



**Murrindindi**  
Shire Council

# Scheduled Meeting of Council

## Minutes

Wednesday 22 May 2024  
Alexandra Chambers  
28 Perkins Street  
6:00 PM

## ORDER OF BUSINESS

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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 K Haslam, Cr I Gerenscer.

Cr J Walsh advised that he will no longer be taking planned leave for the period of 20 June 2024 to 15 July 2024

#### Present:

Councillors D Gallagher (chair), J Walsh, S Carpenter, E Lording, S McAulay

#### In attendance:

Chief Executive Officer: Livia Bonazzi

Director People & Corporate Performance: Michael Chesworth

Director Community & Development: Andrew Paxton

Director Assets & Environment: Caroline Lintott

Manager Governance & Risk: Amanda Vogt

Manager Economic Development: Ben Harnwell

## RESOLUTION

**Cr E Lording / Cr S McAulay**

**That Council note the cancellation of planned leave from Cr J Walsh for the period of 20 June 2024 to 15 July 2024.**

## **CARRIED**

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

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

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

Cr D Gallagher declared an interest with the Agenda Item *4.2 Grants and Sponsorships – Quarterly Allocations, Part 1b*, given his active participation in CFA training with the Buxton Fire Brigade. Cr D Gallagher is not conflicted as the matter involves noting a decision made by Council officers under delegated authority.

Cr D Gallagher declared a material conflict of interest with the Agenda Item *4.2 Grants and Sponsorships – Quarterly Allocations, Part 2b*, as he is a Patron member of Alexandra Football Netball Club.

Cr D Gallagher declared a material conflict of interest with the Agenda Item *4.3 Alexandra Truck Ute and Rod Show Sponsorship* as he is a Director of Alexandra Events Corporation Limited.

### **2.4 Confirmation of Minutes**

Minutes of the Scheduled Meeting of Council held on 24 April 2024.

## **RESOLUTION**

**Cr J Walsh / Cr S Carpenter**  
**That Council confirm the minutes of the 24 April 2024 Scheduled Meeting of Council.**

**CARRIED**

### **2.5 Petitions**

Nil.

### **2.6 Community Recognition**

Nil.

### **2.7 Matters Deferred from Previous Meeting**

Nil.

### **2.8 Urgent Business**

Nil.

## **3 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

### **3.1 Open Forum**

Mike Dalmau spoke in support of Agenda item 4.2 the Alexandra Truck Ute and Rod Show Sponsorship.

### 3.2 Questions of Council

Nil.

## 4 REPORTS - COMMUNITY & DEVELOPMENT GROUP

### 4.1 Fair Access in Sport Policy

Department	Community Development
Presenter	Andrew Paxton, Director Community and Development
Approved by	Andrew Paxton, Director Community and Development
Purpose	For decision
Attachment(s)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Attachment 1 - Fair Access in Sport Policy [4.1.1 - 6 pages]</li><li>2. Attachment 2 - Action Plan Fair Access in Sport [4.1.2 - 3 pages]</li><li>3. Attachment 3 - Community Engagement Outcomes Report Fair Access [4.1.3 - 7 pages]</li></ol>

#### Executive Summary

This report summarises the development of the Fair Access in Sport Policy, the associated Action Plan and outcomes from the community consultation undertaken and seeks Council's endorsement of the Policy.

### RESOLUTION

Cr S McAulay / Cr S Carpenter

That Council:

1. Note the feedback received through the period of community consultation and thank those that have contributed throughout the development of this policy.
2. Adopt the *Fair Access in Sport Policy*.
3. Note the *Fair Access in Sport Action Plan* and request an annual update on progress made throughout the life of the policy.

**CARRIED**

## 4.2 Grants and Sponsorships – Quarterly Allocations

Department	Community Development
Presenter	Andrew Paxton, Director Community and Development
Approved by	Andrew Paxton, Director Community and Development
Purpose	For decision
Attachment(s)	Nil

### 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 the applications from the period of February – April 2024 with the Panel Assessment Report for consideration.

## RESOLUTION A

### Cr J Walsh / Cr E Lording

#### That Council:

#### 1. Note the following Quick Response Grants made under delegation:

- a) Marysville Community Golf and Bowls Club - Replacement of Stolen Tools - \$2,500
- b) Buxton Fire Brigade - Buxton Fire Brigade Open Day 2024 - \$750
- c) Alexandra Playgroup - Teddy Bears' Picnic - \$333
- d) Murrindindi Beanie & Fibre Festival - \$1,766
- e) Yappers - Wooing Warring and Wanton Words by Will - \$1,718
- f) Gallipoli Park Precinct Community Asset Committee - Winter Festival - \$2,000
- g) Yea & District Memorial Hospital - Community Health Event Kit - \$1,950

#### 2. Endorse the following Sponsorship allocations as recommended by the Grants and Sponsorship Assessment Panel:

- a) Taylor Street - Australian Long Track Championship, Australian Dirt Track Championship and The Australian Flat Track Nationals - \$1,000
- c) Sacred Heart Primary Yea - New Playground Equipment - \$2,500

#### 3. Decline the following Sponsorship Grant as recommended by the Assessment Panel:

- a) Alexandra Secondary Collage - Sustainability Incursion - \$2,030

#### 4. Endorse the following Local Event Grant as recommended by the Grant and Sponsorship Assessment Panel:

- a) Thought Sports Pty Ltd - Murrindindi Trail Run - \$2,500

#### 5. Endorse the following Project Grants as recommended by the Grants and Sponsorship Assessment Panel:

- a) Menzies Support Services - 'The Dame' community social enterprise - \$5,000
- b) Alexandra Indoor Heated Pool Inc - 4 Seasons Comfort - \$5,000

**6. Endorse the following Major Event Grant as recommended by the Grants and Sponsorship Assessment Panel:**

- a) Corporate Cycling Aust - Giro Della Donna - \$15,000

**7. Endorse the following Variation request as recommended by the Grants and Sponsorship Assessment Panel:**

- a) CPE-22/23029 Alexandra District Health Primary Health – timeline extension

**CARRIED**

Cr D Gallagher vacated the Chair and left the meeting at 6:22pm, prior to consideration of grant application 2b.

Deputy Mayor Cr S Carpenter took the Chair.

**RESOLUTION B**

**Cr S McAulay / Cr E Lording**

**That Council:**

**2. Endorse the following Sponsorship allocations as recommended by the Grants and Sponsorship Assessment Panel:**

- b) Alexandra Football Netball Club - First Nations Celebration - \$5,000

**CARRIED**

### 4.3 Alexandra Truck Ute and Rod Show Sponsorship

Department	Development and Planning
Presenter	Ben Harnwell, Manager Economic Development
Approved by	Andrew Paxton, Director Community and Development
Purpose	For decision
Attachment(s)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>Attachment 1 - Spend Mapp - Impact Data Analysis - Event - Truck Show 2023 [4.3.1 - 17 pages]</li><li>Attachment 2 - Sponsorship Agreement - Smarty Grants [4.3.2 - 3 pages]</li></ol>

#### Executive Summary

Alexandra Events has delivered some of the largest events in the Shire over a 25 year period including the Alexandra Truck, Ute and Rod Show, the Alexandra Pro Rodeo, and other events. Events can deliver significant economic benefits to the region and towns within the Shire, with the events and the visitor economy being recognised in the Economic Development Strategy as a focus.

#### **MOTION**

**Cr S McAulay / Cr E Lording**

**That Council enter into a sponsorship agreement with Alexandra Events Corporation Limited for the delivery of the 2024 Truck, Ute and Rod Show for a total amount of \$20,000 including \$7,000 in cash and \$13,000 in-kind.**

Cr Walsh requested the following amendment:

That Council approve a once only allocation of \$13,000 from the Economic Development and Tourism budget's Event Leverage budget line for the Alexandra Truck, Ute and Rod show to provide waste removal services including labour, supply of additional bins and rubbish fees.

#### **MOTION**

**Cr Walsh /**

**That Council accept the amendment to the motion**

**LAPSED for want of a seconder**

#### **Point of Order**

Cr Walsh sought to ensure the debate did not become personal

Cr Carpenter as Chair allowed debate to continue

The original motion was put



## **RESOLUTION**

**Cr S McAulay / Cr E Lording**  
**That Council enter into a sponsorship agreement with Alexandra Events Corporation Limited for the delivery of the 2024 Truck, Ute and Rod Show for a total amount of \$20,000 including \$7,000 in cash and \$13,000 in-kind.**

**CARRIED**

### **Division**

FOR : Cr Carpenter, Cr McAulay, Cr Lording  
AGAINST : Cr Walsh

Cr D Gallagher rejoined the meeting at 6:49pm and resumed the Chair.

## **4.4 Adoption of Economic Development Strategy**

Department	Economic Development
Presenter	Ben Harnwell, Manager Economic Development
Approved by	Andrew Paxton, Director Community and Development
Purpose	For decision
Attachment(s)	1. Attachment 1 - Murrindindi Shire Economic Development Strategy - Final [4.4.1 - 24 pages]

### **Executive Summary**

This report presents the final Murrindindi Shire Economic Development Strategy for endorsement by Council.

## **RESOLUTION**

**Cr S McAulay / Cr E Lording**  
**That Council endorse the Murrindindi Shire Economic Development Strategy.**

**CARRIED**

## 5 REPORTS - PEOPLE & CORPORATE PERFORMANCE GROUP

### 5.1 Audit & Risk Committee Confirmation of Minutes

Presenter	Amanda Vogt, Manager Governance & Risk
Approved by	Michael Chesworth, Director People & Corporate Performance
Purpose	For noting
Attachment(s)	1. Attachment 1 - Audit & Risk Meeting - 9 May 2024 - Minutes [5.1.1 - 13 pages]

#### Executive Summary

This report presents the minutes of the 9 May 2024 Audit and Risk Committee Meeting to Council for noting.

#### **RESOLUTION**

**Cr J Walsh / Cr E Lording**

**That Council receive and note the minutes of the 9 May 2024 Audit and Risk Committee Meeting as enclosed in Attachment 5.2.1**

**CARRIED**

## 6 COUNCILLOR AND CEO REPORTS

### 6.1 Notices of Motions

Nil.

### 6.2 Cr Ilona Gerencser

Nil.

### 6.3 Cr Eric Lording

Nil.

### 6.4 Cr Sandice McAulay

I am delighted but not surprised that the Economic Development Strategy has been endorsed by Council tonight. Once again, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the many people who took time since October last year to contribute significantly to this important strategy. There has been significant input from the wider business community – our engagement started in October

2023 and has run through to 12 May culminating in an outcome focused Strategy that looks to the future. I look forward to seeing the delivery of results for our whole community over the next five years.

Shaping Murrindindi's Future – there has been an impressive number of businesses that have taken up the opportunity offered by the Forestry Timber Transition Fund with eight Expressions of Interest from Murrindindi progressing to the next step in the application process (a total of 30 submissions were submitted across the whole State). I commend our businesses taking advantage of this opportunity to support job creation and business development. These new opportunities will also have benefits for the wider community. Council looks forward to hearing how the respective projects go through the application process.

If you are interested in finding out about how to grow your business and create new job opportunities, I encourage you to talk to the Economic Development Team as a new round of Expressions of Interest will open soon.

IDAHOBIT Day or the International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia was observed on the 17 May with great success with flag raising ceremonies well attended by staff, as well as pop ups in Yea and Alexandra being well supported by the community. A total of 25 young people attended the movie screening in Yea later that day.

The most recent Flowerdale community planning prioritisation event held on the on 10 May was well attended with over 60 participants. The next engagement will be with the action teams on 30 May to confirm the feasibility of projects that will be in the final plan.

I am so looking forward to attending the annual Community Volunteer Appreciation Dinner to recognise a number of special volunteers this Saturday the 25 May at the Alexandra Football Club.

The event is fully booked and will be a great night celebrating volunteering in our community and will recognise 45 individual and community groups nominated for awards in 2024. I note that tonight a number of us are wearing orange in recognition of the service of SES volunteers who provide emergency assistance to people and communities.

National Reconciliation Week will be observed by many community groups and schools during the week of 27 May to 3 June. I am looking forward to attending the Buxton Primary School event next Friday 30 May with Auntie Lee and Uncle Shane. Council and Buxton Primary School have collaborated to host this year's event and planning is well under way. The event will provide an opportunity to immerse yourself in Taungurung Culture and learn more about reconciliation. It will also provide an opportunity to participate in a guided tour of the Warrk Warrk Trail adjacent to the school.

### **Out and About in Cathedral**

**Marysville Triangle Business & Tourism MTBT** - An Invitation from the new President, Maureen Thurston, who would like to invite all local Triangle entrepreneurs and owners from businesses large and small to join her in co-creating a business community led approach to designing your collective success. Sessions are being held at:

#### **TAGGERTY: Thursday 23 May 2024**

Taggerty General Store  
26 Taggerty-Thornton Road  
4.00 pm – 5.45 pm

#### **NARBETHONG: Thursday 6 June 2024**

Black Spur Inn  
436 Maroondah Highway  
4.00 pm – 5.45 pm

**MARYSVILLE: Thursday 27 June 2024**

Marysville Golf Club  
956 Marysville - Buxton Road  
4.00 pm – 5.45 pm

Of note this month, a number of Councillors and I attended the opening of the Foundation Murrindindi's new Community Share initiative, Murrindindi Community Food Share. This initiative is a great way that the community can support other community members and address food insecurity. No one should go without food in our community. We who have, can share what we can and those that need can take what they need. The Food Share is located at the rear of 88A Grant Street, Alexandra. Donations can be made at the same location.

**6.5 Cr Karine Haslam**

Nil.

**6.6 Cr John Walsh**

The most important event for me in the past month was attending, along with Cr Carpenter, the Central Ranges Local Learning and Employment Network AGM. The Annual Report again showed a high level of achievement in supporting the educational goals of young people in Macedon Ranges, Mitchel and Murrindindi Shires.

There were three guest speakers. Buffy Leadbeater and Youth Councillors from Mitchell Shire explained the phenomenal growth that is happening in the southern half of their Shire and the way in which young people are bringing their issues to the attention of their Shire Council. A key role of the Youth Council has been to encourage young people to get involved in the democratic process. One survey they managed and promoted got three hundred responses, compare that to many of our surveys, which was mainly due to the work of the Youth Councillors. The results were presented to the Shire Council and included in their budget considerations.

There was also a presentation on Project Ready a CRLLEN development initially directed at supporting disaffected youth to return to school or work. The program has been expanded and is now in 36 schools including one in Queensland and also has been adapted to support all forms of disadvantage experienced by students, The presentation was given by students of the Sunbury Macedon Ranges Special School some of whom were stars of "This is going to be big" a documentary recently shown on ABC TV.

The third guest speaker was Martin Collins from the Victorian Skills Authority who explained his role working in the western and northern regions to have schools, businesses and industry recognise the need for lifelong learning and identifying regional skills deficiencies that need to be addressed. It was clear from his presentation and subsequent discussions, that he is very much in favour of Regional University Study Hubs as a means to keep regional skills up to date. On hearing about the lack of success of our recent bid for RUSH funding from the Commonwealth, he said our biggest problem was being too innovative, an issue he confronts regularly with the State Education Department. He offered to assist with our next bid in any way he could.

## 6.7 Cr Sue Carpenter

As a Councillor I am fortunate to be invited to at a wide range of events and experiences. Over the last month there were several events that I attended.

At Strath Creek and Yea the Anzac Day services were both very well attended by their local communities. Both services were beautifully organized and fitting ceremonies to Honour our fallen local servicemen and women.

The Victorian Fisheries Authority (VFA) invited councillors to the Snobs Creek Conservation Hatchery opening. This 'state of the art' fish hatchery is committed to the conservation of threatened and endangered native fish species. The opening provided an opportunity for us to tour the facilities and find out more about the current and future work the VFA and its partners are undertaking to protect these vulnerable species.

Murrindindi Childrens Network Annual Conference was held at Homes Glen Eildon. This year it focused on how listening to children and what makes them feel safe and happy gives them confidence to assert agency and autonomy over their emotions and bodies. The guest speakers were leaders in their fields and were fascinating to hear. A very successful day was had by all, and the organizers are to be congratulated for their efforts.

As Cr Walsh mentioned, Central Ranges Local Learning and Employment Network AGM was held last week. As a member of the board, I have had the opportunity to see the work this valuable organization does to support our young people as they transition from secondary schooling to employment or further studies. At the AGM I was fortunate to hear from several guest speakers that gave us all great insights into our young people and the challenges we must provide to successfully support their journey during and post school.

In my Operations and Maintenance portfolio I am happy to report that Road maintenance grading continues with crews completing approximately 260Km to date. This is a 24% improvement on last year due to the creation of a rapid response team. Previously the roads crew were pulled off their programmed works to attend to emergencies. With the creation of the rapid response team, the road maintenance team are now able to concentrate on their programmed works.

The rapid response crew have completed 350 requests in their first 6 months of operation. This has resulted in the road crews spending an additional 127 hours per month to work on road maintenance activities.

Leckie Park has been top dressed and seeded.

Dove Cottage fence replacement is well underway.

Yea Swimming pool wet deck construction has commenced with favourable weather assisting the progress.

Molesworth Street tree planting is complete. These trees will greatly enhance the streetscape as one goes through the town.

There have been strong numbers of cattle through the saleyards with additional sales being organised by the agents. The council provided the service to our farming community of a local saleyard complex and thanks the volunteer management committee for their continuing support.

The 4th session of the Council Road Advisory Group was held last week. There was plenty of great discussion and several good suggestions provided by the group. The CRAG will now have a break to enable officers to review all suggestions and start working on our asset management and road management plans before coming back to the group with a draft report. Thankyou to all the community members for their input.

## **6.8 Cr Damien Gallagher - Mayoral Report**

My report this month celebrates an engaged, supportive community.

In the hours after our last Council meeting, communities across the Shire rose before dawn to commemorate service and sacrifice at ANZAC Day observances. Thank you to dedicated volunteers who coordinated services, and thanks, as always, to those citizens, past and present who have represented Australia in defence of our nation.

In late April I had the honour of opening the Anne Frank travelling exhibit, "Let Me Be Myself" in the Alexandra Library. I commend the experience which offers everyone the opportunity to reflect on their own values and actions, encouraging us to consider how we can contribute to a more just and equitable world. It serves as a reminder of the importance of empathy, tolerance, and standing up against prejudice.

Council congratulates Foundation Murrindindi on the successful launch of the Murrindindi Community Food Share, accessible on the first Thursday of each month from Bayley Street, in Alexandra. The initiative helps families and individuals cope with the cost of living, enabling them to take what they need. The offer is extended to everyone to support the Food Share initiative by financial donations and grocery item contributions.

This month, I joined members of the Local Government Minister, Melissa Horne MP's Mayoral Advisory Panel to discuss reforms to the Local Government Act, and to share perspectives on the implementation of Councillor and candidate training to support and to empower representatives to serve their community effectively.

At the federal level, our parliamentary representative, Dr. Helen Haines MP met with Council's CEO and I several times this month furthering discussion on Council's challenges in achieving equitable financial assistance grant revenue. In turn, Council conveyed the advocacy agenda of our Hume Regional Local Government Network partners.

Council was proud to support the 2024 Murrindindi Jobs Expo in May, hosted by Murrindindi Food and Wine Inc. It was great to see the interaction between local secondary school students and a diversity of prospective local employers who generously shared their advice and fielded enquiries from the future job seekers.

I had the privilege a week later to speak with Alexandra Secondary College VCE - Vocational Major students about my career journey, and I did my best to answer their well-considered questions. It was curious watching those with a clear image of their vision for the future alongside others, just like me, continuing to ponder who and what we'll be when we grow up.

One of my proudest moments this year was to see so many people turning out on a chilly autumn Monday evening to share their views on the management of Forests of the Central Highlands with members of the Eminent Panel for Community Engagement. There are certainly those who have been frustrated by the process, but the panel members in attendance, and the Hume Region DEECA representatives who supported discussions, left with the written opinions of over 560 attendees. Council has since written to the Eminent Panel, imploring them to appropriately balance our community's desires for recreation, forest fire management, pest control, and

biodiversity. It's hoped that there is provision for a draft document to be shared with the community ahead of the final report to the Victorian Government in June.

There was further community discussion and celebration as the Flowerdale Community Planning Dinner brought friends and neighbours together to consider what '*better*' looks like for Flowerdale. Speakers from all generations spoke with passion about projects important to them and everyone had the chance to discuss challenges and next steps. During the evening, I had some valuable conversations about some successful sporting clubs, cost of living challenges, BMX track plans, and the story of a thriving and welcoming local LGBTQIA+ community. Council is eagerly awaiting the presentation of the Flowerdale Community Plan.

17 May each year is the International Day Against LGBTQIA+ Discrimination. For the month of May, Pride Month, Council flies the Progress Pride Flag as a symbol of Council's commitment to inclusivity and diversity, and rejection of discrimination and prejudice. I'll leave the final word on IDAHOBIT Day to Murrindindi Shire Local, Amy, whose story is shared in local media this week: The day "is a reminder of the importance of understanding and empathy, just as much as it is about being courageous in standing up against discrimination in all its forms." "Celebrating diversity is proven to strengthen communities. It is my hope we can hold this close as we look to the future."

Finally: I'm looking forward to the celebration this weekend of warmth and creativity at the Murrindindi Beanie and Fibre Festival and Council's formal celebration of Murrindindi volunteers. In this Volunteer Week, I thank the many people in our community who share their most precious resource – their time – selflessly, and without expectation of recognition or reward. We are better for your contribution and your spirit of generosity.

## 6.9 Chief Executive Officer Report

We have been advised that Murrindindi Shire Council will receive a funding allocation of \$9,532,825 under the Roads to Recovery (RTR) Program from the Australian Government for the five-year funding period 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2029.

This represents a welcome increase of \$4.1M over the 5 years or an extra \$823K per year, compared to the last round, and is a direct consequence of submissions to roads inquiries and the strong advocacy by Murrindindi Council both directly, in its own right, and in conjunction with partners like Rural Councils Vic and LG bodies.

I am pleased to advise that Council was successful in the EOI stage and were invited to submit a formal application for the Regional Worker Accommodation Fund. This is an exciting opportunity to develop two Council owned parcels of land in Eildon, already identified through community engagement in Eildon as an opportunity for housing. Across the two sites we have applied for funding support to build eighteen dwellings of one and two bedrooms, to help address the critical shortage of housing for our workforce in the Region. The interest and support in this proposed project from different stakeholders have been significant and welcomed. Council's proposed contribution includes the land, a cash component, and in-kind support. If this grant is successful it will result in 18 new dwellings, whilst also demonstrating to the private sector both the opportunity for development in our shire and the housing demand.

The Yea Saleyards have been granted \$27,000 through the Livestock Biosecurity Fund for an in-panel ramp reader. These are to read the National Livestock Identification System (NLIS) tags on animals to improve traceability for maintaining a disease-free status of Victoria's livestock.

### More Kinder places in Yea

In further good news for the shire, this week we were notified that a modular kindergarten will be established at the Yea Primary School, due to open in Term 1, 2025, and providing an extra 33

spots for the local community. This is part of the State Government's Three-Year-Old Kindergarten capital funding program. Council Officers have been working with the Victorian School building Authority and the Education Department to address the critical shortage of kindergarten places within the Shire and acknowledge that the issue will be compounded with the rollout of extended kindergarten hours.

We welcome the investment in early years education and look forward to working with the government to also develop the Alexandra Kindergarten and Childcare facility, as announced earlier this year by the Premier.

### **Activating Lake Eildon Masterplan progress**

Following several years of planning in partnership with other key agencies, Council has submitted a \$48M funding application under the Federal Regional Precincts Partnership Program. This is a key step in the implementation of the Activating Lake Eildon Masterplan, and will enable a step change in the Regional Economy.

Our application includes:

- The construction of Skyline Road from Eildon to Bonnie Doon as part of the Great Lake Touring route
- The construction of a sewer and potable water supply to Jerusalem Creek
- A prospectus for two major tourism / hotel sites (Mt Pinniger & the Fly Fishing Lodge) connected to the sewer
- Planning and background studies for residential land east of the pondage

The order of costs and the economic assessment have been updated for 2024 and demonstrate that this project will deliver significant economic benefits in both the short term and longer term for the Region.

A benefit to cost ratio of 9.2 has been established for this proposed investment, which is exceptional and still deemed conservative in many assumptions.

We are very proud of the work that was put into this major submission, and remain hopeful for a positive outcome in due course.

### **Council Roads Advisory Group session (CRAG)**

At the recent meeting of CRAG the group had the opportunity to discuss the draft special charge scheme policy, which will soon be available for broader community consultation. The policy aims to achieve an equitable and consistent approach to the implementation and administration of special charge schemes undertaken by Murrindindi Shire Council, to support the construction of new or upgraded infrastructure. The policy will avail Council with the ability to apportion and recover costs on the basis of total benefits, including special benefits and community benefits. This will also maximise opportunities for community participation, engagement and consultation on the scope and framing of any Special Charge Scheme, allowing the community to be well informed about the process, support available and any objection rights.

The desired service levels and efficiency improvements under the road management plan were also discussed, with a range of helpful ideas provided by participants.

The group then considered maintenance of town entrance roads and of no-through roads that service one or two properties, and the appropriate extent of subsidy from the broader rates base. The valuable input and comments by the CRAG will inform the development of our draft Road Asset Management Plan and the Road Management Plan. The Group will be reviewing these drafts later in the year prior to them being available for broader community feedback.



### **Wear Orange Wednesday**

And finally, you will notice I am also wearing Orange today, for the national day of recognition and appreciation of SES volunteers. I take this opportunity to encourage our community members to get prepared for the risk of storm and flood so we are less likely to need the help of SES.

## **7 RECORD OF COUNCIL BRIEFING SESSIONS**

### **Executive Summary**

This report presents the records of Council Briefing Sessions for 14 April 2024 to 15 May 2024, for Council to note. The following summary details are for 24 April 2024 to 15 May 2024:

Meeting Name/Type	Council Pre-Meet
Meeting Date:	24 April 2024
Matters Discussed:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Draft Early Childhood Education Workforce Plan</li> <li>2. Key Worker Housing Strategy</li> <li>3. Priority Action Plan - Quarterly Reporting - January - March 2024</li> <li>4. Review of Public Transparency Policy</li> <li>5. Quarterly Finance Report</li> <li>6. Review of Borrowings Policy</li> <li>7. 2024/25 Draft Budget</li> <li>8. Capital Works Program Quarterly Report - 30 March 2024</li> </ol>
Councillor Attendees:	Cr J Walsh, Cr K Haslam, Cr S Carpenter, Cr D Gallagher, Cr E Lording, Cr S McAulay, Cr S Carpenter
Council Officer Attendees:	L Bonazzi, M Chesworth, A Paxton, C Lintott, D O’Keeffe, P Bain
Conflict of Interest Disclosures:	Nil

Meeting Name/Type	Briefing Session (Virtual)
Meeting Date:	1 May 2024
Matters Discussed:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. FIO – Draft Fair Access Policy – Consultation Feedback</li> </ol>
Councillor Attendees:	Cr J Walsh, Cr K Haslam, Cr D Gallagher, Cr E Lording, Cr S McAulay, Cr S Carpenter
Council Officer Attendees:	L Bonazzi, M Chesworth, A Paxton, C Lintott, S Coller
Conflict of Interest Disclosures:	Nil

Meeting Name/Type	Briefing Session
Meeting Date:	8 May 2024
Matters Discussed:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Council Plan 2025-29 Consultation Update</li> <li>2. Guest Speakers – Eminent Panel for</li> <li>3. Community Engagement</li> <li>4. Website Re-design Project – Information Architecture</li> <li>5. Draft Private Road Infrastructure in Roads Policy</li> </ol>
Councillor Attendees:	Cr J Walsh, Cr K Haslam, Cr D Gallagher, Cr E Lording, Cr S McAulay, Cr S Carpenter
Council Officer Attendees:	M Chesworth, A Paxton, C Lintott, S Coller, A Cullen, M Rae-Goodings, R Kane, P Bain
Conflict of Interest Disclosures:	Nil

Meeting Name/Type		Briefing Session		
Meeting Date:		15 May 2024		
Matters Discussed:		1. Dindi Events Proposal 2. Murrindindi Shire Development Strategy 3. Grants and Sponsorships 4. Flood Planning and Eildon Weir Submission 5. Draft Artificial Intelligence Policy		
Councillor Attendees:		Cr J Walsh, Cr K Haslam, Cr D Gallagher, Cr E Lording, Cr S McAulay, S Carpenter		
Council Officer Attendees		M Chesworth, A Paxton, C Lintott, B Harnwell, C Hamill, S Collier, P Bain, A Vogt (virtual)		
Conflict of Interest Disclosures: Yes				
Matter No.	Councillor making disclosure	Was a vote taken?	Did the Councillor leave the room?	When? Before or after discussion
1.	Cr K Haslem	No	Yes	Before
1.	Cr D Gallagher	No	Yes	Before
3.	Cr D Gallagher	No	Yes	Before

## **RESOLUTION**

**Cr D Gallagher / Cr J Walsh**

**That Council receive and note the records of Council Briefing Sessions for 24 April 2024 to 15 May 2024.**

**CARRIED**

The meeting was closed at 7.22 pm.

**CONFIRMED THIS**

**CHAIRPERSON      Cr D Gallagher**