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Minutes



Minutes of the open section of the eighth Campaspe Shire Council meeting held on Wednesday, 20 January 2021, commencing at 6:00pm at the Council Chambers, Echuca Civic Centre.

Present

Councillors	Officers
Cr Christine Weller – Mayor Cr Robert Amos Cr Colleen Gates Cr Paul Jarman Cr Daniel Mackrell Cr Anthony Marwood Cr Leanne Pentreath Cr Adrian Weston Cr John Zobec	Declan Moore – Chief Executive Officer Fleur Cousins – General Manager Corporate Jason Deller – General Manager Infrastructure Andrew Fletcher – Acting General Manager Development Andrew Cowin – Manager Governance and Strategy Sharolyn Taylor – Council Support Officer

Business

1. Apologies and Requests for Leave of Absences

Nil

2. Confirmation of Minutes and Attachments

Minutes for the following:

- Campaspe Council Meeting held on 8 December 2020
- Campaspe Briefing Session held on 1 December 2020
- Campaspe Briefing Session held on 8 December 2020
- Campaspe Briefing Session held on 16 December 2020

COUNCILLORS PENTREATH /MARWOOD

That the following minutes be confirmed:

- **Campaspe Council Meeting held on 8 December 2020, administration change to item 10.6 correction of date to January 2021**
- **Campaspe Briefing Session held on 1 December 2020**
- **Campaspe Briefing Session held on 8 December 2020**
- **Campaspe Briefing Session held on 16 December 2020**

CARRIED

3. Changes to the Order of Business

Nil

4. Declaration of Interests

Cr Jarman declared a conflict of interest in item 9.1 by way of material interest

Cr Jarman declared a conflict of interest in item 10.2 by way of material interest

Cr Jarman declared a conflict of interest in item 14.1 by way of material interest

5. Responsible Authority Decisions

Nil

6. Planning Authority Decisions

Nil

7. Question Time

Council heard items of Question Time on the following:

Text of Question	Summation of answer given
<p>1. At the time the decision was made to remove the waive of parking fees in timed areas , were all counsellors aware that the only means of notification by council was going to be via the councils Facebook page, which has just over 7,000 followers ?</p> <p>2. In considering the waive of parking fees in timed areas was there any detail provided to all counsellors other than the estimated \$173,000 lost revenue , which is included in the draft minutes, particularly was there any data made available on the impact of the parking fees being waived such as parking flow, business trading data compared to other councils who didn't waive parking fees and anticipated parking use post and pre December 2 ?</p>	<p>Question 1 Response -</p> <p>On 8 December Council extended the period for the waiving of parking fees, in timed areas of Echuca until 2 January 2021. The report did not detail communication methods, as it is standard practice for Council to communicate through various channels.</p> <p>On this occasion the organisation used its Facebook page on 9 December 2020, a Media Release and the removal of meter signage (on 4 January 2021) that had advised fees were being waived.</p> <p>For the following seven days, Parking Officers continued to advise community members and visitors that the meters were operational and that fees were now being charged, during this time parking infringements were not issued. Parking Officers did not start issuing infringements for non-payment until Tuesday 12 January, an 11 day grace period. It should also be noted that there is an appeals process available in regard to the issuing of infringements.</p> <p>Question 2 Response -</p> <p>At its 8 December 2020 meeting, Council only considered whether to cease or extend the waiving of parking fees, one of its many COVID measures to support residents, clubs and businesses across the Shire, as detailed in the report.</p> <p>Council was not considering whether paid parking arrangements in Echuca should be modified or not, which would have necessarily involved a review of data sets including those mentioned in the question.</p>

8. Acknowledgements

Nil

9. Council Decisions

Cr Jarman declared at conflict of interest in item 9.1 and vacated the Chamber at 6:07pm

9.1. COUNCIL POLICY REVIEW

Author	Department	Manager	General Manager
Council Support Officer	Office of the CEO	Manager Governance and Strategy	CEO

1. SUMMARY

This report presents two policies for adoption as follows:

- Council Policy 133 - Recreation Fees and Charges
- Administrative Policy A-60 - Appeals, Collections, Street Raffles, Stalls and Busking

2. RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Adopt Council Policy 133 - Recreation Fees and Charges.
2. Approve the transition of Council Policy 60 Appeals, Collections, Street Raffles, Stalls and Busking to an Administrative Policy.

COUNCILLORS MACKRELL / WESTON

That Council adopt Council Policy 133 - Recreation Fees and Charges.

CARRIED

3. PURPOSE

The purpose of the report is to present two Council policies for adoption as follows:

- Council Policy 133 - Recreation Fees and Charges
- Administrative Policy A-60 - Appeals, Collections, Street Raffles, Stalls and Busking

4. DISCUSSION

Policies provide guidance to staff, Council and the community to promote consistency in decision making, guide service delivery and the pursuit of strategic objectives.

Council policies have been prepared and reviewed by the responsible officers in accordance with Council Policy 156 – Policy Framework which establishes a Policy Framework incorporating a policy hierarchy, process for the preparation of new policies and review of existing policies, and a methodology for the management of policies and procedures. It applies to Council and Internal policies.

The purpose of the Policy Framework is to contribute to the consistency, clarity, transparency and accountability of Council's decision - making processes and in the delivery of services. This will be achieved by providing a mechanism whereby Councillors and staff can create and access a comprehensive collection of current Council and internal policies and procedures.

Campaspe Shire Council is committed to maintaining a robust and integrated Governance Framework that will assure stakeholders that Council is pursuing its objectives and fulfilling its responsibilities with due diligence and accountability.

A summary of the reviewed policies is listed below, the policies are also attached.

Policy No.	Policy Title	Purpose	Summary of Proposed Changes
DIVISION – DEVELOPMENT			
133	Recreation Fees and Charges	<p>This policy outlines the methodology for determining recreation fees and charges at the Echuca South Recreation Reserve, Victoria Park Recreation Reserve and Kyabram Recreation Reserve.</p> <p>Formal or structured active sport and recreation is well established across Campaspe Shire Council and is highly valued by the community and Council. Sport and physical activity provides significant health benefits and has the capacity to increase social connectedness in the community.</p> <p>In order to provide the agreed level of service to the community, Council must recover some costs for the repairs and maintenance of sport and recreation facilities from the user groups of these assets. These costs are recovered in the form of fees and charges.</p>	<p>This policy includes extensive changes and has been aligned with Council Policy 093 Council Contributions to Recreation Reserves to provide consistency with classifications and total maintenance figures.</p>
DIVISION – COMMUNITY			
A-60	Appeals, Collections, Street Raffles, Stalls and Busking	<p>To provide Council with a set of guidelines for the issue of permits in relation to the holding of Appeals, Collections, Street Raffles, Stalls and busking.</p> <p>This policy is currently a Council policy and it is proposed to change it to an Administrative policy as it deals with routine operational matters.</p>	<p>This policy is currently a Council policy and it is proposed to change the policy to an Administrative policy.</p>

5.

6. OPTIONS

Option 1: Adopt the policies

To ensure policies remain current and in line with Council strategies and legislation and provide clear direction to officers, businesses and the community it is recommended that Council adopt these policies.

This option is recommended by officers.

Option 2: Not adopt the policies

Not adopting these policies provides outdated guidelines to the community and officers.

This option is not recommended by officers.

7. CONSULTATION

Internal consultation:

- Relevant responsible policy holders
- Executive Management Group

External consultation:

- Not applicable

Councillors:

- 13 January 2021 Council Briefing Session.

8. POLICY AND LEGISLATIVE IMPLICATIONS

Policies assist in improving the delivery of services to the community and give clear direction to officers. Council policies assist with establishing guidelines, effective decision making and being accountable to the community.

9. FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS

None identified

10. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

None identified

11. SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None identified

12. RELEVANCE TO COUNCIL PLAN 2017-2021

Balanced Services and Infrastructure: Policies improve delivery of services to the community and give clear direction to officers.

Responsible Management: Council policies assist with establishing guidelines, effective decision making and being accountable to the community.

13. 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.

14. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

In accordance with section 130 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, the officer preparing this report declares no conflict of interest regarding this matter.

15. 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*.

16. INSTRUMENT OF DELEGATION

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

17. CONCLUSION

It is recommended these policies are adopted as policies assist in improving the delivery of services to the community and provide clear direction to officers.

18. CONFIDENTIALITY

Not applicable

19. ATTACHMENTS

9.1.1 Council Policy 133 - Recreation Fees and Charges

9.1.2 Administrative Policy A-60 -Appeals, Collections, Street Raffles, Stalls and Busking

Cr Jarman re-entered the Chamber at 6:13pm**9.2. PORT OF ECHUCA MANAGEMENT MODEL UPDATE**

Author	Department
CEO	Office of the CEO

1. SUMMARY

In December 2020, Council received a briefing from Cloudstreet Economics on the additional investigations it had conducted to determine, amongst other matters, taxation and legal requirements for the proposed management models.

During that briefing, the CEO undertook to have Cloudstreet complete a local and regional economic assessment of the Port of Echuca activities that are owned and/or managed by Council.

The consultant has advised that a draft report will be received in late February 2021.

2. COUNCILLORS WESTON / ZOBEC

That:

1. **Council note the timeframe for delivery of the additional report.**
2. **The CEO arrange an externally facilitated workshop, for Councillors and relevant Senior Staff, to consider the advice and recommendations contained within the suite of Cloudstreet reports.**
3. **The Administration present a report to Council as soon as practicable thereafter, canvassing matters raised in the workshop and recommending how best to progress 'change' in the management and delivery of Council owned/managed services at the Port.**

CARRIED

3. PURPOSE

To advise Council and the community that the additional works commissioned to assist Council progress the Port of Echuca Management Model, will be available in late February and to recommend that Council conduct a workshop to consider all of Cloudstreet's advice with respect to Council's operations in the Port of Echuca.

4. DISCUSSION

The Port of Echuca Management Model has been the subject of several reports and councillor briefings, particularly over the last 12 months.

In December 2020, Council received a briefing from Cloudstreet Economics on the additional investigations it had conducted to determine, amongst other matters, taxation and legal requirements for the proposed management models.

During that briefing, the CEO undertook to have Cloudstreet complete a local and regional advice around the economic contribution of Council's tourism related activities in the Port of Echuca for the local/regional economy.

The consultant has advised that a draft report will be received in late February 2021.

Given the recent election of a new Council it is recommended that Councillors and Senior staff consider the suite of Cloudstreet's reports in a facilitated workshop.

Following the workshop, the Administration would prepare a final report for Council's consideration about how best to progress the desired changes to the operation of Council's services in the Port.

Please note that several 'standard' report sections have not been included in this brief update.

5. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

In accordance with section 130 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, the officer preparing this report declares no conflict of interest regarding this matter.

6. CONCLUSION

This brief report provides an update on Council's consideration of the Port Management Model, noting that another piece of work has been commissioned to provide Council with advice around the economic contribution of Council's tourism related activities of the Port of Echuca for the region and Victoria.

9.3. LOCAL ROADS AND COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM

Author	Department	Manager	General Manager
Capital Works Coordinator	Infrastructure	Manager Projects and Facilities	General Manager Infrastructure

1. SUMMARY

The Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program provides stimulus funding to Councils to deliver local road and community infrastructure projects to help communities recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The initial allocation of funding under the program was \$2,622,795. Projects were approved by Council and are currently underway.

A subsequent allocation of \$2,737,493 was announced in October 2020 and is available for spend from January – December 2021. Projects are under consideration for this second stage.

2. RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Endorse the revisions to projects funded under the first allocation through the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program (Allocation 1) to:
 - a) Cease the delivery of following “New and upgrade culverts”
 - i. School Road, Corop
 - ii. Tait Hamilton Road, Cornella and Gobarup
 - iii. Kennedy Road, Gobarup
 - iv. Sayers Lane, Rushworth
 - v. Cohen Street, Rochester
 - vi. High Street, Rochester
 - vii. McEwen Road, Rushworth
 - b) Construct the following “New and upgrade culverts”
 - i. Tennyson Road, Tennyson
 - ii. Trounson Road, Diggora
 - iii. Mt Terrick Road (300 metres East of Muller Road)
 - c) Design and construct Shire wide, footpath ‘missing links’ in Tongala, Rushworth and Girgarre only.
2. Adopt the following projects for the delivery of the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program (Allocation 2):
 - a) Echuca Aerodrome Upgrade
 - b) Rochester Campaspe Street Kerb and Channel Upgrade
 - c) Shire Wide Missing Links – Stage 2 (including Echuca footpaths not funded in Allocation 1)
 - d) Shire wide Line Marking (centre lines and wide streets)

COUNCILLORS AMOS / JARMAN**That Council:**

1. **Endorse the revisions to projects funded under the first allocation through the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program (Allocation 1) to:**
 - a) **Cease the delivery of following “New and upgrade culverts”**
 - i. **School Road, Corop**
 - ii. **Tait Hamilton Road, Cornella and Gobarup**
 - iii. **Kennedy Road, Gobarup**
 - iv. **Sayers Lane, Rushworth**
 - v. **Cohen Street, Rochester**
 - vi. **High Street, Rochester**
 - vii. **McEwen Road, Rushworth**
 - b) **Construct the following “New and upgrade culverts”**
 - i. **Tennyson Road, Tennyson**
 - ii. **Trounson Road, Diggora**
 - iii. **Mt Terrick Road (300 metres East of Muller Road)**
 - c) **Design and construct Shire wide, footpath 'missing links' in Tongala, Rushworth and Girgarre only.**
2. **Adopt the following projects for the delivery of the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program (Allocation 2):**
 - a. **Torrumbarry Weir Road Safety Upgrade**
 - b. **Rochester Campaspe Street Kerb and Channel Upgrade**
 - c. **Shire Wide Missing Links – Stage 2 (including Echuca footpaths not funded in Allocation 1)**
 - d. **Shire wide Line Marking (centre lines and wide streets)**
 - e. **Shire wide DDA Footpath Improvements**
 - f. **Shire Netball Courts Asphaltting and Flexi-pave Program (Lockington, Toolleen, Vic Park, Gunbower)**
 - g. **New and upgrade culverts at the following locations:**
 - i. **School Road, Corop**
 - ii. **Tait Hamilton Road, Cornella and Gobarup**
 - iii. **Kennedy Road, Gobarup**
 - iv. **Sayers Lane, Rushworth**
 - v. **Cohen Street, Rochester**
 - vi. **High Street, Rochester**
 - vii. **McEwen Road, Rushworth**

3. Refer the Kyabram Netball Courts construction to the 2021/2022 Budget for consideration**CARRIED****3. PURPOSE**

To provide an update on progress of projects funded through Allocation 1 of the LRCI funding.

To propose revisions to some projects / programs funded through Allocation 1.

To propose candidate projects for consideration for funding through Allocation 2 (LRCI Extension)

4. DISCUSSION

On 22 May 2020 the Australian Government announced a new \$500 million Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program (LRCI). The program supports local councils to deliver priority local road and community infrastructure projects across Australia, supporting jobs and the resilience of local economies to help communities bounce back from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The LRCI Program provides stimulus funding to Councils in order to deliver local road and community infrastructure projects that involve the construction, maintenance and/or improvements to council-owned assets (including natural assets) that are generally accessible to the public.

Projects will need to deliver benefits to the community, such as improved accessibility, visual amenity and safety benefits.

Further to the initial funding announcement in May, a subsequent announcement in October provided an additional allocation available from January 2021. The program has been extended to the end of December 2021 and Campaspe Shire Council allocations under the program are as follows:

	Dates for project delivery	Value
Allocation 1 (Initial funding)	July 2020 – June 2021	\$2,622,795
Allocation 2 (LRCI Extension)	January 2021 – December 2021	\$2,737,493

In August 2020 a list of projects to be delivered under the initial allocation was provided to Council. This report provides an update on progress and amendments to a number of the specific project sites indicated in the August report, which has become necessary following further scoping of works. The report also provides additional candidate projects for consideration for funding through the funding extension.

Project Update – Funding Allocation 1

The initial LRCI allocation of \$2,622,75 was announced in May 2020. Scoping of the projects commenced in September. As a result of further investigation and standard project delivery procedures, a number of amendments are recommended to ensure acquittal of the funds within grant timescales.

Recommended amendments to project scope, and updates on progress are provided below:

Project Description and Original Scope (August 2020)	Project Update and Recommended Amendment to Scope (if applicable)	Funding allocated
<p>1. Shire gravel road stabilising including stabilising agent and mass action shoulder grading.</p> <p>Stabilising</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.1. Homan Street, Echuca 1.2. Redman Street, Echuca 1.3. Anderson Road, Echuca 1.4. Davis Road-Patho Station Road, Patho 1.5. Yambuna Bridge Road, Yambuna <p>Shoulders</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.1. Roslynmead Road, Roslynmead 1.2. Stratton Road, Echuca West 1.3. Pianta Road, Wharparilla 1.4. Wharparilla Road, Echuca West 1.5. Geodetic Road North, Mathieson 1.6. Singer Road, Lockington 1.7. Johnson Road, Stanhope 1.8. Winter Road, Nanneella 	<p>This project has been scoped in more detail and the following will be undertaken in priority order to the amount specified:</p> <p>Stabilising</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.1. Homan Street, Echuca 1.2. Redman Street, Echuca 1.3. Anderson Road, Echuca (From start of seal to O'Dea Road) 1.4. Yambuna Bridge Road, Yambuna (from Curr Road to end of seal) <p>Due to complexities around drainage and width of the road that would require detailed design, it is recommended that 'Davis Road-Patho Station Road, Patho' is removed from the program.</p> <p>Shoulders</p> <p>Road segments have now been identified.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.1. Roslynmead Road, Roslynmead (North of Kelly Road to South Bickford Road) 1.2. Stratton Road, Echuca West (Echuca Mitiamo Road to Echuca West School Road) 1.3. Pianta Road, Wharparilla (Murray Valley Highway to north of Nolan Road) 1.4. Wharparilla Road, Echuca West (Echuca Mitiamo Road to Mount Terrick Road) 1.5. Singer Road, Lockington (East of Bamawn Road to Restdown Road) 1.6. Johnson Road, Stanhope (Midland Highway to Baldwin Road) <p>Following design verification, the following roads are 6m or wider in width and shoulders works were not deemed required. Therefore, it is recommended that they are removed from the program:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.7. Geodetic Road North, Mathieson 1.8. Winter Road, Nanneella 	<p>\$ 1,532,795</p>
<p>2. New and upgrade culverts.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2.1. School Road, Corop 2.2. Tait Hamilton Road, Cornella and Gobarup 2.3. Kennedy Road, Gobarup 2.4. Sayers Lane, Rushworth 2.5. Cohen Street, Rochester 2.6. High Street, Rochester 2.7. McEwen Road, Rushworth 	<p>Culverts on the original list had not been designed in August. On further investigation complexities around some of the locations mean achieving both design and construction this financial year would be unrealistic. Design will now be completed this financial year with construction planned from 21/22 onwards.</p> <p>The following culverts have been designed and it is recommended be undertaken as alternatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Tennyson Road, Tennyson 	<p>\$ 210,000</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Trounson Road, Diggora ▪ Mt Terrick Road (300 meters East of Muller Road) 	
<p>3. Street trees</p> <p>3.1. Guide by the Urban Tree Management Plan</p>	Trees will be planted from March 2021.	\$ 80,000
<p>4. Line marking 'wide streets'</p> <p>4.1. Edward Street, Rochester</p> <p>4.2. Dawes Road, Kyabram</p> <p>4.3. Edis Street, Kyabram</p> <p>4.4. Saunders Street, Kyabram</p> <p>4.5. Haslem Street, Kyabram</p> <p>4.6. Darling Street, Echuca</p> <p>4.7. Eyre Street, Echuca (remaining sections)</p> <p>4.8. Haverfield Street, Echuca</p> <p>4.9. Service Street, Echuca</p> <p>4.10. Hopwood Street, Echuca</p> <p>4.11. Goulburn Road, Echuca</p> <p>4.12. Francis Street, Echuca</p> <p>4.13. McKinley Street, Echuca</p> <p>4.14. Minor Street, Echuca</p> <p>4.15. Elizabeth Street, Echuca</p> <p>4.16. Hare Street, Echuca</p> <p>4.17. Butcher Street, Echuca</p>	<p>Design is commencing.</p> <p>The project on track to deliver the listed roads in priority order.</p> <p>No revisions at this stage.</p>	\$ 150,000
5. Collins Street upgrade, Colbinabbin	<p>Detailed design is underway.</p> <p>No changes to project scope at this stage.</p>	\$ 250,000
<p>6. Shire wide, footpath 'missing links'</p> <p>Tongala</p> <p>6.1. Gooda Street: Torney Street to St James Street (South)</p> <p>6.2. Gooda Street: Garrett Street to Purdey Street (South)</p> <p>Girgarre</p> <p>6.3. Church Street: School Road to Dickman Street (West)</p> <p>6.4. Dickman Street: Church Street to Wallace Street (South)</p> <p>Rushworth</p> <p>6.5. Southam Street: Hume Street to Reed Street (East)</p> <p>Echuca</p> <p>6.6. Crossen Street: Ogilvie Avenue to Elizabeth Street (West)</p> <p>6.7. Elizabeth Street: Murray Valley Highway to Adelaide Crescent (South)</p> <p>6.8. Elizabeth Street: Murray Valley Highway to Adelaide Crescent (South)</p> <p>6.9. Elizabeth Street: Adelaide Cres west entrance to Adelaide Cres east entrance (South)</p>	<p>The design and construction contract was awarded in December for footpaths in Tongala, Rushworth and Girgarre (items 6.1 - 6.5)</p> <p>The remaining footpaths identified in Echuca will be spending until this allocation is expended.</p>	\$300,000

6.10. Elizabeth Street: Adelaide Crescent to Crossen Street (South) 6.11. Elizabeth Street: Crossen Street to existing footpath (South) 6.12. Elizabeth Street: Shackell Street to Campaspe Esplanade (South)		
7. Shared path lighting, Echuca	Procurement in November for design and construction contract resulted in no submissions. Request for Quote has been revised and will be readvertised in early 2021. If no acceptable response is received during the second procurement activity, it is recommended that this allocation of funding is used to deliver additional street trees or the Echuca footpath 'missing links' projects.	\$100,000

Proposed Projects – Funding Allocation 2, LRCI Extension

In October 2020 an additional allocation of \$2,737,493 was announced. Discussions have taken place with Service Managers to identify suitable projects for funding.

When selecting the proposed projects for the LRCI extension, the following factors were considered:

- Works additional to the pre-COVID-19 program for 2020-21
- Brought forward projects or programs
- Priority given to those that require little to no design
- Projects that can be delivered by December 2021
- Projects that do not place delivery of the Capital program at risk
- Distribution around the Shire.

The following projects were considered for the second stage of funding in order of preference. The projects recommended for inclusion are identified.

Project Description	Delivery Risk	Comment	Recommend for inclusion	Value
Echuca Aerodrome Upgrade		Detailed design is due to commence, therefore scope of works that could be delivered within the grant timescales is unknown at this stage. An extension of time must be accepted by the funding body for this project to be deliverable. Local Federal MP has offered to assist in this regard.	Yes, with conditions	\$2,000,000
Toolleen Axedale Road Upgrade		Works have been designed, however consultation and native vegetation implications put delivery within timescales at some risk.	No with conditions	\$2,000,000

		Should the aerodrome upgrade be unsuccessful it is recommended to replace it with this option.		
Torrumbarry Weir Road Safety Upgrade		In response to safety concerns raised by the community, design has been completed for the widening of sealed pavement on three bends in Torrumbarry Weir Road together with associated line marking and signage works. The project can be feasibly delivered within the grant timescales.	Yes	\$450,000
Rochester Campaspe Street Kerb and Channel Upgrade		Design has been completed for the renewal of existing and installation of additional kerb and channel in Campaspe Street in Rochester (adjacent to Rochester Primary School). Due to the upgrade element of the project it was not funded as part of the kerb and channel renewal program.	Yes	\$200,000
Shire Wide Missing Links – Stage 2 (Including Echuca footpaths not funded in Stage 1)		In addition to the Echuca footpaths identified in stage 1, the Assets Department have mapped and prioritised a further list of 'missing links' throughout the shire. This can be feasibly delivered under a design and construct contract within the grant timescales.	Yes	Up to \$600,000
Shire wide Line Marking (centre lines and wide streets)		Further opportunities for line marking have been identified which can be feasibly delivered under a design and construct contract within the grant timescales.	Yes	Up to \$150,000
Shire wide DDA Footpath Improvements		As part of the 20/21 DDA improvement program, further works have been identified across the shire. This can be feasibly delivered under a design and construct contract within the grant timescales.	Yes	Up to \$700,000
Kyabram Netball Court Construction (works designed)		Due to season, earliest works could commence is mid-September and approximately 10 weeks construction. Delivery within grant timescales at some risk. While possible it is recommended to be included as part of the normal budget cycle.	No	\$550,000
Shire Netball Courts Asphaltting and Flexi-pave Program (Lockington, Toolleen, Vic Park, Gunbower)		New projects. Further project scoping would be required to ensure delivery within the grant timescales. While possible it is recommended to be included as part of the normal budget cycle.	No	\$350,000

5. OPTIONS

Option 1: Approve the Aerodrome and not Tooleen-Axedale Road with a selection of remaining

For the LRCI (Allocation 1) it is recommended to cease the delivery of following “New and upgrade culverts”:

1. School Road, Corop
2. Tait Hamilton Road, Cornella and Gobarup
3. Kennedy Road, Gobarup
4. Sayers Lane, Rushworth
5. Cohen Street, Rochester
6. High Street, Rochester
7. McEwen Road, Rushworth

The following “New and upgrade culverts” are recommended as alternatives:

1. Tennyson Road, Tennyson
2. Trounson Road, Diggora
3. Mt Terrick Road (300 metres East of Muller Road)

For the footpath ‘missing links’ reduce the number of projects to Tongala, Rushworth and Girgarre only.

On the basis Council can get an extension of time for the construction of the Aerodrome project (\$2M) the following projects are considered for the LRCI.

Adopt the following projects for the delivery of the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program (Allocation 2):

1. Echuca Aerodrome Upgrade
2. Torrumbarry Weir Road Safety Upgrade
3. Rochester Campaspe Street Kerb and Channel Upgrade
4. Shire Wide Missing Links – Stage 2 (Including Echuca footpaths not funded in Allocation 1)
5. Shire wide Line Marking (centre lines and wide streets)

This option is recommended by officers.

Option 2: Not Approve Aerodrome or Tooleen-Axedale Road with a selection of the remaining

For the LRCI (Allocation 1) it is recommended to cease the delivery of following “New and upgrade culverts”:

1. School Road, Corop
2. Tait Hamilton Road, Cornella and Gobarup
3. Kennedy Road, Gobarup
4. Sayers Lane, Rushworth
5. Cohen Street, Rochester
6. High Street, Rochester
7. McEwen Road, Rushworth

The following "New and upgrade culverts" are recommended as alternatives:

1. Tennyson Road, Tennyson
2. Trounson Road, Diggora
3. Mt Terrick Road (300 meters East of Muller Road)

For the footpath 'missing links' reduce the number of projects to Tongala, Rushworth and Girgarre only.

On the basis Council can get an extension of time for the construction of the Aerodrome project (\$2M) the following projects are considered for the LRCI.

Adopt the following projects for the delivery of the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program (Allocation 2):

1. Torrumbarry Weir Road Safety Upgrade
2. Rochester Campaspe Street Kerb and Channel Upgrade
3. Shire Wide Missing Links – Stage 2 (Including Echuca footpaths not funded in Allocation 1)
4. Shire wide Line Marking (centre lines and wide streets)
5. Shire wide DDA Footpath Improvements
6. Shire Netball Courts Asphaltting and Flexi-pave Program (Lockington, Toolleen, Vic Park, Gunbower)

This option is not recommended by officers.

6. CONSULTATION

Internal consultation:

- Service Managers
- Executive Management Group

External Consultation:

Nil

Councillors:

- 13 01 2020 Council Briefing Session.
- Council reports - 21st July 2020, 18 August 2020

7. POLICY AND LEGISLATIVE IMPLICATIONS

The *Local Government Act 1989* has been taken into consideration throughout this report and in the recommendation.

8. FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS

Implications are identified within the report.

9. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil at this stage.

10. SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil at this stage.

11. RELEVANCE TO COUNCIL PLAN 2017-2021

Delivery of this funding meets the strategic objective to provide services and assets that meet current and future community need.

12. ISSUES AND RISK MANAGEMENT

Issues:

Issue 1: The wide range of funding and stimulus packages from state and federal government could impact on delivery of the overall capital works program.

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.

13. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

In accordance with section 130 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, the officer preparing this report declares no conflict of interest regarding this matter.

14. 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*.

15. INSTRUMENT OF DELEGATION

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

16. CONCLUSION

It is recommended that:

- Council agree to the revisions to projects funded under the first allocation of funding in order that project works can continue.
- For the LRCI funding extension, Council approve the projects listed as low risk for delivery in order that project completion and grant acquittal within the specified timescales is achievable.

17. ATTACHMENTS

Nil

10. Council Information

10.1 LETTERS OF APPRECIATION

The following have been received:

- Ethan Druburgh, Beacon Leader, Echuca College – thank you to Ben Hearn, Community Programs Officer for participating in the Echuca College Mock Interviews.
- James Brogan – a very special thank you to John Salter, Echuca Paddlesteamers for not only making his scared son comfortable and want to come out again, but for taking the time to talk to him on the cruise. He mentioned James' outstanding service skills - "hang on to him, he's a keeper don't let him get away".
- Rushworth & District Historical & Preservation Society Inc. – thank you for the annual contribution. It has been especially welcomed this year with the Museum being closed for much of the year due to COVID-19 and the subsequent substantial loss of revenue from visitor takings.
- Rhyse Golding, 60's American Muscle Car Club – thank you for the opportunity to show our cars along Murray Esplanade. The quality of the venue was second to none and allowed people to get up close to the cars. The welcome packages were well received by members with information used in their free time to look around and support the local economy.
- Australian Red Cross, Ballendella – thank you to Mayor, Cr Chrissy Weller for attending the special 'Awards' luncheon held on 3 December. The group felt honoured to have the Mayor join them on the day.
- Department of Home Affairs – congratulations to Cr Chrissy Weller on her recent election as Mayor. As Mayor, you will play an important role in formally welcoming the nation's newest citizens into the Australian community by hosting and presiding over Australian citizenship ceremonies.

Thank you to you and your council for the significant role you play in welcoming new citizens to Australia, and importantly, to your local community.

COUNCILLORS PENTREATH / GATES

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

CARRIED

Cr Jarman declared a conflict of interest and vacated the Chamber at 6:24pm

10.2. CHANGES TO MURRAY ESPLANADE ROAD ECHUCA RESERVE

Author	Department	Manager	General Manager
Manager Assets	Assets	General Manager Infrastructure	General Manager Infrastructure

1. SUMMARY

A formal permanent change in traffic conditions along the section of Murray Esplanade between Leslie Street and Hopwood Place (Echuca) has been implemented.

This involved closing the road reserve to all public vehicles. Only Council authorised vehicles, maintenance, delivery and emergency vehicles and approved horse carriages will be allowed to enter the shared zone.

2. RECOMMENDATION

That Council note:

1. That under Schedule 11 – “Powers of Councils over traffic” of The *Local Government Act 1989*, the General Manager Infrastructure has authorised the permanent change in traffic conditions along the section of Murray Esplanade between Leslie Street and Hopwood Place, Echuca.
2. The changes to the restrictions for vehicle use on Murray Esplanade (between Leslie Street and Hopwood Place), alterations to operating practices and changes to road signage and infrastructure.
3. That only Council authorised vehicles, maintenance, delivery and emergency vehicles, and approved horse carriages, will be allowed to enter the shared zone.

COUNCILLORS MARWOOD / AMOS

That Council note:

1. **That under Schedule 11 – “Powers of Councils over traffic” of The *Local Government Act 1989*, the General Manager Infrastructure has authorised the permanent change in traffic conditions along the section of Murray Esplanade between Leslie Street and Hopwood Place, Echuca.**
2. **The changes to the restrictions for vehicle use on Murray Esplanade (between Leslie Street and Hopwood Place), alterations to operating practices and changes to road signage and infrastructure.**
3. **That only vehicles authorised by Council, maintenance, delivery and emergency vehicles, and approved horse carriages, will be allowed to enter the shared zone.**
4. **That any future actions in this space will be subject to prior approval from Council following consultation with affected stakeholders.**

CARRIED

3. PURPOSE

To advise a permanent change in traffic conditions along the section of Murray Esplanade between Leslie Street and Hopwood Place, Echuca has been implemented.

4. DISCUSSION

An application for outdoor dining spaces within Murray Esplanade (between Leslie Street and Hopwood Place, Echuca), consistent with directions and recommendations from the State Government's response to COVID, triggered the investigation into changes in traffic conditions along Murray Esplanade. There needs to be separation for diners on Murray Esplanade to ensure their safety. The major risk is associated with motorised vehicles however being stuck by Active Transport users on a bicycle or a scooter rider can still cause harm.

For the protection of diners, pedestrians and cyclists, the intent is to only allow authorised vehicles including maintenance, delivery and emergency vehicles, and approved horse carriages, to enter the Port bollarded Area shared zone.

Restrictions for vehicle use on Murray Esplanade and changes to road signage has resulted in an immediate reduction in the amount of through traffic within this section of Murray Esplanade.

To date there have been several reports of vehicles using this section of Murray Esplanade, although once investigated it was shown that these vehicles were making deliveries to businesses within the precinct. No unauthorised vehicle use has been reported.

To ensure compliance, consideration was given to installation of gates and/or additional bollards as a way of restricting public vehicles and closing the road reserve in addition to the modified signage. The following issues have been identified with the use of gates and/or bollards:

- Emergency vehicles would be delayed attending an incident.
- Design of gates and/or bollards need to be done to ensure bicycle riders have clear visibility of the infrastructure
- Authorised users would be required to open and close the restrictions.

Future Actions

The following options will be reviewed and/or implemented going forward.

- Road closure boards to physically restrict movement
- Automatic gates in line with heritage values, input from emergency services and part of the improved vision for the port precinct.
- A further improvement on signage based on regulations, guidelines and standards.
- A review of the Cultural Heritage Plans, the future of horse drawn vehicles and Precinct Master Plan to inform future use of Murray Esplanade shared zone.

Advanced designs and costings are required for street upgrades should be considered to become shovel ready for:

- Drainage
- Underground cabling
- Street Lighting
- Possible landscaping and pavement upgrade in line with the Echuca port precincts projects (Spire), Landscape & vision strategy document, January 2020.

5. OPTIONS

No options have been investigated and the report is for noting purposes only.

6. CONSULTATION

Internal consultation:

- Road Services Unit
- Community Business Team

External consultation:

Nil

Councillors:

Nil

7. POLICY AND LEGISLATIVE IMPLICATIONS

The *Local Government Act 1989* has been taken into consideration throughout this report and in the recommendation.

8. FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS

Costs to implement the protection of diners and further restrict vehicular access, will be accommodated within operational budget allocations, and may qualify for State COVID funding (\$250,000) already received.

9. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

None identified.

10. SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The restricted operation of Murray Street has an impact for the community with improved amenity and active transport movement. There is an increased level of safety with the restriction of vehicles.

11. RELEVANCE TO COUNCIL PLAN 2017-2021

The permanent change in traffic conditions meets the strategic objective to provide services and assets that meet current and future community need.

12. 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.

13. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

In accordance with section 130 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, the officer preparing this report declares no conflict of interest regarding this matter.

14. 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*.

15. INSTRUMENT OF DELEGATION

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

16. CONCLUSION

That Council note current changes in restrictions for vehicle use and changes to road signage on Murray Esplanade between Leslie Street and Hopwood Place, Echuca and that this action has resulted in an immediate reduction in the amount of through traffic within this area. Therefore, the installation of additional bollards and/or gates has been deemed unnecessary in the short term.

17. CONFIDENTIALITY

Nil

18. ATTACHMENTS

Nil

Cr Jarman re-entered the Chamber at 6:30pm

11. Councillor Reports

Cr Christine Weller	
9 December	Audit and Risk Committee Meeting
9 December	Planning Consultation Session PLN316/2020
10 December	Ballendella Red Cross Celebration
11 December	Echuca Twin Rivers Specialist School 2020 Graduation
12 December	Colbinabbin Clay Target Club Official Unveiling of Honour Board
14 December	Rochester Business Network Tour
17 & 18 December	MAV Mayoral Induction Program
20 December	NSW COVID-19 Outbreak Community Leaders Information Forum
21 December	Victoria / NSW Border Update Forum
13 January	Future of Local Tourism Forum
16 January	Active Transport Echuca East Group and Green Pedal Meeting & Cycle Tour
19 January	Echuca Moama Australia Day Dinner

Cr Robert Amos	
9 December	Audit and Risk Committee Meeting
9 December	Planning Consultation Session PLN316/2020
11 December	Echuca Twin Rivers Specialist School 2020 Graduation
14 December	Local Government Victoria CEOs, Mayors and Councillors Forum
16 January	Active Transport Echuca East Group and Green Pedal Meeting & Cycle Tour
19 January	Echuca Moama Australia Day Dinner

Cr Colleen Gates	
10 December	Kyabram Town Hall AGM
11 December	Kyabram Police Morning Tea
14 December	Local Government Victoria CEOs, Mayors and Councillors Forum
18 December	Boating Strategy Roundtable
6 January	Rushworth Streetscape meeting
12 January	Planning Consultation Session - PLN343/2020
16 January	Active Transport Echuca East Group and Green Pedal Meeting & Cycle Tour

Cr Paul Jarman	
14 December	Rochester Business Network Tour
14 December	Rochester Community House AGM

Cr Tony Marwood	
9 December	Audit and Risk Committee Meeting
9 December	Planning Consultation Session PLN316/2020
16 January	Active Transport Echuca East Group and Green Pedal Meeting & Cycle Tour
19 January	Echuca Moama Australia Day Dinner

Cr Daniel Mackrell	
11 December	Kyabram Police Morning Tea

Cr Leanne Pentreath	
14 December	Local Government Victoria CEOs, Mayors and Councillors Forum
14 December	Campaspe Youth Advisory Group End of Year Dinner and Presentation
17 & 18 December	MAV Mayoral Induction Program

Cr Adrian Weston	
11 December	Kyabram Police Morning Tea
6 January	Rushworth Streetscape meeting

Cr John Zobec	
10 December	Kyabram Town Hall AGM
11 December	Kyabram Police Morning Tea
12 January	Planning Consultation Session - PLN343/2020

COUNCILLORS GATES / MACKRELL

That the Councillor Reports be noted.

CARRIED

12. Chief Executive Officer's Report

The CEO participates in a variety of external meetings in response to the Covid-19 Pandemic, in addition to normal operational activities.

Meetings continue to be conducted remotely via teleconferences and web meetings.

COVID-19 related:

- Business Continuity meetings
- DHHS/MAV/LGV engagement meetings
- NSW Border Issues Briefings (Cross Border Commissioners and LG CEOs)
- Loddon Campaspe CEO meetings

General

- Meeting with Member for Northern Victoria, Tania Maxwell MP
- Meeting with CEO Bendigo TAFE and Kangan Institute
- Meeting with Member for Nicholls, Damian Drum MP

COUNCILLORS ZOBEC / WESTON

That the Chief Executive Officer's report be noted.

CARRIED

13. Petitions and Letters

13.1. PETITION RESPONSE - HALL ROAD TORRUMBARRY

Author	Department	Manager	General Manager
Manager Assets	Assets	General Manager Infrastructure	General Manager Infrastructure

1. SUMMARY

A petition was received seeking a review of the section of Hall Road, from Torrumbarry Headworks Road to 59 Hall Road Torrumbarry, that was reclassified in 2018 from a gravel road to an earth road.

As an earth road under Council's Road Management Plan, Hall Road receives minimal ongoing maintenance.

The Office closedown and staff leave has meant that the investigations required to advise the Council, and the Head Petitioner, about the road classification have not been completed.

2. COUNCILLORS PENTREATH / GATES

That Council:

1. Advise the Head Petitioner that Council will consider a report from the Administration about the classification of Hall Road, in February 2021 and advise them of the outcome thereafter.
2. Request the Chief Executive Officer prepare a detailed report canvassing why Hall Road was reclassified, a recent inspection of the road, whether its classification is consistent with Council's current Road Management Plan.

3. PURPOSE

To note a petition was received seeking a review of the section of Hall Road from Torrumbarry Headworks Road to 59 Hall Road, which was reclassified from gravel to earth as part of the original Rural Roads Review in 2018.

4. DISCUSSION

The criteria for assessing a road as an earth road is based on access to homesteads. If there are existing gravel or sealed roads providing access to a homestead, secondary roads that do not link other major road networks, may be classified as earth roads.

The petition asks Council to undertake an investigation of the road's classification, based on the belief that the road did service a home at 59 Hall Road and was a major access path for milk tankers servicing a dairy.

An initial review confirms that:

- There is access to the properties along Hall Road via Steel Road. These roads are part of an ongoing road maintenance schedule of re-sheeting and grading.
- Access from the property at 59 Hall Road via Torrumbarry Headworks Road is shorter to the major sealed connector roads, than the access currently provided via steel Road.
- Hall Road from the property at 59 Hall Road to Torrumbarry Headworks Road is in reasonable condition with a major pothole.

Council's Road Management Plan is due for review prior to July 2021.

5. OPTIONS

Nil at this early stage.

6. CONSULTATION

Internal consultation:

- Road Services Unit
- Works Unit

External consultation:

Nil

Councillors:

Nil

7. POLICY AND LEGISLATIVE IMPLICATIONS

The *Local Government Act 2020* has been taken into consideration throughout this report and in the recommendation.

8. FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS

Should this section of Hall Road be reverted to a gravel road there will be an impact on the maintenance program. This will be clarified in a subsequent report to Council.

9. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil at this stage.

10. SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil at this stage.

11. RELEVANCE TO COUNCIL PLAN 2017-2021

A review of the Hall Road status meets the strategic objective to provide services and assets that meet current and future community need.

12. 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.

13. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

In accordance with section 130 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, the officer preparing this report declares no conflict of interest regarding this matter.

14. 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*.

15. INSTRUMENT OF DELEGATION

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

16. CONCLUSION

Hall Road is classified as an earth road under Council's Road Management Plan. A road classified as an earth road requires no ongoing maintenance.

A preliminary review confirms access to the properties along Hall Road via Steel Road, but a more formal investigation is required.

A report will be presented to Council in February 2021.

17. CONFIDENTIALITY

Nil

18. ATTACHMENTS

13.1 Petition

13.2. RECLASSIFICATION OF GROGAN ROAD MYOLA**COUNCILLORS ZOBEC / JARMAN**

That the petition received from Kathy Touhey requesting the earth section of Grogan Road to Lampard Road, South of Touhey Road Myola, be re-classified to Gravel, be tabled and referred to the CEO for a report to be prepared for consideration by Council.

CARRIED

Cr Jarman vacated the Chamber at 6:36pm

14. Notices of Motion

14.1. NOTICE OF MOTION RESPONSE - STATUS OF AQUATIC RESERVE AND ONION PATCH PROJECT ECHUCA

Author	Department
CEO	Office of the CEO

1. SUMMARY

In response to a Notice of Motion and following a councillor briefing, to advise Councillors on the more recent history of plans to redevelop the Aquatic Reserve and Onion Patch, which were the recipient of an unsolicited State Government Economic Stimulus Grant, which was declined by Council.

2. RECOMMENDATION

That:

1. The Project Group be reconvened and tasked with completing the business case, detailed designs and costings for the Precinct Project (Wharf to Aquatic Reserve) project and report back to Council by the March Council meeting.
2. Council agrees to using the remaining project funds to complete the actions required by recommendation 1 (above).
3. The final set of works (to a value of \$4.5 million) be determined by Council, based on the various elements to be defined and costed in the Project Group's report.
4. Subject to the outcome of point 3 (above) the Administration to recommend a funding package for the works, assuming a successful application in the next State Stimulus Grant Funding round.
5. The Administration present budget bids to fund other elements (e.g. wayfinding, picnic tables, fencing, lighting etc.) for Council consideration during the annual budget processes.

COUNCILLORS AMOS / WESTON

That:

1. **The Project Group be reconvened and tasked with completing the business case, detailed designs and costings for the Precinct Project (Wharf to Aquatic Reserve) project and report back to Council by the March Council meeting.**
2. **Council agrees to using the remaining project funds to complete the actions required by recommendation 1 (above).**
3. **The final set of works (to a value of \$4.5 million) be determined by Council, based on the various elements to be defined by Council and costed in the Project Group's report.**

4. **Subject to the outcome of point 3 (above) the Administration to recommend a funding package for the works, assuming a successful application in the next State Stimulus Grant Funding round.**
5. **The Administration present budget bids to fund other elements (e.g. wayfinding, picnic tables, fencing, lighting etc.) for Council consideration during the annual budget processes.**

CARRIED

3. PURPOSE

To respond to a Notice of Motion that Council accepted at its 8 December 2020 meeting, to:

1. *Direct the CEO to provide a briefing to Council on the current status of the Aquatic Reserve and Onion Patch detailed design and construction project.*
2. *Direct the CEO to prepare a report to the February 2021 meeting of Council that:*
 - a) *identifies the elements of work required to be completed within the Aquatic Reserve to improve safety, accessibility and support increased utilisation.*
 - b) *investigates and identifies funding sources available which may support delivery of the required works, including Council Reserves, grant funding bodies including engaging with the state government around available funds.*

The following report, appendices and recommendations, comprise the response to the Notice of Motion and seeks to identify appropriate next steps to advance the delivery of an improved Reserve and Wharf area.

4. DISCUSSION

The Administration does not believe that there are any benefits in restating or reviewing the long history of what eventually became known as the Echuca Entertainment Precinct Project, other than to note that the 'title' seems to be an orphan i.e. no one claims to have named it so.

And, while the Rural Development Victoria (RDV) funded Business Case and Concept Plan project canvassed potential developments from the Wharf to the Visitor Information Centre (the Entertainment Precinct), the \$3.0 million Victorian Government Stimulus funding grant specifically excluded the wharf components, hence use of the *Echuca Aquatic Reserve/Onion Patch* title thereafter.

For information, the wharf components are/were:

- Expansion of the cargo shed to increase cover on the wharf, albeit more an extended verandah than a shed;
- Conversion of one rail carriage to a kitchen
- Conversion of another carriage to public toilets

Documentation

There are close to 50 documents that together comprise the 'history' of the geographic area and canvass the various iterations of the potential works considered over the years, but, as noted in the Councillor briefing, the amount of work required by the Administration to describe and/or summarise each report, would be extensive and (ultimately) unlikely to assist Councillors consider the purpose of the Notice of Motion.

Council's Previous Decision on the Project

Council considered a report at the meeting of 23 June 2020, previously circulated, and determined:

That Council

1. *Discontinue any further work associated with concept plans, business cases or detailed designs for the Aquatic Reserve, Onion Patch, connecting pathways, Wharf Cargo Shed and Railway Carriage and the so called Echuca Entertainment Precinct;*

2. *Pay out any contractual obligations associated with the works identified in point 1 as appropriate and necessary;*
3. *Reimburse any grant funds if requested by Regional Development Victoria;*
4. *Not support further development of the Wharf Cargo Shed or Railway Carriage and any partially or completed business case not be used to seek funding for same;*
5. *Acknowledges the unique environmental attributes of the Aquatic Reserve and Onion Patch and accordingly resolves any future works be limited to the -*
 - a) *Aquatic Reserve levee bank,*
 - b) *Aquatic Reserve pedestrian access*
 - c) *Aquatic Reserve water quality and water's edge access,*
 - d) *Aquatic Reserve tree management - all (items a, b, c, and d) done in accordance with the Echuca Aquatic Reserve Infrastructure and Service plan,*
 - e) *limiting vehicular access to the Aquatic Reserve and Onion Patch being designed and achieved using log placement and indigenous riparian plantings;*
6. *Decline the funding offered by Regional Development Victoria for the construction of elements of proposed works in the Aquatic Reserve, Onion Patch, connecting pathways and the Echuca Entertainment Precinct;*
7. *Notes the Aquatic Reserve trees will continue to be managed in accordance with Council's Risk Management Framework.*

Immediately following the June meeting, a Notice of Rescission was lodged.

The rescission motion, which was considered at the 21 July 2020 meeting failed. i.e. the decision of 23 June 2020 was not overturned, so the informally supported scope of works (Attachment 14.1) did not proceed.

Project Development Fund

The project to develop a business case, concept plans and (ultimately) detailed design work was funded by Council (\$352,000) and an RDV Grant (\$150,000).

Funds remaining stand at \$328,807 (including \$50,000 from the RDV grant).

Subsequent to the July 2020 meeting, the Administration:

- Wrote to the Minister declining the \$3.0M grant
- Wrote to RDV to advise that the grant had been declined, that the business case would be completed but no further concept plans would be developed and offered to return the grant funds allocated by RDV for those elements.
- Conducted tree management works (public safety & tree protection)
- Began limiting vehicular movement throughout the precinct.

Current Status

- No further work has been conducted on any elements of the 'project'.
- RDV has advised that the grant funding to complete the designs/costings for each element of the Precinct Project remains available to Council to use to renew a/the project.
- A further round of State Government stimulus funding may become available in Feb/March, but it would be a competitive round on a 3:1 funding basis (i.e. councils to contribute 25% of project costs).

Next Steps

Should Council wish to pursue the development/construction of any/all of the elements identified in Attachment 14.1, with or without any of the 'wharf elements', potential sources of funds for the actual works could be *(subject to eligibility conditions and successful application(s))* any combination of:

- **Project Budget**

The available budget stands at \$328,807 to complete detailed designs.

Any savings from the council allocation, after design work, could be used for project delivery.

Annual Capital Works Allocations

Council could allocate funds over a number of years to stage a (maximum) \$4.5M scope of works (wharf and reserve).

The project(s) would have to compete for funds annually against Council's extensive asset maintenance/redevelopment/replacement program (e.g. roads, footpaths, buildings, sport & recreation etc.), which is very much scheduled on a useful asset life approach.

Council Reserve Funds

Allocations *could* be sourced from the following reserves, provided the works match the intended purpose of the reserve(s)

Reserve	Intended Purpose	Balance
Accumulated Unallocated Cash	The purpose of this reserve is to separately identify Council's unallocated cash and is funded from the year end unallocated cash result.	\$2,517,000
Active Transport Strategy Reserve	The purpose of this reserve is to have funds available to take advantage of grant funds to progress the active transport strategy adopted by Council.	\$247,000
Disability Discrimination Act	The purpose of this reserve is to allocate funds to upgrade community facilities in line with the Disability Discrimination Act when it is deemed necessary and is funded from operations.	\$400,000

State Community Infrastructure Loan Scheme

Low interest loans (\$500,000 to \$10.0 million), financed through Treasury Corporation of Victoria, the State will further reduce interest payments by 50% (i.e. up to a maximum 1.5% interest rate reduction).

Applications close 23 March 2021.

State Economic Stimulus Funds

As per RDV advice, grant funds may be available around March 2021, Council would be required to contribute \$1 for each \$3 provided by the grant.

e.g. \$4.5 million project, \$3.375 million grant plus \$1.25 million Council funds (general revenue/reserves).

Federal Economic Stimulus Funds

There is an expectation, that a further grant round can be expected in the 3rd or 4th quarter of 2020/21. No specific funding ratio advised at this stage, but it would be expected that a grant would fund at least 50% of a project's cost, as the Federal Government favours projects that involve three parties e.g. Federal/State/Local or Federal/Local/Community Group etc.

Switch Funding

Meaning - recognise the value of additional untied grants funds provided by the Federal Government to bring forward and pay for projects/payments currently scheduled for 2021/22 and scheduled to use Council funds, and use the 'released funds' for payments towards the currently unfunded Aquatic Reserve project.

e.g. additional \$2.7 million in local roads community infrastructure monies this year, switch the funds in next year's budget from the 'brought forward projects' to the Aquatic Reserve.

5. OPTIONS

Option 1: As recommended

Option 1 would see the delivery (in large part) of the whole project as envisaged by the Business Case and Concept Plans presented to Council in 2020, before the Stimulus Funding Grant was offered.

This option is recommended by officers, subject to securing in the order of \$3.4M in grants, maximum Council contribution of \$1.25M.

Option 2: Allocate funds each year to various aspects of the overall plan(s) during the budget process

This option is not recommended by officers, the project is best delivered as a single deliverable, not stretched over years with no guarantees of annual funding.

Option 3: Consider applying for a Community Infrastructure Loan.

This option is not recommended by officers.

Council has Community Loans in place (arranged 2020) for two projects that are now in detailed design phase for Tendering, it would further extend Council's indebtedness, which is currently considered manageable.

6. CONSULTATION

Internal consultation:

- Executive Management Group

External consultation:

- Regional Development Victoria

Councillors:

- Previous Council in briefings and Council reports
- Council Briefing Session 13 January 2021

7. POLICY AND LEGISLATIVE IMPLICATIONS

Nil

8. FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS

Development of the Aquatic Reserve and/or Wharf if substantially funded by Government Grants, with a maximum 25% funding by Council using a combination of allocations from existing cash reserves would not present a financial implication; other than the lost opportunity to fund other (competing) projects.

i.e. the ongoing financial viability of the Council, in accordance with Section 9(2)(g) of *Local Government Act 2020*, would not be placed at risk.

The Port Precinct contributes significantly to the general economic sustainability of the municipality, in accordance with Section 9(2)(c) of the *Local Government Act 2020*, and the expansion of ecological protection, tourism, and event opportunities will increase that contribution.

9. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

Works to redevelop the Aquatic Reserve, in particular tree protection, replacement plantings, improved water quality and circulation, will contribute positively towards mitigation of climate change risks in accordance with Section 9(2)(c) of *Local Government Act 2020*.

10. SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Development of the Aquatic Reserve will contribute to the general health and wellbeing of the community, providing an interesting, safe and universally accessible zone for exercise, relaxation and entertainment in accordance with Section 9(2)(c) of *Local Government Act 2020*.

11. RELEVANCE TO COUNCIL PLAN 2017-2021

Resilient Economy	Will facilitate the development tourism opportunities and support local business growth, as a complementary offering.
Healthy Environment	Redevelopment would improve the local environment (water quality, tree protection).

12. ISSUES AND RISK MANAGEMENT

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.

13. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

In accordance with section 130 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, the officer preparing this report declares no conflict of interest regarding this matter.

14. 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*.

15. INSTRUMENT OF DELEGATION

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

16. CONCLUSION

It is recommended that Council pursue the redevelopment of the Aquatic Reserve, Onion Patch and Wharf areas of the Port Precinct in order to deliver on the project that Council has been considering over several years, subject to securing grant funding of at least 75% of the estimated costs for the project.

17. CONFIDENTIALITY

Not applicable

18. ATTACHMENTS

14.1 Scope of Works

Cr Jarman re-entered the Chamber at 6:41pm

15. Urgent Business

Nil

16. Confidential Business

Confidential Business– Close

COUNCILLORS GATES / WESTON

That pursuant to the provisions of the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act), the meeting will now be closed to members of the public at 6:41pm in accordance with section 66(2)(a) of the Act to enable the meeting to consider ten reports that contain confidential information as defined in section 3(1) of the Act as follows:

16.1 APPOINTMENT OF AN INDEPENDENT MEMBER TO THE CEO EMPLOYMENT AND REMUNERATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

- f) *personal information, being information which if released would result in the unreasonable disclosure of information about any person or their personal affairs;*

The report contains the personal information of three named individuals seeking appointment to a Committee of Council.

16.2. SALE OF LAND - 18 KUHLE ROAD, KYABRAM

- a) *Council business information, being information that would prejudice the Council's position in commercial negotiations if prematurely released;*

This report discloses information on confidential negotiations to date with potential purchaser, valuations of Council property and proposed recommendations of a commercial land sale.

CRS PENTREATH/ ZOBEC

That Council:

1. Commence the statutory procedures pursuant to sections 189 and 223 of the *Local Government Act 1989* for the proposed sale of land being Lot 16 on PS724007Y comprised in Certificate of Title Volume 12001 Folio 890, known as 18 Kuhle Road, Kyabram to BP and MN Roberts Pty Ltd (ACN 627 195 288) for the consideration of \$40,000 plus GST.
2. In the event that no submissions are received under Section 223 of the *Local Government Act 1989* in respect of the proposal, sell the land being Lot 16 on PS724007Y comprised in Certificate of Title Volume 12001 Folio 890, known as 18 Kuhle Road, Kyabram to BP and MN Roberts Pty Ltd (ACN 627 195 288) for the consideration of \$40,000 plus GST.

CARRIED

16.3. SALE OF LAND - 22 KUHLE ROAD, KYABRAM

- a) *Council business information, being information that would prejudice the Council's position in commercial negotiations if prematurely released;*

This report discloses information on confidential negotiations to date with potential purchaser, valuations of Council property and proposed recommendations of a commercial land sale.

CRS GATES / ZOBEC

That Council:

1. **Commence the statutory procedures pursuant to sections 189 and 223 of the *Local Government Act 1989* for the proposed sale of land being Lot 15 on PS724007Y comprised in Certificate of Title Volume 12001 Folio 889, known as 22 Kuhle Road, Kyabram to AAF Holdings Pty Ltd (ACN 135 478 901) ATF MT Flenley Superannuation Fund for the consideration of \$90,000 plus GST.**
2. **In the event that no submissions are received under Section 223 of the *Local Government Act 1989* in respect of the proposal, sell the land being lot 15 on PS724007Y comprised in Certificate of Title Volume 12001 Folio 889, known as 22 Kuhle Road, Kyabram to AAF Holdings Pty Ltd (ACN 135 478 901) ATF MT Flenley Superannuation Fund for the consideration of \$90,000 plus GST.**

CARRIED

16.4. APPROVAL TO DISPOSE OF LAND - 495 MCKENZIE ROAD ECHUCA

- a) *Council business information, being information that would prejudice the Council's position in commercial negotiations if prematurely released;*

This report discloses information on officers' internal workings in recommending surplus land for sale, confidential property valuations and the basis for setting a confidential reserve price at a public auction.

- c) *land use planning information, being information that if prematurely released is likely to encourage speculation in land values;*

This report contains information on property valuation, which may cause speculation on auction and reserve prices, adjoining properties and those properties in the vicinity of the land for future land use and values for the same or similar zoned land.

16.5. APPROVAL TO DISPOSE OF LAND - 32 RAMSAY STREET ROCHESTER

- (a) *Council business information, being information that would prejudice the Council's position in commercial negotiations if prematurely released;*

This report discloses information on confidential negotiations to occur with potential purchasers for the sale of the land.

- (c) *land use planning information, being information that if prematurely released is likely to encourage speculation in land values;*

This report may cause speculation on the nature of future use and purchase price affecting the land value and adjoining properties within the same or similar zoning.

16.6. APPROVAL TO DISPOSE OF LAND - TOOLLEEN ROAD, TOOLLEEN

- (a) *Council business information, being information that would prejudice the Council's position in commercial negotiations if prematurely released;*

This report discloses information on confidential negotiations to occur with potential purchasers for the sale of the land.

- (c) *land use planning information, being information that if prematurely released is likely to encourage speculation in land values;*

This report may cause speculation on the nature of future use and purchase price affecting the land value and adjoining properties within the same or similar zoning.

16.7. SALE OF LAND - FORMER RAILWAY RESERVE LAND, COLBINABBIN

- (a) *Council business information, being information that would prejudice the Council's position in commercial negotiations if prematurely released;*

This report discloses information on confidential negotiations with the proposed purchasers and confidential sale offers for the land.

- (c) *Land use planning information, being information that if prematurely released is likely to encourage speculation in land values;*

This report may cause speculation on the nature of future use and purchase price affecting the land value and adjoining properties within the same or similar zoning.

CRS WESTON/ JARMAN

That Council:

1. **Commence the statutory procedures pursuant to sections 189 and 223 of the *Local Government Act 1989* for the proposed sale of the land being:**
 - a) **Lot 12A TP72364R, Parish of Colbinabbin comprised in Certificate of Title Volume 11474, Folio 506 known as part of the former railway reserve, Colbinabbin to the adjoining land owners in the following manner:**
 - i. **The western portion of approximately 13,720 m² to Neil Lund for \$9,600 plus GST;**
 - ii. **The central portion of approximately 4,000 m² to John Avard and Glenys Avard for \$2,800 plus GST; and**
 - iii. **The eastern portion of approximately 18,000 m² to Darryl Rathjen and Eril Rathjen for \$12,600 plus GST.**

CARRIED

16.8. C20025 – KERBSIDE AND PUBLIC BIN COLLECTION

- a) *Council business information, being information that would prejudice the Council's position in commercial negotiations if prematurely released;*

Commercial contract negotiations to be completed with the selected tenderer following approval of this report which contains Council business information.

- g) *private commercial information, being information provided by a business, commercial or financial undertaking that:*

(i) *relates to trade secrets; or*

(ii) *if released, would unreasonably expose the business, commercial or financial undertaking to disadvantage;*

This report contains confidential pricing and business practice information supplied by commercial businesses during a tender process.

16.9. C20026 – RESOURCE RECOVERY CENTRE MANAGEMENT

- a) *Council business information, being information that would prejudice the Council's position in commercial negotiations if prematurely released;*

Commercial contract negotiations to be completed with the selected tenderer following approval of this report which contains Council business information.

- g) *private commercial information, being information provided by a business, commercial or financial undertaking that:*

(i) *relates to trade secrets; or*

(ii) *if released, would unreasonably expose the business, commercial or financial undertaking to disadvantage;*

This report contains confidential pricing and business practice information supplied by a commercial business during a tender process.

16.10. C20027 – WASTE TRANSPORT

- a) *Council business information, being information that would prejudice the Council's position in commercial negotiations if prematurely released;*

Commercial contract negotiations to be completed with the selected tenderer following approval of this report which contains Council business information.

- g) *private commercial information, being information provided by a business, commercial or financial undertaking that:*

(i) *relates to trade secrets; or*

(ii) *if released, would unreasonably expose the business, commercial or financial undertaking to disadvantage;*

This report contains confidential pricing and business practice information supplied by a commercial business during a tender process.

Confidential Business - Open

CRS GATES / AMOS

That Council, having considered all items of confidential business in accordance with section 66(2) of the *Local Government Act 2020*, open the meeting to the public at 6:58pm.

CARRIED

17. Close Meeting

There being no further business, the Mayor declared the meeting closed at 7:00pm.



.....
CR CHRISTINE WELLER

MAYOR