



Murrindindi
Shire Council

Scheduled Meeting of Council

Minutes

Wednesday 25 May 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 was 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 was streamed live via Council's Facebook page and can be viewed along with the official Minutes of this meeting on Council's website.

2.2 Apologies and Request for Leave of Absence

That Council accept the apologies of Cr Sue Carpenter.

Present:

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

In attendance:

Chief Executive Officer: Livia Bonazzi
Director Corporate and Shared Services: Michael Chesworth
Director Community Engagement: Shivaun Brown
Director Assets and Development: Vito Albicini
Manager Governance and Risk: Tara Carter
Manager Development Services: Natalie Stewart
Manager Business Services: Cheryl Nickels-Beattie
Coordinator Planning: Cameron Fraser
Senior Planner: Clara Gartland

2.3 Disclosure of Interest or Conflict of Interest

Cr S McAulay declared a material conflict of interest in Agenda item 6.1 being the "Grants and Contributions Program - May Allocations" due to being the Secretary of the Taggerty Progress Association which receives a benefit from the Murrindindi East U3A Inc. programs.

Cr K Haslam declared a general conflict of interest in Agenda item 6.1 being the "Grants and Contributions program – May Allocation" due to being a member of the Eildon Action Group.

2.4 Confirmation of Minutes

Minutes of the Scheduled Meeting of Council held on 27 April 2022.

RESOLUTION

**Cr I Gerencser / Cr J Walsh
That Council confirm the minutes of the 27 April 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 2022/23 DRAFT BUDGET SUBMISSIONS

3.1 Public Participation - Hearing of Submissions

Ruth Selover, spoke to her submission regarding the 2022/23 Draft Budget.

David Webb Ware, spoke to his submission regarding the 2022/23 Draft Budget.

Ms Livia Bonazzi, CEO read a submission on behalf of Naomi Benheim regarding the 2022/23 Draft Budget.

3.2 Budget Submissions

Attachment(s)	Confidential Attachment 1 – 2022-23 Budget Submissions Received (distributed to Councillors separately)
Presenter	C Nickels-Beattie, Manager Business Services
Approved by	Director Corporate & Shared Services
Purpose	For decision

Executive Summary

Council endorsed the draft 2022/23 Annual Budget (Budget) at the 13 April 2022 Unscheduled Council meeting, for the purposes of public exhibition and submissions.

The public submission period closed on 13 May 2022 and this report provides Council with a summary of five submissions received. All submitters have been offered the opportunity to present their submissions at tonight's meeting.

RESOLUTION

Cr J Walsh / Cr I Gerencser

That Council consider the submissions received in relation to the 2022/23 Draft Annual Budget prior to its final adoption at the 22 June 2022 Scheduled Meeting.

CARRIED

4 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

4.1 Open Forum

Mr John O'Brien spoke about Minor Street Names for the development at 2401 Goulburn Valley Highway, Alexandra.

Lorraine O'Brien spoke about Minor Street Names for the development at 2401 Goulburn Valley Highway, Alexandra.

Lucy Lloyd spoke against the Planning Application - 12-14 Craigie Street Yea (item 5.2 on the Agenda).

Anita Fogarty spoke against the Planning Application - 12-14 Craigie Street Yea (item 5.2 on the Agenda).

Jennifer Wood spoke against Planning Application - 1059 Maroondah Highway Narbethong (item 5.1 on the Agenda).

John Nolan spoke against Planning Application - 1059 Maroondah Highway Narbethong (item 5.1 on the Agenda).

Bridget McIntyre spoke against Planning Application - 1059 Maroondah Highway Narbethong (item 5.1 on the Agenda).

Daniel Pardon spoke in support of Planning Application - 1059 Maroondah Highway Narbethong (item 5.1 on the Agenda).

Mr Jack Russell spoke about various topics including available grant funding for underground power supply and drainage on Craigie Street Yea.

4.2 Questions of Council

Two questions were received from Mr Jack Russell in April 2022.

Question 1

What definitive action by Council has been undertaken in respect to the Public Risk Audits under the Road Management Act and as under the time schedules known as over 3 months out and for specific intervention at all levels as being low, moderate or immediate intervention?

Question 2

What numbers in each category for schedule rectification that are known to exceed the code specified other than during my inspection in company with seconded staff member, excluding the removal of the improper lips cast into pedestrian cross overs that remain that are now out of time and of those that are current in legal process? unresolved?

The Chief Executive Officer responded to Question 1 & 2:

Council has instituted a regime whereby Council inspects its public assets on a programmed basis, the level of maintenance is determined by the road classification and maintenance standards outlined in Council's Road Management Plan 2021, which is available to the public on Council's website.

(<https://www.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/Our-Services/Roads-Streets-and-Bridges/Road-Maintenance-and-Management>)

Currently for the 2021/22 financial year, Council has programmed 652 road management plan maintenance requests through its proactive inspection or from customer requests of which 182 are still to be completed but will be delivered in line with Council's *Road Management 2021* levels of service. 100% of high risk maintenance requests however are either rectified or made safe within required timeframes and level of service.

We believe the publicly available document addresses Mr Russell's concerns based on our interpretation of his questions.

A question was received from Mr Jack Russell (May 2022).

Question 1:

Why were my previous 13 FOI Applications not acknowledged nor acted upon and that also gave rise to the refusal of officers 1 & 2 of Council to treat my last two questions to council as FOI applications and therefore:

- a) Failed to table as 2 Questions
- b) Failed to process 2 FOI applications

The Chief Executive Officer responded to the Question:

To be accepted as a valid FOI request, it must satisfy the following criteria:

- it is clear enough for Council Officers to identify the document requested and
- the FOI access fee has been paid or formally waived

Any correspondence received from Mr Russell that meets the requirements of a Valid Application will be acknowledged as such and processed under FOI legislation requirements.

The letter that included the two questions of council was mistakenly triaged as a potential FOI application. After subsequent assessment the correspondence was identified as being related to Questions of Council, a letter of apology was sent to Mr Russell and the questions have just been addressed.

5 REPORTS - ASSETS AND DEVELOPMENT DIRECTORATE

5.1 Planning Application - 1059 Maroondah Highway, Narbethong - Extension of Use of Land for a Caravan Park

Attachment(s)	Attachment 1 - Applications Documents [5.1.1 - 9 pages] Attachment 2 - Applications Documents [5.1.2 - 23 pages] Attachment 3 - Applications Documents [5.1.3 - 40 pages] Confidential Attachment 1 – Submissions (<i>distributed to Councillors separately</i>)
Presenter	C Gartland, Senior Planner
Approved by	Director Assets & Development
Purpose	For decision

Executive Summary

This application is for the extension of the use of the land at 1059 Maroondah Highway, Narbethong to be used for a caravan park and for retrospective approval for buildings and works associated with existing camp facilities. The land is currently used by the Jeep Club for camping and has a certificate of existing use rights for camping on the land.

Following the notice period two objections were received for the application. The objections generally related to impacts on the river, agricultural properties and amenity impacts on residential.

It is considered that the extension of the use to cater for additional groups will support tourism within the shire. The proposal aligns with encouraging business expansion and employment opportunities.

On balance the proposal meets the objectives of the Planning Policy Framework, Zone and Overlay controls.

At the meeting, officers proposed an amended Officer Recommendation to withdraw this item from the agenda. This was at the request of the permit applicant to seek further engagement with referral authorities in relation to conditions included on any permit issued.

RESOLUTION

Cr J Walsh / Cr E Lording

That Council defer this matter for consideration at a future meeting.

CARRIED

5.2 Planning Application - 12 - 14 Craigie Street, Yea - Two Lot Re-subdivision and Roadworks

Attachment(s)	Attachment 1 - Application Documents [5.2.1 - 40 pages] Confidential Attachment 1 – Submissions (<i>distributed to Councillors separately</i>)
Presenter	C Gartland, Senior Planner
Approved by	Director Assets & Development
Purpose	For decision

Executive Summary

This application is for a two lot re-subdivision and roadworks in the Urban Flood Zone at 12 and 14 Craigie Street, Yea which is made up of 9 lots.

The application proposes to reduce the overall number of lots across the two properties from 9 to 2.

The subject site is predominantly in the Urban Flood Zone with a small section in the General Residential Zone with a Land Subject to Inundation Overlay covering this area.

Following the notice period, five objections were received for the application.

It is considered that overall, the proposal is consistent with the Murrindindi Planning Scheme. The primary concern in the assessment of this application was the impacts on the floodplain. It is considered that the flood risks have been mitigated as there will be engineering requirements for the road construction. The proposal will not increase the development potential of the land.

On balance the proposal meets the objectives of the Planning Policy Framework, Zone and Overlay controls.

It is recommended that Council resolve to issue a Notice of Decision to Grant a Permit in accordance with the Officer Recommendation.

RESOLUTION

Cr E Lording / Cr J Walsh

That Council issue a Notice of Decision to grant a planning permit for a 2 lot subdivision and creation of access at 12 and 14 Craigie Street, Yea (SEC: 45 C/A: 6, SEC: 45 C/A: 6 CAL: A, SEC: 45 C/A: 6 CAL: B, SEC: 45 C/A: 6 CAL: C, SEC: 45 C/A: 6 CAL: D, SEC: 45 C/A: 7, SEC: 45 C/A: 7 CAL: A, SEC: 45 C/A: 7 CAL: B, PC: 369113), subject to the following conditions:

- 1. The subdivision must be in accordance with the endorsed plan. This endorsed plan can only be altered or modified with the prior written approval of the Responsible Authority, or to comply with statutory requirements.**
- 2. All existing and proposed easements and sites for existing or required utility services and roads on the land must be set aside in the plan of subdivision submitted for certification in favour of the relevant authority for which the easement or site is to be created.**

3. The plan of subdivision submitted for certification under the *Subdivision Act 1988* must be referred to the relevant authority in accordance with Section 8 of that Act.
4. Prior to certifying the plans, a suitable prepared engineering plan detailing the proposed driveway, earthworks and drainage, including the erosion and sediment control measures must be submitted to the Responsible Authority and receive its endorsement.
5. Prior to the issue of a Statement of Compliance, the permit holder must construct the building/access in accordance with approved construction drawings.
6. Prior to issuing statement of compliance, new vehicular entrances to Lot 2 from the existing road reserve must be constructed at the permit holder's expense to provide ingress and egress to the site at a location and of a size and standard satisfactory to the Responsible Authority. Refer to Council's Infrastructure Design Manual Section 12.9.2 – Rural Vehicle Crossings and standard drawing SD 260.
7. Prior to issuing statement of compliance, existing vehicular entrances to Lot 1 from Craigie Road must be upgraded at applicant's expense to provide ingress and egress to the site at a location and of a size and standard satisfactory to the Responsible Authority. Refer to Council's Infrastructure Design Manual Section 12.9.2 – Rural Vehicle Crossings and standard drawing SD 260. It will be necessary to move this driveway access westward outside of the existing intersection.
8. Prior to statement of compliance, the access road (within the existing road reserve) from Craigie Street must be constructed, formed and drained to avoid erosion and to minimise disturbance to natural topography of the land to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority and the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority. The access road (In road reserve) must be constructed to one of the following two options:
 - A) In accordance with IDM standard drawing 610 (SD 610) must have a 4m wide carriageway (gravel) with 1.5m Shoulders.

Or

 - B) Section 173 agreement for a private road within the public road reserve, the agreement would require the property owner to cover any and all required maintenance on the "private road" from Craigie Street to the legal point of access (Driveway). This would allow the road to be constructed to a reduced standard requiring only all-weather access, 4m width, 4.3m height clearance and 0.5m side clearance.
9. The internal access driveway to the building shall be constructed to a size and standard satisfactory to the Responsible Authority and the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority to provide all weather access for emergency service vehicles.

10. The works must include the provision of suitable pavement material of at least 3.5 metres in width with 0.5m side clearances and 4 m vertical clearance and designed to carry a vehicle weighing at least 15 tonnes.

Ausnet

11. The plan of subdivision submitted for certification must be referred to AusNet Electricity Services Pty Ltd in accordance with Section 8 of the *Subdivision Act 1988*. The applicant must –
 - a. Enter into an agreement with AusNet Electricity Services Pty Ltd for the extension, upgrading or rearrangement of the electricity supply to lots on the plan of subdivision. A payment to cover the cost of such work will be required.
 - b. Provide electricity easements internal and external to the subdivision in favour of AusNet Electricity Services Pty Ltd to service the lots on the plan of subdivision and/or abutting lands as required by AusNet Electricity Services Pty Ltd. The provision of reserves for electricity substations may also be required.

Goulburn Valley Water

12. Payment of new customer contribution charges for water supply to the development, such amount being determined by the Corporation at the time of payment
13. Provision of a reticulated water supply and associated construction works to each allotment within the development, at the developer's expense, in accordance with standards of construction adopted by and to the satisfaction of the Goulburn Valley Region Water Corporation;
14. Provision of one water tapping per lot and/or Common Property at the developer's expense, in accordance with standards of construction adopted by and to the satisfaction of the Goulburn Valley Region Water Corporation;
15. Any existing water service that crosses any of the proposed allotment boundaries within the proposed development must be disconnected and re-located at the developer's expense, to be wholly within one allotment only, including notification of the proposed lot to be serviced by the existing water meter, to the satisfaction of the Goulburn Valley Region Water Corporation;
16. Payment of new customer contributions charges for sewerage services to the development, such amount being determined by the Corporation at the time of payment;
17. Provision of reticulated sewerage and associated construction works to each allotment within the development, at the developer's expense, in accordance with standards of construction adopted by and to the satisfaction of the Goulburn Valley Region Water Corporation;

18. Provision of easements in favour of the Goulburn Valley Region Water Corporation over all existing and proposed sewer mains located within private property;
19. The operator under this permit shall be obliged to enter into an Agreement with Goulburn Valley Region Water Corporation relating to the design and construction of any sewerage or water works required. The form of such Agreement shall be to the satisfaction of Goulburn Valley Water. A copy of the format of the Agreement will be provided on request;
20. The plan of subdivision lodged for certification is to be referred to the Goulburn Valley Region Water Corporation pursuant to Section 8(1) of the *Subdivision Act, 1988*.

Goulburn Murray Water

21. All construction and ongoing activities must be in accordance with sediment control principles outlined in 'Construction Techniques for Sediment Pollution Control' (EPA, 1991).
22. Lot 2 must be provided with connection to the reticulated sewerage system in accordance with the requirements of the relevant urban water authority.
23. Stormwater from the site must be discharged to a legal point as nominated by the Responsible Authority. All infrastructure and works to manage stormwater must be in accordance with the requirements of the Responsible Authority.

EXPIRY

(1) This permit shall expire if the plan of subdivision hereby permitted are not certified within two (2) years of the date hereof or any extension of such period, the responsible authority may allow in writing on an application made before or within six months after such expiry.

NOTATIONS

(1) Separate consent for 'works within the road reserve' and the specifications of these works may be required under the *Road Management Act 2004*. For the purposes of this application the works will include provision of:

- a. Construction of a crossover; and
- b. Any other works in the arterial road reserve.

CARRIED

6 REPORTS - COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT DIRECTORATE

6.1 Grants and Contributions Program - May Allocations

Attachment(s)	Nil
Presenter	S Brown, Director Community Engagement
Approved by	Director Community Engagement
Purpose	For decision

Executive Summary

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

RESOLUTION

Cr J Walsh / Cr I Gerencser

That Council:

1. Endorse the following variations recommended by the Grants and Contributions Assessment Panel:

Application	Original Grant Awarded	Variation Request
CPE-21/22-011 Eildon Action Inc - Eildon Easter Twilight Market	\$5,000	Budget change
CPE-21/22-010 Murrindindi East U3A - Positive Ageing in Murrindindi	\$2,000	Timing change

2. Endorse the following allocations recommended by the Grants and Contributions Assessment Panel:

Application	Amount
CPE-21/22-024 HIGHLANDS COMMUNITY HALL - Repairs and Termite Peace of Mind	\$5,000

3. Note the following allocations made by the Grants and Contributions Assessment Panel under delegation:

Application	Amount
FR-21/22-007 Australia Post Alexandra – Additional PO Boxes for Alexandra Post Office	\$583
FR-21/22-016 Rotary Club of Yea – ANZAC Day lunch and refreshments	\$50
FR-21/22-018 Murrindindi Film Society - Murrindindi Film Society 2022 Season	\$63

CARRIED

7 REPORTS - CORPORATE & SHARED SERVICES DIRECTORATE

7.1 Enterprise Risk Management Policy Review

Attachment(s)	Attachment 1 - Enterprise Risk Management Policy [7.1.1 - 11 pages]
Presenter	T Carter, Manager Governance & Risk
Approved by	Director Corporate & Shared Services
Purpose	For decision

Executive Summary

Council has an Enterprise Risk Management Policy (the Policy) in place to promote an integrated and consistent approach to risk management across Council so that the risks affecting the achievement of Council objectives are identified, assessed and treated to an acceptable level.

This Policy has been reviewed by Council to ensure that it meets the legislative requirements, industry best practice and reflects Council's approach to risk management. The purpose of this report is to present the Enterprise Risk Policy (attached), which includes a Risk Appetite Statement, to Council for adoption. This Policy has been presented to Council's Audit and Risk Committee and its feedback has been incorporated into the review.

RESOLUTION

Cr K Haslam / Cr E Lording
That Council adopt the revised Enterprise Risk Management Policy as per Attachment 7.1.1.

CARRIED

7.2 Audit and Risk Committee Charter

Attachment(s)	Attachment 1 - Audit and Risk Committee Charter 2022 Review [7.2.1 - 12 pages]
Presenter	T Carter, Manager Governance & Risk
Approved by	Director Corporate and Shared Services
Purpose	For decision

Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's adoption of the Murrindindi Shire Council Audit and Risk Committee Charter, which has been revised as part of the annual review undertaken by officers and the Audit and Risk Committee.

RESOLUTION

Cr E Lording / Cr J Walsh

That Council adopt the revised Murrindindi Shire Council Audit and Risk Charter as contained in Attachment 7.2.1.

CARRIED

7.3 Audit and Risk Committee - Confirmation of Minutes

Attachment(s)	Attachment 1 - 2022-05-12 Audit and Risk Minutes [7.3.1 - 29 pages]
Presenter	T Carter, Manager Governance & Risk
Approved by	Director Corporate & Shared Services
Purpose	For noting

Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to present the minutes of the 12 May 2022 Audit and Risk Committee Meeting to Council for noting.

It is noted in the Minutes that Mr Ian McKaskill has finished his term as an Independent Committee member after completing 9 years on the Committee, including terms as Chair of the Committee. During this time he assisted in developing the oversight role of the Committee and provided valuable advice to Council, particularly in the area of enterprise risk management.

RESOLUTION

Cr J Walsh / Cr S McAulay

That Council:

- 1. receive and note the minutes of the 12 May 2022 Audit and Risk Committee Meeting as enclosed in Attachment 7.3.1.**
- 2. provide a letter of appreciation to Mr McKaskill in recognition of his service to the Council's Audit and Risk Committee.**

CARRIED

8 COUNCILLOR AND CEO REPORTS

8.1 Notices of Motions

Nil.

8.2 Cr Karine Haslam

It has certainly been a busy month in Eildon.

The Trout Fest was held at the Eildon Community Centre. This was a great opportunity to learn everything you need to know about Trout Fishing. The how's the where's and the why's. There was 120 fishing rods and reels given away to children. Casting demos from experts including fly and lure casting competitions. Plenty of activities for the kids. Fishing games etc run by Victorian Fisheries Authority. You could also help the Fisheries team stock the Eildon Pondage.

Many visitors took advantage of the opportunity to tour through the Snob's Creek Hatchery.

Thanks go to the Lion's, who did a great job on the BBQ feeding the hungry crowds.

The Eildon Community Plan. Meetings have been taking place over the past few months, and the community have put forward a range of ideas on how to make Eildon thrive and grow. The Community Plan Dinner, will be held this Saturday at 6pm at the Eildon Community Centre.

It is now time to decide together, on the priority ideas and projects which will be included in the Eildon Community Plan.

Everyone is welcome, whether you are a long time local, a newcomer to the area, a holiday-home owner or a business operator you are all invited to the dinner to be part of this important step in building Eildon's future.

If you can't attend on the night, but would like the opportunity to vote, on priority projects and actions for Eildon, contact Council for early voting.

The dinner is free, but bookings are essential. To reserve your place you can either visit our web page theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/Eildon-community-planning or call the Council on 57720333

Be part of the change. Together we can make things happen. I hope to see you there.

8.3 Cr Ilona Gerencser

Tourism Portfolio

- We are currently in the process of undertaking assessments of Goulburn Valley Rail Trail art project
- MSC supporting Truck Show through in kind support and grant funding – this event will be held on the weekend of 12th June
- Lake Mountain looking to develop water management plan to bring tap water to the resort supporting tourism into future
- We are also working with Tourism North East and separately with cycling specialist in Melbourne, to promote gravel cycling opportunities through their channels within the Shire

- We have gone through 12,000 Official Visitors Guide and maps in past 12 months so will be having these reprinted to meet the increasing demand.

I also wanted to give congratulations again to the Rotary Club of Kinglake for another fantastic market day this past Sunday. Somehow they managed to wish the fog away for a beautiful sunny day, great crowds and a huge fundraising day.

8.4 Cr Eric Lording

Nil to report.

8.5 Cr John Walsh

Nil to report.

8.6 Cr Sandice McAulay

Emergency Management

Council has been successful in securing a \$452k grant for a project called LEAPing into Resilience. It's about bringing at risk communities together and writing a Local Emergency Action Plan (LEAP) for communities at risk of being impacted by emergencies. The project will run across Strathbogie, Mansfield and Murrindindi Shires with five communities in each municipality (for a total of 15 plans) being selected to participate in the project. Advertising for the officer should happen in the next month or so. The project will run from July this year until March 2025 – approximately 33 months. The officer will be based in Murrindindi Shire at the Alexandra office but will travel as required to Strathbogie and Mansfield. A very exciting opportunity for the three municipalities and our at risk communities.

Council's emergency management team with Emergency Management Victoria (EMV) is delivering a community-centred scenario exercise in the Kinglake Ranges, with the planning session being started next week. EMV is responsible for leading emergency management in Victoria.

The meeting will look at planning a fictional but plausible emergency event. This will allow the community to work together to identify the needs before during and after an event. This is an online and in person meeting (hybrid). Interested people from the Kinglake area can have a look on Council's Facebook page or email mempc@murrindindi.vic.gov.au if you would like to participate. The exercise, or scenario will occur in Kinglake later this year in November or December and will heavily feature community involvement. This will be a great opportunity for the community and agencies to get together to test our plans and processes. Further information will be provided as the project gains momentum.

Community Assets

This year we have seen a significant increase in the amount of capital works because of the high number of grants and funds available, with more than double the normal capital works being scheduled. As mentioned in a previous report there continues to be some delays due to contractor and material availability but despite the volume and delays overall Council's Capital works program is progressing well. Great management by our Assets Team.

Three Bridge projects are on the works program at the moment. The bridge in Yarck is progressing well, Break O'day Road's bridge is due to commence in early June and the Yea Caravan Park is scheduled to commence in July or August.

Out and About

With the Mayor and Cr Haslam I was so impressed with the launch of the newly completed STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics) Studio at the Buxton Primary School. The new studio is the home of the new 3D printer, and the space to find out about Robotics, podcasting and design projects. The project will provide exciting learning opportunities for local young people to experience STEM learning and explore possible pathways in these fields in the future. I am so proud and pleased that all of the hard work of the principle, teachers, students and community has come to fruition. Wells done Buxton Primary!

I once again was delighted to MC the now well recognised Murrindindi Children's Network annual conference held at Holmesglen. Wow what an enthusiastic group of awesome humans who get together to network, share stories and participate in a highly motivating, inspirational and informative program. A number of well-respected and leading presenters led year's theme of "Lighthouse in a storm" with one of the most important aims of the day being to shine a light on the importance of play for children in rocky times being mindful that many children have had limited social experience in play settings over the last few years. The day also provided an opportunity to reflect on the last two years that were at times uncertain and hard to navigate and we come out stronger for the experience. My thanks and congratulations go to the awesome Early Years Team led by Sue Porter for such an inspirational and professionally run event.

Last week being National Volunteer Week was a great time to take time to "Thank a Volunteer". I was so pleased to participate in a number of pop up activities across the Murrindindi Shire to say thank-you and chat to a number of volunteers who were passing in the street. I would like to say once again thankyou to each and every volunteer in our Shire – you are the glue that makes Murrindindi such a wonderful place.

Finally, it is with sadness I would like to acknowledge the passing of former Cathedral Ward Councillor, Graeme Brown who I admired and respected greatly. He continued his passionate and caring advocacy for his community and I had met with him only about 10 days before his passing where he raised a number concerns about the safety and wellbeing of both members of Marysville and visitors alike. He will be missed by myself and the Marysville and wider Murrindindi community.

8.7 Cr Damien Gallagher

I would like to offer Council's solemn condolences on the passing of former Cathedral Ward Councillor and Murrindindi Shire Council Mayor, Graeme Brown, on 30 April at his home in Marysville. Graeme served our community on Council from 2003 to 2005.

In the wake of the devastating 2009 fires, and having lost his family home, Graeme took a role in the Marysville and Triangle Development Group to help drive the community recovery, and he always remained a steadfast advocate for his beloved Marysville and surrounds. Our thoughts are with Graeme's family, friends and neighbours at this difficult time.

Vale Graeme Brown

Since last we met, I have completed the Australian AgroForestry Foundation Master TreeGrower Course. The program is an 8-day, field based course, and this 2022 iteration was supported by Murrindindi Shire Council, Upper Goulburn Landcare Network, Murrindindi Climate Network, and the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority. I met a range of landholders, foresters, local and neighbouring council officers, and farmers from our region, none of whom can look at a tree or sawn timber in the same way again. Completion of the course has helped me to improve my forest literacy and numeracy as Council ponders the use of available land as a commercial timber project and/or carbon sequestration investment in pursuit of net carbon neutrality by 2035.

I extend my sincere thanks to Drs Rita Seethaler and Tony Richardson and friends, who generously hosted the program, and to the MSC Environment Officer whose expertise was valuable to all in attendance.

In Alexandra and Acheron, the local Fire Brigade AGMs have been conducted, and each were well attended by CFA and community members. In Alexandra, the efforts of the outgoing captain Jay Williams were recognised as Chris Lynch took on the Captain role. Just as the contributions of Alan Harding were celebrated as he looks to support the incoming Acheron Brigade Captain, Adam Kamenek.

To portfolio and external committee matters

Council's Library Service has commenced Community Engagement for the forthcoming Library Strategy and Action Plan. The team has already welcomed 158 survey responses to date, such is the community passion for our libraries, and the five years strategy aims to deliver community needs. Submissions for the strategy close this Friday at noon.

Council continues to seek applicants aged 12-25 for the free 2022 Youth Leadership Program. For setting goals, building confidence, and making a difference, this is a marquee project for Council's Youth Services Team, delivered with funding from the Victorian Government's Engage! initiative.

Technology has been embraced by Council's Engagement team to enhance the community's experience with Council:

- Firstly, Council's customer call centre phone system has been migrated to a cloud phone management service. The move further enables Customer First principles while allowing flexibility for team members to work away from the office when necessary.
- A video campaign is under development to promote the range of services that Council offers to people of all ages, including Library programs, Youth services, Family Day Care, Playgroup, and Maternal and Child Health. The campaign will be rolled out on social media in June/July.
- Finally, the SmartForms Project is well under way. Five new smart forms are almost ready to go live, delivering a simplified means for community members to submit requests to Council and providing efficiencies for Council officers in processing those requests. A further eighteen smart forms under development.

Regarding Council's submission in response to the Victorian Government's proposal to significantly alter the Route 684 bus service from Eildon/Alexandra to Southern Cross Station, I can report that the Minister for Public Transport, The Hon. Ben Carroll is unable to meet Council, but has directed the Department of Transport to respond to the concerns raised.

Last week we had the opportunity to acknowledge the volunteers amongst us who provide us with our unique Murrindindi experience of community. Council's The Loop site offers us a platform to express our gratitude. There are too many powerful volunteering stories to recount but I will acknowledge the opportunity afforded by the Alexandra Community Wood Auction to close out Volunteer's Week. Volunteers from all manner of groups prepare a trailer load of timber for auction and all proceeds go to their associations. I hope that the volunteer event coordinated by the auction team at Embling Rural can continue to thrive with Council's support for years to come.

Finally

From the issuing of writ on 11 April until federal election day on 21 May, Council exhausted every available opportunity to engage with candidates to progress its advocacy agenda for the Murrindindi Shire community. I sincerely congratulate independent candidate, Dr. Helen Haines on her resounding electoral success and I look forward to the implementation of her valuable

reforms, along with necessary infrastructure and regional health fund investment for the benefit of constituents at the Southern end of the Indi electorate.

8.8 Cr Sue Carpenter - Mayoral Report

Nil to report.

8.9 Chief Executive Officer Report

RCTP

I am pleased to advise that on Monday this week the Victorian Minister for Local Government, Shaun Leane, has announced that \$1 million in grant funding under the Rural Councils Transformation Program was awarded to Mansfield Shire Council, Benalla Rural City Council, Murrindindi Shire Council and Strathbogie Shire Council - \$250k each council.

Under this program a total of \$7m was allocated to boost access to technology upgrades across 25 rural councils.

We welcome this funding - like many rural councils, we face difficulties investing in replacing ageing IT infrastructure and systems that prevent us from meeting the service standards we would like to deliver.

We have been collaborating with the other 3 councils in our region on planning to improve our technology for records management, financial management, customer service and property and rating.

Lake Eildon Activation

Earlier this month I had the opportunity to present to the Goulburn Regional Partnership Meeting and advocate to senior State Government representatives to consider grant funding for key projects under the Lake Eildon Activation Master Plan, which is one of the key priorities for the Regional Partnership.

On a separate occasion, I also participated in a workshop to identify the short-term priorities for activating Lake Eildon, as part of the implementation of the Master Plan. The workshop was attended by representatives from the Taungurung Land and Water Council, Mansfield Shire, Goulburn Murray Water, Goulburn Valley Water, Parks Victoria, and the state departments of Regional Development and Tourism Events and Visitor Economy. It was a very productive session which included a site visit to the Lake Eildon precinct to visually inspect the area, gain an understanding of the geography and opportunities.

IDAHOBIT

Council is proud to acknowledge and celebrate International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, Interphobia and Transphobia (IDAHOBIT) to express our support for our LGBTQIA+ community and the hope that every local and visitor to Murrindindi Shire feels welcome and included. This year IDAHOBIT was held on 13 May, day of celebration and a great way for us to help raise awareness for the work still needed to combat discrimination.

9 ASSEMBLIES OF COUNCILLORS

Executive Summary

This report presents the records of assemblies of Councillors for 27 April 2022 to 18 May 2022, for Council to note.

The following summary details are for 27 April 2022 to 18 May 2022:

Meeting Name/Type		Council Pre-Meet		
Meeting Date:		27 April 2022		
Matters Discussed:		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Planning Application – 969 Goulburn Valley Highway Thornton – Tanglewood Music Festival 5 Year Permit 2. Planning Application – Amendment to Application 2020/103 – 3 Back Eildon Road, Thornton 3. Contract 21/32 – Yea Caravan Park – Bridge Renewal – Stage 2 – Construction – 2021/2022 4. Contract 21/33 – Alexandra Youth Precinct – Tender Award 5. Blue Gums to Eildon Recreational Trail 6. Capital Works Report – Quarterly Report – March 2022 7. Grants and Contributions Program – March Allocations 8. Borrowings Policy 9. Finance Quarterly Report March 2022 10. Council Plan 2021-2025 Quarterly Performance Report – 1 January to 31 March 2022 		
Councillor Attendees:		Cr S Carpenter, Cr D Gallagher, Cr I Gerencser, Cr K Haslam, Cr E Lording, Cr S McAulay, Cr J Walsh		
Council Officer Attendees:		L Bonazzi, M Chesworth, S Brown, V Albicini, T Carter, N Stewart		
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 J Walsh	No	Yes	Before
7	Cr S Carpenter	No	Yes	Before

Meeting Name/Type		Briefing Session		
Meeting Date:		4 May 2022		
Matters Discussed:		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Community Planning Future Directions 2. External Guest Elizabeth Fisher, Nationals Candidate - Indi Federal Election (In Person Attendance) 3. Library Strategy and Murrindindi Library Service Update 4. Kerbside Services Procurement Consultation Round 1 5. Charcoal Barbeques and Safety 6. Enterprise Risk Management Policy and Appetite Statement 		
Councillor Attendees:		Cr S Carpenter, Cr D Gallagher, Cr I Gerencser, Cr K Haslam, Cr E Lording, Cr S McAulay, Cr J Walsh		
Council Officer Attendees:		L Bonazzi, M Chesworth, S Brown, V Albicini, T Carter, S Coller, A Paix, J Rabel, C Ramsden, L Harrison, J Russell, C Price		
Conflict of Interest Disclosures: Nil				

Meeting Name/Type	Briefing Session
Meeting Date:	11 May 2022
Matters Discussed:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. External Guest - Ross Lyman, Liberal Candidate - Indi Federal Election (Virtual) 2. Flat Lead Road Farm Forestry Briefing - External Presenter Clinton Tepper (Virtual) 3. Youth Services - How Work Works – External Guest Trent McCarthy CRLLEN 4. Planning Application: 1059 Maroondah Highway, Narbethong 5. Planning Application: 12 - 14 Craigie Street, Yea
Councillor Attendees:	Cr S Carpenter, Cr D Gallagher, Cr I Gerencser, Cr J Walsh
Council Officer Attendees:	L Bonazzi, M Chesworth, S Brown, V Albicini, N Stewart, C Fraser, C Gartland, S Collier, N Carter, L Harrison
Conflict of Interest Disclosures: Nil	

Meeting Name/Type	Briefing Session			
Meeting Date:	18 May 2022			
Matters Discussed:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Climate Change Action Plan – Progress Report and Timelines 2. 10-Year Asset Plan Workshop 3. Capital Works Monthly Report 4. Planning – Fun facts about planning #1 5. Development Services – Planning Report May 2022 6. Grants and Contributions Program – May Allocations 			
Councillor Attendees:	Cr S Carpenter (V), Cr D Gallagher, Cr K Haslam, Cr E Lording (V), Cr S McAulay, Cr J Walsh			
Council Officer Attendees:	L Bonazzi, M Chesworth, S Brown, V Albicini, T Carter, N Stewart, C Fraser, L Harrison, Z Blakeney, S Russell, L Kelly, B Scott			
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?
6	Cr S McAulay	No	Yes	Before

RESOLUTION

Cr S McAulay / Cr E Lording
That Council receive and note the records of assembly of Councillors for 25 April 2022 to 20 May 2022, noting Cr K Haslam as an apology for the 11 May 2022 Briefing.

CARRIED

10 SEALING REGISTER**RESOLUTION**

Cr I Gerencser / Cr J Walsh
That the list of items to which the Council seal has been affixed be noted.

CARRIED

The meeting was closed at 8:17pm.

CONFIRMED THIS**CHAIRPERSON****Cr D Gallagher**