



Date: Tuesday, 28 June 2022
Time: 3pm
Location: Loddon Shire Council Chambers, Wedderburn

MINUTES

Council Meeting

28 June 2022

**MINUTES OF LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL
COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT THE LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, WEDDERBURN
ON TUESDAY, 28 JUNE 2022 AT 3PM**

PRESENT: Cr Dan Straub (Mayor), Cr Neil Beattie, Cr Gavan Holt, Cr Linda Jungwirth, Cr Wendy Murphy

IN ATTENDANCE: Lincoln Fitzgerald (Chief Executive Officer), Wendy Gladman (Director Community Wellbeing), David Southcombe (Acting Director Operations), Amanda Wilson (Director Corporate), Lynne Habner (Manager Executive and Commercial Services)

1 OPENING AFFIRMATION

“We, the Councillors of the Loddon Shire, declare that we will carry out our duties in the best interests of the community, and through collective leadership will maintain the highest standards of good governance.”

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

Nil

4 DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Cr Neil Beattie declared a conflict of interest in relation to items 10.7 and 10.8.

Cr Gavan Holt declared a conflict of interest in relation to item 10.8.

5 PREVIOUS MINUTES**5.1 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES****File Number:** 02/01/001**Author:** Christine Coombes, Executive and Commercial Services Officer**Authoriser:** Lincoln Fitzgerald, Chief Executive Officer**Attachments:** Nil**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council confirm:

1. The minutes of the Council Briefing of 24 May 2022.
2. The minutes of the Council Meeting of 24 May 2022.
3. The minutes of the Confidential Council Meeting of 24 May 2022.
4. The minutes of the Council Forum 14 June 2022.

REPORT

Seeking approval of the unconfirmed minutes of the previous meetings.

RESOLUTION 2022/94

Moved: Cr Neil Beattie

Seconded: Cr Wendy Murphy

That Council confirm:

1. The minutes of the Council Briefing of 24 May 2022.
2. The minutes of the Council Meeting of 24 May 2022.
3. The minutes of the Confidential Council Meeting of 24 May 2022.
4. The minutes of the Council Forum 14 June 2022.

CARRIED

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS**RESOLUTION 2022/95**

Moved: Cr Dan Straub (Mayor)

Seconded: Cr Gavan Holt

A motion was moved that Council suspend standing orders.

CARRIED

Two questions had been submitted in writing by members of the public in relation to item 6.1:

1. Was the matter of flying the rainbow flag on the International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, Intersex discrimination and Transphobia ("IDAHOBIT") discussed at the Council Briefing or Council Forum and, if not, will Council consider flying the rainbow flag on IDAHOBIT next year?"

Response: Flying the rainbow flag was not discussed at the Council forum or briefing. Council's Access and Inclusion Plan is due for renewal next year and this idea can be considered as part of renewing that plan. I will also note that Council has a number of plans and strategies which promote inclusion such as the Gender Equality Action Plan and Workforce Plan.

2. Was the matter of pride events discussed at the Council Briefing or Council Forum and, if not, will Council consider marching in the Midsumma Pride March alongside other regional councils next year?

Response: As per the previous question, this was not discussed at the Council briefing or forum. Marching in solidarity for any social issue is a decision for individual Councillors to consider and any Councillors wishing to attend will be supported by Council.

RESUMPTION OF STANDING ORDERS**RESOLUTION 2022/96**

Moved: Cr Dan Straub (Mayor)

Seconded: Cr Wendy Murphy

A motion was moved that Council resume standing orders.

CARRIED

6 ADVISORY MEETINGS**6.1 RECORD OF ADVISORY MEETINGS****File Number: 02/01/001****Author: Christine Coombes, Executive and Commercial Services Officer****Authoriser: Lincoln Fitzgerald, Chief Executive Officer****Attachments: Nil****RECOMMENDATION**

That Council note the record of the following advisory meetings :

1. Council Briefing 24 May 2022.
2. Council Forum 14 June 2022.

In accordance with Clause 51 of Council's Governance Rules, records of Councillor Briefings and Forums must be reported to the next Council Meeting and confirmed in the minutes.

The record is therefore presented for Council's noting.

Meeting details	Briefing
Date	24 May 2022
Councillor Attendees	Cr Beattie Cr Holt Cr Jungwirth Cr Murphy Cr Straub
Staff/Stakeholder representatives	Jude Holt, Acting Director Community Wellbeing Steven Phillips, Director Operations/ Acting Chief Executive Officer Amanda Wilson, Director Corporate Lynne Habner, Manager Executive and Commercial Services Deanne Caserta, Manager Financial Services
Items discussed.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. COMMONWEALTH GAMES 2026 EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST FOR RELATED ACTIVITIES IN LODDON SHIRE 2. REQUEST TO WRITE OFF BAD DEBT 3. General business: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed leave – Cr Jungwirth • Volunteer workshops • Boort flood levee • Recreation and Open Space Plan (ROSA) • VAGO report on community grant programs
Conflict of Interest Disclosures - Councillor/officer making disclosure	Nil
Councillor/officer left room	

Meeting details	Forum
Date	14 June 2022
Councillor Attendees	Cr Beattie (left the meeting prior to General Business) Cr Holt Cr Jungwirth Cr Murphy Cr Straub
Staff/Stakeholder representatives	Lincoln Fitzgerald, Chief Executive Officer Wendy Gladman, Director Community Wellbeing Steven Phillips, Director Operations Amanda Wilson, Director Corporate Lynne Habner, Manager Executive and Commercial Services Deanne Caserta, Manager Financial Services David Southcombe, Manager Assets and Infrastructure Janine Jackson, Manager Organisation Development Martin Mark, Community Development Officer Paul Scullie, Acting Manager Community Support Representatives from: Victoria Police In-land Rail Port Proposal Kingower Community Planning Committee Local Logic Place
Items discussed.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. S181 UPDATE – SALE OF PROPERTIES FOR UNPAID RATES AND CHARGES 2. FEEDBACK ON DRAFT BUDGET, FEES AND CHARGES SCHEDULE AND FINANCIAL PLAN 3. ANNUAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM 2022-23 4. PRESENTATION FROM VICTORIA POLICE 5. IN-LAND RAIL PORT PROPOSAL – BRIDGEWATER ON LODDON 6. CHILDSAFE STANDARDS FRAMEWORK AND POLICY 7. RURAL COUNCILS TRANSFORMATION PROJECT 8. KINGOWER COMMUNITY PLANNING COMMITTEE PRESENTATION 9. CALIVIL BOWLING CLUB – SYNTHETIC TURF PROJECT 10. DINGEE ELDERLY PERSONS UNITS FEASIBILITY ASSESSMENT 11. VOLUNTEER STRATEGY 12. General business: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australian Local Government Women’s Association • New screens for Councillors in Council Chambers • Volunteer training sessions • Staffing matters Manager Tourism and Economic Development • Mitiamo Community Planning Committee • Community Policing Proposal
Conflict of Interest	Item 2:

Disclosures - Councillor/officer making disclosure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cr Beattie • : Little Lake Boort, Park Run and Boort Lakes Caravan Park <p>Item 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cr Holt: Donaldson Park • Cr Beattie: Little Lake Boort, Park Run and Boort Lakes Caravan Park
Councillor/officer left room	Yes

RESOLUTION 2022/97

Moved: Cr Linda Jungwirth

Seconded: Cr Wendy Murphy

That Council note the record of the following advisory meetings :

1. Council Briefing 24 May 2022.
2. Council Forum 14 June 2022.

CARRIED

7 REVIEW OF ACTION SHEET

7.1 REVIEW OF ACTIONS

File Number: 02/01/002

Author: Christine Coombes, Executive and Commercial Services Officer

Authoriser: Lincoln Fitzgerald, Chief Executive Officer

Attachments: 1. Action sheet

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and note the action sheet.

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.

REPORT

Refer attachment.

RESOLUTION 2022/98

Moved: Cr Wendy Murphy

Seconded: Cr Linda Jungwirth

That Council receive and note the action sheet.

CARRIED

8 MAYORAL REPORT**8.1 MAYORAL REPORT**

File Number: 02/01/001

Author: Christine Coombes, Executive and Commercial Services Officer

Authoriser: Lincoln Fitzgerald, Chief Executive Officer

Attachments: Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and note the Mayoral Report

REPORT

The Mayor will present a report at the meeting.

Cr Straub

Loddon Campaspe Councils	
Murray River Group of Councils	
North Central Goldfields Regional Library	
North Central Local Learning and Employment Network	
Special Committees Of Council (Section 65 Community Asset Committees):	
East Loddon Community Centre Community Asset Committee	
Pyramid Hill Memorial Hall Community Asset Committee	
Other Council activities	
DATE	Activity
24/5/22	CEO and Mayor catch up (cancelled), Council Briefing and Council Meeting
25/5/22	Catalyst CCC meeting, site visit to drill rigs (Mitiamo)
26/5/22	Dingee Bush Nursing CCC meeting.

27/5/22	Company Directors Course last day (online)
2/6/22	Queen's Platinum Jubilee, Boort (CEO, Cr Beattie, Peter Walsh MP)
	MRGC online meeting with Anne Webster MP and Sam Birrell MP
3/6/22	GLC Ordinary Board Meeting (online)
10/6/22	(late apology) to Loddon Campaspe Group of Councils meeting
14/6/22	Council Forum, Wedderburn
15/6/22	North Central LLEN FAR Committee meeting (online)
16/6/22	Dingee Bush Nursing CEC meeting re: Men in the Bush
17/6/22	East Loddon Lions Club Junior Public Speaking competition, ELP-12
	MRGC meeting (AEMO and Vicgrid)
	Unable to travel to NGA conference in Canberra 19-22 June

RESOLUTION 2022/99

Moved: Cr Dan Straub (Mayor)

Seconded: Cr Neil Beattie

That Council receive and note the Mayoral Report

CARRIED

9 COUNCILLORS' REPORT**9.1 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS****File Number:** 02/01/001**Author:** Christine Coombes, Executive and Commercial Services Officer**Authoriser:** Lincoln Fitzgerald, Chief Executive Officer**Attachments:** Nil**1. Recommendation**

That Council receive and note the Councillors' reports

REPORT

Each Councillor will present a report at the meeting.

Cr Beattie

Rail Freight Alliance	
Special Committees Of Council (Section 65 Community Asset Committees):	
Boort Aerodrome Community Asset Committee	
Boort Memorial Hall Community Asset Committee	
Boort Park Community Asset Committee	
Korong Vale Mechanics Hall Community Asset Committee	
Korong Vale Sports Centre Community Asset Committee	
Little Lake Boort Community Asset Committee	
Yando Public Hall Community Asset Committee	
DATE	Activity
27/5/22	Meeting with Parks Victoria and CMA
31/5/22	Meeting at BRIC with Paul Scullie and Boort Tourism
2/6/22	Attended tree planting at Nolens Park for Queens Platinum Jubilee
13/6/22	Meeting with Boort College
14/6/22	Council Forum at Wedderburn
28/6/22	Council meeting at Wedderburn

Cr Holt

Municipal Association of Victoria	
Audit and Risk Committee	
Special Committees Of Council (Section 65 Community Asset Committees):	
Donaldson Park Community Asset Committee	
Wedderburn Community Centre Community Asset Committee	
Wedderburn Engine Park and Market Square Reserve Community Asset Committee	
Wedderburn Mechanics and Literary Institute Hall Community Asset Committee	
Hard Hill Tourist Reserve Community Asset Committee	
Other Council activities	
DATE	Activity
14/6/22	Attended Council Forum in Wedderburn
19-22/6/22	Attended Australia Local Government Association annual conference in Canberra. I will report orally to Council on key decisions made at the meeting.
24/6/22	Attended the Municipal Association of Victoria State Conference in Melbourne where major changes to the MAV Constitution were recommended.
28/6/22	Could I also take this opportunity to say how pleasing it is to see the results of the 2021 Australian Census which revealed that Loddon Shire population had grown by 3.2% between 2016-2021. Loddon has had a long standing goal of growing its population.

Cr Jungwirth

Loddon Mallee Local Government Waste Forum
Central Victorian Greenhouse Alliance
Municipal Emergency Management Plan Committee

Other Council activities	
DATE	Activity
24/5/22	Council Briefing and meeting
26/5/22	Attended monthly mentoring meeting
27/5/22	CVGA Board Meeting – Mildura
2/6/22	VLGA Strategic Plan consultation meeting
5/6/22	ALGWA conference – Shepparton
8/6/22	Tarnagulla Community Centre Committee meeting
9/6/22	Op Shop fashion parade – Newbridge CWA and Dunolly op shop
14/6/22	Council Forum
19-22/6/22	National General Assembly – Canberra, including the ALGWA breakfast

Cr Murphy

Calder Highway Improvement Committee
Local Government Women’s Charter
Australia Day Committee
Healthy Minds Network
Special Committees Of Council (Section 65 Community Asset Committees): Bridgewater on Loddon Memorial Hall Community Asset Committee Campbells Forest Hall Community Asset Committee Inglewood Community Sports Centre Community Asset Committee Inglewood Community Elderly Persons Units Community Asset Committee Inglewood Town Hall Hub Community Asset Committee

Other Council activities	
DATE	Activity
26/5/22	Apology for the Inglewood Development and Tourism Committee meeting
6/6/22	Apology for the Inglewood Town Hall Hub CAC meeting
6/6/22	Attended the Australian Local Government Women's Association state conference in Shepparton
14/6/22	Attended the Council Forum at the LSC Chambers in Wedderburn
15/6/22	Chaired the online Loddon Healthy Minds Network meeting
16/6/22	Attended the Campbells Forest and Yarraberb Community Planning Committee morning tea meet and greet. Also in attendance was Paul Scullie Acting Manager Community Support and Martin Mark Community Development Officer.
16/6/22	Attended the Bridgewater on Loddon Development Committee meeting
19-22/6/22	Attended the Australian Local Government Association National General Assembly in Canberra
20/6/22	Attended the Australian Local Government Womens Association breakfast in Canberra
23/6/22	Attended the online Bendigo Sustainability Group and Community Power Hub Loddon Mallee information session
28/6/22	Attended the Council only meeting held at the Council Chambers
28/6/22	Attended the Council Briefing and meeting.

RESOLUTION 2022/100

Moved: Cr Neil Beattie

Seconded: Cr Wendy Murphy

That Council receive and note the Councillors' reports.

CARRIED

10 DECISION REPORTS**10.1 ADOPTION OF THE FINANCIAL PLAN 2022/23 TO 2031/32****File Number:** FOL/22/665**Author:** Deanne Caserta, Manager Financial Services**Authoriser:** Amanda Wilson, Director Corporate**Attachments:** 1. Financial Plan 2022/23 to 2031/32**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council, having advertised the Draft Financial Plan and having received and reviewed the feedback, adopt the Financial Plan 2022/23 to 2031/32.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

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

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

At the Council Forum on 12 April 2022, Council discussed the Draft Financial Plan (the Plan) prior to the document being advertised for public feedback.

At the Council Forum on 14 June 2022, Council discussed the changes made to the Plan because of the deliberative engagement process with the Community Reference Group. These were of a minor nature and did not impact the financials.

BACKGROUND

The draft Plan was advertised for public comment from Saturday 30 April 2022 to Friday 28 May 2022, using the Community Engagement Policy as guidance.

During this period, copies were made available on Council's website and a printed copy posted to ratepayers where requested.

Advertisements were placed in the Bendigo Advertiser along with the Loddon Herald newspapers.

The Plan was also emailed to the Community Reference Group and a virtual feedback session held on Thursday 12 May 2022.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

There were no written submissions received during the period for public comment. However, the Community Reference Group provided feedback, and this was incorporated into the final draft that was provided to the Council Forum on 14 June 2022.

COST/BENEFITS

The benefits to Council and the community are that a consultative process complies with the Local Government Act 1989, and Local Government Act 2020, and allows the community to provide feedback to Council on the content of the document.

Additional benefit is the plan provides a long-term operational and strategic plan that allocates resources to understand the long term financial implications of the plan.

The cost of developing budget and financial documents is operational.

RISK ANALYSIS

There is a risk that Council expenditure will exceed budget at a point in time or that Council does not have enough cash to deliver the required services in the future, however, this risk is minimised through a range of monitoring and reporting activities.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

Under section 91(4) of the Local Government Act 2020, the Financial Plan is subject to deliberative engagement. In accordance with Council's Community Engagement Policy, deliberative engagement occurs when participants are provided with a specific matter to consider, and are informed, supported, and given sufficient time to provide feedback on the relevant information.

A feedback session was also conducted with the Community Reference Group on 12 May 2022 with the aim of ensuring that public concerns and aspirations were consistently understood and considered, in accordance with Council's commitment on deliberative engagement.

RESOLUTION 2022/101

Moved: Cr Gavan Holt

Seconded: Cr Neil Beattie

That Council, having advertised the Draft Financial Plan and having received and reviewed the feedback, adopt the Financial Plan 2022/23 to 2031/32.

CARRIED

10.2 ADOPTION OF THE 2022/23 BUDGET AND FEES AND CHARGES SCHEDULE**File Number:** FOL/22/665**Author:** Deanne Caserta, Manager Financial Services**Authoriser:** Amanda Wilson, Director Corporate**Attachments:**

1. Draft 2022/23 Budget
2. Draft 2022/23 Fees and Charges Schedule

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- (a) having advertised the Draft Budget and having received and reviewed any submissions, adopt the 2022/23 Budget.
- (b) having advertised the Draft Fees and Charges Schedule and having received no submissions, adopt the 2022/23 Fees and Charges Schedule.
- (c) subject to the approval of the Director Corporate or Chief Executive Officer, make effective immediately any changes where the fees and charges are altered by legislation, and make amendment to the relevant Fees and Charges Schedule for the year 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

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

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Council was presented with the 2022/23 Draft Budget at a Council Forum on Tuesday 12 April 2022.

Council resolved to advertise the Draft Budget at a Council Meeting on Tuesday 26 April 2022.

BACKGROUND

The Draft Budget was placed on public display, seeking feedback for 28 days from Saturday 30 April 2022 until Friday 27 May 2022, using the Community Engagement Policy as guidance.

During this period, copies of the Draft Budget were made available on Council's website and a printed copy posted to ratepayers where requested.

Advertisements were placed in the Bendigo Advertiser on Saturday 30 April 2022 and Saturday 7 May 2022. Advertisement was also placed in the Loddon Herald. Facebook, emailing to all Council committees and other media options were also utilised.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

One submission on the Draft Budget was received during the public display period. This was presented and discussed at the Council Forum on 14 June 2022, no changes to the document were made as a result.

The fees and charges document did not receive any submissions but had some updates made from increased regulatory fees.

COST/BENEFITS

The benefits to Council and the community are that a consultative budget process complies with the Local Government Act 1989, and Local Government Act 2020, and allows the community to provide feedback to Council on the budget's content.

The budget provides a measure for accurate planning, and ensures that Council can deliver services and projects included in the document.

RISK ANALYSIS

The risk to Council of not discussing and advertising the annual budget is that it will not comply with requirements under the Local Government Act 1989 and Local Government Act 2020.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

The Local Government Act 1989 requires that the Draft Budget be available for public feedback from a period of 28 days after Council advertisement. After the lapsing of 28 days all submissions received must be provided to Council when deliberating on adoption of the 2022/23 Budget. Although the new Local Government Act 2020 does not require this process to be undertaken, it was still followed, seeking feedback for the 28 day period.

RESOLUTION 2022/102

Moved: Cr Wendy Murphy
Seconded: Cr Linda Jungwirth

That Council:

- (a) having advertised the Draft Budget and having received and reviewed any submissions, adopt the 2022/23 Budget.
- (b) having advertised the Draft Fees and Charges Schedule and having received no submissions, adopt the 2022/23 Fees and Charges Schedule.
- (c) subject to the approval of the Director Corporate or Chief Executive Officer, make effective immediately any changes where the fees and charges are altered by legislation, and make amendment to the relevant Fees and Charges Schedule for the year 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023.

CARRIED

10.3 REVIEW OF DELEGATIONS

File Number: FOL/19/126337

Author: Lynne Habner, Manager Executive and Commercial Services

Authoriser: Lincoln Fitzgerald, Chief Executive Officer

Attachments:

1. S5 Instrument of Delegation to the CEO
2. S6 Instrument of Delegation - Members of Council Staff
3. Instrument of Delegation - Marine Safety Act 2010

RECOMMENDATION

That Council

1. In the exercise of the powers conferred by the legislation referred to in the attached instruments of delegation, resolves that:
 - (a) There be delegated to the members of Council staff holding, acting in or performing the duties of the offices or positions referred to in the attached Instruments of Delegation to members of Council staff, the powers, duties and functions set out in those instruments, subject to the conditions and limitations specified in the instruments.
 - (b) On the coming into force of the instruments, all previous Council delegations to members of Council staff are revoked.
 - (c) The duties and functions set out in the instruments must be performed, and the powers set out in the instruments must be executed, in accordance with any guidelines or policies of Council that it may from time to time adopt.

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

The updates contained in this report have not been discussed by Council.

BACKGROUND

In order for Council officers to effectively and efficiently discharge their duties, specific delegations, authorisations and appointments are required under a variety of Acts.

Council is required to review its delegations within 12 months after a general election. In addition, due to the ever-changing nature of legislation, Council has subscribed to a service by Maddocks legal firm that regularly reviews all applicable delegations, authorisations and appointments, so revised delegations are submitted to Council more frequently.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

The attached amended delegations have been updated in accordance with most recent advice provided by Maddocks. In addition, changes have been made due to new or changed position titles of officers.

COST/BENEFITS

Adoption of the recommendation will not have any financial impacts for Council.

RISK ANALYSIS

Adoption of the recommendation will ensure that council staff are able to act on behalf of Council under the various pieces of legislation. If current delegations and appointments and authorisations are not in place, actions of a council officer exercising those powers could be legally challenged.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

The supervisors of the relevant staff were consulted about the changes to be made.

RESOLUTION 2022/103

Moved: Cr Neil Beattie

Seconded: Cr Wendy Murphy

That Council

1. In the exercise of the powers conferred by the legislation referred to in the attached instruments of delegation, resolves that:
 - (a) There be delegated to the members of Council staff holding, acting in or performing the duties of the offices or positions referred to in the attached Instruments of Delegation to members of Council staff, the powers, duties and functions set out in those instruments, subject to the conditions and limitations specified in the instruments.
 - (b) On the coming into force of the instruments, all previous Council delegations to members of Council staff are revoked.
 - (c) The duties and functions set out in the instruments must be performed, and the powers set out in the instruments must be executed, in accordance with any guidelines or policies of Council that it may from time to time adopt.

CARRIED

10.4 ASSET PLAN 2022

File Number: FOL/19/432732

Author: David Southcombe, Manager Assets and Infrastructure

Authoriser: Steven Phillips, Director Operations

Attachments: 1. Asset Plan 2022

RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopts the Asset Plan.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

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

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

The draft Asset Plan was discussed at the April 2022 Council Forum and Council Meeting.

BACKGROUND

The development of an Asset Plan is a new requirement under the Victorian Local Government Act 2020.

The Victorian Local Government Act 2020 states that an Asset Plan must:

- include information about maintenance, renewal, acquisition, expansion, upgrade, disposal and decommissioning in relation to each class of infrastructure asset under the control of the Council and any other matters prescribed by the regulations
- be developed, adopted and kept in force in accordance with the Council's deliberative engagement practices.

Local Government Victoria has provided further advice regarding the requirement for deliberative engagement. The updated requirement is:

- deliberative engagement is not required for the first Asset Plan
- an Asset Plan must be developed by council in accordance with its community engagement policy.

This Asset Plan is to be read with Council's Asset Management Policy, Asset Management Strategy, Community Vision, Council Plan and asset management plans. It is the first Asset Plan developed for Council.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

The structure adopted for the Asset Plan is similar to that adopted for Council's asset management plans. The plan provides detail at a whole asset base level and collates data from all asset management plans. Asset management plans have been developed for the following asset classes:

- buildings
- roads
- bridges and major culverts
- footpaths
- stormwater drainage

- recreational, leisure and community facilities
- parks, open spaces and streetscapes.

1.

Asset valuations have been completed for all asset classes except recreational, leisure and community facilities, and parks, open spaces and streetscapes. The total value of assets covered by the Asset Plan is \$526.7 million.

The Asset Plan combines financial requirements for Council's infrastructure assets by taking financial data from each of the adopted asset management plans. This includes the operations, maintenance, renewal, upgrade and new assets over the 10 year planning period for all assets. The total funding required was determined to be \$167.2 million or \$16,718,078 on average per year.

The available funding for the next 10 financial years is \$145.5 million or \$14,553,213 per year as per the current Financial Plan. This is 87% of the projected cost to sustain the current level of service. The modelling predicts that the estimated under allocation will result in a renewal gap of \$21.6 million over the next 10 years. This may have a moderate effect on the condition of Council's assets and levels of service. This can be reduced by applying for additional funding through grants and other funding streams.

The Local Government Act 2020 requires that the Asset Plan be developed in accordance with Council's community engagement policy. Council officers have referred to the community engagement policy and deemed engagement should be undertaken with the public at the consult level. At the April 2022 Council Meeting officers recommended that public consultation for the draft Asset Plan be undertaken for a period of 20 days. This has been completed with no public comments received.

COST/BENEFITS

The available funds to maintain Council's assets for the next 10 financial years is \$145.5 million. This comprises \$50.8 million for renewal, \$5.5 million for new/upgrade of assets, and \$89.2 million for operations and maintenance.

The benefits of this are numerous including providing assets and infrastructure which allow Loddon Shire communities to thrive, residents to have a high quality of life, and allow businesses to have transport corridors to trade goods and services amongst many others things.

RISK ANALYSIS

There is no risk identified in the adoption of the proposed Plan. However, it is a statutory and a regulatory requirement for Council to develop an Asset Plan in accordance with the Act.

Risks associated with each of the asset classes are identified in each asset management plan and have a risk management plan identified.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

The draft Asset Plan has been discussed with internal stakeholders on a number of occasions. This includes Loddon Leaders, MEG and other staff who have had opportunities to review the outcomes of both plans and provide feedback.

Other Council's have been engaged in the development of the Asset Plan. This was to assist in developing an appropriate structure and content for the document.

Public comment on the draft Asset Plan was sought for a period of 20 days. No feedback was received.

RESOLUTION 2022/104

Moved: Cr Linda Jungwirth

Seconded: Cr Gavan Holt

That Council adopts the Asset Plan.

CARRIED

10.5 DRAFT COMMUNITY LOCAL LAW

File Number: FOL/19/115191

Author: David Price, Local Laws \ Planning Compliance Officer

Authoriser: Glenn Harvey, Manager Development and Compliance

Attachments:

1. Draft Community Local Law 2022
2. Community Impact Statement
3. Part C - Table: Local Law Review
4. Frequently Asked Questions

RECOMMENDATION

That the draft Community Local Law 2022 be placed on public exhibition for a period of at least 6 weeks and that following community input, a further report with a revised version be presented to Council to consider adoption of the Community Local Law.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

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

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Presentations and draft versions of the Community Local Law have been discussed with Council. At the latest version was discussed with Council at a forum held on 10 May 2022.

BACKGROUND

A review of Council's existing and expired Local Laws has been undertaken and a new Community Local Law is now proposed. The review was undertaken in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020* and a much simplified and easier to understand local law is proposed. Duplication in administrative processes from having multiple local laws are removed and a more user-friendly format is created in a single document.

Changes to various State legislation in recent years have also meant that some previous local law clauses are no longer necessary, as a local law cannot duplicate or contradict a Federal or State law.

It is recommended that the attached documents be made available for community feedback and that a further report be presented to Council regarding the community input received and any proposed changes before a revised Community Local Law is considered for adoption.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

Local laws balance the safety and amenity needs of the community with those of the landowner and individual. Some clauses manage amenity aspects on private property that are likely to impact on others, whilst other clauses relate to the use of public areas or Council infrastructure and services.

The very nature of local laws create a layer of rules or regulation that would not otherwise exist - including fees, charges and permits. This layer can create issues and challenges within itself in terms of balancing a community's desire to self-manage or self-regulate, and having a community seen as being told what to do and how to do it.

In developing the draft Community Local Law, a number of objectives have been established within a scope of what is deemed to be fair and reasonable.

The objectives provide for:

- (a) the peace, order and good governance of the Loddon Shire;
- (b) a safe and healthy environment in which residents and visitors can enjoy a quality of life that meets their expectation;
- (c) the protection and enhancement of community amenity;
- (d) the control of activities or land use which may be hazardous, unsafe or detrimental to the quality of life or the environment;
- (e) the fair and reasonable use and enjoyment of private land; and
- (f) fair and consistent administration of the local law.

A Community Impact Statement is included in the attachments. This is part of the *Local Government Act 2020* requirements.

COST/BENEFITS

Council has developed the draft Community Local Law in-house/within existing staff resources and legal guidance as required by the *Local Government Act 2020* with the document having been reviewed by Russell Kennedy Lawyers in late 2021.

Upon adoption of the new Community Local Law 2022, its management and implementation will be conducted within existing allocated staff resources.

The benefits of having local laws assists Council to achieve its vision and objectives.

RISK ANALYSIS

Council officers have followed a risk management approach to the review and subsequent development of the draft Community Local Law.

The draft Community Local Law seeks to manage risks through balancing the safety and amenity of the community with an individual's rights. Examples include restrictions on burning off; untidy or unsightly land; and consumption of alcohol, smoking and behaviour in public places.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

Council officers have undertaken an initial review of the previous Local Laws, including benchmarking with surrounding and similar councils to identify local and emerging issues that need addressing.

Council officers also sought input from various Council staff to review the sections of local law relevant to their Department. A preliminary overview of the draft Community Local Law was also workshopped at a Council briefing held on 23 March 2021 and a Council forum held on 10 May 2022.

A significant part of the review has been to assess the local laws against new and existing State legislation to ensure there are no inconsistencies. Several clauses of the previous local laws have been deleted as these are now covered by State legislation.

Division 3 of the *Local Government Act 2020* outlines the process that Council must follow when making local laws. Section 73 provides that Council must make a local law in accordance with its Community Engagement Policy and outlines the notice to be published, location of available information and the engagement process that applies. Section 74 requires that before making a local law, Council must obtain a certificate from a qualified person stating that the proposed local law is consistent with the local law requirements. In this respect, Council has engaged the services of Russell Kennedy Lawyers. The necessary certificate will be tabled at a later Council meeting when the revised local law is considered for adoption.

Community consultation is an important part of developing the new local law, and this report is to provide opportunity for the community to have a say in the laws specific to Loddon Shire.

RESOLUTION 2022/105

Moved: Cr Linda Jungwirth

Seconded: Cr Neil Beattie

That the draft Community Local Law 2022 be placed on public exhibition for a period of at least 6 weeks and that following community input, a further report with a revised version be presented to Council to consider adoption of the Community Local Law.

CARRIED

10.6 ANNUAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM 2022-23 - PART 1**File Number:** FOL/19/432630**Author:** David Southcombe, Manager Assets and Infrastructure**Authoriser:** Steven Phillips, Director Operations**Attachments:** 1. **Appendix 1 - Program Summary**2. **Appendix 2 - Project List Subset - Confidential - Confidential**

This attachment is designated as confidential in accordance with Section 3(1)(g(ii)) of the *Local Government Act 2020*. It contains private commercial information, being information provided by a business, commercial or financial undertaking that if released, would unreasonably expose the business, commercial or financial undertaking to disadvantage.

Contractors will be aware of estimates which may affect tendered prices. **(under separate cover)**

3. **Appendix 3 - Projects List Subset without cost estimates****RECOMMENDATION**

That Council adopt the Annual Infrastructure Program 2022–23 – Part 1, which includes the following Works Categories: Local Road Gravel Resheet, Local Road Shoulder Resheet, Local Road Reconstruction – Asset Preservation, Township Street Improvement, Urban & Township Drainage, Local Bridges and Culverts, Reseals, and Buildings.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

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

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

The 2022-2023 Annual Infrastructure Program was discussed at the June 2022 Council Forum.

BACKGROUND

Every year Council allocates and spends significant funds on capital infrastructure projects. Council continually carries out scoping of new infrastructure projects and maintains a rolling program of these projects. The rolling program is a database that forms the basis of the elements of the Annual Infrastructure Program. Each project is assessed using a scoring matrix relevant to the type of infrastructure as part of the scoping process. This score assists in the development of the Annual Infrastructure Program by providing a level of prioritisation for each of the projects.

In preparing the program several factors need to be given consideration, including the prioritisation score, availability of funds and capacity for delivery. Council has adopted several strategic documents that must also be taken into consideration when preparing the Annual Infrastructure Program. Primarily these are the:

- Council Plan
- Financial Plan
- asset management plans
- road register.

The 2022-2023 Annual Infrastructure Program has been developed in accordance with the following expenditure requirements of:

- Federal Government Roads to Recovery (R2R) funding of \$2.38 million

- Federal Government Local Roads and Community Infrastructure (LRCI) Program, Phase 3, funding of \$4.77 million
- Council funds totalling \$2.30 million.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

Adoption of the annual infrastructure program will allow the Council to undertake the following:

- Local Road Gravel Resheet
Funding of \$969,632 has been proposed to resheet and/or treat approximately 20.9 km of the gravel road network.
- Local Road Shoulder Resheet
Funding of \$448,044 has been proposed to resheet approximately 24.5 km (length is inclusive of both sides) of the gravel shoulders.
- Local Road Reconstruction (LRC) – Asset Preservation
Funding of \$727,152 has been allocated for the renewal of a section of Newbridge Rd and renewal and widening of a section of Echuca-Serpentine Rd.
- Township Street Improvement (TSI)
Funding of \$328,920 has been proposed for two projects. The first is the installation of a footpath between the Inglewood netball courts and pavilion. The second is to allow the completion of footpath contract 488 which is funded by LRCI Phase 1 funding which is to expire after June 30, 2022. A funding extension for these projects under this program has been applied for, if successful this funding will be reallocated.
- Urban & Township Drainage
Funding of \$250,000 has been proposed as additional funding for the Boort and Pyramid Hill flood mitigation projects. The increase in costs in recent years results in the need for extra funding to complete these projects.
- Local Bridges and Culverts
Funding of \$247,000 has been proposed for a number of culvert projects.
- Reseals
Funding of \$1,073,348 has been proposed to reseal and final seal approximately 28 km of the sealed road network. The projects listed are provisional and will be finalised after consultant inspections in early 2022/23.
- Buildings
Funding of \$400,000 is allocated for a number of building projects. This includes having an emergency allocation for works that are urgent and unfunded during 2022/23.

COST/BENEFITS

The Annual Infrastructure Program is a significant part of Council's annual expenditure. The current proposed Program totals \$9,459,798. The works categories contained in Part 1 total \$4,444,096. The benefit of the proposed expenditure is that it will allow Council to maintain safe public infrastructure and decrease annual liability over all asset classes. Better roads, better public facilities and improved bridges are the key outcomes of the proposed Program, which aligns with the strategic objective of "A sustainable built and natural environment" as stipulated in Council Plan 2021–2025.

RISK ANALYSIS

One of the risks identified with the proposed program is cost overrun. The estimated cost of each project has been evaluated based on current unit rates with an adjustment for anticipated price inflation, industry practice, and contingencies. The likelihood of the risk is possible and this consequence is minor as per Council's risk matrix. The risk is thus deemed to be medium. This risk is offset by the large amount of grant funding that Council has received through a number of funding streams.

The other risk identified is the delay in delivering projects. This has become a greater risk recently due to the large amount of stimulus funding directed at infrastructure projects and the delays associate with contractor availability and the lead-time of material deliveries. The likelihood of this risk is possible and the consequence is minor as per Council's risk matrix. The risk is thus deemed to be medium. This risk is mitigated by allocating additional projects to Council's Works Department for delivery where possible and selecting projects that are high value with a low risk of delay.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

The program has been developed in consultation with Council staff, in particular the Assets & Infrastructure Department, the Works Department, and the Community Support Department. Other stakeholders and community members make contributions to the rolling program throughout the year via works requests and onsite meetings and visits conducted by staff.

RESOLUTION 2022/106

Moved: Cr Neil Beattie

Seconded: Cr Wendy Murphy

That Council adopt the Annual Infrastructure Program 2022–23 – Part 1, which includes the following Works Categories: Local Road Gravel Resheet, Local Road Shoulder Resheet, Local Road Reconstruction – Asset Preservation, Township Street Improvement, Urban & Township Drainage, Local Bridges and Culverts, Reseals, and Buildings.

CARRIED

10.7 ANNUAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM 2022-23 - PART 2**File Number:** FOL/19/432630**Author:** David Southcombe, Manager Assets and Infrastructure**Authoriser:** Steven Phillips, Director Operations

- Attachments:**
- 1. Appendix 1 - Program Summary**
 - 2. Appendix 2 - Project List - Local Road Reconstruction Safety, and Parks and Gardens - Confidential**

This attachment is designated as confidential in accordance with Section 3(1)(g(ii)) of the *Local Government Act 2020*. It contains private commercial information, being information provided by a business, commercial or financial undertaking that if released, would unreasonably expose the business, commercial or financial undertaking to disadvantage.

Knowledge of estimates may affect contractor tendered prices **(under separate cover)**

- 3. Appendix 3 - Project List without estimates - Local Road Reconstruction Safety, and Parks and Gardens**

RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopt the Annual Infrastructure Program 2022-23 – Part 2 for the Works Categories of Local Road Reconstruction– Safety, and Parks and Gardens.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

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

Cr Neil Beattie declared a conflict of interest in relation to item 10.7, due to his position as Chair of the Little Lake Boort Community Asset Committee.

Cr Neil Beattie declared a conflict of interest in relation to item 10.8, due to his ownership of a cabin at the Boort Lakes Caravan Park.

Cr Neil Beattie left the meeting at 4:11 pm.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

The 2022-2023 Annual Infrastructure Program was discussed at the June 2022 Council Forum.

BACKGROUND

Every year Council allocates and spends significant funds on capital infrastructure projects. Council continually carries out scoping of new infrastructure projects and maintains a rolling program of these projects. The rolling program is a database that forms the basis of the elements of the Annual Infrastructure Program. Each project is assessed using a scoring matrix relevant to the type of infrastructure as part of the scoping process. This score assists in the development of the Annual Infrastructure Program by providing a level of prioritisation for each of the projects.

In preparing the program several factors need to be given consideration, including the prioritisation score, availability of funds and capacity for delivery. Council has adopted several strategic documents that must also be taken into consideration when preparing the Annual Infrastructure Program. Primarily these are the:

- Council Plan
- Financial Plan
- asset management plans
- road register.

The 2022-2023 Annual Infrastructure Program has been developed in accordance with the following expenditure requirements of:

- Federal Government Roads to Recovery (R2R) funding of \$2.38 million
- Federal Government Local Roads and Community Infrastructure (LRCI) Program, Phase 3, funding of \$4.77 million
- Council funds totalling \$2.30 million.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

Adoption of the annual infrastructure program will allow the Council to undertake works in the following works categories:

- Local Road Reconstruction (LRC) – Safety
Funding of \$188,000 has been proposed for additional funding for the Coutts St crossing project and for the installation of a pedestrian safety barrier at Lakeside Drive, Boort.
- Parks and Gardens
Funding of \$52,250 has been proposed for three projects to in Boort.

COST/BENEFITS

The Annual Infrastructure Program is a significant part of Council's annual expenditure. The current proposed Program totals \$9,459,798. The works categories contained in Part 2 total \$240,250. The benefit of the proposed expenditure is that it will allow Council to maintain safe public infrastructure and decrease annual liability over all asset classes. Better roads, better public facilities and improved bridges are the key outcomes of the proposed Program, which aligns with the strategic objective of "A sustainable built and natural environment" as stipulated in Council Plan 2021–2025.

RISK ANALYSIS

One of the risks identified with the proposed program is cost overrun. The estimated cost of each project has been evaluated based on current unit rates with an adjustment for anticipated price inflation, industry practice, and contingencies. The likelihood of the risk is possible and this consequence is minor as per Council's risk matrix. The risk is thus deemed to be medium. This risk is offset by the large amount of grant funding that Council has received through a number of funding streams.

The other risk identified is the delay in delivering projects. This has become a greater risk recently due to the large amount of stimulus funding directed at infrastructure projects and the delays associate with contractor availability and the lead-time of material deliveries. The likelihood of this risk is possible and the consequence is minor as per Council's risk matrix. The risk is thus deemed to be medium. This risk is mitigated by allocating additional projects to Council's Works Department for delivery where possible and selecting projects that are high value with a low risk of delay.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

The program has been developed in consultation with Council staff, in particular the Assets & Infrastructure Department, the Works Department, and the Community Support Department. Other stakeholders and community members make contributions to the rolling program throughout the year via works requests and onsite meetings and visits conducted by staff.

RESOLUTION 2022/107

Moved: Cr Gavan Holt

Seconded: Cr Linda Jungwirth

That Council adopt the Annual Infrastructure Program 2022-23 – Part 2 for the Works Categories of Local Road Reconstruction– Safety, and Parks and Gardens.

CARRIED

10.8 ANNUAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM 2022-23 - PART 3**File Number:** FOL/19/432630**Author:** David Southcombe, Manager Assets and Infrastructure**Authoriser:** Steven Phillips, Director Operations**Attachments:** 1. **Appendix 1 - Program Summary**2. **Appendix 2 - Project Listing - Community Projects - Confidential**

This attachment is designated as confidential in accordance with Section 3(1)(g(ii)) of the *Local Government Act 2020*. It contains private commercial information, being information provided by a business, commercial or financial undertaking that if released, would unreasonably expose the business, commercial or financial undertaking to disadvantage.

Project estimates may affect contractor tendered prices **(under separate cover)**

3. **Appendix 3 - Project Listing without estimates - Community Projects****RECOMMENDATION**

That Council adopt the Annual Infrastructure Program 2022-23 – Part 3 for the Works Category of Community Projects.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

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

Cr Gavan Holt declared a conflict of interest in relation to item 10.8, due to his position as Chair of the Donaldson Park Community Asset Committee and the Project Steering Committee.

Cr Gavan Holt left the meeting at 4:14 pm.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

The 2022-2023 Annual Infrastructure Program was discussed at the June 2022 Council Forum.

BACKGROUND

Every year Council allocates and spends significant funds on capital infrastructure projects. Council continually carries out scoping of new infrastructure projects and maintains a rolling program of these projects. The rolling program is a database that forms the basis of the elements of the Annual Infrastructure Program. Each project is assessed using a scoring matrix relevant to the type of infrastructure as part of the scoping process. This score assists in the development of the Annual Infrastructure Program by providing a level of prioritisation for each of the projects.

In preparing the program several factors need to be given consideration, including the prioritisation score, availability of funds and capacity for delivery. Council has adopted several strategic documents that must also be taken into consideration when preparing the Annual Infrastructure Program. Primarily these are the:

- Council Plan
- Financial Plan
- asset management plans
- road register.

The 2022-2023 Annual Infrastructure Program has been developed in accordance with the following expenditure requirements of:

- Federal Government Roads to Recovery (R2R) funding of \$2.38 million
- Federal Government Local Roads and Community Infrastructure (LRCI) Program, Phase 3, funding of \$4.77 million
- Council funds totalling \$2.30 million.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

Adoption of the annual infrastructure program will allow the Council to undertake works in the following works categories:

- Community Projects
Funding of \$4,775,452 is allocated for a number of community projects. This includes an additional allocation for the completion of the Donaldson Park project.

The works category of Community Projects has been included in this year's annual infrastructure program for the first time. The projects in this category include the Pyramid Hill Streetscape, Donaldson Park pavilion project, Serpentine and Mitiamo oval lighting and Caravan Parks works. The funding allocations from this Program are additional amounts to enable the delivery of these projects.

COST/BENEFITS

The Annual Infrastructure Program is a significant part of Council's annual expenditure. The current proposed Program totals \$9,459,798. The works categories contained in Part 3 total \$4,775,452. The benefit of the proposed expenditure is that it will allow Council to maintain safe public infrastructure and decrease annual liability over all asset classes. Better roads, better public facilities and improved bridges are the key outcomes of the proposed Program, which aligns with the strategic objective of "A sustainable built and natural environment" as stipulated in Council Plan 2021–2025.

RISK ANALYSIS

One of the risks identified with the proposed program is cost overrun. The estimated cost of each project has been evaluated based on current unit rates with an adjustment for anticipated price inflation, industry practice, and contingencies. The likelihood of the risk is possible and this consequence is minor as per Council's risk matrix. The risk is thus deemed to be medium. This risk is offset by the large amount of grant funding that Council has received through a number of funding streams.

The other risk identified is the delay in delivering projects. This has become a greater risk recently due to the large amount of stimulus funding directed at infrastructure projects and the delays associate with contractor availability and the lead-time of material deliveries. The likelihood of this risk is possible and the consequence is minor as per Council's risk matrix. The risk is thus deemed to be medium. This risk is mitigated by allocating additional projects to Council's Works Department for delivery where possible and selecting projects that are high value with a low risk of delay.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

The program has been developed in consultation with Council staff, in particular the Assets & Infrastructure Department, the Works Department, and the Community Support Department. Other stakeholders and community members make contributions to the rolling program throughout the year via works requests and onsite meetings and visits conducted by staff.

RESOLUTION 2022/108

Moved: Cr Linda Jungwirth

Seconded: Cr Wendy Murphy

That Council adopt the Annual Infrastructure Program 2022-23 – Part 3 for the Works Category of Community Projects.

CARRIED

Cr Gavan Holt returned to the meeting at 4:17 pm.

Cr Neil Beattie returned to the meeting at 4:17 pm.

10.9 CHILDSAFE STANDARDS FRAMEWORK AND POLICY

File Number: fol/20/827

Author: Janine Jackson, Manager Organisation Development

Authoriser: Amanda Wilson, Director Corporate

Attachments: 1. Child safe standards framework v2
2. Child Safe Policy v2

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- (i) approve the Child Safe Standards Framework V2
- (ii) approve the Child Safe Policy V2

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

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

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Council was presented with the draft Child Safe Standards Framework V2 and the Draft Child Safe Policy V2 at the Council Forum on Tuesday 14 June 2022.

BACKGROUND

All organisations in Victoria that provide services or facilities for children are required to comply with Child Safe Standards, to ensure that the safety of children is promoted, child abuse is prevented and allegations of child abuse are properly responded to.

Mandatory Child Safe Standards commenced in Victoria in January 2016 and included seven standards to improve safety for children and young people. Council's existing Policy and Framework were adopted in line with the Standards at that time.

In response to the recommendations from the 2017 Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) undertook a review of the standards to test their strength, and to also consider how they could better align with the Royal Commission's recommendations.

Following that review the DHHS recommended a number of changes to the standards to better align with the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations, and also made other recommendations to strengthen the administration of the standards. The Victorian Government adopted these recommendations. As such the new Standards have been updated from 7 to 11 Standards and include new requirements such as:

- involving families and communities in organisations' efforts to keep children and young people safe
- a greater focus on safety for Aboriginal children and young people
- managing the risk of child abuse in online environments.

The standards set out the minimum requirements, and provide actions organisations must take to keep children and young people safe.

Organisations need to comply with these new standards by 1 July 2022.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

The framework outlines Council's legal and moral responsibilities, Council's approach to complying with each standard and the responsibilities of Council representatives.

In developing the new framework it should be noted that most of the new standards align with the one of the original standards but have been strengthened. There are however additional standards that explicitly address the new requirements, these are:

- Standard one: requiring the organisation to have a greater focus on aboriginal children and young people by establishing a culturally safe environment
- Standard four: involving and informing children and families in promoting child safety and wellbeing
- Standard ten: Implementation of the standards and including processes for continuous improvement
- Standard eleven: requirement to have policy and procedure in place that addresses the standards and that are accessible and easy to understand.

The Child Safe Policy includes Councils commitment to zero tolerance for any form of child abuse and provides an overview of Councils approach to child safety.

The Policy has been reviewed to align with the Framework with the notable alterations being:

- renaming the policy from Child Safe Reporting Policy to Child Safe Standards Policy
- strengthening Council's commitment to cultural diversity and inclusion
- moving Council representative responsibilities from the policy to the framework
- strengthening Council's commitment to education, training and risk management.

Upon approval of these documents and in conjunction with the Children and Youth Coordinator an action plan will be developed to implement the Framework.

COST/BENEFITS

The Child Safe Standards Framework and Child Safe Standards Policy have been prepared by Officers within current scope of works.

An existing budget allocation will be utilised for the initial implementation of this framework to engage providers with specific knowledge to deliver cultural awareness training, preschool programs, and develop appropriate resources.

RISK ANALYSIS

The implementation of this framework will reduce legal and compliance risk to Council by providing clear guidelines, and necessary training and awareness for Council representatives who work both directly and indirectly with children or young people.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

The draft documents have been presented to the Loddon Leaders, Staff Consultative Committee, Policy Review Group and Management Executive Group and the June Council Forum for review prior to presenting to this Council meeting.

In addition, the documents have previously been circulated to all Preschool staff and Council's Preschool community seeking feedback.

RESOLUTION 2022/109

Moved: Cr Linda Jungwirth

Seconded: Cr Neil Beattie

That Council:

- (i) approve the Child Safe Standards Framework V2
- (ii) approve the Child Safe Policy V2

CARRIED

10.10 VOLUNTEER STRATEGY**File Number:** fol/20/827**Author:** Janine Jackson, Manager Organisation Development**Authoriser:** Amanda Wilson, Director Corporate**Attachments:** 1. Volunteer Strategy 2022-2026**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council approve the Volunteer Strategy 2022-2026.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

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

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Council was presented with the draft Volunteer Strategy 2022-2026 at the Council Forum on Tuesday 14 June 2022. The Strategy builds on the 2018-2022 Volunteer Strategy with a heightened focus on supporting the community to maintain high levels of volunteerism and lowering the age of volunteers across the shire.

BACKGROUND

Council were successful in obtaining funding of \$75,000 from Regional Development Victoria (RDV) in June 2021 to embark on a range of activities to support the re-engagement and development of volunteers following the pandemic.

The purpose of the Re-Engaging Volunteers in Rural Towns Project (the project) is to support the community to maintain high levels of volunteerism which are critical to Council's achievement of its vision and strategic objectives.

In November 2018 Council approved the first Volunteer Strategy for 2018-2022 which focussed on supporting Council Volunteers.

The 2022-2026 Volunteer Strategy expands on the 2018-2022 Volunteer Strategy by supporting volunteers in external organisations and sporting groups across the broader community. The project also has focus on engaging younger volunteers.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

This strategy has been strongly informed by the community and provides the Framework for how to attract, support, retain, recruit, celebrate and recognise volunteers.

Community consultation revealed a number of strengths of volunteering in the Loddon Shire such as strengthened community spirit and a sense of satisfaction. It also revealed a number of current and future barriers such as red tape, ageing volunteers and burnout.

The Volunteer Strategy aims to address these results with commitments included in four strategic directions:

- Promote and Recruit
- Support and Develop
- Recognise, Celebrate and Value
- Quality and Culture.

The direction of this strategy allows for implementation to be achievable with existing resources.

COST/BENEFITS

The strategic direction identified in this strategy will be achieved utilising existing expertise within the organisation and partnering with other stakeholders (internal and external) to share resources and identify opportunities for shared goals.

Ongoing efforts will be required to obtain government funding and leadership to put in place a dedicated support to respond to the ongoing emerging needs of volunteering in Loddon in the future.

RISK ANALYSIS

The Volunteer Strategy aims to support volunteerism in Loddon Shire into the future. Without a strategic direction aimed at supporting volunteers there is a financial and reputational risk in that Council's asset maintenance will be increased and service level could decrease without additional resources.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

As part of the engagement process the consultant engaged with residents through an online survey and community focus discussion groups to better understand the strengths, challenges and opportunities for volunteering in Loddon Shire. Engagement with secondary schools across Loddon was also undertaken resulting in 36 students under the age of 18 participating.

Overall the community consultation period engaged 301 participants.

There were 170 survey responses with the majority of those living in the Loddon shire longer term.

The Volunteer Strategy 2022-2026 has been presented to the Loddon Leadership Group, Policy Review Group, and Management Executive Group and was taken to the June Council Forum for review prior to presenting to the June Council meeting.

RESOLUTION 2022/110

Moved: Cr Wendy Murphy

Seconded: Cr Linda Jungwirth

That Council approve the Volunteer Strategy 2022-2026.

CARRIED

10.11 2022 LOCAL SPORTS INFRASTRUCTURE FUND APPLICATION**File Number:** FOL/21/1313**Author:** Wendy Gladman, Director Community Wellbeing**Authoriser:** Lincoln Fitzgerald, Chief Executive Officer**Attachments:** 1. **Project financial details - Confidential**

This attachment is designated as confidential in accordance with Section 3(1)(g(ii)) of the *Local Government Act 2020*. It contains private commercial information, being information provided by a business, commercial or financial undertaking that if released, would unreasonably expose the business, commercial or financial undertaking to disadvantage.

The financial information contained in this attachment, should the project proceed, will be subject to a competitive procurement process in future. **(under separate cover)**

2. Project indicative pricing - Confidential

This attachment is designated as confidential in accordance with Section 3(1)(g(ii)) of the *Local Government Act 2020*. It contains private commercial information, being information provided by a business, commercial or financial undertaking that if released, would unreasonably expose the business, commercial or financial undertaking to disadvantage.

The financial information contained in this attachment, should the project proceed, will be subject to a competitive procurement process in future. **(under separate cover)**

RECOMMENDATION

That Council resolve

1. To support an application to the 2022 Local Sports Infrastructure Fund, endorsing the project to install a synthetic turf at Calivil Bowling Club and confirming the resources required to commence construction within six (6) months of signing the funding agreement, if successful.
2. That this support is subject to
 - a) confirmation from the Calivil Bowling Club that they will be re-affiliating for the 2022/23 pennant season relevant to their area, and
 - b) written confirmation of the financial contribution to the project from the Calivil Bowling Club .
3. To support Option 2: Recommended Funding Strategy as detailed in attachment 1.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

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

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

A discussion paper was provided to the June Council Forum regarding this item.

BACKGROUND

The 2022 Local Sports Infrastructure Fund has announced its funding streams for applications are open and will close on 12 July 2022. The Community Facilities funding stream has a maximum of \$300K per application available on a 3:1 basis. Examples of projects that are funded under this stream include change rooms, courts, sports fields, active recreation, LED lighting, outdoor seasonal pools, BMX, skate parks, scoreboards, and fixed equipment.

In order for applications to be considered, applicant Councils need to confirm that projects funded can be commenced within six months of the funding announcements (due October 2022); therefore, projects will need to commence by April 2023.

Calivil Bowling Club's aspiration to install synthetic turf has been identified as a project suitable for this funding stream. Initial conversations with the club indicate a willingness to support the project both on the ground and with a financial contribution.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

The scope of the project is "to replace the current turf at the Calivil Bowling Club with synthetic turf".

Although this project is not specifically identified in the Council Plan 2021-2025, it fits within the strategic objective of:

1.1 We will implement financially and environmentally sustainable infrastructure that supports our social and economic needs.

2.2 We will support a connected and inclusive community that provides opportunities for current and new community members at all ages, abilities, and stages of their life.

This project fits well with the funding guidelines that provide priority for:

- Seniors (people aged 60 years and over)
- Socio-economically disadvantaged communities.

COST/BENEFITS

Due to commercial in confidence constraints, the financial details have been included in the confidential attachments to this report.

This project would provide a positive outcome for the Calivil Bowling Club, providing an improved playing surface and reducing volunteer time and labour needed to maintain a grass green.

RISK ANALYSIS

Officers have assessed the project against Council's Risk Appetite Statement, and have undertaken a risk assessment to identify whether the risks can be mitigated to a level that the Council is comfortable to proceed with an application.

Risk Appetite Statement

The project has been assessed against Council's RAS, as follows:

Financial risk: Moderate appetite:

Council has a moderate appetite for financial risk, and has developed long term plans to support financial sustainability. "Council acknowledges that opportunities will arise outside of long-term plans and will explore the merits of those opportunities when they occur."

Economic and social sustainability: High appetite:

"Council has a high appetite for pursuing activities that promote economic and social sustainability of our communities". Sporting facilities are a social hub for our communities, with many of our community members living remotely or alone.

Environmental sustainability: High appetite:

Council has a high appetite for pursuing activities that protect the environment and address climate change risk." Drought proofing playing surfaces is one way of protecting playing surfaces from the impacts of severe weather, while supporting our volunteers.

Risk assessment

There are a number of risks associated with the delivery of this project:

With the project scope in concept at this point, there is a risk of scope creep or unexpected additional costs arising during project delivery. Risk mitigation will include scope finalisation, and ensuring that the procurement process provides clear expectations on the deliverables.

The project delivery model will involve a partnership between Council and the Calivil Bowling Club, which may result in resulting in the project not being managed effectively. This risk will be mitigated through active use of Smarty Grants and regular project meetings to establish roles and responsibilities and to monitor and report on milestones.

With indicative costings available, and the project only in its infancy in regards planning, there is a risk that the available funds do not meet the required level. To mitigate this risk, Council will require the Calivil Bowling Club to commit to taking responsibility for any cost overruns.

The Calivil Recreation Reserve is Crown Land managed by a Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) Committee of Management, requiring landowner consent to allow this project to proceed. Council will seek DELWP consent as a priority component of scope finalisation and prior to any project commencement.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

Council staff have liaised with the Calivil Bowling Club regarding this project.

RESOLUTION 2022/111

Moved: Cr Neil Beattie

Seconded: Cr Gavan Holt

That Council resolve:

1. To support an application to the 2022 Local Sports Infrastructure Fund, endorsing the project to install a synthetic turf at Calivil Bowling Club and confirming the resources required to commence construction within six (6) months of signing the funding agreement, if successful.
2. That this support is subject to:
 - a) confirmation from the Calivil Bowling Club that they will be re-affiliating for the 2022/23 pennant season relevant to their area, and
 - b) written confirmation of the financial contribution to the project from the Calivil Bowling Club.
3. To support Option 2: Recommended Funding Strategy as detailed in attachment 1.

CARRIED

11 INFORMATION REPORTS

Nil

12 COMPLIANCE REPORTS

Nil

13 URGENT BUSINESS

In accordance with Council's Governance Rules, Clause 53 provides that at a scheduled or special meeting of Council, business that is not included in the agenda notice must only be considered if no more than one Councillor is absent and the Council resolves that the matter is urgent.

Despite this requirement, a matter that is not included in the agenda notice must not be considered at a Council meeting if it will:

- (a) directly and significantly affect the exercise of a person's rights;
- (b) alter the Council Plan or the budget; or
- (c) commit the Council to expenditure exceeding \$20,000.

14 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council considers the confidential report(s) listed below in a meeting closed to the public in accordance with Section 66(1) and 66(2)(a) of the Local Government Act 2020:

14.1 REVIEW OF CONFIDENTIAL ACTIONS

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 3(1)(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 confidential meeting information, being the records of meetings closed to the public under section 66(2)(a).

Pursuant to section 66(5)(b) of the Local Government Act 2020, if released the information to be received, discussed or considered in relation to this agenda item, may disclose confidential meeting information, being the records of meetings closed to the public under section 66(2)(a)

Closing of Meeting to the Public

RESOLUTION 2022/112

Moved: Cr Linda Jungwirth

Seconded: Cr Wendy Murphy

That the meeting be closed to the public at 4.29pm..

CARRIED

14.1 REVIEW OF CONFIDENTIAL ACTIONS**RESOLUTION 2022/113**

Moved: Cr Wendy Murphy

Seconded: Cr Neil Beattie

That Council receive and note the action sheet.

CARRIED

NEXT MEETING

The next Ordinary Meeting of Council will be held on 26 July 2022 at Wedderburn commencing at 3pm.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 4.32pm.

Confirmed this.....day of..... 2022

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CHAIRPERSON