

Council Minutes



Date: 18 March 2025 Time: 6:00 pm Venue: Echuca Civic Centre

Photo Left to Right: Cr Tony Marwood, Cr Luke Sharrock, Cr Paul Jarman, Cr Rob Amos, Cr Daniel Mackrell (Mayor), Cr Jessica Mitchell (Deputy Mayor), Cr Zoe Cook, Cr Adrian Weston and Cr John Zobec

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15/4/2025

Minutes of the open section of the Campaspe Shire Council meeting held on Tuesday 18 March 2025, commencing at 6:00 pm at the Echuca Function Room, Echuca Civic Centre.ack

In Attendance

Councillors

Cr Robert Amos Cr Jessica Mitchell Cr Luke Sharrock Cr Tony Marwood Cr Adrian Weston Cr Daniel Mackrell Cr Zoe Cook Cr John Zobec Cr Paul Jarmon

Officers

Pauline Gordon – Chief Executive Officer Kris Kershaw – Manager Finance and Investment Jo Bradshaw – Director Communities Kate Lemon – Director Infrastructure Jane Still– Manager Governance and Risk Shane Looney – Governance Officer

Absent

Michael Sharp – Director Sustainability Matthew McPherson – Director Corporate

1 Apologies and Requests for Leave of Absence

1.1 Apologies

Nil

1.2 Leave of Absence

Request leave of absence Cr Mitchell 10 May - 26 May 2025

Moved by Cr Zobec

Seconded by Cr Weston

That the leave of absence for Cr Mitchell from 10 May – 26 May 2025 be granted

2 Confirmation of Minutes and Attachments

Moved by Cr Weston

Seconded by Cr Zobec

Cr Jarman left the meeting noting he was not at the 18 February Meeting.

Cr Weston provided corrections to the Minutes.

That the Minutes of the Campaspe Shire Council Meeting held on 18 February 2025	
be confirmed subject to the following corrections:	

- 1. Amend motion in Item 4 to admit an Urgent Item of Business to note that no vote was taken.
- 2. Amend the voting result for Item 8.1.1 Kyabram Rcreation Reserve Wilf Cox Pavilion to include the division of voting.

CARRIED

3 Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest

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

Nil Declared

4 Changes to the Order of Business

Nil.

5 Public Question Time

Question time will be available at a Council Meeting, except for an Unscheduled Meeting, to enable members of the public to address questions to Council.

All questions must: -

- be received in writing on either of the prescribed forms as outlined on Council's website; and
- be received no later than 12:00pm (noon) on the day before the Council Meeting.

Please refer to Council's Governance Rules for further information regarding Public Question Time procedures.

1. Question from Mairin McCubbin (National Desexing Network)

Will you give my proposal that The National Desexing Network (NDN)be invited to run a discount cat & dog desexing clinic at the Campaspe Animal Shelter as an alternative to transitioning it to an 8 day holding pound? I urge all councillors to give strong consideration to the information below at your next council meeting. Our animal loving community look forward to a positive reply at your next council meeting.

Response: Officers have prepared a business case as part of the 25/26 budget process to join the National Desexing Network, this is pending review.

If successful, officers will work with the NDN to setup an eligibility criteria and owner contribution requirements before inviting vet clinics to participate in the program.

2. Question from Ruth Glanville – the question is answered in three parts – noting that a part of Ms Glanville's question was answered in the previous response.

Dear Campaspe Shire Mayor and Councilors, I refer to recent radio interview on 17/2/25 on ABC Victorian Statewide morning show between Jo Prinze and Campaspe Shire Director Communities, Jo Bradshaw. The discussion around the transition of the animal shelter to a pound model has raised questions I seek addressing from Council.

(1) - It was stated that agreements are in place with 'Animal Care Network' to assist the rehoming process. Please provide clarification as I cannot find any service or organisation listed by this name.

Response: Agreements have been put in place with several Animal Care Networks to transition them from Campaspe Animal Shelter to other rehoming facilities. We've transitioned 92 cats and 22 dogs since 1 October 2024.

(2) - Ms Bradshaw stated 'a variety different ones' with only 'Kerang, Melbourne and further up the line' when asked details about the other services arrangements have been made with. Please provide further transparency on agencies that will be used.

Response: Agencies include, Bendigo Animal Relief Centre, Enchanted Rescue (Melbourne), House of Chance's Rescue (Melbourne), Starting Over Dog Rescue (Melbourne). We are also working towards entering 84Y agreements with other agencies.

(3) - In the interview it was mentioned that 84Y agreements were in place to "transfer to other animal agencies". These agreements also permit the other agency 'to destroy any seized dog or cat'. This allows those agencies to euthanise any animals that have been with them for long periods of time due to no re-homing occurring. How many of the agencies you have entered into agreements are 'no kill'?

Response: We haven't entered any specific 'no-kill' agreements, we get regular updates from these groups on the animals transferred into their care.

Per the Domestic Animals Act 1994, if council is not satisfied with the activities being performed under an 84Y agreement, the agreement can be ended.

3. Question from Sue Dillon regarding the Rochester pool.

Did council have the pool insured and has there been a payment made? Does this payment allow for replacement of pool? Has any risk mitigation taken place to ensure council is covered adequately? Why wasn't a commercial pool liner a viable option? They are truly amazing?

Response: The engineers report Council received did not support retention of the facility due to end of life and impacts caused by flooding. While a pool liner may have reduced the issue of the leaking pool shell,

the expansion and contraction of the earth would not have supported that, nor would it have addressed the substandard facilities, damaged concourse, or filtration system.

Council's insurance covers the reinstatement of its assets to their state before damage is incurred in an insured event such as a flood. Taking into account the conditions described above, the insurance payment received was not sufficient to cover the replacement of the pool.

4. Question from V Groat on behalf of Strathallan Rochester Land

At a recent Landcarers meeting members expressed their concern at the loss of Squirrel Gliders along the Campaspe Esplanade1 one of many locations near the Campaspe River where our group in the past 10 years have placed nesting boxes to provide habitat for this endangered mammal.

The Campaspe Esplanade in particular is a well-used by walkers and residents and some have reported sighting cats and the remains of gliders in the vicinity of the nest boxes.

These native animals are nocturnal and locking up cats at night would improve their well-being immeasurably.

Has Campaspe Shire Council ever thought of introducing a Cat Control policy? For example when residents are asked to lock-up their cats at night.

Response: Campaspe Shire Council has not formally considered the introduction of a cat control policy including a curfew before.

We note that under the Domestic Animals Act 1994, section 25 (Cats found at large), Council can make an order to securely confine a cat to the owner's premises during hours specified in the order.

This could be considered in the future and is an item listed for review in Council's Domestic Animal Management Plan 2021 – 2025.

5. Question from Kevin L'Huillier

Last Council meeting a question was asked about offsets for tree removal at 117 Murray Valley Highway. This same developer has other work sites in the Shire. Can the public be made aware of these sites so they can be effectively monitored.

Response: Permission to Build are a Building Surveyor firm and they have likely been engaged to support the building process on the site.

Issued planning permit are provided on the Shire's website. A planning permit that requires native vegetation offsets will outline the extent of offsets required and the location where offsets can be secured. Evidence that this offset has been secured and must be provided to Officers satisfaction, however, these documents are not required to be made public. The Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) are responsible for providing guidance on the ongoing management of third party offset sites.

Council Officers are actively working with the applicant/developer to resolve the outstanding matters in relation to native vegetation compliance for this site.

6 Petitions / Joint Letters

6.1 Petition to establish a heated pool complex in Kyabram

The petition requests:

We the undersigned, being residents ratepayers and friends of Kyabram, hereby respectfully request the Campaspe Shire Council to complete a 30-year vision to establish a heated pool complex on council-owned land next to the Kyabram Indoor Stadium in Allan St, as per plans submitted to Council by the Kyabram Deakin Residents & Ratepayers Development Group on October 18, 2024.

Petitioner: Kyabram Deakin Residents & Ratepayers Development Group Inc.

Support:1,762 signatures

Petition details APPENDIX 1

Motion

Moved by Cr Mitchell

Seconded by Cr Zobec

That Council:

That Council receive and refer the petition to the Director Communities for a response, and that the petition be considered as part of the Aquatic Strategy community consultation process.

7 Acknowledgements / Councillor Reports

At each Ordinary Meeting, Councillors will have the opportunity to: -

- acknowledge significant community members and events. These may relate to notable achievements by community members and groups, and the offering of condolences to a person who has distinguished service in the local area.
- report on any meetings, conferences or events that they have recently attended; or

• report on any matters or progress in relation to a Delegated Committee they are part of. The duration of any acknowledgement or report from a Councillor will be limited to two (2) minutes.

The CEO must be notified of any acknowledgment or report to be raised by a Councillor at aCouncil Meeting at least three (3) hours before the commencement of the Council Meeting.

Cr Cook presented a report to Council acknowledging:

- the Council International Women's Day Dinner, delivered In Campaspe 6 March.
- Songs in the Silos at Rochester 8 March.

8 Council Decisions

8.1 Corporate

8.1.1 Risk Management Policy and Strategic Risk Register

Directorate:	Corporate	
Responsible Officer: Manager Governance and Risk		ager Governance and Risk
Manager:	Direc	ctor Corporate
Attachments:	1.	Risk Management Policy - 2025 Review [8.1.1.1 - 5 pages]
	2.	Risk Appetite Statements - 2025 [8.1.1.2 - 6 pages]
	3.	DRAFT Strategic Risk Register 2025 [8.1.1.3 - 2 pages]

The purpose of this report is to present for Council consideration for adoption

- 1. Risk Management Policy 2025 Review
- 2. Risk Appetite Statements 2025

Motion

Moved by Cr Cook

Seconded by Cr Jarman

That Council:

- 1. adopt the:
 - 1.1 Risk Management Policy 2025 Review; and
 - 1.2 Risk Appetite Statements 2025.
- 2. note the Strategic Risk Register.

AMENDMENT

Moved by Cr Weston

Seconded by Cr Zobec

That the Motion be amended to include that Council request the issues of both shared risk and natural disaster risk be referred to the Audit and Risk for consideration and recommendations back to Council.

CARRIED

MOTION

Moved by Cr Weston

Seconded by Cr Zobec

That Council:

- 1. adopt the:
 - 1.1. Risk Management Policy 2025 Review; and
 - 1.2. Risk Appetite Statements 2025;
- 2. note the Strategic Risk Register; and
- 3. request the issues of both shared risk and natural disaster risk be referred to the Audit and Risk for consideration and recommendations back to Council.

8.1.2 Half Yearly Audit & Risk Committee report

Directorate:	Corporate
Responsible Officer:	Manager Governance and Risk
Manager:	Director Corporate
Attachments:	 Audit & Risk Committee Half Yearly Report - July 24 - December 24 [8.1.2.1 - 5 pages]

The report presents the activities of the Audit and Risk Committee for the period July 2024 to December 2023, in accordance with the Committee's Charter and section 54(5) of the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act).

<u>Motion</u>

Moved by Cr Cook

Seconded by Cr Jarman

That Council:

- 1. receives the biannual report of the Audit and Risk Committee for the period 1 July 2024 to 31 December 2024;
- 2. affirms that the report demonstrates the Committee has discharged its responsibilities, as described in the Audit and Risk Committee Charter, for the reporting period; and
- 3. thanks outgoing Audit and Risk Committee Chair Simone Knight for her service in that role.

8.1.3 ESVF - Emergency Services & Volunteers Fund

Directorate:	Corporate
Responsible Officer:	Manager Finance and Investment
Manager:	Manager Finance and Investment
Attachments:	 Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund ESVF General Information - 20 December 2024 [8.1.3.1 - 5 pages]

The purpose of this report is to seek Council agreement to take a strong advocacy position on the Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund (ESVF), in line with current undertakings by other Councils and by local government representative bodies through Municipal Association of Victoria, FinPro and other local government industry groups.

Motion

Moved by Cr Jarman

Seconded by Cr Marwood

That Council:

- 1. write to the Premier of Victoria, the Treasurer of Victoria, the Victorian Minister for Local Government and to our local Victorian Parliamentary representatives of the Victorian Government to:
 - a. raise concerns around the financial burden the new Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund will place on the ratepayers of Victoria;
 - b. raise concerns around the compliance and financial burden placed on Council to administer the collection of the new Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund, as well as the increased reputational risk Council will bear from ratepayer disapproval;
 - c. raise concerns around the Victorian Government's lack of consultation with the local government industry regarding the introduction of the new Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund;
 - d. advocate for the proposed large increases in variable rates under the new Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund, from 1 July 2025, to be reconsidered as a matter of urgency; and
- 2. authorise the Chief Executive Officer and the Mayor to continue to strongly advocate on behalf of the Council and ratepayers on this issue.

8.1.4 December 2024 Quarter Budget and 2024/25 Mid-Year Budget Review

Directorate:	Corporate
Responsible Officer:	Manager Finance and Investment
Manager:	Manager Finance and Investment
Attachments:	 Dec 2024 Qtr Report and Mid- Year Budget Review [8.1.4.1 - 24 pages]

The purpose of this report is to:

- 1. Present Council's financial position for the six months ended 31 December 2024.
- 2. Present the mid-year 2024/25 financial year budget forecast to 30 June 2025.

<u>Motion</u>

Moved by Cr Jarman

Seconded by Cr Cook

That Council:

- 1. receives the Financial Report, consisting of the Income Statement, Balance Sheet, Changes in Equity, Cash Flow Statement and Statement of Capital Works for the period 1 July to 31 December 2024; and
- 2. notes the full 2024/25 financial year forecast budget is an operating surplus of \$0.84 million.

8.2 Infrastructure

8.2.1 Capital Works Program update - Quarter 2

Directorate:	Infrastructure
Responsible Officer:	Program Office Manager
Manager:	Manager Major Projects
Attachments:	 2425 CWP Dashboard December 2024 [8.2.1.1 - 2 pages] 2425 CWP Summary Report December 2024 [8.2.1.2 - 6 pages]

The purpose of this report is to provide a summary of Quarter 2 delivery under the 2024/25 Capital Works Program (CWP).

Motion

Moved by Cr Marwood

Seconded by Cr Jarman

That Council receive and note the progress towards the annual Capital Works Program.

8.2.2 Echuca Flood Risk Management Plan

Directorate:	Infrastructure
Responsible Officer:	Consultant Project Manager
Manager:	Director Infrastructure
Attachments:	Echuca Flood Risk Management Study 20250306 [8.2.2.1 - 83 pages]
Other Strategic Context:	This Plan study was prepared in accordance with and complies with the Victorian Flood Plain Management Strategy, NSW Floodplain Management Program and associated State guidelines. A Community Reference Committee was established specifically for this study and wider community input has been openly sought throughout the project including extensive consultation with the broader community seeking details of flood prone locations the community wants treated and suggestions for mitigation works to supplement those identified by the flood engineers.

To seek approval to formally exhibit the Echuca Flood Risk Management Plan seeking community submissions prior to Council considering its adoption.

<u>Motion</u>

Moved by Cr Jarman

Seconded by Cr Weston

That Council exhibit the draft Final Echuca Flood Risk Management Plan for at least a 3-week period seeking community submissions prior to considering its adoption.

8.3 Council Information

8.3.1 Notes of Appreciation

Directorate:	Office of the CEO
Responsible Officer:	Administrative Support Officer
Manager:	Executive Officer

To present the notes of appreciation that Council has received since its last meeting.

Motion

Mover Cr Marwood

Seconded Cr Amos

That Council acknowledge the notes of appreciation as listed and convey this appreciation to the relevant parties.

CARRIED

1. Julianne, Echuca

"I have recently been in Echuca over the Christmas break with my extended family when we hired a Houseboat for seven nights. While we were there we walked through the town on several occasions and each time I noticed the beautiful roses you have growing. These roses were extremely healthy, they were blooming extensively and had absolutely no diseases seen on any of the leaves."

2. The Pickleball players of Echuca

The Acting Recreation Coordinator received the following email: "I would like to thank you and the rest of the recreation team at Campaspe Shire Council for so promptly painting pickleball court lines at the Echuca East Reserve. The reserve looks great. The facilities there are top class and will be much appreciated by the community.

This is the first regulation size pickleball court in the Echuca area and will get plenty of use by the pickleball enthusiasts especially on cooler days than what we are having at the moment.

Please pass on our gratitude to all those involved in making this happen."

3. Scott, Kyabram.

Scott emailed the Economic Development department regarding "speaking to Liam in planning who is a great help" ... "Thank you for your assistance as always"

4. Scott, Kyabram Police.

Yesterday afternoon (19/02/2025), colleagues and I attended a serious fire at the Kyabram Wreckers on Everard Road.

On arrival, I found the road already cordoned off by Jess, who was working with Kaiden. Jess used witches' hats to stop vehicles and the public from entering, while Kaiden assisted on a Fire Tanker (CFA Volunteer) to extinguish the fire.

Both should be commended for their efforts in maintaining public safety and assisting Emergency Services in a dynamic situation. Their commitment and community spirit were exemplary. I applaud their efforts.

5. Frank, Echuca.

On behalf of the residents of Bowen, Pakenham, and Moama streets, we extend our sincere thanks to the Campaspe Shire Council for making it possible and organizing the application of dust suppression to the unsealed sections of our roads early this morning. This initiative is greatly appreciated and is a positive development for our community.

Special thanks to Akin Ajayi for keeping us informed throughout the entire process.

6. Rushworth Artistries.

The Council received a certificate of appreciation regarding Councils support of their annual Christmas Community activities in Rushworth.

7. Doug, Echuca.

Directed to the Parks & Gardens department, Doug emailed The Council expressing his thanks for reacting to his request to replant the levee bank section in Watson St, Echuca.

"Am sure re-establishment will assist in adding to the aesthetic appeal of what is hugely popular tourist street."

8. Mandi & Rowan, Echuca.

"I wanted to somehow acknowledge the fantastic crew that worked on the gutters in my area.

They were extremely professional, easy to deal with always had a smile, we honestly didn't notice they were there it was such a quiet site. Other than our lovely "good morning " or polite instructions.

Thanks for our fantastic new entrance we appreciate it!"

9. Norma, Kyabram.

Norma called the Council to express her appreciation to the team for promptly putting in a ventilation fan and fixing the lighting at the Kyabram Town Hall toilets.

10. Josh, Echuca.

Josh has called the Council to commend the team working on the footpath and kerbing outside his property. He expressed his appreciation for their excellent communication and workmanship. The workers took the time to explain the ongoing work and ensured he was informed about the process. Josh is very pleased with their performance and would like this appreciation to be passed on to the team.

11. Wayne and Julie, Echuca.

Wayne emailed the Council: "Thank you to the parks and gardens team for mowing and clearing away broken branches in the reserve at Wisteria St."

9 Notices of Motion

Nil.

10 Urgent Business

Nil.

11 Confidential Business

Closure of Public Meeting

Item 11.1 contains Council business information, being information that would prejudice the Council's position in commercial negotiations if prematurely released. The reason this section applies is that the item relates to future contractual matters and premature release would prejudice the Council's position in the negotiations.

Item 11.2 contains Personal information, being information which if released would result in the unreasonable disclosure of information. This section applies because the item discusses operational matters relating to personal information which if released would result in the unreasonable disclosure of information.

<u>Motion</u>

Moved by Cr Amos

Seconded by Cr 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 in accordance with section 66(2)(a) of the Act to enable consideration to be given to items 11.1 and 11.2 that contain confidential information as defined in section 3(1) of the Act.

CARRIED

Resumption of Public Meeting 8:00pm

12 Close Meeting

Pauline Gordon

Chief Executive Officer

Meeting Closed 8:01pm.

APPENDIX 1

KYABRAM DEAKIN RESIDENTS & RATEPAYERS DEVELOPMENT GROUP Inc.

P.O. Box 370, Kyabram, Vic. 3619 Email: kyabramdeakinratepayers@gmail.com

Attached petition (191 pages) ...

HEATED SWIMMING POOL FOR KYABRAM

To be tabled at the Campaspe Shire Council's next meeting on

Tuesday, March 18,

Chief Petitioner, On behalf of the Kyabram Deakin Residents & Ratepayers Development Group.

March 11, 2025.

Reques	LIL	-		
	1	1	MAR	2025

PETITION TO THE CAMPASPE SHIRE COUNCIL

Chief Executive Officer Campaspe Shire Council PO Box 35 ECHUCA VIC 3564

Dear Chief Executive Officer,

We the undersigned, hereby respectfully request the Campaspe Shire Council (Council) to consider this petition at the next Scheduled Council Meeting.

Title of Petition

HEATED SWIMMING POOL FOR KYABRAM

Chief Petitioner

All correspondence regarding this request will be directed to the Chief Petitioner identified.

Name:	
Group (if applicable):	Kyabram Deakin Residents & Ratepayers Development Group
Postal address:	P.O. Box 370, Kyabram 3619.
Email address (if applicable):	kyabramdeakinratepayers@gmail.com
Residential address:	2 Park St, Kyabram 3620.
Contact phone number:	
Total number of signatures:	1,762

Privacy Collection Notice

Once tabled before Council, a petition becomes a public document. Your name and suburb/town may be broadcast live or released in written format to the public, stored and publicly accessible within a video archive, and be recorded in the publicly available Council Minutes.

The remainder of the information collected in this document will not be released to the public, and will be used for municipal purposes, such as to contact you in relation to the petition, to seek clarification or to provide you with information on the outcome of your petition. The information may also be made publicly available through reporting to committees and local government meetings and may also be given to the State Government agencies for clarification on issues.

Outside of municipal purposes, your information will not be disclosed to any external party without your consent, unless required or authorised by law, and will be used in accordance with the *Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014* (Vic). Council's Privacy and Data Protection policy accessible via Council's website <u>www.campaspe.vic.gov.au</u> or at Council's Customer Service Centres.

If you wish to access or alter any of the personal information you have provided, please contact Council on 1300 666 535 or shire@campaspe.vic.gov.au.

Consent

By signing this petition you are providing consent to Council to maintain, store and release it in accordance with the above Privacy Collection Notice, the *Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014* (Vic) and Council's Privacy and Data Protection Policy available on Council's website <u>www.campaspe.vic.gov.au</u> or at one Council's Customer Service Centres.

KYABRAM DEAKIN RESIDENTS & RATEPAYERS DEVELOPMENT GROUP Inc.

P.O. Box 370, Kyabram, Vic. 3619 Email: kyabramdeakinratepayers@gmail.com

PETITION TO THE CAMPASPE SHIRE COUNCIL

1

We the undersigned, being residents ratepayers and friends of Kyabram, hereby respectfully request the Campaspe Shire Council to complete a 30-year vision to establish a heated pool complex on council-owned land next to the Kyabram Indoor Stadium in Allan St, as per plans submitted to Council by the Kyabram Deakin Residents & Ratepayers Development Group on October 18, 2024.

NAME (Print)	STREET ADDRESS Street Number & Name	SUBURB/TOWN	SIGNATURE

1,762 Signatures