



Murrindindi
Shire Council

Scheduled Meeting of Council

Minutes

Wednesday 14 December 2022
Alexandra Council Chambers
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 made available for public access on our website along with the official Minutes of this meeting.

2.2 Apologies and Request for Planned Leave

Cr S McAulay was an apology.

Cr I Gerencser requested planned leave from 6 February 2023 to 21 February 2023.

RESOLUTION

Cr D Gallagher / Cr K Haslam

That Council:

- 1. accept the apologies of Cr S McAulay**
- 2. accept the request for planned leave from Cr I Gerencser for the period of 6 to 21 February 2023.**

CARRIED

Present:

Councillors Cr J Walsh (Chair), K Haslam, S Carpenter, D Gallagher, I Gerencser, E Lording

In attendance:

Chief Executive Officer: Livia Bonazzi

Director Corporate and Shared Services: Michael Chesworth

Interim Director Community Engagement: Kate Siebert
Director Assets and Development: Vito Albicini
Manager Governance and Risk: Tara Carter
Manager Development Services: Natalie Stewart
Strategic Planner: Emma Kubeil

2.3 Disclosure of Interest or Conflict of Interest

Cr D Gallagher declared a material conflict of interest in Agenda item 5.4 being the Grants and Contributions Program - December Allocations due to being the Director of the not for profit organisation Alexandra Events.

Cr S Carpenter declared a general conflict of interest in Agenda item 5.4 being the Grants and Contributions Program - December Allocations due to being a member of the Yea Rotary Board.

2.4 Confirmation of Minutes

Minutes of the Scheduled Meeting of Council held on 23 November 2022.

RESOLUTION

**Cr I Gerencser / Cr K Haslam
That Council confirm the minutes of the 23 November 2022 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

Mr David Webb-Ware spoke about the state of Council's roads and the re-sheeting program.

3.2 Questions of Council

Nil.

4 REPORTS - ASSETS AND DEVELOPMENT DIRECTORATE

4.1 Contract 22/12 - Panel Contract Plant and Heavy Fleet - Maintenance Services

Attachment(s)	Confidential Attachment 1 - Contract 22/12 - Panel Contract Plant and Heavy Fleet - Maintenance Services - Evaluation Report [4.1.1 - 5 pages]
Presenter	V Albicini, Director Assets & Development
Approved by	Director Assets & Development
Purpose	For decision

Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to appoint suitable suppliers for CONT 22/12 Panel Contract - Plant and Heavy Fleet - Maintenance Services for a three-year contract not exceeding a total of six years including all optional extensions.

A detailed evaluation process was undertaken in line with Council's Procurement Policy and against the tender evaluation criteria by a Tender Evaluation Committee.

Based on the analysis undertaken, the Committee recommended that two tenderers be appointed to the panel CONT22/12 Panel Contract - Plant and Heavy Fleet – Maintenance Services for a three-year contract with an option of a three-year extension, not exceeding a total of six years commencing 1 January 2023 and ending no later than 30 December 2029 if all available extension options are executed. The Contract being a panel contract will not exceed a total spend of \$8,400,000 over the six-year term if all options are exercised.

RESOLUTION

Cr E Lording / Cr K Haslam

That Council:

- 1. appoint CONT22/12 - Panel Contract - Plant and Heavy Fleet - Maintenance Services to the following suppliers:**
 - M.T Mechanical PTY LTD**
 - Diverse Diesel Services & Repairs****for an initial period of three years commencing 1 January 2023 and ending 30 December 2026 with an option for a three-year extension;**
- 2. approve a total contract amount of \$8,400,000 over the six-year contract period;**
- 3. authorise the Chief Executive Officer to extend CONT22/12 Panel Contract - Plant and Heavy Fleet - Maintenance Services for the optional three-year period subject to satisfactory performance: and**
- 4. release this resolution and the name of M.T Mechanical PTY LTD and Diverse Diesel Services & Repairs into the Minutes of the Scheduled Meeting of the 14 December 2022.**

CARRIED

4.2 Contract 22/17 - Gravel Roads Resheeting Program 2022/23

Attachment(s)	Confidential Attachment 1 - Contract 22/17 - Gravel Roads Resheeting Program 2023 - Evaluation Report [4.2.1 - 7 pages]
Presenter	V Albicini, Director Assets & Development
Approved by	Director Assets & Development
Purpose	For decision

Executive Summary

This report provides the results of a tender process to appoint a contractor for CONT22/17 – Gravel Roads Resheeting Program 2022/23.

RESOLUTION

**Cr I Gerencser / Cr K Haslam
That Council**

- 1. accept the tender from Fineblade Pty Ltd 1 and award CONT22/17 – for the Gravel Roads Resheeting Program 2022/23 – for a lump sum Price of \$1,654,223 to complete all required works on the following roads:**
 - Alford Avenue, Eildon
 - Joe Taylor Rise, Eildon
 - Clarkes Road, Thornton
 - Clearview Court, Taggerty
 - Forest Road, Flowerdale
 - Gypsy Lane, Buxton
 - Hill Avenue, Marysville
 - Horns Lane, Fawcett
 - Killingworth West Road, Killingworth
 - Larritts Lane, Glenburn
 - Limestone Road, Limestone
 - Shannons Road, Limestone
 - South Cathedral Lane, Buxton
 - Swamp Creek Road, Taggerty
 - Thoms Lane, Thornton
 - Vaughan Close, Eildon
 - King Parrot Creek Road, Strath Creek
- 2. approve the allocation of \$100,000 as a contingency amount to be used for the delivery of this contract as detailed in this report;**
- 3. noted that the total project budget has increased to \$1,779,223 and refer the additional amount of \$628,843 for consideration to the midyear budget review; and**
- 4. release this resolution and the name of Fineblade Pty Ltd into the Minutes of the Scheduled Meeting of 14 December 2022.**

CARRIED

4.3 Flat Lead Road and Emissions Mitigation

Attachment(s)	Attachment 1 - Murrindindi Farm Forestry Feasibility Assessment Final - Urban Enterprise [4.3.1 - 24 pages]
Presenter	V Albicini, Director Assets & Development
Approved by	Director Assets & Development
Purpose	For decision

Executive Summary

This report outlines the outcomes of the farm forestry investigations into the broad acreage site in Flat Lead Road, Yea, and presents proposals for consideration on how to progress the means for Council to eliminate and/or offset its carbon emissions, in order to achieve its stated goal of net zero emissions by 2035.

The investigation into Flat Lead Road found that neither farm forestry nor permanent regenerative planting on the site would prove profitable for Council, from either a commercial operation or a carbon trading perspective. However, permanent planting for carbon offsetting purposes appeared significantly cheaper than buying offsets on the carbon market, the derivatives of which could benefit both Council and the broader local community. This conclusion led to further consideration around the underlying premise of the need to offset carbon emissions, as an organisation and shire wide.

By 2035 Council will still have a residual emissions level of above 2,500 tonne CO₂-e per annum under the current emissions reduction plan. In order to achieve a net zero position Council will need to either offset these residual emissions or implement actions to eliminate them.

To look more holistically at Council's emissions reduction pathway, officers have identified the following steps:

- Step 1 – Develop carbon offsetting guidelines
- Step 2 – Investigate what can be done to eliminate the residual emissions
- Step 3 - Undertake a broader study on regenerative plantings for offsetting, as a way of future proofing against any residual emissions and as a demonstration model for local farmers
- Step 4 - Look at business opportunities for Council around offsetting
- Step 5 - Look more comprehensively at the Flat Lead Road site as an environmental precinct

It is proposed that these steps be undertaken over this and next financial year, subject to funding.

MOTION

**Cr E Lording /
That Council:**

1. note that farm forestry project on Council owned, broad acreage in Flat Lead Road, Yea, does not provide a positive financial return;
2. authorise Officers to proceed with the Regen Planting Study (for Carbon Offsetting and Improved Agricultural Outcome) (Step 3) utilising the \$50,000 2022/23 budget allocation for Climate Initiatives; and
3. refer the remaining studies (Steps 4 to 5) and further investigations, as outlined within this report, for funding consideration as part of the development of the 2023/24 budget preparation.

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RESOLUTION

**Cr D Gallagher / Cr I Gerencser
That Council:**

1. note that farm forestry exclusively for timber saw-logging on Council owned, broad acreage in Flat Lead Road, Yea, does not provide a positive financial return
2. allocate \$50,000 from the Climate initiatives funds in the 2022/23 budget, to carry out a feasibility study for carbon offsetting and improved agricultural outcomes at Flat Lead Road, Yea (Step 3), following the outcome of the Independent Review of Australian Carbon Credit Units (ACCU) report to Parliament, and
3. refer the remaining initiatives (Steps 4 to 5), as outlined in this report, for funding consideration as part of the development of the 2023/24 budget preparation.

CARRIED

4.4 Public Open Space Contributions Policy

Attachment(s)	Attachment 1 - Public Open Space Contributions Policy [4.4.1 - 5 pages]
Presenter	V Albicini, Director Assets & Development
Approved by	Director Assets & Development
Purpose	For decision

Executive Summary

The Murrindindi Planning Scheme provides a mechanism for Council to require Public Open Space to be provided as part of an approval to subdivide land. Developers are able to provide open space through the contribution of land or through a cash payment, or combination of both, payable or set aside on a plan of subdivision prior to the completion of the development.

Contributions of Public Open Space can be through the creation of new space or enhancement of existing spaces to respond to the recreational needs of our growing community.

Officers have prepared a Public Open Space Contributions Policy to assist both developers and officers assessing and submitting applications for subdivision to ensure Public Open Space Contributions are managed consistently.

Following community consultation, this policy is now being recommended to Council for adoption. Once formally adopted by Council, the Public Open Space Contribution Policy will be able to be incorporated into a future Planning Scheme Amendment to form part of the Murrindindi Planning Scheme.

Inclusion of the Public Open Space Contributions Policy into the planning scheme will provide clear legislated direction for planning permit applicants, planning officers and provide transparency for our community about how Public Open Space Contributions are managed.

RESOLUTION

Cr E Lording / Cr K Haslam

That Council:

- 1. adopt the Public Open Space Contributions Policy; and**
- 2. endorse the inclusion of the policy within the Murrindindi Planning Scheme at a future Planning Scheme Amendment.**

CARRIED

4.5 Housing & Settlement Strategy

Attachment(s)	Attachment 1 - Murrindindi Housing and Settlement Strategy - Final Report [4.5.1 - 66 pages] Attachment 2 - Murrindindi Housing and Settlement Strategy - Communications and Engagement Review [4.5.2 - 11 pages] Attachment 3 - Murrindindi Housing and Settlement Strategy - GVW Response [4.5.3 - 5 pages] Attachment 4 - Murrindindi Housing and Settlement Strategy - EPA Response [4.5.4 - 3 pages]
Presenter	V Albicini, Director Assets & Development
Approved by	Director Assets & Development
Purpose	For decision

Executive Summary

The Council Action Plan has recognised the need to advocate to, and work with, the Victorian Government for a strategic land use assessment to support a sustainable and appropriate rezoning strategy to meet the Shire's population needs.

To assist with this action, a Background and Issues Report was developed with key stakeholder input to inform the preparation of a Draft Housing and Settlement Strategy.

The Draft Housing and Settlement Strategy was placed on public consultation initially for a period of one month, however this period was extended due to the recent flood events within the municipality.

At the conclusion of the consultation period, council officers reviewed and analysed the feedback. As a direct result of consultation, there are a number of proposed changes to the Draft Housing and Settlement Strategy. A detailed report forms an attachment to this report.

These proposed changes are presented to Council for consideration and inclusion within the Draft Housing and Settlement Strategy.

Once adopted, the strategy will become formally known as the Housing and Settlement Strategy.

RESOLUTION

Cr E Lording / Cr K Haslam

That Council:

- 1. note the proposed changes to the Draft Housing and Settlement Strategy following public consultation;**
- 2. adopt the Housing and Settlement Strategy, December 2022; and**
- 3. endorse the Housing and Settlement Strategy as adopted for inclusion within the Murrindindi Planning Scheme as part of the next Planning Scheme Review.**

CARRIED

5 REPORTS - COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT DIRECTORATE

5.1 Response to Petition - Rainbow Flag

Attachment(s)	Nil
Presenter	K Siebert, Interim Director Community Engagement
Approved by	Interim Director Community Engagement
Purpose	For decision

Executive Summary

At its September 2022 Scheduled Meeting, Council received a petition regarding the flying of the rainbow flag on 17 May annually to mark the International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, Intersex discrimination and Transphobia. Council requested that a report be presented back to Council regarding this matter with Officer Recommendation.

RESOLUTION

Cr S Carpenter / Cr I Gerencser

That Council commit to flying the rainbow flag on 17 May annually to mark the International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, Intersex discrimination and Transphobia.

CARRIED

5.2 Eildon Reserves Redevelopment consultation extended

Attachment(s)	Nil
Presenter	K Siebert, Interim Director Community Engagement
Approved by	Interim Director Community Engagement
Purpose	For endorsement

Executive Summary

At the October 2022 Scheduled Meeting, Council received a petition titled “Stop the Sale of Parkland in Eildon”. The sale of land within the Eildon township forms part of the Eildon Reserves Redevelopment Project. Council conducted initial community consultation and is seeking further input from the community over the coming months.

RESOLUTION

Cr K Haslam / Cr E Lording
That Council endorse further community engagement on the proposed land sales to support delivering the Eildon Reserves Redevelopment Project.

CARRIED

5.3 Reconciliation Action Plan - conditional endorsement

Attachment(s)	Attachment 1 - Murrindindi Shire Council Reflect Reconciliation Action Plan 2023-2024 [5.3.1 - 17 pages]
Presenter	K Siebert, Interim Director Community Engagement
Approved by	Interim Director Community Engagement
Purpose	For decision

Executive Summary

This report provides an update on the final steps in the development of Council's first Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP). The RAP has received conditional endorsement from Reconciliation Australia and is ready for Council to review and consider for approval. The document will then be designed and fully endorsed by Reconciliation Australia.

RESOLUTION

Cr I Gerencser / Cr S Carpenter
That Council approve the 'Reflect' Reconciliation Action Plan, as the first step in Council's reconciliation journey.

CARRIED

5.4 Grants and Contributions Program - December Allocations

Attachment(s)	Nil
Presenter	K Siebert, Interim Director Community Engagement
Approved by	Interim Director Community Engagement
Purpose	For decision

Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to present Council with the November 2022 Grants and Contributions Program allocations and variations for noting and endorsement.

Cr S Carpenter left the meeting at 7:11 pm.

RESOLUTION

Cr D Gallagher / Cr E Lording

That Council:

- 1. note the following allocations made by the Grants and Contributions Assessment Panel under delegation:**
 - a) Rotary Club of Yea - Senior Citizens Dinner for \$135**
 - b) Yea Primary School – School Musical – “Christmas by Candlelight” for \$975**

CARRIED

Cr S Carpenter returned to the meeting at 7:14 pm.

Cr D Gallagher left the meeting at 7:14pm.

RESOLUTION

Cr E Lording / Cr S Carpenter

That Council:

- 2. endorse the following allocations recommended by the Grants and Contributions Assessment Panel:**
 - a) Alexandra Events Corporation - Alexandra Pro Rodeo 2023 for \$5000 sponsorship**

CARRIED

Cr D Gallagher returned to the meeting at 7:18pm.

Cr E Lording left the meeting at 7:18pm.

6 REPORTS - CORPORATE & SHARED SERVICES DIRECTORATE

6.1 CEO Employment and Remuneration Policy Review

Attachment(s)	Attachment 1 - CEO Employment and Remuneration Policy [6.1.1 - 14 pages]
Presenter	T Carter, Manager Governance & Risk
Approved by	Director Corporate & Shared Services
Purpose	For decision

Executive Summary

The CEO Employment and Remuneration Policy was adopted by Council in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020* in August 2021. Council committed to reviewing the Policy once the Committee was established and operational to ensure that the Policy met its needs.

RESOLUTION

Cr D Gallagher / Cr K Haslam

That Council adopt the CEO Employment and Remuneration Policy as contained in Attachment 6.1.

CARRIED

6.2 Contract 22/10 - Temporary Labour Hire Services

Attachment(s)	Nil
Presenter	T Carter, Manager Governance & Risk
Approved by	Director Corporate & Shared Services
Purpose	For decision

Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to appoint CONT 22/10 Panel Contract – Labour Hire for an initial three-year contract with the option to extend for maximum of two years.

A detailed evaluation process was undertaken in line with Council's Procurement Policy and against the tender evaluation criteria by a Tender Evaluation Committee.

Based on the analysis undertaken, the Committee recommended that five tenderers be appointed to the panel CONT 22/10 Panel Contract – Labour Hire for a three-year contract with an option of two, one-year (1 + 1) extensions, not exceeding a total of five years. Commencing 1 February 2023 and ending no later than 31 January 2028 executing all available extensions. The Contract being a panel contract will not exceed a total spend of \$7 million over the five-year term if all options are exercised.

RESOLUTION

Cr D Gallagher / Cr I Gerencser

That Council:

1. appoint **CONT 22/10 Panel Contract – Labour Hire** to the following suppliers:
 - **Tenderer 1 CT Management**
 - **Tenderer 2 Public Sector People**
 - **Tenderer 3 Work Solutions Melbourne Pty Ltd**
 - **Tenderer 4 Zancott Recruitment VIC Pty Ltd**
 - **Tenderer 5 Fetch Personnel Pty Ltd**
1. for an initial period of three years commencing 1 February 2023 and ending 31 January 2026 with an option for two, one-year extensions
2. approve a total contract of \$7 million over the five-year contract period.

CARRIED

6.3 Contract 22/28 – Telecommunications Services

Attachment(s)	Nil
Presenter	M Chesworth, Director Corporate & Shared Services
Approved by	Director Corporate & Shared Services
Purpose	For decision

Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to appoint Telstra to CONT 22/28 Contract – Telecommunications Services for an initial three-year contract with the option to extend for maximum of two years.

RESOLUTION

Cr D Gallagher / Cr K Haslam

That Council:

1. enter into a contract with Telstra for Telecommunications Services, under the State Purchasing Contract arrangements, for an initial period of three years commencing 1 January 2023 and ending 31 December 2026 with an option for two, one-year extensions,
2. approve a total contract up to a maximum of \$560,000, excluding GST, over a five (5) year contract period.
3. authorise the CEO to sign the required documentation to give effect to Council's decision to procure telecommunication services from the Victoria State Purchase Contract.

CARRIED

Cr D Gallagher left the meeting at 7:32pm.

7 COUNCILLOR AND CEO REPORTS

7.1 Notices of Motions

Nil.

7.2 Cr Sue Carpenter

Community Engagement & Wellbeing

- Forestry transition and Local Development Project
 - In person interviews.
 - Group presentations and online feedback for impacted groups.
 - The project is full steam ahead and will continue through until August 2023.
 - More information about the project can be found on The Loop via Council's website.

- Rail Trail Great ARTdoors Project
 - Progressing well
 - Artists will be installing their work over the next few months.
 - More information about the project can be found on The Loop via Council's website.

- Murrindindi flood emergency
 - People are still doing it tough for those that have been impacted by the recent flood event. Council will be providing support and assistance in months ahead.
 - This Friday 16 December at Molesworth Hall, between 6.00 – 8.30 pm there will be a drop-in community dinner for any person that's impacted or for those that require further information.
 - There will be another community drop-in session held at the Yea Saleyards on 13 January 2023

- Eildon Twilight Market
 - Youth services staff will be having a stall at the market and we encourage any youth in the area to drop in and say hello.

- 16 Days of Activism
 - Council is involved in this each year.
 - 150 students and 16 staff from Alexandra High School recently attended an event on 16 Days of Activism.

I would also like to say that the libraries in the Murrindindi Shire are a safe place.

Look after each other, check on your neighbours. I hope everyone has a Merry Christmas, Happy New Year and that we all keep safe.

7.3 Cr Damien Gallagher

Cr J Walsh read Cr D Gallagher's report on his behalf:

Proud mums and dads and guardians across the community are celebrating a successful year of study by their young people. A special congratulations to Year 6s and Year 12s taking a big step in 2023. One young gentleman, Graedy Keating has many reasons to be very chuffed by his efforts this year. I've met Graedy in his capacity as Vice-Captain of Alexandra Secondary College at ANZAC and Remembrance Day commemorations and as a volunteer at Alexandra's Truck Show and Alexandra's Easter Fair. Mr. Keating has been honoured with an award from the Rotary Club of Alexandra, and has secured a scholarship to Trinity College at The University of Melbourne. I wish Graedy and his ASC colleagues, and fellow award winners every success with the next stage of their life.

I'd also like to acknowledge a lifetime of community service by Alexandra local and stalwart, Peter Weeks OAM. Peter's dedication to our community is legendary and his 50 years of service to the SES was recognised on 8 December by VICSES's Chief Officer for Operations, Tim Weibusch. Peter was among several Alexandra community members to be awarded with service recognition and all are to be congratulated.

To portfolio and representative matters

The Rubicon Outdoor School – School Council and staff body came together this week for its End of Year event to celebrate their achievements and to reflect upon the year that was. The school principal, Andrew Monson shared the story of a student who recently passed away with Epilepsy. The student's parents were overwhelmingly grateful for their child's very short but remarkable experience at Rubicon Outdoor School. Educators don't hear every such story. While their time with a student may be fleeting, the impact they have is immense.

The Nutrien Ag Solutions team in Yea hosted a pasture recovery discussion and BBQ on 7 December. The session was well attended, and some valuable insights were offered by agronomists, pasture experts and fertiliser specialists on dealing with post-flood weed management and pasture renewal. Thanks to the Nutrien team for delivering the welcome initiative.

The next day, Rapid Relief Team hosted a Farmer's Community Connect event at Yea Saleyards. RRT's considerable army of volunteers served drinks and meals and offered 54 registered farmers donations of 180 rolls of fencing wire and 16,388kg of pasture seed. I'd like to acknowledge RRT, Valley Seeds, Embling Rural, the Yea Saleyards committee, and Murrindindi Shire Council officers for lending a hand to those affected by recent flood events.

Finally

It continues to be a privilege to represent the people of Red Gate. This summer, I encourage everyone to share the Murrindindi experience with friends and family guests; perhaps to take in the Alexandra Pro Rodeo or Opera on the Pondage in January. Or follow the lead of Murrindindi Food and Wine Inc. and put Murrindindi on your table this Christmas with a lovingly curated hamper of local goods.

In Alexandra at this time of year there is no greater demonstration of the breadth and spirit of our community than Carols in Rotary Park on 22 December from 5pm or the Alexandra Community Christmas Tree Festival. I thoroughly recommend the festival display on show at Alexandra Town Hall, until 31 December.

I wish Councillors, dedicated Council staff, and community, a Merry Christmas and a happy, prosperous 2023.

7.4 Cr Ilona Gerencser

Emergency Management

- Fire Prevention roadside slashing program has commenced!
The start of the program was delayed due to the recent floods and extreme weather. We are hoping to complete the program just after Christmas.
- Fire prevention private property inspections began last week and will line up with the slashing program. We ask that you please continue to maintain your properties, as the grass is growing extremely quickly. Council will be issuing notices to relevant owners of properties if required.
- Council is continuing to provide recovery services to communities impacted by the October 2022 floods. Green Waste – Fire Restrictions
- Fire Restrictions throughout Murrindindi Shire commence on Monday 19th December at 1.00 am. The Shire will provide free green waste disposal at it's RRC's until the end of December 2022 to assist people with clean up. As of 1 January 2023, RRCs will begin to charge for disposal of green waste, so please visit our website for further information or give our staff a call on 5772 0333.

Operations and Maintenance

- Breakaway Road Bridge Debris removed. Working with Consultant on design for rock stabilisation. Asset Impact assessments well underway for plan of repairs.
- Roadside slashing program has commenced.
- Road Grading program has commenced throughout the shire.

Kinglake Christmas Twilight Market – Sunday 18th December 2022

The last Rotary Market for this year will be on this Sunday from 2.00 pm. The market will include the annual Christmas Carols organized through Kinglake Ranges Neighborhood House with Mrs. Claus paying a visit. Around 120 stalls will be attending this Sunday, so don't miss out on this huge event. It's a great way to finish the year and get your Christmas gift shopping completed. I wish everyone a safe and happy Christmas and fantastic start to 2023. Please look after yourselves and remember to check on your neighbors and those who may need some extra help at this time of year.

7.5 Cr Eric Lording

Nil to report.

7.6 Cr Sandice McAulay

Nil to report.

7.7 Cr Karine Haslam

Environment

The Murrindindi Shire Council Climate Action Plan is being finalized for presentation early in 2023. Community feedback is being reviewed and incorporated.

The shire is working on selecting a new carbon accounting system, to help keep track of Council carbon expenditure.

The proposed use of the Flat Lead Road site for carbon credits is being considered.

We are working on the policy and guidelines for EV's.

- A baseline audit of current fleet emissions.
- A draft policy, guiding an EV fleet changeover and supporting infrastructure, for both the public and Council.
- An audit of potential public charging sites has been completed with Ausnet. Major electricity network upgrades are required at Eildon and Marysville, this IS a major concern.
- A new commercial installation in Alexandra by Evie at Bakers Lane, this is being managed through Capital Works.
- We are drafting a proposal for a community Environmental Advisory Group with terms of reference for discussion.
- We will have a Graduate environment student engaged for summer work.
- We are working on a tree and weed tender contract selection.

With regard to future projects:

- We will have improved environmental education programs.
- Also, we will have a streetlight changeover to Led Lights (this has been delayed, by Ausnet)

Resource Recovery

The regional waste services tender is being evaluated. It will be presented at the Feb Council Meeting.

- It will consider household waste collection and disposal to Alexandra landfill.
- Food and green waste organics collection and processing.
- Recyclables collection and processing.
- Also Glass collection and processing.
- A range of upgrades to the Resource Recovery Centres is underway.
- The capping design for the Alexandra landfill completed cells, is near finalization for approval by EPA.
- Options paper for Hard waste collection services with costs, is being prepared, for discussion early in the new year.
- We are working with two other councils, to scope joint procurement, for processing of tyre recycling, plastic furniture recycling, and refrigerator processing.
- With all the additional rain the Leachate management at Alexandra landfill is a major concern.
- We are working with Mansfield and Strathbogie Shires regarding local circular economy sites.

In General

On the 5 & 6 December 2023, Thornton was a hive of activity. The Cathedral Lodge & Golf Club played host to a two-day Invitational Event. Cathedral gates opened to the public for the first time. With perfect weather and much curiosity, there was certainly an influx of visitors to the area.

Last week I had the pleasure of attending a Rapid Relief Farmers Community Connect, at the Yea Sale Yard, where farmers were able to register for assistance, to receive Rye seed and fencing wire to help with the recovery after the recent flood event. I'd like to thank the Rapid Relief Team for their contribution. It was greatly appreciated and wonderful to know the capacity of this organization.

On Saturday night the Acheron Community came together for the Christmas Party at the Acheron Hall. This was a great night and well attended. It is great to see community come together.

There is certainly plenty to do in Murrindindi Shire with all the upcoming community events.

The Eildon Twilight Market will be on at the Eildon Pondage this Saturday from 4.00 pm. There will be approximately 60 stalls, including food/beverage vendors, and of course live music to keep you entertained.

Eildon CFA will be holding their Christmas Eve activities at Moore Park from 6.00 pm. This is a free event. There will be amusements and plenty of games to participate in. The sausage sizzle will be provided by the Eildon Lions, there will be spinning wheel, also prizes will be given away. and of course, a visit from Santa in the fire truck.

In the New Year - Opera at the Pondage will take place on the 7 January, tickets need to be booked. Don't miss out!

Last but not least, there will be a Christmas Carnival at the John Coller Oval, from the 26 December – 8 January.

That is only what is on in Eildon. Check out all the other activities throughout the shire, there is plenty on to keep everyone entertained.

I hope you all have a safe, happy and healthy Christmas and New year.

7.8 Cr John Walsh - Mayoral Report

The work on assessing and addressing the flood damage has been the major focus of Council. I will let the CEO expand on the operational details. For my part I have had a further meeting with some of the other Mayors in our region which in part considered the common problems of flood recovery that we are all facing and where there are avenues for combined approaches to State Government to gain greater recognition of the need for increased support for regional infrastructure.

As Murrindindi is a Refugee Welcome Zone, it was pleasing to be able to support the Rural Australians for Refugees proposal to the Commonwealth Minister for Immigration to establish a new visa category for Afghan refugees to come to Australia.

I attended the Board Meeting of the Central Ranges Local learning and Employment Network where it was sad to learn that the CEO Trent McCarthy has submitted his resignation after 8 very successful years at the helm. During his term he expanded the organization and the level of support to young people at school, in apprenticeships, in mentoring programs, trade training and

work experience. CRLLEN moved from being financially dependent on an allocation of about \$200K from the Department of Education to undertake its student support role to now where about 50% of the current \$1M budget is from the industries and other school regions with which CRLLEN works and who obviously see the value in what the group provides. It is true to say every teenager in the three shires served by CRLLEN, Murrindindi, Macedon Ranges and Mitchell, has either directly or indirectly benefited from the work that Trent has undertaken.

As 2022 comes to an end and with 2023 soon upon us, it has become clear that Council, like the whole community, is facing a challenging financial situation. As has been discussed earlier in this meeting there are major increases in the costs of providing services across the board. Difficult priority decisions will have to be made as we go deeper into the development of next year's budget. In all areas we will be closely examining the value proposition to ensure we balance competing needs in the most cost-effective way. At each stage of the process we will communicate the reasons behind the decisions. I encourage everyone to monitor our progress and offer comments and suggestions when requested.

That said I am sure the coming year will be one of continuing improvements in the Shire. Despite our difficulties Murrindindi Shire remains a great place to live, work and play.

I wish everyone a safe and merry Christmas and an enjoyable and prosperous 2023.

7.9 Chief Executive Officer Report

- We continue to undertake impact assessments following the recent Floods to compile a comprehensive picture of the true impact and cost of the floods.
- Approximately 20% of Murrindindi was impacted by the flood events, around 6,500Ha, with significant livestock losses, 630km of fences washed away, dozens of properties being under water, some for many days.
- The hit to our Visitor Economy has been estimated by Tourism NE to be in the order of \$5m per month for Oct and Nov, with ongoing losses to some local businesses including caravan parks.
- 103 roads have been re-opened, and most of the impacted roads, bridges, footpaths and trails have been inspected by council officers
- This was also thanks to the support from our neighbouring councils, including Yarra Ranges, Whittlesea, and Alpine shire and I would like to again thank them for their assistance.
- An early estimate of the cost to Council's critical infrastructure so far is in the order of \$25M, which we will be aiming to claim under the national disaster recovery fund arrangements (DRFA)
- We are actively seeking funding from the state government to clean up and restore our damaged community assets including the Yea Wetlands and Rail Trail.
- Our thoughts are with the 119 families, individuals and businesses who have suffered significant flood damage of Personal Hardship Assistance Program payments – 119 to individuals and families equating to \$110,000
- Support is still available for people, farmers and businesses who need help and advice. This support will continue to be available for many months to come.
- We know that this time of the year is a happy occasion for many, but we also know that some people will be doing it tough. Our flood recovery work will continue over the Christmas period and into the new year.
- It has been a trying time for everyone but our residents have shown time and time again that in working together we will get through. It is important for us to all look after each other, to check in with friends and neighbours and offer support and connection.

Breakaway Bridge, Acheron

I am pleased to advise that the last of the debris on the Breakaway Bridge in Acheron was cleared on the weekend. This was a complex operation which involved working with Emergency Services, GMW to reduce the releases from the Eildon dam to safe levels, seeking approvals from the Catchment Mgt Authority, and engaging local experienced contractors who undertook the arduous task of removing more than 600m³ of willows and snake infested debris.

We have also sought design advice from a specialist consultant for erosion protection on the northern bank of the river, this will inform the bank stabilisation works soon to commence, noting the long term rehabilitation of the site will be determined once maintenance and management of the outflanked bridge structure are confirmed in coming months.

Recognition of academic results by Staff member

I would like to congratulate a Council staff member, Joss Lopez for being awarded Dux of Alexandra Secondary College. Joss is currently in his third season working for Council as a Lifeguard (started in October 2020). Joss is very popular with some the shire's newest swimmers, assisting with teaching local children as part of the school swimming program and the Alexandra Swim Club. Well done Joss and congratulations also to all year 12 students in Murrindindi for having reached this major milestone.

Festive season

In the spirit of the festive season, I hope each of us will have an opportunity to stop to rest to reflect, and to find joy.

Murrindindi shire is lucky to have many community groups, volunteers and businesses who all contribute to our region, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who supported our towns and communities in your own special way.

This is a good time to catch up with our community, and I encourage you all to head along to your local carols events.

I wish everyone a very joyous Christmas and happy new year.

8 RECORD OF COUNCIL BRIEFING SESSIONS

Purpose

For noting.

Executive Summary

This report presents the records of Council Briefing Sessions for 23 November 2022 to 7 December 2022, for Council to note.

The following summary details are for 23 November 2022 to 7 December 2022:

Meeting Name/Type		Council Pre-Meet		
Meeting Date:		23 November 2022		
Matters Discussed:		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Grants and Contributions Program – November Allocations 2. Council Plan 2021-2025 Quarterly Performance Report – 1 July to 30 September 2022 		
Councillor Attendees:		Cr J Walsh (V), Cr K Haslam, Cr S Carpenter (V), Cr D Gallagher (V), Cr E Lording (V), Cr S McAulay (V)		
Council Officer Attendees:		L Bonazzi, M Chesworth, V Albicini, K Siebert, T Carter, D Echeverry		
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	Cr S Carpenter	No	Yes	Before

Meeting Name/Type		Council Briefing Session & Open Community Meeting		
Meeting Date:		30 November 2022		
Matters Discussed:		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Financial overview and planning 2. 10-Year Asset Plan review 3. Open Community Meeting from 5:00pm 		
Councillor Attendees:		Cr J Walsh, Cr K Haslam, Cr S Carpenter, Cr D Gallagher, Cr E Lording, Cr S McAulay, Cr I Gerencser		
Council Officer Attendees:		L Bonazzi, M Chesworth, V Albicini, K Siebert, T Carter, L Chapple		
Conflict of Interest Disclosures: Nil				

Meeting Name/Type		Briefing Session		
Meeting Date:		7 December 2022		
Matters Discussed:		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Contract 22/10 – Temporary Labour Hire Services 2. Contract 22/12 - Panel Contract - Plant and Heavy Fleet - Maintenance Services - 2022-2027 3. Response to Petition – Rainbow Flag 4. Grants and Contributions Program – December Allocations 5. Guest Speakers - Forestry Transition – Local Development Strategy Project Update 6. Guest Speaker – Paul Dalzell – Refugee Housing 7. Guest Speakers - Social and Affordable Housing - Hornsby & Co. 8. Housing and Settlement Strategy 9. Public Open Space Policy 10. Contract 22/28 – Telecommunications Services 11. Eildon Reserves Redevelopment Project Update 12. Contract 22/17 - Gravel Roads Resheeting Program 2022/23 13. Flat Lead Road and Emissions Mitigation 14. Waste Strategy Action Plan - Progress and Priority Actions 15. CEO Employment and Remuneration Policy Review 16. Reconciliation Action Plan – Final draft 		
Councillor Attendees:		Cr J Walsh, Cr K Haslam, Cr D Gallagher, Cr S McAulay		
Council Officer Attendees:		L Bonazzi, M Chesworth, V Albicini, K Siebert, T Carter, S Russell, S Coller, M Thomas, N Stewart, E Kubeil, C Nickels-Beattie, P Bain, J Carns, L Harrison		
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?
4	Cr D Gallagher	No	Yes	Before
4	Cr S Carpenter	No	Yes	Before

RESOLUTION

Cr K Haslam / Cr I Gerencser

That Council receive and note the records of Council Briefing Session for 21 November 2022 to 9 December 2022.

CARRIED

The meeting was closed at 7:58 pm.

CONFIRMED THIS



CHAIRPERSON

Cr J Walsh