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AGENDA



For a meeting of the seventh Campaspe Shire Council to be held on Tuesday, 16 October 2018, commencing at 5:00pm at the Echuca Civic Centre.

OPENING PRAYER

We pray to Almighty God that our decisions as a Council be in the best interest of the people, culture and the environment of the Shire of Campaspe.

Amen

The Campaspe Shire Council acknowledges the traditional owners of the land upon which we meet and pay our respect to their elders both past and present.

MEETING PROCEDURES

Please ensure that all electronic devices are turned off or switched to silent.

There are Ask a Question Forms just inside the door for anyone who would like to submit a question to Council. Questions forms must be completed within 10 minutes and returned to the tray. Questions will be addressed at the end of the open section of the meeting.

Council meetings are broadcast live via the internet. During the meeting, members of the public may be recorded, particularly those speaking to an item. By attending this meeting, you are consenting to the possibility that your image may also be broadcast to the public. Any personal and health information voluntarily disclosed by any person at Council meetings may be broadcast live, held by Council and made available to the public for later viewing.

Those people who have requested to speak to an item will be allowed five minutes to address Council. Speakers will be notified with a bell when there is 60 seconds remaining. Speakers must only speak in relation to the subject stated on their application and shall not debate the issue with Councillors and officers. Councillors are able to ask questions of the speaker on points of clarification.

Speakers are advised that they do not enjoy any special protection from defamation arising from comments made during their presentation to Council and should refrain from voicing defamatory remarks or personal defamatory statements against any individual. Speakers will be treated with respect when addressing Council. I ask that the same respect is extended to Councillors and officers.

BUSINESS

1. APOLOGIES & REQUESTS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCES

APOLOGIES

REQUESTS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCES

Cr Vicki Neele is on an approved leave of absence from 2 to 21 October 2018.

Cr Leanne Pentreath is on an approved leave of absence from 2 October 2018.

2. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES & ATTACHMENTS

For the:

- Open section of the Council Meeting held on 18 September 2018
- Open section of the Special Council Meeting held on 4 September 2018
- Open section of the Campaspe Briefing Session held on 4 September 2018
- Open section of the Campaspe Briefing Session held on 11 September 2018
- Open section of the Campaspe Briefing Session held on 18 September 2018

Recommendation

That the following minutes be accepted as true and accurate records:

- **The open section of the Council Meeting held on 18 September 2018**
- **The open section of the Special Council Meeting held on 4 September 2018**
- **The open section of the Campaspe Briefing Session held on 4 September 2018**
- **The open section of the Campaspe Briefing Session held on 11 September 2018**
- **The open section of the Campaspe Briefing Session held on 18 September 2018**

3. CHANGES TO THE ORDER OF BUSINESS

Once an agenda has been prepared and sent to Councillors, the order of business for that meeting may only be altered by resolution of the Council. This includes the request for an item to be brought forward.

4. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Disclosure of Conflict of Interests are to be made immediately prior to any relevant item being discussed.

Local Government Act 1989 Section 79

- (1) If a Councillor or member of a special committee has a conflict of interest in a matter which is to be considered or discussed at a meeting of the Council or the special committee, the Councillor or member must, if he or she is attending the meeting, disclose the conflict of interest in accordance with subsection (2).
- (2) A Councillor or member of a special committee who has a conflict of interest and is attending the meeting of the Council or special committee must make a full disclosure of that interest:
 - (a) by either
 - (i) advising the Council or special committee at the meeting of the details required under paragraphs (b) and (c) immediately before the matter is considered at the meeting; or
 - (ii) advising the Chief Executive Officer in writing of the details required under paragraphs (b) and (c) before the meeting; and
 - (b) classifying the type of interest that has given rise to the conflict as either:
 - (i) a direct interest; or
 - (ii) an indirect interest and specifying the particular kind of indirect interest under section 78, 78A, 78B, 78C, 78D or 78E; and
 - (c) describing the nature of the interest; and
 - (d) if the Councillor or member advised the Chief Executive Officer of the details under paragraph (a)(ii), the Councillor or member must make a disclosure of the class of interest only to the meeting immediately before the matter is considered at the meeting.

5. RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY DECISIONS

5.1. COUNCIL PLANNING REPORT – 3799 MIDLAND HIGHWAY STANHOPE VIC 3623, PLN148/2018

ALLOCATED OFFICER:	Rebecca Fisher, Planner
RESPONSIBLE MANAGER:	Planning and Building Manager
APPLICATION NO:	PLN148/2018
DATE RECEIVED:	19 June 2018
APPLICANT:	Globird Energy Pty Ltd
PROPOSAL:	Use and development of the land for a Renewable Energy Facility (solar farm) in the Farming Zone Schedule 1 and Business Identification Signage Pursuant to Clause 52.05 and the alteration of access to a road in a Road Zone Category 1 pursuant to Clause 52.29
SUBJECT SITE:	3799 Midland Highway Stanhope Vic 3623
ZONING:	Farming Zone Schedule 1
OVERLAYS:	None
UNDER WHAT CLAUSE (S) IS A PERMIT REQUIRED?:	Clause 35.07-1, Clause 35.07-4, Clause 52.05-14 and Clause 52.29
RESTRICTIVE COVENANTS ON THE TITLE?:	No
CURRENT USE AND DEVELOPMENT:	Two Dwellings with agricultural (dairy) buildings
IS A CULTURAL HERITAGE MANAGEMENT PLAN REQUIRED:	No
BUSHFIRE PRONE AREA:	Yes but not a listed use or development
OBJECTIONS:	47 Objections

1. Summary Recommendation

It is recommended that Council as the Responsible Authority issue a Refusal.

2. Conflict of Interest

In accordance with Section 80B of the *Local Government Act 1989*, the officer preparing this report declares no conflict of interest in regards to this matter.

3. Charter of Human Rights

This report has considered and complies with the Human Rights and Responsibilities contained in the Victorian *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006*.

4. Instrument of Delegation

This report has considered the Instrument of Delegation (S6) by Council. This report is required as the delegation does not allow officers to determine a planning application where multiple objections have been lodged and where it is major development which has an impact on the community.

5. Proposal

It is proposed to use and develop the land for a 'Renewable Energy Facility' (Solar Farm) and business identification sign and alteration of access to a Category 1 Road Zone. The facility is proposed to be connected to the national electricity grid via the 66kV Stanhope-Shepparton powerlines that are owned and operated by Powercor. The use is expected to be carried out for approximately 25 years.

The proposal seeks approval for a total 130 megawatt (DC) energy including 100 megawatts battery storage and 30 megawatts of solar energy. The site will comprise up to 120,000 panels across an area of approximately 39 hectares. Once mounted, each panel will have a maximum height above ground level of 4m. The development is proposed to be setback at least 5m from the side and rear boundaries, 20m from local roads and 100m from any dwelling not in the same ownership. The development does not meet the setback of 100m from the Midland Highway, being approximately 50 metres.

The proposed development comprises:

- 400 shipping container sized batteries with each container being 12.5m long, 2.5m wide and 2.6m high. Each container will be capable of storing 0.25MW. Battery storage containers will be constructed from steel and will be sited on concrete supports. Solar panels will also be mounted on top of the containers.
- A shipping container sized power conversion units (comprising inverters, transformers and switchgear) will be installed within each array of panels. A total of 70 conversion units will be installed, with each power conversion unit being 12.5m long and 2.5m wide with an overall height of 3.5m. Solar panels will also be mounted on top of the containers.
- A substation which will be 80m long and 50m wide comprising kiosk, switchgear, step-up transformer, circuit breakers, anti-lighting poles and a switching station;
- The existing dwellings and sheds on site will be converted into site offices.

Access to/from the site will be via Downing Road and the existing access to the site from Midland Highway will be decommissioned. Traffic movement to/from the site during the construction period are proposed to be an average forty (40) truck movements per week with up to 75 full time employees working onsite to establish the facility.

After the construction phase the applicant advised that two (2) full time workers are required for the routine maintenance and monitoring of the facility. A total of four (4) car parking spaces will be provided as part of the proposal including the provision of one (1) disabled car space located in proximity to the operation and maintenance building.

The proposal also involves displaying of a business identification sign. The proposed sign will have an area of 3m² (3m long and 1m wide) and will be mounted on poles being 1.5m above the ground. The sign will comprise the name of the business and business logo.

The use is proposed to operate in conjunction with an agricultural activity, being grazing of livestock, to assist with the ongoing maintenance of the site. Whilst the applicant has stated that no agricultural land will be taken out of service, no detail was provided in relation to the scale of the proposed agricultural use and the agricultural capacity of the land before and/or after the development.

The application proposes the incremental growth of the number of batteries onsite, with a trial phase of 94 containers to begin with which would allow for 20MW of battery storage, with the potential to expand to 235 containers for 50MW of battery storage and eventually 470 containers for 100MW of battery storage, subject to network studies.

6. Subject Site & Locality

An inspection of the site and the surrounding area has been undertaken.

The site is irregular in shape comprising of two (2) separately transferable Certificates of Title in the same ownership, one each to the north and south of Downing Road, with a total area of 45.72ha as described below.

- Lot 2 on PS444917 is irregular in shape with a total area of 29.78ha. The lot is has frontage to Midland Highway to the south and Downing Road, a Council road, to the north. The site contains a single storey dwelling setback approximately 130m from Midland Highway. A number of agricultural sheds are also located within the vicinity of the existing dwelling on the site.

The property is mostly clear of native vegetation with some mature native trees along the southern and northern boundaries. The eastern and part of the north and south boundary of the allotment adjoins a Goulburn-Murray Water channel. The site contains irrigation infrastructure, has been laser graded with existing internal and external fencing. The allotment is also encumbered by a 2m wide power line easement located in the eastern corner. Adjoining the site, is a 1ha lot with a residential dwelling in separate ownership.

- Crown Allotment 39, Section B is also irregular in shape with an overall area 15.94ha. The allotment is currently vacant and comprises patches of native vegetation particularly within the western portion. The allotment is encumbered by a 20.12m wide water supply easement located in the centre of the property and along the front boundary. The allotment has frontage to Downing Road of approximately 55m, with a south-west boundary which follows the Goulburn-Murray Water channel. A whole farm plan was approved for this allotment, which set out the existing lasered paddocks and irrigation infrastructure.

There are four dwellings in separate ownership between the subject site and Downing Road to the south and three dwellings in separate ownership between the subject site and Johnson Road to the west. The subject area is located on the north side of Midland Highway, approximately 380m east from the intersection of Midland Highway and Johnson Road.

The eastern boundary of the township of Stanhope (shown in pink on the below aerial photo) is located on the western side of Johnson Road and approximately 379m from the Township Zone (referenced pink) , as shown in the photo below. The land to the north, south and east of the subject area is predominantly irrigated agricultural land.



VicPlan <http://mapshare.maps.vic.gov.au/vicplan/> (Subject site referred to in blue dots, Township Zone shown in light Pink)

7. Permit/Site History

The history of the site includes:

- TPA445/2009 – Whole Farm Plan approved for Crown Allotment 39, Section B

8. Public Notification

The application has been advertised pursuant to Section 52 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, by:

- Sending notices to the owners and occupiers of adjoining land.
- Placing a sign on site.
- Notice in the Newspaper.

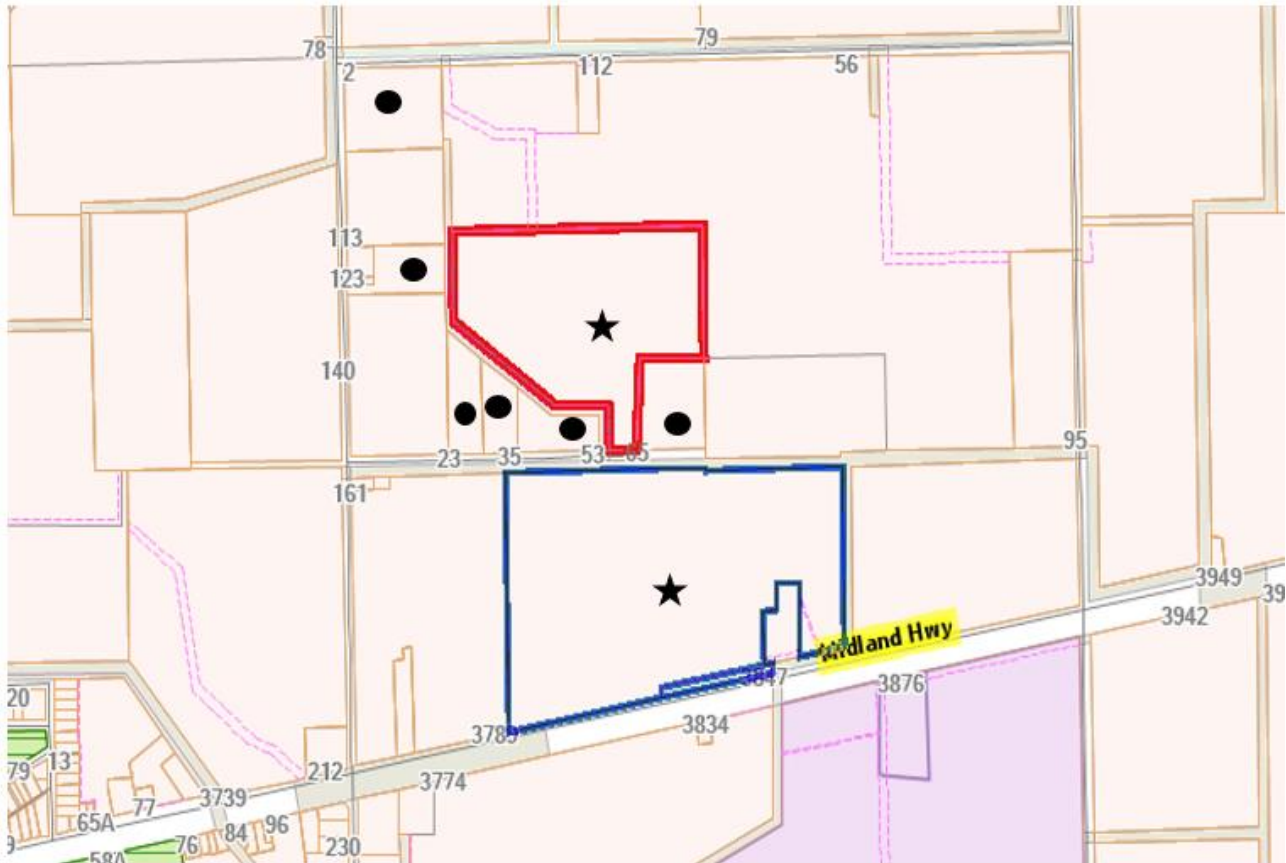
The notification has been carried out correctly.

Council received forty seven (47) objections to the application. The objections can be summarised as follows:

- Use is not agricultural in nature
- Removal of productive land from agriculture
- Visual Impacts
- Light Spill
- Traffic
- Heat Island Impacts
- Inappropriate setback from dwellings
- Anti-lighting poles
- Hours of Operation
- Soil contamination
- Devaluation of property
- Dust
- Vibration
- Flora and fauna including weed management
- Flooding
- Bushfire
- Rural lifestyle
- Location due to proximity to town
- Litter

These issues have been taken into account in the assessment of the planning application.

Figure 1: Subject site and surrounds



Legend	
Subject Site	★
Objection	●

Please note that multiple objections have been received from a number of properties shown above and that 1 objections were received from outside of the area shown.

Council have also received 34 objections in a standard pro forma letter. The pro forms express concerns about location, proximity to dwellings and loss of farming land.

9. Consultation

A consultation meeting was undertaken on 12 September 2018 at the Rushworth Service Centre. A number of objectors attended and the objectors concerns were discussed in detail with the applicant.

The concerns discussed at the consultation meeting were in relation to the objections received, however, there was no resolution.

10. Referrals

The application has been referred to three (3) external authorities and two (2) internal Council Departments. The following table makes note of the type of information requested; whether consent was given and whether conditions were requested to be attached to the permit. In some cases, notes or other advice were included in the referral response.

Referral Authority	Type of Referral	Feedback received	Request Permit Conditions	Any other advice or notes
Goulburn-Murray Water	Section 52	Consent	Yes	Yes
VicRoads	Section 55	Consent	Yes	Yes
Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning	Section 52	Comments	No	Yes
CFA	Section 52	Comments	No	Yes
Internal Department	Type of Referral	Consent/Approve Proposal	Request Permit Conditions	Any other advice notes
Design and Road Services	Comments	Consent	Yes	No
Environmental Health	Comments	Consent	Yes	No

11. Assessment

Planning Policy Framework (PPF)

The following policies and objectives are relevant to this application.

Clause 11 Settlement - The objective of planning is to anticipate and respond to the need of existing and future communities. Planning should recognise the need for and as far as practicable contribute towards, the health and safety, diversity of choice, adaption in response to changing technology, economic viability, a high standard of urban design and amenity, energy efficiency, prevention of pollution to land, water and air, protection of environmentally sensitive areas and natural resources, accessibility and land use and transport integration.

Clause 13 Environmental Risks and Amenity - Planning should adopt a best practice environmental management and risk management approach which aims to avoid or minimise environmental degradation and hazards and amenity conflicts. Planning should identify and manage the potential for the environment, and environmental changes, to impact upon the economic, environmental or social well-being of society and should prepare for and respond to the impacts of climate change.

Clause 13.02 Bushfire – To strengthen the resilience of settlements and communities to bushfire through risk-based planning that prioritises the protection of human life.

Clause 13.05 Noise – Planning should assist the control of noise effects on sensitive land uses.

Clause 14.01 Agriculture

Clause 14.01-1S Protection of Agricultural Land - To protect the state's agricultural base by preserving productive farmland.

Clause 14.01-2S Sustainable Agricultural Land Use - To encourage sustainable agricultural land use.

15.02-1S Energy and Resource Efficiency - To encourage land use and development that is energy and resource efficient, supports a cooler environment and minimises greenhouse gas emissions.

Clause 17 Economic Development - Planning is to provide for a strong and innovative economy, where all sectors of the economy are critical to economic prosperity. Planning is to contribute to the economic well-being of communities and the State as a whole by supporting and fostering economic growth and development by providing land, facilitating decisions, and resolving land use conflicts, so that each district may build on its strengths and achieve its economic potential

Clause 19.01-2S Renewable energy - To promote the provision of renewable energy in a manner that ensures appropriate siting and design considerations are met.

Clause 19.01-2R Renewable Energy – Loddon Mallee North - Support and facilitate renewable energy generation and protect these activities from urban encroachment.

Local Planning Policy Framework (LPPF)

Clause 21.01 Campaspe Shire Key Issues and Strategic Vision tells us the estimated 2013 population of the shire was approximately 37,000, which is expected to grow to approximately 39,600 by 2031 (VIF 2015) and to 43,000 by 2036 (Campaspe Profile). Compared to other areas of regional Victoria, the shire has a higher population of younger (school age) people and older people. This trend is expected to grow, which may leave a 'population donut', with less working age residents in the municipality.

Agriculture (particularly irrigated primary production) and its processing underpin the economy of the shire and region. Approximately 40 per cent of employment in the shire is in manufacturing, agriculture (including fishing and forestry) and health care.

Clause 21.05 Natural Resource Management

This clause provides local content to support Clause 14 (Natural Resource Management) of the State Planning Policy Framework.

Agriculture

Irrigated primary production and the processing of that product underpin the economy of the municipality and the region. The level of production is nationally important and the region is responsible for significant parts of the nation's milk production, deciduous canned fruit production, stone fruit crop and tomato processing production.

Growth and Consolidation areas, being an areas for growth and expansion of existing farm businesses and for new investment. The minimum subdivision size in these areas has been set at 60 hectares, and a dwelling needs a planning permit on all land less than 80 hectares in area.

Objectives

- To ensure that agriculture is and remains the major economic driver in the region
- To identify a preferred area for intensive agricultural activities
- To ensure that use and development does not pose a threat to the sustainable productive capacity of the shire's agriculture economic base.

Clause 22.01 Agriculture Policy

This policy addresses two separate issues, which arise in the Farming Zone being rural subdivision and rural dwellings.

The process of farm consolidation is considered fundamental to the long term viability of the agricultural base of the Shire. The fragmentation of existing farms is discouraged as it is inconsistent with the trend towards the consolidation of larger and more viable agricultural parcels. Fragmentation also leads to rural living opportunities, which compromise farming purposes by increasing land prices and introducing residents with 'non-farming' amenity

expectations. The existing supply of lots in the Farming Zone is considered sufficient to enable the incremental growth of farms.

Council acknowledges that there is a demand for rural living opportunities in the Shire, but adequate land has been allocated to accommodate this demand. Unplanned rural living results in agricultural land being taken out of production. A rural dwelling will often be needed to properly farm the land, however new dwellings must be limited to those that genuinely relate to agricultural production.

Clause 22.04 Non-agricultural Uses in Farming Zone

This policy builds on the MSS strategies at Clause 21.05 regarding potential land uses and developments that may impact on agricultural activities and investment. The Farming Zone was significantly modified in 2013, after the adoption of the Campaspe, Greater Shepparton and Moira Regional Rural Land Use Strategy (2010). An array of new discretionary uses was introduced, many of which had been prohibited at the time of the preparation of the strategy.

In terms of land use, the preferred mix of uses in the Farming Zone includes those that support agricultural activities and associated rural industries that maintain and build the economic base of the shire. Council discourages uses in the rural areas that are not directly related to agriculture, or that have an adverse impact on agriculture and future agricultural opportunities.

Objectives

- To identify a preferred mix of land uses in rural areas.
- To promote appropriate land use and development within rural areas.
- To discourage non-agricultural use and development in all rural areas, other than those that support agriculture.

Zoning

Clause 35.07 Farming Zone

Ensures that non-agricultural uses, particularly dwellings, do not adversely affect the use of land for agriculture and encourage use and development of land based on comprehensive and sustainable land management practices.

A permit is required for the use of the land pursuant to Clause 35.07-1 (Table of Uses) for a renewable energy facility. This is a defined Section 2 Use with the condition that the proposal must meet the requirements of Clause 53.13. Clause 35.07-4 requires a permit to construct or carry out works associated with a use in Section 2 of Clause 35.07-1.

Relevant Particular Provisions

Clause 52.05 Signs Regulate the display of signs and associated structures. Provide for signs that are compatible with the amenity and visual appearance of an area, including the existing or desired future character. Ensure signs do not contribute to excessive visual clutter or visual disorder. Ensure that signs do not cause loss of amenity or adversely affect the natural or built environment or the safety, appearance or efficiency of a road.

Signage in the FZ is Category 4 – Sensitive Areas (Clause 52.05-14). A permit is required for business identification signage and the area of the sign must not exceed 3m².

Clause 52.06 Car Parking Aims to ensure the provision of an appropriate number of car parking spaces having regard to the demand likely to be generated, the activities on the land and the nature of the locality and ensure that the car parking is of a high standard and does not adversely affect the amenity of the locality.

A Renewable Energy Facility is not listed as a defined use under Clause 52.06-5. As such car parking is to be provided to the satisfaction of the responsible Authority pursuant to Clause 52.06-5A. The application proposes four (4) defined car spaces.

Clause 52.29 Land Adjacent to a Road Zone, Category 1, or a Public Acquisition Overlay for a Category 1 Road - Ensure appropriate access to identified roads. A permit is required to create or alter access to a road in a Road Zone, Category 1.

Clause 53.13 Renewable Energy Facility - Facilitates the establishment and expansion of renewable energy facilities, in appropriate locations, with minimal impact on the amenity of the area.

This provision has no direct triggers however it provides specific application requirements and decision guidelines for any application for a Renewable Energy Facility.

Before deciding on an application, in addition to the decision guidelines of Clause 65, the responsible authority must consider, as appropriate:

- The effect of the proposal on the surrounding area in terms of noise, glint, light spill, vibration, smell and electromagnetic interference
- The impact of the proposal on significant views, including visual corridors and sightlines.
- The impact of the proposal on the natural environment and natural systems.
- Whether the proposal will require traffic management measures.

General Provisions

Clause 65 Decision Guidelines Sets out decision guidelines for the responsible authority to consider in ensuring acceptable outcomes in terms of Planning Policy Framework.

Clause 71.02-1 Purpose of the Planning Policy Framework is to provide a context for spatial planning and decision making by planning and responsible authorities, seeking to ensure that the objectives of planning in Victoria are fostered through appropriate land use and development planning policies and practices that integrate relevant environmental, social and economic factors in the interests of net community benefit and sustainable development.

Clause 73.03 Definition Renewable Energy Facility - Land used to generate energy using resources that can be rapidly replaced by an ongoing natural process. Renewable energy resources include the sun, wind, the ocean, water flows, organic matter and the earth's heat. It includes any building or other structure or thing used in or in connection with the generation of energy by a renewable resource. It does not include a renewable energy facility principally used to supply energy for an existing use of the land.

This definition is considered appropriate as the proposed use will supply energy that is not for any existing use on the subject site.

Relevant incorporated or reference documents

- Council Plan 2013-2017
- Wangaratta Solar Farm Advisory Committee Report (Department of Environment Land Water and Planning, 2017)

Relevant Planning Scheme amendments

VC148 (gazetted 31 July 2018) – Reforms to the VPP under the Smart Planning Program, which aims to simplify and modernise Victoria's planning policy and rules to make planning more efficient, accessible and transparent.

The changes integrate the SPPF and replaces it with a new integrated PPF in Clauses 10 to 19 and simplifies the remaining planning scheme with:

- The organisation of the particular provisions into three new categories
- Inserts operational provisions (Clause 70 to 74) that consolidates operational and administrative provisions
- Amendments to zones, overlays and particular provisions to improve structure and the operation of affected clauses including the inclusion of VicSmart into zones and overlays

Other Documents

- Draft – Solar Energy Facilities – Design and Development Guidelines (DELWP)

12. Summary of Key Issues

Clause 71.02 Operation of the Planning Policy Framework requires the Responsible Authority to balance conflicting objectives by considering relevant environmental, social and economic factors in the interests of net community benefit and sustainable development.

In the case of this application, the key conflicts arise from whether the proposed use and development of the land for a renewable energy facility is appropriate for the subject site, which is productive, irrigated agricultural land in close proximity to the township of Stanhope.

The local policies of the Campaspe Planning Scheme provide minimal guidance regarding 'appropriate' locations or decision guidelines related to renewable energy facilities. Although the scheme includes a state wide particular provision Clause 53.13 Renewable Energy Facility, specific guidelines regarding appropriate locations are not outlined and no 'code of practice' is available compared to other particular provisions.

Whilst the Planning Policy Framework emphasises in Clause 15.02-1S the importance of renewable energy, it is recognised that a significant transition to renewable energy is already underway in Victoria. Renewable energy is already the cheapest and cleanest new source of energy supply. Increasing electricity generation capacity will help to reduce power prices and meet the Victorian renewable energy targets of 25 per cent by 2020 and 40 per cent by 2025. However, it is also recognised that irrigated primary production and the processing of that agricultural product underpin the economy of the municipality and the region.

The assessment of the application has considered the recent Draft Solar Energy Facilities, Design and Development Guidelines (DELWP). Factors such as State policy, strategic site selection, detailed development assessment, community engagement and stakeholder consultation, design, construction, operation and decommissioning all need to be determined.

Social Effects

Section 60(1)(b) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* states that before deciding on an application, the responsible authority must consider all objections and other submissions which it has received and which have not been withdrawn. Section 60(1)(f) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* states that before deciding on an application, the responsible authority must consider any significant social effects and economic effects which the responsible authority considers the use or development may have.

Notice of the application was given and forty seven (47) objections have been received. Whilst it is acknowledged that a large number of objections does not necessarily equate to refusing an application, the Act was amended to require the responsible authority (and VCAT) to have regard to the social impact.

In considering whether a proposed use or development may have a significant social effect, the likelihood is dependent upon such factors as whether the objections have merit, or are supported by other evidence. The draft guidelines for Solar Energy Facilities identifies the importance and need for balancing goals of the community well being with individual project

development and long term growth. Numerous objections have expressed concern about the level of engagement and the number of objections highlights that there is significant concern by the 'community' who live within the area.

Strategic Site Selection

When reviewing facilities of this nature it is acknowledged that they require, considerable land mass and are generally discouraged within township boundaries or close to sensitive interfaces. It is understood that given the land size required any renewable energy facility is likely to be located within land which is zoned Farming. This is also more likely given that these facilities generally need to locate along or within proximity (2km) to the major transmitting lines (66kV). The use of the land for a Renewable Energy Facility is a Section 2 use requiring a permit, which means consideration must be given to both appropriateness of the site selected and the design of the infrastructure within.

Clause 14.01-1S aims to *"ensure that the State's agricultural base is protected from the unplanned loss of productive agricultural land due to permanent changes of land use"*. Clause 14.01-2S aims to *"encourage sustainable agricultural land use."* Local policies provide direction for economic, social and physical development of the Shire. Clause 21.05-1 recognises that *"agricultural investment is jeopardised, deterred, or lost by land use and development that has the potential to compromise the scale and location of such investment"*.

In relation to site selection it is noted that Clause 17.01-1S objective is *"to strengthen and diversify the economy"* with a strategy is to *"support emerging and potential growth sectors such as nature-based tourism, mining and renewable energy generation and protect these activities from urban encroachment"*. The proximity of the site to the existing township area of Stanhope (within 350m) and with a number of existing dwellings on small lots in the Farming Zone between the subject site and the township means that there is already an issue of urban encroachment, contrary to the planning policy framework.

Clause 19.01-2S Provision of renewable energy objective guides us *"to promote the provision of renewable energy in a manner that ensures appropriate siting and design considerations are met"* with a strategy to *"facilitate renewable energy developments in appropriate locations"*. Attempts have been made to locate and design the infrastructure on the site to minimise the impacts on adjoining dwellings and the township of Stanhope. However, based on the scale and intensity and the proximity to surrounding dwellings and in addition the agricultural value of the land.

The incorporated Regional Rural Land Use Strategy (RRLUS) referenced within Clause 21.05-1 identifies the site as being within a 'growth and consolidation' area identified as *"being areas for growth and expansion of existing farm businesses and for new investment"*. Objections have been raised in relation to the loss of productive agricultural land. Based on the location and qualities of the site including available irrigation infrastructure, it is considered that the use and development will remove productive agricultural land and has the potential to restrict the growth of existing agricultural operations to the north, east and south of the subject site.

The solar farm will occupy 39ha of the 45ha of land which makes up the subject site. Whilst the panels are on fixed frames will be mounted high enough to allow for the continued use for grazing of livestock, the land where the batteries and conversion units will be located will be removed from agricultural use for the life of the project. Each of the approximately 470 containers for the batteries and conversion units will have concrete supports beneath and solar panels on their roofs. Each container will have an area of 31.25sqm, combining for a total hard surface area of productive land being removed from agriculture of 1.47ha.

In addition to the above, the soil compression resulting from the weight of the containers may also impact on the existing irrigation layout of the land. It was also noted by Council's engineers that the rainfall runoff sheet flow falling from the panels may adversely impact the soil below by causing rutting and erosion. The applicant did not provide detailed information of the impacts of the use on the agricultural qualities of the land and is considered contrary to the purpose of the Farming Zone *to ensure that non-agricultural uses do not adversely affect the use of land for agriculture*. It is also noted that no information regarding rehabilitation was submitted therefore the proposal is likely to remove the productive qualities of the land.

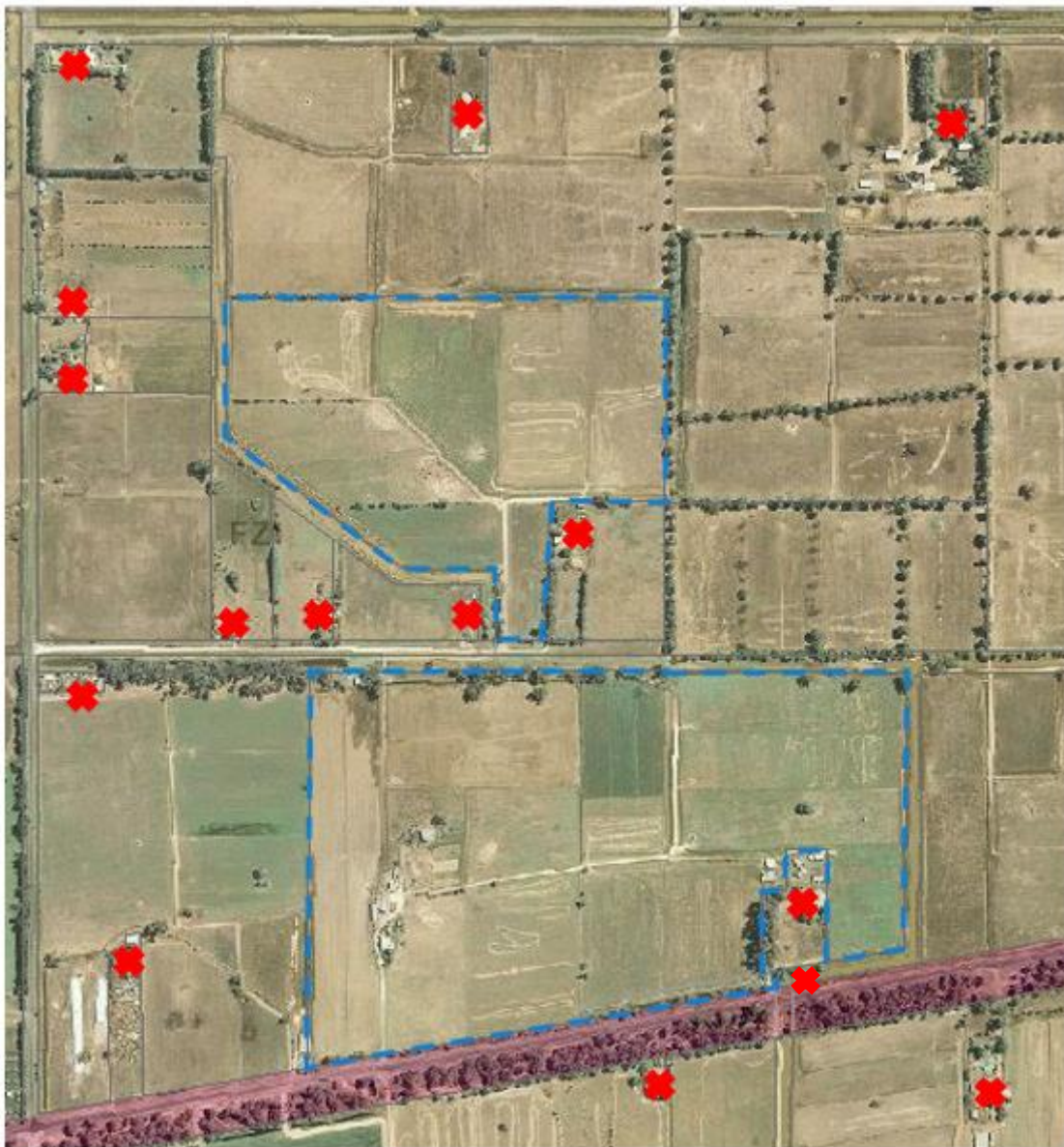
The site has access to the Goulburn-Murray Water channel with existing irrigation infrastructure on both parcels of land. A whole farm plan was approved for the northern parcel in 2009 which enables the improvement of the land for agricultural activities. It is noted that the applicant advised that they do not propose to remove any of the irrigation infrastructure from the site. Based on the intensity of the use and development on the site and in particular the 470m shipping containers, it

is considered that there would be an impact due to the compaction of the land and will reduce the type of agricultural activities that could be carried out contrary to local policies and the purpose of the zone.

The proposal will result in the land being 'taken out' of agriculture based on the scale and intensity of the use on the site in particular the 470 shipping containers that will have an area of 1.47ha. The proposal is contrary to sound and orderly planning. The use and development is contrary to planning policy framework and local policies and the relevant decision guidelines of the Farming Zone.

Amenity

Clause 13 advises that planning should adopt a best practice environmental management and risk management approach to avoid amenity conflicts. In the case of this application there is potential for amenity impact, given the proximity of the site to the township of Stanhope being located less than 400m, along with the close proximity of dwellings (shown on the below map in red), several of which will be relatively close to the panels in three directions.



Vicplan <http://mapshare.maps.vic.gov.au/vicplan/> (site referenced by blue dots and dwellings shown in red crosses)

Concerns were raised in relation to the setback of the proposal from surrounding dwellings. It is noted that a dwelling approved as part of PLN055/2017 at 65 Downing Road, currently under construction does not meet the setback requirement of Clause 35.07-4 of 100m from the panels. Although the applicant has advised they can amend the design to achieve the setback, no updated plans have been provided. Regardless, the location, scale and intensity of the

development in proximity to a number of dwellings and the removal of productive agricultural land is contrary to the zone and policies of the Campaspe Planning Scheme.

The development of the solar farm in particular the 470 shipping containers on the site, results in a different landscape character from traditional uses in the Farming Zone. In an effort to minimise the visual impact of the development, the applicant has proposed the planting of screening trees along the property boundaries, as well as attaching shade cloth to the proposed security fences. Whilst this may help to reduce the appearance of the development for adjoining dwellings, it still will not be consistent with the rural character of the area and is only necessary due to the inappropriate site selection. Concerns regarding this changed outlook have been raised by several of the objectors.

The site is located within a designated bushfire prone area. The planting of extensive vegetation in an effort to screen the development from neighbouring properties has the potential to increase the fire risk onsite. The application was referred to the Country Fire Authority who, amongst other advice including vehicle access requirements, recommended that a fuel reduced area of 10m width would be required to be maintained around the perimeter of all facilities and that battery storage facilities be located as close to the site entrance as possible. Upon review of the layout of the proposed development the recommendations of the CFA cannot be achieved due to the close proximity of neighbouring dwellings.

Objections have been raised regarding the noise that will be generated by the development. Clause 13.05 states that planning should assist with the control of noise effects on sensitive land uses, in this case, the adjoining dwellings. Whilst the noise generated from the proposal may be no louder than that considered normal for an agricultural use, there has been no assessment provided. Noise generation will be predominantly associated with the construction of the solar farm, including traffic and construction and there may be ongoing noise generated by the operation and cooling of the 470 battery and conversion unit containers.

The proposal will result in an increase of traffic and dust from vehicles during construction. The applicant has outlined that during construction phase a weekly average movement of 40 trucks will occur to transport the infrastructure. It is expected that approximately 75 full time employees will be working onsite during the construction phase. Objectors have raised concerns about the dust that will be generated by the development as access to the site would be past neighbouring dwellings via Downing Road, a gravel lane. Allowing the proposal in an area not suited in proximity to existing dwellings and the township of Stanhope, it needs to be recognised that there may be additional complaints and increased Council resources.

Objections were raised regarding the potential for glint, glare or reflection impacting neighbouring properties. Solar panels are designed to absorb as much light as possible to maximise power generation and they have an anti-reflection coating to further reduce reflection. Often there will still be glare produced by the smooth glass surface of the panels. Given the flat topography, proposed screening and the lack of opportunities for overlooking of the site, the potential for impact resulting from reflection or glare is reduced but cannot be entirely eliminated due to the proximity of dwellings on surrounding properties.

Other matters

The application does not propose the removal of any native vegetation with the development sited to minimise any impact on existing flora and fauna by taking into consideration the natural environmental features of the site including avoiding areas of remnant vegetation. The application was referred to the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning who recommends buffers of 30 metres from solar panels to any native vegetation retained at renewable energy facilities, which is not shown in the plans provided.

Access to the site will be provided via existing vehicle crossovers on Downing Road. These vehicle crossovers would likely need to be upgraded to meet council requirements. The existing vehicle access to Midland Highway is proposed to be decommissioned. Whilst some information regarding traffic management was provided as a part of the application, the application was referred to VicRoads and Council's Engineering Department, who consented to the proposal subject to conditions including the provision of detailed traffic studies.

The subject site is within Farming Zone and therefore Category 4 (Clause 52.05-14) applies to the subject site, which has high limitation applying to sensitive areas. The proposed sign is defined as 'Business Identification Signs', and does not exceed the 3sqm however is not considered appropriate based on the overall purpose associated with the use and development.

Concerns have been raised that the proposal may result in a variance or heat temperature rise. It is considered that there will not be significant change in climate and that no proof or relevant evidence has been provided (not an urban environment). Any difference in temperature, if any, will only be localised to the solar panel surface. Solar panels will be elevated from the ground allowing for ventilation and heat transfer.

Concerns were raised in relation to the devaluation of the property within the area. It has been acknowledged that concerns have been raised, however there have been a number of case law decisions that do not recognise devaluation as a planning related matter.

13. Conclusion

The subject site is considered to not be appropriate for the use and development proposed. The land is productive irrigated agricultural land, located in close proximity to existing dwellings and the township of Stanhope and should be protected and preserved for agricultural use in accordance with both state and local planning policy. It is recommended that Council as the Responsible Authority issue a Refusal.

14. Recommendation

That Council as the Responsible Authority under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*:

- **Having caused notice of Planning Application No. Pln148/2018 to be given under Section 52 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and or the planning scheme:**

And

Having considered all the matters required under Section 60 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* decides to Refuse to Grant a Permit under the provisions of Clauses 35.07-1, 35.07-4, 52.05-14 and 52.29 of the Campaspe Planning Scheme in respect of the land known as Volume 10922 & Folio 249 and Volume 10665 & Folio 974 described as 3799 Midland Highway Stanhope VIC 3623, for the use and development of the land for a Renewable Energy Facility (solar farm) in the Farming Zone Schedule 1 and Business Identification Signage Pursuant to Clause 52.05 and the alteration of access to a road in a Road Zone Category 1 pursuant to Clause 52.29 with the application dated 19 June 2018, subject to the following grounds of refusal:

- 1. The use and development is inconsistent with the Planning Policy Framework, particularly the objectives of Clauses 14.01 Agriculture and 21.05 Natural Resource Management which all seek to protect and preserve productive farmland from non-agricultural uses.**
 - 2. The proposed subject site is contrary to Clause 13 Environmental Risks and Amenity which states that planning should avoid or minimise amenity conflicts and Clauses 19.01-2 Renewable Energy and 53.13-3 Renewable Energy Facility which require that renewable energy facilities are appropriately located to minimise the impact on the amenity of the area.**
 - 3. The use and development is inconsistent with the purposes of Clause 35.07 Farming Zone which seeks to provide for the use of land for agriculture, to encourage the retention of productive agricultural land and to ensure that non-agricultural uses do not adversely affect the use of the land for agriculture.**
 - 4. The use and development is contrary to the decision guidelines of Clause 65 of the Campaspe Planning Scheme.**
 - 5. The proposal will result in a significant social effect contrary to Section 60(1)(f) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*.**
 - 6. The proposal is contrary to the 'Draft Solar Energy Facilities, Design and Development Guidelines' (DELWP).**
-

6. PLANNING AUTHORITY DECISIONS

Nil

7. COUNCIL DECISIONS

7.1. CUSTOMER FIRST STRATEGY

Author:

Sandra Ennis, Communications Manager

Attachments:

7.1. Customer First Strategy

1. Purpose

This report presents the Customer First Strategy 2018-2022 to council for consideration and adoption.

2. Recommendation

That Council:

1. **Adopt the Customer First Strategy 2018-2022.**
 2. **Note an action plan will be developed to achieve the objectives outlined in the strategy across the four year period.**
-

3. Conflict of Interest

In accordance with Section 80B of the *Local Government Act 1989*, the officer preparing this report declares no conflict of interest in regards to this matter.

4. Charter of Human Rights

This report has considered and complies with the Human Rights and Responsibilities contained in the Victorian *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006*.

5. Instrument of Delegation

This report has considered and complies with the Instrument of Sub-Delegation by the Chief Executive Officer in so far as this report is not contrary to the existing policy or strategy previously adopted by Council.

6. Background

In 2008 a Customer Service Delivery Review was completed with a number of recommendations to lift the customer service delivery across the organisation. Some of the actions completed from this review included the adoption of a Customer Service Charter, implementation of the networked call centre, decommissioning of individual customer service centre phone lines, establishment of community hubs (library, service centre and other services co-located), instalment reminder notices, automated payment methods and call centre reporting.

In 2016, the Customer Service Charter was reviewed and adopted by council and a Customer Complaints Process was also adopted.

Recognising the need to lift the customer focus across the organisation, it was identified that a new strategy was required. This strategy recognises that council delivers many services to the community, in some instances each department works independently with varied business processes. The customer views the organisation as a single entity and this strategy aims to put the customer at the centre of what council does, capturing their feedback as a stimulus for ongoing service improvement.

The need for a strategy aligns with the Council Plan and the strategic objective under the Responsible Management theme to foster a customer centred approach. Council's values of respect, customer focused, continuous improvement, teamwork and accountability also link with the strategy.

7. Content

The purpose of the strategy is to put the customer at the centre of service delivery to ensure an enhanced service experience that exceeds expectations. The strategy sets the vision and three objectives:

Vision

Providing a customer service experience that is effortless, accurate and friendly.

Objectives

Effortless: No matter the demographic, the customer, both internal and external, can access information and engage with council quickly and easily.

Accurate: With knowledge at hand, information provided is accurate.

Friendly: Whether in person, on the phone, or online, the information is easily understood and is in plain English.

In developing actions, the outcome of each objective will be considered. Actions will be developed in conjunction with the Leadership Group, recognising the Customer Contact team will not be solely responsible for achieving all actions, they will need to be from across the organisation to ensure the vision is achieved.

To support the delivery of the actions, the organisation will need to focus on:

People	Commitment of all staff with a high level of buy-in and necessary competencies supported by a program of ongoing training and development
Resources	Commitment and realignment of adequate staffing, information and communication systems used and available
Culture	A willingness to change and embrace a customer focussed culture, looking at all we do from the customer's perspective, using customer insight to drive continuous improvement to deliver customer orientated outcomes
Financial	A clear understanding of current costs and potential savings through changed business processes
Measurement & reporting	Ongoing reporting across the organisation

8. Issues and Risk Management

Issues:

Council participates in the Local Government Customer Satisfaction Survey each year and reports the outcomes to the community. The survey results for the past six years indicates that the overall trend for council's customer service rating is steady. Whilst the findings have helped guide the development of this strategy, future actions such as collation of customer feedback, mystery shopping surveys, etc, will further assist in understanding community expectations and community perception. For council to take no action and do nothing may result in this indicator declining in future years.

Risk:

Risk management has been considered in the preparation of this report and no risks with a high or extreme rating have been identified in this process.

9. Strategic Planning Environments

Strong and Engaged Communities: No impact

Resilient Economy: No impact

Healthy Environment: No impact

Balanced Services and Infrastructure: No impact

Responsible Management: The strategy is aligned to the strategic objective – An organisation that is responsive, flexible, honest, accountable and consistent.

The strategy is also aligned to council's values, to deliver quality, innovative and community focused services today that make a difference for tomorrow.

10. Consultation

Executive Management Group

7.2. COUNCIL POLICY REVIEW

Author:

Sharolyn Taylor, Council Support Officer

Responsible Manager:

Governance Manager

Attachments:

7.2. Council policy 034 Investment with recommended changes

1. Purpose

To present to Council for adoption policies that have been reviewed in September and October 2018.

2. Recommendation

That Council adopt the following reviewed Council policy:

- **Policy 034 – Investment.**
-

3. Conflict of Interest

In accordance with Section 80B of the *Local Government Act 1989*, the officer preparing this report declares no conflict of interest in regards to this matter.

4. Charter of Human Rights

This report has considered and complies with the Human Rights and Responsibilities contained in the Victorian *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006*.

5. Instrument of Delegation

This report has considered and complies with the Instrument of Sub-Delegation by the Chief Executive Officer in so far as this report is not contrary to the existing policy or strategy previously adopted by Council.

6. Background

Policies are critical to the strategic objectives of council and provide a predetermined course of action to the community. At the September 2016 Council meeting Council resolved for all Council policies to be reviewed annually commencing November 2017.

As part of the review process a *Review and Evaluation of Policy Guideline* was developed and introduced to assist staff in the evaluation process by providing a basic evaluation and review methodology to assist in determining the effectiveness of the policy and the extent to which a policy has met or is meeting its objectives.

There are five overarching objectives for the policy review process which are to:

1. Ensure that policies reflect current legislative and regulatory requirements,
2. Reaffirm, where possible, current practice is similar to similar activities within the Local Government sector,
3. Meet the functional and operational requirements of council staff in executing policy,
4. Be responsive and reflective of the needs of council's stakeholders and ratepayers,
5. Be relevant to the local government context in which Campaspe Shire Council operates and strive for best practice in policy development.

Questions to ask when reviewing policies should include:

- *What impact, if any, does a policy or program have in terms of specific outcomes for the people for whom it is meant to apply?*
- *Does it actually meet the needs of small business, ratepayers or council staff for the purpose intended?*
- *A second consideration is process evaluation, which asks how, why and under what conditions does a policy work, or fail to work?*
- *Are there gaps, circumstances or reasons why it cannot be applied?*

Council policies have been reviewed by the responsible officers as per the Review and Evaluation of Policy Guideline.

7. Content

A summary of the revised policy is listed below, and the policy is also attached with track changes for readability. This policy is presented to the March Council meeting for adoption.

Policy No.	Policy Title	Purpose	Summary of changes
DIVISION - CORPORATE SERVICES			
Department - Finance			
034	Investment	To invest surplus funds that maximise Council's investment portfolio returns while observing the parameters set in this policy. Council's investment portfolio will reflect a conservative approach to managing its investments, ensuring secure income streams and capital protection.	Removal of philosophy, change to purpose and policy statement – Authority for Investment, Authorised investments, Guidelines, removal of variations to policy and attachments

The Audit and Risk Committee also reviewed Council Policy 034 Investment at their committee meeting held on 5 September 2018 and considered the recommended changes. The Audit and Risk Committee resolved that the policy be referred to Council for approval.

8. Issues and Risk Management

Issues:

Nil

Risk:

Risk management has been considered in the preparation of this report and no risks with a high or extreme rating have been identified in this process.

9. Strategic Planning Environments

Strong and Engaged Communities:	No impact
Resilient Economy:	No impact
Healthy Environment:	No impact
Balanced Services and Infrastructure:	Policies improve delivery on services to the community and give clear direction to officers.
Responsible Management:	Council policy assist with establishing guidelines, effective decision making and being accountable to the community.

10. Consultation

- Executive Management Group
- Audit and Risk Committee at their 5 September 2018 Committee meeting
- Councillors reviewed the policy at the 2 October 2018 Briefing session.

7.3. SUPPORT FOR MOTIONS AT MAV STATE COUNCIL MEETING

Author:

Frank Crawley, Governance Manager

1. Purpose

To seek Council support for two motions from Horsham Rural City Council and one motion from Manningham Council to be considered at the MAV State Council meeting on 19 October 2018.

2. Recommendation**That Council:****1. Support the following motions to be considered at the MAV State Council meeting on 19 October 2018****▪ Motion 35. Funding Model LG Sep 18**

Submitting Council: Horsham Rural City Council

Motion:

That the MAV advocate to the state and federal government for a review of the funding model for local government as the burden on property rates as the main source of revenue is unsustainable, particularly for rural councils.

▪ Motion 37. Fire Services Levy - Renewal of Infrastructure

Submitting Council: Horsham Rural City Council

Motion:

Lobby the State Government to change the relevant legislation so that funds from the Fire Services Levy are used for the maintenance and renewal of fire-fighting infrastructure across rural Victoria, including replacement of fireplugs, hydrants and tanks on rural water supply systems.

▪ Motion (no number yet). Waste and Resource Recovery Advocacy

Submitting Council: Manningham Council

Motion:

That Council supports the Combined Local Government Waste Forum Chairs and the Municipal Association of Victoria to advocate on Waste and Resource Recovery issues on behalf of all Victorian Councils to the State and Federal Governments.

2. That Council write to Horsham Rural City Council and Manningham council advising them of Council's support for their motions.

3. Conflict of Interest

In accordance with Section 80B of the *Local Government Act 1989*, the officer preparing this report declares no conflict of interest in regards to this matter.

4. Charter of Human Rights

This report has considered and complies with the Human Rights and Responsibilities contained in the Victorian *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006*.

5. Instrument of Delegation

This report has considered and complies with the Instrument of Sub-Delegation by the Chief Executive Officer in so far as this report is not contrary to the existing policy or strategy previously adopted by Council.

6. Background

The MAV at its State Council Meeting considers a number of motions submitted by Councils across the state. Motions must be submitted by one council but can be supported by other councils. It is common practice for council to both develop its own motions and support other Councils' motions when it agrees with the purpose of the motion.

7. Content

Council reviewed the MAV State Council motions that have been distributed to Council at its briefing session on 2 October 2018. The following motions were thought to be worthy of consideration for support at the next Council meeting.

Motion 35. Funding Model LG Sep 18

Submitting Council: Horsham Rural City Council

Relevance to MAV Strategic Workplan

Is the subject matter of this motion/resolution included in the SWP? Yes

Objective No.1

Priority No.3

Motion:

That the MAV advocate to the state and federal government for a review of the funding model for local government as the burden on property rates as the main source of revenue is unsustainable, particularly for rural councils.

Submitting Council Rationale:

The reliance on revenue from rates as the principal source of income for most councils is becoming problematic as property values increase differently across the sectors and particularly for rural councils where farm values are increasing significantly higher than other sectors.

The State and Federal Governments need to take a more strategic approach when looking at how Local Government is funded. Increasing costs for local government to deliver the expanded number of services and meet the increasing regulatory & compliance environments has seen an increasing burden on property rates.

On top of this the tax burden has been shifting, as the Federal Financial Assistance Grants have reduced in real terms. When introduced in the 1970's they provided approximately 40% of the assessed needs for council and now due to the erosion in their value they are only meeting 16% of the assessed need. This has created a giant taxation shift across the decades, moving the tax burden from Federal Taxation Revenues to property based rates.

Submitting Council: Horsham Rural City Council**Relevance to MAV Strategic Workplan**

Is the subject matter of this motion/resolution included in the SWP? No

Motion:

Lobby the State Government to change the relevant legislation so that funds from the Fire Services Levy are used for the maintenance and renewal of fire-fighting infrastructure across rural Victoria, including replacement of fireplugs, hydrants and tanks on rural water supply systems.

Submitting Council Rationale:

Construction of the Wimmera Mallee Pipeline in north-west Victoria has changed the water supply landscape in this region. It has also led to significant new costs for maintenance and renewal of infrastructure used for fire-fighting in the region.

Previously a network of dams provided water for fires, but now hydrants and tanks are the source of fire-fighting water. These assets will need gradual replacement over time – representing an increased burden on local government, according to the responsibilities identified in the Water Act (s165).

Farmers pay the Fire Services Levy, yet also provide a significant level of the volunteer resources that actually fight fires. There appears to be a limited return of the Levy funds to rural areas.

The provision and maintenance of fireplugs, hydrants and tanks in rural areas should be funded through the Fire Services Levy.

A group of Councils in north-west Victoria unsuccessfully lobbied relevant Ministers in 2015. A statewide approach to this lobbying is considered important to achieve a positive outcome.

Changes may be required to the Water Act and CFA Act to facilitate this change.

Submitting Council: Manningham City Council**Motion:**

That Council supports the Combined Local Government Waste Forum Chairs and the Municipal Association of Victoria to advocate on Waste and Resource Recovery issues on behalf of all Victorian Councils to the State and Federal Governments.

Submitting Council Rationale:

Victorian Local Government provides the “Essential Service” of Waste and Recovery from homes for over 6.5 million people. Local Government needs increased financial assistance from the State and federal Governments to do what is required to meet the evolving waste and resource recovery challenges. Councils are major players in the waste and recycling sector. It is therefore important that their role is acknowledged, their views are respected and that they have greater access to the funds collected by the State via the landfill levee.

The Challenges:

- State Government is implementing significant legislative change in relation to the EPA, landfills, historic landfills and resource recovery that is forcing Councils to implement changes to their service and supporting infrastructure but provides only partial funding to address the costs
- The State and Federal governments need to recognise the infrastructure costs required to meet the needs of the new regulations and understand that Councils are suffering from the significant shortfall in appropriate funding being returned to the sector

- Councils need funding because of the *ongoing* challenge they face to manage waste disposal in a manner that is affordable and sustainable and that achieves the states' goals while constrained by rate capping
- Rate payers of today will shoulder a disproportionate share of the costs of waste and are being forced to pay for the sins of the past, the requirements of the present and the needs of the future
- Funding that is accumulating in the State Governments Sustainability fund is significant with only a very small proportion being dispersed. It has been collected from the waste sector and should be returned to the sector to support only waste related activities

Regional Waste Forum Chairs wish to partner with the MAV to highlight these and other emerging waste issues.

The Mayor will represent Campaspe Shire Council at the MAV State Council Meeting on the 19 October, highlighting support for the motions listed above should Council resolve to do so.

8. Issues and Risk Management

Issues:

Nil

Risk:

Risk management has been considered in the preparation of this report and no risks with a high or extreme rating have been identified in this process.

9. Options

Option 1:

Support the motions as listed.

Option 2:

Not support the motions as listed.

10. Strategic Planning Environments

Strong and Engaged Communities:	Nil
Resilient Economy:	Nil
Balanced Services and Infrastructure:	Plan and advocate to meet community need
Responsible Management:	Strong leadership, advocacy and good governance

11. Consultation

Councillor Briefing Session 2 October 2018

7.4. GUNBOWER LIONS PARK REDEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL

Author:

Shane Stacey, Community Places Project Officer

Responsible Manager:

Recreation Manager

Attachments:

7.4.1. Business Case Gunbower Lions Park Redevelopment

7.4.2 Gunbower Lions Park Amenities

7.4.3 Gunbower Lions Park Redevelopment Concept Plan

1. Purpose

To seek approval for the redevelopment of the Gunbower Lions Park as per the works recommended within this report.

2. Recommendation**That Council:****1. Support the redevelopment of the Gunbower Lions Park to include the following items:**

- a. Fishing Jetty
- b. Footpath Network
- c. Tractor Relocation
- d. BBQ & Shelter
- e. Natural Play Space
- f. Sandy Beach
- g. Wetland Planting
- h. Flag Pole and Rock Monument
- i. Street Furniture
- j. Landscaping

based on an assessment of merit, variability, and impact against relevant service levels of Council.

2. Refer the project to the 2019/20 Capital Works program for consideration, provisional on the sourcing of funding from third parties to fully deliver the project.

3. **Actively work with the Gunbower and District Development Group Inc, to source funds from relevant funding agencies and community in kind contributions to support the delivery of the project and leverage funding allocated by Council.**
 4. **Note that Council has already allocated \$30,000 to this project from the Community Plan Implementation Fund for Gunbower.**
 5. **Note that once the project has been delivered, additional maintenance and operational expenses will be incurred, currently estimated for 2018/19 at \$3,800.**
-

3. **Conflict of Interest**

In accordance with Section 80B of the *Local Government Act 1989*, the officer preparing this report declares no conflict of interest in regards to this matter.

4. **Charter of Human Rights**

This report has considered and complies with the Human Rights and Responsibilities contained in the Victorian *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006*.

5. **Instrument of Delegation**

This report has considered and complies with the Instrument of Sub-Delegation by the Chief Executive Officer in so far as this report is not contrary to the existing policy or strategy previously adopted by Council.

6. **Background**

The Gunbower Lion's Park Redevelopment project is a key priority of the Gunbower community since 2012 when developing their Community Plan. The project was reaffirmed in 2014 as a result of the Gunbower Dreaming workshops which were held as part of the Tiny Towns initiative and is identified as a high priority in the current Community Implementation Plan.

The Lion's Park is located on the Gunbower Creek in the centre of town. It is a public space that is highly valued by the community. It provides an area for tourists and locals to meet to enjoy many different recreational activities. Many people are also attracted to the area as it is the gateway to the internationally significant wetland region of the Gunbower Islands and also to the Northern Plains Grasslands.

The Gunbower & District Development Group Inc. is the lead organisation, a subcommittee of this group was formed to guide and inform the development of this project. The committee recognised a need to develop an overall concept plan for this area, so they could partner with Council and other stakeholders in delivering the community vision for the Gunbower Lions Park.

In preparation for the development of a concept plan the first stage of works at the site identified by the community was the removal of the failing retaining wall infrastructure from the water way and the old changing shed due to safety reasons. Council completed these works in partnership with the community in 2017.

The developed concept plan identifies a number of renewal components that is consistent with Council service levels for public open space and playground provision. There are some components that are above the existing service level for a public open space, but have the potential to improve the attraction, enhance functionality and draw an economic benefit for the community through tourism and increased public use/access. The original concept also includes some ambitious elements that exceed service levels and that currently do not demonstrate a justifiable cost/benefit or service need.

An assessment of the community proposal informs the recommendation to undertake renewal and upgrade works in line with the basic concept plan. Additional inclusions that will enhance the park that are above service levels could be funded

and delivered through a partnership approach with NCCMA and Fisheries Victoria. Components that are significantly above service levels for public open space and do not present a realistic cost/community benefit should not be progressed at this time. All these items have been discussed in consultation with the community working group.

The community working group have been fully engaged throughout the development of the concept plan and the assessment of the proposed project. The findings in this report are consistent with the understanding of the community of the inclusions which are both achievable and which support the objective of the project.

7. Content

Project Inclusions:

The project proposal has been assessed using the Community Places Project process and a business case has been completed, refer to Attachment 7.4.1. The recommendations within the business case have been formulated in consultation with representatives from the Gunbower Development Group.

The concept plan comprises of a list of works to redevelop the park. Each component of the concept plan has been assessed for merit, viability and impact against relevant service levels, strategies and the capacity to support the achievement of the group's vision and objective; *"to enhance the natural beauty of the Lions Park and Gunbower Creek, making it interesting and inviting for locals and visitors alike"*.

A summary of the components identified in the overall concept plan are shown in the table below along with recommendations for inclusion in a project to redevelop the park.

Table 1:

Component	Recommendation	Comment
Boardwalk	NO	Very high cost with very low benefit
Board Walk Landing	NO	High cost/low benefit
Fishing Jetty	YES	Seek funding through Fisheries Victoria.
Footpath Network	YES	As per revised plan
Youth (skate) space	NO	Above service, limited demand/identified need
Tractor Relocation	YES	
BBQ & Shelter	YES	Renewal
Natural Play Space	YES	Renewal
Toilet Cladding	NO	Above service, cost not justified
Sandy Beach	YES	Seek funding to construct a landing, alternative to sand. Include canoe launching in funding proposal to Fisheries Victoria.
Wet Land Planting	YES	NCCMA to fund and facilitate with Landcare
Flag Pole & Rock Monument	YES	
Street Furniture	YES	Renewal and rationalisation
Landscaping	YES	Part of renewal & reinstatement process

The preliminary estimated cost to deliver the recommended works is \$400,000 (inclusive of Project Management and Contingency). A range of funding partner opportunities have been identified to support delivery of these works including Fisheries Victoria, North Central Catchment Management Authority, Regional Development Victoria and philanthropic grant streams. Officers will progress these funding options in partnership with the community as they become available to reduce Councils total capital investment costs.

A Council allocation of \$30,000 from Community Plan Implementation Funds towards this project has been requested. These funds will be used for detailed designs and leveraging grants opportunities.

An estimated additional annual operation and maintenance cost due to the increased asset base being a fishing platform and launch ramp is \$3,800. This cost would be an increase in the Parks & Gardens budget requirement for the Gunbower Lions Park.

In assessing the concept, officers are aware that there is potential for the profile of Gunbower to be raised and for greater environmental, eco-tourism opportunities to be developed through the Murray Tourism Adventure trail along with partnership opportunities with NCCMA and Parks Victoria to integrate tracks and trails at Gunbower as part of the walking/cycling/canoeing market. Redevelopment of the Lion's Park would be appropriate to ensure Gunbower Township presents an attractive launching place for this sector of the tourist market. This initiative will provide the local businesses with an enticement to generate economic sustainability and growth.

The Gunbower forest has been identified as a priority location for the development of a regionally significant walking and cycling trail in the most recent Loddon Campaspe Regionally Significant Trails Strategy prepared for RDV. The redevelopment of the Lion's Park will both support and capitalize on this trail.

Cost Benefit Analysis

The National Park encompassing the wetlands around Gunbower has been identified as one of the top five Loddon Campaspe Regionally Significant Trails by RDV. This elevates the recognition for Gunbower as a visitor destination servicing the growth in walking/cycling and nature based tourism markets.

Lions Park is strategically located to serve as an anchor point for visitors to the surrounding trails. Development of the park will improve the amenity and functionality of the space to enhance the attraction of Gunbower.

An indicative cost/benefit analysis has been done to assess the viability of the park redevelopment in supporting a level of economic return for local businesses. Calculations have been made on day visitors only with a spend of \$25 per person.

Calculations on the potential number of annual visitors has been made using the following data. Annual Domestic Day Visitors to Campaspe is 810,000. 16.8% of these visitors engage in sightseeing. A percentage of these are highly likely to walk or cycle. Given the low level of tourist knowledge of the Gunbower area a conservative estimate of 1% of the 16.8% of sightseeing tourists means around 1,500 people per year may visit Gunbower. This may deliver \$37,500 of gross spend in the town. An increase in Domestic Day Visitors to 5% of the 16.8% of Campaspe tourists would yield around \$170,000 potential spend.

The recommended works to redevelop the park are estimated to cost around \$400,000. The economic benefit demonstrates a payback period of between 2 and 10 years dependent on visitation and promotion of Gunbower. The redevelopment of the park along with active marketing and the potential for overnight visitors will increase the economic return exponentially reducing the payback period.

8. Issues and Risk Management

Issues:

Issue 1: Lions Park Condition

The original development of Gunbower Lions Park has occurred in a piece meal fashion evolving over the years for a range of different purposes. The park operated as the local swimming hole with a concrete platform and change room. Local organisations took the initiative to construct shelters, install tables and monuments at various periods in the park's history.

The community uses the park for both formal and informal activities and, in the past, held event attractions such as Dragon Boat Racing on the creek adjacent to the park. Presently, there are a lot of dated and deteriorated assets in the park. This reduces the attraction and impacts on the functionality of the area.

The community proposal seeks to remove tired infrastructure, improving the aesthetics and amenity in the park with an aim of reintroducing visitor events. The community has demonstrated an ongoing 'ownership' of the park and it is a recognizable place of pride supporting the project priority and long term future of the site as a key community park.

Issue 2: Council Renewal Program and Budgetary Impacts

The infrastructure that makes up Gunbower Lions Park has an overall depreciation of 30% of the total depreciated value of the existing asset. A considerable number of these assets are beyond or very close to renewal intervention indicating there is a percentage of capital renewal that may be accessed and allocated to support grant submissions for this project. The assets in the park also include a number of components that were originally constructed by the community and do not appear in Council's Asset Register. These components provide important park amenity but have reached end of life and should be decommissioned and renewed in accordance with the concept plan.

An estimate of capital renewal for assets that are listed and are at / or near intervention is \$100,000. Council Officers will seek external funding partners for this project however Capital Renewal funding may be required to support matching funds in grant applications.

At the completion of this project there will be some additional cost to recurrent budgets for the operation and maintenance of extra assets in the park such as the canoe launching ramp and fishing platform. This is estimated at approximately 1 hour per week plus \$400 p.a for any minor repairs, equating to an estimated annual cost of \$3,800 on top of the current Parks & Gardens budget for the Lions Park.

The increased operational costs incorporates and recognises the removal of some surplus old picnic tables and BBQ shelter if these items were not removed as part of the project the ongoing operational costs will be greater than estimated.

Risk:

Risk management has been considered in the preparation of this report and no risks with a high or extreme rating have been identified in this process.

9. Options

Option 1: Endorse the redevelopment of Gunbower Lions Park

This option is recommended by officers. The works to be included in the redevelopment of the park as per Appendix X.1 have been based on analysis against service levels and capacity to achieve the community project objectives. This project proposal has been developed with the full support and engagement of the local community working group and will provide Gunbower with a redeveloped park for future local community events and place to visit supporting the local economy and community place of pride.

Option 2 Not Endorse the redevelopment of Gunbower Lions Park

This option is not recommended by officers. The redevelopment of the park is an opportunity to improve the amenity for social connectivity, economic growth and environmental awareness in Gunbower and across the Loddon Campaspe region. This project has involved a significant level of community engagement to develop an achievable and beneficial project for the future of Gunbower.

Option 3: Modify the recommendations of this report

This option is not recommended by officers. The recommended works have been assessed in consultation with the community. The funding options have been investigated for feasibility. Any change to the recommendations may jeopardise the ability to deliver the project and adversely impact on Council's budget.

10. Strategic Planning Environments

Strong and Engaged Communities:	Strategy 3: Enable residents to be active and engaged in their community and support participation in artistic, cultural, sporting and leisure opportunities.
Resilient Economy:	Strategy 3: Support and develop Campaspe's tourism opportunities.
Healthy Environment:	No Impact
Balanced Services and Infrastructure:	Strategy 3: Maximise access and usage of assets through innovative design and partnership initiatives.
Responsible Management:	Strategy 3: Strengthen relationships and partnerships to maximise service and infrastructure opportunities, deliver joint initiatives and leverage external funding.

11. Consultation

External Consultation:

- Gunbower & District Development Group – development of the concept plan and recommendations in this report.
- Goulburn Murray Water – feasibility of the concept proposal.
- North Central Catchment Management Authority – feasibility of the concept proposal.
- Regional Development Victoria – potential consideration for funding.
- Fisheries Victoria – potential funding of the fishing platform and canoe launching area

Internal Consultation:

- Community Planning Officer – community consultation and ongoing engagement
- Recreation Manager – service delivery and enhancement of the space for economic benefit.
- Parks & Gardens Coordinator – design feasibility and potential budgetary impacts.
- Arborists – tree management
- Asset Management – asset ownership and condition ratings.
- Finance – asset renewal, depreciations and budget implications.

7.5. ENVIRONMENT STRATEGY 2018-22

Author:

Allison McCallum, Environmental Project Officer - Conservation

Responsible Manager:

Public Environments Manager

Attachments:

7.5. Environment Strategy 2018-22

1. Purpose

To have Council adopt the Environment Strategy 2018-22.

2. Recommendation

That Council adopt the Environment Strategy 2018-22.

3. Conflict of Interest

In accordance with Section 80B of the *Local Government Act 1989*, the officer preparing this report declares no conflict of interest in regards to this matter.

4. Charter of Human Rights

This report has considered and complies with the Human Rights and Responsibilities contained in the Victorian *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006*.

5. Instrument of Delegation

This report has considered and complies with the Instrument of Sub-Delegation by the Chief Executive Officer in so far as this report is not contrary to the existing policy or strategy previously adopted by Council.

6. Background

Environment Strategy 2018-22 describes the environmental programs that council engages in. It replaces the previous strategy, Environment Strategy 2012-15.

The 2018 - 22 strategy provides guidance and direction to council and informs the community and partners about council's current status across four environmental themes, the activities that Council must undertake (legislated) and those Council choose to undertake. The Environment Strategy 2018-22 also provides an overview of the Shire's natural assets and the challenges our environment and community face due to climate change, pest plant and animals, ongoing loss of habitat and managing water quantity and quality.

Throughout the development of the Environment Strategy 2018-22 officers consulted with the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority, Department and Environment, Land, Water and Planning, the Landcare community and internal staff to ensure the document aligns with state and regional themes and directions.

7. Content

The objectives of the Environment Strategy 2018-22 are to:

- describe the environmental programs that council engages in
- align council with state government direction
- specify council's legal obligations with respect to environmental management
- document council's commitments to voluntary environmental management (discretionary activities)
- maintain a summary of Federal and State legislation, State, Regional and Local Government policies, plans and strategies
- engage with stakeholders and identify opportunities for council to partner with organisations to achieve environmental benefits together

The Environment Strategy 2018-22 describes the strategic context of the plan within council, the natural assets (including national parks, rare and threatened species and the Northern Plains Grasslands and Plains Wanderer) and the environmental challenges of climate change, pest plant and animals, ongoing loss of habitat and managing water quantity and quality. The Strategy is then divided into four themes:

- Theme 1 - Conservation
- Theme 2 – Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation
- Theme 3 – Community Engagement and Partnerships
- Theme 4 – Council's Responsibilities

Each theme details council's policy position, the policy rationale, long-term aims, performance indicators and example actions.

The Environment Strategy 2018-22 will be evaluated by the:

- delivery of actions in the annual action plan
- measurement of performance indicators

An annual action plan will be developed to guide the implementation of this Strategy.

The Environment Strategy 2018-22 aligns with Council's Strategic Plan Toolkit.

The Draft Environment Strategy 2018-22 was presented to Council briefing session on Tuesday 7 August. Following Council's support the Strategy was released for community consultation from Friday 10 August to Friday 7 September. Five submissions were received as a result of the community consultation process. All submissions received supported the Strategy. The Strategy has been updated to include the recommendations suggested by the community and stakeholders.

8. Issues and Risk Management

Risk:

Risk management has been considered in the preparation of this report and no risks with a high or extreme rating have been identified in this process.

The greatest risks arise from not having a strategy. The strategy aligns council with state priorities, ensures compliance with regulations and legislation and enables council to leverage state and federal government funding.

9. Strategic Planning Environments

Strong and Engaged Communities:	The strategy enables residents to be actively engaged in their community and supports best practice service delivery.
Resilient Economy:	The strategy facilitates and supports local business growth through new opportunities arising from the need to adapt to the climate (for example the development of renewable energy and development of different crops in the agricultural sector). It develops tourism opportunities and investment through supporting the community to adapt to climate change.
Healthy Environment:	The strategy is focussed on providing a healthy environment for our community, responding to climate change and developing partnerships for a healthy natural environment.
Balanced Services and Infrastructure:	Guide the development and implementation of services and infrastructure to ensure they meet best practice, are fit for purpose and economically, environmentally and socially viable.
Responsible Management:	Documents a clear and open strategy for the council's environmental programs. Documents how relationships and partnerships are developed and managed.

10. Consultation

Consultation has been undertaken with the following:

Government departments and agencies of Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority, North Central Catchment Management Authority. Other stakeholders consulted with include Goulburn Broken Greenhouse Alliance and Goulburn Broken Local Government Biodiversity Reference Group.

Internal consultation with environmental health, fleet management, parks and gardens, infrastructure services, planning, project management, recreation and Executive Management Group.

Consultation with the community has occurred through Landcare groups and through the community consultation period. Through the formal community consultation period five submissions were received from Campaspe Shire Council Youth Advisory Group, Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority, Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, Echuca Moama Landcare Group and Kevin L'Hullier.

7.6. YAMBUNA BRIDGE, YAMBUNA BRIDGE ROAD, RENEWAL

Author:

Richard Conway, Acting General Manager Infrastructure Services

1. Purpose

To seek Council's approval for the funding of 50% of the renewal costs of Yambuna Bridge on Yambuna Bridge Road.

2. Recommendation

That Council approve the transfer of \$57,000 from the Asset Renewal - Roads Unallocated Reserve to fund the renewal of the Yambuna Bridge as part of the 2018/19 Capital Works Program.

3. Conflict of Interest

In accordance with Section 80B of the *Local Government Act 1989*, the officer preparing this report declares no conflict of interest in regards to this matter.

4. Charter of Human Rights

This report has considered and complies with the Human Rights and Responsibilities contained in the Victorian *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006*.

5. Instrument of Delegation

This report has considered and complies with the Instrument of Sub-Delegation by the Chief Executive Officer in so far as this report is not contrary to the existing policy or strategy previously adopted by Council.

6. Background

Yambuna Bridge on Yambuna Bridge Road is a boundary bridge between Campaspe and Moira Shires with the lead council for renewal being Moira Shire Council. The Moira Shire Council have undertaken a level 3 bridge inspection, which has identified that the bridge is in urgent need of renewal. Subsequently Moira Shire Council engaged a specialist consultant to undertake a design for the renewal of the bridge with the estimated renewal cost being \$113,760.60 (including design costs). However, as an interim road safety measure, Moira Shire Council have imposed a 6 Tonne Mass limit which was suggested by the bridge consultants. The load limit on the repaired bridge will be 12 tonne which is its design load. The bridge was subject of a renewal project c9 years ago. The items that have failed were not included in the original project scope.

7. Content

The latest traffic count (April 2016) on Yambuna Bridge Road was 100 vehicles per day (6.9% commercial vehicles). As a boundary bridge between the Campaspe and Moira Shires the renewal costs are split 50:50 between the two councils. With design and estimated construction costs of \$8,965 and \$104,795.60 respectively Campaspe's 50% share of the costs will be \$56,880.30 (rounded up to \$57,000 to account for minor variations on doing the work).

Yambuna Bridge is currently load limited to six (6) tonnes which makes it unusable for larger vehicles and some farm traffic. Moira Shire Council investigated the options for the bridge including complete replacement and felt that replacing

the failing structural elements was the best approach. In discussions with Moira Shire Council, Campaspe staff believe this is a reasonable route forward with limited risk.

8. Issues and Risk Management

Issues:

Issue 1: Mass Limit restrictions on heavy and emergency vehicles

If a vehicle exceeds the 6 tonne mass limit or should the bridge close for whatever reason the estimated detour (via local roads and the Murray Valley Highway) is 44km. Such a detour would restrict the passage of emergency vehicles (CFA trucks) and the ability of local property owners to run their properties.

Issue 2: Possible closure during renewal

It may be necessary to close the bridge during the renewal period. If so detours may be necessary. Appropriate signage will be erected and local residents advised accordingly.

Issue 3: Other options for the bridge

Campaspe as a Council with 50% stake in the bridge could argue that a full replacement is appropriate for the bridge. A full replacement would mean demolishing the current bridge and building a higher mass bearing structure for either 33, 44 or the new standard 160 tonne load. Practically speaking however replacing now would mean writing off the investment made by Council 9 years ago which has an asset value implication. Also work would need to be done to convince Moira Shire Council of the worth of doing that in order to gain their half share, or in the alternate, taking the replacement on alone with maybe the \$57,000 contribution to half the repair cost from Moira (depending on how the negotiations went). The draft estimate for replacing the bridge is \$650,000 (understanding this is a draft estimate without benefit of a detailed design).

The bridge may gain Federal funding on its own merits depending on the number and quality of competing applications across the state. However Federal funding programs that specifically relate to bridges are not until March 2019. Finally in this section comparatively speaking Yambuna is not as economically critical as others currently at risk such as Groves Weir Road or Milloo-Dingee Falls Bridge Road. The latter two bridges would be prioritised by staff over Yambuna Bridge when making a Federal funding application and assigning Shire funds.

Risk:

Risk management has been considered in the preparation of this report and no risks with a high or extreme rating have been identified in this process.

9. Options

Option 1: Approve the transfer of \$57,000 from the Roads Renewal Unallocated Funds to the renewal of Yambuna Bridge Road Bridge.

This option is recommended by officers.

Renewal of the Yambuna Road Bridge will allow the lifting of the 6 tonne mass limit restrictions to 12 tonne allowing access to these local roads by local residents, emergency vehicles and other road users.

Option 2: Seek to replace Yambuna Bridge Road Bridge as part of the 2019/20 budget

This option is not recommended by officers.

It would be recommended that Council consult with the Moira Shire Council (as responsible entity) and local residents before selecting this option. The increased cost, c\$650,000 would significantly increase the burden on both shires.

Option 3: Refuse this funding request

This option is not recommended by officers.

As this option would lead to the imposition of more restrictive mass limit restrictions, increased operational maintenance expenses and/or the eventual closure of the Yambuna Road Bridge itself it is not recommended. It would be highly recommended that Council consult with the Moira Shire Council (as responsible entity) and local residents before selecting this option. Alternatively it would lead Moira Shire Council taking the burden alone which has relationship implications.

10. Strategic Planning Environments

Strong and Engaged Communities:	The bridge provides an important access point for local residents and emergency services.
Resilient Economy:	The bridge is used by a considerable number of local residents and other road users and therefore contributes to the economic prosperity of the area.
Healthy Environment:	At the completion of the renewal process the 6 tonne mass limit will be lifted and the bridge and local roads will remain accessible into the future.
Balanced Services and Infrastructure:	The 6 tonne mass limit and possible closure of the bridge itself places a safety and time/financial burden on local residents and other road users.
Responsible Management:	The Moira Shire Council is the responsible managers for the bridge and their advice/recommendations should be considered.

11. Consultation

Internal

- Road Services Unit
- Project Management Unit
- Strategic Asset Management Unit
- Acting General Manager Infrastructure Services

External

- Moira Shire Council
- Expert bridge consultants

7.7. OPEN DRAINS RENEWAL PROGRAM 2018/19

Author:

Sean Hay, Acting Road Services Coordinator

Responsible Manager:

Assets Manager

1. Purpose

To seek renewal funding for an Open Drains Renewal Project for the 2018/19 financial year.

2. Recommendation

That Council approve the transfer of \$65,000 from the Asset Renewal – Roads Unallocated Reserve to fund the Open Drains Renewal Program as part of the 2018/19 Capital Works Program.

3. Conflict of Interest

In accordance with Section 80B of the *Local Government Act 1989*, the officer preparing this report declares no conflict of interest in regards to this matter.

4. Charter of Human Rights

This report has considered and complies with the Human Rights and Responsibilities contained in the Victorian *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006*.

5. Instrument of Delegation

This report has considered and complies with the Instrument of Sub-Delegation by the Chief Executive Officer in so far as this report is not contrary to the existing policy or strategy previously adopted by Council.

6. Background

Council carries out condition assessments of all of its assets on a 3 to 5 year cycle depending on the nature of the asset. The open drain condition assessment was last carried out in the 2014/15 financial year. This assessment identified a number of assets that needed renewing and these have been addressed since that time. As there had not been any staff or customer complaints regarding other open drains between that point and now a renewal program for open drains was not planned for the 2018/19 financial year.

During the last three months two open drains have been identified and assessed as requiring renewal. They are:

1. McEwen Road outfall drain from the outlet siphon to 650m south. This is part of the main outfall drain from the Fauna Park Lakes and South Boundary Road storage Kyabram. No access to private property is required. The works are situated on a VicRoads road reserve. Permission from VicRoads isn't required based on similar work and the fact the work is classed as 'maintenance'.
 2. Moora Road outfall from Moora Road to Barlow Avenue Rushworth. This is part of the main outfall drain draining the western half of Rushworth. Access through private property (77 Moora Road Rushworth) is required. A site meeting has been undertaken with the residents who have given their support for the works to be undertaken.
-

These outfall drains are at or above intervention level with the McEwen Road outfall having reverse fall for the full length to be renewed meaning that it is always holding water in the concrete flume drain. The Moora Road outfall drain passes through crown land and then private property. Water is pooling at the outlet from the underground drain and is smelly and is causing weed growth. Further downstream there is extensive weed growth and a small section of scouring.

Both sections of drain will need to be regraded to level to ensure that the drain can be maintained in good condition in the future.

7. Issues and Risk Management

Issues:

Issue 1: The impact of not funding works

These drains play a crucial role in the drainage of Kyabram and Rushworth and therefore the works should be carried out in the 2018/19 financial year. The landowner in Rushworth has raised this issue with Council on a number of occasions and a recent inspection showed that they had legitimate grounds for raising the issue. They have given permission for Council to enter their land to carry out the works.

The McEwen Road outfall drain issue was identified when the survey for the South Boundary Road drainage issue was undertaken and it highlighted that the last section of the outfall drain was falling the wrong way. It also indicated that it was possible to lower the drain at the outlet end to enable the drain to fully empty. This work will improve the effectiveness of the drain.

Risk:

Risk	Likelihood	Consequence	Rating	Mitigation action
Legal – permission to enter private property to regrade and clean drain	Low	Low	Low	Obtain permission in writing before entering property to undertake works.

Risk management has been considered in the preparation of this report and no risks with a high or extreme rating have been identified in this process.

8. Strategic Planning Environments

Strong and Engaged Communities:	Undertaking of works will show that Council is responsive to issues raised by the community members.
Resilient Economy:	Nil impact
Healthy Environment:	The carrying out of the works will improve drainage and remove areas where water pools and stagnates and provides an environment for mosquitoes to breed.
Balanced Services and Infrastructure:	Renewing assets that have reached intervention level
Responsible Management:	Maintaining agreed service levels for open drains.

9. Consultation

Consultation has been undertaken with the landowners of 77 Moora Road, Rushworth and council's Road Maintenance Unit.

8. COUNCIL INFORMATION

8.1. OPEN ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS RECORDS

Author:

Sharolyn Taylor, Council Support Officer

Responsible Manager:

Governance Manager

1. Purpose

To present to Council the open records for the Assemblies of Councillors held in the month of September 2018.

2. Recommendation

That Council note the open records of Assemblies of Councillors as outlined in this report.

3. Conflict of Interest

In accordance with Section 80B of the *Local Government Act 1989*, the officer preparing this report declares no conflict of interest in regards to this matter.

4. Charter of Human Rights

This report has considered and complies with the Human Rights and Responsibilities contained in the Victorian *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006*.

5. Instrument of Delegation

This report has considered and complies with the Instrument of Sub-Delegation by the Chief Executive Officer in so far as this report is not contrary to the existing policy or strategy previously adopted by Council.

6. Background

The Local Government Act provides a definition of an assembly of Councillors where conflicts of interest must be disclosed.

A meeting will be an assembly of Councillors if it considers matters that are likely to be the subject of a Council decision, or, the exercise of a Council delegation and the meeting is:

1. An advisory committee of the Council that includes at least one Councillor; or
2. A planned or scheduled meeting that includes at least half the Councillors (5) and one member of Council staff.

The requirement for reporting provides increased transparency and the opportunity for Councillors to check the record, particularly the declaration of conflict of interest.

7. Content

The following Assemblies of Councillors were held in the month of September 2018:

Meeting Information		
Meeting Name/Type	Campaspe Briefing Session	
Meeting Date	4 September 2018	
Start time:	9:38am	Finish time: 4:22pm
Matters Discussed	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Welcome, present & apologies 2. Declaration of Interests 3. Future Meetings 4. Briefing Minutes Review 5. Mayor and Committee Representatives Report <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5.1 Kyabram Fauna Park Meet and Greet 3 September 5.2 Port of Echuca Moorings 5.3 Court Services Victoria 6. Communication Reports <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6.1 Campaspe Advocacy Priorities 2018-21 7. Technology One Cloud Transition Update 10. Loddon Campaspe Freight Study Update 11. Campaspe Planning Scheme Review Session #2 12. Delegation – Proposed Upper Deakin Drainage Course Declaration Project 13. Port Precinct Projects Update 14. Infrastructure Resourcing 15. Council Governance 16. General Business <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 16.1 2018 Resilient Australia Awards 16.2 Agricultural Skilled Workforce and Drought Impact 16.3 Safe Haven Update 16.4. Special Confidential Council meeting 4 September 2018 	
Attendees		
Councillors	Cr Vicki Neele (Deputy Mayor), Cr Daniel Mackrell, Cr Kristen Munro (9:43am - 4:22pm), Cr Neil Pankhurst, Cr Leanne Pentreath, Cr Annie Vickers, Cr Leigh Wilson, Cr John Zobec	
Staff	Jason Russell, Keith Oberin (9:38am – 1:00pm) (1:43pm – 4:22pm), Paul McKenzie (9:55am – 10:37am) (11:21am – 11:49pm), Richard Conway (Acting GM Infrastructure Services) (9:38am – 4:22pm), Fleur Cousins (9:38am – 12:55pm) (1:56pm – 4:22pm), Sharolyn Taylor	
Apologies		
Councillors	Cr Adrian Weston	
Conflict of Interest disclosures		
Matter No.	Councillor/officer making disclosure	Left meeting: Yes/No
Nil		

Meeting Information		
Meeting Name/Type	Campaspe Briefing Session	
Meeting Date	11 September 2018	
Start time:	9:33am	Finish time: 3:48pm
Matters Discussed	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Welcome, present & apologies 2. Declaration of Interests 3. Future Meetings 4. VAGO Audit Report 5. S6 Delegation Discussion No. 3 6. Hopwood Gardens Playground Update 7. Recreation Reserves Discussion No. 4 8. Echuca West Planning Update 9. Planning Scheme Amendment C110 10. Planning Scheme Review Follow Up Discussion 11. Service Planning Process 12. Campaspe Rebranding Design Project Discussion 13. Migrant Workers, 457 Visa Discussion No. 2 14. Gunbower Lions Park Redevelopment Proposal 15. General Business <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 15.1 Mr Don McKenzie VCAT Submission 15.2 MAV Presidency 15.3 Tongala Neighbourhood House 15.4 Notice of Motion - Port of Echuca Moorings 15.5 Port of Echuca 15.6 Seasonal Safe Driving Message 15.7 Elmore Events Centre Adjoining Landowners Meeting 15.8 Restricted bridges Consultation 15.9 Yambuna Bridge 	
Attendees		
Councillors	Cr Adrian Weston (Mayor), Cr Vicki Neele (Deputy Mayor) (9:40am – 3:48pm), Cr Daniel Mackrell, Cr Kristen Munro (9:52am – 3:48pm), Cr Neil Pankhurst, Cr Leanne Pentreath, Cr Annie Vickers, Cr Leigh Wilson (10:27am – 3:48pm), Cr John Zobec	
Staff	Keith Oberin (Acting CEO) (9:36am – 3:48pm), Paul McKenzie (10:00am – 1:41pm), Richard Conway (Acting GM Infrastructure Services), Suzanne Thomas (Acting GN Corporate Services), Sharolyn Taylor	
Apologies		
Staff	Fleur Cousins, Jason Russell	
Conflict of Interest disclosures		
Matter No.	Councillor/officer making disclosure	Left meeting: Yes/No
Nil		

Meeting Information		
Meeting Name/Type	Campaspe Briefing Session	
Meeting Date	18 September 2018	
Start time:	11:04am	Finish time: 3:44pm
Matters Discussed	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Welcome, present & apologies 2. Declaration of Interests 3. Future Meetings 4. Briefing Minutes Review 5. MAV State Council Meeting Motions 6. Council Meeting Agenda – Open Q & A 7. Audit & Risk Committee Meeting Briefing 10. Procurement Process Overview 11. Proposed 2019/20 Budget Process 12. Echuca Holiday Park Draft Master Plan Process 13. Healthy Heart of Victoria Project Loddon Campaspe Regional Partnership 14. General Business <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 14.1 Proposed World Heritage Listing of the Central Victorian Goldfields 14.2: Meeting with Elmore Events Centre Adjoining Landholders 14.3. LG Performance Reporting Steering Committee 14.4. Regional Roads Victoria 	
Attendees		
Councillors	Cr Adrian Weston (Mayor), Cr Vicki Neele (Deputy Mayor), Cr Kristen Munro, Cr Neil Pankhurst, Cr Leanne Pentreath (11:04am – 3:44pm), Cr Annie Vickers, Cr Leigh Wilson, Cr John Zobec	
Staff	Jason Russell, Keith Oberin, Paul McKenzie (1:25pm – 3:54pm), Richard Conway (Acting GM Infrastructure Services) (11:28am – 3:54pm), Fleur Cousins, Sharolyn Taylor	
Apologies		
Councillors	Cr Daniel Mackrell (requested a leave of absence for 18 September 2018)	
Conflict of Interest disclosures		
Matter No.	Councillor/officer making disclosure	Left meeting: Yes/No
6-7.4	Cr Weston	Yes

8. Issues and Risk Management

Nil.

9. Strategic Planning Environments

Strong and Engaged Communities:	No impact
Resilient Economy:	No impact
Healthy Environment:	No impact
Balanced Services and Infrastructure:	No impact
Responsible Management:	No impact

10. Consultation

Nil.

8.2. LETTERS OF APPRECIATION

The following have been received:

- Emergency Management Victoria – congratulations and well done to Andrew Thomson, Rural Access Project Officer and the project team on the recent success at the Resilient Australia Awards, receiving a High Commended Government Award for the Emergency Planning for People with Disabilities project.
- Geoff Gaskell, Rochester – thank you and compliments to the people responsible for the silo artwork in Rochester. The site is a catalyst of many dozens of visitors daily and has added to the awareness of the township of Rochester.
- Breathe Easy for Cystic Fibrosis (CF) Committee – thank you for supporting the 2018 Breathe Easy Cocktail Party held on 15 September. The responsive grant was a huge help in alleviating what is normally a big expense and the night raised \$28,924 for CF patients and for research into finding a cure. Funds raised will be given to the Royal Children's Hospital CF Research Trust, The Alfred Respiratory Equipment Fund and Cystic Fibrosis Community Care.
- Archie Reid, Echuca – thank you for the financial support provided to assist with travelling costs to represent Victoria at the National Cross Country Championships on 25 August.

Unfortunately Archie didn't reach his goal of getting a medal due to a few problems during the race, however, he finished in 50th position and won't let one bad race get in the way of achieving his vision of becoming the best distance runner in the world.

- Colin & Anne Crow – thank you to Rebecca Fisher, Town Planner for her help with their planning approval. Rebecca's assistance is very much appreciated.
- Echuca Moama Beacon Foundation Inc – thank you to Brigid Dullard, Youth Engagement Officer for giving up her valuable time to conduct Mock Interviews with Year 9 students from St Joseph's College on 17-18 September.
- The Imperial Hotel, Rushworth – thank you to Brendan McArdle, Parks & Gardens whose excellent work and diligence led him to discover a missing key from The Imperial Hotel in High St Rushworth.

The key holds immense sentimental value and its discovery and return is really greatly appreciated.

- Basketball Victoria Country, Basketball Victoria & Basketball Australia – thank you for hosting the Basketball Jamboree and FIBA Oceania Mini Basketball Convention from 21 – 24 September.

Thank you to your staff, in particular Belinda Owen and Bobbi Aitken for their professionalism and courtesy when dealing with the curve balls and last minute changes that were presented to them.

Recommendation

That Council note the letters of thanks and appreciation as listed.

8.3. RESPONSIVE GRANTS PROGRAM

Author:

Bobbi Aitken, Civic Events & Grants Officer

Responsible Manager:

Economic & Community Development General Manager

1. Purpose

To note Responsive Grants Program applications received and approved in line with grant guidelines and criteria.

2. Recommendation**That Council:**

1. **Note the following grants have been approved in accordance with Responsive Grants Program guidelines and criteria and applicants advised in writing:**
 - **Echuca Moama Accommodation Association – to assist with costs associated with the Port Grand Final Fever event held on 28 September, \$250.**
 - **Lockington CFA - to assist with costs for a Men’s Health Night to be held on 19 October, \$1,000.**
 - **Tongala Classic Cars (Tongala Swimming Club Inc) - to assist with the cost of security and toilets at Tongala’s Beersheba Rod, Custom & Classic Car & Bike Show to be held on 21 October, \$1,000.**
 - **Echuca Moama Rural Australians for Refugees – to assist with the cost of ingredients for the first “Feast of Stories” to be held on 26 October at St Mary’s Hall Echuca, \$600.**
-

3. Conflict of Interest

In accordance with Section 80B of the *Local Government Act 1989*, the officer preparing this report declares no conflict of interest in regards to this matter.

4. Charter of Human Rights

This report has considered and complies with the Human Rights and Responsibilities contained in the Victorian *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006*.

5. Instrument of Delegation

This report has considered and complies with the Instrument of Sub-Delegation by the Chief Executive Officer in so far as this report is not contrary to the existing policy or strategy previously adopted by Council.

6. Background

The Responsive Grants Program provides funding for community initiatives and has guidelines for applications submitted to council.

This month, the following applications have been received:

Organisation	Amount	Amount Recommended	Purpose	Comment
Echuca Moama Accommodation Association Inc	\$250	\$250	To assist with costs associated with the Port Grand Final Fever event to be held on 28 September	Approved by CEO – meets assessment criteria
Lockington CFA	\$1,000	\$1,000	To assist with costs for a Men's Health Night to be held on 19 October	Approved by CEO – meets assessment criteria
Tongala Classic Cars (Tongala Swimming Club Inc)	\$1,000	\$1,000	To assist with the cost of security and toilets at Tongala's Beersheba Rod, Custom & Classic Car & Bike Show to be held on 21 October	Approved by CEO – meets assessment criteria
Echuca Moama Rural Australians for Refugees	\$600	\$600	To assist with the cost of ingredients for the first "Feast of Stories" to be held on 26 October at St Mary's Hall Echuca	Approved by CEO – meets assessment criteria

Fund Balance Prior to application approval:	\$44,260
Funding approved:	\$2,850
Fund Balance: (16 October 2018)	\$41,410

7. Issues and Risk Management

Issues:

Nil

Risk:

Risk management has been considered in the preparation of this report and no risks with a high or extreme rating have been identified in this process.

8. Strategic Planning Environments

Strong and Engaged Communities:	This funding source provides support to Responsive Grants Program requests for community initiatives.
Resilient Economy:	No impact
Healthy Environment:	No impact
Balanced Services and Infrastructure:	No impact
Responsible Management:	This annual budget allocates funding for Responsive Grants Program requests for community initiatives.

9. Consultation

Nil

8.4. ANNUAL REPORT 2017-2018

Author:

Sandra Ennis, Communications Manager

Attachments:

8.4. Annual Report 2017-2018

1. Purpose

To consider the Annual Report for the year ended 30 June 2018 as required by section 134 of the *Local Government Act 1989*.

2. Recommendation

That council receive the Annual Report for the year ending 30 June 2018.

3. Conflict of Interest

In accordance with section 80B of the *Local Government Act 1989*, the officer preparing this report declares no conflict of interest in regards to this matter.

4. Charter of Human Rights

This report has considered and complies with the Human Rights and Responsibilities contained in the Victorian *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006*.

5. Instrument of Delegation

This report has considered and complies with the Instrument of Sub-Delegation by the Chief Executive Officer in so far as this report is not contrary to the existing policy or strategy previously adopted by Council.

6. Background

Section 131 of the *Local Government Act 1989* requires council to prepare an Annual Report and submit it to the Minister within three months of the end of each financial year. The report must contain:

- a. a report of operations of the council;
 - b. an audited performance statement;
 - c. audited financial statements;
 - d. a copy of the auditor's report on the performance statement, prepared under section 132;
 - e. a copy of the auditor's report on the financial statements under part 3 of the *Audit Act 1994*;
 - f. any other matter required by the regulations.
-

7. Content

The Minister for Local Government has been provided with a copy of the 2017-2018 Annual Report within the three month period as required.

The annual report will be made available to the community through the council's website and a limited number of printed copies will also be available.

8. Issues and Risk Management

Issues:

Nil

Risk:

Risk management has been considered in the preparation of this report and no risks with a high or extreme rating have been identified in this process.

9. Strategic Planning Environments

Strong and Engaged Communities: No impact

Resilient Economy: No impact

Healthy Environment: No impact

Balanced Services and Infrastructure: No impact

Responsible Management: The annual report provides a summary of the year, achievements, challenges, and projects for the year ahead. It also reports on progress of strategic objectives drawn from the Council Plan. Importantly the report contains the audited financial and performance statements.

10. Consultation

The document was compiled following input by the Mayor, CEO, General Managers, Managers and staff. In line with section 134 of the *Local Government Act*, the community has been advised that council will consider the Annual Report 2017-2018 at this meeting by advertising in local papers and making the document available at customer service centres and on council's website.

9. COUNCILLOR REPORTS

Cr Adrian Weston	
19 September 2018	Young Farmers Scholarship Awards Ceremony
20 September 2018	Rushworth Senior Citizens 50th Birthday
21 September 2018	FIBA Oceania/South East Asia Mini Basketball Convention 2018 - Welcome to Campaspe
22 September 2018	Rochester Community Economic Plan Launch
23 September 2018	Opening Ceremony BVC Jamboree
24 September 2018	FIBA Mini Basketball Convention Parents Dinner
25 September 2018	Njernda Foster Care Program Get Together
25 September 2018	Closing Ceremony BVC Jamboree
25 September 2018	Planning Information Session - Pls206/2018 (High Street Rushworth)
26 September 2018	ACM Funding Announcement - Minister Jaala Pulford
26 September 2018	Funding Announcement \$5 Million Horticulture Research Development Fund - Minister Jaala Pulford
28 September 2018	National Police Remembrance Day Service
30 September 2018	Rushworth Uniting Church 150th Anniversary Service
2 October 2018	Citizenship Ceremony
3 October 2018	2018 Local Government Mayoral Advisory Panel Meeting
4 October 2018	SES Rushworth Meeting
4 October 2018	Minister Bridget McKenzie - Visit to Strathbogie Shire
5 October 2018	Introductory Meeting with Paul Northey, Chief Regional Roads Officer - Regional Roads Victoria
11 October 2018	Meeting with Gunnedah Council Mayor Jamie Chaffey and Councillor John Campbell
11 October 2018	CMCA Rally Gunnedah
14 October 2018	Tongala & District Memorial Aged Care Service AGM
16 October 2018	Head to Head Police Walk Reception

Cr Daniel Mackrell	
2 October 2018	Citizenship Ceremony
10 October 2018	Roads Projects Echuca Moama Bridge Drop In Session

Cr Kristen Munro	
21 September 2018	Rochester Deb Ball
25 September 2018	Njernda Foster Care Program Get Together
2 October 2018	Citizenship Ceremony
3 October 2018	Elmore Field Days
11 October 2018	Campaspe Murray Mental Health Network - Mental Health Week Event
11 October 2018	CLRS AGM

Cr Vicki Neele	
19 September 2018	Echuca Moama Tourism Meeting
19 September 2018	KDRRADG Annual Meeting
25 September 2018	Planning Information Session - Pls206/2018 (High Street Rushworth)

Cr Neil Pankhurst	
22 September 2018	Rochester Community Economic Plan Launch
26 September 2018	ACM Funding Announcement - Minister Jaala Pulford
28 September 2018	National Police Remembrance Day Service
2 October 2018	Citizenship Ceremony
3 October 2018	Elmore Field Days
10 October 2018	ABARES Regional Outlook Conference
10 October 2018	Roads Projects Echuca Moama Bridge Drop In Session
11 October 2018	Meeting with Ms Gaelle Broad & Hon Michael McCormack
12 October 2018	Peter Walsh Funding Announcement - Ky Walking & Cycling Track
16 October 2018	Head to Head Police Walk Reception

Cr Leanne Pentreath	
19 September 2018	Lockington Community News AGM
28 September 2018	National Police Remembrance Day Service
11 October 2018	Lockington & District Bush Nursing Centre AGM

Cr Annie Vickers	
21 September 2018	FIBA Oceania/South East Asia Mini Basketball Convention 2018 - Welcome to Campaspe
22 September 2018	Rochester Community Economic Plan Launch
25 September 2018	Njernda Foster Care Program Get Together
27 September 2018	Echuca Senior Citizens 42nd Birthday Celebrations
28 September 2018	National Police Remembrance Day Service
1 October 2018	Campaspe East Timor Association in Friendship
2 October 2018	Citizenship Ceremony
3 October 2018	Elmore Field Days
3 October 2018	Echuca Community for the Aged Annual Information Evening
4 October 2018	Echuca Moama Artists of Alton Gallery 64th Annual Art Exhibition Opening Night & Awards
6 October 2018	Echuca Football Netball Club Vote Count & Presentation Night
10 October 2018	Roads Projects Echuca Moama Bridge Drop In Session
11 October 2018	Campaspe Murray Mental Health Network - Mental Health Week Event
11 October 2018	CLRS AGM
13 October 2018	Ambulance Victoria Echuca Branch Opening
16 October 2018	Head to Head Police Walk Reception

Cr Leigh Wilson	
20 September 2018	REDHS RCH Men's Shed Meeting
22 September 2018	Rochester Community Economic Plan Launch
26 September 2018	Rochester Community Economic Plan - Governance Meeting
1 October 2018	EMFM Radio
3 October 2018	Elmore Field Days
16 October 2018	Head to Head Police Walk Reception

Cr John Zobec	
21 September 2018	FIBA Oceania/South East Asia Mini Basketball Convention 2018 - Welcome to Campaspe
25 September 2018	Planning Information Session - Pls206/2018 (High Street Rushworth)
26 September 2018	ACM Funding Announcement - Minister Jaala Pulford
2 October 2018	Citizenship Ceremony
3 October 2018	Elmore Field Days
10 October 2018	Roads Projects Echuca Moama Bridge Drop In Session

Recommendation

That the Councillor reports be noted.

10. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

Activities and meetings attended since previous Council meeting:

- C4EM chair and CEO
- ERH CEO
- Echuca- Moama Bridge Project Delivery Manager, Major Road Projects Authority
- Kyabram Vintage Engine & Machinery Restoration Group
- FIBA Oceania/South East Asia Mini Basketball Convention
- Launch of Rochester Community Economic Plan
- DELWP Regional Manager
- Club Teen 10 Years Celebration
- ACM Funding Announcement – Minister Jaala Pulford
- Echuca Neighbourhood House
- Murray River Council General Manager
- Key Stakeholder Liaison Group Meeting: Echuca-Moama Bridge Project
- Regional Councils Transformation Fund Workshop
- Community Living & Respite Services AGM
- Official Opening – PS Emmylou Enhancement
- Ky Walking & Cycling Track – Election wish list funding announcement
- 2018 Tidy Town Awards
- Coliban Water Executive Meeting
- Ky Fauna Park Committee of Management

Recommendation

That the Chief Executive Officer's report be noted.

11. PETITIONS/LETTERS

Nil

12. NOTICES OF MOTION

12.1 - CHANGES TO 457 VISAS

CR LEANNE PENTREATH

That Council:

1. Write to relevant Federal Ministers, State Ministers and local Federal and State MP's highlighting that the changes to the 457 Visas has severely reduced the availability of farm labour and request that the changes be urgently reviewed as it is increasing the significant problems that our distressed farmers are facing.
2. That a report be prepared exploring possible assistance to the Rural Australians for Refugees Echuca branch so that they can support refugees who may want to work on local farms.

Reason:

Recent changes to the 457 visas were made on the basis that it would encourage farm jobs to be taken by unemployed Australians. This has not happened and it has resulted in a severe shortage of farm labour. As we all know our famers are doing it tough and we need to show local leadership to assist them. Apart from lobbying other levels of Government to review the changes to the 457 visas, working with the local Rural Australians for Refugees organisation to see if farm jobs could be offered to refugee families should be explored.



Cr Leanne Pentreath

14 September 2018/

12.2 - ESTABLISHMENT OF A KYABRAM DRAINAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

CR JOHN ZOBEC

1. That a drainage advisory committee be established for the township of Kyabram and the committee include two local ward councillors.
2. That terms of reference for the committee be prepared and brought back to Council for consideration.

Reason:

Council has decided to undertake a Kyabram Flood Study and it would be advantageous to use local knowledge and expertise to assist in the preparation of the plan and consultation with the local community.



Cr John Zobec

2 October 2018

13. URGENT BUSINESS

Nil

14. QUESTION TIME

15. CLOSED SESSION OF THE MEETING TO THE PUBLIC

Recommendation

That pursuant to the provisions of the Local Government Act 1989, the meeting will now be closed to members of the public to enable the meeting to discuss matters in items 16, 17, 18 and 19 which the Council may, pursuant to the provisions of Section 89(2) of the Local Government Act 1989 (the Act) resolve to be considered in Closed Session, being a matter contemplated by Section 89(2) of the Act, as follows:

- (a) personnel matters;
- (b) the personal hardship of any resident or ratepayer;
- (c) industrial matters;
- (d) contractual matters;
- (e) proposed developments;
- (f) legal advice;
- (g) matters affecting the security of Council property;
- (h) any other matter which the Council or special committee considers would prejudice the Council or any person;
- (i) a resolution to close the meeting to members of the public.

16. CONFIRMATION OF CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES & ATTACHMENTS

89(2)(h) Any other matter which the Council or Special Committee considers would prejudice the Council or any person

17. CONFIDENTIAL COUNCIL INFORMATION

17.1. CONFIDENTIAL ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS RECORDS

89(2)(h) Any other matter which the Council or Special Committee considers would prejudice the Council or any person

17.2. CONFIDENTIAL COMMUNICATION REPORTS & ATTACHMENTS

89(2)(h) Any other matter which the Council or Special Committee considers would prejudice the Council or any person

18. CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS

18.1 89(2)(A) PERSONNEL MATTERS

18.1 89(2)(D) CONTRACTUAL MATTERS

19. CONFIDENTIAL COUNCIL MEETING CLOSE

89(2)(h) Any other matter which the Council or Special Committee considers would prejudice the Council or any person

20. ITEMS DETERMINED TO BE NO LONGER CONFIDENTIAL

21. OPEN MEETING TO THE PUBLIC

Recommendation

That Council resolves to open the meeting to the public at

22. CLOSE MEETING

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JASON RUSSELL

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER