared. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek quotations. 	Step 1, Feasibility assessment completed early 2019
Planning Scheme Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Audit of planning controls and outcomes. • Review of state, regional and local strategic work. • Discussion with internal and external stakeholders to identify gaps and concerns. • Commencement of report of findings and recommendations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community input to be sought. • Preparation & presentation and adoption of report by Council. • Submission of report to Minister for Planning. 	Preparation of Planning Scheme Review Report early 2019. Implementation of recommendations are to be staged over 2019 - 2022.

A number of the projects listed above are tracking behind in their delivery. The main contributing factors to the delay are due to the following. The usual Statutory Planner is on leave and has been replaced with a temporary officer. This has required the Strategic Planner to be more involved in statutory planning tasks while the replacement Statutory Planner becomes familiar with the Loddon Planning Scheme and local area. There has also been a significant planning application for a solar farm that required considerable time commitment by both the Statutory and Strategic Planners further impacting on the Strategic Planner's limited time.

In relation to the preparation of the Planning Scheme Review that was required to be provided to the Department of Environment Land Water and Planning (DELWP) by December 2018, Council has been provided an extension of time to complete the review.

Upcoming Strategic Planning Projects

Table 2 outlines future strategic planning projects that have been identified to commence as soon as practicably possible.

Table 2: Upcoming Strategic Planning Projects

Future Strategic Planning Projects			
Project	Overview	Key Tasks	Estimated project timeframes
Heritage Framework	Council has allocated \$100,000 in reserve to be used to support restoration of heritage buildings in the municipality. It is proposed that this money be used to provide loans to owners of buildings subject to heritage protection under the planning scheme or State legislation. The loans will be provided to successful to undertake works on their property that would support the protection of the heritage buildings within Loddon Shire.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preparation of guidelines, criteria and process for approval and implementation 	February 2019

COST/BENEFITS

The expenditure for the first quarter of 2018 – 2019 financial year of the strategic planning activities contained within this report is \$5,739.

Benefits derived from investing in strategic planning managed by the Development and Compliance Department include:

- clearly defined directions for land use and development that are underpinned by research and supported by the community
- a relevant and effective planning scheme that provides for economic development, population growth, attractive townships and protection of heritage and the environment.

RISK ANALYSIS

Failure of Council to undertake strategic planning includes:

- outdated planning controls that do not respond to current issues and opportunities
- inappropriate development that compromises the amenity of towns and undermines economic development opportunities
- loss of opportunities for population and residential growth.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

The strategic planning staff member consults with a number of stakeholders on a regular basis including:

- community members and organisations
- government agencies including Department of Environment Land Water & Planning, Department of Economic Development Jobs Transport & Resources, North Central Catchment Management Authority
- other Loddon Shire Council departments
- other municipalities.

11 COMPLIANCE REPORTS**11.1 SECTION 86 COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT MEMBERSHIP DETAILS-YANDO PUBLIC HALL**

File Number: 02/01/041
Author: Michelle Hargreaves, Administration Officer
Authoriser: Sharon Morrison, Director Corporate Services
Attachments: Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That Council appoints the persons named in this report as members of the Yando Public Hall Section 86 Committee of Management, effective immediately.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There is no conflict of interest for any Council staff member involved in the preparation of this report, or involved in the subject matter of the report. Some staff members do have an involvement in the subject matter of the report by virtue of their volunteer commitment to the Committee of Management.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Council approved the current list of committee members for Yando Public Hall Committee of Management on 22 August 2017.

BACKGROUND

Current Section 86 committee instruments of delegations include Clause 3.6 which outlines the requirement for nomination and appointment of committee members, which is as follows:

Members and Office Bearers of the Committee

At the Annual General Meeting each year nominations shall be called for proposed members of the committee. The committee must then elect from its proposed members the following office bearers:

- President, who shall be Chairperson of the Committee
- Secretary
- Treasurer.

The full list of proposed members must be forwarded to Council for formal appointment at an Ordinary Meeting of Council, in accordance with section 86(2). Until this formal appointment by Council occurs, the previous committee members will continue to hold office.

Clause 3.3 Membership of the committee outlines Council's preferred composition of the committee specific to each delegation, and states that Council seeks to provide broad representation to the committees.

For community based committees, at least 6 community representatives are preferred.

For organisation based committees, each delegation has a list of organisations that are required to provide representatives for the committee.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

Yando Public Hall is a community based committee with preferred representation requiring at least 6 community representatives. The following is a list of nominated representatives for the committee which meets the minimum requirement:

Name	Position
Craig Slatter	President
Ash Gawne	Vice President
Roslyn Gawne	Secretary/ Treasurer
Bradley Haw	Committee Member
Paul Haw	Committee Member
Kel Jeffery	Committee Member

The Council representative for this committee is Cr Neil Beattie.

COST/BENEFITS

The benefit of this report is that Council has an up to date and accurate record of current committee members to ensure that contact can be made, particularly where Council is requesting committees to comply with reporting requirements under the legislation.

RISK ANALYSIS

Section 86 Committees act for and on behalf of Council which creates a risk for Council should they ever act outside their delegated authority.

Under Section 86(2) of the Act, "Council may appoint members to a special committee and may at any time remove a member from a special committee".

Council's appointment of committee members, not only satisfies the legislation, but also provides Council with the opportunity to sight the list of committee members before formally appointing them as they are the people that will be operating the committees, and in effect, acting for and on behalf of Council over the course of the year.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

Nil

12 GENERAL BUSINESS

13 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council considers the confidential report(s) listed below in a meeting closed to the public in accordance with Section 89(2) of the Local Government Act 1989:

13.1 Review of confidential actions

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 89(2) - (h) of the Local Government Act, and the Council is satisfied that discussion of this matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest as it deals with Any other matter which the Council or special committee considers would prejudice the Council or any person.

Closing of Meeting to the Public

RECOMMENDATION

That the meeting be closed to the public.

NEXT MEETING

The next Ordinary Meeting of Council will be held on 22 January 2019 at Serpentine commencing at at 3pm.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at [enter time](#).

Confirmed this.....day of..... 2018

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