



MINUTES  
of the  
SCHEDULED MEETING OF COUNCIL  
WEDNESDAY 25 NOVEMBER 2020  
at  
Murrindindi Shire Council  
Zoom  
Virtual Meeting  
Videoconference  
6:00 PM

This Scheduled Meeting of Council was conducted virtually  
(as per *COVID-19 Omnibus (Emergency Measures) Act 2020*,  
passed by Victorian Parliament on 23 April 2020)

Audio recordings of all Council meetings are taken by Council's Governance Officers  
and published on Council's website (Resolution of Council 23 January 2019)

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## 1 PLEDGE AND RECONCILIATION STATEMENT

The meeting was opened with the Mayor declaring the following Pledge on behalf of all Councillors:

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

We would like to acknowledge the Taungurung traditional owners and their ancestors as the traditional owners of the lands on which we are meeting virtually, and pay our respect to their Elders past and present.”

## 2 APOLOGIES AND REQUEST FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

There were no apologies or requests for leave of absence tendered.

### **Present:**

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

### **In attendance:**

Acting Chief Executive Officer: Michael Chesworth  
Acting Director Corporate and Shared Services: Marilyn Kearney  
Director Community Engagement: Shivaun Brown  
Director Assets and Development: Vito Albicini  
Manager Governance and Risk: Tara Carter

## 3 COMMUNITY RECOGNITION

Nil.

## 4 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST OR CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Nil.

## 5 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

5.1 Minutes of the Scheduled Meeting of Council held on 21 October 2020.

### **Officer Recommendation**

That Council confirm the minutes of the 21 October 2020 Scheduled Meeting of Council.

### **RESOLUTION**

**Cr E Lording / Cr I Gerencser**

**That Council confirm the minutes of the 21 October 2020 Scheduled Meeting of Council.**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

## 6 PETITIONS

Nil.

## 7 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

### 7.1 Open Forum

Michael Chesworth, Acting Chief Executive Officer read a submission on behalf of Mr Jack Russell.

### 7.2 Questions of Council

The following Questions of Council were submitted by Mr Jack Russell:

**1. With regard to my formal Freedom of Information application dated 10/7/20- why did Council fail to acknowledge receipt nor to process within the 30 day statutory time line and why do Council employ such recalcitrant and incompetents?**

**2. Why is it that Council failed to answer my formal complaint as notice dated and stamped by Council at Yea of 23/7/20 and likewise of 9/9/20 as the follow up?**

Council's response to both Questions of Council - Council has previously advised Mr Russell that should his correspondence received by Council contain abusive or objectionable content or does not constitute a reasonable request for service then Council will not respond.

## 8 OUR PLACE

### 8.1 New Municipal Emergency Management Plans

Attachment(s):

1. MEMPC Draft Terms of Reference 2020 2023 [8.1.1 - 13 pages]

#### **Purpose**

This report summarises the new requirements for Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committees (MEMPCs) under the new *Emergency Management Legislation Amendment Act 2018* and the *Emergency Management Act 2013* including the requirement to create new MEMPCs and that the MEMPC will no longer be a committee of Council.

#### **Officer Recommendation**

That Council:

1. authorises the disestablishment of the existing Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee (MEMPC) established under s21(3)-(5) of the *Emergency Management Act 1986*, in recognition that on 1 December these provisions are repealed by s82(2) of the *Emergency Management Legislation Amendment Act 2018* and replaced by the provisions of s68 of the *Emergency Management Legislation Amendment Act 2018*;
2. authorises the CEO to facilitate the establishment of the MEMPC in accordance with the provisions of s68 of the *Emergency Management Legislation Amendment Act 2018* (which inserts a new 'Part 6 - Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committees' into the *Emergency Management Act 2013* on 1 December 2020)

3. notes that, under the MEMPC Terms of Reference provided and the *Emergency Management Legislation Amendment Act 2018* (which inserts s59 and 59F into the *Emergency Management Act 2013* on 1 December 2020), Council's role is to establish the committee; and
4. further notes that once established, the committee exists separately to Council and is not a committee of Council.

### **Background**

From 2020, State, Regional and Council requirements will change under the implementation of the *Emergency Management Legislation Amendment (EMLA) Act 2018*. The planning reforms in the Bill are to be implemented in three separate phases – State, Regional and Municipal. This is to facilitate a smooth and orderly transition to the new arrangements. Phased implementation also promotes an integrated approach to planning between the three planning levels.

In particular, the Act provides that the State level emergency management planning arrangements would take effect first. During this phase, the Emergency Management Commissioner released a new State Emergency Management Plan which details the new arrangements.

A new Regional Emergency Management Planning Committee (REMP) has been established for each region. It is responsible for preparing a regional emergency management plan which is under development. After the new regional emergency management plans are in place, the municipal level arrangements can take effect.

A new Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee (MEMPC) will be established in each municipal district, which will be responsible for municipal level emergency management planning.

Under the EMLA Act, Councils are responsible for setting up the new MEMPCs and chairing them. The act states that the Council's CEO is responsible for either chairing or delegating the Chair role to a Council officer. At Murrumbidgee Shire Council, the CEO will chair the new MEMPC. Previous MEMPCs were chaired by a Councillor, which is no longer allowed under the new arrangements.

Each MEMPC is a multi-agency collaboration group whose members bring organisation, industry or personal expertise to the task of developing a comprehensive emergency management plan for the municipality.

The role of the MEMPC is to prepare the Municipal Emergency Management Plan (MEMP). The MEMP covers arrangements for mitigation, response and recovery, and specifies the roles and responsibilities of agencies in relation to emergency management.

### **Discussion**

From 1 December 2020, the legislation shifts responsibility for municipal emergency management planning from the council to the reformed, multi-agency MEMPC - the peak emergency management planning body in any municipal district. This shift of responsibility highlights the intent of the reform which supports emergency management planning as an integrated, multi-agency and collaborative effort.

On 1 December, section 82 of EMLA Act will repeal the legislative backing for the existing MEMPCs in s21 (3)-(4) of the EM Act 1986, and inserts sections 59 and 59F into the *Emergency Management Act 2013* under which the council is required to establish a new MEMPC with more specific membership and functions.

The EMLA Act sets out a legislated core membership for MEMPCs. The first meeting of the MEMPC can only include:

- Municipal Council
- Victoria Police
- Country Fire Authority (if in your municipal district)
- Fire Rescue Victoria (if in your municipal district)
- Ambulance Victoria
- Victoria State Emergency Service
- Australian Red Cross
- Department of Health and Human Services.

It is proposed that this initial MEMPC will be known as the “MEMPC executive”. The executive will meet on December 3 to determine the broader makeup of the “full MEMPC”. As per the attached MEMPC Terms of Reference (Attachment 8.1.1.) membership of the full MEMPC is decided by the MEMPC itself.

The EMLA Act requires a MEMPC to invite at least one additional member for each of the following three categories:

- at least one community representative
- at least one recovery representative
- at least one other representative (such as an industry, business or additional agency).

### **The Plan**

Under the reform it is the multi-agency MEMPC, not solely the municipal council that must prepare and maintain a Municipal Emergency Management Plan (MEMP). Additionally, the responsibility to approve the MEMP now sits with the Hume Regional Emergency Management Planning Committee (REMPC), not Council as was previously required.

The reform brings consistency to state, regional and municipal plans. The MEMP must be consistent with its relevant Regional Emergency Management Plan (REMP) and the *State Emergency Management Plan* (SEMP). In doing so, the MEMP will provide specific information tailored to Murrindindi Shire Council’s context and risk, without replicating state or regional plans.

The Emergency Management Manual Victoria (EMMV) previously guided the preparation of all MEMPs; however, the EMMV is to be discontinued from 1 December 2020. Guidance on the development of MEMPs is instead provided through the *Guidelines for Preparing State, Regional and Municipal Emergency Management Plans* (published on the EMV website on 1 December 2020) and complemented by optional advisory material on EMVs Emergency Management Planning Resource Library.

The new MEMP must be prepared in alignment with the following documents, all of which are available via the Emergency Management Planning Resource Library:

- Guidelines for Preparing State, Regional and Municipal Emergency Management Plans
- State Emergency Management Plan
- Hume Regional Emergency Management Plan
- MEMP assurance checklist.

Murrindindi’s MEMP was recently audited by the SES under the repealed *Emergency Management Act 1986*. Murrindindi’s MEMP needs to meet the new requirements under the

EMLA Act and EM Act by the time of the next audit in October 2023. Until that time, the recently audited plan will be the MEMP for the Murrindindi Shire.

### **Council Plan/Strategies/Policies**

This report supports the *Council Plan 2017-2021 Our Place* strategy to “enhance community safety, resilience and liveability through improved planning, community engagement, and a fair and transparent approach to compliance”.

### **Relevant Legislation**

This report refers to the *Emergency Management Act 1986* and *2013* and the *Emergency Management Legislation Amendment Act 2018*.

### **Financial Implications and Risk**

There are no financial implications relating to this matter.

### **Conflict of Interest**

There are no declared conflicts of interest by Council officers in relation to this report.

### **Community and Stakeholder Consultation**

Community consultation is not required as Council has a legislative requirement to establish the new MEMPC for the municipality.

## **RESOLUTION**

**Cr I Gerencser / Cr K Haslam**

**That Council:**

- 1. authorises the disestablishment of the existing Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee (MEMPC) established under s21(3)-(5) of the *Emergency Management Act 1986*, in recognition that on 1 December these provisions are repealed by s82(2) of the *Emergency Management Legislation Amendment Act 2018* and replaced by the provisions of s68 of the *Emergency Management Legislation Amendment Act 2018*;**
- 2. authorises the CEO to facilitate the establishment of the MEMPC in accordance with the provisions of s68 of the *Emergency Management Legislation Amendment Act 2018* (which inserts a new ‘Part 6 - Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committees’ into the *Emergency Management Act 2013* on 1 December 2020)**
- 3. notes that, under the MEMPC Terms of Reference provided and the *Emergency Management Legislation Amendment Act 2018* (which inserts s59 and 59F into the *Emergency Management Act 2013* on 1 December 2020), Council’s role is to establish the committee; and**
- 4. further notes that once established, the committee exists separately to Council and is not a committee of Council.**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**9 OUR PEOPLE**

**10 OUR PROSPERITY**

**10.1 Grants and Contributions Program**

Attachment(s):

- 1. CONFIDENTIAL - November Assessment Meeting Report (distributed to Councillors separately) [10.1.1 - 18 pages]**



## Purpose

The purpose of this report is to inform Council of the allocations made from the 2020/21 Grants and Contributions Program since the September Ordinary Meeting of Council.

## Officer Recommendation

That Council note the grants and contributions approved by Council officers under delegation:

Application	Reference	Funding Sought	Outcome
<b>Community Projects and Events</b>			
Flowerdale Community House - Community Christmas Lunch	CPE-20/21-014	\$1,000	\$1,000 approved
Antiquate - Capturing the journey of an artistic collaboration.	CPE-20/21-017	\$5,000	\$3,500 approved
Embassy of Ideas - Provide sturdy outdoor shade to make resilient community space thrive in the new Covid normal	CPE-20/21-018	\$3,000	\$3,000 approved
Alexandra and District Traders and Tourism Association Incorporated Alexandra Christmas Carols	CPE-20/21-020	\$5,000	\$2,500 approved
Rotary Club of Kinglake and Community Partners - Christmas on the Kinglake Ranges	CPE-20/21-021	\$2,500	\$3,000 approved
<b>Business Growth and Establishment</b>			
I & M Simpson & Son Pty Ltd - Providing 24hr Fuel to Eildon	BGE-20/21-016	\$20,000	\$12,000 approved
Beaufort Manor Receptions - Outdoor Expansion for dining and seating	BGE-20/21-017	\$3,960	\$1,730 approved
Yarra Valley Yurts Pty Ltd - Glamping & Events Ablution Block	BGE-20/21-019	\$20,000	\$15,000 approved
<b>Governance, Skills &amp; Capacity Building</b>			
Brendan Blanchard Wildlife Artist - Art Business Mentoring	GSCB-20/21-006	\$1,400	\$1,400 approved
On Point Brewing Co Pty Ltd - Produce a professional business plan that supports obtaining of required Liquor licenses	GSCB-20/21-007	\$2,000	\$2,000 approved
<b>Fee Reduction</b>			
Alexandra Amateur Swimming and Lifesaving Club Inc. - Fee reduction associated with the 2020/21 swimming season run by Alexandra Swim Club	FR-20/21-006	\$2,000	\$2,000 approved

## Background

The Grants and Contributions Program provides the opportunity for community groups, not for profit organisations, and businesses to seek funding from Council to support a range of activities and initiatives happening in Murrindindi Shire. There are a range of funding streams under the program including:

- fee reductions (and waivers by exception)
- quick response grants
- sponsorships (including eligible individuals)
- governance and capacity building
- community projects and events
- small and new tourism events
- events of state significance
- business growth or establishment
- industry or economy growth.

Each stream has its own objectives and eligibility criteria.

Assessment occurs monthly to meet or exceed the timeframes described in the Grants and Contributions Policy.

**Discussion****Community Projects and Events (CPE)****1. Flowerdale Community House – Community Christmas Lunch**

This project will deliver a Community Christmas lunch for the Flowerdale, Strath Creek, Kinglake West and surrounding areas. It will include a 2-course traditional Christmas feast for up to 40 people. Due to likely ongoing COVID19 restrictions a marquee will be purchased to provide outdoor dining options for community lunches and events into the future.

Supported with a grant of \$1,000.

**2. Antiquate - Capturing the journey of an artistic collaboration.**

This project will deliver a collaborative effort of learning, sharing and experimenting, and building up of resilience, particularly for artists who have been impacted by COVID-19 and community members who have found this year difficult. The project will focus on redeveloping skills, showcasing the findings and allowing participation within restrictions by transferring the experience online. From start to finish this project will be documented through a short film series 'Making Captured', to display what thinking out of the box looks like in these times.

Supported with a grant of \$3,500.

**3. Embassy of Ideas - Provide sturdy outdoor shade to make resilient community space thrive in the new Covid normal**

The project will purchase outdoor umbrellas and marquees to allow the Embassy of Ideas to continue to operate by hosting community events outdoors during the Covid Pandemic. There is a need to adapt to the current mandatory restrictions which place a preference on outdoor gatherings where possible.

Supported with grant of \$3,000

**4. Alexandra and District Traders and Tourism Association Incorporated - Alexandra Christmas Carols**

The grant will support the delivery of this year's Christmas Carols to be held in Rotary Park on behalf of, and for the enjoyment of the local community. The application will allow for the live-streaming of the event, to support participation in a COVID-safe environment. This involves entertainment by local artists, community groups, and others.

Supported with grant of \$2,500

**5. Rotary Club of Kinglake and Community Partners - Christmas on the Kinglake Ranges**

This year has been very hard on our community. We want to engender a sense of pride and inclusiveness for older residents and welcome our new community members. The aim is to include all local artists and craftspeople wishing to be involved, Men's Shed, Kinglake Ranges Arts, Kinglake Neighbourhood House, primary school children. Upcycling and recycling older decorations will be promoted through local Facebook. Rotary has the ability to organise and co-ordinate several sub committees each responsible for one aspect of this project and bring it to a bright, eventful and successful conclusion for Christmas and New Year.

Supported with grant of \$3,000

**Business, Growth and Establishment (BG&E)****1. I & M Simpson & Son Pty Ltd – Providing 24hr Fuel to Eildon**

The project will deliver a 24hr card machine (OPT) to better service the Eildon community and meet the growing fuel demands of the boating and tourism sectors. 24hr access to fuel will extend trading time in town allowing tourists to spend more time in the region and assist locals in their daily travel and business operations.

Existing diesel storage and fuel pumps will be replaced, creating efficiencies and increasing capacity. This means fewer deliveries, creating a safer workplace and reducing site interruptions. New pumps will also allow more vehicles and larger boats to fuel at once, which will reduce road congestion.

Supported with a grant of \$12,000.

2. Beaufort Manor Receptions – Outdoor Expansion for Dining and Seating

Beaufort Manor is expanding its outdoor hosting ability and options in line with the current Covid-19 restrictions and thereby ensure the safety and wellbeing of all attendees. Outdoor dining and seating options in the front garden of the property will be made available and chairs, tables, portable (hot and cold) drink stations set up before each event. The project will also deliver shelter from the elements, with portable heaters and marquees.

Supported with a grant of \$1,730

3. Yarra Valley Yurts Pty Ltd – Glamping & Events Ablution Block

The grant will deliver the ablution block construction and will provide toilet and shower amenities to all guests on the property using the events space and/or the Yurt accommodation. In addition, this also serves as a bushfire shelter in place for emergencies which the property currently does not have.

Supported with a grant of \$15,000

Governance, Skills & Capacity Building (GSCB)

1. Brendan Blanchard Wildlife Artist - Art Business Mentoring

The funding will support the applicant to access specialised art business mentoring to improve business skills. This will enable a viable and sustainable arts business that will make a positive contribution to the local community. COVID-19 has had an impact upon the business and this project will assist to grow a sustainable and resilient business model by:

1. ability to more clearly identify and reach the target market
2. identify new opportunities/avenues to diversify the business
3. develop a clear "roadmap" to more consistent sales

Supported with a grant of \$1,400.

2. On Point Brewing Co Pty Ltd - Produce a professional business plan that supports obtaining of required Liquor licenses

This project will deliver a complete business plan and identify all required licences to allow the business to develop an operational framework and strategies it can operate through. The delivery of the business plan will give direction to the establishment of a sustainable business, with clear targets, guidelines and strategies to support decision making.

Supported with a grant of \$2,000

Fee Reduction (FR)

1. Alexandra Amateur Swimming and Lifesaving Club Inc. - Fee reduction associated with the 2020/21 swimming season run by Alexandra Swim Club

This funding will provide a fee reduction on pool hire fees associated with the 2020/2021 swim program. Due to the current COVID restrictions the Club has had to innovate and adapt its usual swim season program. As a result, numbers of participants will be reduced and lessons will be conducted outside regular pool opening times to minimise numbers. Operational costs will increase while the participants will decrease and this funding will allow the Club to deliver its program without negative impact on its financial position.

Supported with a grant of \$2,000.

Full details of all applications are provided in the monthly report summary (supplied to Councillors separately).

### **Council Plan/Strategies/Policies**

This report supports the *Council Plan 2017-2021 Our Prosperity* strategic objective to “in partnership with the community we will promote an environment in which business and community can thrive”.

### **Relevant Legislation**

Nil.

### **Financial Implications and Risk**

The below financial table details grant funds allocated to date:

<b>Grant Stream</b>	<b>October allocations</b>	<b>Previous allocations</b>	<b>Total 20/21</b>
Fee Reductions	\$2,000	\$8,985.52	\$10,985.52
Governance, skills and capacity building	\$3,400	\$2,750	\$6,150
Quick response	\$0	\$0	\$0
Community sponsorship, projects and events	\$13,000	\$33,901	\$46,901
Small and new tourism events	\$0	\$12,000	\$12,000
Business growth or establishment	\$28,730.00	\$50,000	\$78,730
Industry or economic growth	\$0	\$0	\$0.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$47,130.00</b>	<b>\$107,636.52</b>	<b>\$154,766.52</b>

The indicative total budget of the Grants and Contributions Program for the 20/21 financial year is \$251,000.

In addition to this, at a resolution at the Special Council Meeting held on 6 May 2020, Council noted that the draft Budget included \$500k for COVID-19 relief and recovery to be funded from the remaining 2009 bushfire government assistance funds (provided by the State Government and held in reserve). In consultation with Councillors, officers have supplemented the 2020/21 Grants and Contributions Program with an initial \$100,000 from this allocation.

### **Conflict of Interest**

A conflict of interest was declared by a Council officer in relation to this report. The officer was not involved in any aspect of the assessment of the particular grant application.

### **Community and Stakeholder Consultation**

No external community or stakeholder consultation was required for this matter.

### **RESOLUTION**

**Cr J Walsh / Cr D Gallagher**

**That Council note the grants and contributions approved by Council officers under delegation:**

<b>Application</b>	<b>Reference</b>	<b>Funding Sought</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
<b>Community Projects and Events</b>			
Flowerdale Community House - Community Christmas Lunch	CPE-20/21-014	\$1,000	\$1,000 approved
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**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

## 11 OUR PROMISE

### 11.1 Councillor Allowances

Attachment(s): Nil

#### **Purpose**

The purpose of this report is for Council to review and confirm the Mayoral and Councillor Allowance level in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1989*.

#### **Officer Recommendation**

That Council:

1. Endorse the Mayoral allowance of \$62,884 per annum
2. Endorse the Councillor allowance of \$21,049 per annum
3. Note the additional payment of an amount equivalent to the superannuation guarantee (9.5%) for the Mayor and Councillors.

#### **Background**

Mayors and councillors are entitled to receive an allowance while performing their duty as an elected official. Under the *Local Government Act 1989* the Victorian Government sets the lower and upper limits for allowances and councils must determine the allowance level within these limits.

The Local Government Act 2020 provides for allowances to be set by the Victorian Independent Remuneration Tribunal. In the absence of this Tribunal (not yet established) the *Local Government Act 1989* provisions remain.

**Discussion**

Councils are grouped into 3 categories under the State Government allowance limit system, based on population and income. Murrindindi Shire Council is a category 1 Council which has an allocated range of between \$8,833-\$21,049 per annum for Councillors and the Mayoral allowance can be up to \$62,884 per annum.

Under the *Local Government Act 1989*, councils are required to review allowance levels by 30 June in the year following a general election and the allowance level determined remains in effect for the full term of the Council. The Minister for Local Government must review annually the current amounts, limits and ranges to determine whether an 'adjustment factor' should be applied. The Minister has advised there will be no adjustment for the 2020/21 year.

The recommendation for the Mayoral and Councillor allowances to be set at the upper limit of the range is consistent with all previous Murrindindi Shire Council resolutions and will apply for the remainder of the Council term, or until the Victorian Independent Remuneration Tribunal sets an alternative allowance rate.

**Council Plan/Strategies/Policies**

This report supports the *Council Plan 2017-2021 Our Promise* strategies to "represent and advocate for our community in a transparent and equitable way" and to "maintain Council's financial sustainability through sound financial and asset management".

**Relevant Legislation**

The power to determine the allowance rates remains legislated by the *Local Government Act 1989* until such time as the Victorian Independent Remuneration Tribunal is established in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020*.

**Financial Implications and Risk**

Due to the Minister advising there will not be an adjustment to the rate in the 2020/21 year the allowance rates remain the same as they have been since the last review. Therefore, there is no additional financial impact in setting the allowance rates at the upper limit.

**Conflict of Interest**

There are no declared conflicts of interest by Council officers in relation to this report.

**Community and Stakeholder Consultation**

No external community or stakeholder consultation is required for this matter.

**RESOLUTION**

**Cr K Haslam / Cr E Lording**

**That Council:**

- 1. Endorse the Mayoral allowance of \$62,884 per annum**
- 2. Endorse the Councillor allowance of \$21,049 per annum**
- 3. Note the additional payment of an amount equivalent to the superannuation guarantee (9.5%) for the Mayor and Councillors.**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**12 NOTICES OF MOTIONS**

Nil.

**13 MATTERS DEFERRED FROM PREVIOUS MEETING**

Nil.

**14 URGENT BUSINESS**

Nil.

**15 COUNCILLOR REPORTS****15.1 Cr Damien Gallagher**

I begin by congratulating Cr. McAulay, elected Mayor of the Murrindindi Shire Council and Cr. Carpenter, elected Deputy Mayor this week. The blend of experience and energetic new representation to the top offices is precisely the representation the community requires as the new Council progresses the duties of appointing the new Chief Executive for the Murrindindi Shire and as the Murrindindi Shire organisation continues to execute the comprehensive COVID-19 Community and Business Recovery Plans.

Reiterating some earlier shared sentiments, and on a more personal note, it is my distinct honour to be endorsed by the people of Red Gate as their representative in the new Murrindindi Shire Council. I look forward to repaying their investment of faith in me.

I extend my thanks to the members of the previous Council for their service, and in particular to my Red Gate predecessor, Margaret Rae who served two council terms with distinction, largely as Mayor or Deputy Mayor, and always as a valued mentor and authentic and diligent advocate.

Congratulations too to all fellow Councillors on their election, on their respective internal committee appointments, and on their respective appointments to Committees of Management and representative forums. I truly look forward to our shared experience.

In preparation for all that lay ahead, the community may have every confidence that a thoughtfully planned and skilfully executed Councillor Induction Program is well under way. Led by our Acting Chief Executive Officer, the series of presentations, briefings, training, and facilitated sessions is equipping the new council for the challenges and the duties before us.

My observation is that the Councillors, administrative leadership, and Council Officers are united in progressing positive social, economic, and environmental outcomes as we contemplate the task of establishing a Council Vision and Council Plan.

All sectors of the community have encountered unique, but specific challenges in recent times. I know that community groups are feverishly working to reconnect people by resumption of group activities and continuation of attractions and events. For example:

- Members of the Alexandra RSL Sub Branch were relieved to meet in person on Remembrance Day to pause and reflect. Services across the Murrindindi shire were well attended
- I will be attending the Alexandra Race Club AGM this weekend and I hope to report back on a modified calendar of events
- Stay tuned to social media pages as re-imagining of the 2021 Alexandra Pro Rodeo event progresses
- The Alexandra Bee Collective was recently established for budding apiarists after a power of work by Liz Baker, Sasha Barrow, and Caleb Feasby.

I congratulate the recipients of community grant funding noted by Council this evening and acknowledge the fine projects of local organisations which will progress including:

- Support for the live streaming of the Alexandra and District Traders and Tourism Association sponsored annual Carols by Candlelight event in Rotary Park, Alexandra;

- The I&M Simpson and Son innovation to deliver 24hour fuel to the Eildon community and to seasonal visitors; and
- Sturdy outdoor shade for the Embassy of Ideas in Alexandra. That shaded area will be put to great use this summer with a full calendar of events.

If you are looking to reach out or to reconnect, please wander in to the Embassy of Ideas, below the Alexandra Skate Park. You will find a social connection. You might find a friend.

## **15.2 Cr Eric Lording**

My infrastructure report is intended to highlight the great work that the Officers of the Murrindindi shire Infrastructure Department produced during the difficult and isolating times caused by this virus and also the long Caretaker and Election period where there was no elected Council in place, also caused by the pandemic. I can only imagine the difficulties that have been overcome to deliver this very successful program.

- Pools – A large amount of maintenance and renewal works has been occurring over the winter months including concourse, tiling and fibreglass repairs, servicing and maintenance of all plant and equipment, chemical compliance works and renewal of various aquatic equipment. In addition an extra pool shade sail will be installed early December at the Yea Swimming Pool ready for the summer period. Pools season commenced on 21 November with favourable weather enabling all pools to be open.
- Yea High Street Safety Improvement works are now nearing completion with final planting and clean up works underway
- Renewal of the irrigation to the centre medium strip in High Street, Yea will commence in 2 weeks
- Renewal of the Yea Recreation Reserve oval irrigation is nearing completion with final commissioning underway
- Kerb and Channel works in Bayley Street Alexandra will be completed this week
- Design works for the replacement of the Yea Caravan Park bridge is underway
- Works have commenced on the installation of lighting at Buxton Reserve
- Design works on the Watsons Road, Pheasant Creek is nearing completion
- Design works for the Kinglake Streetscape is nearing completion. A meeting is being held with main street business owners and traders on 30 November to address feedback and any concerns.

## **15.3 Cr John Walsh**

I wish to endorse the remarks made by Cr Gallagher.

I also want to thank Cr Charlie Bisset for her work over the past 4 years as the Councillor for Koriella Ward, two years of which she was also Mayor and did a really good job.

I also want to thank and congratulate Cr Margaret Rae for her eight years of service. She has been a stalwart for the community.

Finally, the Yarck market is going to be starting up again on the third Saturday of December after a COVID-19 lull and will be doing so under the new roof of the hall. The Hall Committee are to be congratulated in raising the funds and grants and using local tradesmen to get the job done over the shutdown.



**15.4 Cr Ilona Gerenscer**

On Sunday 22nd November, Rotary Club of Kinglake Ranges held its first market since February this year. The organisation and adherence to regulations was fantastic. With an estimated attendance of 3000 visitors it proved to be an outstanding success.

Many thanks to all of the Rotarians, volunteers, stallholders and visitors for their cooperation. The positivity this has generated in these trying times is appreciated.

We as a community look forward to the Twilight Market on the 20<sup>th</sup> December in the main street of Kinglake.

**15.5 Cr Karine Haslam**

For Recycling Week 9-15 November we ran daily virtual tours of the facility where our kerbside recycling is processed, which is the Visy Banyule Recycling Centre. The program was run in conjunction with Mitchell and Strathbogie shires, meaning all sessions were well attended. From Murrindindi there were 23 people that attended the sessions. 87% reported that the session was "Excellent – we loved it!" and the most common feedback is typified by this comment and what they learned: "The complexity of the MRF was great to see!! Clarified a lot of what can and can't be recycled."

Construction of a new shed to house e-waste in a compliant and safe space has commenced at Yea RRC. The shed is fully funded by Sustainability Victoria and will be ready to use in early 2021.

A recent fire at the Marysville RRC required a multi—agency response, including numerous fire trucks from local and Melbourne brigades. The fire started in a load of green waste brought in that day, which is assumed to have included hot coals. The facility is not receiving green waste at present pending the outcome of investigations.

Also note that we are progressing the development of Murrindindi Waste Strategy. The Strategy is being developed to align with State Governments new Circular Economy Policy on waste and a draft is expected to be completed by early next year.

I would also like to reiterate both Cr Gallagher and Cr Gerenscer's comment's and like to thank the prior Council and Councillors for their efforts during the last term and congratulate Mayor McAulay and Deputy Mayor Carpenter on their election.

**15.6 Cr Sue Carpenter**

I wish to heartily endorse Cr Gallagher's sentiments, he spoke very well. I wish to also thank the previous Councillors for all of their efforts over the last four years.

I would like to congratulate my fellow Councillors for putting up their hand to become part of a real terrific team I feel, and I really look forward to contributing to our community over the next four years.

**16 MAYORAL REPORT****16.1 Cr Sandice McAulay**

Well we have started of this term with an intensive Induction process that will certainly be of great benefit going forward in our role as Councillors. This has also allowed us to get to know each

other and the Executive team fairly well. I am looking forward to working with this very enthusiastic and committed group of people for the benefit of the Murrindindi shire.

This next year is going to be an exciting and busy year for Council.

Our immediate priority will be to continue the important support of the community, many volunteer groups and businesses affected by the pandemic. Council already has very well informed Community Recovery and Business Recovery Plans that have already been activated during this year. This Council commits to the ongoing delivery of these plans and will endeavour to be actively engaged with our community to hear from you directly how you are faring in this new COVID-19 world.

As I have only recently been elected to the position of Mayor I have had no actual engagements – however I have already received a number of invites to various activities and look forward to receiving any invites where I can meet with our valuable community. I particularly look forward to any and all Christmas functions in the coming month.

## **17 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT**

### **17.1 Acting Chief Executive Officer Report**

Since my last report to Council we have seen the further easing of the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions in Victoria. With the removal of the border between Metropolitan Melbourne and Regional Victoria we have welcomed back many of our non-shire based property owners and Melbourne visitors either visiting family and friends or wanting to experience all that Murrindindi has to offer.

This and the continuing easing of restrictions on indoor and outdoor gathering limits is seeing significant renewal in business activity particularly within the retail and hospitality sectors in the Murrindindi shire, with many reports of forward accommodation bookings well into 2021. We are also seeing the re-emergence of many community groups, sporting clubs and organisations run by volunteers that are so important for providing social connectedness and improving wellbeing within a rural community like Murrindindi shire.

As the threat from what was a very uncertain pandemic outlook has now eased across Victoria, we have been able to re-establish to 'near normal' our full customer service and library operations, including the reintroduction of our mobile library and customer service van, much to the delight of some of our more remote communities.

We have also opened all 4 swimming pools for the summer with free entry, but with COVIDSafe plans in place.

We are also nearing the end of the State Government's grant program 'Working For Victoria' which enabled us to employ nearly 50 additional staff; all who had been made unemployed by the pandemic. These temporary staff have assisted us manage our response to the pandemic including:

- Helping us manage the requirement to cleanse and sanitize our higher use public facilities
- Supporting our community safety team in promoting COVIDSafe practices in the community and supporting our book butler home delivery service
- Assisting us to access and then communicate coronavirus related information across the Murrindindi shire
- Helping us develop and implement our Community and Business recovery plans
- And working in our corporate area on key Council projects.

I personally thank them for their valuable contributions to the organisation and to the broader community over the last 6 months and wish them all the best with their future employment endeavours.

We are also phasing back on our regular coronavirus video and radio updates, preferring a communication approach based more on an 'as needed' basis from now on.

We have recently completed installation of temporary outdoor furniture and picnic circles in public spaces in many of our main towns to support outdoor dining and enable people to eat and stay longer in our townships. This is part of a State Government funding program to help activate public spaces during the pandemic recovery.

We are continuing to work behind the scenes with other local land management and emergency response agencies to ensure we continue to remain vigilant and are able to respond to any changes to the COVID-19 situation at short notice should the need arise.

Our preparation for the coming fire season is continuing with our road slashing program well underway and progressing on time, with works to commence in the Kinglake Ranges at the end of this month. We are also advised that slashing will commence next week on the State controlled highways in our shire by RRV which is good news. Fire prevention inspections of private properties in and around our townships are also well underway with fire notices being issued where necessary to encourage land owners to reduce fuel loads.

Finally, we have welcomed in our newly elected Councillors with an oath and affirmation ceremony held on 16 November and we are now well underway with the compulsory Councillor Induction program. Briefings are being held at least 3 days a week presently and whilst I acknowledge there is a lot to take in initially I am confident our Councillors are up for the challenge and are very keen to lead the municipality forward.

## 18 SEALING REGISTER

File Reference	Date Seal Affixed	Description of Documents	Signatures of Persons Sealing
SF/1214	11 November 2020	Y-Water Discovery Centre Lease between Murrindindi Shire Council and Y-Water Discovery Centre Inc	Craig Lloyd Cr Margaret Rae

### Officer Recommendation

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

### **RESOLUTION**

**Cr D Gallagher / Cr E Lording**

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

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

## 19 ASSEMBLIES OF COUNCILLORS

### Purpose

This report presents the records of assemblies of Councillors for 14 November 2020 to 20 November 2020, for Council to note in accordance with Section 80A of the *Local Government Act 1989* (the Act).

### Officer Recommendation

That Council receives and notes the record of assemblies of Councillors for 19 October 2020 to 20 November 2020.

### Background

In accordance with Section 80A of the Act, written assemblies of Councillors are to be reported at an Ordinary Meeting of Council.

An assembly of Councillors includes advisory committees, where one or more Councillors were present, along with planned or scheduled meetings involving at least half of the Councillors and a Council officer.

A Councillor who has a conflict of interest at an assembly of Councillors, must disclose the conflict of interest, and leave the meeting while the matter is being discussed.

### Discussion

A written record is required to be kept of every assembly of Councillors, including the names of all Councillors and staff at the meeting, a list of the matters considered, any conflict of interest disclosed by a Councillor, and whether a Councillor who disclosed a conflict left the meeting.

The following summary details are for 14 November to 20 November 2020:

Meeting Name/Type	Councillor Induction Session
Meeting Date:	14 November 2020
Matters Discussed:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Initial Introductions</li> <li>2. Overview of the Councillor Induction Program.</li> </ol>
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:	M Chesworth
Conflict of Interest Disclosures:	Nil.

Meeting Name/Type	Councillor Induction Session
Meeting Date:	16 November 2020
Matters Discussed:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. IT induction</li> <li>2. Introduction to Local Government</li> <li>3. Roles and Responsibilities of Council, Councillors, Mayor and CEO</li> <li>4. Election of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor</li> <li>5. Organisation Overview</li> <li>6. Council Meeting Schedule</li> <li>7. Staff interaction protocols</li> <li>8. Councillor Expenses and Support Policy and Reimbursements</li> <li>9. Oath or Affirmation of Office.</li> </ol>
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:	M Chesworth, T Carter, M Kearney, C Coller
Conflict of Interest Disclosures:	Nil.

Meeting Name/Type	Councillor Induction Session
Meeting Date:	18 November 2020
Matters Discussed:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Communications induction</li> <li>2. Strategic Context</li> <li>3. Local Government Act 2020</li> <li>4. Personal Interest Disclosures and Related Party Transactions.</li> </ol>

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:	M Chesworth, T Carter, S Brown, J Rabel
Conflict of Interest Disclosures: Nil.	

Meeting Name/Type	Councillor Induction Session
Meeting Date:	20 November 2020
Matters Discussed:	1. IT Induction 2. Grants and Contributions Program 3. Council Meeting Procedures
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:	M Chesworth, T Carter, S Brown, M Kearney, C Coller
Conflict of Interest Disclosures: Nil.	

### Council Plan/Strategies/Policies

This matter is consistent with the *Council Plan 2017-2021* Our Promise strategy to 'expand our communication'.

### Relevant Legislation

For full details of Council's requirement for assemblies of Councillors, refer to Section 80A of the *Local Government Act 1989*.

### Financial Implications and Risk

There are no financial or risk implications.

### Conflict of Interest

Any conflicts of interest are noted in the assembly of Councillors tables listed above.

### RESOLUTION

**Cr I Gerencser / Cr S Carpenter**

**That Council receives and notes the record of assemblies of Councillors for 19 October 2020 to 20 November 2020.**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

The meeting was closed at 6:41pm.

**CONFIRMED THIS**

**CHAIRPERSON**

**Cr S McAulay**

**25 November 2020**