



MINUTES
of the
ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL
To be held on
WEDNESDAY 26 AUGUST 2015
in the
YARCK COMMUNITY HALL
commencing at
6.00 pm

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1. PRAYER, OATH & RECONCILIATION STATEMENT

The meeting was opened with Prayer and reading of the Oath and Reconciliation Statement.

2. APOLOGIES AND REQUESTS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

TRIM: SF/306

Present:

Crs M Rae (Chair), A Derwent, C Challen, J Kennedy, J Walsh, B Magner

In attendance:

Chief Executive Officer: Margaret Abbey

General Manager Corporate and Community Services: Michael Chesworth

Manager Infrastructure Assets: John Canny

Manager Communications Library & Customer Service: Jacqui Rabel

Statutory Planning Co-ordinator: Karen Girvan

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

➤ Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 22 July 2015

Officer Recommendation:

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 22 July 2015 be confirmed.

RESOLUTION:

Cr J Walsh / Cr J Kennedy

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on the 22 July 2015 be confirmed.

CARRIED

4. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST OR CONFLICT OF INTEREST

TRIM: SF/783

No disclosures of interest or conflict of interest.

The Chairperson declared Public Participation Time and invited questions from the Gallery.

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION TIME**5.1 QUESTIONS OF COUNCIL**

Two questions were received from Jack Russell.

Question 1: Is the Mayor aware of my memo (a) of 4 July 2015 – 1. Drop in Centre and 2. Shire Managed facilities available, and all Councillors of my memo (b) cc to all Councillors of my submission – restructure process - of 21 July 2015 and see the enclosed copies?

The Chief Executive Officer responded:

Yes

Question 2: Is Council and all Councillors, aware of my five VCAT applications of the six Freedom of Information (FOI) applications to Murrindindi Shire Council, that had been previously wrongly obstructed and since November to December 2014 etc. and if so, then why has the Council failed to separate the further five FOI applications as an undertaking made six weeks ago with the then FOI Commissioner and for her certification?

The Chief Executive Officer responded:

This is an administrative matter not a Council matter.

RESOLUTION:

Cr J Walsh / Cr J Kennedy

That the period of time for Open Forum be extended to allow all persons who are requesting to address Council to be heard.

CARRIED

5.2 OPEN FORUM

TRIM: SF/130

RESOLUTION:

Cr C Challen / Cr A Derwent

That Mr Russell be allowed to take precedence as the first speaker in Open Forum.

MOTION LOST

Jeanette Tilley spoke about the proposed conditions for permit amendment for Hannas Road Strath Creek (Item 6.1 on the agenda).

Steve Meacher spoke in favour of establishing the Great Forest National Park (Item 10.1 on the agenda).

Stephen Cutting spoke in favour of establishing the Great Forest National Park (Item 10.1 on the agenda).

Ken Deacon spoke in favour of establishing the Great Forest National Park (Item 10.1 on the agenda).

Gayle Cole spoke in favour of establishing the Great Forest National Park (Item 10.1 on the agenda).

Bernie Mace spoke in favour of establishing the Great Forest National Park (Item 10.1 on the agenda).

Ken Wall spoke in favour of establishing the Great Forest National Park (Item 10.1 on the agenda).

Lynn Dean spoke in favour of establishing the Great Forest National Park (Item 10.1 on the agenda).

Lucas Russell spoke against the establishment of the Great Forest National Park (Item 10.1 on the agenda).

Peter Perry spoke in favour of establishing the Great Forest National Park (Item 10.1 on the agenda).

Brenda Monk spoke in favour of establishing the Great Forest National Park (Item 10.1 on the agenda).

Uncle Roy Paterson spoke in favour of establishing the Great Forest National Park (Item 10.1 on the agenda).

John Grindrod spoke in favour of establishing the Great Forest National Park (Item 10.1 on the agenda).

The Chairperson closed Open Forum.

5.3 PETITIONERS SPEAKING TO PETITIONS

TRIM: SF/132

No Petitioners.

The Chairperson closed Public Participation Time.

6. OFFICER REPORTS

6.1 2007/105 – PERMIT AMENDMENT FOR HANNAS ROAD STRATH CREEK

Ref: 2007/105

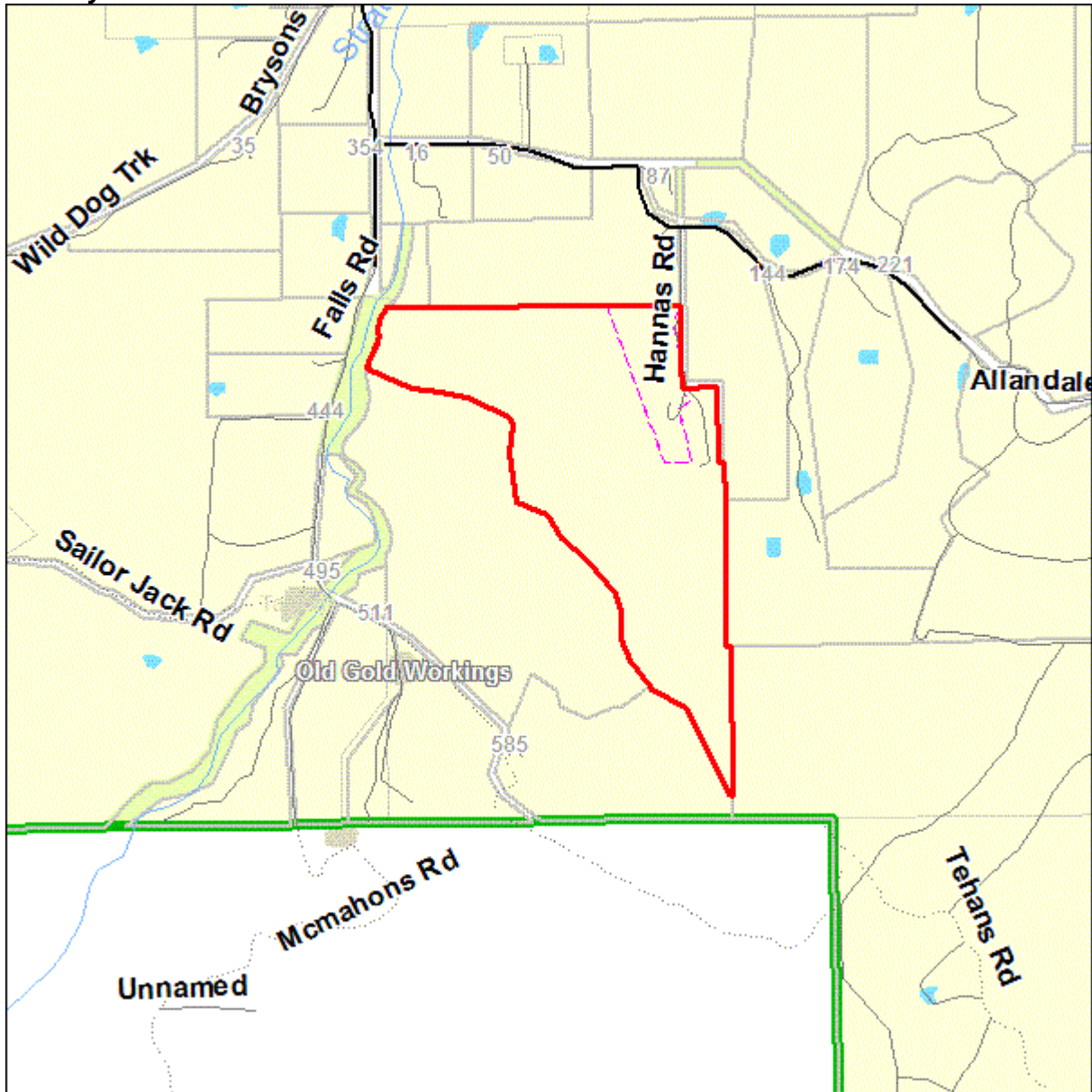
Land: 26 Hannas Road STRATH CREEK 3658

Proposal: Amend planning permit to, change the boundaries of the subdivision, to alter the proposal to include the construction of two tourist cottages and to amend condition 11 and condition 9 to reflect the altered boundaries on the amended plan.

Applicant: W J Rogers

Zoning: Farming
 Overlays: Bushfire Management
 Attachments: Application details (aerial photograph and submissions distributed separately)

Locality Plan



Purpose:

This report recommends that a notice of decision to amend a permit be issued for planning permit 2007/105 to change the proposal to be “Two Lot Subdivision and construction and use of two tourist accommodation cottages”, to change the approved boundaries of the subdivision, and to amend conditions 11 and 9 to reflect the altered boundaries at 26 Hannas Road, Strath Creek.

Officer Recommendation:

That Council issue a notice of decision to grant an amendment to planning permit 2007/105 to change the proposal to be “Two Lot Subdivision and construction and use of two tourist accommodation cottages”, to change the approved boundaries of the subdivision, and to amend conditions 11 and 9 to reflect the altered boundaries at 26 Hannas Road, Strath Creek (Lot: 1 PS: 548220, Parish of Windham), subject to the following amended conditions:

- (1) The subdivision and the tourist accommodation must be in accordance with the endorsed plan. This endorsed plan can only be altered or modified with prior written approval of the Responsible Authority, or to comply with statutory compliance.
- (2) This permit shall expire if the plan of subdivision hereby permitted is not certified and the tourist accommodation cottages hereby permitted are not completed and the use commenced within two (2) years of the date hereof or any extension of such period, the Responsible Authority may allow in writing on an application made before or within three months after such expiry.
- (9) Prior to the issue of a Statement of Compliance, the developer must upgrade the "New Road" access to the proposed Lot 1 from the constructed section of Hanna Road to incorporate earthworks, pavement, sealing, and drainage measures
Specific details are as follows:
 - 5.0 m pavement sealed width, with 250 mm depth pavement of 20 mm class 3 crushed rock pavement
 - 1.0 m shoulder with 150 mm depth pavement of 20 mm class 3 crushed rock
 - Installation or upgrade of road culverts as required,
 - Guideposts and signage
 - Maximum cut and fill batter slopes of 3 (horizontal) to 1 (Vertical),
- (11) Prior to the issue of a statement of compliance properly constructed driveway crossings must be constructed to each lot from the adjoining road to provide ingress and egress at a location and of a size and standard to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority. Refer to Council's Infrastructure Design Manual Section 12.9.2 - Rural Vehicle Crossings and standard drawing SD 255. An appropriate rural road number plaque must be placed at the access points to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority
- (12) Before any works associated with the subdivision start, detailed construction plans must be prepared and approved to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority. All works constructed or carried out must be in accordance with those plans.
Prior to the issue of a Statement of Compliance, the developer must construct the access in accordance with approved construction drawings.

Renumber conditions (17) and (18) to (23) and (24).

With the following conditions added:

- (17) All external cladding including the roof and trims of the building allowed must be coloured or painted in muted shades of green, brown or charcoal, or in a colour approved in writing by the Responsible Authority.
- (18) All sewage and sullage waters shall be treated in accordance with the requirements of the Environment Protection Authority and the Council. All effluent shall be disposed of and contained within the curtilage of the land and shall not discharge directly or indirectly to an adjoining property, street or any water course, water storage or dam. Sufficient land shall be set aside and kept available for the purpose of effluent disposal.
- (19) Prior to the commencement of any works, including site works, the applicant shall obtain a septic tank permit from Council.
- (20) The use or development hereby permitted shall not cause nuisance or injury to, or prejudicially affect the amenity of the locality, by reason of the transportation of materials, goods and commodities to and from the land, the appearance of any building, works, or materials on the land, the emission of noise, vibration, smell, fumes, smoke,

vapour, steam soot, ash, dust, waste water, waste products, grit, oil or the presence of vermin or otherwise.

- (21) The subject land must be kept neat and tidy at all times and its appearance must not, in the opinion of the Responsible Authority, adversely affect the amenity of the locality.
- (22) Outdoor lighting must be designed, baffled and located to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority such that no direct light is emitted outside the boundaries of the subject land.
- (25) Bushfire Management Plan endorsed
The Bushfire Management Plan must be endorsed to form part of the permit and must not be altered unless otherwise agreed in writing by the CFA and the Responsible Authority.

Proposal:

This property is located on Hannas Road in Strath Creek and is known as 'The Village Green', formerly known as 'The Hume and Hovell Cricket Ground'. This permit was originally issued for a two lot subdivision in October 2007 with requirements for road works on Hannas Road to access the lots. The proposed alteration in lot boundaries is minor but does relocate the access to both lots to a point just past the sealed portion of Hannas Road. The other part of the application is to include the construction of two tourist cottages.

At present the property operates under planning permit 2004/297 which allows for the use of the property as '*a tourism establishment including a minor facilities sports ground and recreation facility, accommodation, a function centre and some camping/caravan use, including an on premises liquor licence*'.

The Land & Surroundings:

The land currently contains the Village Green Tourist facility, and an existing dwelling in the north eastern section of the 77.96-hectare allotment. The balance of the allotment is used for extensive animal husbandry. There is currently a dam on a waterway in the road reserve adjacent to the property. Proposed allotment 1 will also contain two of the existing dams that are located on the property, with the remainder of the dams being included in proposed allotment 2. There is some remnant native vegetation on site. According to the Department of Sustainability and Environment this vegetation falls into an endangered ecological vegetation class of Floodplain Riparian Woodland.

Referrals:

The application to amend was sent to the Country Fire Authority, who had no objections to the application subject to a condition.

Consultation:

The application to amend the planning permit was notified to all abutting owners and two objections were received.

One objection was in relation to potential use of an access directly onto Falls Road. After receiving a response from the applicant the objector withdrew this objection.

The other objection is from the neighbour directly to the north. This objection was not in relation to the realignment of the subdivision but to the construction of the cottages. The objection raised issues with the cricket ground itself and the permit that it currently operates under as follows:

- That the use of the cottages be linked to planning permit 2004/297 under which the cricket ground operates and that the conditions on that permit be reflected in this application

- Concerned that the location of the cottages is closer than the existing pavilion and this may cause unacceptable noise

The applicant amended the site plan to relocate the cottages to a point in line with the existing pavilion to satisfy the concerns of the neighbour.

A further response from the neighbour was received in which they stated that their complaint encompassed inadequate tree planting on the Hannas Road nature strip as there is one section where vegetation is not growing and this portion is in line with their bedroom. They noted in correspondence that the current owner has been diligent about maintaining this area however they now want Council to do this particular piece of planting as they believe it should have been done years before.

While this letter states that they are satisfied with the relocation of the cottages they have not withdrawn the objection and want the new application to have similar conditions for the use of the cottages as is set out in planning permit 2004/297.

Newspaper / Other	Publishing/Consultation Date(s)
<i>Mail out: Nearby and Adjoining owners</i>	4 May 2015

Planning Considerations:

In relation to the screen planting along Hannas Road, this was done many years ago but unfortunately there is one spot that contains a drain and this area has had a very low survival rate for plants. The owner of The Village Green has been requested to plant two more shrubs in this area, closer to the fence line and hopefully with a better likelihood of surviving. He has also been advised that this will be the last time that Council will request new planting in this position.

The issue of linking the conditions from 2004/297 is only partly relevant to this application. The objection calls up the following conditions and asks that similar conditions be placed on the current proposal:

4. Restricts the use of the pavilion building for tourist accommodation to a maximum of six adults and three children at any one time.
8. Relates to functions and places hours of use on the pavilion between 9am and 11pm, requires all noise including amplified music to cease at that time and for all non residents to leave the property within 30 minutes of closure.
18. Noise levels to not exceed the State Environment Protection Policies.

The consideration of additional conditions in relation to the permit for the tourist accommodation has been made with consideration of the cabins themselves. Some of the issues in relation to amenity will be incorporated into the proposed permit conditions and this may eventually receive approval from the neighbour, officers are concerned that further negotiation will not necessarily result in an agreed outcome. Council is obliged to deal with applications in a timely manner and a decision was therefore made to present this application to Council with an objection.

Conclusion:

The two cottages will integrate well with the existing use of the property and provide a further option for accommodation. The location of the cottages is 300 metres from the nearest dwelling and will not cause any adverse amenity issues. Recommended conditions will include relevant components of the overall operating permit where relevant.

Legal/Policy Issues:**State Planning Policy Framework**

13.05 Bushfire

Objective: To assist to strengthen community resilience to bushfire.

Strategies:

- Prioritise the protection of human life over other policy considerations in planning and decision making in areas at risk from bushfire.

Local Planning Policy Framework

21.04 Agriculture and rural land strategies

Strategies and objectives:

- Ensure that the use and development of rural land is both compatible with and complementary to agricultural activities and protect agricultural potential.
- Facilitate the diversification and development of rural land when it can be demonstrated that the economic base of the Shire will be enhanced.

Zoning

35.07 Farming Zone

Purpose:

- To provide for the use of the land for agriculture.
- To encourage the retention of productive agricultural land.
- To ensure that non-agricultural uses, particularly dwellings, do not adversely affect the use of land for agriculture.

A planning permit is required for the construction of tourist accommodation.

A planning permit is required to subdivide land. A permit may be granted to create a lot of less than 40 hectares if the following applies:

- The subdivision is to create a lot for an existing dwelling. The subdivision must be a two lot subdivision. An agreement under Section 173 of the Act must be entered into with the owner of each lot created which ensures that the land may not be further subdivided so as to create a smaller lot for an existing dwelling. The agreement must be registered on title.

Decision Guidelines:

General issues:

- Whether the site is suitable for the use or development and whether the proposal is compatible with adjoining and nearby land uses.

Agricultural issues:

- Whether the use or development will support and enhance agricultural production.
- Whether the use or development will permanently remove land from agricultural productive.
- The potential for the use or development to limit the operation and expansion of adjoining and nearby agricultural uses.
- The capacity of the site to sustain the agricultural use.

Environmental issues:

- The impact of the proposal on the natural physical features and resources of the area, in particular on soil and water quality.
- The impact of the use or development on the flora and fauna on the site and its surrounds.
- The need to protect and enhance the biodiversity of the area, including the retention of vegetation and faunal habitat and the need to revegetate land including riparian buffers along waterways, gullies, ridgelines, property boundaries and saline discharge and recharge area.

RESOLUTION:

Cr J Walsh / Cr C Challen

That Council issue an amendment to planning permit 2007/105 to change the proposal to be “Two Lot Subdivision and construction and use of two tourist accommodation cottages”, to change the approved boundaries of the subdivision, and to amend conditions 11 and 9 to reflect the altered boundaries at 26 Hannas Road, Strath Creek (Lot: 1 PS: 548220, Parish of Windham), subject to the following amended conditions:

- (1) The subdivision and the tourist accommodation must be in accordance with the endorsed plan. This endorsed plan can only be altered or modified with prior written approval of the Responsible Authority, or to comply with statutory compliance.**
- (2) This permit shall expire if the plan of subdivision hereby permitted is not certified and the tourist accommodation cottages hereby permitted are not completed and the use commenced within two (2) years of the date hereof or any extension of such period, the Responsible Authority may allow in writing on an application made before or within three months after such expiry.**
- (9) Prior to the issue of a Statement of Compliance, the developer must upgrade the “New Road“ access to the proposed Lot 1 from the constructed section of Hanna Road to incorporate earthworks, pavement, sealing, and drainage measures
Specific details are as follows:
 - 5.0 m pavement sealed width, with 250 mm depth pavement of 20 mm class 3 crushed rock pavement
 - 1.0 m shoulder with 150 mm depth pavement of 20 mm class 3 crushed rock
 - Installation or upgrade of road culverts as required,
 - Guideposts and signage
 - Maximum cut and fill batter slopes of 3 (horizontal) to 1 (Vertical),**
- (11) Prior to the issue of a statement of compliance properly constructed driveway crossings must be constructed to each lot from the adjoining road to provide ingress and egress at a location and of a size and standard to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority. Refer to Council’s Infrastructure Design Manual Section 12.9.2 - Rural Vehicle Crossings and standard drawing SD 255. An appropriate rural road number plaque must be placed at the access points to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority**
- (12) Before any works associated with the subdivision start, detailed construction plans must be prepared and approved to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority. All works constructed or carried out must be in accordance with those plans.
Prior to the issue of a Statement of Compliance, the developer must construct the access in accordance with approved construction drawings.**

Renumber conditions (17) and (18) to (24) and (25).

With the following conditions added:

- (17) All external cladding including the roof and trims of the building allowed must be coloured or painted in muted shades of green, brown or charcoal, or in a colour approved in writing by the Responsible Authority.**
- (18) All sewage and sullage waters shall be treated in accordance with the requirements of the Environment Protection Authority and the Council. All effluent shall be disposed of and contained within the curtilage of the land and**

shall not discharge directly or indirectly to an adjoining property, street or any water course, water storage or dam. Sufficient land shall be set aside and kept available for the purpose of effluent disposal.

- (19) Prior to the commencement of any works, including site works, the applicant shall obtain a septic tank permit from Council.
- (20) The use or development hereby permitted shall not cause nuisance or injury to, or prejudicially affect the amenity of the locality, by reason of the transportation of materials, goods and commodities to and from the land, the appearance of any building, works, or materials on the land, the emission of noise, vibration, smell, fumes, smoke, vapour, steam soot, ash, dust, waste water, waste products, grit, oil or the presence of vermin or otherwise. No noise can be emitted from the cottages beyond 11pm.
- (21) The subject land must be kept neat and tidy at all times and its appearance must not, in the opinion of the Responsible Authority, adversely affect the amenity of the locality.
- (22) Outdoor lighting must be designed, baffled and located to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority such that no direct light is emitted outside the boundaries of the subject land.
- (23) The cottages can only accommodate a maximum of 4 adults at any one time, or 2 adults and 2 to 4 children at any one time.
- (26) **Bushfire Management Plan endorsed**
The Bushfire Management Plan must be endorsed to form part of the permit and must not be altered unless otherwise agreed in writing by the CFA and the Responsible Authority.

CARRIED

6.2 DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT JUNE QUARTERLY ACTIVITY REPORT

REF: FY64-03

Attachment/s:

- 6.2a Planning and Development Engineering Action Plan (15/21976)
- 6.2b Planning and Building Permit Activity Report June Quarter 2015 (15/42335)
- 6.2c Strategic Planning Program Summary Aug 2015 (15/16697)

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to provide Councillors with the June Quarterly Activity Report on the Development and Environmental Services Department.

Officer Recommendation:

That Council notes the June 2015 Quarter Development and Environmental Services Activity Report.

Background:

The Building and Planning unit reports bi-monthly on key performance indicators aligned to respective Business Unit Plans and Council Plan initiatives. The regular quarterly report is used to demonstrate accountability and responsiveness to customers of Councils Building and Planning services and to promote these services.

There are a number of key actions that form the basis of the quarterly report that have been incorporated into the operational programs to ensure the services offered are more aligned to the local development industry needs and expectations. The Planning and Development Engineering Action Plan developed in June 2014 was the forerunner of the quarterly report and has been updated and integrated into the respective departmental programs and reporting cycles (*Refer Attachment 6.2a*). In addition an internal communications plan was developed that identified a number of key objectives to promote the use of the service and to promote the achievements in delivery of building and planning services and are detailed in table 1 below.

Council Plan/Strategies:

This initiative directly supports the achievement of the Strategic Objective for Customer Service in the *Our Council* goal in the Murrindindi Shire Council Plan 2013-2017, in that it addresses delivery of quality customer outcomes.

Legal/Policy Issues:

There are no legal issues associated with the quarterly activity report. Council's responsibilities in these functional areas are covered by various statutory regulations. The Murrindindi Planning Scheme (Local Planning Policy Framework), and Infrastructure Design Manual are of particular relevance guiding decision making on Planning Permit approvals.

Financial/Resources/Risk

There are no financial costs relating to the preparation of this report.

Discussion:

This report format addresses the key actions and items related specifically to the Planning and Building teams identified in the Planning and Development Engineering Action Plan in June 2014 and will now form the basis of the ongoing Quarterly Development and Environmental Services Activity Report.

1. Permit Activity (Building and Planning)

Planning and building monthly permit statistics are attached to this report for the June quarter (*Refer Attachment 6.2b*).

The average number of days to determine a planning permit has improved, to 44 days, which is now the same as the previous financial year. The Key performance Indicator (KPI) is 45 days and therefore the team has achieved the target for the financial year. At the end of the June Quarter the planning unit had received 255 applications for the financial year, which is more than in the previous year. Monthly fluctuations are expected when compared to previous years, but total numbers have remained consistent.

The average number of days to determine a building permit was achieved well within the KPI of 30 days for all building permits for the June quarter. The June quarter continues to show a minor decrease in building activity, but it is expected that the variance will be less than 3%. The total value of building works for the quarter is \$4,423,075. Building works for permits issued by the Municipal Building Surveyor (MBS) for the financial year was \$19,087,458. With approximately 60% of permits issued by council, it would be reasonable to assume that the total value of works in the Shire could be 40% greater than that recorded by the MBS, taking the total estimate year to date value of works at over \$30,000,000.

2. Promotional Activities, Participation at Forums & Community Meetings

The following activities have occurred during the quarter in line with the Planning and Building Communications Plan which are listed in Table 1 below:

Table 1

<i>Promotional Activities, Participation at Forums & Community Meetings April - June 2015</i>	
April Communications	Regional Landscape Assessment Project – Feedback sought during April
20 April 2015	Organised meeting with submitters to planning application for one-off motorcycle event at 131 Webbs Lane Taggerty, which was attended by planning officer to provide community members information and an opportunity to ask questions
21 May 2015	Gaming Policy – Public Meetings occurred in Yea and Alexandra inviting public participation
25 & 26 June 2015	Council officers presented at and facilitated sessions at the MAV Rural and Regional Planning Conference in Marysville. Officers undertook an interactive session, in the form of a site visit, on both days of the conference. The visits were attended by nearly 50 delegates to the conference.
26 June 2015	Media release promoting Council's involvement in the MAV Rural and Regional Planning Conference

The Action Plan in attachment 1 identified a target to hold four Development Forums over the year. In February and March, staff participated in three bushfire rebuilding development forums and one building information forum. Although no organised forums were held in the June quarter, the building and planning staff did attend and participate in the Rural and Regional Planning Conference held in June at Marysville.

Over the next quarter planned promotional activities include a media release promoting the positive end of year results from the permit activity monitoring and Building Services will be undertaking a media campaign in relation to pool safety and also conducting an audit of existing pools.

The building and planning units are also planning to undertake a further development forum in October which will focus on updated legislation and issues such as building construction, drainage and septic tank installation.

3. Customer Satisfaction and Feedback

The customer feedback survey form is being sent to all permit applicants at the end of the process. Nine responses were received in the quarter, with an overall positive response. The results are provided below in Table 2

Table 2: Customer Satisfaction Response in June Quarter

Question	Excellent	Good	Average	Poor
The Professionalism of the team was:	7	2		
The responsiveness of the planning team was:	7	2		
The planning team's overall attention to detail was:	7	2		
From lodgement to determination of your planning application, the planning team's performance in keeping you informed was:	5	2	2	

All but one of the respondents said they had, had a pre-application meeting, split fairly equally between over the phone and in person.

A general comment was received from one respondent that stated; *“Very pleased with the professional service which made what felt like a daunting task much easier. Thank you.”*

4. Strategic Studies and Projects

The planning projects and studies are aligned to the Council Plan initiatives and address important key strategic land use and development future directions. The current studies and amendments are listed below:

Studies

- Gaming Policy
- Eildon Structure Plan
- Kinglake Ranges, Flowerdale and Toolangi Streetscape Design Framework
- Regional Landscape Assessment project

Amendments

- C46 proposes to implement a 2013 review of the Development Plan Overlay and some minor rezoning of land in Alexandra
- C53 proposes to implement the Kinglake Flowerdale Toolangi Plan
- C54 proposes to implement the 2013 review of the Murrindindi Planning Scheme
- C55 proposes to implement the Yea Structure Plan 2014

The planning projects summary has been placed on Council’s website, which is updated monthly and is attached to this report (*Refer Attachment 6.2c*).

Consultation:

The activities listed in this report identify a number of communication strategies to engage with industry professionals and the community. An internal communications plan has been developed to ensure media releases continue to be released publicising the work being undertaken within the Department, which is outlined in table 1 above. Projects and studies continue to be promoted throughout the year given the large volume of work being undertaken in this area, encouraging community participation along the way.

Conclusion:

The quarterly report better informs Councillors and the community of the work being carried out by respective Business Units within the Development and Environmental Services Department and encourages customer feedback to inform improved performance.

RESOLUTION:

Cr J Kennedy / Cr J Walsh

That Council notes the June 2015 Quarter Development and Environmental Services Activity Report.

CARRIED

6.3 END OF YEAR REPORT- CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAM 2014/2015

File No: 15/39367

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with the final update on the 2014/2015 Capital Works Program. The report will seek to advise Council of the final end of year financial status compared to budget allocations.

Officer Recommendation:

That Council:

1. Note the End of Year Report – Capital Works Program 2014/15.
2. Endorse the reallocation of savings and unspent funds as recommended in Table 1 within this report.
3. Note the projects in Table 2 that were not completed but are now complete or being completed.
4. Note the savings and unspent funds to the value of \$30,207 from the Capital Works Program to be returned to Reserves in accordance with Council's Capital Works Expenditure Policy

Background:

At the Ordinary Council Meeting on 23 July 2012 Council resolved that a quarterly report on the progress and financial status of the Capital Works Program be incorporated in Council's regular reporting cycle.

This report presents the end of year report of the 2014/2015 Capital Works Program.

The 2014/2015 Capital Works Program comprises those projects endorsed by Council as part of the 2014/2015 capital works budget as well as those projects identified for carry forward from the 2013/2014 program.

Council Plan/Strategies:

Council Plan 2013-2017:

- Our Economy – Strategic objective: 'We will advocate for the provision of infrastructure and services that support business growth'
- Our Environment – Strategic objective: 'We will use resources more efficiently and effectively'
- Our Environment – Strategic objective: 'We will apply a whole of life approach to the management and maintenance of Council's assets'

Legal/Policy Issues:

Council is obliged to prepare a budget annually. The preparation of a detailed Capital Works Program informs and significantly impacts on the budget.

Financial/Resources/Risk

There is a risk that Council may not invest enough in the replacement of infrastructure to maintain services reasonably required by the community. The preparation of a Ten Year Capital Improvement Plan seeks to mitigate this risk by informing Council of the financial impacts of investment in capital replacement.

The consequence of an insufficient capital investment in replacement is a widening infrastructure gap. The adoption of a Ten Year Capital Improvement Plan provides Council with the ability to manage the infrastructure renewal gap by identifying the level of investment and/or the level of asset rationalisation required

Timely reporting of financial issues assists in early identification of the need to reallocate costs where required. Reporting of project progress also provides Council and the community with an understanding of when projects will commence and will communicate any delays if they occur.

Consultation:

The June end of year Capital Works report has been developed with the respective officers responsible for the finance and the delivery of the capital works program.

Discussion:

The end of financial year Capital Works Program report will provide commentary on the following features of the program:

1. Budget Vs. Actual;
2. Details of the projects that were delayed or other developments that have arisen significantly affecting the budget for the project or program delivery and ;
3. List of projects to be carried forward to 2015/2016 including recommendations for proposed reallocation of funds in accordance with the Capital Works Expenditure Policy.

The 2014/2015 Capital Works Program (CWP) expenditure is 63% of the adopted budget. This represents a decrease on expenditure when compared with the 2013/2014 year where 80% of the program was expended.

This delivery of a number of infrastructure projects within the CWP was delayed to meet the specific requirements of those projects. These included the replacement of the Ghin Ghin Bridge, the Yea Swimming Pool refurbishment, Seasonal Pools Program, The Yea Railway Station refurbishment, the Kinglake Ranges Art History Walk and the Kinglake East Walking Track.

In addition three major grant funded projects, Eildon Town Centre, Yea Civic Centre Precinct and Yarck Rejuvenating Village Hub did not receive funding approval until well into the financial year.

The delay in delivery of these projects accounts for \$1,485,394 of the decrease in the year's capital works expenditure on infrastructure and resulted in the component of expenditure on infrastructure being \$5,237,808. This represents 63% of the annual revised **infrastructure component** of the budget (i.e. excluding items such as Plant and Machinery, Electronic Document Management System and Library Bookstock) which is \$8,340,827.

All completed projects were delivered within their allocated budgets.

\$3,074,723 of the revised budget allocation for 2014/2015 is recommended for carry forward.

This Council report will outline issues which significantly affected program delivery and will identify those projects which will need to carry forward into next year's program.

1. Budget Vs. Actual (year to date)

- The 2014/2015 revised adopted Capital Works budget is \$9,877,531
- Final year expenditure for 2014/2015 was \$6,231,699
- Variance for the year is \$3,645,832
- Carry forwards,\$3,615,625
- Savings or unspent funds returned to reserves \$30,207

2. Developments that have arisen significantly affecting the budget for the project.**Building Access Compliance**

\$60,785 was allocated to undertake works to meet compliance requirements in buildings. Some of these works were reliant on the completion of the building audit to be

undertaken by external consultants. A decision to include the asset valuation process with this audit resulted in greater financial and resource efficiencies. However, this extended the timeline which has resulted in it not being completed prior to the end of the financial year. The allocation will be recommended for carry forward.

Alexandra Shire Offices

Consultants were engaged to undertake a review of the air conditioning system for the Perkins Street office. This review identified that replacement of air-conditioning plant would necessitate upgrade of ducting throughout the building. Initial cost estimates received indicate that the works required to rectify all issues are well over the budget allocation. Some initial works were undertaken to address immediate issues of concern and a review is currently underway to re-evaluate the scope and apply funding to a staged upgrade. \$247,527 will be carried forward.

Eildon Town Centre – Connecting & Revitalising

This project is fully grant funded and will be delivered over the 2015/2016 year. Grant funding was approved in late October 2014 and \$36,269 will be carried forward. This project will be delivered within the timelines of the funding agreement of 31 October, 2016.

Yea Civic Centre Precinct Project

This project is fully grant funded and will be delivered over the 2015/2016 year. Grant funding was approved in late October 2014 and \$113,705 will be carried forward. This project will be delivered within the timelines of the funding agreement of 30 November, 2016.

Seasonal Pools

This project is fully grant funded and will be delivered over the 2015/2016 year. Works are required to be delivered within the “off season” requiring \$297,823 of work to be carried forward.

Yea Swimming Pool

This project is fully grant funded and will be completed by the end of September 2015 to allow opening for the swimming season. The commencement of this project was delayed to suit the off season and \$465,454 will be carried forward.

Kinglake East Walking Track.

This project was subject to ongoing delays to comply with Federal and State Government environmental protection requirements relating to the *Pomaderris vacciniifolia* plants located in the area. These requirements included the translocation of plants which could not be undertaken until early winter. The project was completed in July 2015 with \$99,828 to be carried forward.

Ghin Ghin Bridge

The replacement of the Ghin Ghin Bridge was programmed to coincide with low water levels and the school holiday period in June. Construction of the bridge was completed in early July 2015 and \$347,080 will be carried forward.

Kinglake Ranges Art History Walk

Kinglake Ranges Art History Walk has been delayed due to the revisions to the signage layout following input from the Project Control and Reference Groups. This follows the development of the interpretive signage content by local artists. This work is fully grant funded with \$244,837 to be carried forward for completion prior to Christmas 2015.

Rejuvenating Yarck Village Hub

This project includes grant funding and is planned to be delivered over the 2015/2016 Grant funding was received in October 2014 and this project will be delivered within the timelines of the funding agreement of 31 July, 2016.

Myers Creek Road Upgrade

This project is fully grant funded. Works are awaiting final approval by Vic Roads for a revised scope of works. \$92,141 will be carried forward for delivery of the project in the second quarter of the 2015/2016 year.

Yea Railway Station Building Conservation

Yea Railway Station restoration works have been delayed as a result of the contractor nominated by the funding body being unable to commence work on the project until June 2015. This is a fully grant funded project where funding is subject to the use of the nominated specialist contractor. \$74,000 will be carried forward into the next financial year for completion by the end of the first quarter of the 2015/2016 year.

Plant and Machinery

Due to delays in the replacement of Councils backhoe and the deferment of the purchase of some passenger fleet vehicles \$394,207 will be carried forward

Library Books

Approximately 20% of the new book stock to be purchased in 2014/15 was not completed. This related to a proportion of the new books that are purchased shelf-ready directly by the Murrindindi Library Service (and not through Yarra Plenty Library Service). The backlog is scheduled to be purchased in the first quarter of 2015/16.

3. Carry Forwards

This report includes three tables as follows:

- **Table 1** is a list of projects not commenced to the value of \$ 375,608 with recommendation to carry forward or reallocate in accordance with Councils Capital Works Expenditure Policy
- **Table 2** is a list of projects to the value of \$3,240,017 that were not completed in the financial year that are now complete or will be completed or include grant funding.
- **Table 3** is a list of projects to the value of \$30,207 with the recommendation that unspent funds are returned to reserves.

Table 1 Projects not commenced and recommended for carry forward or reallocation

Project	Comment	Recommendation
Essential Safety Services System/Corporate building	Works to occur through items identified from building audit not yet received including asbestos removal.	Carry forward \$46,570 to undertake urgent works identified in building and essential safety audits.
Alexandra Landfill – Road works	The leachate pond construction has been delayed due to increased requirements at the planning and design stages. Funded from waste reserve.	Carry forward \$66,315 allocated from waste reserve for essential works following construction of leachate pond.

Resource Recovery Centre	Road and other upgrade works require further scoping and design.	Carry forward \$48,591 allocated from waste reserve for essential works at resource recovery centres.
Yea Shire Hall	Scope currently being reviewed due to inability to obtain suitable contractors to carry out the work.	Carry forward \$27,510 to complete essential work to repair clock tower
Kinglake Memorial Park – Renewal	Works dependant on grant application.	Carry forward \$14,000 as Council contribution to grant funding.
Public Convenience renewal	Funds allocated to Leckie park toilet reallocated for incorporation with upgrade of facilities at cricket pavilion.	Carry forward \$92,563 for renewal works at Leckie Park cricket pavilion incorporating renewal of public toilets
Road safety works	Works identified late in the year	Carry forward \$35,059 to undertake road safety works identified late in the financial year
Geographic Information System (GIS)	Submissions received from suppliers have been received. The project was delayed to allow completion of the IT Strategy.	Carry forward \$45,000 to implement update of GIS.

Table 2 projects that were not completed in the financial year that are now complete or will be completed or include grant funding

Project	Current Status	Carry Forward \$
Alexandra Shire Office	System balancing currently being quoted. Works expected to be undertaken in the first quarter of the 2015/2016 year. Scope for remaining works currently being re-evaluated.	247,527
Eildon Town Centre – Connecting & Revitalising	Grant funds committed for completion 2015/2016	36,269
Yea Civic Centre Precinct Project	Grant funds committed for completion 2015/2016	113,705
Alexandra Library Renewal	Funds committed for completion in September	40,000
Seasonal Pools Project	Grant funds committed for completion 2015/2016	297,823
Yea Swimming Pool Refurbishment	Construction nearing completion. Completion due August 2015.	465,454
Ghin Ghin Bridge	Complete	347,080
Footpath Renewal/Drainage New/ Kerb & Channel New/ Paths Upgrade	Downey/Bayley Streets intersection upgrades not completed due to delay in design process. Works will be ready for delivery first quarter.	103,902
Kinglake Ranges Art History Walk	Grant funding for completion in December 2015	244,837
Kinglake East Walking Track	Completed	99,828
Yarck Rejuvenating Village Hub	Final approvals being sought from Vic Roads. Contract to be awarded August/September.	104,221
Taggerty Community Project	Completed	7,858
Myers Creek Road Upgrade	Grant funding awaiting VicRoads approval on revised scope	92,141
Yea Netball Club	Grant funded to be completed second quarter	104,615
Marysville Cricket Club Training Nets	Grant funded to be completed second quarter	60,500
Eildon Bowling Club Rejuvenation	Grant funded to be completed second quarter	72,589
Yea Railway Station Building Conservation	Grant funds. Works commenced mid June and due for completion in August.	74,000
Ghin Ghin Road – Safety Works (Black Spot)	Grant funds committed for completion during 2015/2016	199,263
Resheeting Program	Complete	20,204
Plant & machinery	Light fleet vehicles on order and procurement process underway for heavy machinery	394,207
Library	Backlog scheduled to be purchased in the first quarter of 2015/2016	21,606
Document Management	Funds to be utilised to integrate with mobility and data consolidation by December 2015	29,864
IT Hardware	Procurement delayed to allow for implementation of Disaster Recovery Plan expected to be completed by December 2015.	50,225
Minor unspent balances from grant funded projects	Grant funding	12,299

Table 3 projects with the recommendation that unspent funds is returned to reserve.

Project	Recommendation	Amount \$
Landfill and Recovery Centre	Return funds to waste reserve	1,583
Marysville Caravan Park – Capital Renewal	Return funds to infrastructure reserve	507
Minor cost saving on Infrastructure projects	Return funds to infrastructure reserve	28,117

Conclusion:

The reporting on the capital works program at the end of the financial year for 2014/2015 informs Council of the progress and any major variances for each project and the recommended carry forwards and seeks endorsement for budget reallocations in accordance with the Capital Works Expenditure Policy.

RESOLUTION:

Cr A Derwent / Cr C Challen

That Council:

1. **Note the End of Year Report – Capital Works Program 2014/15.**
2. **Endorse the reallocation of savings and unspent funds as recommended in Table 1 within this report.**
3. **Note the projects in Table 2 that were not completed but are now complete or being completed.**
4. **Note the savings and unspent funds to the value of \$30,207 from the Capital Works Program to be returned to Reserves in accordance with Council’s Capital Works Expenditure Policy**

CARRIED

6.4 QUARTERLY COUNCIL PLAN 2013-2017 REPORT – FINAL QUARTER

REF: 15/42837

Attachment/s: *Council Plan Quarterly Report – June 2015 (TRIM: 15/32793)*

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to provide the final status of the Year Two activities in the Council Plan 2013-2017.

Officer Recommendation:

That the report on the status of activities for the final quarter of year two of the Council Plan 2013-2017 be received.

Background:

The Council Plan 2013-2017 was adopted by Council at its Ordinary Meeting of 26 June 2013 in accordance with Section 125 of the *Local Government Act 1989*.

The Council Plan 2013-2017 is reviewed annually and Council resolved to endorse the second year review of the Plan at its Ordinary Meeting of 25 June 2014.

Council Plan/Strategies:

The Council Plan is the key planning document which translates Council's obligations under the *Local Government Act 1989* into strategies and actions. Specifically the plan:

- guides Council's strategic direction;
- identifies Council priorities and strategic indicators; and
- contributes to the development of the annual budget for the next four years.

The Council Plan is a key document for local community groups, residents, investors, and other levels of government who play a vital role in helping the Council delivery on its commitments. It sets out what we expect to achieve over a four year period and guides the allocation of finances through the Strategic Resource Plan.

Legal/Policy Issues:

Council is obliged under the *Local Government Act 1989* to review its Council Plan on an annual basis.

Financial/Resources/Risk

The Council Plan, in particular the Strategic Resource Plan, includes Council's long term financial plan and its implementation is supported by the Annual Budget.

Discussion:

The following results were achieved in Year Two of the Council Plan 2013-2017, ending 30 June 2015:

- 44 activities were completed
- 14 activities were not completed by the due date and have been delayed
- 6 activities are ongoing and on schedule for completion at a date beyond 30 June 2015.

Highlights for Year Two (2014/2015) included the following achievements:

Our Community highlights for 2014-2015:

- The Children's Network Face Book Page went live and was promoted through Council's service provider and community networks.
- The Access Murrindindi Project has been successfully completed, culminating in a launch of the Access Murrindindi booklet on 4 May 2015, which covers Marysville, Alexandra, Eildon, Yea and Kinglake.
- The Murrindindi Youth Partnership secured support from 90% of Primary and Secondary Schools in the shire to deliver the Murrindindi Resilient Youth project, which will occur in 2015-2017 in support of youth wellbeing.
- The shire wide Show me the Money! Grant Forum event was delivered in May 2015 and had over 77 community participants listening to presentations and attending grant skill development sessions.

Our Environment highlights for 2014-2015:

- The review of the Municipal Emergency Management Plan was adopted by Council in October 2014.
- In excess of ten environmental initiatives were completed across a variety of groups including businesses, community, Council and school groups.
- In 2014/15 the Resource Recovery Centres recycled 71.2% of all waste entering the sites.
- A tender to re-develop the Yea Swimming Pool was successfully let in January 2015. Since this time significant progress has been made on the aquatic and building redevelopment works.

Our Economy highlights for 2014-2015:

- A Memorandum of Understanding was entered into with Telstra, outlining Council's co-contribution offer with a view to gaining a commitment to improve mobile phone coverage in black spots across the shire
- Council made a successful bid for the Rural Council's Victoria Summit to be held in Marysville in 2016.
- The Alexandra to Eildon Trail Link Feasibility Study was completed during the year with Council resolving to seek funding to construct the section of trail linking Eildon to Thornton contingent on a complete design of the trail being completed in 2015/16.

Our Council highlights for 2014-2015:

- Following the State Government election, Council's advocacy efforts to the new State Government focused on looking at ways to encourage funding which will help boost the local economy and development within the Shire as well as continuing advocacy for further financial support.
- Council undertook substantial consultation with the community in relation to prioritising options under consideration to help meet the funding shortfall arising from the gifting of new and expanded assets to Council following the 2009 fires.
- Council's Rating Strategy was adopted at the March 2015 Council meeting following extensive community consultation and consideration of legislative requirements and government guidelines.
- Council's new Enterprise Agreement was finalised and certified in 2014/15.
- Council officers have finalised and tested a new Business Continuity Plan during 2014/15, to ensure that Council is best equipped to deal with any emergency business interruptions that might eventuate.
- Six officers participated in the Local Government Management Australia (LGMA) Challenge. The team won the Victorian state final and was invited to present their pre-challenge task to the national congress in Darwin as one of the top three teams from across Australia and New Zealand.

Consultation:

Community consultation is undertaken in relation to individual projects and activities identified in the Council Plan. This report provides the opportunity for Council to promote its achievements for the final quarter of the 2014-2015 financial year in relation to the implementation of the strategies from the Council Plan.

Conclusion:

The final Year Two report for the Council Plan 2013-2017 reflects the outcomes of the fourth quarter and highlights from the entire year for this Council Plan 2013-2017. A large proportion of the activities were completed.

RESOLUTION:

Cr B Magner / Cr C Challen

That the report on the status of activities for the final quarter of year two of the Council Plan 2013-2017 be received.

CARRIED

7. SEALING REGISTER

File: 13/6325

<i>File Reference</i>	<i>Date Seal Affixed</i>	<i>Description of Documents</i>	<i>Signatures of Persons Sealing</i>
CONT 15/14	21 July 2015	Formal Instrument of Agreement between Murrindindi Shire Council and Geografia Pty Ltd for Alexandra Railway Precinct Master Plan Development Project Consultant Brief	Margaret Abbey Margaret Rae
CONT 14/11	4 August 2015	Landfill Waste and Recyclables collection Contract between Murrindindi shire Council and Transpacific Cleanaway Pty Ltd	Margaret Abbey Margaret Rae

Officer Recommendation:

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

RESOLUTION:

Cr J Walsh / Cr J Kennedy

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

CARRIED

8. COUNCILLOR PORTFOLIO REPORTS**8.1 LAND USE PLANNING PORTFOLIO**

Cr J Walsh provided the following report:

The Eildon Structure Plan Project has commenced and consultation with stakeholders and the community will be commencing in coming weeks.

Council and the community have had several meetings concerning the Murray Darling Basin Plan. Council will be making a formal submission concerning the Plan in due course.

8.2 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PORTFOLIO

Cr C Challen provided the following report:

The Lake Eildon Recreational Boating Facilities Improvement Plan has been completed. Discussions are now underway with Mansfield Shire regarding priorities and funding opportunities.

Last Monday, our Economic Development Advisory Committee met at the Eildon Boat Club where we were introduced to the new GM. He outlined the Club's immediate infrastructure priorities including new marinas capable of mooring the increasing number of supersized houseboats. This meeting was preceded by a tour of the shared houseboat manufacturing facility on Eildon Road as well as inspecting slipways and repair yards and seeing firsthand the present infrastructure for the houseboat industry. Discussions on the new and improved requirements followed at length.

The Women in Business 6-week course concluded yesterday with the presentation of Certificates to 8 local women from across the Shire, representing allied health, real estate, bookkeeping, hospitality, viticulture and livestock industries. (A really diverse and interesting mix) facilitated by the Small Business Mentoring Service).

There are further business opportunities coming up including the mentoring service coming to Alexandra via the Victorian Small Business Support Bus on Wednesday, 2nd September, the Agrifood \$2m business training course funding available through the Department of Agriculture and the 3 x \$10,000 business grants from the Bank of Melbourne available for start-ups, growing businesses and regional businesses.

GRVT, as an introduction to the launch of their new consumer website in November this year, hosted two industry workshops at Yea and Alexandra last week with the website developers, COMO Group. (13 people attended at Yea, unsure of Alex numbers.)

Our Industry Rep on the GRVT Board, Brad Quilliam is resigning in October and we will be advertising for EOI's for a new Board representative from the community. A panel consisting of the CEO, Bob E and myself is available to receive nominations in mid-late September which will be forwarded to the Chairperson for the Board's final consideration at their October meeting.

Murrindindi Inc have applied to RDV/FRU for funding for tourism events, business awards, workshops and business prospectus follow ups, along with governance, succession planning and other professional development assistance. Their AGM is at the Vibe on the 10th September. All Councillors are invited.

Coincidentally aligned with our Growing the Rate Base data, the Herald and Weekly Times last week did a regional report, including Victoria's NE and NSW's eastern Riverina. They claim that Victoria's NE region is booming with population projected to grow by more than 38% by 2031. The NE has a gross regional product of almost \$10 billion a year, with health care and social assistance the largest employer, followed by manufacturing, retail and agriculture, forestry and fishing. The middle of the region has a healthy softwood plantation timber industry but tourism is the standout earner, with snowfields, cycling, nature based recreation, food and wine. (Quote:) "Murrindindi has added to its traditional industries such as cattle, sheep, wool and horticulture with enterprises dealing in wine, olives, exotic animals such as alpaca, deer and rabbits, turf and seed production. The shire also accounts for 83% of Australia's total trout production".

They go on to say that property is in strong demand across the region. The median value of farmland across the state increased 4.4% last year on top of a 12% boost in 2013. Murrindindi had the sixth highest median value per hectare in 2013 of \$5,613, compared with Mansfield at \$8,527 and Alpine at \$8,262 (Wodonga was highest with \$8,911); in 2014, the hectare value in Murrindindi had increased to \$6,358, jumping to fourth highest, an increase of 13.3%. Mansfield and Alpine had both decreased in value by -6.4 and -9.4 respectively. The median size of properties in Murrindindi was 62.9ha, Mansfield is 44.1ha. In 2014, Murrindindi had 238 individual sales of land up to 2,000ha in size, equating to approx. \$111m in value; Mansfield had 121 equivalent sales, equating to approx. \$48m.

8.3 INFRASTRUCTURE AND WASTE PORTFOLIO

No report.

8.4 COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO

Cr J Kennedy provided the following report:

Over the past month I have participated in a number of Council portfolio responsibilities, attended a number of Community organisations functions and AGM's and inspected a number of local sites, several in response to local ratepayer enquiries.

I attended in Yea the release of the Community Wellbeing Plan where I made up 50% of the audience.

But nevertheless it was an excellent presentation by Naomi McNamara and her colleague. I feel assured that the Shire is well organised to response to a future emergency or major event when perhaps we weren't at the time of the 2009 Bushfires.

I also attended several rate capping presentations, the VicRoads wire rope Highway proposal and the Murray Darling Basin Goulburn Catchment meeting in Yea.

Inspections included the review of the Dindi mill operations, the planting of the Lone Pine in Yea and a look at the restoration work underway at the Yea Railway Station building.

Road issues in Yea have also been investigated and largely reflect VicRoads inability to provide permanent solutions. I refer to the continual patching of the surface at the junction of High & Station Streets especially after a rain event. Clearly the subgrade here is in poor condition and calls for a large replacement construction project.

Problems along the un-kerbed section of Station Street in proximity to the Peppercorn and Country Woman businesses are a source of regular complaints as they discourage customers and upset the traders.

Fortunately the Shire has been responding quickly in filling in holes and I thank John Canny and Mark Leitinger for their prompt responses, albeit that we are only doing patch up work for something that is really a VicRoads issue.

I also attended a review meeting by the local Yea River Catchment Landcare group which sought to question their future and to map a plan for the future. They like a number of worthwhile community organisations are finding it difficult to overcome a drop off in member support and a decline in members taking on official positions. But the good news is that their future plans have been endorsed.

On Monday next we officially open the new Ghin Ghin Bridge a project which has been warmly applauded by the local Highlands community who I think originally doubted that the Shire could complete the project in the time that it had indicated and did, so congratulations again to all members of that team and our contractors.

On my morning walks this week to the newsagent I've noted that landscaping has commenced around the rebuilt Yea Pool site and it seems only some perimeter tiling of the pool itself remains to be completed.

So that looks like another excellent result is being achieved for another major Yea infrastructure project.

8.5 CORPORATE SERVICES PORTFOLIO

No report.

8.6 NATURAL ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE CHANGE PORTFOLIO

No report.

8.7 MAYOR AND DELEGATED COMMITTEE REPORTS

Cr Rae provided the following report:

This month has seen a range of activities at which I have represented Council:

- MAV Rural and Regional Forum with the CEO: this bi-annual forum provides councils with relevant and up to date information. The presenter on this occasion was Dr Ron Ben-David, Chair of the Essential Services Commission, who spoke to the draft *Local Government Rates Capping & Variation Review Report* and answered questions from the floor.
- A commemoration of the Battle of the Lone Pine and the planting of a Lone Pine seedling in Yea Railway Park, organised by the Yea & District Historical Society;
- CWA Hume Goulburn Group conference: it was a pleasure to open this conference and to learn how the CWA is again growing across the State.
- Vietnam Veterans' Commemorative Service held in Leckie Park: it is always sobering to hear our returned soldiers share their experiences of war.

We met with:

- the Essential Services team which is receiving comments and submissions on the draft *Local Government Rates Capping & Variation Review Report*. This was a valuable session and provided the opportunity for mutual exchange of information.

We conducted:

- a Citizenship Ceremony in Alexandra at which we welcomed six new citizens to our community.

and I attended:

- the quarterly Alexandra Racecourse and Recreation Reserve Committee meeting;
- a meeting of the Mount Pleasant Reserve Committee;
- a meeting hosted by Kellock Lodge of local health providers as an informal networking group;
- the Economic Development Advisory Committee, which included a tour of local business in Eildon;
- a Murray Darling Basin Association Constraints Management Strategy information session conducted in conjunction with the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Association;
- the final session of Women in Business Program - a State Government funded initiative offered through a partnership between the Victorian Government, the Small Business Mentoring Service, the Small Business Institute and Murrindindi Shire Council, a very successful initiative specifically designed to assist women who are either looking to start a new business or focussed on developing their existing business.

8.8 GENERAL BUSINESS

No general business.

9. MATTERS DEFERRED FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

No matters deferred from previous meeting.

10. MOTIONS FOR WHICH NOTICE HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN GIVEN**10.1 NOTICE OF MOTION**

Cr A Derwent

File: 15/43259

MOTION:

Cr A Derwent / Cr C Challen

That Council write to the Federal Minister for the Environment, the Hon. Greg Hunt and the State Minister for the Environment, the Hon. Lisa Neville, indicating the Murrindindi Shire Council's support for the creation of the Great Forests National Parks (as defined by the incorporate body "My Forest") and urge them to commence the process to establish it as soon as possible.

MOTION LOST

11. ASSEMBLIES OF COUNCILLORS

REF: CY15/110

Purpose:

This report presents the records of assemblies of Councillors for 18 June 2015 and 15 July 2015 to 12 August 2015, for Council to note in accordance with Section 80A of the *Local Government Act 1989 (the Act)*.

Officer Recommendation:

That Council receives and notes the record of assemblies of Councillors for 18 June 2015 and 15 July 2015 to 12 August 2015.

Background:

In accordance with Section 80A of the Act, written assemblies of Councillors are to be reported at an Ordinary Council Meeting of the Council.

An assembly of Councillors includes advisory committees, where one or more Councillors were present, along with planned or scheduled meetings involving at least half of the Councillors and a Council Officer.

A Councillor who has a conflict of interest at an assembly of Councillors, must disclose the conflict of interest, and leave the meeting while the matter is being discussed.

A written record is required to be kept of every assembly of Councillors, including the names of all Councillors and staff at the meeting, a list of the matters considered, any conflict of interest disclosed by a Councillor, and whether a Councillor who disclosed a conflict left the meeting.

Summary:

Meeting Name / Type	Murrindindi Emergency Management Planning Committee	
Meeting Date	18 June 2015	
Matters discussed	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Single Incident Emergency Incident Guide 2. Crisis Works & MEMP Access 3. Relief & Recovery Plan Status 4. Municipal Fire Management Plan Status 5. Hazardous Tree Assessments at Lake Mountain Resort 6. General Business and Agency Reports 	
Attendees: Councillors – Cr Derwent	Staff – M Leitinger, C Price, C Hedger, J Canny, D Welch, A Daly	
Conflict of Interest disclosures – Nil		

Meeting Name / Type	Councillor Briefing Session	
Meeting Date	15 July 2015	
Matters discussed	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Vegetation Offsets 2. Land in Marysville 3. Amendment C54 4. Castella Quarry Planning Application 5. Pine Ridge Road Planning Application 6. Ghin Ghin Road Planning Application 7. Kanumbra Mini Bike Track Planning Application 	
Attendees: Councillors - Cr Rae, Cr Kennedy, Cr Challen, Cr Walsh, Cr Derwent	Staff – M Abbey, E Wyatt, J Canny, M Leitinger, H Bradbury, M Chesworth, G Taylor, K Girvan, M Crane	
Conflict of Interest disclosures - Nil		

Meeting Name / Type	Council Pre-Meeting	
Meeting Date	22 July 2015	
Matters discussed	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Castella Quarry Extension of Hours 2. Kanumbra Mini Bike Track 3. Pine Ridge Road Dwelling 4. Ghin Ghin Road Dwelling 5. Amendment C54 6. Taylor Bay Waste Service 7. Supplementary Rates 	
Attendees: Councillors - Cr Rae, Cr Kennedy, Cr Challen, Cr Walsh, Cr Derwent	Staff – M Abbey, E Wyatt, J Canny, A Bond, M Crane, K Girvan, G Scale	
Conflict of Interest disclosures - Nil		

Meeting Name / Type	Councillor Briefing Session	
Meeting Date	5 August 2015	
Matters discussed	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. GMW Water Storage 2. Fisheries 3. Funding from Sport & Recreation Facilities 4. Funding For Early Years Facilities 5. Marysville Arts Project 6. Roads to Recovery Program 7. Essential Services Commission Report 8. Castella Quarry 9. VicRoads Program 10. Governance Local Law 	
Attendees: Councillors - Cr Rae, Cr Kennedy, Cr Challen, Cr Derwent, Cr Walsh	Staff – M Abbey, J Canny, M Chesworth, N McNamara, A Bond	
Conflict of Interest disclosures - Nil		

Meeting Name / Type	Councillor Briefing Session	
Meeting Date	12 August 2015	
Matters discussed	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pop Up Swimming Pool 2. Planning Permit Application – Strath Creek 3. Essential Services Commission 	
Attendees: Councillors - Cr Rae, Cr Kennedy, Cr Challen, Cr Walsh	Staff – M Abbey, M Chesworth, E Wyatt, M Crane, A Bond	
Conflict of Interest disclosures - Nil		

RESOLUTION:

Cr C Challen / Cr J Walsh

That Council receives and notes the record of assemblies of Councillors for 18 June 2015 and 15 July 2015 to 12 August 2015.

CARRIED**12. URGENT BUSINESS**

Nil

RESOLUTION:

Cr J Kennedy / Cr B Magner

That the meeting to be closed to the public pursuant to s.89(2)(h) of the *Local Government Act 1989* due to matters which the Council or special committee considers would prejudice the Council or any person.

CARRIED

The meeting closed to the public at 8.12pm.

RESOLUTION:

Cr B Magner / Cr J Walsh

That the meeting re-open to the public.

CARRIED

The meeting re-opened to the public at 8.17pm.

There being no further items of Business, the Chairperson declared the meeting closed at 8.18pm.

CONFIRMED THIS

23 September 2015

CHAIRPERSON

R.I. Rao