



**Murrindindi**  
Shire Council

# Scheduled Meeting of Council

## Minutes

Wednesday 27 March 2024  
Alexandra Council Chambers  
28 Perkins Street  
6:00 PM

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## 1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY AND COUNCILLORS' PLEDGE

### 1.1 Acknowledgement of Country

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

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

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

### 1.2 Councillors' Pledge

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

## 2 PROCEDURAL MATTERS

### 2.1 Privacy Note

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

### 2.2 Apologies and Request for Planned Leave

**Apologies:**

Cr I Gerenscer.

**Present:**

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

**In attendance:**

Chief Executive Officer: Livia Bonazzi  
Director People and Corporate Performance: Michael Chesworth  
Director Community and Development: Andrew Paxton  
Director Assets and Environment: Caroline Lintott  
Manager Governance and Risk: Amanda Vogt  
Manager Development Services: Natalie Stewart  
Manager Customer Experience: Anna Cullen  
Manager Economic Development: Ben Harnwell  
Coordinator Planning: Cameron Fraser  
Local Development Strategy Project Manager: Allisha Milestone

Cr I Gerenscer has applied for leave until 27 June, 2024 due to ill health.

**RESOLUTION**

**Cr S Carpenter / Cr J Walsh**

**That Council grant Cr I Gerenscer's request for leave of absence, due to ill health, until 27 June 2024.**

**CARRIED**

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

Nil.

**2.4 Confirmation of Minutes**

Minutes of the Scheduled Meeting of Council held on 28 February 2024.

**RESOLUTION**

**Cr J Walsh / Cr S McAulay**

**That Council confirm the minutes of the 28 February 2024 Council Meeting.**

**CARRIED**

**2.5 Petitions**

Nil.

**2.6 Community Recognition**

Nil.

**2.7 Matters Deferred from Previous Meeting**

Nil.

**2.8 Urgent Business**

Nil.



### 3 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

#### 3.1 Open Forum

Anne-Maree McInerney spoke regarding agenda item 4.4 Amendment C71 - Toolangi Forest Discovery Centre.

Bev Johns spoke regarding agenda item 4.1 Planning Application Planning Application: 18 Pratts Road KINGLAKE WEST - 2 Lot Subdivision & Removal of native vegetation.

#### 3.2 Questions of Council

Nil.

### 4 REPORTS - COMMUNITY & DEVELOPMENT GROUP

#### 4.1 Planning Application: 18 Pratts Road KINGLAKE WEST - 2 Lot Subdivision & Removal of native vegetation.

Attachment(s)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Attachment 1 - Planning Application - 18 Pratts Road Kinglake West 3757 - Plans [4.1.1 - 3 pages]</li> <li>2. Attachment 2 - Planning Application - 18 Pratts Road Kinglake West 3757 - Planning Report [4.1.2 - 19 pages]</li> <li>3. Attachment 3 - Planning Application - 18 Pratts Road Kinglake West 3757 - Bushfire Management Plan [4.1.3 - 1 page]</li> <li>4. Attachment 4 - Planning Application - 18 Pratts Road Kinglake West 3757 - Bushfire Management Statement [4.1.4 - 48 pages]</li> <li>5. Attachment 5 - Planning Application - 18 Pratts Road Kinglake West 3757 - LCA Report [4.1.5 - 50 pages]</li> </ol>
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Presenter	C Fraser, Coordinator Planning
Approved by	Director Community & Development
Purpose	For decision

Land:	18 Pratts Road Kinglake West
Proposal:	Two-lot subdivision and removal of native vegetation
Applicant:	Millar Merrigan
Zoning:	Township Zone
Overlays:	Bushfire Management Overlay
Triggers:	Clause 32.05 - Subdivision of land in the Township Zone Clause 44.06 - Subdivision of land in the Bushfire Management Overlay Clause 52.17 - Removal of Native Vegetation

#### Locality Plan



### Executive Summary

This application is for a two-lot subdivision of the land and removal of native vegetation at 18 Pratts Road Kinglake West. The land is within the Township Zone and is affected by the Bushfire Management Overlay.

Lot 1 of the proposed subdivision will have an area of 2048 square metres and will retain the existing dwelling on the site. Lot 2 is vacant and will have an area of 2007 square metres.

Consequential native vegetation loss is proposed due to the size of the lots being less than 4000 square metres. Lots under this size are exempt from the requirements of the Native Vegetation

Framework pursuant to Clause 52.17-6 of the Murrindindi Planning Scheme. Building and Effluent envelopes are proposed to reduce the risk of this vegetation being removed. This is further enforced by a Tree Retention Plan which has been included in the recommendation for this report.

The application was advertised to adjoining landowners and four objections have been received. The objections raise issues in relation bushfire, amenity and the future development of the site.

The application has been referred to CFA and Goulburn Murray Water who have both consented to the proposal subject to conditions. Additionally, the application has been referred internally to Council's Engineering and Environmental Health units who have both consented to the proposal.

It is considered overall that the proposal is consistent with the Murrindindi Planning Scheme. The proposal provides for an additional lot in an area with limited development opportunity.

This report recommends that a notice of decision to grant a permit be issued for the two-lot subdivision of the land and removal of native vegetation at 18 Pratts Road Kinglake West.

## **RESOLUTION**

**Cr J Walsh / Cr S McAulay**

**That Council issue a Notice of Decision to grant a planning permit for Two-lot Subdivision and Removal of Native Vegetation at 18 Pratts Road, Kinglake West (Crown Allotment 25 Section B Township of Pheasant Creek Parish of Kinglake), subject to the following conditions:**

### **Amended Plans**

- 1. Prior to the certification of the plan of subdivision, the following plan(s) must be submitted to and approved by the Responsible Authority. Such plans must be generally in accordance with the plans submitted with the application but amended to include:**
  - a. Proposed Building Envelope on Lot 2 set back at least 10 metres from western boundary (Pratts Road)**
  - b. Amended Bushfire Management Plan in accordance with Condition 16 of this permit**
  - c. A Tree Retention Plan showing all native vegetation to be retained within the area of defendable space. The Tree Retention Plan must comply with the bushfire protection measures for defendable space, as specified in the Bushfire Management Plan.**

**When approved these plans shall be endorsed and form part of this permit.**

### **Endorsed Plans**

- 2. The layout and site dimensions of the subdivision hereby permitted, as shown on the endorsed plans, must not be altered or modified without the written consent of the Responsible Authority. There are no requirements to alter or modify the endorsed plan if a plan is certified under the provisions of the *Subdivision Act 1988* that is generally in accordance with the endorsed plans.**

### **Subdivision Conditions**

- 3. Before the issue of a Statement of Compliance of the subdivision under the Subdivision Act 1988, the permit holder must at its own cost fence the boundary of allotments abutting Pratts Road and Marks Road to the satisfaction of the**

- Responsible Authority. Fencing must be constructed on the correct boundary alignment. Any existing fencing within either road reserve must be removed.
4. The plan of subdivision submitted for certification under the *Subdivision Act 1988* must be referred to the relevant authority in accordance with Section 8 of that Act.
  5. The owner of the land must enter into an agreement with:
    - a. a telecommunications network or service provider for the provision of telecommunication services to each lot shown on the endorsed plan in accordance with the provider's requirements and relevant legislation at the time
    - b. the relevant authorities for the provision of water supply, drainage, sewerage facilities, electricity and gas (where it is proposed to be connected) services to each lot shown on the endorsed plan in accordance with the authority's requirements and relevant legislation at the time
    - c. a suitably qualified person for the provision of fibre ready telecommunication facilities to each lot shown on the endorsed plan in accordance with any industry specifications or any standards set by the Australian Communications and Media Authority, unless the applicant can demonstrate that the land is in an area where the National Broadband Network will not be provided by optical fibre.
  6. Before the issue of a Statement of Compliance for any stage of the subdivision under the *Subdivision Act 1988*, the owner of the land must provide written confirmation from:
    - a. a telecommunications network or service provider that all lots are connected to or are ready for connection to telecommunications services in accordance with the provider's requirements and relevant legislation at the time
    - b. a suitably qualified person that fibre ready telecommunication facilities have been provided in accordance with any industry specifications or any standards set by the Australian Communications and Media Authority, unless the applicant can demonstrate that the land is in an area where the National Broadband Network will not be provided by optical fibre.
  7. All existing and proposed easements and sites for existing or required utility services and roads on the land must be set aside in the plan of subdivision submitted for certification in favour of the relevant authority for which the easement or site is to be created.
  8. The plan of subdivision submitted for certification under the *Subdivision Act 1988* must be referred to the relevant authority in accordance with Section 8 of that Act.

#### Section 173 Agreement

9. Before the issue of a Statement of Compliance for any stage of the subdivision under the *Subdivision Act 1988*, a Section 173 Agreement shall be entered into at no cost to Council, which ensures the following:
  - a. Unless with the prior written consent of the Responsible Authority all buildings are to be located within the building envelopes in accordance with the endorsed plans.
  - b. Unless with the prior written consent of the Responsible Authority, all wastewater must be treated in accordance with the recommendations outlined within the Land Capability Assessment prepared by Eco Vision Australia Reference Number 45E023 LCA SUB.
  - c. Lot 1 may be developed by way of a single dwelling with no more than three bedrooms.



- d. Lot 2 may be developed by way of a single dwelling with no more than four bedrooms.
- e. Unless with the prior written consent of the Responsible Authority no trees identified in the Tree Retention Plan approved under Condition 1 of this permit are removed.
- f. CFA requirements in accordance with Condition 17 of this permit.

The Section 173 Agreement must be prepared by Council's Solicitors, to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority and must be registered at the Office of Titles pursuant to Section 181 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*.

Council will undertake to have the Agreement prepared upon written notification from the applicant. All fees associated with the documentation must be fully paid prior to execution and registration of the document by Council.

### Engineering Conditions

#### *Plans*

10. Prior to certification, a suitable prepared engineering plan detailing the proposed driveway, earthworks and drainage, must be submitted to the Responsible Authority and receive its endorsement.
11. Prior to the issue of a Statement of Compliance, the developer must construct the crossovers in accordance with approved construction drawings.

#### *Crossovers*

12. Prior to the issue of a Statement of Compliance, any new or otherwise sealed vehicular entrances to the Lot 1 from Pratts Road and to the Two-lot from Marks Road must be constructed/upgraded at applicant's expense to provide ingress and egress to the site at a location and of a size and standard satisfactory to the Responsible Authority. Refer to Council's Infrastructure Design Manual Section 12.9.1 – Semi Urban Vehicle Crossings and standard drawing SD 260.
13. An application for consent to work is required to be made prior to commencing any works on the road reserve and must comply with the requirements of the Road Management Act 2004 and associated Regulations. by the permit holder.

### Environmental Health

14. Prior to the issue of Statement of Compliance an approved operating system in accordance with the Land Capability Assessment prepared by Eco Vision Australia Reference Number 45E023 LCA SUB must be installed and fully operational for the existing dwelling on Lot 1 of the considered plans.
15. All wastewater must be contained on-site in accordance with Council and EPA requirements.
16. A permit to install a treatment system must be obtained from Council prior to the commencement of any works.

### Native Vegetation

17. The native vegetation permitted to be removed, destroyed or lopped under this permit is 0.037 hectares of native vegetation, which is comprised of:
  - a. 1 Large Tree.
18. To offset the removal of 0.037 hectares of native vegetation, the permit holder must secure the following native vegetation offset in accordance with Guidelines for the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation (DELWP 2017):
  - a. A general offset of 0.007 general habitat units:

- b. located within the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management boundary or Murrindindi Shire Council municipal area;
  - c. with a minimum strategic biodiversity value score of at least 0.080.
19. Before any native vegetation is removed evidence that the offset required by this permit OR for each stage of the subdivision/project has been secured, must be provided to the satisfaction of Murrindindi Shire Council. This evidence must be one or both of the following:
- a. an established first party offset site including a security agreement signed by both parties, and a management plan detailing the 10-year management actions and ongoing management of the site; and/or
  - b. credit extract(s) allocated to the permit from the Native Vegetation Credit Register.
20. A copy of the offset evidence will be endorsed by the responsible authority and form part of this permit.

***Notification of permit conditions***

21. Before works start, the permit holder must advise all persons undertaking the vegetation removal works on site of all permit conditions pertaining to native vegetation protection.
22. Except with the written consent of the department, within the area of native vegetation to be retained and any tree protection zone associated with the permitted use and/or development, the following is prohibited:
- a. vehicular or pedestrian access;
  - b. trenching or soil excavation;
  - c. storage or dumping of any soils, materials, equipment, vehicles, machinery or waste products;
  - d. construction of entry and exit pits for underground services; or
  - e. any other actions or activities that may result in adverse impacts to retained native vegetation.

**Country Fire Authority**

***Bushfire Management Plan Required***

23. Prior to certification under the *Subdivision Act 1988*, an amended Bushfire Management Plan must be submitted to and endorsed by the Responsible Authority. Once endorsed the Bushfire Management Plan must be included as an annexure to the section 173 agreement prepared to give effect to clause 44.06-5 of the Planning Scheme and not be altered unless agreed to in writing by CFA and the Responsible Authority. The plan must be generally in accordance with Bushfire Management Plan, prepared by Millar Merrigan, 18 Pratts Road, Kinglake West, Reference 29923\_BMP1, dated June 2023 but amended so as to show the proposed building envelope on Lot 2 setback at least 10m from the western boundary.

**Additional matters to be set out in the Section 173 agreement**

24. In addition to the requirements of Clause 44.06-5 of the Scheme, the section 173 Agreement prepared in accordance with that clause must also:
- a. Explicitly exclude Lot 1 from the following exemption under Clause 44.06-2 of the Scheme: "A building or works consistent with an agreement under section 173 of the Act prepared in accordance with a condition of permit issued under the requirements of Clause 44.06-5".

- b. Require that the defendable space shown on the endorsed Bushfire Management Plan must be implemented and maintained on an ongoing basis to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.

### **Goulburn Murray Water**

25. Any Plan of Subdivision lodged for certification must be referred to Goulburn-Murray Rural Water Corporation pursuant to Section 8(1)(a) of the Subdivision Act.
26. A Plan of Subdivision must be provided for Certification showing building and effluent envelopes identified in accordance with Plan Reference 49923P2, Version 1, completed by Millar Merrigan, to the satisfaction of Council's Environmental Health Department. The wastewater envelopes must contain a notation requiring wastewater to be treated to a secondary standard.

### **PERMIT EXPIRY**

27. This permit will expire if one of the following circumstances applies:
- The plan of subdivision is not certified within two years of the date of the permit.
  - The subdivision is not completed within five years from the date of certification of the plan of subdivision.
28. The Responsible Authority may extend the permit if a request is made in writing in accordance with Section 69 of *Planning and Environment Act 1987*.

**CARRIED**

## **4.2 U.T. Creek / Leckie Park Precinct - Consultation Results**

Attachment(s)	1. Attachment 1 - Community Engagement Outcomes - UT Creek Leckie Park Precinct [4.2.1 - 19 pages]
Presenter	A Paxton, Director Community & Development
Approved by	Director Community & Development
Purpose	For noting

### **Executive Summary**

This report provides Council with the results of community consultation about the future direction of the U.T. Creek / Leckie Park precinct following a resolution from Council, after community petitions about Leckie Park and a trial wetland. Consultation occurred in late 2023 with considerable community interest. 70 online surveys were completed, and 11 social map pins were submitted, along with quantitative data, 212 individual comments were submitted. Feedback received has been collated and analysed for consideration by Council.

## **RESOLUTION**

**Cr D Gallagher / Cr S Carpenter**

**That Council note the report and outcomes from the consultation on the future direction of Leckie Park and future renewal works will be undertaken through existing programs.**

**CARRIED**

### **4.3 Amendment C77 - Eildon Reserves**

- |               |   |
|---------------|---|
| Attachment(s) | 1. Attachment 1 - 10 Eighth Street Eildon - Draft Planning Permit for Exhibition [4.3.2 - 6 pages]        |
|               | 2. Attachment 2 - Amendment - C 77 - Eildon Reserves - Draft Explanatory Report [4.3.3 - 16 pages]        |
|               | 3. Attachment 3 - Draft Amendment - C 77 - Eildon Reserves - Draft Instruction Sheet [4.3.4 - 1 page]     |
|               | 4. Attachment 4 - Draft Amendment - C 77 - Eildon Reserves - Draft Schedule Clause 52.02 [4.3.5 - 1 page] |

Presenter A Paxton, Director Community & Development

Approved by Director Community & Development

Purpose For decision

#### **Executive Summary**

This report seeks approval from Council to request authorisation from the Minister for Planning to prepare and Exhibit Amendment C77muri.

The amendment is a combined amendment and planning permit under section 96A of the Planning and Environment Act 1987. The amendment proposes to rezone land at 10 Eighth Street, Eildon from Public Park and Recreation Zone to General Residential Zone, amend the schedule to Clause 52.02, to allow for the removal of restrictive covenants on title at 10 Eighth Street, Eildon, 11 Seventh Street, Eildon and 18 Twenty First Street, Eildon and include 11 Seventh Street, Eildon to allow for the designation as a Reserve status to be removed.

The draft planning permit includes the land at 10 Eighth Street and 11 Seventh Street, Eildon to allow for a six (6) lot subdivision.

Prior to exhibiting the Planning Scheme Amendment, authorisation must be sought from the Minister for Planning to prepare and exhibit the Amendment.

### **RESOLUTION**

**Cr K Haslam / Cr J Walsh**

**That Council:**

- 1. Authorise delegated officers to seek authorisation from the Minister for Planning to prepare and exhibit an amendment to the Murrindindi Planning Scheme as outlined in this report, including:**
  - a. Amend Planning Scheme Map No. 15 to rezone to General Residential Zone**
  - b. In the Particular Provisions – Clause 52.02, replace the Schedule with new Schedule to allow for the removal of restrictive covenants at 10 Eighth**



Street, Lot 1 and Lot 2 at 18 Twenty First Street and the removal of the status of a reservation at 11 Seventh Street, Eildon.

- c. Prepare a DRAFT Planning Permit to allow for a 6-lot subdivision at 10 Eighth Street, Eildon and 11 Seventh Street, Eildon.
2. Upon receiving authorisation from the Minister for Planning, exhibit the amendment in accordance with Section 19 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*.
3. Notes that a further report will be presented to Council upon completion of the public exhibition period of the future amendment.

**CARRIED**

#### 4.4 Amendment C71 - Toolangi Forest Discovery Centre

Attachment(s)	Nil
Presenter	A Paxton, Director Community & Development
Approved by	Director Community & Development
Purpose	For decision

#### **Executive Summary**

This report is presented to Council following a decision at the 28 February 2024 Scheduled Meeting of Council to defer the matter and to consider Planning Scheme Amendment C71, Toolangi Forest Discovery Centre at the 27 March 2024 Scheduled Meeting of Council. Council resolved to:

1. Defer consideration of the Murrindindi Planning Scheme Amendment C71 to the Murrindindi Planning Scheme to the Council Meeting of 27 March 2024
2. Write to the Minister for Environment to have DEECA fund the cost of a Planning Panel and to have the Minister for Planning consider the Amendment.

It is timely and appropriate now that Council, having written to the Minister for Environment making a formal request to fund the planning panel, and not having had a response, consider the recommendation from officers.

The State Government is currently undertaking, through the Eminent Panel for Community Engagement, a review of the Central Ranges Forests. The future uses of the Toolangi Forest Discovery Centre could be considered through this process.

#### **RESOLUTION**

**Cr J Walsh / Cr S McAuley**

**That Council:**

1. Write to the Minister for Planning seeking an intervention in the amendment to address the objections
2. Provide the amendment as a submission to the Eminent Panel for Community Engagement for their deliberation and advice to the Minister for Planning, on future uses of Crown and State Forests

3. Write to Planning Panels Victoria to seek to defer the panel
4. Note that the amendment will lapse if not resolved by 19 November 2025.

**CARRIED**

#### 4.5 Grants and Sponsorships - Major Event

Attachment(s)	Nil
Presenter	A Paxton, Director Community & Development
Approved by	Director Community & Development
Purpose	For decision

#### Executive Summary

Council's Grants and Sponsorship program provides funding for projects that support our communities to improve the liveability of our towns and places, build connections, create opportunities for participation in community and civic life, improve personal and community health and wellbeing, protect our natural environment and assist communities to plan for the future.

This report provides Council with one Event of Major Significance application from the period of November 2023 – January 2024 with the Panel Assessment Report for consideration.

#### **RESOLUTION**

**Cr E Lording / Cr K Haslam**

**That Council endorse the following allocation as recommended by the Grants and Sponsorship Assessment Panel:**

1. Joyride Mountain Bike – The Joyride Rookie Cup 2024 – Round 2 - \$12,000.

**CARRIED**

#### 4.6 Draft Murrindindi Shire Economic Development Strategy

Attachment(s)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Attachment 1 - Draft Murrindindi Shire Economic Development Strategy [4.6.1 - 13 pages]</li> <li>2. Attachment 2 - Final Murrindindi Snapshot [4.6.2 - 16 pages]</li> </ol>
Presenter	B Harnwell, Manager Economic Development
Approved by	Director Community & Development
Purpose	For noting

#### Executive Summary

This report provides an overview of the draft 2024 Murrindindi Shire Economic Development Strategy which has been developed through extensive research and engagement with businesses and the wider community.

The draft Strategy is a comprehensive five-year plan designed to improve the economic well-being and quality of life in the region. The Strategy will sit within a suite of documents including the 2023 Murrindindi Snapshot and 2024 Action Plan, still to come.

The draft Economic Development Strategy provides the regional context, research background and macro trends, that fed into the development of the five Priority Areas. Each Priority Area has a range of outcomes that will be the measure for the success of the Strategy.

The rolling Action Plan will detail the specific annual activities aligned to each Outcome. An Annual Report will be prepared to report on the achievements each year. The Action Plan will be updated annually to adapt to the changing environment.

## **RESOLUTION**

**Cr S McAulay / Cr K Haslam**

**That Council note the plan to commence community engagement with business and community for the draft 2024 Murrindindi Shire Economic Development Strategy.**

**CARRIED**

## **5 REPORTS - PEOPLE & CORPORATE PERFORMANCE GROUP**

### **5.1 Adoption of Advocacy Policy**

Attachment(s)	1. Attachment 1 - Proposed Advocacy Policy [5.1.1 - 5 pages]
Presenter	A Cullen, Manager Customer Experience
Approved by	Director People & Corporate Performance
Purpose	For decision

#### **Executive Summary**

Council plays an important role in advocating on behalf of itself and the community to other levels of government and a variety of external entities and decision-makers to secure influence, policy reform, financial contributions, and other resources and support for its communities, region and the broader sector.

Implementing an advocacy platform, informed by an advocacy framework and policy will support transparency and commitment of Council's advocacy efforts to the Murrindindi Shire community.

## **RESOLUTION**

**Cr J Walsh / Cr K Haslam**

**That Council adopt the proposed Advocacy Policy as contained in Attachment 5.1.1.**

**CARRIED**

## **5.2 Audit and Risk Committee Confirmation of Minutes**

Attachment(s)	1. Attachment 1 - Audit and Risk Committee Meeting - 14 March - Minutes [5.2.1 - 11 pages]
Presenter	Michael Chesworth, Director People & Corporate Performance
Approved by	Michael Chesworth, Director People & Corporate Performance
Purpose	For decision

### **Executive Summary**

This report presents the minutes of the 14 March 2024 Audit and Risk Committee Meeting to Council for noting.

## **RESOLUTION**

**Cr S Carpenter / Cr S McAulay**

**That Council note the minutes of the 14 March 2024 Audit and Risk Committee in Attachment 5.2.1.**

**CARRIED**

## **5.3 CODI IT Systems Alignment Procurement**

Attachment(s)	Confidential Attachment 1 ( <i>Distributed to Councillors separately</i> )
Presenter	M Chesworth, Director People & Corporate Performance
Approved by	Director People & Corporate Performance
Purpose	For decision

### **Executive Summary**

The Lower North Eastern Regional and Rural Councils (LNERRC) Rural Councils Transformation Program is a business transformation program of work across four Councils, being the Shire Councils of Mansfield, Murrindindi and Strathbogie and the Benalla Rural City Council, to *“improve service delivery and enhance Councils’ collaboration through the transformation of ICT and Digital Systems, the adoption of aligned business capabilities (people, process and technology) and modern ways of working”*.



The program has been funded with a \$1,000,000 grant from the Rural Councils Transformation Program (RCTP), \$888,000 from the Business Acceleration Fund (BAF) and \$2,276,480 funding commitment from the four Councils (equating to a contribution of \$569,120 per Council), across three financial years. To date, all funding milestones have been achieved with all grant funding being acquitted to Mansfield Shire Council, as the lead Council.

A previous procurement process was undertaken for delivery of Building, Planning and Regulatory, and Information Management solutions, as part of this project. The outcome of this procurement was endorsed by Murrindindi Shire Council at its July 2023 Scheduled Meeting. To finalise the selection of solutions to meet the goals of the transformation program, a further procurement process for an Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) solution was successfully completed.

As a result, the officer recommendation is to endorse the awarding of a contract by Mansfield Shire Council for the delivery of an ERP solution incorporating modules for Finance, Customer Relationship Management, Property/Rates to Tenderer 2, and to include Human Resources and Payroll as an additional module.

## **RESOLUTION**

**Cr E Lording / Cr S Carpenter**

**That Council:**

- 1. Endorse the award by Mansfield Shire Council of a lump sum contract for the Enterprise Resource Planning to Civica for implementation of the Finance, Customer Relationship Management and Property/Rates modules into Mansfield, Murrindindi and Strathbogie Shire Councils, and Benalla Rural City Council, for the amount of \$1,223,590 (Ex GST, Including 10% contingency)**
- 2. Support the award by Mansfield Shire Council of a lump sum contract to Civica for the implementation of the HR/Payroll module into Mansfield, Murrindindi and Strathbogie Shire Councils, and Benalla Rural City Council for an amount of \$214,434 (Ex GST, Including 10% contingency), following the approval of a formal project change request to Local Government Victoria to include the module in the Project CODI schedule**
- 3. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to advise Mansfield Shire Council of Murrindindi Shire Council's approval to award the contracts in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding signed by all four (4) Councils, including payment of all agreed contributions;**
- 4. Award the contracts for ongoing servicing agreements between Murrindindi Shire Council and Civica as follows:**
  - a. Award the ongoing servicing agreement for the licencing of the Enterprise Resource Planning solution for Finance, Customer Relationship Management and Property/Rates modules between Murrindindi Shire Council and Tenderer 2 for the amount of \$944,785 (Ex GST) for a term of 5 years.**
  - b. Award the ongoing servicing agreement for the licencing of the HR/Payroll module between Murrindindi Shire Council and Tenderer 2 for the amount of \$36,884 (Ex GST) for a term of 5 years.**
- 5. Note the contract period of 5 years is effective from 1 April 2024 till 31 March 2029, with options of two x two year extensions.**
- 6. Note that pricing for the ERP modules is accommodated within the project budget for implementation and Council's annual budget for annual commitments.**
- 7. Note that pricing for the Human Resources and Payroll module will require additional budget of \$25,542 excluding GST and including 10% contingency as**

- Murrindindi Shire Council's contribution to the implementation costs, and noting that ongoing licensing will be accommodated within Council's annual budget.
8. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to execute the contracts as detailed in recommendation 4.
  9. Release the name of the successful tenderer into the Minutes of this meeting.

**CARRIED**

## 6 REPORTS - ASSETS & ENVIRONMENT GROUP

### 6.1 Naming Roads and Places Policy

Attachment(s)	1. Attachment - Draft Naming Roads and Places Policy [6.1.1 - 8 pages]
Presenter	P Bain, Manager Sustainability & Assets
Approved by	Director Assets & Environment
Purpose	For noting

#### Executive Summary

This policy and associated guidelines have been created to provide guidance and a consistent approach for staff and Councillors when considering proposals for the assigning of names to roads, localities and geographical features in the municipality.

### **RESOLUTION**

**Cr S Carpenter / Cr K Haslam**  
**That Council adopt the Naming Roads and Places Policy and Guidelines 2024.**

**CARRIED**

### 6.2 Murrindindi Road Safety Strategy Stage 2

Attachment(s)	1. Attachment 1 - Murrindindi Road Safety Report - Stage 2 [6.2.1 - 43 pages]
Presenter	P Bain, Manager Sustainability & Assets
Approved by	Director Assets & Environment
Purpose	For decision

#### Executive Summary

Murrindindi Shire Council is developing a Road Safety Strategy and Action Plan to reduce road trauma within the shire in response to the road trauma study conducted in 2021. The draft Road

Safety Strategy and Action Plan has been developed with grant support from the Transport Accident Commission (TAC) and is designed to be consistent with the current Victorian Road Safety Strategy.

A preliminary draft strategy was discussed with Council in December 2023 and reviewed in detail by the Strategic Interest Group from January 2024 resulting in this revised version of the draft strategy and action plan.

The draft strategy and action plan is now ready for community feedback.

## **RESOLUTION**

**Cr S Carpenter / Cr S McAulay**

**That Council:**

- 1. Endorse the draft Road Safety Strategy and Action Plan**
- 2. Approve the release of the draft Road Safety Strategy and Action Plan for community consultation.**

**CARRIED**

## **7 COUNCILLOR AND CEO REPORTS**

### **7.1 Notices of Motions**

Nil.

### **7.2 Cr Ilona Gerencser**

Nil.

### **7.3 Cr Eric Lording**

To come

### **7.4 Cr Sandice McAulay**

#### **Murrindindi Business and Tourism Industry News**

Once again, I would like to remind people about the Murrindindi Business and Tourism Industry eNews.

The following are a few brief topics that I would like to highlight.

#### **Kinglake Ranges Business Breakfast**

The second in a series of business events hosted by Murrindindi Food and Wine is a free business breakfast and networking event in Kinglake. You will hear from local producers and business owners as they share their e-commerce stories and network over breakfast.

Please register online via Council's website.

Date Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April, 7:30am to 9.00am at the Kinglake Pub and the cost is free.

**Murrindindi Jobs Expo**

Please put Monday 6 May at Alexandra Football Club from 11am into your calendar. An event for business, job seekers and more. This is a valuable opportunity for local job seekers and businesses to connect, network and learn about the latest industry trends, innovations and opportunities.

These Business Events are being funded via the Business Groups Flood Recovery Grants Program, which is jointly funded by the Australian and Victorian governments under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements and supported by the Economic Development team here at Murrindindi Shire Council. Stay up to date on [Murrindindifoodandwine.org.au](http://Murrindindifoodandwine.org.au).

**NBN Fibre to the Premise** is coming to Marysville - higher speeds and better connectivity check with your ISP to get connected.

**Council's Business Support team** continue to gather relevant business grant information - sign up to the business e-news to hear all about these opportunities. This Month's example is the Energy Efficiency Grant for Small Business - up to \$25,000 to purchase energy efficient equipment - [Energy Efficiency Grants for Small and Medium Enterprises Round 2 | business.gov.au](https://www.business.gov.au/energy-efficiency-grants-for-small-and-medium-enterprises-round-2)

**VTIC 2024 Vision Summit**

The annual Victorian Tourism Industry Council (VTIC) Vision Summit is coming up. Presenters include Tourism Australia, Visit Victoria, Melbourne Airport, Melbourne Arts Precinct Corporation. Details: Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> April, 8:45am – 5:00pm at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre. Cost \$165 for VTIC Members.

If you are looking for resources to support your business, please visit Council's Business Resources and Support section at [murrindindi.vic.gov.au](http://murrindindi.vic.gov.au) or contact our officers on 5772 0333.

**Out and About in Cathedral**

Earlier this month I joined the Marysville Community at a gathering where we heard the most recent updates about the many community planning projects that have been actively progressed over the last five or six years. Some of the projects like the Tri Gym have been hugely successful and have gone ahead in leaps and bounds despite many obstacles and challenges. Others have stumbled and have had to navigate new pathways and new outcomes and are still being pursued. Of note is that most projects are still being pursued some more than others – but all are a testament to the grit and determination of the Marysville community.

Yesterday I was fortunate to participate in a four-hour immersive Wawa (hello, welcome) to Taungurung Biik (Country) experience at the Nagambie wetlands. The Taungurung guides were passionate, knowledgeable, and keen to share the deep cultural significance and value of the land and waterways of Nagambie. I encourage everyone to participate in this deeply moving and informative experience.

Have a wonderful Easter weekend with friends and family – keep safe and don't eat too many of those yummy Easter Eggs!

**7.5 Cr Karine Haslam**

I do not have a report as such this month.

However, I would like to take the opportunity to wish everyone whether local, or visiting a safe, happy and healthy Easter. It will be a very busy time for our region and due to many staff



shortages, there may be delays in getting served at café's or in a line at the service station. Please be patient and courteous wherever it may be.

There is a wide variety of activities to engage in, throughout our shire beginning Thursday night. What a great start this will be for the school holidays. Perfect weather, perfect location and lots of activities to participate in for both locals and visitors. This all helps stimulate the local economy in our shire.

Happy Easter everyone.

## 7.6 Cr John Walsh

At this month's meeting of the Murrindindi Flood Recovery Committee it was recognised that the role of the Committee had expanded from dealing with the impacts of the October 2022 floods to also catering for the October 2023 floods, the January 2024 flood and the February 2024 storm and power outages. As a consequence, a full review of the support plan is being undertaken to confirm where actions have been completed in relation to all the emergencies; where there are ongoing needs to be addressed in areas applicable to all of the events; and where additional work must be done to cover impacts unique to a particular event. This will enable a decision of where additional funding needs to be sought and where the management of support can be handed back to normal agencies.

It was with some regret that we learned that our application for a grant from the initial round of funding for Regional University Study Hubs had been unsuccessful. I again thank Andrew Paxton and the Economic Development Team and the community members of the working group and Interim Board for all their efforts in getting the application together and submitted in such a short period. We knew from the start that going for Round 1 was a long shot but the experience and the feedback we shall be seeking from the Commonwealth Department, will put us in a good position to refine and improve our application for the second round later this year. I am also confident that we'll be able to get even greater support from across the Shire as the requirement to provide tertiary training opportunities for our young people will not be able to be ignored.

Over the past few days, I have been reminded of why I enjoy being a Councillor and why I continue to encourage anyone wanting to improve our community to stand for election later this year.

I have had the opportunity to learn more about two communities and cultures. On Sunday I attended the unveiling of three large sign boards describing the history of Limestone. Ian Marshman and Jan Beer and their committee are to be congratulated for their work and the level of detail in their investigations to ensure the accuracy of the information that the boards convey. The opening, which was attended by more than 130 people, was a fitting culmination to their efforts.

Yesterday I joined other Councillors and staff on a Wa Wa Bik tour to learn more about Taungurung culture and beliefs. It was also an opportunity to see how flooding of wetlands north of Nagambie had so rapidly made the country regenerate.

The two experiences brought home to me that regardless of background, there are so many attitudes that we share. People are people. We aim to make the most of our community and locality in which we live. We enjoy hearing of the past and cherish the opportunities to talk about shared experiences and to learn from them. If we are to advance, we must be open to understanding each other's perspectives and be prepared to adjust our thinking.

I encourage everyone to take the drive to Limestone and also to go on a Wa Wa Bik tour and learn more about the Shire and region we all enjoy.

I wish everyone a safe and happy Easter.

## 7.7 Cr Sue Carpenter

In the Operations and Maintenance portfolio I am pleased to report that:

- A second cut of roadside fuel-reduction slashing has been completed.
- A second cut on the rail-trail is being done.
- Road surfacing first coat has been done and a second coat will commence in April.
- Grading of unsealed roads is being done.
- The council has formed a tree-crew to work on council trees as directed by our council Arborist.
- Renewal of the toilet block in Marysville and the UGFM toilet block in Alexandra are to start.
- The contract for the Yea pool wet deck has been awarded and work will commence in April. This is quite extensive work that will take place over the next couple of months.

Yesterday I was fortunate to attend Wawa bik, A visit on country with Taungurung guides. We were able to gain many insights in how indigenous people have lived, interacted, and cared for their lands over such a long time. I am very grateful to have had the opportunity to learn so much about Taungurung culture and beliefs.

Finally I wish everyone a happy and safe Easter.

## 7.8 Cr Damien Gallagher - Mayoral Report

In time, I'll look back on March 2024 as a short period of great advocacy efforts for our small rural shire community.

On 13 March, Murrindindi Shire Council hosted the Governor of Victoria, Her Excellency Professor the Honourable Margaret Gardner AC in Yea. The Governor has expressed that "*the story of Victoria is a story of people demanding to be heard.*" I'm grateful for the generosity of Her Excellency as she took the time, and genuine interest in the very personal firsthand accounts of the experiences that emergency events have on our community. I extend Council's thanks to those generous community members who invited our distinguished guests into their homes and businesses and for sharing their very personal accounts, and to local SES representative, Peter Weeks who spoke highly of agency cooperation.

A meeting of the Hume Region Local Government Network is scheduled for tomorrow afternoon, 28 March. The forum is comprised of 12 north-east Victorian Councils and is presently chaired by Murrindindi Shire. Murrindindi has led discussions to formulate Advocacy Priority themes for 2024. An advocacy priority lead has been identified to articulate each of these challenges:

- Financial Sustainability of Rural/Regional Councils
- Road Safety / Road Renewal / Disaster Recovery funding gap
- Decarbonisation / Circular Economy / Large Scalable Renewable Projects
- Support growth-enabling infrastructure / Key Worker Housing, Housing Affordability / Public Transport.

It's a powerful agenda, and I thank the advocacy champions for leading the respective discussions. Ultimately, the ambition is to share the region-backed messages with Federal and State ministers.

I was very fortunate this month to be appointed to represent Murrindindi Shire Council at the Local Government Mayoral Advisory Panel, with the first meeting assembled last Thursday in Parliament House, Melbourne. The focus of the first session was Minister Horne's local government reforms related to conduct, Councillor training, dispute resolution, and oversight mechanisms. I expressed that I welcome measures to achieve strong, effective, and respectful representation, and further, that the reforms would be ideally underpinned by some fundamental state/local government relationship principles, that:

1. Councils are in *partnership* with state government
2. Councils deliver a *vital service* for Victoria
3. Council representation is to be celebrated.

Instances of poor conduct, governance, or integrity is a threat to these principles and should be addressed fairly and swiftly, ideally by an independent arbiter. Crucially, the good work of so many representatives across the state should be recognised as the sector looks to attract good people to service in October, 2024.

I thank the Minister for the opportunity, and I acknowledge her genuine intent to embrace the contributions of the Mayoral Panellists.

Cr. McAulay and I had the opportunity alongside Council's Director, Community and Development, to meet with members of the Eminent Panel for Community Engagement, whose important function is to provide advice and recommendations to the Minister for Environment regarding the future of Central Highlands state forests, including:

- Future land classification of the forests, and
- permissible uses in those areas.

I was pleased that the respected panel Chair, Karen Cain, committed to a thorough, inclusive engagement process. It is eminently important for the future of our community and our region, that every voice is heard, and that everyone's passion, current use, and ambition is captured as the panel deliberates.

Very briefly, I'd like to acknowledge a few Murrindindi champions:

- Sarah Hopkins and the team who delivered the inaugural Flowerdale Twilight Fun Fair – a true celebration of community, supported by Murrindindi Shire Council Flood Recovery and Community Planning officers;
- Jess Slapp who led the series of 6 Intergenerational Play Group sessions, bringing joy to so many participants; and
- All of our Moving Murrindindi volunteer drivers. Council has recently been briefed on the opportunity for others to volunteer their time and skill to support the 7 existing drivers across the Shire who deliver the life-changing service of transportation.

### **Finally:**

This time of year is a time for relaxation and recreation, and for being with friends and family. For those who have the opportunity, do enjoy the break, and to everyone, please drive safely, and have a very happy Easter.

## **7.9 Chief Executive Officer Report**

### **Government Grant**

I am pleased to advise that we have been successful in an application to the State and Regional Priority Projects Grants Program for the Naturally Cooler Murrindindi project. We stand to receive \$105,000 in funding.

This project will increase urban tree canopy cover, reducing the impact of extreme heat on Murrindindi's townships. An Urban Tree Strategy and policy will be developed along with a community engagement program, to identify priority locations for new plantings. Tree species that are regarded as suitable for our current and future climate-adapted will be planted. The tree planting will result in targeted shade in areas of public activity reducing daytime surface temperatures by between 5 and 20 degrees C.

### **Murrindindi Shire Community Awards nominations.**

This year we have again received a strong number of nominations for the Murrindindi Shire Community Awards, with a total of 43 nominations across the different categories. A panel consisting of community members will soon commence deliberations on the selection of the winners for each category and the awards ceremony will be held during National Volunteer Week, from 20-26 May 2024, and will be a great occasion to honour and celebrate the valuable contributions of our volunteers.

### **Council Roads Advisory Committee**

The third meeting of the Council Road Advisory Group (CRAG) was held earlier this month. This session was a valuable opportunity for the group members to view the draft capital works program for Road Assets for 2024-2025 and to discuss the performance targets for our road maintenance services.

The CRAG delved into the concepts of asset deterioration, renewal planning, and how council currently approaches these challenges. We presented the list of projects that council is pursuing for State funding under the Safer Local Roads and Streets Program.

Group members discussed maintenance service levels, the logic behind Council's current approach, and the importance of these services being both realistic and achievable from a community standpoint. The discussion covered a range of topics including: service response times and legal liability; the efficiency of our operations and ways to improve them; the timeliness of repairs, especially for unsealed road potholes and corrugations; the need for community feedback on our standards; inspection processes, resource allocation, the newly introduced Rapid Response Crew, and the idea of Council setting aside a "kitty" for road emergency funds. The session opened the floor to a number of improvement suggestions.

The next meeting is on the calendar for mid-May, and we look forward to continuing these fruitful discussions. I wish to thank the CRAG members for their ongoing input and insights.

### **Budget process**

Officers have been working on preparing the budget for 2024-25. I'd like to advise the community that Council is planning to hold a Special Meeting to adopt the Draft Budget on 17 April. The draft budget will be available for public comment and submissions will be heard by Council on 15 May. The feedback will be considered and incorporated in the document before Council adopts the final budget for next FY at the Scheduled Meeting of Council on 22 May.

### **Flood mitigation advocacy**

This morning the Deputy Mayor and council officers met with senior representatives from the state Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA), the Goulburn Broken CMA, Goulburn Murray Water, and the SES Chief Officer Operations Tim Wiebusch. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss Flood Mitigation and Emergency Response. We took this opportunity to again advocate for the State Government to invest in better emergency preparedness especially for flood events within our shire. During heavy rains, overland water

flows in our steep country are fast and unpredictable, hence early accurate warnings are vital to support our community, and local intelligence is very valuable to support timely decisions by the Incident Controller. We are experiencing an increased severity and frequency of weather events, with the recent floods only to occur meant once every 100 or 200 years, and the economic, social, and environmental impacts across our shire higher than ever.

We asked that the state and regional emergency response consider setting up an Incident Control Point, or an Incident Control Centre within Murrindindi Shire during storm and flood events, recognising that local impacts are rapid and acute, as opposed to the generally slow-rising predictable flows in the valleys downstream.

Today we also received a presentation from DEECA and the consultants that undertook the technical assessment on the Operating options for increasing flood mitigation at Lake Eildon. I understand that the Water Minister will release this report to the public in the next few days. This report was commissioned in response to strong advocacy from both Council and local communities for the State Government to review the operating rules for Lake Eildon to consider maintaining some free headroom in the dam to avoid releasing large volume of water at the peak of flood events. Council intends to submit a response to this report once it is made publicly available and we have had the opportunity to consider the content in its entirety, and I encourage anyone who has an interest in how the Eildon dam is managed, to review the report and provide comment.

I wish everyone a very happy easter, and please remember to drive to the conditions.

## 8 RECORD OF COUNCIL BRIEFING SESSIONS

### Purpose

For noting.

### Executive Summary

This report presents the records of Council Briefing Sessions for 6 March 2024 to 20 March 2024, for Council to note.

The following summary details are for 6 March 2024 to 20 March 2024:

Meeting Name/Type	Briefing Session
Meeting Date:	6 March 2024
Matters Discussed:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Alexandra Flood Scoping Study Final Report</li> <li>2. Regional Greenhouse Alliances</li> <li>3. Neighborhood Battery Investigation Project</li> <li>4. Community Transport - Moving Murrindindi</li> <li>5. UT Creek/Leckie Park precinct consultation feedback</li> <li>6. Preparing for the 2025-29 Council Plan Planning Application: 18 Pratts Road KINGLAKE WEST</li> <li>7. Advocacy Platform &amp; Policy</li> <li>8. Draft Operating and Capital Budget updates</li> </ol>
Councillor Attendees:	Cr J Walsh, Cr K Haslam, Cr S Carpenter, Cr D Gallagher, Cr E Lording, Cr S McAulay
Council Officer Attendees:	Livia Bonazzi, Michael Chesworth, Andrew Paxton, Caroline Lintott, Peter Bain, Bronwyn Chapman, Andrew Langley, Stu Coller, Cameron Fraser, Natalie Stewart, Anna Cullen, Cheryl Nickels-Beattie
Conflict of Interest Disclosures:	Nil



Meeting Name/Type	Briefing Session
Meeting Date:	13 March 2024
Matters Discussed:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Economic Development Strategy - Draft Engagement</li> <li>2. Environmental Programs half year update</li> <li>3. Budget Discussion</li> </ol>
Councillor Attendees:	Cr J Walsh, Cr K Haslam, Cr S Carpenter, Cr D Gallagher, Cr E Lording, Cr S McAulay
Council Officer Attendees:	Livia Bonazzi, Michael Chesworth, Andrew Paxton, Stuart Russell, Ben Harnwell, Bronwyn Chapman
Conflict of Interest Disclosures: Nil	

Meeting Name/Type	Briefing Session
Meeting Date:	20 March 2024
Matters Discussed:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Draft Kerbside Services Policy</li> <li>2. Capital Works Program Review - February 2024</li> <li>3. Flood Recovery progress update</li> <li>4. Breakaway Bridge</li> <li>5. Shaping Murrindindi's Future - Entrepreneurial Discovery Process</li> <li>6. Afternoon Tea Break</li> <li>7. Great Vic Bike Ride</li> <li>8. Youth Services update</li> <li>9. Draft Annual Budget - Financial Statements</li> <li>10. Grants and Sponsorships - major event</li> <li>11. Contract Award Project - CODI IT Systems Alignment Procurement</li> </ol>
Councillor Attendees:	Cr J Walsh, Cr K Haslam, Cr S Carpenter, Cr D Gallagher, Cr E Lording, Cr S McAulay, Cr I Gerencser (virtual)
Council Officer Attendees:	Livia Bonazzi, Michael Chesworth, Andrew Paxton, Stuart Russell, Ben Harnwell, Josh Russell, Peter Bain, Kim Chadband, Allisha Milestone, Julie Blyth, Issy Weston, Brad Gill, Stu Coller
Conflict of Interest Disclosures: Nil	

## **RESOLUTION**

**Cr J Walsh / Cr S Carpenter**

**That Council receive and note the records of Council Briefing Sessions for 6 March 2024 to 20 March 2024.**

**CARRIED**

## **9 SEALING REGISTER**

File Reference	Date Seal Affixed	Description of Documents	Signatures of Persons Sealing
CONT23/13	22 March 2024	Formal Instrument of Agreement between Murrindindi Shire Council and Boral Resources Pty Ltd	Livia Bonazzi, Cr Damien Gallagher

**RESOLUTION**

**Cr S McAulay / Cr E Lording**

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

**CARRIED**

Meeting was closed at 8:03pm.

**CONFIRMED THIS**

**CHAIRPERSON Cr D Gallagher**