

## **16 May 2023 Council Meeting Attachments**

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# Memorandum of Understanding

**Campaspe Shire Council  
and  
Murray River Council**

This Memorandum of Understanding is brought into effect this day 2023.

SIGNED on behalf of **Campaspe Shire Council**:

**Mayor**

Councillor Rob Amos \_\_\_\_\_

Date: / /

**Chief Executive Officer**

Pauline Gordon \_\_\_\_\_

Date: / /

SIGNED on behalf of **Murray River Council**:

**Mayor**

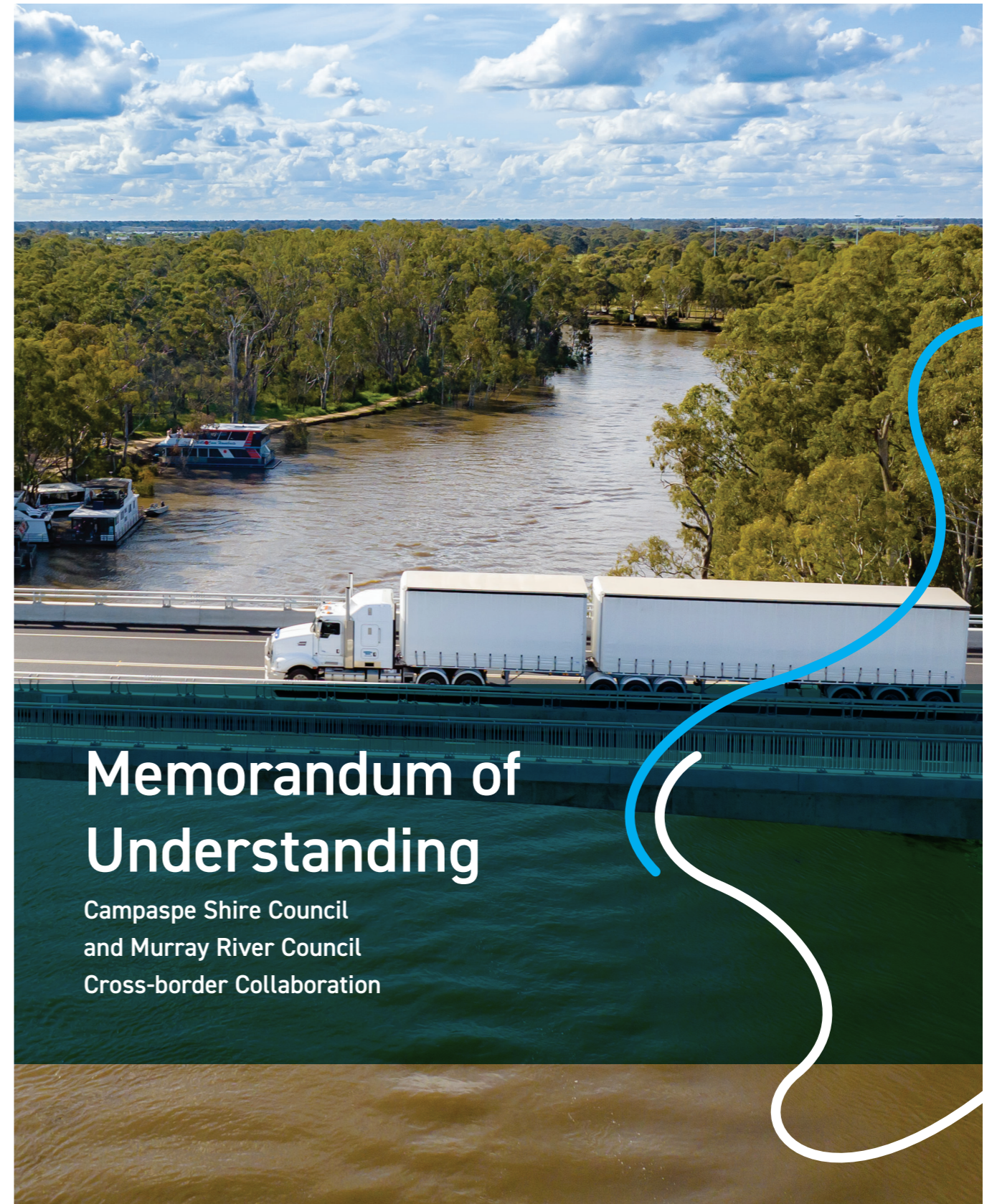
Councillor Chris Bilkey \_\_\_\_\_

Date: / /

**Chief Executive Officer**

Terry Dodds \_\_\_\_\_

Date: / /



# Memorandum of Understanding

**Campaspe Shire Council  
and Murray River Council  
Cross-border Collaboration**



# Memorandum of Understanding

## Campaspe Shire Council and Murray River Council Cross-border Collaboration

### Purpose

Campaspe Shire Council and Murray River Council enjoy a close relationship as a result of their unique cross border circumstance.

The Councils are keen to continue to work closely and collaboratively to improve service delivery, strengthen the local community and further develop the region economically.

Sustained population growth, interdependent economic relationships and the complex issues of service delivery require a coordinated approach to ensure the towns of Echuca Moama and surrounding regions prosper.

### About Us

Echuca Moama is strategically located on either side of the Murray River, approximately 180 kilometres north of Melbourne and is classified by the Australian Bureau of Statistics as significant urban area having a combined population of over 20,000 residents.

The economy is primarily driven by the agriculture, food processing and healthcare sectors. Tourism is a significant driver of employment with many supporting industries such as accommodation, food services and retail trade, injecting around \$170 million into the local economy annually.



### Principles of Cross-border Collaboration

This Memorandum of Understanding between the Councils is underpinned by a number of agreed founding principles, which establish the basis for the mutual commitment between the parties and set the focus for the ongoing management of this Agreement. These principles are as follows:

- Collaboration will be outcomes focused
- That information is captured, shared and innovation supported
- A commitment to maximise service delivery opportunities that meet a common community need as well as seeking to reduce costs and eliminate duplication
- Develop an effective local platform to work with other levels of government to achieve better whole of government outcomes for the community

### Partnership Agreement Objectives

- A holistic approach to regional planning and strategy to ensure successful implementation over the long term and the achievement of identified objectives
- Maximise benefits derived from the Councils' limited capital funds by adopting a co-operative approach to planning, funding and implementing major infrastructure and facilities
- Use our combined forces to advocate for and attract investment (public and private) that brings innovation to, and strengthens the local economy
- Engage and consult our community to ensure we speak with 'one voice'
- Deliver outcomes and value for money through improved cooperation, while ensuring all initiatives provide shared benefit
- Partner with the NSW, Victorian and Commonwealth Governments to better inform decision making, infrastructure investment, service delivery and to overcome cross border issues and constraints

### Key Focus Areas

The Councils agree the 2023/25 key focus areas for cross border collaboration are:

- Growing Tourism,
- Addressing workforce shortages,
- Economic Development
- Flood Recovery

### Implementation of the Agreement

The responsibility for ensuring the progression and fulfilment of this MoU is held by the Chief Executive Officer Campaspe Shire Council and Chief Executive Officer Murray River Council.

### Status of the Memorandum of Understanding

The Councils acknowledge the MoU is not legally enforceable but relies on the spirit of cooperation between the two local governments for the betterment of the community.

The Councils acknowledge the potential for fluctuations in resourcing capability and capacity to support joint initiatives from time to time. They will seek to contribute to joint initiatives in a matter that is reflective of the relative cost and benefit to each council for the betterment of the community.

It is acknowledged that while both councils have many shared objectives each also has unique points of difference.

This agreement is not intended to remove power from either local government to make policy decisions.

Final policy decisions remain with each Council.

### Review of this Memorandum of Understanding

The MoU will be reviewed every two years including the review of key focus areas and the setting of new priorities for the upcoming period. The MoU may be amended at any time by agreement in writing of the parties.

### Dispute Resolution

Where any dispute arises under this MoU, the Councils will take all necessary steps to resolve the dispute expeditiously by mutual agreement.

