



Murrindindi
Shire Council

Scheduled Meeting of Council

Agenda

Wednesday 23 August 2023
Yea Council Chambers
The Semi Circle
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

2.3 Disclosure of Interest or Conflict of Interest

In accordance with section 130 (1)(a) of the *Local Government Act 2020* Councillors are required to disclose any “conflict of interest” in respect of a matter to be considered at a Council Meeting.

Disclosure must occur immediately before the matter is considered or discussed.

2.4 Confirmation of Minutes

Minutes of the Scheduled Meeting of Council held on 26 July 2023.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council confirm the minutes of the 26 July 2023 Scheduled Meeting of Council.

2.5 Petitions

Petitions received will be tabled at the Scheduled Meeting of Council.

2.6 Community Recognition

Council may suspend standing orders to thank and acknowledge particular community achievements.

2.7 Matters Deferred from Previous Meeting

Council may resolve to defer a matter to a future meeting for consideration for various reasons. Where a matter has been previously deferred it will be tabled for consideration under this section.

2.8 Urgent Business

Council may by resolution admit an item of urgent business only if:

- a. it relates to or arises out of a matter which has arisen since distribution of the Agenda; and
- b. deferring the item until the next Meeting will mean a decision on the item will not have any effect on the matter; or
- c. the item involves a matter of urgency as determined by the Chief Executive Officer; and
- d. it cannot be addressed through an operational service request process.
- e. Provided the matter does not:
 - I. substantially affect the levels of Council service
 - II. commit Council to significant expenditure not included in the adopted budget
 - III. establish or amend Council Policy.

3 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

3.1 Open Forum

Section 8 of the *Governance Rules 2020* allows for Community Participation in Council Meetings. Open Forum is an opportunity for the general public to present to Council on a matter listed on the Agenda or any other matter.

3.2 Questions of Council

Questions of Council are an opportunity for the general public to submit a question prior to the Scheduled Meeting and receive a response from Council in the Questions of Council time.

4 REPORTS - COMMUNITY & DEVELOPMENT GROUP

4.1 Presenting the Glenburn Community Plan

Attachment(s)	Attachment 1 - Glenburn Community Plan [4.1.1 - 2 pages]
Presenter	A Paxton, Director Community & Development
Approved by	Director Community & Development
Purpose	For noting

Executive Summary

Council Officers have been working with the Glenburn Community to develop the Glenburn Community Plan, which has been led by a core team from the Glenburn Community through a series of community workshops.

The purpose of this report is for the Glenburn Community Plan to be presented to Council for noting.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council note the Glenburn Community Plan as contained in Attachment 4.1.1.

Background

Council officers began working with the Glenburn community in July 2022, to put together a program of activities to develop the Glenburn Community Plan. A core team of Community members have led the development of the Glenburn Community Plan in consultation with the Glenburn Community.

Discussion

Building on learnings from the community planning program, the first activity in Glenburn was the formation of a Core Team of local people to guide the process and ensure strong local ownership. Eight volunteers initially signed up to be part of the Core Team in August 2022, calling themselves the Glenburn Team. The Glenburn Team has remained essential to the running of the program and the engagement within the community.

The Glenburn Team, currently with seven members, includes good diversity of local voices with the following groups and demographics represented:

- Executive members of the Glenburn Hall committee of management.
- Glenburn CFA members.
- Executive members of the Community Centre (Old School) committee of management.
- Young families, local business people, farmers and retirees.
- Long-time residents and more-recent arrivals to the area.

The Core Team guided all engagement activities that led to the content of the Plan, including planning of and participation in the following key events:

- The community dinner to launch the program, held Saturday 11 February 2023, with 70 community members in attendance.
- The series of three 'Community Conversations' held in February and March 2023.

- The community dinner and prioritisation session held Saturday 25 March 2023 with 80 community members attending and actively participating.

The Glenburn Team also led the drafting and design of their Plan, and the processing of feedback from community review of the draft, to enable the Plan to be finalised as presented, with strong themes of communication and connection. The priorities listed in the plan are:

- Hold more regular social gatherings.
- Advocate to VicRoads for improved safety on Melba Highway in our township area.
- Establish a local newsletter.
- Restart community breakfasts.
- Create a Glenburn market.
- Set-up community-run transport.

The Glenburn Community Plan will be 'held' by the committee of management of the Glenburn Hall. This ensures that local oversight and ownership of the Plan is cemented into an existing group in the community.

The Glenburn Team have already commenced holding more regular social gatherings and their advocacy to improve safety on Melba Highway in Glenburn.

Council Plan/Strategies/Policies

This report supports the *Council Plan 2021-2025 Resilient Communities* strategic objective to "deliver support and promote opportunities for all people to connect with each other, collaborate and plan for our future".

Relevant Legislation

There is no significant legislation related to this initiative.

Financial Implications and Risk

There are no direct financial implications for Council associated with noting this Plan. However, as community groups begin implementing the priorities outlined in the Glenburn Community Plan, there may be impacts on staff time as we support community with their projects.

Conflict of Interest

There were no conflicts of interest declared by Council officers in relation to the matters contained in this report.

Community and Stakeholder Consultation

Extensive community consultation has taken place in the Glenburn Community, through the development of the Glenburn Community Plan. Most recently, the draft Plan has been circulated for community review.

4.2 Murrindindi Flood Recovery Plan

Attachment(s)	Attachment 1 - Murrindindi Flood Recovery Plan - Endorsed 2 May 2023 [4.2.1 - 67 pages]
Presenter	A Paxton, Director Community & Development
Approved by	Director Community & Development
Purpose	For noting

Executive Summary

The October 2022 flood event had a significant impact upon the Shire of Murrindindi, its assets, communities and businesses. A Murrindindi flood recovery plan was developed in consultation with many of the agencies involved in the flood response and recovery stages, based on a best practice model. It is timely and important for the flood recovery plan to be available to broader community input and review, to guide recovery across all pillars of the Flood Recovery Plan.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council note the Murrindindi Flood Recovery Plan, which will guide the provision of services and actions to deliver flood recovery priorities identified within Murrindindi Shire and seek community engagement in its review.

Background

Following the floods in October 2022, the Murrindindi Flood Recovery Committee (MFRC) was formed from the agencies which were involved in the flood emergency and immediate post flood recovery activities and invited guests. The Terms of Reference of the committee was based on best practice guidelines for recovery after disasters and identify that the Committee is responsible for:

- Collaboration and coordination of the local recovery for the Goulburn-Broken October 2022 Floods for Murrindindi Shire.
- Providing clarity and making decisions to issues that require multi-agency collaboration.
- To monitor progress of local recovery issues and provide pathways or authorising environment for resolution.
- Developing and implementing the Municipal Recovery Plan.
- Oversee and supervise the creation and ongoing support of Murrindindi based Community Recovery Committees (CRCs).
- Support the engagement and (provide) support to impacted communities.

The agencies continued to coordinate and finalised development of the Murrindindi Flood Recovery Plan (MFRP) which was subsequently noted by the Committee at its meeting in May 2023. Each agency representative was requested to have the Plan noted by their respective agency.

Discussion

The Flood Recovery Plan is a living document and will be subject to ongoing updates to ensure it remains relevant and informs the Shire's Recovery process.

The Flood Recovery Plan will be enhanced through community input and oversight. This process is intended to commence with three facilitated community engagement sessions. This will ensure

that the Plan incorporates a community perspective of how flood recovery operates from a user perspective and will identify any service gaps or omissions that are causing issues for individuals or communities. This process will also identify potential individuals to serve on community reference groups relating to the recovery pillars.

There is no single, reliable way of communicating with all stakeholders; community input will assist to identify individuals or pockets of unresolved need and therefore strengthen the Plan. Input from the community will also ensure that the Flood Recovery Team delivers a program of activities, that will help to link individuals and strengthen the fabric of communities and their ability/capacity to recover from future disasters/shocks.

The Plan sets out the identified priority actions to be achieved within the six pillars of flood recovery and the agency or agencies responsible for delivering those actions, in both lead and supporting roles.

Pillars of Recovery	Priority Actions	MSC Lead	MSC Support
People and Wellbeing	25	16	6
Environment and Biodiversity	10	2	2
Building and Infrastructure	13	11	0
Aboriginal Culture and Healing	5	0	5
Agriculture	10	4	2
Business and Economy	5	4	0

MSC breakdown of lead and support activities within the six pillars of recovery

The Plan is intended to be a living document, to be updated and amended as required. As circumstances change, so should the priorities in the Plan be changed to reflect recovery needs on the ground.

Murrindindi Shire Council coordinated the agencies to formulate the Plan. Agencies on the MFRC are collectively responsible for delivering the priority actions which are ascribed to them.

Future meetings of the MFRC will be used to monitor and update achievement of priorities against the existing Plan and any additional priorities which are identified through the community engagement sessions.

Council Plan/Strategies/Policies

This report supports the *Council Plan 2021-2025 Resilient Communities* strategy to “deliver, support and promote opportunities for all people to connect with each other, collaborate and plan for the future”.

Relevant Legislation

Local Government Act 2020.

Financial Implications and Risk

Natural disasters pose significant risks to the Council, to Businesses and to the Community. The recovery process provides an opportunity to mitigate the ongoing impacts on the natural disaster. The estimated total cost associated with Council infrastructure repair and recovery activities is in the order of \$35+ million. It expected that these costs will be recoverable through the disaster

recovery and the council support funds, however there is a risk that some costs may not be fully recoverable.

Conflict of Interest

There were no conflicts of interest declared by Council officers in relation to the matters contained in this report.

Community and Stakeholder Consultation

Consultation occurred with agencies on the Flood Recovery Committee in the development of the plan and community consultation on the recovery is the next vital step.

5 REPORTS - PEOPLE & CORPORATE PERFORMANCE GROUP

5.1 Quarterly Finance Report - June 2023

Attachment(s)	Attachment 1 - Quarterly Financial Statements - June 2023 [5.1.1 - 4 pages]
Presenter	C Nickels-Beattie, Manager Business Services
Approved by	Director People & Corporate Performance
Purpose	For noting

Executive Summary

This report provides the quarterly financial report for the period ending 30 June 2023. It should be noted that the figures included in the report are the interim, pre-audited results, and may differ from the final audited annual financial results included in the 2022/23 Annual Report.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive the Quarterly Financial Report to 30 June 2023.

Background

The interim Financial Report for the period ended 30 June 2023 is presented for consideration by Council, in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020* ("the Act").

The report includes the following statements:

- Comprehensive Income Statement.
- Balance Sheet.
- Statement of Cash Flow.
- Capital Works Report

Discussion

The interim financial statements for the fourth quarter to 30 June 2023 are included in Attachment 5.1.1.

Income Statement (Statement A)

The interim Income Statement for the period 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023 is also shown below.

Statement A

Murrindindi Shire Council Income Statement For the period ended 30th June 2023

	NOTE	March Revised Budget 2022/23 \$'000	Forecast Adjustment 2022/23 \$'000	Annual Revised Budget 2022/23 \$'000	Actual 2022/23 \$'000	YTD Budget V Actual Variance 2022/23 \$'000	YTD Budget V Actual Variance 2022/23 %
Revenue							
Rates & Charges		22,767	-	22,767	22,768	1	0.0%
Statutory fees and fines	1	1,326	-	1,326	1,162	(165)	(12.4%)
User fees	2	1,577	-	1,577	1,671	94	6.0%
Grants - Operating	3	8,992	1,556	10,548	9,455	(1,093)	(10.4%)
Grants -Capital	4	10,254	-	10,254	6,871	(3,383)	(33.0%)
Contributions - Cash	5	499	48	547	424	(123)	(22.6%)
Contributions - Non Cash	6	600	-	600	482	(118)	(19.7%)
Reimbursements	7	384	-	384	313	(71)	(18.6%)
Other revenue	8	1,812	-	1,812	2,149	337	18.6%
Total Revenue		48,211	1,604	49,815	45,295	(4,521)	(9.1%)
Expenses							
Employee Benefits	9	17,313	601	17,914	15,369	2,545	14.2%
Materials and Services	10	14,085	999	15,084	14,448	636	4.2%
Depreciation and amortisation	11	8,557	-	8,557	8,711	154	1.8%
Bad and Doubtful Debts		-	-	-	14	(14)	100.0%
Other Expense	12	499	-	499	601	(102)	(20.4%)
Total Expenses		40,454	1,600	42,054	39,143	3,219	7.7%
Net gain/(loss) on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment.	13	(596)	-	(596)	(1,555)	(959)	160.8%
Increase Landfill Provision	14	-	-	-	(56)	(56)	-
Surplus (deficit) for the period		7,161	4	7,165	4,541	(2,624)	(36.6%)

Forecast adjustments

(refer to the column in the Income Statement above titled "Forecast Adjustment").

The 2022/23 Annual Revised Budget has been adjusted to include new grant funding and contributions income, and the associated employee benefits and materials & supplies expenditure budgets.

The new projects are as follows:

- Smart Forms project.
- Workforce Planning Grant.
- ESD Advisor Grant.
- Resilient Public Estate.
- Digitisation of Planning & Building Files.
- Rapid Antigen Test Program.
- Digital Literacy for Seniors.

- Community Recovery Hubs.
- Community Recover Officer Program.

Due to the timing of receiving these grants, most of this budget has been included in the recommendation to carry forward budgets into 2023/24.

Interim result

The operating surplus of \$4.5 million for the 2022/23 financial year is \$2.6 million lower than the annual revised budget. The main reason is a reduction in grant revenue recognised in the financial year and the under expenditure in employee entitlements.

Grant revenue includes funding received in advance, where the grant objective does not provide specific deliverables, such as the Grants Commission's Financial Assistance Grants. The Grants Commission funding was received 75% in advance in 2021/22. In 2022/23 the government decided to pay this funding 100% in advance. The effect of this is that Council received 125% in the 2022/23 year amounting to \$1.3 million. Grant revenue funding Capital Works Program is recorded as income to match the progress of the project.

The favourable variance in employee entitlements is mainly due to unfilled vacancies, some of which have been temporarily filled by contractors (reported as materials and contractors).

Note	Line item	(2) Explanation YTD Budget V Actual Variance
1	Statutory fees and fines	Favourable variances in Plan Checking fees \$19k. Unfavourable variances in Planning Fees \$71k, Building control income \$37k & Planning infringements \$9k.
2	User fees	Favourable variances in Alexandra Landfill \$171k, Kinglake Community Centre \$8k & Alexandra Shire Hall \$8k. Unfavourable variances in Yea Saleyards \$37k, and Transfer Stations \$60k.
3	Grants – Operating	Grant income has been adjusted in line with Australian Accounting Standards. Grants Commission paid 100% in advance for the 23/24 year - Assistance Grant \$1.3m and Local Roads \$0.8m. Offset by grant funds received but not yet reported as income due to status of delivering specific grant objectives.
4	Grants - Capital	As above. Capital income is also deemed unearned where capital projects have not yet achieved the specific funding milestones. Unearned income is reported as a Liability in the Balance Sheet.
5	Contributions - Cash	Unfavourable variance due to Yea Caravan Park Bridge (GV Water) \$86k, Public open space contributions \$30k, DECCA Sustainable Subdivisions Framework Shared ESD Advisor contributions \$39k all lower than budgeted.
6	Contributions - Non-Cash	The value of Gifted assets was lower than budgeted.
7	Reimbursements	Reduced income from Yea Cemetery Project \$99k, Building Surveyor Services \$14k & Dogs & Cats \$4k. Insurance Claim income \$22k, Reimbursement of Legal Costs incurred in rates debt collection \$33k all favourable to budget.
8	Other revenue	Favourable variances in Volunteer services \$132k and Interest on investments \$203k. Volunteer services is recognised as income and offset by a matching expenditure. Interest on investments is favourable due to the higher interest rates.
9	Employee Benefits	Favourable variances due to vacancies in the Assets, Project Delivery Operations, Economic Development teams and Flood recovery positions. Vacancies filled by contracted staff is reported as Materials and Services.

Note	Line item	(2) Explanation YTD Budget V Actual Variance
10	Materials and Services	Favourable variances relate to the timing of flood recovery costs and other grant funded projects are offset by unfavourable variances in the Assets, Project Delivery and Operations units' contracted staff.
11	Depreciation and amortisation	Reflective of number of capital works projects completed contributing to increase in assets.
12	Other Expense	Recognition of Volunteer Services (offset by revenue). Councillor Expenses \$23k favourable to budget.
13	Net gain/(loss) on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment.	Delays in sale of assets.
14	Increase Landfill Provision	Increase provision to CPI due to discounted cashflow calculation.

Materials and contractors includes \$170k expenditure transferred from capital work in progress to operating because it was not capital in nature. Further explanations for this variance are outlined in Table 1 below.

Table 1 below explains by income and expense line item of the *Year-to-date budget variances*: variances between the June revised year-to-date budget and the year-to-date actual result.

Table 1: Explanation of Budget Variances

Balance Sheet (Statement B)

The Balance Sheet is included Attachment 5.1.1.

The Commentary below refers to Column (2) interim year-end result to revised budget variance.

Assets

The statement shows Cash \$7.4 million and Financial Assets (term deposits with maturity greater than 90 days) of \$33.6 million; a net result of \$7.8 million more than budget. This reflects the value of cash collected and held to fund carry forward projects; grants received in the financial year with the associated expenditure to be incurred in the 2023/24 year; and the receipt of 100% of the Financial Assistance Grants (FAG Victorian Grants Commission) being received in advance. A more detailed explanation is provided within the Cashflow statement.

Non-current assets are \$7.6 million below expectations. This is explained by delayed capital works \$5.6 million, depreciation of recorded assets and pending valuations of assets. At the time of this report the asset valuations had not been completed. The Financial statements will be amended prior to finalisation of VAGO audit to include the valuation of assets.

Liabilities

The major variance is \$4.9 million for the value of grants received in advance and accrued expenses \$1.3 million relating to capital projects. The grants will be recognised as income in 2023/24 when the funding agreement obligation has been met. The funds held for contract retentions, bonds, and amounts in trust is above budget by \$0.5 million.

Equity

The statements show a favourable variance of \$2.6 million mainly due to the operating result. At the time of this report, transfers to / from Reserves has not been completed. The operating surplus is explained in more detail by the commentary outlined in Statement A – Income Statement.

Cash Flow Statement (Statement C)

This statement combines the cash related movements from the Income Statement and the Balance Sheet into one statement. This Statement shows how funds are generated and consumed. The balance of cash is \$7.8 million favourable to budget. This is mainly due to grants received in advance. The unaudited reduction in the cash position is \$1.8 million. The movement is explained by the three activities for generating and consuming cash:

Cash flow from operating activities

The statement shows an improvement of \$1.5 million, relating to receipt of grants and lower payments to suppliers.

Cash flow from investing activities

An increase of \$6.2 million mostly due to delays in the completion of capital work projects or accruals in capital works expenditure. Several projects will be carried forwarded into the 2023/24 financial year. There was also a decline in expected cash from assets sales, \$0.2 million as the changeover of various vehicle and plant items was delayed.

Cash flow from financing activities

No borrowing activities were undertaken during the year and Council has no active loans.

Capital Works Statement (Statement D)

The Capital Works Program (CWP) is comprised of projects:

- endorsed by Council - Original 2022/23 capital works budget.
- carried forward from the 2021/22 CWP.
- added to the CWP during the 2022/23 financial year.

The original adopted total capital works budget for 2022/23 was \$18.754 million.

Carry forwards and additional projects resulted in a revised total capital budget of \$20.032 million including a component of \$673k grant funded works delivered on behalf of Mitchell and Mansfield Shires.

88% of the Capital Work Program was delivered, with a spend of approximately \$14,264 million against the Revised 2022/23 Capital Works budget (including non-capital works), and commitments of \$3,374 million to works in progress. This result exceeds the Council Plan target of 80% CWP delivery.

Despite the Capital Works program being severely interrupted by floods and continuing wet weather, a significant proportion of the program was still achieved. Major road works were deferred to 2023/24 and the unsealed road resheeting program is still in progress. \$5,632 million will be recommended for carry forward budget to support the continuation of these works.

The Statement of Capital Works shows a budget expenditure variance of \$13.5 million. Where a capital works project does not result in a Council owned asset, the cost is deemed an operating cost.

In addition to the actual expenditure reported, \$673k was transferred to operating expenditure to reflect the fact that the resulting assets are not Murrindindi Shire Council's. The following capital works projects received capital grant funding and were reported as operating expenditure:

- Art on rail trail – Mitchell and Mansfield Shire Councils \$673k

The table below summaries the Capital Works Program budget and achievements for the year 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023.

Capital Works Program	\$'000	\$'000
Original 2022/23 Budget		\$18,754,
Revised 2022/23 Budget		\$20,032
Capital Works Program Achieved		\$17,638
Capital Works	\$13,591	
Operating transfer from capital	\$673	
Commitments	\$3,374	
Carry Forward Budget to complete Capital Works Program		\$5,632

Achievements of the 2022/23 Capital Works Program are as follows:

- Completed replacement of McDonalds Bridge Gobur (\$475k this year)
- Replaced Yea Caravan Park bridge Yea (\$1.27 million)
- Replaced Break O'Day Road bridge Glenburn in six weeks (\$1.65 million)
- Completion of the Great Victorian Rail Trail (\$1.1 million - \$673k transferred as above).
- Completion of the Eildon Shared Trail (\$2.05 million)

Councillor Expenses (GST Exclusive):

As required in the adopted Councillor Reimbursement Policy (July 2020), Council reports quarterly on the Councillor related expenses. The following table details Councillor expenses for the fourth quarter period ending 30 June 2023.

Table 2: Councillor Expenses for 3 months ended 30 June 2023:

	Allowances	Travel Expenses	Childcare Expenses	Information & Communications Expenses	Conference & Training Expenses	Other Expenses
Cr Walsh	\$12,989	\$2,958		856.80	1,303.95	1,325.74
Cr Haslam	\$6,495	\$4,224		856.80	74.08	1,325.74
Cr Carpenter	\$4,191			863.06	-	1,325.74
Cr Gallagher	\$4,191	\$3,876		856.80	500.00	1,325.74
Cr Gerencser	\$4,191	\$2,090		863.06	-	1,325.74
Cr Lording	\$4,191	\$1,761		965.80	-	1,325.74
Cr McAulay	\$4,191	\$2,179		856.80	184.43	1,325.74

It should be noted that accommodation and travel costs include the reimbursement of the claims, which a Councillor may choose to submit for travelling to Council meetings, briefings, and other functions which they attend in their capacity as a Councillor. Where a Councillor's residence is greater than fifty (50) kilometres from the location of a Council meeting, they may also claim the statutory remote area allowance.

Councillors can elect for part of their allowance to be deducted for superannuation purposes.

Council Plan/Strategies/Policies

This report supports the *Council Plan 2021-2025 Transparency, Inclusion and Accountability* strategy to "ensure Council remains financially sustainable through sound management, forward planning, innovative service delivery and asset consolidation as appropriate".

Relevant Legislation

Section 97 of the *Local Government Act 2020* requires that at the end of each quarter of the financial year, a quarterly budget report is presented to the Council at a Council meeting which is open to the public.

Financial Implications and Risk

The financial governance of Council is an important role that Councillors oversee. Poor financial management would pose a significant risk to Council, its governance and financial sustainability. Quarterly Reporting assists Council with this oversight. The financial implications flowing from this quarterly financial review are outlined in this report.

Conflict of Interest

There were no conflicts of interest declared by Council officers in relation to the matters contained in this report.

Community and Stakeholder Consultation

No external community or stakeholder consultation was required for this matter.

5.2 2022/23 Carry Forward Budgets

Attachment(s)	Attachment 1 - 2022/23 Carry Forward Budgets [5.2.1 - 7 pages]
Presenter	C Nickels-Beattie, Manager Business Services
Approved by	Director People & Corporate Performance
Purpose	For decision

Executive Summary

This report provides the 2023/24 revised budget position after consideration of operating and capital expenditure and revenue budgets recommended for carry forward from 2022/23 to 2023/24.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council endorse the revised 2023/24 Annual Budget incorporating the carry forward budgets from the 2022/23 financial year.

Background

During the review of 2022/23 results, carry forward budgets are considered for operating and capital works projects, and any associated grant income, which have not been completed by 30 June.

Discussion

Some operating project expenditure and capital works projects have not been completed due to factors such as:

- Grant funding for projects received later than expected, delaying commencement.
- Reallocation of resources to respond to the October 2022 flood emergency and February 2023 Flowerdale and Maintongoon fires.

- Staff movements and delays in filling vacancies.
- Lack of contractor availability.
- Inclement weather impacting commencement of projects.

Table 1 provides a reconciliation between Council's adopted budget 2023/24, carry forward amounts from 2022/23, and the resulting revised budget 2023/24. A full detailed list of recommended carry forwards is attached.

Table 1 Reconciliation of 2023/24 revised budget adjustments – 2022/23 Carry forwards

Description		Operating \$'000	Capital \$'000
Adopted Operating Budget Surplus 2023/24		1,170	
Adopted Capital Expenditure Budget 2023/24			15,953
Carry Forward Budgets			
Schedule 1: Council Funded Operating Expenditure – Project initiatives	less	320	
Schedule 2: Grant Funded Operating Expenditure	less	2,983	
Schedule 3: Operating Income - Grants	plus	3,310	
Schedule 4: Capital Income – Grants & Sale of Assets	plus	2,850	
Schedule 5: Capital Works			5,632
Revised Budget Surplus – August 2023		4,027	21,585

The 2023/24 Annual Revised Budget shows an operating surplus for the year of \$4 million, which is an increase of \$2.9 million on the Original 2023/24 Adopted Budget. This movement primarily reflects a significant increase in capital grants funding for capital works projects and operating income, which offsets the increase in operating expenditure budget.

The carry forward of Council-funded operating expenditure relates specifically to projects funded in 2022/23 which were incomplete by year-end for the reasons mentioned above.

The operating income budgets are subject to the completion of the annual VAGO audit currently underway and includes flood recovery income not taken up as income in the 2022/23 financial year.

The Capital Works Revised Budget of \$21.6 million is an increase of \$5.6 million from the Original 2023/24 Adopted Budget. Carrying forward these budgets allows Council to continue the delivery of these committed projects.

New or additional grants advised since the adoption of the 2023/24 Annual Budget will be reported in the September Quarterly report to Council.

Council Plan/Strategies/Policies

This report supports the *Council Plan 2021-2025 Transparency, Inclusion and Accountability* strategy to “ensure Council remains financially sustainable through sound management, forward planning, innovative service delivery and asset consolidation as appropriate”.

Relevant Legislation

Local Government Act 2020.

Financial Implications and Risk

The financial governance of a Council is an important role for Councillors. The risk of poor financial management can have a significant impact upon the governance of the Council.

These interim 2022/23 results are pending completion of the VAGO audit. The financial implications flowing from the carry forward budgets, pending VAGO audit, are outlined in this report.

Conflict of Interest

There were no conflicts of interest declared by Council officers in relation to the matters contained in this report.

Community and Stakeholder Consultation

No external community or stakeholder consultation was required for this matter.

- 6 COUNCILLOR AND CEO REPORTS**
- 6.1 Notices of Motions**
- 6.2 Cr Sue Carpenter**
- 6.3 Cr Damien Gallagher**
- 6.4 Cr Eric Lording**
- 6.5 Cr Sandice McAulay**
- 6.6 Cr Karine Haslam**
- 6.7 Cr John Walsh - Mayoral Report**
- 6.8 Chief Executive Officer Report**

7 RECORD OF COUNCIL BRIEFING SESSIONS

Purpose

For noting.

Executive Summary

This report presents the records of Council Briefing Sessions for 26 July 2023 to 16 August 2023, for Council to note.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and note the records of Council Briefing Sessions for 24 July 2023 to 18 August 2023.

Background

The Governance Rules adopted by Council at its 24 August 2022 meeting sets the order of business for scheduled meetings. As part of section 7.2.1 “Record of Council Briefing Sessions” is listed as to be included in the order of business.

Discussion

The purpose of keeping a record of Council Briefing Sessions is so that the content of the Briefing Session, the attendance and any declared conflicts of interest are recorded in a formal document. Council is making every effort to ensure that it is transparent in the content of Briefing Sessions and any conflicts of interest, therefore the formal record is presented for noting as part of the Scheduled Meeting Agenda.

The following summary details are for 26 July 2023 to 16 August 2023:

Meeting Name/Type	Council Pre-Meet
Meeting Date:	26 July 2023
Matters Discussed:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Planning Application - 10 Murchison Street, Marysville – Signage 2. Planning Application - 204 Killingworth Road, Killingworth - Development Plan 3. Planning Application – 7 Peterkin Street Alexandra – 19 Lot Subdivision 4. Murrindindi Planning Scheme Review 5. Tender for Collaborative Digital Innovation (CODI) IT Systems Alignment Project 6. Public Liability Insurance Renewal 7. Referendum on an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice to Parliament - Information sharing campaign 8. Motion to MAV State Council 9. Contract 23/1 - Sealed Roads Rehabilitation Program - Tender Award
Councillor Attendees:	Cr J Walsh, Cr K Haslam, Cr S Carpenter, Cr D Gallagher, Cr E Lording, Cr S McAulay, Cr I Gerencser
Council Officer Attendees:	L Bonazzi, M Chesworth, A Paxton, V Albicini, D Echeverry, N Stewart, C Fraser, P Bain, C Nickels-Beattie
Conflict of Interest Disclosures:	Nil

Meeting Name/Type	Briefing Session
Meeting Date:	2 August 2023
Matters Discussed:	1. Workshop – Local Government Guide for Preventing Family Violence and All Forms of Violence
Councillor Attendees:	Cr J Walsh, Cr K Haslam, Cr D Gallagher, Cr E Lording, Cr S McAulay, Cr I Gerencser
Council Officer Attendees:	L Bonazzi, A Paxton, V Albicini
Conflict of Interest Disclosures:	Nil

Meeting Name/Type	Briefing Session
Meeting Date:	9 August 2023
Matters Discussed:	1. Glenburn Community Plan – Presented by community members 2. Murrindindi Flood Recovery Plan
Councillor Attendees:	Cr J Walsh, Cr K Haslam (V), Cr S Carpenter, Cr D Gallagher, Cr E Lording, Cr S McAulay (V), Cr I Gerencser
Council Officer Attendees:	L Bonazzi, M Chesworth, A Paxton, V Albicini, A Paix, K Chadband
Conflict of Interest Disclosures:	Nil

Meeting Name/Type	Briefing Session
Meeting Date:	16 August 2023
Matters Discussed:	1. June Quarterly Report & Carry Forward requests (OpEx & CapEx) 2. Capital Works Program Review – July 2023 3. Bushfire Memorial Works 4. Municipal Emergency Management Plan (MEMP) 5. Development Services Monthly Report
Councillor Attendees:	Cr J Walsh, Cr K Haslam, Cr D Gallagher, Cr S McAulay, Cr I Gerencser
Council Officer Attendees:	L Bonazzi, M Chesworth, A Paxton, V Albicini, C Nickels-Beattie, P Bain, D Liyanage, S Russell, J Miller
Conflict of Interest Disclosures:	Nil

Council Plan/Strategies/Policies

This matter is consistent with the *Council Plan 2021-2025 Transparency, Inclusion and Accountability* strategy to “maintain transparent, inclusive and accountable governance practices”.

Relevant Legislation

This report supports the *Local Government Act 2020* overarching governance principles, in particular “the transparency of Council decisions, actions and information is to be ensured”.

Financial Implications and Risk

There are no financial or risk implications.

Conflict of Interest

Any conflicts of interest are noted in the records of Council Briefing Sessions tables listed above.

8 SEALING REGISTER

File Reference	Date Seal Affixed	Description of Documents	Signatures of Persons Sealing
CONT/22/23	15 August 2023	Formal Instrument of Agreement between Murrindindi Shire Council and Fineblade Pty Ltd	Livia Bonazzi Cr John Walsh

RECOMMENDATION

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