



Scheduled Meeting of Council

Agenda

Wednesday 26 February 2025
Yea Council Chambers
15 The Semi Circle
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 website. A recording of the meeting along with the official Minutes of the meeting will also be published on our website.

2.2 Apologies and Request for Planned Leave

Nil.

2.3 Disclosure of Interest or Conflict of Interest

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

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

2.4 Confirmation of Minutes

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 11 December 2024.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council confirm the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 11 December 2024.

2.5 Petitions

Petitions received will be tabled at the Scheduled Meeting of Council.

2.6 Community Recognition

Council may suspend standing orders to thank and acknowledge particular community achievements.

Council will be paying tribute to former Councillor Ilona Gerencser for her service to our community.

2.7 Matters Deferred from Previous Meeting

Council may resolve to defer a matter to a future meeting for consideration for various reasons. Where a matter has been previously deferred it will be tabled for consideration under this section.

2.8 Urgent Business

Council may by resolution admit an item of urgent business only if:

- a. it relates to or arises out of a matter which has arisen since distribution of the Agenda; and
- b. deferring the item until the next Meeting will mean a decision on the item will not have any effect on the matter; or
- c. the item involves a matter of urgency as determined by the Chief Executive Officer; and
- d. it cannot be addressed through an operational service request process.
- e. Provided the matter does not:
 - I. substantially affect the levels of Council service
 - II. commit Council to significant expenditure not included in the adopted budget
 - III. establish or amend Council Policy.

3 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

3.1 Open Forum

Section 8 of the *Governance Rules 2020* allows for Community Participation in Council Meetings. Open Forum is an opportunity for the general public to present to Council on a matter listed on the Agenda or any other matter.

3.2 Questions of Council

Questions of Council are an opportunity for the general public to submit a question prior to the Scheduled Meeting and receive a response from Council in the Questions of Council time.

4 REPORTS - COMMUNITY & DEVELOPMENT GROUP

4.1 Grants and Sponsorships – Quarterly Allocations

Department	Community Wellbeing
Approved by	A Paxton, Director Community & Development
Presenter	Cr J Adams
Portfolio	Community Wellbeing
Purpose	For decision
Attachment(s)	Nil

Executive Summary

Council's Grants and Sponsorship program provides funding for projects that support our communities to improve the liveability of our towns and places, build connections, create opportunities for participation in community and civic life, improve personal and community health and wellbeing, protect our natural environment, and assist communities to plan for the future.

This report provides Council with details of the quarterly applications from November, December and January that were awarded through the quick release grant program under delegation and the applications for Council consideration outside officer delegation under the following program funding streams:

- Sponsorships
- Community Projects and Events.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Endorse the funding of the following Sponsorship Grants as recommended by the Grants and Sponsorship Assessment Panel:
 - a. Alexandra Community Shed - Window Block Out - \$1,500
 - b. Alexandra Football Netball Club - Anzac Spirit and Community Celebration - \$2,200
2. Endorse the funding of the following Community Project and Events Grants as recommended by the Grants and Sponsorship Assessment Panel:
 - a. Yea Bowls Club - Access and Safety Improvements Project - \$4,886
 - b. Acheron Mechanics Institute Hall Committee - Removal of trees on the Acheron Tennis Court - \$4,800
 - c. Goulburn Valley Suicide Awareness Group Inc – Suicide Awareness Walk #5 - \$3,373
3. Note the Quick Response Grants awarded under delegation by the Grants and Sponsorship Assessment Panel during the November to January period:
 - a. Koori Kids - NAIDOC Week School Initiative - \$500
 - b. Thornton Eildon District Football Club - Playing Bibs for off season community sports - \$625
 - c. Marysville Triangle Business and Tourism - Retaining governance design service to incorporate new not-for-profit members association - \$2,500
 - d. Yea Rotary Art Show - Art Show 2025 - \$2,400

- e. **Alexandra and District Traders and Tourism Association Inc - Christmas Carols - \$2,500**
- f. **Flowerdale Landcare Inc. - Yarning for Unity - \$327**
- g. **Buxton Progress Association Inc - Annual Celebration - \$500**

Background

The Grants and Sponsorship program provides the opportunity for not-for-profit community groups and organisations, social enterprises and businesses to seek funding from Council to support events, activities and projects that align with the Murrindindi Shire Council 2021-2025 Council Plan. The funding streams provided under the program are:

- Quick Response Grants
- Sponsorships
- Community Projects and Events
- Local Events
- Events of Major Significance
- Special Purpose Grants.

Each stream has its own objectives, eligibility and assessment criteria and can be found in the Program Guidelines on Council's website. The applications have been assessed against the adopted policy. Assessment occurs monthly for Quick Response Grants and four times per year for the other streams.

Discussion

The Grants and Sponsorship Assessment Panel have considered five applications. The table below details the applications, the assessment and recommendation.

<p>1a) Alexandra Community Shed – Window Block-Out Sponsorship grant: Installation of eighteen (18) internal roller blinds. Providing environmental outcomes enhancing member participation and increasing safety from outside observation. Sponsorship Grant of \$3,000 was requested with \$1,500 recommended by the panel for Council consideration.</p>
<p>1b) Alexandra Football Netball Club – Anzac Spirit and Community Celebration Sponsorship grant: Funding covers game costs, with all money collected at the gate donated to Alexandra RSL. Community event supports reflection and acknowledgment of significant date. Sponsorship Grant of \$3,000 was requested with \$1,500 recommended by the panel for Council consideration.</p>
<p>1c) Yea Bowls Club – Access and Safety Improvement Project Community Projects and Events grant: Purchase and install seven access handles to forecourt, seven concrete footing, nine grab rails to veranda posts, purchase five lounge armchairs. Project supports members with accessibility requirements and will enhance participation outcomes. Project Grant of \$4,8460 was requested and recommended by the panel for Council consideration.</p>
<p>1d) Acheron Mechanics Institute Hall Committee – Removal of three trees on the Acheron Tennis Court Community Projects and Events grant: Professional removal of three trees on the Acheron Tennis Court, to support future project to enhance the court surface. This is a non-Council Asset adjacent to the Community Hall, providing community connection in a small rural locality. Funding will be subject to the Community group receiving planning approval. Project Grant of \$4,800 was requested and recommended by the panel for Council consideration.</p>
<p>1e) Goulburn Valley Suicide Awareness Group Inc. – Suicide Awareness Walk #5 Community Projects and Events grant: In conjunction with World Suicide Prevention Day 10 September 2025. The annual Suicide Awareness Walk on 14 September, commences Yea Railway Park, with turnaround at the “Blue Tree” visible from Melba Highway. Rotary Club of Yea to provide BBQ at completion of the walk. Project Grant of \$3,373 was requested and recommended by the panel for Council consideration</p>

Council Plan/Strategies/Policies

This report supports the *Council Plan 2021-2025 Resilient Communities* strategy to “deliver, support and promote opportunities for all people to connect with each other, collaborate and plan for the future”.

This report also supports the *Council Plan 2021-2025 Growth and Opportunity* strategy “support and promote our tourism and events sector to boost the economy through increased visitation”.

Relevant Legislation

Nil.

Financial and Risk Implications

Grant Stream	Proposed Allocations February 2025	Year to Date Allocations
Quick Response Grants	\$0	\$50,405
Sponsorship Grants	\$3,700	\$12,500
Individual Sponsorship	\$0	\$1,000
Local Events Grants	\$0	\$12,000
Community Projects Grants	\$13,019	\$17,795
Events of Major Significance Grants	\$0	\$0
Special Purpose Grants	\$0	\$0
TOTAL	\$16,719	\$93,700

Conflict of Interest

There were no conflicts of interest declared by Council officers in relation to the matters contained in this report.

Community and Stakeholder Consultation

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

4.2 "Baanh ba Djila" Naming Proposal - Eildon Splash Park

Department	Community Wellbeing
Approved by	A Paxton, Director Community & Development
Presenter	Cr J Adams
Portfolio	Community Wellbeing
Purpose	For decision
Attachment(s)	Nil

Executive Summary

The Eildon Reserves redevelopment project represents a significant capital investment by Council and the State Government to enhance community infrastructure, encourage increased visitation and extend the duration of stays in Eildon. At its meeting on 11 December 2024, Council resolved to seek community feedback on the proposed name 'Baanh ba Djila' for the Eildon Splash Park as a designated 'feature' within the reserve, while retaining the existing reserve name 'Walter Moore Reserve'.

Following the public consultation period, five submissions were received. It is now timely for Council to consider the feedback and determine whether to proceed with formally proposing 'Baanh ba Djila' to Geographic Names Victoria for approval and official recognition.

Officers recommend proceeding with the name, given that there was minimal objection, with one objection appearing to misunderstand the intent, believing the reserve itself was being renamed rather than the Splash Park as a feature.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. **Acknowledge the five submissions received and request that submitters be advised of Council's decision.**
2. **Endorse the feature naming proposal of 'Banh ba Djila' for the Splash Park located within Walter Moore Reserve in Eildon, in recognition of the Taungurung language and cultural heritage.**
3. **Request that Officers submit the proposal to Geographic Names Victoria for approval and subsequent gazettal.**

Background

The Eildon Reserves redevelopment project is a significant capital investment for Council and the community. The project covers two open space parcels known locally as the Thomas Marr Reserve (skate park, swimming pool etc) and the Walter Moore Reserve (public toilets and splash park etc).

The parcel of land where the Splash Park is located is a Crown Land Reserve officially named "Walter Moore Park". Council, as the designated Committee of Management, oversees its maintenance and development.

The adjacent land containing the Visitor Information Centre, pool and skate park is Council-owned and is informally referred to as Walter Moore Reserve within the Victorian Mapping system, making the name Thomas Marr Reserve an unofficial designation.

Under the *Geographic Place Names Act 1998*, the Victorian Registrar of Geographic Names governs the official naming and registration of places. Local governments serve as "Naming Authorities", ensuring that names of roads, localities and features reflect the local community's identity, history and landscape. One of the key principles in place under the State Governments Naming Rules 2022 is the "Recognition and use of Traditional Owner Languages".

On 11 December 2024, Council resolved to seek feedback on the proposal to name the Eildon Reserves Splash Park 'Banh ba Djila', a name put forward by the Taungurung Land and Water Council (TLWC) as part of the design and construction of the Splash Park.

Consultation was undertaken for the period from 12 December 2024 to 9 February 2025.

Discussion

Feature Naming and Geographic Recognition

The Eildon Splash Park and Play Area meets the criteria for a "feature" under the Naming Rules 2022, ensuring that the overarching name of Walter Moore Park remains unchanged. However, the designated feature name will be formally recognised across all Government mapping systems and online platforms, improving accessibility and emergency response capabilities.

A location map is provided to illustrate the proposed feature location and the layers of names that appear.



Assessment Under Naming Rules 2022

Council's Naming Officer has assessed the proposal in accordance with the Naming Rules 2022. The assessment confirms that 'Baanh ba Djila' aligns with the prescribed principles and meets the required criteria. The formal submission to Geographic Names Victoria will include this assessment as supporting evidence.

Community Submissions

At the close of the consultation period on 9 February 2025, Council had received five submissions. The feedback varied, with some submitters expressing strong support for the proposal, while others raised concerns about pronunciation, recognition, and existing local naming conventions. A summary of submissions is provided below:

Submission	Summary of Feedback
Submitter 1	Opposed – Prefers no name change within the park; suggests an alternative location for the name.
Submitter 2	Supportive – Strongly endorses the use of Taungurung language and cultural recognition.

Submission	Summary of Feedback
Submitter 3	Opposed – Concerns about pronunciation and ease of recognition for tourists; prefers ‘Eildon Splash Park.’
Submitter 4	Neutral – Suggests an alternative Indigenous name, ‘Cooinda Splash Park.’
Submitter 5	Opposed – Prefers a simpler name for ease of public use, suggesting an informational plaque instead.

All submitters have been offered the opportunity to present their views in the open forum session of this Council Meeting.

Council Plan/Strategies/Policies

The proposal aligns with the following Council strategies and policies:

- *Council Plan 2021-2025 Resilient Communities* strategic objective “to ensure we are welcoming, inclusive, caring and connected”.
- *Reconciliation Action Plan 2023-2024* Respect strategic objective “Demonstrate respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples by observing cultural protocols”.
- *Naming Roads and Places Policy* Principle (d): Local Indigenous names or descriptives relevant to the immediate area and approved by the relevant registered party, shall only be used, avoiding the use of borrowed Indigenous names from other language groups

Relevant Legislation

Victorian Aboriginal and Local Government Strategy 2021-2026

Victorian Aboriginal Affairs Framework 2018-2023.

Geographic Place Names Act 1998

Naming Rules 2022 (The Victorian Registrar of Geographic Names)

Financial and Risk Implications

Minor cost allocation for appropriate signage is included in the project budget.

Conflict of Interest

There were no conflicts of interest declared by Council officers in relation to the matters contained in this report.

Community, Stakeholder and Communication Consultation

The proposed name was developed in consultation with the Taungurung Land and Waters Council and underwent a comprehensive public consultation process from 12 December 2024 to 9 February 2025. The submission process was widely advertised through print media, social media, radio and on Council’s website.

4.3 Signing of the Small Business Friendly Council charter

Department	Economic Development
Approved by	A Paxton, Director Community and Development
Presenter	Cr S McAulay
Portfolio Councillor	Economic Development
Purpose	For decision
Attachment(s)	1. Attachment 1 - Small Business Friendly Council – Charter Agreement [4.3.1 - 4 pages]

Executive Summary

This report outlines a proposal for Council to sign the Small Business Friendly Council charter.

Signing the charter is a commitment for Council to work with the Victorian Small Business Commissioner in supporting small businesses. There is minimal impact on Councils current practices, as outlined in the report.

The charter recognises the work that Council does to support small businesses in our Shire and by signing we reaffirm our commitment and enables Council to work closely with the Victorian Small Business Commissioner.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council Endorse the signing of the Small Business Friendly Council - Charter

Background







The Small Business Friendly Council initiative was launched in May 2019. The initiative was developed by the Victorian Small Business Commissioner (VSBC), to partner with local councils to provide small business owners with the support they need to do business. This program recognises the connections Local Government have within their communities and seeks to collaborate to support small business. Councils are encouraged to sign the Charter and will be supported by the VSBC

The Charter is described as a commitment between council and the Victorian Small Business Commission (VSBC) to work together to create a fair and competitive trading environment for Victorian small businesses. The program also advises business owners what to expect from their local council and the VSBC. By signing the charter, the VSBC and local councils agree to meet these commitments within 12 months.

Discussion

The Charter has six sections with requirements for both Council and VSBC. As shown in the table below, Council already has processes or practices that meet these requirements.

Table Content	
	
Currently Being Delivered	Partially Delivered

Part 1 Work with small businesses disrupted by infrastructure projects	
The VSBC will:	
a. provide councils with VSBC resources for managing the impacts of disruption	
b. provide dispute resolution services in relevant matters	
c. advocate on behalf of small businesses with authorities who undertake major works	
d. work collaboratively with council to develop practical initiatives that benefit small businesses	
Your council will:	
a. refer to the VSBC's Small business engagement guidelines when planning new works and request that external project managers do the same	
b. provide small businesses with the VSBC's Guide for small businesses on managing disruption	

Our current practices do not include the use of the VSBC's Small business engagement guidelines or provision of the Guide for small businesses on managing disruption. However, we have committed to best practice through informing impacted businesses and reducing the impact of any works on their businesses.

The inclusion of using the engagement guidelines and provision of the guide to business will be an easy change and our Project Management team who are supportive of these changes.

Part 2 Support the creation of small business networks across Victoria	
The VSBC and your council will:	
a. distribute the VSBC's Guide to building stronger networks	
b. actively engage with small business networks and identify new opportunities for development	
c. include representatives of associations in conversations concerning small businesses	

We already promote the resources from VSBC and actively support our current business networks. We are also involved in assisting the establishment of new networks and associations.

Part 3 Streamlined permit approvals processes for small businesses	
Your council will:	
a. work towards improving permit approvals processes for new small businesses. This may mean:	
i. an ongoing commitment to consolidating processes; or	
ii. implementing new strategies to streamline permit approvals processes for small businesses	

Following from the Better Approvals project undertaken within Council, we have initiated many changes to the way we manage business permits. The business support program is well recognised in the business community as a service that support business in any permit process.

Part 4 Prompt payment to small businesses	
The VSBC and your council will:	
a. initiate processes to ensure invoices from small businesses are paid within 14 days	

Our financial system ensures prompt payment and we are committed to pay within 14 days of receipt of goods or services.

Part 5 Easy to read, easy to understand information for Victorian small businesses	
The VSBC will:	
a. liaise with Small Business Victoria on the development of new resources for your business and communicate requests from your council about what is needed	
b. create timely and relevant resources for your business as required	
c. refer your council to new resources as they are made available	
Your council will:	
a. link your business with the resources available at business.vic.gov.au	
b. provide the VSBC's retail leases information brochure to prospective tenants	
c. share resources of relevance from the VSBC with your business community	
Both parties will:	
a. identify opportunities for the development of new resources for your business	

Our website contains all the relevant information from the VSBC and we actively support and promote any messages from the VSBC through the business eNews. We also provide a range of information from other sources that are relevant to our business community.

Part 6 Open channels of communication between the VSBC and local councils	
The VSBC will:	
a. advocate on behalf of small business when your council notifies VSBC of key issues of concern	
b. work with relevant agencies to progress matters of concern to local councils and small businesses	
Your council will:	
a. notify the VSBC of issues affecting local small business communities	
b. refer commercial disputes to the VSBC dispute resolution team as appropriate	
c. provide details of the VSBC's dispute resolution services on its website	

A recent example of collaboration with the VSBC was regarding the changes to Land Tax and introduction to the Short Stay Levy. Council officers reached out to a contact at the VSBC seeking information on the changes. This led to an introduction to key contacts at State Revenue Office. This connection led to a series of information sessions held in Murrindindi Shire with staff, key business consultants, businesses and concerned residents.

The connections the VSBC was able to provide meant that Murrindindi Shire was the first Council to actively engage with the SRO and ensured our community received the most up-to-date advice on the changes.

Promotion of Initiative	
The VSBC will:	
a. provide all participating councils with the Small Business Friendly Council Initiative logo to use in their own materials	
b. provide all participating councils with an animated video promoting the benefits of having a small business friendly council to Victorian small businesses	
c. share success stories and case studies from participating councils in the VSBC eNewsletter and on social media	
d. list all participating councils on the VSBC website	
Your council will:	
a. utilise the Small Business Friendly Council Initiative and videos in relevant communications	
b. provide VSBC with case studies and success stories associated with the initiative	

We continuously improve the information on our website and inclusion of relevant VSBC videos and other communications will enhance this service.

We are open to working with the VSBC to identify opportunities that promote success stories and initiatives from this program. The Land Tax example above is a potential case study.

Quality assurance and review	
The VSBC will:	
a. contact your council 12 months after signing the charter to assess their status on each commitment	
b. review feedback from your council about the value of the charter and modify it as appropriate after 12 months	
Your council will:	
a. work towards fulfilling each commitment within the first 12 months of signing the charter	
b. work with the VSBC to amend the charter if required	

By signed the Charter we have an opportunity to showcase the work we are already doing in supporting small businesses. There is no impact on operations as we are currently delivering all the necessary aspects to meet the Charter.

Council Plan/Strategies/Policies

This report supports the *Council Plan 2021-2025 Growth and Opportunity* strategy to “boost local investment and employment opportunities through activities that encourage businesses, social enterprise, and industry sectors to thrive and grow”.

Relevant Legislation

There are no relevant legislative requirements for signing the Charter.

Financial and Risk Implications

As many of the requirements are already current practice there are no additional financial or risk implications for Council. This would be considered business as usual.

Conflict of Interest

There were no conflicts of interest declared by Council officers in relation to the matters contained in this report.

Community, Stakeholder and Communication Consultation

External community or stakeholder consultation was not applicable.

5 REPORTS - PEOPLE & CORPORATE PERFORMANCE GROUP

5.1 Audit & Risk Committee Confirmation of Minutes

Department	Governance and Risk
Approved by	M Chesworth, Director People and Corporate Performance
Presenter	Cr P Hildebrand, Finance and Resilience
Portfolio	Integrity, Finance and Resilience
Purpose	For noting
Attachment(s)	1. Attachment 1 - Audit & Risk Committee - Minutes - December 2024 [5.1.1 - 12 pages]

Executive Summary

The Audit and Risk Committee provides oversight and advice on financial management and broader aspects of Council's operations. The Committee's Charter requires the minutes of each meeting to be submitted to Council for noting. This report presents the minutes of the 12 December 2024 Audit and Risk Committee Meeting to Council for noting.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and note the minutes of the 12 December 2024 Audit and Risk Committee Meeting as enclosed in Attachment 5.1.1

5.2 Council Plan Quarterly Report December 2024

Department	Governance and Risk
Approved by	M Chesworth, Director People and Corporate Governance
Presenter	Cr P Hildebrand
Portfolio	Integrity, Finance and Resilience
Purpose	For noting
Attachment(s)	1. Attachment 1 - Council Plan Quarterly Report Oct - Dec 2024 [5.2.1 - 39 pages]

Executive Summary

Council adopted the Murrindindi Council Plan 2021-2025 on 27 October 2021. The Council Plan is implemented through an annual Priority Action Plan, which was adopted by Council on 26 June 2024 and outlines the actions required to progress the plan's Strategic Directions.

This report summarises Council's progress in delivering this year's Priority Action Plan as of 31 December 2024. The Priority Action Plan contains 67 actions. Of these, 66 actions are 'on track' and one action is deferred subject to funding becoming available.

The report provides an update on all 67 actions. A few highlights include:

- Resilient Communities – Council provided grant and sponsorship funding to 18 community groups to the value of \$44,439
- Beautiful Townships and Rural Settings – Council was awarded a grant for eight road safety and two motorbike safety projects and another grant to upgrade the Kinglake School Crossing.
- Growth and Opportunity – We continued to implement the Economic Development Strategy and supported and promoted at least 13 community and economic development initiatives.
- Our Protected Environment – We commenced the Goulburn Murray Solar Savers (bulk buy) project and completed weed control works across several Landcare nominated sites along the Rail Trail.
- Transparency, Inclusion and Accountability – We implemented improvements to Snap Send Solve and grew our social media reach on Facebook to 6,400 followers.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council note the Council Plan – Priority Action Plan Report – October to December 2024 (Attachment 5.2.1)

Background

The Council Plan is a key document for our local community as it outlines the strategic directions and priorities to achieve the aspirations set out in the Murrindindi 10-year Community Vision over the four-year period and guides the allocation of resources.

Council adopted the Council Plan 2021-2025 at the 27 October 2021 Scheduled Meeting, after collaboration between Council and the Murrindindi Shire community. The Council Plan has five strategic directions:

- Resilient Communities
- Beautiful Townships and Rural Settings
- Growth and Opportunity
- Our Protected Environment
- Transparency, Inclusion and Accountability.

The Council Plan is supported by an annual Priority Action Plan. The Priority Action Plan 2023/2024 was adopted by Council on 26 June 2024 and outlines the actions being undertaken this year to progress Council's strategic directions.

Discussion

The Priority Action Plan contains 67 actions. Of these, 66 are 'on track' and one action is deferred subject to funding becoming available. A summary of Council's key areas of progress is provided below.

Resilient Communities – 100% On Track

- We supported 18 grant and sponsorship applicants to a value of \$44,439.
- We developed 'Free from Violence' activity Cards that were used in community workshops and have been commercialised for sale to other Councils.
- We received funding from the State Regional Worker Accommodation Grant and endorsed the Eildon Key Worker Housing project and budget.
- We hosted four free community lunches for seniors as part of the October 2024 Victorian Seniors Festival.

Beautiful Townships and Rural Settings – 100% On Track

- We obtained a grant to upgrade the Kinglake School Crossing and commenced the design phase.

- We obtained a grant for eight road safety, and two motorbike safety initiatives and commenced the design phase.
- We secured funding and project management support for the Yea Structure Plan through the Regional Planning Hub – Support for Flood-affected Councils Program.
- We commenced work on the Alexandra East Development Plan and engaged a Lead Planning Consultant to gather and analyse data.
- We installed the Goulburn River flood gauge at Molesworth, made the Yea Goulburn Murray Water gauge operational, and progressed the installation and calibration of the King Parrot Creek gauge.
- We progressed the Eildon Reserves Redevelopment with the skate park, flying fox, senior play areas, changing facilities, BBQ area and new visitor amenities completed.

Growth and Opportunity – 100% On Track

- We continued to implement the Economic Development Strategy and supported and promoted at least 13 community and economic development initiatives.
- We promoted opportunities for businesses to access the Australian Tourism Data Warehouse.
- We continued to negotiate and develop plans with the Taungurung Land and Water Council for a wawa Biik tour starting at Yea Wetlands.

Our Protected Environment. – 100% On Track

- We finalised the four-bin kerbside resource recovery and waste management model and began detailed implementation planning.
- We completed weed control works across several Landcare nominated sites along the Rail Trail and implemented a new bushfire-fuel management strategy in two high conservation roadside areas called candling.
- We completed the Chilean Needlegrass control program.
- We purchased zero carbon electricity.
- We commenced the Goulburn Murray Solar Savers (bulk buy) project, and the Naturally Cooler Murrindindi project, which will increase future shade in public areas.
- We launched the Wastewater Education Project, which provides easily accessible education resources to promote environmental awareness, regulatory compliance, and responsible wastewater management across the community.

Transparency, Inclusion and Accountability – 100% On Track

- We implemented improvements to our Snap Send Solve software making it easier for customers to report issues and receive timely responses.
- We reviewed the Reflecting on Council's Progress Report which included the voices of over 350 community members on the direction and progress of the 2021-2025 Council Plan, which informed a workshop with Councillors to identify key areas to explore further with the community in 2025.
- We grew our social media reach on Facebook to 6,400 followers, and our content reached 132,900 people.
- We conducted workshops with Council staff and Councillors to capture advocacy priorities and shape the advocacy strategy.

Council Plan/Strategies/Policies

This report supports the *Council Plan 2021-2025* Transparency, Inclusion and Accountability strategy to “maintain transparent, inclusive and accountable governance practices”.

Relevant Legislation

The Council Plan is required under section 90 of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

Financial Implications and Risk

The *Council Plan 2021-2025* has been prepared to ensure the implications of Council's longer term financial and strategic risks are mitigated. The Council Plan initiatives and priorities for services, infrastructure, and amenity are reflected in the Priority Action Plan and the 2024/25 Annual Budget.

Conflict of Interest

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

Community and Stakeholder Consultation

As part of the development of the *Council Plan 2021-2025* an extensive deliberative engagement process was undertaken to ensure communities objectives are considered.

5.3 Councillor Values and Councillor and Staff Engagement Protocols

Department	Governance and Risk
Approved by	M Chesworth, Director People & Corporate Performance
Presenter	Cr P Hildebrand
Portfolio	Integrity, Finance and Resilience
Purpose	For decision
Attachment(s)	1. Attachment 1 - Council Policy - Councillor Values and Councillor and Staff Engagement Protocol Policy [5.3.1 - 16 pages]

Executive Summary

The *Local Government (Governance and Integrity) Act 2024* (LGA Reforms) introduced a new mandatory Model Councillor Code of Conduct (Model Code) to replace Council's existing Councillor Code of Conduct.

The Model Code has a narrow focus on core behaviours and does not cover the full scope of interactions included in Council's previous Councillor Code of Conduct such as Councillor values, staff interaction, use of confidential information, Councillor dispute resolution procedures and communications, media and social media procedures.

To address this gap, Council has developed the proposed Councillor Values and Councillor and Staff Engagement Protocols to complement the Model Code of Conduct.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopt the Councillor Values and Councillor and Staff Engagement Protocols

Background

The LGA Reforms introduced a mandatory Model Councillor Code of Conduct which establishes core behaviours for the local government sector. The Model Code of Conduct is designed to replace each council's Councillor Code of Conduct, although the reforms allow councils to develop complementary policies where needed.

Discussion

The Model Code is principles-based and designed to apply across the whole local government sector. It has a narrow focus on core behaviours and does not cover the full scope of interactions included in Council's Councillor Code of Conduct (approved by Council on 24 February 2021) such as Councillor values, staff interaction, use of confidential information, Councillor dispute resolution procedures and Communications, media and social media procedures.

The proposed Councillors Values and Councillor and Staff Engagement Protocol addresses this gap by confirming the Councillors values and attaching protocols that govern Councillor interactions relating to:

- The role of the Councillor
- Staff interactions
- Integrity including conflicts of interest, gifts and bribery, fraud and corruption, use of information and Councillor support
- Councillor dispute resolution
- Communications, media and use of social media; and
- Occupational health and safety.

Council Plan/Strategies/Policies

The proposed Councillor Values and Protocols support the Council Plan 2021-2025 Transparency, Inclusion and Accountability strategy to "maintain transparent, inclusive and accountable governance practices".

Relevant Legislation

Section 49 of the *Local Government (Governance and Integrity) Act 2024* (LGA Reforms) introduces the new Model Code of Conduct that must be observed by all Councillors. Regulation 11 of the *Local Government (Governance and Integrity) Amendment Regulations 2024* confirms that the Model Code of Conduct is in Schedule 1.

Financial and Risk Implications

There are no financial and risk implications to these protocols.

Conflict of Interest

There were no conflicts or interests declared by Council officers in relation to this report.

Community and Stakeholder Consultation

Community consultation is not applicable to this report.

5.4 Review Councillor Expenses, Professional Development & Support Policy

Department	Governance and Risk
Approved by	M Chesworth, Director People & Corporate Performance
Presenter	Cr P Hildebrand
Portfolio	Integrity, Finance and Resilience
Purpose	For decision
Attachment(s)	1. Attachment 1 - DRAFT - Policy Councillor Expenses Development and Support Policy - Feb 25 [5.4.1 - 10 pages]

Executive Summary

This report seeks Council's endorsement of the Councillor Expenses, Professional Development and Support Policy (formerly titled the Councillor Expenses and Support Policy), which has been updated to include the mandatory professional development obligations recently prescribed in the *Local Government (Governance and Integrity) Act 2024*.

The updated policy confirms the mandatory training requirements for Councillors, outlines principles to guide Council's professional development program and establishes a process to develop an annual professional development program endorsed by Councillors. The revised policy also includes minor editorial improvements to improve readability.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopt the amendments to the Councillor Expenses, Professional Development & Support Policy.

Background

Section 33A of the *Local Government (Governance and Integrity) Act 2024* requires Councillors to undergo professional development training. Regulation 6A of the *Local Government (Governance & Integrity) Regulations 2020* requires the training to cover the following matters:

- Working together in a Council
- Decision making, integrity and accountability
- Community representation
- Strategic planning and financial management
- Conduct
- Land use planning; and
- Any other matter determined by the CEO.

The Victorian Government has released [Guidance on the mandatory training for Mayors, Deputy Mayors and Councillors \(October 2024\)](#) (Guidance) to support implementation of the Act and Regulations.

Discussion

Professional Development Plan

The Act and Regulations place the onus on Councillors to complete professional development. The CEO's role is to ensure that training is available and provide Councillors with reasonable assistance.

The Act and Regulations do not require Council to establish individual professional development plans for each Councillor. However, the Guidance includes a [Confidence Self-Assessment Tool](#) which Councillors can use to identify their development areas.

The policy does not commit Council to establishing individual plans as this would be resource intensive to establish and monitor. The policy instead outlines a process whereby the Mayor leads a workshop with Councillors to develop a professional development plan which may include collective and individual training and confirms that the CEO's role is to provide reasonable assistance.

The policy also clarifies that Councillors are responsible for completing required training and preparing an annual written declaration. The CEO's responsibility is to provide the template and support compliance.

This approach strikes a balance between the Councillors' professional development responsibility, the statutory focus on building strong working relationships and collective capacity, and the resources Council has available to administer this new requirement.

Confidence Self-Assessment Tool

The policy process for developing the annual professional development plan allows for Councillors to complete the Self-Assessment tool prior to the Mayoral led workshop if they feel this will assist them to participate in the discussion and advocate for their training needs.

Councillor Expenses and Budget

The process for allocating budget for Councillor professional development has been modified slightly to allow a budget to be set for:

- Mandatory training. Originally this allocation was for collective training.
- Discretionary training for collective or individual training. Originally this was for individual training needs.

The policy also clarifies that the CEO is responsible for approving training activities within the allocated budgets. This is to mitigate against over-budget expenditure.

The current budget for Councillor Professional Development Training is:

- \$5,000 – Collective training and Conferences
- \$15,000 – Councillor Training.

It is proposed to amend this allocation to:

- \$5,000 – Mandatory training
- \$15,000 – Discretionary Collective/Individual training

This allocation for mandatory training should be sufficient as the Guidance suggests that training follow the 70/20/10 principle:

- 70% - Experiential learning or learning derived from experience (e.g. on-the-job training, self-directed learning, development roles, exposure and practice).
- 20% Social Learning or learning through others (e.g. personal or professional network, coaching, mentoring, membership of professional association).
- 10% Formal learning or learning through a structured program (e.g. training course, workshop, seminar, webinar, e-learning module).

If this principle is followed, most of the mandatory training will be delivered through low-cost options including in-house, on-the-job and or peer to peer learning. Collective or individual learning requires a larger budget as this is more likely to include unique training or formal learning options.

Attached to this report is the proposed Policy and a 'marked-up' version of the Policy which shows where the changes have been made. Subject to input at the briefing it is proposed to seek Council's formal adoption of the Policy at the February 2025 Council meeting.

Council Plan/Strategies/Policies

This report supports the *Council Plan 2021-2025 Transparency, Inclusion and Accountability* strategic objective "to maintain transparent, inclusive and accountable governance practices".

Relevant Legislation

Section 43 of the *Local Government (Governance & Integrity) Act 2024* introduces mandatory professional development training, which is prescribed under Regulation 6A of the *Local Government (Governance & Integrity) Regulations 2020*.

Financial Implications and Risk

There are no major financial implications or risks associated with this policy review.

Conflict of Interest

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

Community and Stakeholder Consultation

External community or stakeholder consultation was not applicable to this report.

5.5 CEO Remuneration & Employment Policy Review

Department	Governance and Risk
Approved by	M Chesworth, Director People & Corporate Performance
Presenter	Cr P Hildebrand
Portfolio	Integrity, Finance and Resilience
Purpose	For decision
Attachment(s)	1. Attachment 1 - DRAFT - Policy CEO Employment and Remuneration for approval - Jan 2025 [5.5.1 - 13 pages]

Executive Summary

The Chief Executive Office Employment and Remuneration Policy (policy) must be reviewed every two years and within six months of a general election. Since the last review in December 2022 there have been no changes in legislation or standards that require policy amendment. As a result, only minor changes are recommended to the policy to improve readability, with no changes to policies directions. The Policy has also been reviewed by the Council's Audit and Risk Committee, with no further recommendations for changes.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopt the revised Chief Executive Officer Employment and Remuneration Policy.

Background

Section 45 of the *Local Government Act 2020* (Act) requires each Council to maintain a Chief Executive Officer Employment and Remuneration Policy establishing a framework for CEO recruitment and appointment, and management of the CEO employment contract. The policy states that it must be reviewed every two years and within six months of a general election.

Discussion

Since the last policy review in December 2022, there have been no changes in legislation or standards that require policy amendment. As a result, a desktop review was undertaken to

ensure the policy remains current and minor amendments have been made to improve readability.

The revised policy was reviewed by the Audit and Risk Committee on 12 December and no further changes were proposed.

The revised policy was reviewed by the CEO Employment and Remuneration Committee on 22 January and no further changes were proposed.

Council Plan/Strategies/Policies

This report supports the *Council Plan 2021-2025 Transparency, Inclusion and Accountability* strategic objective “maintain transparent, inclusive and accountable governance practices”.

Relevant Legislation

Section 45 of the *Local Government Act 2020* (Act) requires each Council to maintain a Chief Executive Officer Employment and Remuneration Policy.

Financial and Risk Implications

There are no financial or risk implications to this report.

Conflict of Interest

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

Community and Stakeholder Consultation

Community consultation was not applicable.

5.6 MAV State Council Draft Motion

Department	People and Corporate Performance
Approved by	M Chesworth, Director People and Corporate Performance
Presenter	Cr P Hildebrand
Portfolio	Integrity, Finance and Resilience
Purpose	For decision
Attachment(s)	Nil

Executive Summary

This report seeks Council’s approval to submit a motion for consideration at the next meeting of the MAV State Council to be held on 16 May 2025.

Motions are required to be submitted by 17 March 2025, and must be endorsed by Council resolution prior to submission.

It is proposed that Council submit a motion calling for the MAV to urgently advocate to the Victorian Government to commit to fully implement all 48 recommendations of the recent Victorian Parliamentary Inquiry into Local Government Funding and Services, and to work in partnership with the local government sector to deliver these reforms, ensuring councils are financially sustainable and able to meet their communities’ needs.

Given the significant and widespread input to the inquiry from the sector, the critical financial pressures facing councils, and the comprehensive nature of the recommendations, it is critical that the Victorian Government act decisively to strengthen the future of local government in Victoria.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. **endorse the submission of the motion contained in this report to the MAV State Council meeting on 16 May 2025, calling on the MAV to advocate to the Victorian Government to fully implement all 48 recommendations of the recent Parliamentary Inquiry into Local Government Funding and Services**
2. **authorise the CEO to make any minor changes to improve the wording of the motion and/or update the motion if required prior to the date of lodgement with the MAV.**

Background

The next meeting of the MAV State Council will be held on Friday 16 May in Melbourne. The agenda for the meeting includes consideration of motions submitted by member councils. The MAV Rules 2022 require motions from councils to be of strategic relevance to the MAV or of such significance to local government that they ought to be considered by State Council.

Motions are required to be submitted to the MAV by 17 March 2025, and must be the subject of a Council resolution to be accepted. The MAV recommends the Council resolution include a provision for the Council's CEO to authorise any minor changes to improve the wording of the motion and/or to update the motion relative to any changes to the issue that may have occurred between the council meeting and the date of lodgement with the MAV.

Discussion

It is proposed to submit the following motion and background to the motion to the MAV State Council meeting.

Addressing the Recommendations of the Parliamentary Inquiry into Local Government Funding and Service Delivery in Victoria

Background

On 23 November 2024, the Final Report of the Parliamentary Inquiry into Local Government Funding and Services was tabled in Parliament.

The Inquiry, conducted by the Legislative Council Economy and Infrastructure Committee, examined:

- the effect of cost shifting from the state and federal governments to local councils
- the ability of local councils to meet core service delivery objectives
- the appropriateness and sustainability of Local government's revenue structures
- whether there are alternative funding models to consider.

The Inquiry received over 100 submissions, including from the majority of Victoria's 79 councils, peak bodies, and other key stakeholders. It also conducted a series of public hearings across the State. The Committee's 47 findings and 48 recommendations highlight the urgent need to reform local government funding to ensure financial sustainability and service delivery capacity of Victorian local councils.

The Victorian Government is required to provide a formal response to the report within six months, outlining any actions it intends to take.

Motion

That the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) urgently advocate to the Victorian Government to:

1. Commit to fully implement all 48 recommendations of the Parliamentary Inquiry into Local Government Funding and Services; and
2. Work in partnership with the local government sector to deliver these reforms, ensuring councils are financially sustainable and able to meet their communities' needs.

Given the significant and widespread input from the sector, the critical financial pressures facing councils, and the comprehensive nature of the recommendations, the Victorian Government must act decisively to strengthen the future of local government in Victoria.

Council Plan/Strategies/Policies

This report supports the *Council Plan 2021-2025 Transparency, Inclusion and Accountability* strategy to “ensure Council remains financially sustainable through sound management, forward planning, innovative service delivery and asset consolidation as appropriate”.

Relevant Legislation

The proposed motion concerns the ability of Council to adequately fulfill its role under Section 8 of the Local Government Act 2020 to provide good governance in its municipal district for the benefit and wellbeing of the municipal community.

Financial and Risk Implications

The proposed motion forms part of Council's advocacy effort to address future risks to Council's longer term financial sustainability.

Conflict of Interest

There were no conflicts of interest declared by Council officers in relation to the matters contained in this report.

Community, Stakeholder and Communication Consultation

External community or stakeholder consultation was not applicable.

5.7 Quarterly Financial Report to 31 December 2024

Department	Business Services
Approved by	M Chesworth, Director People and Corporate Services
Presenter	Cr P Hildebrand
Portfolio	Integrity, Finance and Resilience
Purpose	For noting or For decision
Attachment(s)	Nil

Executive Summary

This report provides the quarterly financial report for the period ending 31 December 2024, including required budget adjustments since the September 2024 quarter.

Forecast revenue for the year has risen by \$12.29 million, whilst forecast expenditure has increased by \$10 million. The increases in revenue are driven by increases in operating grants of \$8.7 million, primarily related to flood recovery and \$2.7 million in capital grants, including the first instalment of \$1.2 million for the Eildon Key Worker Housing Project and \$696,000 for the Roads to Recovery program.

Additionally, user fees and charges have increased by \$430,000 for the Yea Saleyards and \$137,000 for Recycling and Waste Management.

There is a forecast increase in expenditure of \$9.3 million for materials and services, partially offsetting the grant funding, \$8.2 million of which is related to funded flood recovery and repair works.

Overall, with these adjustments the operating surplus is expected to increase from \$2.9 million to \$5.2 million, while the underlying result, which removes capital grants from the calculation, remains relatively unchanged, with an underlying deficit of \$5.5 million.

The Cash statement shows a forecast net decline in cash held of \$3.6 million, primarily due to the deferring of borrowing to the next financial year.

It is also noted that the revised budget figure for total unallocated cash in December was reduced from \$10.4 million to \$5 million. Again, this reduction primarily results from the deferral of \$3 million in interest-bearing loans and borrowings, as well as the establishment of a new reserve for Council's commitment to the Eildon Key Worker Housing Project. A further report on funding for the Eildon Key Worker Housing Project will be provided to Council in March 2025.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council

1. receive the Quarterly Financial Report to 31 December 2024
2. note the required budget adjustments since the September 2024 quarter
3. note that the Chief Executive Officer advises that there are no new or unanticipated material changes to the budget that would require formal adoption of a revised budget for the 2024/25 financial year.

Background

The Quarterly Financial Report for the period ended 31 December 2024 is presented for consideration by Council in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020* ("the Act").

The report includes the following statements:

- Comprehensive Income Statement
- Balance Sheet
- Cash Flow Statement
- Non-Discretionary Cash and Council Reserves

In accordance with Section 97(3) of the Act, the second quarter financial report requires a statement by the Chief Executive Officer as to whether a revised budget is, or may be, required.

Under Section 95 of the Act, the adoption of a formal revised budget is required if Council intends to:

- make a variation to the declared rates or charges
- undertake any borrowings that have not been approved in the budget.
- make a change to the budget that the Council considers should be the subject of community engagement.

The Chief Executive Officer advises that, whilst there are revisions to the annual budget, the formal adoption of a revised budget for 2024/25 is not required as Council does not intend to make changes to the budget that would trigger the requirement to formally adopt a revised budget.

Discussion

	NOTE	Original Budget	September Revised Budget	Annual Revised Budget	1.Forecast Adjustment	YTD Budgets	YTD Actual	2 YTD Budget V Actual Variance	
		2024/25	2023/24	2024/25	2024/25	2024/25	2024/25	2024/25	
Revenue		\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	%
Rates & Charges	1	24,762	24,762	24,767	5	24,342	24,393	51	0%
Statutory fees and fines	2	1,295	1,295	1,219	(76)	532	509	(24)	(4%)
User fees	3	1,652	1,652	2,221	570	1,054	1,066	13	1%
Grants - Operating	4	7,768	11,155	19,865	8,711	7,517	7,626	109	1%
Grants -Capital	5	5,832	7,837	10,540	2,703	939	960	21	2%
Contributions - Cash	6	441	621	594	(27)	320	347	27	9%
Contributions - Non Cash		600	600	600	-	-	-	-	-
Reimbursements	7	185	185	478	293	303	306	2	1%
Other revenue	8	1,998	1,998	2,112	114	801	812	11	1%
Total Revenue		44,532	50,104	62,397	12,292	35,807	36,018	211	1%
Expenses									
Employee Benefits	9	18,341	19,289	18,960	(330)	9,474	9,127	(347)	(4%)
Materials and Services	10	13,817	17,777	27,093	9,317	8,589	9,261	672	8%
Depreciation and amortisation	11	8,832	8,832	9,904	1,072	9	9	-	-
Bad and Doubtful Debts		2	2	2	-	-	-	-	-
Other Expense	12	531	531	581	50	153	151	(2)	(1%)
Finance Costs (Interest)	13	77	77	3	(74)	2	2	-	-
Total Expenses		41,599	46,507	56,543	10,035	18,226	18,550	324	2%
Surplus (deficit) for the period		2,333	2,997	5,254	2,257	17,581	17,468	(113)	(1%)

The statements for the second quarter to 31 December 2024 are included in Attachment 5.7.1.

Income Statement (Statement A)

This statement provides information on two budgetary components:

1. *Forecast adjustments*: adjustments to the September revised budget figures to reflect the Annual Revised Budget and predicted result at the end of the 2024/25 financial year (refer to the column titled "1 Forecast Adjustment").

The forecast position for the financial year has increased by \$2.2 million moving from September's revised budget surplus of \$2.9 million to a surplus of \$5.2 million.

Projected revenue for the year has increased by 12.29 million and projected expenditure has increased by 10 million. These movements were due to an increase in Operating Grants of \$8.7 million. Flood recovery-related expenditures did not have an original budget allocation or a budget set in September. Now that more accurate information has been obtained and significant expenses have been incurred, it is timely to establish a budget for these accounts. This has created an increase of \$8.2 million.

Capital grants recognised in the quarter to December included \$1.2 million for the Eildon Key Worker Housing Project and \$696,000 for the Roads to Recovery program.

Budgeted income from user fees and charges has increased by \$430,000 for the Yea Saleyards and \$137,000 for Recycling and Waste Management.

There is a forecast increase of \$9.3 million in materials and services, which partially offsets the above-identified grant funding.

Overall the December review forecasts an increase in the Operating Surplus at year end of \$2.2 million to \$5.2 million. The Underlying Result, which excludes capital income, remains largely unchanged from the September review, at a deficit of \$5.5 million.

A complete analysis of the budget movement is provided in Table 1 below under Explanation Forecast Adjustment.

2. *Year-to-date budget variances*: variances between December's revised year-to-date budget and the year-to-date result (refer to column titled "2. Budget Actual Variance" in the income statement above).

Overall, at the December year to date review revenue and expenditure was predominantly tracking to budget with the \$17.5 million surplus result at December 2024 representing \$113,000 or 1% unfavourable variance. Further details are provided in Table 1 under the column headed 'Explanation of YTD Budget V Actual Variance'

Table 1: Detail explanations of the forecast adjustments (1) and year-to-date variances (2):

Note	Line item	(1) Explanation Forecast Adjustment \$'000		(2) Explanation YTD Budget V Actual Variance \$'000	
1	Rates & Charges	\$5	No material variance	\$51	Increase in Rate income \$63k increase. Reduction in income from Garbage Charges \$9k and Recycling and Garbage Collection \$3k.
2	Statutory fees and fines	(\$76)	Budget reductions in Building Inspection & Control \$50k and Planning \$40k. All other services accounted for \$14k increase.	(\$24)	Reductions in Planning \$10k, Road & Infrastructure Works Income \$7k and Environmental Health \$6k.
3	User fees	\$570	Budget increases in Saleyards \$430k and Waste Management \$137k.	\$13	Small increases in Community Development \$5k, Saleyards \$4k and Chambers & Shire Halls \$3k.
4	Grants - Operating	\$8,711	Increases in grants for Flood Recovery Response \$8,244k, Emergency Management \$378k and Infrastructure Maintenance \$277k. Children's Services \$371k reduced. All other adjustments accounted for \$183k increase.	\$109	LEAPing into Resilience Extension \$110k increase. Flood Recovery \$65k increased. Local Roads - Grants Commission \$108k reduced. All other variances to budget accounted for a \$42k increase.

Note	Line item	(1) Explanation Forecast Adjustment \$'000		(2) Explanation YTD Budget V Actual Variance \$'000	
5	Grants - Capital	\$2,703	Increases due to Eildon Key Worker Housing \$1.2M, R2R Program \$696k, Wilhelmina Falls Rd \$533k and Spraggs/Healesville-Kinglake \$318k.	\$21	Sign Up Murrindindi Pool \$21k increase.
6	Contributions - Cash	(\$27)	Road Exchange - Cummins Rd Murrindindi \$7k increased. Yea Caravan Park \$34k reduced.	\$27	Increases to Public Open Space Contributions of \$19k and Goulburn Murray Climate Alliance \$9k .
7	Reimbursements	\$293	Yea Wetlands - Kayigai Trail Construction \$167k increased. Insurance Claims \$121k increased.	\$2	No material variance
8	Other revenue	\$114	Waste Management \$114k increase.	\$11	Increases in revenue for Procurement & Risk \$6k, Waste Management \$3k and Library Operations \$2k.
9	Employee Benefits	(\$330)	Budget reductions in Engineering Operations \$120k, Executive Support \$110k and Family Day Care \$162k.	(\$347)	Under expenditure in Development Services \$113k, Sustainability & Assets \$97k and Operation & Maintenance \$89k. All other departments accounted for a \$48k decrease.
10	Materials and Services	\$9,317	Budget increases in Flood Recovery \$8.29M, Trees & Vegetation works \$565k, and Saleyards \$285k. Family Day Care \$281k reduced. All other adjustments accounted for a \$457k increase.	\$672	Expenditure ahead of budget in Facility Management \$279k, Flood Recovery \$120k Waste Management \$141k and Organisational Finance \$103k.
11	Depreciation and amortisation	\$1,072	Depreciation charges have increased due to the impact of the revaluations of Council's infrastructure and Property assets.	\$0	No Change
12	Other Expense	\$50	Internal Audit \$50k increased	(\$2)	No material variance
13	Finance Costs (Interest)	(\$74)	Loan Interest \$74k reduced due to proposed borrowings not required	\$0	No Change

Balance Sheet (Statement B)

The Commentary below refers to Column (1) forecast adjustment, being the movement in the Balance Sheet from the previously reported September Budget review to the current budget revision as at 31 December 2024.

Assets

The statement indicates a decrease of \$2.4 million in current assets, reflecting an investment movement of \$3.5 million. Additionally, non-current assets are expected to rise by \$1.7 million due to an increase in property, plant, and equipment by the same amount.

The growth is primarily driven by the addition of new programs in Roads, such as the Snobs Creek Road Eildon Upgrade and Wilhelmina Falls Road Upgrade & Seal within Roads, as well as the Eildon Key Worker Housing project in Buildings.

Liabilities

The reduction in the revised budget of \$3 million relates to interest bearing loans and borrowings now not being required.

Equity

As at 31 December 2024 the statements show an increase of \$2.2 million in equity. This aligns with the forecast adjustment in the income statement. These variances are explained in more detail by the commentary outlined in Statement A – Income Statement.

Cash Flow Statement (Statement C)

This statement combines the cash related movements from the Income Statement and the Balance Sheet into one statement. This Statement shows how funds are generated and consumed. The revised budget projects that cash will decrease by \$3.6 million.

Cash from Operating Activities

The statement shows an increase of \$2.1 million mostly relating to the timing of income recognition of capital and operating grants, reduction in user fees, additional interest income offset by a decrease in payments to suppliers for materials and services (includes contractors) and a reduction in payments to employees (vacancies replaced with contractors).

Cash Flow from Investing Activities

The revised budget variance \$2.7 million is a decrease in cash due to increased expenditure in capital works.

Cash flow from financing activities

The revised budget movement of \$3 million is due to the removal of Interest-bearing loans and borrowings as we will no longer be borrowing funds from external sources.

Non-Discretionary Cash and Council Reserves (Statement D)

Included as part of this report is a statement of Council's Non-Discretionary Cash Flow requirements. This reconciliation lists all Council reserves together with funds held as Deposits or Trust, these are required to be refunded, and an allowance for the provision of employee entitlements. This latter provision being a nominal amount of 25% of Council's Annual Leave Liability and 25% of the current Long Service Leave Liability.

The budget figure for total unallocated cash in September was \$10.4 million, but the revised budget figure for December has been adjusted to \$5 million. This reduction of \$5.4 million primarily results from the removal of \$3 million in interest-bearing loans and borrowings, as well as the establishment of a new reserve for Elidon Key Worker Housing Project.

Councillor Expenses (GST Exclusive)

As required in the adopted Councillor Expenses and Support Policy (July 2020), Council reports quarterly on Councillor related expenses. The following table lists Councillor expenses for the second quarter ending 31 December 2024.

Table 2: Councillor Expenses for 3 months to 31 December 2024:

	Allowances	Travel	Childcare Expenses	Information & Communications	Conference & Training	Other
Cr Gallagher	\$ 10,339.37	\$ 1,419.42	-	\$ 917.26	\$ 3,851.30	\$ 402.32
Cr Carr	\$ 5,434.93	\$ -	-	\$ 853.64	\$ 3,851.30	\$ 402.32
Cr Adams	\$ 3,638.80	\$ 221.72	-	\$ 853.64	\$ 3,001.30	\$ 402.32

	Allowances	Travel	Childcare Expenses	Information & Communications	Conference & Training	Other
Cr Carpenter	\$ 3,638.80	\$ 466.40	-	\$ 951.80	\$ 3,001.30	\$ 402.32
Cr Walsh	\$ -	\$ -	-	\$ 98.16	\$ 410.11	\$ -
Cr Haslam	\$ -	\$ 212.94	-	\$ 98.16	\$ -	\$ -
Cr Hildebrand	\$ 3,638.80	\$ -	-	\$ 853.64	\$ 3,001.30	\$ 402.32
Cr Gerencser	\$ -	\$ -	-	\$ 98.16	\$ -	\$ -
Cr Lording	\$ 3,638.80	\$ 240.22	-	\$ 951.80	\$ 3,001.30	\$ 402.32
Cr McAulay	\$ 3,638.80	\$ 1,517.94	-	\$ 951.80	\$ 3,001.30	\$ 402.32
Total	\$ 33,968.30	\$ 4,078.64	-	\$ 6,628.04	\$ 23,119.20	\$ 2,816.27

Council Plan/Strategies/Policies

This report supports the *Council Plan 2021-2025 Transparency, Inclusion and Accountability* strategy to “ensure Council remains financially-sustainable through sound management, forward planning, innovative service delivery and asset consolidation as appropriate”.

Relevant Legislation

Nil

Financial and Risk Implications

Nil

Conflict of Interest

There were no conflicts of interest declared by Council officers in relation to the matters contained in this report.

Community, Stakeholder and Communication Consultation

External community or stakeholder consultation was not applicable.

6 REPORTS - ASSETS & ENVIRONMENT GROUP

6.1 Proposed Road Deviation and Land Exchange - Cummins Road Murrindindi

Department	Sustainability and Assets
Approved by	C Lintott, Director Assets & Environment
Presenter	Cr Lording
Portfolio	Infrastructure and Road Care
Purpose	For noting
Attachment(s)	1. Attachment 1 - Cummins Road - Land Exchange [6.1.1 - 2 pages]

Executive Summary

Statutory processes have commenced for the proposed deviation of part of an unused government road known as Cummins Road, Murrindindi. The deviated part of the government road will be exchanged for land owned by Ms D Williams (**Proponent**) being crown allotment 18A, section B, Parish of Murrindindi, that will then be created as a road reserve and vested in Council.

This process has commenced as a result of a request from the Proponent, as the son of the Proponent occupies a dwelling that is primarily situated on the unused government road and wishes to extend the building for family reasons.

The Proponent was not aware that the building was on the unused government land until a request was made to Council for planning approval for the extension.

The part of the deviated government road and the road reserve to be created is shown on the attached Plan of Road Exchange.

Consideration for discontinuing the unused government road is on the basis of the government road being unused, not reasonably required for public use and impractical for use as a government road or any other type of access.

Council, acting under officer delegation, gave public notice of its intention to discontinue the unused government road and make the road exchange in accordance with section 207B(2A) and clause 2 of Schedule 10 of the *Local Government Act 1989* and section 114 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, including Council's Community Engagement Policy.

No submissions were received in response to the public notice, therefore Council is in a position to proceed with the deviation and land exchange.

The Proponent has paid up-front (non-refundable) costs to cover Council's costs, legal fees and advertising costs associated with the deviation and land exchange.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. deviate the part of the unused government road known as Cummins Road, Murrindindi and progress the road exchange (as shown on the Plan of Road Exchange in the attachment 6.1.1)
2. publish a notice of deviation of the unused government road and road exchange in the Government Gazette;
3. authorise the Chief Executive Officer to sign all documents and undertake all administrative procedures in respect of the proposed deviation/land exchange on the condition that:
4. the Proponent agrees to consolidate the acquired road reserve with Crown Allotment 18, Section B, Parish of Murrindindi owned by the Proponent, for the purpose of legal access to that allotment;
5. the Proponent pays any additional legal fees and disbursements on settlement; and
6. Affix the common seal of Council to enable the transfer of land under the Transfer of Land Act 1958.

Background

The Proponent's son currently occupies a dwelling that is predominantly situated on an unused government road.

The Proponent was not aware that the building was located on the unused government land until submitting a planning application to Council for an extension to the dwelling.



To facilitate the extension and regularise the land tenure, Council proposes a road deviation and land exchange process. This process will enable the unused government road to vest in Council as freehold land, allowing Council to apply for a certificate of title and either sell, retain, or exchange the land. It is proposed that Council will proceed with an exchange, securing land required for the road deviation.

Council officers have confirmed that the unused government road is not listed on Council's Register of Public Government Roads. As such, public notice under section 17(4) of the *Road Management Act 2004* is not required.

A legal representative has provided a Scope and Fee Estimate of \$6,915.00 (including GST) for limited aspects of the process, with Council officers managing the majority of the work. The Proponent has made a non-refundable upfront payment to Council, and cover any additional costs associated with the process, including preparation of the exchange plan.

The statutory processes for the road deviation and land exchange includes:

- A prior determination by Council (under officer delegation) that the unused government road is no longer reasonably required for public use.
- Public notification of the proposed deviation of the unused government road and land exchange (under officer delegation) and for Council to receive and consider all submissions.
- A Council decision on whether to proceed with the road discontinuance and land exchange.
- If approved, publication of a notice in the *Victorian Government Gazette*.

Council retains discretion to proceed or not with the road discontinuance and land exchange.

Should the proposal be approved, the Proponent will be required to consolidate the acquired road reserve with Crown Allotment 18, Section B, Parish of Murrindindi, which they own, to ensure legal access to the allotment.

Discussion

Council, acting under officer delegation, has initiated an unused government road deviation and land exchange process and has given public notice of its intention to discontinue the unused government road in accordance with section 207B(2A) and clause 2 of Schedule 10 of the *Local Government Act 1989 (LG Act 1989)* and section 114 of the *Local Government Act 2020 (LG Act 2020)*, including Council's Community Engagement Policy.

Council is obliged to consider any submissions received in accordance sect 223 of the *LG Act 1989* before deciding whether or not the unused government road is to be deviated and the land exchange to occur.

No submissions were received in response to the public notice.

If Council resolves to deviate the unused government road and proceed with the land exchange, a notice will be published in the Victorian Government Gazette.

Council Plan/Strategies/Policies

This report supports the *Council Plan 2021-2025 Beautiful Towns and Rural Settings* strategy to "connect our communities through improved roads, footpaths and public transport".

Relevant Legislation

The statutory process for a proposed unused government road deviation and land exchange has been initiated under officer delegation in accordance with section 207B(2A) and clause 2 of Schedule 10 of the *Local Government Act 1989 (LG Act 1989)* and section 114 of the *Local Government Act 2020 (LG Act 2020)*.

Clause 2 of Schedule 10 of the *LG Act 1989* provides that where a proposed deviation is through private land or Crown Land, or which would result in the vesting of land in a Council under section 207B(2A) (as this is the case) this power may only be exercised after the Council has obtained the Consent of the Minister administering the *Land Act 1958*.

This ensures that the Crown can retain sections of deviated roads which may be required for conservation or other public purposes or otherwise deal with sections of those roads which may have substantial financial value to the Crown.

Under clause 2(2) of *Schedule 10 of the LG Act 1989* consent was obtained on 31/10/2024 from the Minister for Environment and Climate Change, as the responsible Minister administering the *Land Act 1958* (under delegated authority by Gini Harris Regional Manager, Land and Built Environment Hume), to the proposed road deviation. (see attached)

Council is required to consider submissions (if any) in accordance with *sect 223 of the LG Act 1989*, before deciding whether or not to discontinue the unused government road and commence the land exchange.

If Council decides to discontinue the unused government road, Council must publish a notice of deviation of the unused government road and land exchange in the Victorian Government Gazette. Council must also give notice of its decision and the reasons for its decision to all persons who made submissions in respect of the proposal.

Under *section 114 of the LG Act 2020*, Council must obtain a market valuation before exchanging the land. A market valuation has been undertaken which has indicated the following:

- Private Land (new road) 4,312 m² - \$3200.00 (ex GST)
- Crown Land (former road) 3,737m² - \$2800.00 (ex GST)

Therefore, based on this, the proposal is to exchange the parcels of land for no monetary consideration.

Financial and Risk Implications

The Proponent has made the up-front (non-refundable) payment to Council of \$6,915.00 (including GST), to cover all legal fees for this land exchange. There are no costs to Council.

Conflict of Interest

There were no conflicts of interest declared by Council officers in relation to the matters contained in this report.

Community and Stakeholder Consultation

Consultation has occurred between Council's staff, DEECA representatives, legal representatives, the Proponent and the surveyor on this matter.

By following the statutory notification process, the community has had an opportunity to comment on the deviation of the unused government road and land exchange.

6.2

Capital Works Program Mid-Year Report - 30 December 2024

Department	Sustainability and Assets
Approved by	C Lintott, Director Assets & Environment
Presenter	Cr Carpenter
Portfolio	Sustainability and Assets
Purpose	For decision
Attachment(s)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Attachment 1 - Capital Works - Mid- Year Report - December 2024 - Program Financials [6.2.1 - 11 pages] 2. Attachment 2 - Capital Works - Mid- Year Report - December 2024 - Program Comments [6.2.2 - 12 pages] 3. Attachment 3 - 24-25 Capital Works Budget Adjustments Q 2 Mid- Year review [6.2.3 - 3 pages]

Executive Summary

This mid-year progress report provides a comprehensive overview of the progress of the Capital Works Program (CWP) for the 2024/25 financial year, covering the period from 1 July 2024 to 31 December 2024. The CWP encompasses a range of infrastructure projects that have been strategically planned and approved to support community development, economic growth, service enhancement and meets current and future service demands and needs for our community.

The program consists of projects endorsed by the Council as part of the 2024/25 budget, initiatives carried forward from the 2023/24 financial year, and additional projects that have successfully secured grant funding during the reporting period. This report outlines the progress, key milestones, challenges encountered, and financial performance of the CWP, ensuring transparency, inclusion and accountability in the delivery of critical infrastructure investments.

Key highlights for this period include:

- Completion of the Eildon Splash Park, which was opened to the public just prior to the Australia Day long weekend with the entire project, including the regional playground, due for completion in early March.
- Completion of a majority of the sealed road resealing and gravel road resheeting programs.
- Commencement of the Kayigai Trail construction at the Yea Wetlands, which is nearing completion and;
- Bridge abutment repairs on Abes Bridge on Abes Lane in Molesworth. Works expected to be complete by the end of February.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. **Receive the mid-year report for the quarter ending 31 December 2024 on the status of the delivery of the Capital Works Program**
2. **Approve the funding adjustments and carry forward amounts as presented in Attachment 3**
3. **Approve the additional projects;**
 - a. **Flood studies – Yea River and King Parrot Creek (Fully funded grant)**
 - b. **Key worker housing – Eildon – (Grant and Council Contribution - \$6,280,000)**
 - c. **Motorcycle Road Safety Infrastructure – Design (Grant \$50,000)**
 - d. **Kinglake RAC – Operations Centre – (\$105,000)**
 - e. **Flowerdale - Closed landfill rehabilitation – (\$718,118)**
 - f. **Purchase of an Excavator for the new Alexandra landfill cells – (\$250,000)**

Background







The program has now reached the mid-year review of the 2024/25 CWP with most projects scope finalised, out to tender, or underway. Some Major projects have been awarded, and multiple projects are under construction. Total number of projects currently in the list for delivery is 143.

Discussion

A general overview of the Capital Works Program delivery status:

Most projects are currently on track (Green) and expected to be completed by 30 June 2025. The other traffic light indicators presented in the attached reports are on hold (Blue), possible carry forward (Yellow), expected carry forward (Red), delayed (Orange) and complete (Black).

Although construction of some of the projects have been completed, the project is not marked complete until an asset handover has been completed.

	Complete
	On Track
	On Hold
	Possible Carry Forward
	Expected Carry Forward
	Delayed

A general overview of the Capital Work Program financial position:

- Adopted capital works budget is \$14,223,522

- Current revised program of works budget with carry forwards is \$21,835,807
- Current Anticipated Program of Works spend: \$21,835,807*(Note the above budget program contains some non-capital projects)
- Total Actuals & Committed: \$7,857,753
- Actual Expenditure is \$4,027,856

As of 31 December 2024, the current predicted savings and demand is balanced across the program.

Attachment 1 - Capital Works – Mid-Year Report - December 2023 – Program Financials

Attachment 1 provides a detailed financial position of the Capital Works Program including minor adjustments proposed for some projects. Overall, the program is being delivered within the program budget.

Proposed funding adjustments – Mid Year 2023/24

See Attachment 3 for a list including detailed comments for the recommended funding adjustments.

Proposed Carry Forwards – Mid Year 2023/24

The estimated Carry Forward is \$921,016 which will be adjusted later in the financial year. Carry forwards amount is comprised projects which are currently on hold.

Project	Current Revised Budget 2024/25
Snobs Creek Road Eildon - Upgrade (HVSP7) GR937	\$768,859
Kinglake Memorial Recreation Reserve - Surface Renewal	\$15,871
Alexandra Shire Office - Reception Refurbishment	\$136,698

New projects to be included in the Capital Works Program:

Kinglake RAC - Operations Centre

Funding is required to undertake some concept designs to determine how the Kinglake RAC can be shared between Parks Victoria and Council.

It is proposed that a portion of the funding from the Alexandra Shire Office – Reception Refurbishment project be utilised to complete this design.

Flood modelling studies – Yea River and King Parrot Creek (Grant funded)

The Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority (GBCMA) has received a State grant to complete the flood modelling for the Yea River and King Parrot Creek. Council is to partner with GBCMA on the project and will provide project management. Project Management is funded for 2 years, the cost of the modelling services is to be funded by the GBCMA grant.

Key worker housing – Eildon

The design and construction of the Key Worker Housing project, approved by Council in late 2024 and mostly funded through a grant, are now underway and scheduled for completion in 2025/26. Given the tight timetable required to meet grant conditions, work has commenced on developing the technical scope and tender specifications. The total value of the project is as follows:

Contributions Council Land Equity (both sites)		\$780,000
Council Cash Contribution	Co-contribution	\$1,400,000
Council Project Management	Co-contribution	\$100,000
RWAF Grant	Grant	\$4,000,000
Total Contributions		\$6,280,000

Motorcycle Road Safety Infrastructure – Design

Council has received a grant from the Department of Transport and Planning to undertake design for Motorcycle Road Safety Infrastructure for Ghin Ghin Road and King Parrot Creek Road at Kerrisdale.

Flowerdale - Closed landfill rehabilitation and Purchase an Excavator for Alexandra landfill

Council completed the design for the Flowerdale closed landfill rehabilitation during the 2023/24 financial year, which has been approved by the Environment Protection Authority (EPA). Construction was scheduled for the next financial year.

This year, the Council planned to undertake the capping construction at the Alexandra Landfill. However, the project has been delayed due to pending approval from the EPA on the contour design.

Therefore, it is proposed to allocate the underspent funds from the Alexandra Landfill capping construction (2024/25) and a portion of underspends from the Alexandra Landfill new cell construction to expedite the Flowerdale closed landfill rehabilitation project.

Additionally, the current excavator at the Alexandra Landfill has reached the end of its service life, necessitating the purchase of a new excavator. It is proposed that portion of underspent funds from the Alexandra Landfill new cell construction be utilised for this purchase.

Review of Level 1 Projects

Eildon Reserve Redevelopment, Eildon – \$6.2M

The Splash Park was opened to the public just prior to the Australia Day long weekend. Works are progressing well on the dry play area and are expected to be completed early March.

A strategically located accessible car parking area and pedestrian crossing have been installed on Main Street. These enhancements provide convenient access for all to the Eildon Reserves and its facilities.

Sealed Roads – Reseals - \$1.9M

Works are progressing well and are anticipated to be completed by 28 March 2025.

Road	Status
Myers Creek Road, Toolangi	Reseal Complete
McMahons Road, Kinglake	Reseal Complete
High Street, Eildon	Reseal Complete
Hill Court, Eildon	Reseal Complete
Southam Drive, Taggerty	Reseal Complete
Taggerty Hall Carpark	Reseal Complete
Plover Way, Kinglake West	Reseal Complete
Windana Court, Kinglake West	Reseal Complete
Wrights Road, Yarck	Reseal Complete
King Parrot Creek Road, Strath Creek	Underway
Yarck Road, Gobur	Underway
Springs Road, Terip Terip	Reseal Complete
Top Road, Terip Terip	Underway
Whanregarwen Road, Whanregarwen Scope changed. Major rehabilitation required prior to resealing.	Underway Pavement investigation is underway
Murrindindi Road, Murrindindi	Works Scheduled

Gravel Roads Resheeting - \$611k

Works progressing well and are anticipated to completed by 28 March 2025.

Road	Status
Nichols Road, Narbethong - Buxton	Works Scheduled
Dicks Road, Acheron	Works Scheduled
Larnoo Road, Ghin Ghin	Works Scheduled
Margetts Road, Flowerdale - Yea	Works Scheduled
Deepdene Road, Yea	Works Scheduled
Steuarts Road (South), Glenburn	Completed
Silver Parrot Road, Flowerdale	Works Scheduled
O'Gradys Road, Pheasant Creek	Works Scheduled
Jouvelet Street, Kinglake West	Underway
Extons Road, Kinglake Central	Completed
Oak Grove, Kinglake	Completed
Keith Street, Kinglake	Works Scheduled
Sycamore Grove, Kinglake	Works Scheduled
Royal Crescent, Kinglake	Works Scheduled
Back Eildon Road , Thornton (Section 1)	Works Scheduled
Back Eildon Road , Thornton (Section 2)	Works Scheduled
Acheron Road, Acheron	Works Scheduled

Yea Wetlands - Kayigai Trail Construction - \$157k

Works are progressing well and are expected to be completed by the end of February.

Wilhelmina Falls Road Sealing, Murrindindi – \$665k

The request for tender has closed, and submissions are being evaluated. Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP) and tree assessment are currently underway. There may be a delay depending on the timing of TLaWC site visits and inductions.

Castella Road Sealing, Castella – \$476k (LRCI4)

The request for tender has closed, and submissions are being evaluated. CHMP and tree assessment are underway. There may be a delay depending on the timing of TLaWC site visits and inductions.

Bridge abutment repair - Abes Bridge, Molesworth (\$69k) and Weedings Bridge, Fawcett (\$69k)

Construction has been commenced and progressing on Abes Bridge.

Weedings Bridge Abutment repair works are on hold appending the review of the structure of the bridge by a Structural Engineer.

Spraggs Road, Toolangi - Safety upgrades Realigning Spraggs Road and Healesville-Kinglake Road Intersection GR1030- \$379k

The design and estimate have been completed. The current budget is not sufficient to undertake the construction due to additional requirements imposed by the Department of Transport. Officers are undertaking a design review to see what improvements can still be made.

Snobs Creek Road, Eildon - Upgrade (HVSP7) GR937- \$769k

The project is still on hold due to landslip remediation works requiring funding approval under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA). Grant variation may be required to extend the completion date. However, scoping and the request for tender are being prepared to undertake the works in two stages where stage one will cover approximately the first 1.5km of the road. Department of Transport has provided a letter of support for the delay and request for extension.

Safer Local Road Program Road Safety Strategy implementation - Year 1 (Grant) - \$1M (24/25)

Final design for Whanregarwen Road safety treatments is being reviewed. Expected to commence work in March.

Council Plan/Strategies/Policies

This report supports the *Council Plan 2021-2025 Beautiful Towns and Rural Settings* strategic objective “to provide fit-for-purpose infrastructure that meets current and future service demands and needs for our community”.

This report supports the *Council Plan 2021-2025 Transparency, Inclusion and Accountability* strategy to “ensure Council remains financially sustainable through sound management, forward planning, innovative service delivery and asset consolidation as appropriate”.

This report supports the Council Plan 2021-2025 Transparency, Inclusion and Accountability strategy to “maintain transparent, inclusive and accountable governance practices”.

Relevant Legislation

Local Government Act 2020

Financial and Risk Implications

The current program is being delivered within the total Capital Works program budget however funding adjustments for individual projects are detailed in Attachment 3. These adjustments are within the Capital Works Program budget.

Conflict of Interest

There were no conflicts of interest declared by Council officers in relation to the matters contained in this report.

Community and Stakeholder Consultation

External community or stakeholder consultation was not applicable.

7 COUNCILLOR AND CEO REPORTS

7.1 Notices of Motions

7.2 Cr Anita Carr

7.3 Cr Eric Lording

7.4 Cr Sandice McAulay

7.5 Cr Jodie Adams

7.6 Cr Paul Hildebrand

7.7 Cr Sue Carpenter

7.8 Cr Damien Gallagher

7.9 Chief Executive Officer Report

8 RECORD OF COUNCIL BRIEFING SESSIONS

Purpose

For noting.

Executive Summary

This report presents the records of Council Briefing Sessions for 11 December 2024 to 26 February 2025, for Council to note.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and note the records of Council Briefing Sessions for 11 December 2024 to 26 February 2025.

Background

The Governance Rules adopted by Council at its 24 August 2022 meeting sets the order of business for scheduled meetings. As part of section 7.2.1 “Record of Council Briefing Sessions” is listed as to be included in the order of business.

Discussion

The purpose of keeping a record of Council Briefing Sessions is so that the content of the Briefing Session, the attendance and any declared conflicts of interest are recorded in a formal document. Council is making every effort to ensure that it is transparent in the content of Briefing Sessions and any conflicts of interest, therefore the formal record is presented for noting as part of the Scheduled Meeting Agenda.

The following summary details are for 11 December 2024 to 26 February 2025:

Meeting Name/Type	Council Pre-Meet
Meeting Date:	11 December 2024
Matters Discussed:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Planning Permit Application: 212 Ghin Ghin Road GHIN GHIN Refusal 2. Planning Permit Application: 11 The Ridge KINGLAKE Refusal due to lack of information 3. Planning Permit Application: 2618 Maroondah Highway TAGGERTY Refusal due to lack of information 4. Eildon Key Worker Housing Project 5. Eildon Splash Park - Traditional Owner naming 6. Council Meeting Schedule 2025 7. Extension of Landfill Leachate Carting Tender CONT 21/13 8. CONT 24/18 Flood Recovery October 2022 Murrindindi Bridges
Councillor Attendees:	Cr D Gallagher, Cr A Carr, Cr S McAulay, Cr E Lording, Cr S Carpenter, Cr P Hildebrand
Council Officer Attendees	M Chesworth, N Stewart, C Lintott, C Fraser, N Lacey, T Kubeli
Conflict of Interest Disclosures: No	

Meeting Name/Type	Briefing Session
Meeting Date:	11 December 2024
Matters Discussed:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Alpine Resorts Victoria 2. Councillor Workshop - Council Plan
Councillor Attendees:	Cr D Gallagher, Cr A Carr, Cr S McAulay, Cr E Lording, Cr S Carpenter, Cr P Hildebrand
Council Officer Attendees	L Bonazzi, M Chesworth, N Stewart, C Lintott, N Matheson, S Collier

Meeting Name/Type	Briefing Session
Meeting Date:	22 January 2025
Matters Discussed:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cr Induction - Assets and Environment - Assets 2. Cr Induction - Assets and Environment - Operations and Maintenance 3. Cr Induction - Understanding Councils Rates 4. Council Plan - Progress
Councillor Attendees:	Cr D Gallagher, Cr A Carr, Cr S McAulay, C J Adams, Cr E Lording, Cr S Carpenter, Cr P Hildebrand
Council Officer Attendees	L Bonazzi, M Chesworth, A Paxton, C Lintott, P Bain, S Russell, S Collier

Meeting Name/Type	Briefing Session
Meeting Date:	5 February 2025
Matters Discussed:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cr Induction – Asset & Environment – Recycling Services 2. Cr Induction – Emergency Management 3. Community Awards -Update 4. Flood Recovery update 5. Councillor Values and Interactions Protocol Policy 6. Council Expenses Policy (update to include training policy) 7. Councillor Workshop - Council Plan
Councillor Attendees:	Cr D Gallagher, Cr A Carr, Cr S McAulay, Cr J Adams, Cr E Lording, Cr S Carpenter, Cr P Hildebrand
Council Officer Attendees	L Bonazzi, M Chesworth, A Paxton, C Lintott, N Matheson, A Vogt, K Chadband, S Collier, J Russell, P Bain

Meeting Name/Type	Briefing Session
Meeting Date:	12 February 2025
Matters Discussed:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Managing Community Enquires & Difficult Customers – Workshop 2. Quarterly Capital Works Report – Mid Year Review 3. Capital Works Program 2025/2026 4. Eildon Splash Park- Traditional Owner naming 5. Proposed Road Deviation and Land Exchange – Cummins Road Murrindindi 6. RDA – RDV Prep session with Councillors 7. CEO Employment Remuneration Policy Review 8. MAV State Council Draft Motions
Councillor Attendees:	Cr D Gallagher, Cr A Carr, Cr S McAulay, Cr J Adams, Cr E Lording, Cr S Carpenter, Cr P Hildebrand
Council Officer Attendees	L Bonazzi, M Chesworth, A Paxton, C Lintott, A Vogt, P Bain, D Liyanage, T Heard, A Paix, B Gill.
External:	David Eastham

Meeting Name/Type		Briefing Session		
Meeting Date:		19 February 2025		
Matters Discussed:		<div>1. Council Plan Priority Action Plan Quarter two – December 2024</div> <div>2. Small Business Friendly Council – Charter</div> <div>3. Municipal Public Health & Wellbeing Plan (MPHWP) 2025-29 – Review</div> <div>4. Rural Roadside Conservation Management Plan 2024-2029 and Guidelines</div> <div>5. Grants and Sponsorships – Quarterly Allocations</div> <div>6. Practise Councillor Presenting Reports</div>		
Councillor Attendees:		Cr D Gallagher, Cr A Carr, Cr S McAulay, Cr J Adams, Cr E Lording, Cr S Carpenter, Cr P Hildebrand		
Council Officer Attendees		L Bonazzi, M Chesworth, A Paxton, C Lintott, A Vogt, B Harnwell, B Gill, P Bain, B Chapman, C Hedger, S Collier		
Conflict of Interest Disclosures:				
Matter No.	Councillor making disclosure	Was a vote taken?	Did the Councillor leave the room?	When? Before or after discussion
5	Cr A Carr	N	Y	Before
5	Cr D Gallagher	N	Y	Before

Meeting Name/Type	Council Pre-Meet
Meeting Date:	26 February 2025
Matters Discussed:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Small Business Friending council – Charter 2. Grants and Sponsorship – Quarterly Allocations 3. Quarterly Finance Report 4. Council Plan – Quarterly Reporting Quarter two – December 2024 5. Audit & Risk Committee Confirmation of Minutes 6. Councillor Values and Councillor and Staff Engagement Policy 7. CEO Employment and Remuneration Policy Review 8. Council Expenses Policy 9. MAV Motion – Request state Gov 10. ‘Baanh ba Djila’ Naming Proposal -Eildon Splash Park 11. Proposed Road Deviation and Land Exchange – Cummins Road Murrindindi 12. Quarterly Capital Works Repeort – Mid Year Review
Councillor Attendees:	Cr D Gallagher, Cr A Carr, Cr S McAulay, Cr J Adams, Cr E Lording, Cr S Carpenter, Cr P Hildebrand
Council Officer Attendees	L Bonazzi, M Chesworth, A Paxton, P Bain, B Harnwell, N Rongong, A Vogt,

Council Plan/Strategies/Policies

This matter is consistent with the *Council Plan 2021-2025 Transparency, Inclusion and Accountability* strategy to “maintain transparent, inclusive and accountable governance practices”.

Relevant Legislation

This report supports the *Local Government Act 2020* overarching governance principles, in particular “the transparency of Council decisions, actions and information is to be ensured”.

Financial Implications and Risk

There are no financial or risk implications.

Conflict of Interest

Any conflicts of interest are noted in the records of Council Briefing Sessions tables listed above.

9 SEALING REGISTER

Nil

10 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

Nil.