



**Murrindindi**  
Shire Council

# Scheduled Meeting of Council

## Minutes

Wednesday 13 December 2023  
Alexandra Council Chambers  
Perkins Street  
6:00 PM

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## **1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY AND COUNCILLORS' PLEDGE**

### **1.1 Acknowledgement of Country**

The meeting will be opened with the Mayor reading the following on behalf of the Murrindindi Shire Council:

“Murrindindi Shire Council is proud to acknowledge the Taungurung and Wurundjeri people as the traditional custodians of the land we now call Murrindindi Shire.

We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging, who are the keepers of history, traditions, knowledge and culture of this land.”

### **1.2 Councillors' Pledge**

“The Councillors, democratically elected to represent our community as the Murrindindi Shire Council, are committed to working together in the best interests of the people who live in our municipality, those who conduct business here and those who visit.”

## **2 PROCEDURAL MATTERS**

### **2.1 Privacy Note**

This public meeting is being streamed live via our Facebook page and website. A recording of the meeting along with the official Minutes of the meeting will also be published on our website.

### **2.2 Apologies and Request for Planned Leave**

#### **Apologies**

Cr I Gerenscer is on 3 months leave until 1 March 2024 due to ill health.

Cr E Lording was an apology.

#### **Present:**

Councillors D Gallagher (Chair), J Walsh, S Carpenter, K Haslam, S McAulay,

In attendance:

Chief Executive Officer: Livia Bonazzi

Director Corporate and Shared Services: Michael Chesworth

Director Community & Development: Andrew Paxton

Interim Director Assets and Development: Caroline Lintott

Interim Integrity & Governance Coordinator: David Echeverry

### **2.3 Disclosure of Interest or Conflict of Interest**

Nil

### **2.4 Confirmation of Minutes**

Minutes of the Scheduled Meeting of Council held on 22 November 2023.

## **RESOLUTION**

**Cr J Walsh / Cr S McAulay**

**That Council confirm the minutes of the 22 November 2023 Scheduled Meeting of Council.**

**CARRIED**

**2.5 Petitions**

Nil

**2.6 Community Recognition**

Nil

**2.7 Matters Deferred from Previous Meeting**

Nil

**2.8 Urgent Business**

Nil

**3 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

**3.1 Open Forum**

Nil

**3.2 Questions of Council**

Nil

## 4 REPORTS - COMMUNITY & DEVELOPMENT GROUP

### 4.1 Planning Application - 205 Sugarloaf Road Eildon - Development

This planning application was withdrawn by the applicant prior to the meeting.

### 4.2 Tourism and Promotion Update

Attachment(s):

1. Attachment 1 - GVRT Spring Marketing Campaign - 2023 [4.2.1 - 15 pages]
2. Attachment 2 - TNE - Quarterly Report Q 1 2023-24 [4.2.2 - 25 pages]

Presenter Ben Harnwell – Manager Economic Development  
Julie Blyth – Coordinator Business, Investment and Innovation

Approved by Director Community & Development

Purpose For information

#### **Executive Summary**

This report provides an update to Council on key marketing activities and tourism initiatives undertaken in 2023 to support the visitor economy in Murrindindi Shire, including those undertaken within the partnership with Tourism North East.

#### **RESOLUTION**

**Cr S McAulay / Cr S Carpenter**  
That Council notes the update on Tourism and Visitor Promotion across the Shire.

**CARRIED**



## 5 REPORTS - PEOPLE & CORPORATE PERFORMANCE GROUP

### 5.1 Project CODI Information Management Tender Pricing Update

Attachment(s): Nil

Presenter Michael Chesworth, Director People and Corporate Performance

Purpose For decision

#### **Executive Summary**

In July 2023, as part of the Victoria Government's Rural Council Transformation Program (RCTP) the four councils of Murrindindi, Mansfield, Benalla and Strathbogie resolved to support the awarding of a contract by Mansfield Shire Council (Project lead) to Logicalis Pty Ltd to implement an information management business solution across the four councils.

Following the signing of contracts Logicalis has advised Mansfield Shire Council of a material cost error in their original tender response and requested that the implementation costs be amended from \$469,200 to \$588,900 (Excluding GST).

It is agreed by the tender evaluation team, consisting of representation across the four councils, that the pricing error was a genuine mistake. Logicalis has discounted the pricing error to minimize the cost impact on the project budget and they remained the best value and preferred supplier after adjusting the tender evaluation scoring to take the pricing change into account.

The price increase can be funded from the existing grant-funded project budget without requiring additional funds from the councils. Holding Logicalis to the original price was considered a high-risk approach, with the likelihood that project outcomes may be significantly diminished.

It is recommended that Council endorse a variation to the contract between Mansfield Shire Council and Logicalis to recognise the price increase.

#### **RESOLUTION**

**Cr J Walsh / Cr K Haslam**

**That Council advise the Mansfield Shire Council that it:**

- 1. supports Logicalis Pty Ltd remaining the preferred supplier of the Information Management solution**
- 2. endorses a variation to the contract between Mansfield Shire Council and Logicalis to recognise the amended implementation cost of \$588,900 (\$647,790, including a 10% contingency) excluding GST.**

**CARRIED**

## 6 REPORTS - ASSETS & ENVIRONMENT GROUP

### 6.1 Response to Petition - Road Sealing - Steavenson Road & Aroona

Attachment(s):	Nil
Presenter	David Richardson, Coordinator Engineering Services
Approved by	Interim Director Assets & Environment
Purpose	For decision

#### **Executive Summary**

Steavenson Road and Aroona Drive in Buxton are local gravel access streets that provide access to 28 properties. Residents are frustrated with the poor condition of the roads and have petitioned to have the roads sealed to meet the typical standard for a residential area.

In February 2020, Council surveyed property owners to gauge their interest in a special charge scheme to construct these roads. At that time, there was minimal interest and the threshold to continue with a special charge was not met. Under Murrindindi's Special Charge Scheme Policy, Council cannot consider investigating a special charge scheme for four years after abandoning the process. Therefore, Council could consider consulting with property owners in March 2024 to determine their interest in a contribution scheme, in accordance with the Special Charge Scheme for Infrastructure Policy.

The legislation governing special rate schemes has been updated in the last year and there are some additional constraints on the length of time a potential scheme can be held open. As a result, the Murrindindi Special Charge Schemes for Infrastructure Policy will be reviewed in accordance with the updated legislation.

#### **RESOLUTION**

##### **Cr S Carpenter / Cr S McAulay**

**That Council consult with property owners in Steavenson Road and Aroona Drive in March 2024, regarding a contribution scheme for the sealing of Steavenson Road and Aroona Drive and report the results of this consultation to Council in July 2024.**

**CARRIED**

## 6.2 Response to Petition - Traffic Management - Bon Street Alexandra

Attachment(s):

1. CONFIDENTIAL REDACTED - Attachment 1 - Petition - Bon St Residents [6.2.1 - 13 pages]
2. CONFIDENTIAL REDACTED - Attachment 2 - Bon Street Submission [6.2.2 - 5 pages]

Presenter David Richardson, Engineering Services Coordinator

Approved by Interim Director Assets & Environment

Purpose For decision

### Executive Summary

Bon Street in Alexandra is a local residential street primarily used by residents to access their properties. Over time, the street has been gradually developed with sections of kerb and channel, underground drainage, and varying road seal width. There is an over-dimensional route parallel to Bon Street along William Street, which is intended to carry commercial traffic traveling between the Maroondah Highway north of Alexandra and the Goulburn Valley Highway east of Alexandra.

Despite the existence of this over-dimensional route, residents have petitioned the council to widen and upgrade Bon Street due to an increase in commercial traffic using the street. A traffic count of Bon Street confirms the petitioners' observations, indicating a high percentage of commercial vehicles using the street. Additionally, Bon Street is narrower and lacks kerb and channel, making it unsuitable for heavy commercial traffic.

To address the concerns of Bon Street residents and improve traffic safety, the following solutions are proposed:

- Consult with the Department of Transport and Planning on upgrading and renewing the over-dimensional signage along William Street to make it more visible and effective.
- Consider future funding for constructing threshold treatments at the intersection of Bon Street to discourage commercial traffic from using the street. Threshold treatments are physical barriers or pavement markings that can deter larger vehicles from entering a particular area.
- Consider future funding options including a co-contribution through a special charge scheme with adjoining owners, for widening Bon Street and constructing kerb and channel to improve the road's safety and capacity for residential traffic.

### **RESOLUTION**

**Cr K Haslam / Cr S Carpenter**

**That Council:**

1. **Following consultation with the Department of Transport and Planning, upgrade and renew the over dimensional route signage in Alexandra.**
2. **Refer the construction of threshold treatments to the forward capital works program at:**
  - **The intersection of Station Street and Bon Street, Alexandra.**
  - **The intersection of Bon Street and Aitkens/Grant Street (Maroondah Hwy).**
3. **Refer the road upgrade to include road widening, kerb and channel construction with associated underground drainage of Bon Street between Station Street and Aitkens/Grant Street (Maroondah Highway), Alexandra to the forward capital works program with consideration for a co-contribution through a special charge scheme from adjoining owners**

**CARRIED**



## **7 COUNCILLOR AND CEO REPORTS**

### **7.1 Notices of Motions**

Nil.

### **7.2 Cr Karine Haslam**

Eildon Reserves – The Skate Park design has been received and is currently being reviewing. All works are to commence in the new year.

Pre-commencement start on the flying fox has now been delayed, this will now commence after Christmas. Unfortunately, material arrival was delayed, which meant it was too late for this to commence. The new schedule will be published shortly.

There will be a lot of roadworks throughout the shire over the summer period. Council is pleased to confirm that contracts are now awarded to enable repair works to take place. We are currently undertaking the flood recovery works, renewals, will also be occurring. Taylor Bay left arm will be included in this.

CRAG – which is the Community Road Asset Group The reference group meeting occurred on the 6th December 2023. There was a great turn out with a lot of discussion at the workshop which was held at the end of the meeting.

The weed reduction program has started throughout the shire.

I would like to take this opportunity to say Thank You, for all the support I have received and to wish you all, a safe, happy and healthy Christmas and New Year and look forward to the great things ahead in the coming months. Merry Christmas everyone.

### **7.3 Cr John Walsh**

Nil.

### **7.4 Cr Sandice McAulay**

Nil.

### **7.5 Cr Sue Carpenter**

Operations and maintenance programs throughout the shire continue to operate. The weather conditions have favored strong growth, and the Roadside slashing contractors are working through Kerrisdale, Flowerdale and Strath Creek at present, heading towards Kinglake.

The road Grading program is well underway with over 130km achieved so far.

The recent road line marking program is now complete with selected roads in Yea, Alexandra and Kinglake freshly re-painted.

The Kinglake Community Centre in conjunction with Taungurong Land and Water Council .has commenced painting a mural. This will be a welcome addition to the Community centre.

Flood damage works have been completed on Whanregarwen and Ghin Ghin roads. Works in Limestone, Molesworth, Eildon Glenburn and Castella have commenced.

I have joined the Community Roads Asset Group or GRAG second meeting. It is great to have community members willing to give their time and interest to this valuable initiative. Consultation with the community does aid council to make decisions regarding prioritising council programs.

Finally I would like to wish everyone a safe and restful Christmas and a happy new year.

## 7.6 Cr Damien Gallagher - Mayoral Report

Last Month, Murrindindi and Mitchell Shire Councillors, staff and community members came together to take 'Steps Towards Change'; walking together in a 16 Days of Activism event to send the message that our communities won't tolerate gender-based violence. I thank Mayor, Cr. Louise Bannister for hosting the event and for leading us on the day. The event also marked the launch of the Community Resource Guide to Family Violence, another valuable collaboration of the Mitchell and Murrindindi teams.

Late in November, the community came together for updates on the Shaping Murrindindi's Future transition project in Alexandra and Marysville. The sessions were an occasion to look ahead to the very focused discussions to be conducted in February, 2024, when community and industry passion is hoped to bring the six identified innovation opportunities to life. I encourage everyone to come along and to have a say in the future of the economy of our region.

In Wodonga last week, I met with the Local Government Minister and the Minister for Roads and Road Safety, the Hon. Melissa Horne MP at the invitation of the Department of Transport and Planning. An interactive workshop considered regional perspectives on road safety and I spoke about Murrindindi Shire's over-representation in road toll statistics, following up Council's recent letter of advocacy and call for additional attention for the significant hazard that major roads present for road users in Murrindindi Shire. The minister was generous with her time and engaged with representatives on the day.

On that evening, Council hosted a Flood Recovery Community Conversation meeting in Molesworth. The session was a stark reminder that the experience of the October floods in 2022 continues effect the lives of many in our community, and I'm very pleased that our flood recovery efforts are progressing professionally and methodically.

In Benalla, Murrindindi Shire Council chaired the Hume Region Local Government Network December meeting. The forum endorsed the advocacy agenda proposed by Murrindindi for:

- Rural council sustainability
- Road conditions and funding

- Planning considerations for large-scale renewables projects and decarbonisation more broadly
- Addressing key worker housing barriers

I'm looking forward to the forum establishing a vocal regional perspective on matters of concern to local Councils in north-central Victoria.

I'm continuing to learn of the escalation of impact from the lack of available childcare opportunities across Murrindindi. In 2024, I'll be exploring with Councillors and staff some creative, whole-of-community solutions to support families and key-workers to develop long-term plans to settle comfortably in the Shire of Murrindindi.

Community Christmas parties and gatherings in Taggerty, Buxton and Acheron, the Alexandra Community Christmas Tree Festival have me squarely in the Christmas spirit. Over the following week there are so many opportunities to celebrate the season with our community, including:

- The St. Luke's Carols Service in Yea, this Sunday evening, and
- The Alexandra Community Christmas Carols in Rotary Park on the Friday before Christmas.

Of course, this time of year is a valuable opportunity for reflection of our achievements in 2023, and on behalf of Council I'll be celebrating this evening at Alexandra Secondary College, and with Yea High School, and Alexandra Primary School over the coming week.

### **Finally:**

My thanks and appreciation go to the many local community initiatives (Embassy of Ideas, CH@T, and others) ensuring that everyone will be surrounded by joy and community on Christmas day.

To our youngest citizens, be on the lookout for Father Christmas who will be taking a reconnaissance mission around town on Alexandra Fire Trucks this coming Sunday from 9am.

On behalf of Councillors, I wish all staff, residents, businesses, dedicated volunteers, and our many visitors a very happy and healthy Christmas and festive season, and a safe, fun start to 2024.

## **7.7 Chief Executive Officer Report**

### **Grant applications**

I am pleased to advise that our applications for the 'Eildon Reserves Extension' and 'Yea Wetlands Access Expansion' projects have successfully passed the Expression of Interest stage of the Growing Regions Program and will now proceed to full applications due on 15 January. The application for the Eildon project is for \$1,380,000 and focuses on various enhancements including landscaping and safety features, while the ask for the Yea Wetlands project is \$596,000 and it aims to expand walking trails with boardwalks for improved birdwatching and visitor experience.

We are also on tract to lodge a funding application for a Tertiary Education hub under the Regional University Study Hubs program, which closes this Friday 15 December. The proposed location is in Yea with a satellite space in Alexandra.

I extend my appreciation to the Working Group who worked tirelessly over the past 3 months on this important initiative.

### **Updated Emergency Management Plan for 2024-2026**

Council has updated, the Municipal Emergency Management Plan (MEMP) 2024-2026 and submitted it for approval to the Hume Region Emergency Management Planning Committee. This plan aims to mitigate risks and manage the consequences of emergencies within the Shire, focusing on the protection of local communities, businesses, and the environment. It contains detailed local information and strategies tailored to the unique needs of the Murrindindi Shire.

### **Shaping Murrindindi Future**

- The project is sponsored by the State Government and aims to create a Local Development Strategy. Our objective is to identify and develop alternative industries in the Murrindindi area, transitioning from our historical reliance on native forestry. The planned seven-year transition has been expedited, with a complete cessation occurring as of the end of month.
- Having completed the context analysis, we are now entering the entrepreneurial exploration stage. This phase is critical for testing and refining the ideas we've gathered from our community and business consultations.
- The State Government is offering funding for proposals that demonstrate potential for job creation. Our team is actively engaging with local businesses, assisting one in relocating jobs to our area and supporting another in its local expansion efforts.

### **Community Planning**

Community planning remains a key focus, fostering local engagement and empowerment. Recently, Council has endorsed the Thornton and Glenburn Community Plans, with both communities already making good progress in implementing these plans.

In Kinglake, our officers have commenced engagement, forming a core group and involving the broader community. We've held successful drop-in sessions in November and December, which saw positive participation and feedback.

Looking ahead, Flowerdale is on our radar with community planning set to commence. We're excited to announce a kick-off event on 18 February, 2024, with a community barbecue. This will be a great opportunity for everyone to contribute and shape the future of Flowerdale. The community's ongoing support and involvement are welcome and crucial to the success of these initiatives.

### **Festive season**

As the festive season approaches, I'd like to extend a very warm thank you to everyone in the Murrindindi Shire. Your contributions, from community groups, volunteers, to businesses, have been invaluable in supporting our towns and communities.

This holiday season, let's take the opportunity to connect with our community. I encourage you to join in the local carols and events and attend the local markets. To our hardworking staff, your dedication throughout the year is greatly appreciated.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

## 8 RECORD OF COUNCIL BRIEFING SESSIONS

### Purpose

For noting.

### Executive Summary

This report presents the records of Council Briefing Sessions for 17 November 2023 to 7 December 2023, for Council to note.

The following summary details are for 17 November 2023 to 7 December 2023:

Meeting Name/Type	Council Pre-Meet
Meeting Date:	22 November 2023
Matters Discussed:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Planning Application – 2456 Goulburn Valley Highway</li> <li>2. Planning Scheme Review Report – Adoption</li> <li>3. Shaping Murrindindi – Context Analysis</li> <li>4. Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan – Year 2 Report</li> <li>5. Grants and Sponsorships Program – November Allocation</li> <li>6. Tertiary Education Hub – Funding Application for Council Report Nov 2023</li> <li>7. Contract – 23/13 – Sealed Roads Resealing Program 2023/24</li> </ol>
Councillor Attendees:	Cr J Walsh, Cr K Haslam, Cr S Carpenter, Cr D Gallagher, Cr S McAulay, Cr E Lording
Council Officer Attendees	Livia Bonazzi, Michael Chesworth, Vito Albicini, Andrew Paxton, David, Echeverry, Natalie Stewart, Cameron Fraser
Conflict of Interest Disclosures:	Nil

Meeting Name/Type	Briefing Session
Meeting Date:	6 December 2023
Matters Discussed:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Road Safety Strategy and Action Plan</li> <li>2. Response to Petition - Road Sealing - Steavenson Road &amp; Aroona Drive Buxton</li> <li>3. Response to Petition - Traffic Management - Bon Street Alexandra</li> <li>4. Planning Application - 205 Sugarloaf Road Eildon - Development of the land for boat storage building</li> <li>5. Early Years Infrastructure Project Update</li> <li>6. Key Worker Housing Strategy</li> <li>7. Tourism and Promotion Update</li> <li>8. National Volunteer Week program update</li> <li>9. Eildon Pondage Masterplan</li> <li>10. Planning Scheme Amendment C71 - Toolangi Forest Discovery Centre</li> <li>11. Website Re-design Project</li> </ol>
Councillor Attendees:	Cr J Walsh, Cr K Haslam, Cr S Carpenter, Cr D Gallagher, Cr S McAulay, Cr E Lording,  Virtual - Cr I Gerencser
Council Officer Attendees	Livia Bonazzi, Michael Chesworth, Caroline Lintott, Andrew Paxton, Peter Bain, Natalie Stewart, Cameron Fraser, Ben



	Harnwell, Julie Blyth, Sue Porter, Nat Matheson, Stuart Coller, Anna Cullen, Rosie Kane, Max Ree-Goodings
Conflict of Interest Disclosures: Nil	

## **RESOLUTION**

**Cr J Walsh / Cr S Carpenter**

**That Council receive and note the records of Council Briefing Sessions for 15 November 2023 to 9 December 2023.**

**CARRIED**

## **9 SEALING REGISTER**

File Reference	Date Seal Affixed	Description of Documents	Signatures of Persons Sealing
CONT33/31	7 December 2023	Formal Instrument of Agreement between Murrindindi Shire Council and Goldsmith Civil & Environmental Pty Ltd	Livia Bonazzi Cr Damien Gallagher

## **RESOLUTION**

**Cr J Walsh / Cr K Haslam**

**That the list of items to which the Council seal has been affixed be noted.**

**CARRIED**

The meeting was closed at 5:53 pm.