



Murrindindi
Shire Council

Scheduled Meeting of Council

Minutes

Wednesday 26 June 2024
Yea Council Chambers
The Semi Circle
6:00PM

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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, E Lording, S McAulay, K Haslam

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

Cr I Gerenscer has applied to extend her leave for an additional 3 months due to ill health.

RESOLUTION

Cr E Lording / Cr S Carpenter

That Council approve Cr I Gerenscer's request for leave of absence, due to ill health for a further 3 months, until 27 September 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 22 May 2024.

RESOLUTION

Cr J Walsh / Cr S McAulay
That Council confirm the minutes of the Scheduled Meeting of Council held on 22 May 2024.

CARRIED

Minutes of the Special Meeting of Council held on 12 June 2024.

RESOLUTION

Cr S Carpenter / Cr K Haslam
That Council confirm the minutes of the Special Meeting of Council held on 12 June 2024.

CARRIED

2.5 Petitions

Nil.

2.6 Community Recognition

Nil.

2.7 Matters Deferred from Previous Meeting

Nil.

2.8 Urgent Business

Nil.

3 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

3.1 Open Forum

Nil.

3.2 Questions of Council

Nil.

4 REPORTS - COMMUNITY & DEVELOPMENT GROUP

Nil.

5 REPORTS - PEOPLE & CORPORATE PERFORMANCE GROUP

5.1 Adoption of Fees and Charges Schedule 2024/25

Department	People & Corporate Performance
Presenter	M Chesworth, Director People and Corporate Performance
Approved by	M Chesworth, Director People and Corporate Performance
Purpose	For decision
Attachment(s)	1. Attachment 1 - Schedule of Fees and Charges [5.1.1 - 36 pages]

Executive Summary

This report seeks Council's adoption of the 2024/25 Schedule of Fees and Charges. The fees and charges reflect fair consideration for various services provided by Council.

RESOLUTION

Cr E Lording / Cr J Walsh

That Council adopt the attached schedule of Fees and Charges effective for the 2024/25 Financial Year.

CARRIED

5.2 Yea Saleyards Community Asset Committee Composition

Department	People & Corporate Performance
Presenter	M Chesworth, Director People and Corporate Performance
Approved by	M Chesworth, Director People and Corporate Performance
Purpose	For decision
Attachment(s)	Nil

Executive Summary

The Council-owned Yea Saleyards has over the years developed into a significant regional livestock selling facility. It has traditionally been managed by a Community Asset Committee (the Committee) established by Council, consisting of community volunteers and industry representatives including the two local livestock agents, Elders and Nutrien. This committee has worked well over the years to manage the operations, source external funds to upgrade and expand the facilities at the Saleyards and grow the local cattle beef industry.

Following the announcement of the closure of the Pakenham Saleyards east of Melbourne, there has been interest expressed to Council from a new agent interested in establishing operations in

Yea and joining the local cattle sale days. There is also expected to be a sizeable increase in the volume of cattle sold through the Yea Saleyards.

Given the changing local market, with possible new entrants, it is necessary to review the governance arrangements for the saleyards, and in particular the composition of the Committee to ensure it continues to meet the thresholds for good governance under the *Local Government Act 2020* and serve the interests of the broader Murrindindi Shire community.

In particular, given the new competitive nature associated with the allocation of Saleyards capacity across several livestock agents, it is opportune to revisit the role of the agents' representatives on the Committee. It is possible to create opportunities for all agents to contribute advice to assist the Committee without being involved in the Committee's decision making, through open forum sessions or advisory forums. This report therefore proposes the composition of the Committee be changed to replace the two agent representatives on the Committee with two Councillor representatives, to meet best practice governance arrangements, and to set up the committee for success into the future.

RESOLUTION

Cr S Carpenter / Cr E Lording

That Council:

- 1. amend the composition of the Yea Saleyards Community Asset Committee, commencing from the date of the Committee's Annual General Meeting due to be conducted in August 2024, to include the following:
 - a. Four Farming / Community Representatives**
 - b. One Livestock Transport Representative**
 - c. Two Murrindindi Councillors****
- 2. set a maximum term of 3 years for each member appointed, with staggered terms to avoid all positions spilling at the same time, to be determined by the Committee**
- 3. request a report from the Committee on saleyard operations and finances on a six monthly basis**
- 4. appoint Cr D Gallagher and Cr J Walsh to the Yea Saleyards Community Asset Committee**
- 5. request the Chief Executive Officer to issue a revised Instrument of Delegation to give effect to these changes**
- 6. request the Chief Executive Officer to provide the Committee with governance advice and support to enable an efficient transition to the new Committee structure, including an appropriate means for community and agent engagement**
- 7. formally thank the two outgoing agent representatives for their valuable contribution to the Committee**

CARRIED

5.3 Motions to MAV State Council

Department	People & Corporate Performance
Presenter	M Chesworth, Director People & Corporate Performance
Approved by	Director People & Corporate Performance
Purpose	For decision
Attachment(s)	1. Attachment 1 - Motons to MAV State Council August 2024 [5.3.1 - 4 pages]

Executive Summary

This report seeks Council's endorsement of three motions to be put to the 24 August 2024 meeting of the MAV State Council. A motion is proposed to be submitted from Council concerning the need for a review of the methodology used by the Victorian Grants Commission to allocate Commonwealth Financial Assistance Grants to Victorian Councils.

In addition, Council is proposing to submit two motions on behalf of the Hume Region Local Government Network (HRLGN), for which Council is auspice. The motions relate to the need to create appropriate planning controls to recognise and retain the character of rural townships and a motion to enhance road safety, renewal and disaster recovery for Victoria's regional and rural roads.

RESOLUTION

Cr J Walsh / Cr E Lording
That Council

1. endorse the following motion for submission to the MAV State Council Meeting to be held on 24 August 2024:

That the methodology used by the Victorian Grants Commission in determining the allocation of Commonwealth Financial Assistance Grants be reviewed to place greater emphasis on the impacts of natural disasters and climate change, the limited alternate revenue options for rural Councils, and the increased demands of heavy transport and tourism impacting local roads'

2. endorse the following motions for submission to the MAV State Council Meeting to be held on 24 August 2024, on behalf of the Hume Region Local Government Network:

Motion 1

That the MAV seek a commitment from the Minister for Planning to recognise and retain the character of rural townships through the creation of appropriate Planning Scheme controls, with these controls set to keep the country character of our small towns and localities.

That this commitment provide for planning controls that recognise local constraints and fit the size, character, and location of our rural townships, avoiding local policy being over-ridden by policy and regulations more appropriate to Metropolitan Melbourne.

Motion 2

1. That the MAV advocate for better road funding at both State and Federal level, with particular focus on the following:-
 - a. An immediate 10% increase in Federal Assistance Grants S roads funding by the Federal Government and maintained in real terms thereafter;
 - b. State Government funding for Regional Roads Victoria must be increased to keep all Victorian regional roads at acceptable service levels;
 - c. The process for accessing disaster recovery funding must be simplified and streamlined;
 - d. Disaster recovery funding to incorporate provisions for betterment to enable enhancements to road infrastructure alongside repair efforts thus ensuring that funding not only restores infrastructure but also enhances its resilience to withstand future events;
 - e. Road maintenance standards across the State are improved;
 - f. Increased funding dedicated to road safety initiatives; and
 - g. Increased accountability for Regional Roads Victoria for renewal of the regional road network through performance indicator reporting similar to the Local Government Performance Reporting Framework.

2. That the MAV acknowledges and welcomes the increase in Roads to Recovery funding for the next 5 years from the Federal Government.

CARRIED

5.4 Adoption of Priority Action Plan 2024/25

Department	People & Corporate Performance
Presenter	A Vogt, Manager Governance & Risk
Approved by	M Chesworth, Director People & Corporate Performance
Purpose	For decision
Attachment(s)	1. Attachment 1 - Council Priority Action Plan 2024-25 - Final [5.4.1 - 7 pages]

Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to present the Priority Action Plan 2024/25 for adoption.

The Plan has been developed to address the strategies in the Council Plan 2021-2025 and is aligned with Council's annual budget to ensure all proposed initiatives are developed in line with the Integrated Planning Principles in the *Local Government Act 2020*.

All initiatives in the plan are either funded in the 2024/25 Annual Budget.

RESOLUTION

Cr K Haslam / Cr S Carpenter

That Council adopt the Priority Action Plan 2024/25 as contained in Attachment 5.4.1

CARRIED

5.5 Enterprise Risk Management Policy - Risk Appetite Review

Department	People & Corporate Performance
Presenter	A Vogt, Manager Governance & Risk
Approved by	M Chesworth, Director People & Corporate Performance
Purpose	For decision
Attachment(s)	1. Attachment 1 - Policy - Enterprise Risk Management - Risk Tolerance Framework [5.5.1 - 4 pages]

Executive Summary

The Enterprise Risk Management Committee met in April 2024 and recommended that the Risk Tolerance for Legal Compliance – Cyber Security in Attachment 1 should be changed from Low to Medium. The revised risk appetite for this category will reflect more accurately the current landscape in the cyber-security space and how Council can respond to this threat. This report presents the proposed revision to the Enterprise Risk Management Policy Attachment 1 - Risk Tolerance Framework.

RESOLUTION

Cr J Walsh / Cr S McAulay

That Council adopt the revised Enterprise Risk Management Policy Attachment 1 - Risk Tolerance Framework as contained in attachment 5.5.1

CARRIED

5.6 Adoption of Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy

Department	People & Corporate Performance
Presenter	A Vogt, Manager Governance & Risk
Approved by	M Chesworth, Director People & Corporate Performance
Purpose	For decision
Attachment(s)	1. Attachment 1 - Draft Generative AI Policy [5.6.1 - 4 pages]

Executive Summary

The Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy has been developed to provide the community with a clear statement on Council's position on AI and to give staff clear guidance on when AI may be used and the principles that must be followed. The policy has been informed by best practice guidance including the Australian Government's, *Interim guidance on government use of public generative AI tools* (November 2023) and Office of Victorian Information Commissioner's (OVIC's) Artificial Intelligence – Understanding Privacy Obligations, which is currently under public consultation. This report seeks Council's adoption of the Artificial Intelligence Policy.

RESOLUTION

Cr E Lording / Cr K Haslam

That Council adopt the Generative Artificial Intelligence Policy as contained in Attachment 5.6.1

CARRIED

5.7 Review of Privacy Policy

Department	People & Corporate Performance
Presenter	A Vogt, Manager Governance & Risk
Approved by	M Chesworth, Director People & Corporate Performance
Purpose	For decision
Attachment(s)	1. Privacy Policy - Final version [5.7.1 - 9 pages]

Executive Summary

The Privacy Policy is due for review by August 2024. Since the last review in 2020, there have been no changes in legislation or standards that require significant changes to the policy. As a result, an administrative review with minor changes was undertaken to update the policy and ensure its content remains current. The policy was reviewed by the Audit and Risk Committee in May and no changes were recommended.

RESOLUTION

Cr J Walsh / Cr S Carpenter

That Council adopt the revised Privacy Policy as contained in Attachment 5.7.1

CARRIED

5.8 Review of Councillor Expenses and Support Policy

Department	People & Corporate Performance
Presenter	A Vogt, Manager Governance & Risk
Approved by	M Chesworth, Director People & Corporate Performance
Purpose	For decision
Attachment(s)	1. Policy Councillor Expenses and Support DRAFT 2024 [5.8.1 - 8 pages] 2. Policy Attachment 1 Councillor Expenses and Support Procedures DR [5.8.2 - 6 pages]

Executive Summary

The Councillor Expenses and Support Policy was reviewed in 2020 in line with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020*, the 2019 VAGO Fraud and Corruption Control Audit and industry best practice. Since this major review, there have been no changes in legislation, standards or industry practices that require substantive policy changes. However, we have taken the opportunity to separate policy from procedure and incorporate procedure instructions in an Attachment. This provides the public with a clearer and shorter statement of what expenses and support are covered, to whom and where approval responsibilities lie.

RESOLUTION

Cr S Carpenter / Cr E Lording

That Council

1. Adopt the revised Councillor Expenses and Support Policy as contained in Attachment 5.8.1 as amended to require a Councillor's allowance to be withheld if they are stood down in accordance with the Local Government Amendment (Governance and Integrity) Act 2024;
2. Note the revised Councillor Expenses and Support Policy as contained in Attachment 5.8.1 as amended to require a Councillor's allowance to be withheld if they are stood down in accordance with the Local Government Amendment (Governance and Integrity) Act 2024;

CARRIED

5.9 Review of Portfolio Councillor Policy

Department	People & Corporate Performance
Presenter	A Vogt, Manager Governance & Risk
Approved by	M Chesworth, Director People & Corporate Performance
Purpose	For decision
Attachment(s)	1. Policy Portfolio Councillor DRAFT 2024 [5.9.1 - 4 pages]

Executive Summary

The Portfolio Councillor Policy was last reviewed in June 2021. Accordingly, the review recommends minor administrative changes to improve clarity, readability and ease of implementation. This report seeks Council's endorsement of the revised Portfolio Councillor Policy.

RESOLUTION

Cr S McAulay / Cr E Lording

That Council adopt the revised Councillor Portfolio Policy and as contained in Attachment 5.9.1

CARRIED

5.10 Biannual Audit and Risk Committee Report

Department	People & Corporate Performance
Presenter	A Vogt, Manager Governance & Risk
Approved by	M Chesworth, Director People & Corporate Performance
Purpose	For noting
Attachment(s)	1. Biannual Audit and Risk Committee Report 1 [5.10.1 - 2 pages]

Executive Summary

Council is committed to providing good governance, public transparency and accountability. The Audit and Risk Committee (the Committee) is an independent advisory committee to Council, established under section 53 of the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act) to provide oversight, guidance and assurance to assist Council and Council's Executive to meet this commitment. The Act requires the Committee to provide biannual reports to Council on its activities. The attached Audit and Risk Committee Biannual Report outlines the Committee's activities from July to December 2023

RESOLUTION

Cr E Lording / Cr J Walsh

That Council note the Biannual Report from the Audit and Risk Committee for the period July to December 2023.

CARRIED

5.11 Review of Audit and Risk Charter

Department	People & Corporate Performance
Presenter	A Vogt, Manager Governance & Risk
Approved by	M Chesworth, Director People & Corporate Performance
Purpose	For decision
Attachment(s)	1. Murrindindi Shire Council Audit and Risk Committee Charter 2024 D [5.11.1 - 12 pages]

Executive Summary

Section 54 of the *Local Government Act 2020* requires the Audit and Risk Committee to have a Charter that outlines the Committee's responsibilities and areas of oversight. The Charter was reviewed by the Audit and Risk Committee at its meeting on 9 May 2024 and was recommended for Council endorsement with minor amendments. This report seeks Council's endorsement of the revised Audit and Risk Charter.

RESOLUTION

Cr E Lording / Cr K Haslam

That Council adopt the revised Audit and Risk Charter as contained in Attachment 5.11.1

CARRIED

6 REPORTS - ASSETS & ENVIRONMENT GROUP

Nil.

7 COUNCILLOR AND CEO REPORTS

7.1 Notices of Motions

Nil.

7.2 Cr Ilona Gerencser

Nil.

7.3 Cr Eric Lording

Nil.

7.4 Cr Sandice McAulay

Community Engagement

Engagement on “Reflecting on Councils Progress” has commenced this month. Council is inviting the community to reflect on the progress made to date on our 2021-2025 Council plan and actively inform the strategic direction for the next four years. You can share your thoughts at various pop-up sessions with Council Officers in attendance, by filling out an online feedback form, or by completing a paper form at our Library and Customer Service Centres. I also encourage you to register to attend the “Warm bowls, Hot topics” sessions at the following locations:

Kinglake Community Centre Monday 8 July 6:30 – 8.00pm

Yea Council Chambers Wednesday Thursday 10 July 6:00 – 8:00pm

Marysville Community Centre Thursday 11 July 12noon – 2:00pm

Alexandra Shire Hall Monday 15 July 6:00pm – 8:00pm

Please, I encourage people to participate. Your input is important. We want to know what you think of our progress, if we have focused on the right areas, and if there are different or additional priorities we should consider for the future. Your input will inform the future priorities and direction of the next Council.

Community Development

Communication has been ongoing between Council Officers and Taungurung and Land Water

Council (TLaWC) on projects and re-establishing a partnership meeting schedule now that the new structure has been imbedded in their organisation. The new Council budget includes funding for Council to continue to work on the “Reflect” Reconciliation Action Plan this year. The Flowerdale Community Planning group have progressed well with their community plan and expect to be able to present their final plan in August or September.

Children Services

Parenting, Early Education Partnership (PEEP) and Playgroup sessions in Kinglake are at capacity with the program continuing to meet the community demand in supporting parents and infants with developmental opportunity. PEEP has successfully engaged 7 families in Yea with their first term delivery now complete.

Council this month was briefed on several reports on the current status of Council’s participation in Family Day Care, Children and Kindergarten services. The briefing took form of a workshop, and we hope to see this report come to the Council meeting in August.

Economic Development

The Economic Development team are supporting the reformation of the Marysville Triangle Business and Tourism group who are exploring the benefits of becoming a Chamber of Commerce, representing all businesses within the region. They have held 2 sessions with good attendance to uncover what businesses need and want out of an entity like the MTBT. Maureen Thurston is leading a community engagement-based approach with the last session to be held at Marysville Golf Club on Thursday 27 June. It will be an open session to anyone, and everyone interested in shaping the future for Triangle businesses.

Shaping Murrindindi’s Future

Innovation Working Groups have commenced as part of the Shaping Murrindindi’s Future project. The Working Group will explore projects to deliver innovative initiatives across Farm Forestry, Renewable Energy and Visitor Economy.

The full group of community and business members met at Bonfire Station to set the scene for the next few months of work. The room was apparently “buzzing with energy and ideas!” The team are still looking for members to form an Agriculture / Aquaculture group.

Discover Dindi recently teamed up with One Hour Out for an autumn social media campaign. The photo journal was promoted via a range of digital tools to over 140,000 followers.

The businesses featured in the campaign are signed up to the Australian Tourism Database Warehouse (ATDW), if you want to get your businesses listed, please contact the tourism team at Council.

Wow, our winter events launched with a bang over the long weekend from the awesome Lantern Festival at Marysville, the Alexandra Truck, awe inspiring Ute and Rod Show and a huge crowd at the speedway.

We saw a huge number of visitors to the Shire with many accommodation venues selling out.

Out and About in Cathedral

National Reconciliation Week was observed by many community groups and schools during the week of 27th May to 3rd of June. I was delighted to attend the Buxton Primary School event with special guest Aunty Lee. The event provided an opportunity to learn more about Taungurung Culture and learn more about reconciliation. I must admit an additional highlight was the opportunity to participate in the guided tour of the Warrk Warrk Trail adjacent to the school.

7.5 Cr Karine Haslam

Nil.

7.6 Cr John Walsh

Portfolio Matters – The extensive work within the People and Corporate Performance Portfolio over the past month has been evident to us all this evening with the policies reviewed tonight and with the Budget that was passed at the special meeting two weeks ago. I thank everyone involved but as the work of binding the rest of the organisation together is never ending, I cannot even contemplate suggesting taking a well-earned rest. As an aside I recommend all candidates for the forthcoming election take the time to read the policy fruits of the staff's labour so they can learn what it means to be a councillor.

Within Koriella Ward, Council held a productive Community Council Meeting at the Fawcett Hall on the fifth Wednesday of May and I thank the community members who attended for their enthusiastic involvement and the tasty supper. The biggest event of the month was the now obvious but quiet installation of the Cathkin-Molesworth Cemetery sign on the Goulburn Valley Highway. I thank all those in the Infrastructure group for their efforts over a long period of time especially for traversing the maze of Vic Roads then Rural Roads Victoria application and approvals process. While concern has been expressed over the time taken for the sign to emerge, given the size of the structure the long gestation period is now understandable.

7.7 Cr Sue Carpenter

Nil.

7.8 Cr Damien Gallagher - Mayoral Report

It was a very special honour recently, as Mayor, to recognise the many, valued volunteers from right across our Murrindindi Shire community. An awards ceremony recognised those from across the Shire who go above and beyond to assure the enrichment and wellbeing of our community. Council is especially pleased to recognise our 2024 community Volunteers of the year, Daryl King, Julie Lynch, Alexis Holder, and the Boomerang Bags Team. I'd like to acknowledge my fellow Councillors and Council staff for kindly supporting the serving of meals to our community volunteers present at the awards ceremony in Alexandra, as those who couldn't attend tuned in via the generous volunteers at UGFM. I'd also like to acknowledge the many, many award nominees: A fitting recognition for their incredible contributions to making Murrindindi that little bit more liveable; that little bit more special.

I also recognise the powerful work of Aunty Angela ten Buuren, Aunty Lee Healy, and Buxton Primary School Principal, Sarah Irvine for their incredible leadership of National Reconciliation Week commemorations across Murrindindi Shire, earlier this month. The dedication to reconciliation is the realisation of Council's core inclusion and resilience values. It was a distinct privilege to be present at the opening of The Dame, a Menzies Support Services and Foundation Murrindindi collaboration that brings people and quality boutique bargains together. The invitation is there, in the very centre of Alexandra, to support vital new opportunities for inclusion and a thriving new social enterprise.

I'd like to briefly recognise a few unsung groups in our community, the Murrindindi Carer's Club, a forum for some valuable local conversations about carer matters convened by Anthea Forbes (0418 402 455, anthea.gary.forbes@bigpond.com). The group discussions cover calls for help, and shared success stories. The same could be said about the Murrindindi Men's Walk, Talk,

and Support, every Friday morning at 7AM. To join in, simply muster at the Alexandra RSL any Friday morning and add to the conversation or just listen in.

On the topic of blokes talking, I'd like to congratulate Council's Free From Violence Officer for assembling *Let's Talk: A Space for Men* at Yea Shire Hall last week, which ignited a valuable panel discussion amongst local men on the challenges of being a man in 2024, about supporting young men to talk through matters of concern, and about striving to live out a healthy version of masculinity.

Finally:

It's important to recognise that ours is a community in transition. The state has imposed upon us changes of industry and changes of purpose. I thank everyone who has attended one of our many recent community meetings about the very troubling fear of further disadvantage to our community through the loss of a local voice in management of local hospitals. But there are many more conversations happening, and so my thanks go to engaged members of our community who have lent their support in discussions about:

- The transition of our post-native-timber-harvest economy,
- the future management of State Forests,
- the loss of Big-4 banking services,
- the consolidation of Alpine Resorts Victoria, and
- the community's voice in future renewable energy projects.

None of these concerns is an island. As I explained to the Health Minister Mary-Anne Thomas MP a few days ago, as passionate as we are, our communities are less fearful of hospital closures as they are of the disappearance of our rural towns, our wellbeing, and our way of life. To everyone, I ask that you continue to remain engaged, understand the facts, and use your valuable voice.

7.9 Chief Executive Officer Report

Grants and Community Projects

I am pleased to advise that we have been awarded a \$50,000 grant for the Alexandra Streetscape, for new garden beds, street trees and signage to enhance civic pride, liveability and community cohesion.

We also received \$20,118 to upgrade signage in small towns across the Murrindindi Shire, directing tourists to local attractions and supporting increased visitation.

Housing Targets

- As part of the government's work to Plan For the future of Victoria, the State Government has recently set housing targets for all Councils.
- We have a target of 3200 new houses by 2051, from a current base of 8600. This is a compound growth rate of 1.14%. Given that in the last 4 years we have experienced a 1.2% growth this makes the target achievable.
- These targets can be exceeded in Alexandra, Yea and Eildon, while preserving their unique rural character, in order to support the retention and possibly the expansion of services.
- I encourage citizens to jump on the Engage Victoria website and provide feedback on the State Planning Victoria changes
Consultation closes 30 August 2024

Recent Advocacy Efforts

- Recent Advocacy efforts included correspondence and meeting with the Health Minister outlining the poor health outcomes in our Shire compared with the rest of the State, and

emphasising the importance of retaining full funding and local leadership and decision making for our hospitals.

- Engagement with the Minister for Water and Minister for Emergency Services highlighted concerns over operating regulations and ongoing flooding impacts.
- We also reached out to the Minister for Mental Health to seek funding support for Council to establish a Social Inclusion Access Group health services in future funding rounds. This would enable a funded position to support all aspects of inclusion such as all abilities, age, culture, etc.

Health Service Changes

- We have been advised that Nexus Community Health will cease counselling services in Mitchell and Murrindindi shires from 1 July 2024
- The Primary Health Network (PHN - Commonwealth) will be re-tendering these services, and we believe strong local service providers are keen to participate in this tender.
- Council will continue advocacy for improved local access and more transparent health outcomes reporting.

Flowerdale Early Years Service Update

- Mitchell Shire Council's decision not to renew Flowerdale Kinder's sublease is being managed to ensure continuity with potential new Early Years Manager options.
- Council officers are in communication with the primary school and the new provider for a seamless transition.

Snow season has launched at Lake Mountain

- Officers are collaborating with the Lake Mountain team to help promote snow play and toboggan and other nearby attractions
- We remain concerned about the two day-a-week closure of lake Mountain and the impacts this will have on the region's economy. We will continue to advocate to grow the tourism offerings and mitigate economic impacts of reduced operational days.

Local Projects

- Council recently completed the installation of solar lighting along the path between the caravan park and Murchison Street in Marysville, enhancing community safety and accessibility. The project was partly funded by Rotary Club, with the support of the Lions Club, who attended the opening.
- The Shire-wide street tree planting initiative is well underway, with over 400 new trees improving local amenity, providing habitat for wildlife and much needed shade in urban areas.

8 RECORD OF COUNCIL BRIEFING SESSIONS

Meeting Name/Type		Council Pre-Meet		
Meeting Date:		22 May 2024		
Matters Discussed:		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Draft Fair Access Policy 2. Grants and Sponsorships 3. Alexandra Truck Ute and Rod Show Sponsorship 4. Murrindindi Economic Development Strategy Adoption 5. Approval of Audit & Risk Committee Minutes 		
Councillor Attendees:		Cr J Walsh, Cr S Carpenter, Cr D Gallagher, Cr S McAulay		
Council Officer Attendees:		L Bonazzi, M Chesworth, A Paxton, C Lintott, A Vogt		
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
2 Part 2b	Cr D Gallagher	No	Yes	Before
3	Cr D Gallagher	No	Yes	Before

Meeting Name/Type		Briefing Session		
Meeting Date:		5 June 2024		
Matters Discussed:		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ian Marshman - Opportunities for Collaboration (30 mins) 2. Review Portfolio Councillor Policy 3. Review Privacy Policy 4. Flood Recovery Update 5. Annual Budget Submissions 6. Kindergarten and Childcare Strategy - current state and benchmarks 7. Access and Inclusion funding update (FIO) 		
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, L Bonazzi, S Coller, A Vogt, K Chadband, D O'Keeffe, S Porter		
Conflict of Interest Disclosures: No				

Meeting Name/Type		Briefing Session		
Meeting Date:		12 June 2024		
Matters Discussed:		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Resilient Public Estate Project Presentation 2. Enterprise Risk Policy - Risk Appetite review 3. Capital Works Update 4. Yea Saleyards Community Asset Committee membership 5. Councillor Expenses & Support Policy Review 6. Council Priority Action Plan 2024/25 - Final Draft 		
Councillor Attendees:		Cr J Walsh, Cr D Gallagher, Cr E Lording, Cr S McAulay, Cr S Carpenter		
Council Officer Attendees		M Chesworth, A Paxton, C Lintott, L Bonazzi, B Chapman, D Echeverry (virtual), P Bain, A Vogt (virtual)		
Conflict of Interest Disclosures: No				

Meeting Name/Type	Briefing Session
Meeting Date:	19 June 2024
Matters Discussed:	1. Aquatics - Annual Update 2. Audit and Risk Charter 3. MAV September State Council - Motion Due 15-7-2024 4. Kindergarten and Childcare Strategy
Councillor Attendees:	Cr J Walsh, Cr D Gallagher, Cr E Lording, Cr S Carpenter
Council Officer Attendees	M Chesworth, A Paxton, C Lintott, L Bonazzi, A Campbell, B Gill, S Coller, S Porter
Conflict of Interest Disclosures:	No

RESOLUTION

Cr J Walsh / Cr K Haslem

That Council receive and note the records of Council Briefing Sessions for 22 May 2024 to 19 June 2024, with amendment that Cr S McAulay was absent from the briefing on 19 June 2024.

CARRIED

9 SEALING REGISTER

Nil.

10 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

Nil.

Meeting was closed at 6:56pm

CONFIRMED BY: