



Pyrenees
Shire Council

Minutes

Ordinary Meeting of Council

6:00 pm Tuesday 19 September 2023

Council Chambers

Beaufort Council Offices,
5 Lawrence Street, Beaufort

Wadawurrung Country

Members of the public may view the meeting virtually via the livestream

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. WELCOME	3
2. STREAMING PREAMBLE	3
3. OPENING PRAYER	3
4. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY	3
5. APOLOGIES.....	3
6. NOTICE OF DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST BY COUNCILLORS AND OFFICERS	3
7. CONFIRMATION OF THE PREVIOUS MINUTES.....	3
8. BUSINESS ARISING	3
9. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.....	3
10. ITEMS FOR NOTING	4
10.1. Corporate and Community Services	4
10.1.1. Customer Action Requests - July 2023	4
10.2. Chief Executive Office	12
10.2.1. Mayoral Interstate Travel	12
11. COUNCILLOR ACTIVITY REPORTS	14
11.1. Councillor Activity Reports - August 2023	14
12. ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS.....	16
12.1. Assembly of Councillors - August 2023.....	16
13. ITEMS FOR DECISION	18
13.1. Asset and Development Services.....	18
13.1.1. Heavy Vehicle Approved Roads	18
13.1.2. Neighbourhood Safer Places Barkly Hall Designation	25
13.2. Corporate and Community Services	27
13.2.1. Carryover of funds 2023/24.....	27
13.2.2. Authorised Officers.....	29
13.2.3. Road Naming - Pear Tree Lane	31
13.2.4. Adoption of 2022/23 Financial Statement and 2022/23 Performance Statement	34
13.2.5. Service Reviews 2023.....	37
13.2.6. Annual Report - Community Asset Committees.....	40
13.3. Chief Executive Office	43
13.3.1. Membership - Greater Ballarat Alliance of Councils (GBAC)	43
13.3.2. Petition - Put the Brolga ahead of wind turbines	45
13.3.3. Project Update - September 2023	47
14. COUNCILLOR REPORTS AND GENERAL BUSINESS	50
14.2. Change in date - Council Statutory Meeting 2023.....	53
15. CLOSE OF MEETING	54

1. WELCOME

Mayor Cr Ron Eason welcomed all to the meeting.

PRESENT

Mayor: Cr Ron Eason

Councillors: Tanya Kehoe, David Clark (virtual), Robert Vance (virtual), Damian Ferrari

Chief Executive Officer: Jim Nolan

Director Asset and Development Services: Douglas Gowans

Director of Corporate and Community Services: Kathy Bramwell

EA to CEO and Councillors: Chantelle Sandlant (minutes)

Senior Communications Officer: Noel McKeegan

Communications Officer: Rebecca Stewart

2. STREAMING PREAMBLE

Mayor Cr Ron Eason read the livestream preamble.

3. OPENING PRAYER

The Mayor read the Opening Prayer.

4. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Mayor acknowledged the people past and present of the Wadawurrung, Dja Dja Wurrung, Eastern Maar and Wotjobaluk tribes, whose land forms the Pyrenees Shire. We pay our respect to the customs, traditions and stewardship of the land by the elders and people of these tribes on whose land we meet today.

5. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies.

6. NOTICE OF DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST BY COUNCILLORS AND OFFICERS

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

7. CONFIRMATION OF THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

Cr Tanya Kehoe / Cr Damian Ferrari

That the Minutes of the:

- Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 15 August 2023 as previously circulated to Councillors, be confirmed.

CARRIED

8. BUSINESS ARISING

9. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no questions submitted for public participation question time.

10. ITEMS FOR NOTING

10.1. CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

10.1.1. CUSTOMER ACTION REQUESTS - JULY 2023

Presenter: Kathy Bramwell - Director Corporate and Community Services

Declaration of Interest: As presenter of this report, I have no disclosable interest in this item.

Report Author: Kathy Bramwell – Director Corporate and Community Services

Declaration of Interest: As author of this report, I have no disclosable interest in this item.

File No: 16/08/04

PURPOSE

This report provides updates on contacts made by our community through a range of media, including the Customer Action Request System and emails, for August 2023. This report's purpose is to demonstrate ongoing efforts to improve responsiveness to customers and the community over time.

BACKGROUND

Our community contact officers through a range of means, including but not limited to:

- Customer Action Request System (CARS)
- Emails – directly to officers or via the central pyrenees@pyrenees.vic.gov.au email address
- Via telephone or face-to-face with Council's switchboard or front counters
- Complaints
- Requests for information via Freedom of Information (FOI) processes
- Social media

The Council has operated an electronic Customer Action Request System (CARS) for many years enabling residents to lodge service requests. Requests can be lodged in person, via telephone, via Council's website or by using a smart phone "Snap Send Solve" application. Requests input via the "Snap Send Solve" application must be input manually by customer service officers into the CAR (Customer Action Requests) system as this currently does not accept automatic uploads.

Service requests are received for operational issues regarding maintenance, road maintenance, pools, local laws, building maintenance and compliance matters. Complaints are received and managed separately to action requests and monthly checks are made of customer action requests to identify requests that should be managed as complaints.

Requests logged through the customer action requests system form a minority of the contacts received by Council officers monthly, however, remain an important method of identifying where problems exist that need to be addressed.

Council has noted a declining trend in customer satisfaction over the past 10 years and this report will continue to be reformatted over the next few months to expand information on officer response to community contact to demonstrate efforts made to reverse this trend.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION - CUSTOMER CONTACT

For years, reporting on customer contact has been limited to customer action requests (CARs). This limited report does not provide a proper indication of the number and type of customer contacts received and provides a skewed impression of officers' response to such contact. It is intended, therefore, to expand this monthly report to include other types of contact and, over time, demonstrate where improvements have been made to customer service and responsiveness.

Statistics on direct face-to-face contact will be developed and built upon over the next few months.

Customer contact media	June 2023	July 2023	August 2023
Emails received by organisation	42,906	94,409	56,093
External complaints received	0	3	4
FOI Requests for information	2	1	4
Requests for review of infringements	1	1	2
Website page views	25,724	17,970*	
Website users	5,190	5,472	
Website contact us page	681	645	
Website customer enquiry form	n/a	54	

*under-reported due to platform changes

Comments:

- Emails remain a growing source of customer contact, taking significant time and resources to manage.
- FOI Requests continue, primarily through one organisation intending to submit one per month, starting in May 2023 – requests from this same organisation now total 8 received between May and August 2023. Searches associated with FOI requests can impose significant workload pressures on staff if the request is complex.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION - CUSTOMER ACTION REQUESTS

This report will continue the provision of information relating to customer action requests:

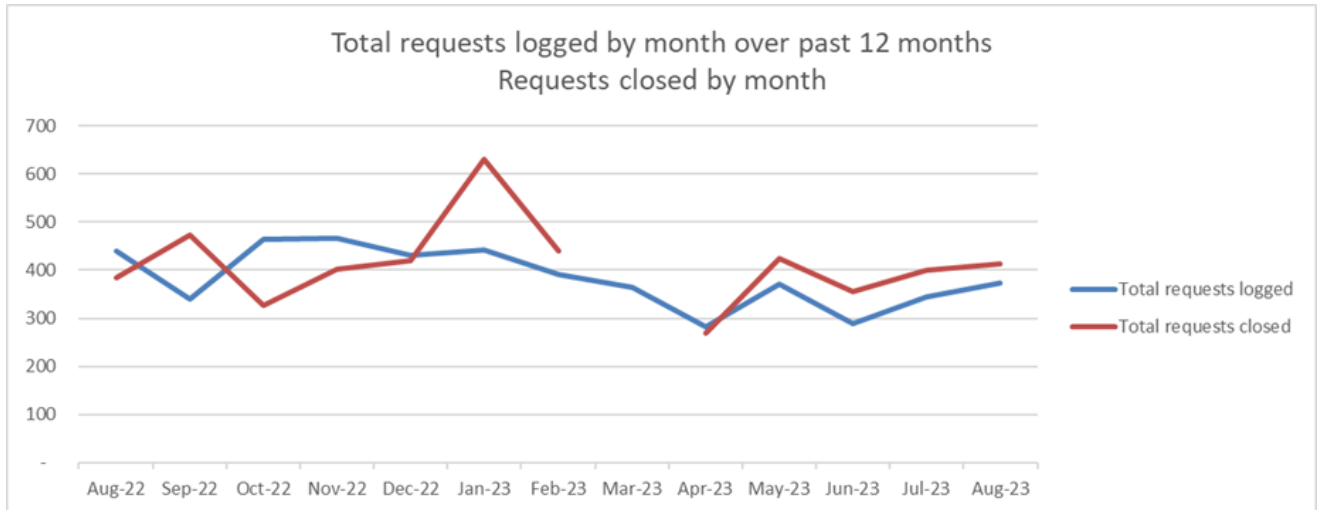
1. Logged and closed requests

373 CARs (Customer Action Requests) were logged in August 2023, 29 more than the previous month. Of these, 103 related to telephone messages.

413 requests were closed during the month, demonstrating the ongoing effort officers are making to maintain focus on addressing and closing requests.

The following charts detail the numbers of requests received over the last 12 months and the number of requests closed each month.

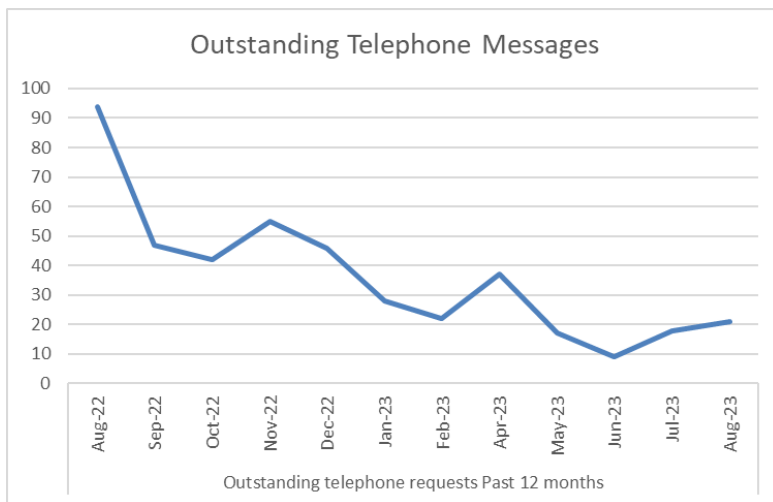
Year	Aug-22	Sep-22	Oct-22	Nov-22	Dec-22	Jan-23	Feb-23	Mar-23	Apr-23	May-23	Jun-23	Jul-23	Aug-23	% Change
Total requests logged	439	339	464	466	431	441	390	364	282	372	288	344	373	32%
Total requests closed	384	473	327	403	421	630	440		269	424	356	401	413	54%



2. Telephone requests

103 telephone calls were transferred into requests in August 2023, with 21 requests remaining outstanding at the end of the month. The following charts detail the trend in telephone calls remaining outstanding at the end of each month.

Outstanding telephone requests Past 12 months											
Aug-22	Sep-22	Oct-22	Nov-22	Dec-22	Jan-23	Feb-23	Apr-23	May-23	Jun-23	Jul-23	Aug-23
94	47	42	55	46	28	22	37	17	9	18	21



3. Open Customer Action Requests

The number of open requests is now reported differently. Some requests that have had initial contact with the customer but are unable to be resolved quickly for some reason, are now being moved to being 'on-hold' and some may be referred to budget (e.g., long term drainage issues).

At the end of August 2023, there was a total of 344 active or open requests. These include:

- 139 which are open and assigned for action
- 159 which are on hold awaiting resolution or action scheduling
- 1 referred to budget
- 1 in progress – meaning that they are longer term case managed issues
- 1 being managed.

On hold – 159 requests were on hold as at the end of August. In general, these relate to matters that have had initial contact and require additional work or case management, or have been put on a schedule for action - e.g.,

- Complex local law matters, mostly relating to shipping containers or dog complaints.
- Road improvement requests.
- Flood impacts / Natural disaster.
- Long term drainage works.

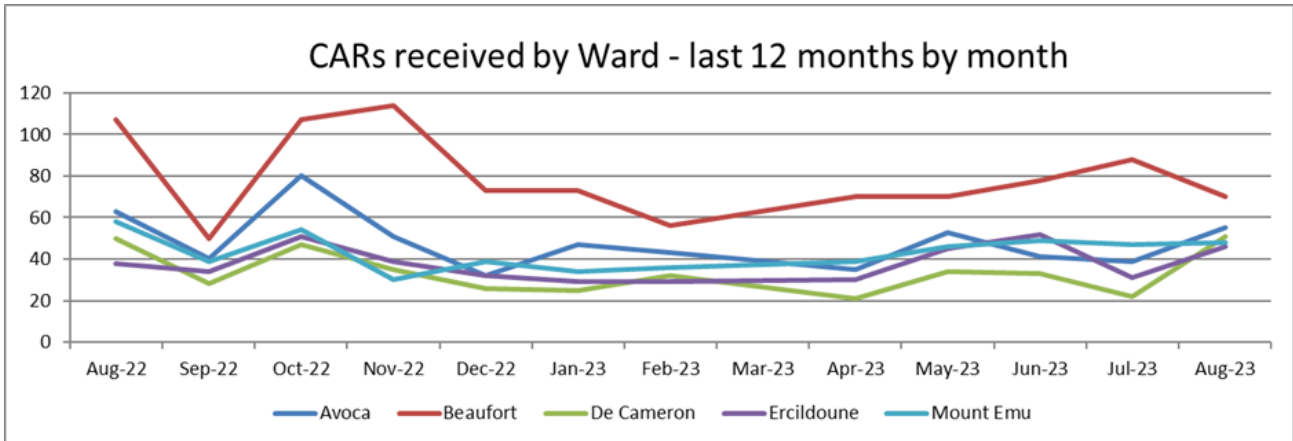
Open requests – the balance of this report will focus on the open requests as previously, but statistics relating to requests marked as on-hold or referred-to-budget have been included in the table.

Of the non-telephone call requests received in August, the following represents those received and still open at the of the last month by Ward:

	Avoca Ward	Beaufort Ward	DeCameron Ward	Ercildoune Ward	Mt Emu Ward
Number of requests received in August 2023 (previous month)	55(39)	70(88)	51(22)	46(31)	48(47)
Requests received in August and closed in the same month (%)	39(71%)	54(77%)	39(76%)	33(72%)	37(77%)
Requests received in August remaining open and assigned for action	12	10	8	11	9
Requests received in August on-hold awaiting final works or resolution	3	6	4	2	2
Requests received in August referred to budget	0	0	0	0	0
Total open (assigned) requests as at the end of August 2023	25	21	18	22	17

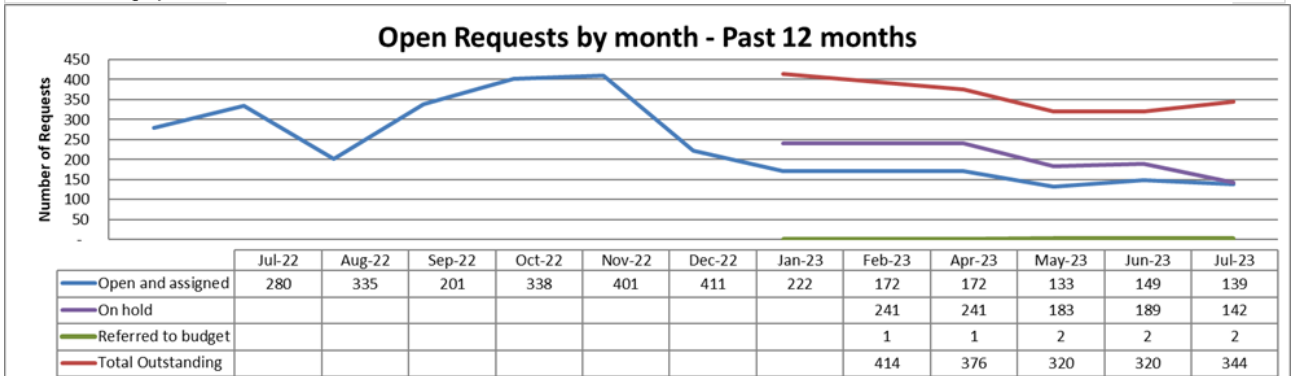
The following charts show the numbers of requests received by Ward per month for the past 12 months.

CARS by Ward received by month Rolling - Past 12 months												
Ward	Aug-22	Sep-22	Oct-22	Nov-22	Dec-22	Jan-23	Feb-23	Apr-23	May-23	Jun-23	Jul-23	Aug-23
Avoca	63	40	80	51	32	47	43	35	53	41	39	55
Beaufort	107	50	107	114	73	73	56	70	70	78	88	70
De Cameron	50	28	47	35	26	25	32	21	34	33	22	51
Ercildoune	38	34	51	39	32	29	29	30	45	52	31	46
Mount Emu	58	39	54	30	39	34	36	39	46	49	47	48
Total by month	316	191	339	269	202	208	196	195	248	253	227	270

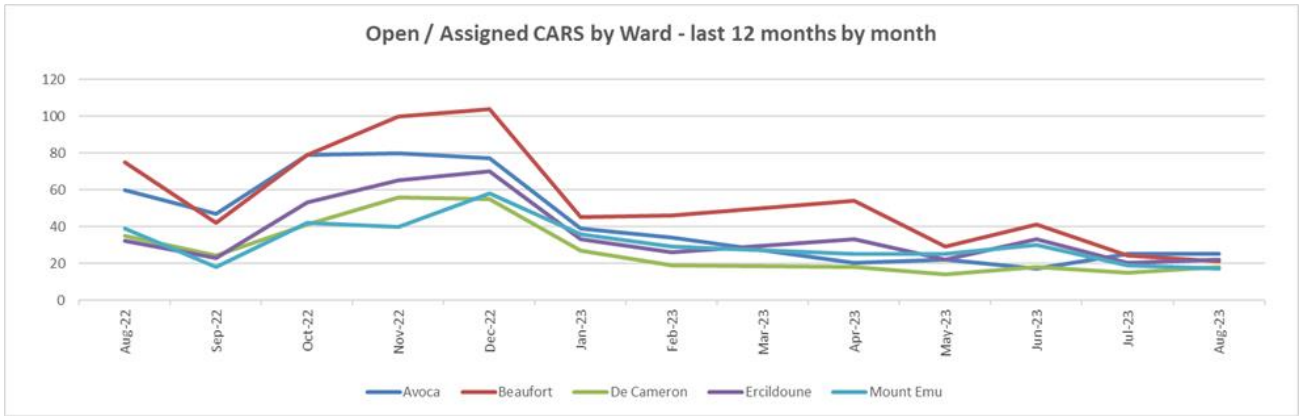


The following charts show the statistics for requests that remained open each month for the past 12 months. These charts now include requests put on hold or referred to budget.

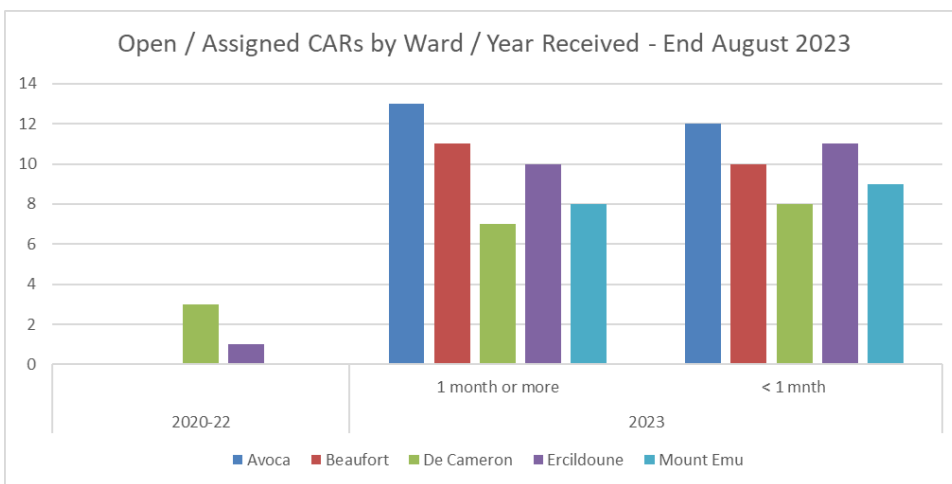
Open requests by age																
Year	Aug-22	Sep-22	Oct-22	Nov-22	Dec-22	Jan-23	Feb-23	Apr-23	May-23	Jun-23	Jul-23	Aug-23	% Change	On hold	Referred to Budget	In progress
2013																
2020	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1				-
2021	20	16	15	12	12	-	-	2	4	3	-	-	0%	2	1	-
2022	314	184	322	389	399	131	45	19	115	114	19	19	0%	62	-	-
2023	-	-	-	-	-	91	127	164	201	227	119	119	0%	95	-	4
Open and assigned	335	201	338	401	411	222	172	185	133	149	139	139	0%	159	1	4
Outstanding but on hold							241	190	183	189	142	159	0%			
In progress - longer term									2	4	4	4	0%			
Other outstanding											4	1	0%			
Referred to budget							1	1	2	2	2	1	0%			
Total Closed	384	473	327	403	421	630	440	269	424	324	320	413	0%			
Total requests logged	439	339	464	466	431	441	390	282	372	288	344	373	0%			
Total outstanding requests								414	376	320	320	344		304		



Open Assigned Requests by Ward - Past 12 months													
Ward	Aug-22	Sep-22	Oct-22	Nov-22	Dec-22	Jan-23	Feb-23	Apr-23	May-23	Jun-23	Jul-23	Aug-23	
Avoca	60	47	79	80	77	39	34	20	22	17	25	25	
Beaufort	75	42	79	100	104	45	46	54	29	41	24	21	
De Cameron	35	24	41	56	55	27	19	18	14	18	15	18	
Ercildoune	32	23	53	65	70	33	26	33	22	33	20	22	
Mount Emu	39	18	42	40	58	36	29	25	25	30	19	17	
Total by month	241	154	294	341	364	180	154	150	112	139	103	103	



The following chart shows the open assigned requests by Ward as at the end of August 2023, excluding those referred-to-budget or on-hold.



The following table provides greater detail of the areas / type where outstanding requests remain, showing the functional areas and numbers of requests still outstanding as at the end of the last month. This data includes those referred-to-budget or on-hold.

Open requests - Type			
	Jul-23	Aug-23	Change
Roads & Rd Maint.	79	77	-2
Streetlights	4	2	-2
Drainage	17	15	-2
Footpaths / Kerb&Channel	2	3	1
Park & Reserves	7	6	-1
Roadside Veg	12	12	0
Environmental Health	3	3	0
Planning	7	11	4
Bld maint	8	5	-3
Local Laws	23	33	10
Cats	4	8	4
Dogs	8	8	0
Livestock	2	2	0
Parking	2	0	-2
Fire Hazard	2	2	0
Bld Compliance	1	2	1
Waste Management	0	0	0
Local Government Act	0	0	0
Rates	1	4	3
Natural Disasters	86	86	0
Pools	0	0	0
Council cleaning	1	0	-1
Litter	2	0	-2
Design & Assets	1	4	3
GIS	0	0	0
Community	0	0	0
Rural Addressing	0	0	0
Road Naming	1	0	-1
Telephone messages	18	21	3
Total	291	304	13

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Enabling Principles

- a. Motivate and inspire community involvement
- b. Provide transparency and accountability
- c. Use resources efficiently and effectively

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT / CONSULTATION OUTCOMES

This report did not require any community engagement or consultation, other than that provided via this report.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

All risks are discussed in the body of the report.

CONCLUSION

The customer action request system remains an integral part of Council's reactive identification of issues that need attention. This report provides an update on customer action requests as at the end of August 2023. Reporting is being expanded over future months to include other media of customer contact officers receive.

Cr Tanya Kehoe / Cr Damian Ferrari

That Council notes this report.

CARRIED

10.2. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

10.2.1. MAYORAL INTERSTATE TRAVEL

Presenter: Jim Nolan - Chief Executive Officer

Declaration of Interest: As presenter of this report, I have no disclosable interest in this item.

Report Author: Jim Nolan – Chief Executive Officer

Declaration of Interest: As author of this report, I have no disclosable interest in this item.

File No: 18/02/02

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to advise Council of Mayor, Cr Ron Eason's intent to travel interstate.

BACKGROUND

The Mayor has advised of his intent to travel interstate for holiday purposes between the September and October Ordinary Council Meetings.

It is possible for the Mayor to fulfil the duties of Mayor while interstate, and delegate / nominate other Councillors to undertake any activities in support in the form of representation at events or forums for example, however Council may also choose to appoint an Acting Mayor for the period.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

Should the Council see it necessary to appoint another Councillor to be Acting Mayor for the period, there is provision to do so under section 20B of the Local Government Act 2020 as follows:

20B Acting Mayor

(1) A Council may appoint a Councillor to be the Acting Mayor when—

- (a) the Mayor is unable for any reason to attend a Council meeting or part of a Council meeting; or*
- (b) the Mayor is incapable of performing the duties of the office of Mayor for any reason, including illness; or*
- (c) the office of Mayor is vacant.*

(2) An appointment under subsection (1) must be for a period specified by the Council.

(3) If—

- (a) an appointment has not been made under subsection (1) or has expired; and*
- (b) any of the circumstances specified in subsection (1)(a), (b) or (c) apply— the Council must appoint a Councillor to be the Acting Mayor for a period specified by the Council.*

(4) An Acting Mayor—

- (a) must perform the role of the Mayor; and*
- (b) may exercise any of the powers of the Mayor— until the circumstances specified in subsection (1) no longer apply or the period of the appointment expires, whichever first occurs.*

(5) If an Acting Mayor has been appointed, unless inconsistent with the context or subject matter, a reference in this Act (except in sections 20 and 23, Division 4 of this Part and sections 61(6) and 236(4)) to the Mayor includes a reference to the Acting Mayor.

There would not appear to be any urgent matters of business during the period that would warrant the appointment of an Acting Mayor.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Priority 1 - People

1d. Promote health, wellbeing, engagement and connection.

Enabling Principles

b. Provide transparency and accountability

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications should Council choose not to appoint an Acting Mayor. Should an Acting Mayor be appointed, then an appropriate remuneration adjustment would be made for the period.

CONCLUSION

There would appear to be no urgent matter that would warrant the appointment of an Acting Mayor, and it is suggested that Council notes the intention of the Mayor to travel interstate for the period between the September and October Council Meetings.

Cr David Clark / Cr Robert Vance

That Council:

1. Notes this report.

CARRIED

11. COUNCILLOR ACTIVITY REPORTS**11.1. COUNCILLOR ACTIVITY REPORTS - AUGUST 2023**

Cr Damian Ferrari – Beaufort Ward		
08/08/2023	Councillor Briefing	Beaufort
08/08/2023	Councillor Cuppa and Chat	Lake Goldsmith
15/08/2023	Councillor Briefing	Beaufort
15/08/2023	Council Meeting	Beaufort

Cr David Clark – Ercildoune Ward		
04/08/2023	MAV Board Meeting	Melbourne
08/08/2023	Councillor Briefing	Beaufort
08/08/2023	Councillor Cuppa and Chat	Lake Goldsmith
09/08/2023	MAV Wimmera Southern Mallee Central Highlands Regional Meeting	Virtual
10/08/2023	CVGA Finance and Audit Committee	Virtual
15/08/2023	Councillor Briefing	Beaufort
15/08/2023	Council Meeting	Beaufort
17/08/2023	CVGA Board Meeting	Virtual
30/08/2023	Highlands LLEN Meeting	Ballarat

Cr Robert Vance – De Cameron Ward		
08/08/2023	Councillor Briefing	Beaufort
08/08/2023	Councillor Cuppa and Chat	Lake Goldsmith
09/08/2023	MAV Wimmera Southern Mallee Central Highlands Regional Meeting	Virtual
15/08/2023	Councillor Briefing	Beaufort
15/08/2023	Council Meeting	Beaufort
23/08/2023	Moonambel Public Hall / Reserve Committee Meeting	Moonambel
25/08/2023	Rural Councils Victoria Committee Meeting	Virtual
30/08 – 01/09 2023	Timber Towns AGM & Forum	Portland

Cr Ron Eason – Avoca Ward		
08/08/2023	Councillor Briefing	Beaufort
09/08/2023	MAV Wimmera Southern Mallee Central Highlands Regional Meeting	Virtual
15/08/2023	Councillor Briefing	Beaufort
15/08/2023	Council Meeting	Beaufort
24/08/2023	Meeting with GBAC Chair, Cr Des Hudson	Beaufort
29/08/2023	VLGGC Statewide Information Session	Virtual

Cr Tanya Kehoe – Mount Emu Ward		
08/08/2023	Councillor Briefing	Beaufort
08/08/2023	Councillor Cuppa and Chat	Lake Goldsmith
15/08/2023	Councillor Briefing	Beaufort
15/08/2023	Council Meeting	Beaufort

Cr Tanya Kehoe / Cr Damian Ferrari

That Council notes this report.

CARRIED

12. ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS**12.1. ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS - AUGUST 2023**

MEETING INFORMATION			
Meeting Name	Councillor Briefing Session		
Meeting Date	8 August 2023 commenced at 1.00pm and closed at 4.30pm		
Meeting Location	Beaufort		
Items Discussed	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Administrative matters 2. Creative Community Draft Discussion Paper 3. Insurable Properties Review Project 4. Rainbow Serpent / Spirit Festival & Pyrenees Connection 5. Operation Sandon 6. Climate Change 7. Agenda Review 		
ATTENDEES			
Councillors	Mayor Cr Ron Eason (virtual) Cr Damian Ferrari	Cr David Clark Cr Robert Vance	
Apologies	Cr Tanya Kehoe		
Staff	Jim Nolan (Chief Executive Officer) Douglas Gowans (Director Assets and Development Services) Kathy Bramwell (Director Corporate and Community Services) Rachel Blackwell (Manager Planning & Development Services) Eoghan McColl (Coordinator Planning Services) Terry McAliece (Environment & Sustainability Officer)		
Visitors	Nil		
CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURES			
Item No:	Councillor making disclosure	Particulars of disclosure	Councillor left meeting

MEETING INFORMATION			
Meeting Name	Councillor Briefing Session		
Meeting Date	15 August 2023 commenced at 1.00pm and closed at 5.30pm		
Meeting Location	Beaufort		
Items Discussed	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Governance 2. Rainbow Serpent / Spirit & Pyrenees Connection – Gap Events 3. WHAC Update 4. Beaufort Linear Masterplan 5. Memberships 6. Greater Ballarat Alliance of Councils (GBAC) 7. Projects 8. Agenda Review 		
ATTENDEES			
Councillors	Mayor Cr Ron Eason (virtual) Cr Damian Ferrari Cr Tanya Kehoe	Cr David Clark Cr Robert Vance	
Apologies	Nil.		
Staff	Jim Nolan (Chief Executive Officer) Douglas Gowans (Director Assets and Development Services) Kathy Bramwell (Director Corporate and Community Services) Rachel Blackwell (Manager Planning & Development Services) – item 2 Eoghan McColl (Coordinator Planning Services) – item 2 Ray Davies (Manager, Economic Development & Tourism - virtual) – item 4		
Visitors	Loretta Agius, GAP Events – item 2 Frank Venuto, GAP Events – item 2 Andrew Grey, GAP Events – item 2 Andrew Schudmak, GAP Events – item 2 Katherine Howard, Emerge Associates (virtual) – item 4		
CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURES			
Item No:	Councillor making disclosure	Particulars of disclosure	Councillor left meeting
5	Cr Clark	MAV President	Left at 3.43pm, returned at 3.52pm
8 (part)	Cr Clark	MAV President	

Cr Tanya Kehoe / Cr Robert Vance

That Council notes this report.

CARRIED

13. ITEMS FOR DECISION

13.1. ASSET AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

13.1.1. HEAVY VEHICLE APPROVED ROADS

Presenter: Douglas Gowans - Director Asset and Development Services

Declaration of Interest: As presenter of this report, I have no disclosable interest in this item.

Report Author: Daniel Potter – Manager Engineering

Declaration of Interest: As author of this report, I have no disclosable interest in this item.

File No: 64/08/06

PURPOSE

This report seeks the Council’s support to gazette (pre-approve) heavy vehicle access on selected Council-managed roads. Gazettal of these selected roads would remove the requirement for heavy vehicles to apply for heavy vehicle permits via the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator (NHVR).

BACKGROUND

At the Council meeting on the 15th of September 2020 (file no. 64/08/06), B-doubles were approved on link hierarchy roads where possible depending on bridges/major culverts capacity, pavement/shoulder strength and road configuration, etc. The report included the approval of 50km’s of the 284km’s of link roads within Pyrenees Shire Council to equating to a percentage of 18% approved for B-Double access. A copy of this council report is found in the attachments to this report.

The approved B-Double roads within the September 2020 report included:

- Eurambreen-Streatham Rd (partly managed by Ararat Shire Council) - 38.4kms
- Woorndoo-Streatham Rd (managed by Ararat Shire Council) - 4.3kms
- Beaufort-Carngham Rd (part between Carngham Streatham Rd to Ballarat Carngham Rd) - 5.59kms
- Avoca-Bealiba Rd (part between Sunraysia Hwy to Hay Processor) - 1.0km and,
- Darlington-Carranballac Rd (collector road classification) - 3.5kms

Over the last 3 years, detailed investigations have been completed on bridges and pavements including condition inspections and/or structural reports either funded through operational budgets or external grant funding. These have provided additional information to inform potential changes to the gazetted B-double network as well as the Performance Based Standards (PBS) Level 1 & 2A networks within Pyrenees Shire Council.

As per the summary below, the number of approved heavy vehicle permits between July 2020 and June 2023 within Pyrenees Shire Council was 775 permits. These heavy vehicle permits results in resources for people to submit their permits to the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator (NHVR - the national coordinating authority for all heavy vehicle permits), NHVR resources and resources from Council’s engineering team to review each application, provide alternative routes (if required) and approve.

		Heavy Vehicle Class			Total
		Class 1	Class 2	Class 3	
		396	342	37	775
Class 2 Heavy Vehicle Sub-classification	B-double	Up to 9 axles, 26m long	196		
	Performance Base Standards	PBS 1	9		
		PBS 2	122		
		PBS 3	15		

Table 1: Summary of approved heavy vehicle permits between July 2020 and June 2023 within Pyrenees Shire Council

Many of the 775 approved heavy vehicle permits in the past 3 years have been Class 2 Heavy Vehicles and utilize the 'Link' road hierarchy. A summary of the approved class 2 heavy vehicle permits on the higher used 'link' roads are included below for information:

					Class 2 (July 2020 to June 2023)				
					B-Double	Performance Base Standards			Total
S.N.	Roads Name	From	To	Kms	up to 9 axles, 26m long	PBS1	PBS 2	PBS 3	
1	Eurambien-Streatham Rd	Mt. William Rd	Western Hwy	24.19	45	2	50	1	98
2	Mt. William Rd	Eurambien-Streatham Rd	West Boundary Rd	22.64	28	3	40	1	72
3a	Carngham-Streatham Rd	Glenelg Hwy	Skipton Rd	24.39	16	3	13	0	32
3b	Carngham-Streatham Rd	Skipton Rd	Beaufort-Carngham Rd	17.98					
4	Beaufort-Carngham Rd	Carngham-Streatham Rd	Linton-Carngham Rd	5.595	11	1	7	0	18
5	Vite Vite – Skipton Rd	Glenelg Hwy	Mt. Emu Creek (boundary of Corangamite Shire)	4.43	3	0	3	0	6
6a	North St	High St	Homebush Rd	0.338	22	7	11	2	42
6b	Homebush Rd	North St	Maryborough-St.Arnaud Rd	14.911	23	2	7	0	32
7	Dunolly-Avoca Rd	Maryborough-St. Arnaud Rd	Walker Rd (boundary of Central Goldfields Shire)	3.915	12	2	6	0	20
8a	Albert St	Beaufort Lexton Rd	King St	0.405	13	0	3	1	17
8b	King St	Albert St	Main Lead Rd	0.694	16	2	6	1	25
8c	Main Lead Rd	King St	Raglan-Elmhurst Rd	6.65	16	2	8	0	26
8d	Raglan-Elmhurst Rd	Main Lead Rd	Pyrenees Hwy	25.67	7	2	0	0	9
9	Moonambel-Natte Yallock Rd	Maryborough-St Arnaud Rd	Stawell-Avoca Rd	14.47	5	2	6	2	15
Total				166.28	217	28	160	8	412

Table 2: Summary of the Class 2 heavy vehicle permits on the higher used 'link' classified roads.

There are over 300 different heavy vehicle configurations which are mainly grouped into four classes of freight/heavy vehicles. These four classes are General Access, Class 1, Class 2 and Class 3. An overview of

heavy vehicle types is contained in the attachments. Below is a summary of the four heavy vehicle/freight classes:

- General Access vehicles. These do not require heavy vehicle permits due to their size and include vehicles like rigid trucks, semitrailers and truck/dog combinations, etc.
- Class 1. Includes Special Purpose Vehicles (SPV) like cranes, drill rigs, graders, firetrucks, etc, Agricultural Vehicles like headers, tractors, etc & Oversize/Overmass Vehicles like low loaders, platform trailers, etc.
- Class 2. Includes Freight Vehicles (B-doubles and larger), performance based standard vehicles (PBS), larger Buses and vehicles exceeding 4.3m high.
- Class 3 vehicles are vehicles that don't fit into the mass or dimension of Class 2.

For each of the 3 Classes (Class 1, 2 & 3) and sub-classes of heavy vehicles there are gazetted road classification maps that can be viewed on the VicRoads website. These can be accessed using the interactive maps found using the following link: <https://www.vicroads.vic.gov.au/business-and-industry/heavy-vehicle-industry/heavy-vehicle-map-networks--in-victoria>. The National Heavy Vehicle Regulator (NHVR) are in the process of converting these state government maps into national maps.

Link to the Class 2 Combinations B-double's map:

<https://nhvr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=a24ada5b26c147788ce10765a8caf608>

The VicRoads heavy vehicle configuration maps that this report seeks support for gazettal changes to include:

- 'Class 2 B-double',
- 'Class 2 HML',
- 'Class 2 GHMS - B-Double',
- 'Class 2 GHMS – Rigid & Semi',
- 'PBS Class 1 Combinations' and,
- 'PBS Class 2A Combinations'.

A copy of the heavy vehicle configurations that are included within these maps are highlighted in green within the attachment called "HV Configurations – with approved highlighted".

The process to manage other heavy vehicle classifications like Class 1, Class 3, PBS Class 2B & PBS Class 3 combinations is proposed to remain unchanged with heavy vehicle permits still required.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

The following includes discussion on each of the 'Link' hierarchy roads and roads that this report seeks Council's support to make changes to the gazetted heavy vehicle networks.

The changes are summarized within the attached 'A0' sized roads map of the Shire with the previously B-Double approved roads in 'green' and proposed additions to the gazette networks (B-double, HML, GHMS - B-Double/Rigid & Semi, PBS 1 and, PBS 2A) shown in 'orange'.

Link Roads:

- Euramben Streatham Rd (Western Hwy to Shire Boundary)
Included within the September 2020 council report for B-doubles pre-approval but this report seeks support to gazette additional access to HML, GHMS - B-Double, GHMS - Rigid/Semi, PBS 1 and PBS 2A.

Previous works on this road including the bridge replacement of bridge 59 near Geelong Rd in 2020 help make this route suitable for the proposed gazettal. Additional capital works are planned to replace bridges 58 & 60 within the 23/24 FY budget to further maintain heavy vehicle access. The

southern section managed by Ararat Rural City Council between Glenelg Hwy and property No.3119 is also currently approved for these vehicle configurations.

- **Mt. William Rd (Eurambeen-Streatham Rd & West Boundary Rd)**
This road is currently gazetted in the GHMS - B-Double and GHMS - Rigid/Semi networks. It is assumed that Mt William Rd was added to these GHMS networks due to the grain receival facility located at the intersection of Eurambeen-Streatham Rd and Mt. William Rd. To further support the freight industry, this report seeks Council's support to update the gazetted access of the B-Double, HML, PBS 1 & PBS 2A networks.

There are sections of the 22.6km's of Mt. William Rd where the seal width is less than 6.0m wide but these will be monitored for any required maintenance or proposed for upgrade within future capital works budgets depending on priorities within Councils asset management plan.

- **Carngham Streatham Rd (Mt William Rd to Beaufort Carngham Rd)**
Seeking support to gazette for B-Double, HML, GHMS B-Double, GHMS - Rigid/Semi, PBS 1 & PBS 2A.

Sections of the pavement on Carngham Streatham Rd are in deteriorating condition which will require reconstruction in the near future due to subgrade strength and existing pavement thickness/strength. It is planned to submit funding applications for freight/heavy vehicle upgrades for these sections requiring upgrade and include within future capital works budget planning. These upgrades will maintain the proposed gazettal of this road.

It is proposed that this road doesn't include the full section and the section between Glenelg Hwy & Mt William Rd will remain unchanged (not gazetted) to discourage the use of Carngham Streatham Rd as an alternative route into Ballarat over the Glenelg Hwy.

- **Beaufort-Carngham Rd (Carngham Streatham Rd to Ballarat Carngham Rd)**
Included within the September 2020 council report for B-doubles pre-approval but this report seeks Council's support to gazette additional access to HML, GHMS B-Double, GHMS - Rigid/Semi, PBS 1 & PBS 2A.

The section between Western Hwy and Carngham Streatham Rd is not able to be added to the heavy vehicle gazetted networks due to strength issues of bridge 11 at Mena Park which is limited with a 30-tonne load limit. Once this bridge is upgraded, the full section of Beaufort-Carngham Rd will most likely be able to be added to the B-Double, HML, GHMS B-Double, GHMS - Rigid/Semi, PBS 1 & PBS 2A gazetted networks.

- **Linton-Carngham Rd (Ballarat Carngham Rd to Smythdale-Snake Valley Rd)**
Seeking support to gazette for B-Double, HML, GHMS B-Double, GHMS - Rigid/Semi, PBS 1 & PBS 2A. The addition of this road links Snake Valley to Ballarat via Ballarat Carngham Rd. This section of Linton-Carngham Rd is in good condition and only has one bridge that will require additional monitoring to ensure the gazetted heavy vehicle networks are maintained. This is bridge 25 which a small U-Slab bridge that includes a thick pavement over the U-Slab deck

The full section of Linton-Carngham Rd is not appropriate for approvals on the heavy vehicle networks due to bridge 28 which is load limited due to its arrangement and condition.

- Smythesdale-Snake Valley Rd
Seeking support to gazette for B-Double, HML, GHMS B-Double, GHMS - Rigid/Semi, PBS 1 & PBS 2A. Recent and proposed reconstruction of sections of this road have increased the capacity of being able to allow heavy vehicle access to this road.

The section of this road between the Shire Boundary and the Glenelg Hwy is managed by Golden Plains Shire Council and isn't currently included within the VicRoads Gazetted maps, but this road is a key link to the Snake Valley area.

- Raglan-Elmhurst Rd, Main Lead Rd, King St & Albert St
Seeking support to gazette for B-Double, HML, GHMS B-Double, GHMS - Rigid/Semi, PBS 1 & PBS 2A. Recent upgrade/reconstruction of bridge 139 within Raglan provides this route to cater for heavy vehicle access.
- Dunolly-Avoca Rd
Seeking support to gazette for B-Double, HML, GHMS B-Double, GHMS - Rigid/Semi, PBS 1 & PBS 2A. Dunolly-Avoca Rd is approved for these heavy vehicle classifications within Central Goldfields Shire Council and approval of this road will complete the link to Sunraysia Hwy.
- Homebush Rd & North St, Avoca
Seeking support to gazette for B-Double, HML, GHMS B-Double, GHMS - Rigid/Semi, PBS 1 & PBS 2A. There are three bridges along this route which will require upgrading in the near future and will continue to be monitored for performance.
- Moonambel-Natte Yallock Rd
Seeking support to gazette for B-Double, HML, GHMS B-Double, GHMS - Rigid/Semi, PBS 1 & PBS 2A.
- Amphitheatre Rd
No change, restricted/no access for B-Double, HML, GHMS B-Double, GHMS - Rigid/Semi, PBS 1 & PBS 2A classifications.

There are 3 bridges on this route which don't have a capacity/strength to support the loadings of the heavy vehicles included in the B-Double, HML, GHMS B-Double, GHMS - Rigid/Semi, PBS 1 & PBS 2A classification. These bridges are number 185, 2 & 99 on Lexton Ararat Rd.

- Lexton-Ararat Rd
No change, restricted/no access for B-Double, HML, GHMS B-Double, GHMS - Rigid/Semi, PBS 1 & PBS 2A classifications.

There are two bridges on this route which don't have a capacity/strength to support the loadings of the heavy vehicles included in the B-Double, HML, GHMS B-Double, GHMS - Rigid/Semi, PBS 1 & PBS 2A classification. These bridges are No.97 within Lexton and No.99 near Amphitheatre between.

- Landsborough-Elmhurst Rd
No change, restricted/no access for B-Double, HML, GHMS B-Double, GHMS - Rigid/Semi, PBS 1 & PBS 2A classifications.
Current due to 30t load limits on Bridges 89 & 90.
- Landsborough Rd (Landsborough-Stawell Rd)

No change, restricted/no access for B-Double, HML, GHMS B-Double, GHMS - Rigid/Semi, PBS 1 & PBS 2A classifications.

There is one large 3 span U-slab deck bridge on this route which is comparable to similar bridges within Pyrenees Shire Council which have had structural modelling completed. The structural modelling completed provides sufficient information that the arrangement of this bridge doesn't have the capacity/strength to support the loadings of the heavy vehicles included in the B-Double, HML, GHMS B-Double, GHMS - Rigid/Semi, PBS 1 & PBS 2A classification.

Collector Roads:

- Vite Vite – Skipton Rd
Seeking support to gazette for B-Double, HML, GHMS B-Double, GHMS - Rigid/Semi, PBS 1 & PBS 2A. Vite Vite – Skipton Rd is approved for these heavy vehicle classifications within Corangamite Shire Council and approval of this road will complete the link to Glenelg Hwy.
- Darlington – Carranballac Rd
Included within the September 2020 council report for B-doubles pre-approval but this report seeks support to gazette additional access to HML, GHMS - B-Double, GHMS - Rigid/Semi, PBS 1 and PBS 2A.

Darlington – Carranballac Rd is approved for these heavy vehicle classifications within Ararat Rural City Council and approval of this road will complete the link to Glenelg Hwy.

- Joel Joel Rd & Crowlands Eversley Rd
Seeking support to gazette for B-Double, HML, GHMS B-Double, GHMS - Rigid/Semi, PBS 1 & PBS 2A.

Darlington – Carranballac Rd is approved for these heavy vehicle classifications within Ararat Rural City Council and approval of this road will complete the link to Glenelg Hwy.

Local Access:

- Geelong Rd (Eurambeen Streatham Rd to Shire Boundary)
Seeking support to gazette for B-Double, HML, GHMS B-Double, GHMS - Rigid/Semi, PBS 1 & PBS 2A. This road has a 4.2m wide seal with 1.0m shoulders and one major culvert (Br 67) within this section which is in good condition. Geelong Rd is approved for these heavy vehicle classifications within Ararat Rural City Council and approval of this road will complete the link to Glenelg Hwy.

Future Bridge Upgrade Strategy

The following is a quick summary of the main bridge update priorities to improve heavy vehicle access:

Bridge 10 – Beaufort Carngham Rd - Replacement \$1.7mill

Bridge 97 & 99 – Lexton Ararat Rd - Deck overlays \$300k each

Bridge 89 & 90 – Landsborough Elmhurst Rd - Deck overlays \$300k each

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Priority 4 - Economy

4a. Support our local businesses and help to strengthen key industries.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT / CONSULTATION OUTCOMES

No community engagement or consultation has been completed but regular feedback is received from the community requesting that more roads should be added to the gazette heavy vehicle road network.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Pages From 2020.09.15 - Minutes - Public [**13.1.1.1** - 3 pages]
2. Classes-of-heavy-vehicles [**13.1.1.2** - 1 page]
3. HV Configurations - with approved highlighted [**13.1.1.3** - 2 pages]
4. Heavy Roads 5 [**13.1.1.4** - 1 page]

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

The proposed addition of these roads onto the gazetted road networks may slightly increase the heavy vehicle volumes which may decrease the life of the road pavements and bridges. This is only a minor risk as heavy vehicles are approved through the current NHVR permit process and utilize these roads.

Another minor risk is the current arrangement of the roads as many of these currently don't meet the desired Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) pavement strength, geometry or seal width requirements. This is a relatively low risk as the heavy vehicle traffic volumes are low. Regular traffic counts managed by the Asset's and Development department are completed annually and will be reviewed on these roads to monitor heavy vehicle volumes. These traffic counts will be assessed against design standards (AustRoads and DTP supplements, etc) and suggested changes to the gazetted heavy vehicle network or capital works replacement/upgrades to road will be proposed.

Additional ad hoc inspections will occur on several of these pavements and bridges to monitor condition and reduce risks. The main additional inspections include bridges 81, 82 and 83 on Homebush Rd, bridge 25 on Linton Carngham Rd, and pavements on Mt. William Rd/ Carngham Streatham Rd.

There also might be a reduction of the number of heavy vehicle permits that are submitted through NHVR and result in an economy saving to the industry with people not required to prepare heavy vehicle permits, and NHVR/Council officers not required to review.

Changes to the gazetted heavy vehicle road networks is a relatively quick processes with notification/approvals completed through NHVR/DTP but if changes are required to these gazette routes after they are implemented, there is a notification period for the removal which may take several years.

CONCLUSION

Freight and heavy vehicle access to Council's road network supports key industries and businesses within Pyrenees Shire Council. It improves all sectors of the economy through the delivery and pickup of goods while also providing services to the community. Gazettal of the roads listed within this report will provide unrestricted access to the B-Double, HML, GHMS B-Double, GHMS - Rigid/Semi, PBS 1 & PBS 2A road networks and help provide this economy benefit within Pyrenees Shire Council.

Cr Tanya Kehoe / Cr Damian Ferrari

That Council:

1. Supports the gazetting of the all roads detailed in this report into the B-Double, HML, GHMS B-Double, GHMS – Rigid & Semi, PBS 1 and PBS 2A heavy vehicle networks which supports up to a 68.5 tonne PBS B-double.
2. Supports Council Officers to continue to seek funding for bridges and roads to further expand Council's heavy vehicle network.

CARRIED

13.1.2. NEIGHBOURHOOD SAFER PLACES BARKLY HALL DESIGNATION

Presenter: Douglas Gowans - Director Asset and Development Services

Declaration of Interest: As presenter of this report, I have no disclosable interest in this item.

Report Author: Douglas Gowans – Director Asset and Development Services

Declaration of Interest: As author of this report, I have no disclosable interest in this item.

File No: 28/08/10

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is for Council to consider adopting an additional Neighbourhood Safer Place/Place of Last Resort at the Barkly Hall site and to note the previously identified Places of Last Resort.

BACKGROUND

Under section 50J of the Country Fire Authority Act (1958), a municipal council must, by 31 August each year, conduct a review of each designated Neighbourhood Safer Place (NSP)/Place of Last Resort in its municipal district to determine if it is still suitable to be designated as an NSP. Once reviewed, Council must submit to the CFA its intention to agree to the prescriptions outlined in the assessment reports for each site by 30 September of that year.

In conducting the annual review, Council must ask the Country Fire Authority (CFA) to assess each NSP in accordance with the CFA Assessment Guidelines.

An NSP is a space that:

1. Is a place of last resort for individuals to access and shelter in during a fire event affecting their neighborhood – without the need to take a high risk journey beyond their neighbourhood.
2. Eliminates direct exposure to flames from a fire front and management of radiant heat to survivable levels; and
3. Should only be accessed when personal bushfire survival plans (for individual properties) cannot be implemented or have failed.

An NSP does not guarantee the survival of those who assemble there but provides a more likely survivable area than surrounding environments.

In a Neighbourhood Safer Places Assessment report presented to Council in September 2022, the Country Fire Authority (CFA) assessed additional sites at Bakery Park Amphitheatre, Barkly Hall, Crowlands Hall and Raglan Recreation reserve. All of these were deemed non-compliant but could reach compliance with prescribed works. Three of the sites, excluding Barkly Hall, required agreements with multiple private landowners to achieve compliance. This is difficult to achieve due to the requirement for a major time investment without the guarantee of reaching agreement with all landowners. Some of the issues encountered include that if land is used for cropping, compliance cannot be achieved.

At this time Council officers contacted the CFA Assessment team to determine how to achieve a compliant site at Barkly Hall. The advice was to resubmit the request and nominate the inside of the Barkly Hall as the NSP.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

Under the Country Fire Authority Act (1958), Council officers have conducted a review of each of the current designated NSP's of which there are nine (9) at the following locations:

1. Lexton – Toll Bar Park
2. Waubra – Recreation Reserve
3. Beaufort – Wotherspoon Park
4. Snake Valley – St Brigid's Church Reserve
5. Avoca – Medium strip, High Street (between Russell & Cambridge Streets)

6. Moonambel – Recreation Reserve
7. Natte Yallock – Recreation Reserve
8. Redbank – Recreation Reserve
9. Landsborough – Recreation Reserve

Additional sites at Bakery Park Amphitheatre, Crowlands Hall and Raglan Recreation Reserve were assessed and are not currently designated as NSP's due to Council officers being unable to make in place agreements with the adjacent landowners.

Since the report presented to Council in September 2022, and after further investigations of the site in the locality of Barkly, Council officers have undertaken steps to complete the process of prescribing the Barkly Hall site as an NSP/Place of Last Resort. In an emergency, access will need to be managed to ensure compliance with the nominated internal area of the hall is used as the NSP.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Priority 1 - People

1a. Prepare for emergencies and ensure community safety.

Priority 2 - Place

2b. Enhance the liveability and resilience of our communities.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT / CONSULTATION OUTCOMES

Council officers were unable to gain agreement with the adjacent landowners in the locations of the proposed additional sites at Bakery Park Amphitheatre, Crowlands Hall and Raglan Recreation Reserve.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

Council has an annual budget for the maintenance of the designated NSP's, with the addition of the Barkly Hall site a budget increase would be required to ensure that prescribed works are undertaken. It is estimated that in an average year the cost of maintaining a single NSP is in the range of \$2,000 - \$2,500 per site.

CONCLUSION

Neighbourhood Safer Places provide a place of last resort in a bushfire emergency. They should be carefully considered in their designation as they can be misinterpreted as being an alternative to leaving early in a fire emergency.

Cr David Clark / Cr Robert Vance

That Council:

1. Notes the outcome of the Pyrenees Shire Council's Neighbourhood Safer Places/Place of Last Resort assessment conducted by the Country Fire Authority and publishes the list of previously prescribed NSP's on Council's website.
2. Designate Barkly Hall as a Neighbourhood Safer Place/Place of Last Resort.
3. Commence the gazettal process for designating the new Neighbourhood Safer Place/Place of Last Resort at Barkly Hall and commit to the required budget increase to ensure prescribed works are undertaken.
4. Continue to monitor the possibility for a Neighbourhood Safer Place/Place of Last Resort in the localities of Amphitheatre, Crowlands and Raglan.

CARRIED

13.2. CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

13.2.1. CARRYOVER OF FUNDS 2023/24

Presenter: Kathy Bramwell - Director Corporate and Community Services

Declaration of Interest: As presenter of this report, I have no disclosable interest in this item.

Report Author: Glenn Kallio – Manager Finance

Declaration of Interest: As author of this report, I have no disclosable interest in this item.

File No: 32/26/04

PURPOSE

This report sets out those items of income and expenditure that are required to be carried forward to the 2023/24 Budget from the previous financial year due to grants being received in advance and/or project activity spanning multiple financial years and unfinished as at 30 June 2023.

BACKGROUND

Each year following the completion of Council's annual statement, a process is undertaken whereby information is reported to Council relating to:

1. Untied grants received during the 2022/23 financial year that relate to the 2023/24 financial year. The State and Federal Governments can prepay grants for various projects to be carried out by Council.

Under the current accounting standards, Local Government is required to recognise untied grants when received rather than the year that the income relates to. As such, it is required that funds that meet these criteria are carried forward to the correct financial year.

2. Projects that continued to be works in progress as at 30 June 2023 and require funding to be carried forward to 2023/24 to complete those works.

The conditions associated with any requests for money to be carried over from the previous financial year to the current financial year is:

1. The organisation must have a surplus of funds from the 2023/24 year before a carryover will be approved;
2. Projects must have a surplus of funds from the 2023/24 year before a carryover will be approved;

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

Carryover funds requested are supported by surplus funds in the 2022/23 budget. A reconciliation at 30 June is carried out to ensure that the list of carryovers is supported by surplus funds and the financial position of Council remains within the parameters of the 10-year financial plan.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Enabling Principles

- b. Provide transparency and accountability
- c. Use resources efficiently and effectively

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT / CONSULTATION OUTCOMES

This report forms part of Community Information provided through Council reports.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Carry Over List 2023-24 [**13.2.1.1** - 1 page]

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

The total funds requested to be carried forward to the 2023/24 financial year will be sourced from the cash in excess of the forecast financial position contained within the Pyrenees Shire Council 2023/24 budget. The approval of the carryovers will be within the parameters of the Pyrenees Shire Council 10 Year Financial Plan, as at the 30th June 2023 Council had \$19.293 million in Cash and Investment.

The reconciliation of the cash position ensures that the Council remains within the parameters of the 10 Year Financial Plan.

CONCLUSION

The additional funding listed in the attached carryover report is subject to funding guidelines and/or is for projects that have commenced, as such, the funding listed is required. Should Council not adopt the carryover listing there will be a requirement to review the current budget to source the funding to satisfy the requirements of the projects listed in the carryover report.

Cr Robert Vance / Cr Tanya Kehoe

That Council:

1. approves the addition of \$8.932 million to the 2023/24 Budget to fund the attached list of carryovers, noting that \$6.67 million of the carryover amount relates to the Commonwealth Financial Assistance Grant payments paid in advance.

CARRIED

13.2.2. AUTHORISED OFFICERS

Presenter: Kathy Bramwell - Director Corporate and Community Services

Declaration of Interest: As presenter of this report, I have no disclosable interest in this item.

Report Author: Kathy Bramwell – Director Corporate and Community Services

Declaration of Interest: As author of this report, I have no disclosable interest in this item.

File No: 16/20/08

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is for the Council to adopt updated Instruments of Appointment and Authorisation appointing Council's Authorised Officers under the Local Government Acts 1989 and 2020, and various other Acts and Regulations.

BACKGROUND

The Local Government Act 2020 requires Council to review its delegations, appointments and authorisations as required. Council is advised by Maddocks Lawyers in the preparation of appropriate Instruments as and when updates are required.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

Instruments of Appointment and Authorisation are updated either when changes occur within the organisation or when officers appointed change roles or leave the organisation. Regardless of individual changes, Council officers review Instruments annually to maintain currency and the ability of officers to fulfil all legislated functions.

A review was conducted in early September 2023 and the following Instruments were updated and are now put forward for adoption by the Council:

- S11 – Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation (General)
- S11A – Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation – Planning & Environment Act 1987 only
- S11B – Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation – Environment Protection Act 2017 only

These Instruments represent those where authorised officers must be appointed by the Council.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Enabling Principles

- b. Provide transparency and accountability
- c. Use resources efficiently and effectively

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT / CONSULTATION OUTCOMES

External community consultation is not required for this purpose. Consultation with internal stakeholders was conducted to confirm appropriate appointments were included within the relevant Instruments. Copies of all Instruments of Appointment and Authorisation are made available for public inspection on the Council's website.

ATTACHMENTS

1. S11 Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation Council to Officers Septembe [13.2.2.1 - 8 pages]
2. S11A Instrument of Appointment Authorisation Planning Environment Act Septem [13.2.2.2 - 2 pages]
3. S11B Instrument of Appointment Authorisation Environment Protection Act 2017 [13.2.2.3 - 2 pages]

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

Council officers would be unable to fulfil statutory duties and powers without appropriate delegation or authorisation from the Council.

CONCLUSION

To legally allow officers to enforce provisions of legislation, Council must review its instruments of appointment and authorisation as and when required to maintain currency. Instruments of Appointment and Authorisation have been reviewed and are provided for Council adoption.

Cr David Clark / Cr Damian Ferrari

That Council, in the exercise of the powers conferred by s 224 of the *Local Government Act 1989* and the other legislation referred to in the attached Instruments of Appointment and Authorisation:

1. Considers and adopts the following Instruments of Appointment and Authorisation:
 - a. S11 – Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation (General)
 - b. S11A – Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation – Planning & Environment Act 1987 only
 - c. S11B – Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation – Environment Protection Act 2017 only
2. That members of Council staff referred to in the Instruments be appointed and authorised as set out in the Instruments.
3. Authorises the creation of individual Instruments of Appointment and Authorisation for individual officers in accordance with these overarching documents.
4. The Instruments come into force immediately the common seal of Council is affixed to the Instruments and remain in force until Council determines to vary or revoke them.
5. The Instruments be sealed.

CARRIED

13.2.3. ROAD NAMING - PEAR TREE LANE

Presenter: Kathy Bramwell - Director Corporate and Community Services

Declaration of Interest: As presenter of this report, I have no disclosable interest in this item.

Report Author: Glenn Kallio – Manager Finance and Diane Daniell – Rural Addressing and Road Name Project Officer

Declaration of Interest: As author of this report, I have no disclosable interest in this item.

File No: 58/08/08

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to adopt a unique name for an unnamed road which currently has properties using it as primary access and is now included in the Public Road register_ Proposed name – Pear Tree Lane – Ercildoune.



This road services four rural properties, one of which has a residence. It leaves the Western Highway and crosses the railway line to the north and then heads east across to a government road alignment ending at the City of Ballarat shire boundary.

BACKGROUND

The above unnamed road has been identified as part of the update of the Pyrenees Shire Public Road Register and ongoing road maintenance requests along it. All roads require a name for clear identification of the asset and the addressing of the properties being accessed from them.

Public consultation seeking alternative names for this section consisted of the following: -

1. Letters to all affected landholders offering a suggestion (Lamb Lane) or seeking alternative names.
2. Submission received and checked for compliance with naming principles resulting in only one suitable and no support for Lamb Lane.
3. Indigenous name 'Araluen' submitted to Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Council for approval and rejected as not being of local language.
4. Second Consultation letters asking for further submission.
5. Further responses received from affected landholders mentioning a couple of names which were considered not suitable or insufficient backup documentation received leaving one name that referred to a local characteristic Pear Tree Lane.

A final letter then went to all landholders offering them the opportunity to object to the proposed name of Pear Tree Lane. After the statutory consultation period no objections were received.

From the email submitted

“The bend where the shire road ends is known as Pear Tree Bend because of five or six old pear trees that grow there. Pear Tree Lane might be an option.”

This name reflects ‘place’ in a very geographically connected way.

This name has been checked against the Principles of the Naming Rules for Places – 2022 and complies. The name has been submitted by an affected landholder.

Once adopted, Council submits the name to Geographic Names for formal consideration and approval. Only after that approval is received can Council formally place signage, change addresses, and use the new name.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

Creating unique road names and addresses is important for public safety and the delivery of goods and services to all properties. With the difficulty of creating a unique name, the name ‘Pear Tree Lane’ that has some local geographic relevance seems appropriate for this road.

Additionally, unique road names are required for the Municipal Public Road Register as each road needs a unique name to clearly identify which road requires maintenance or improvement, to reduce the risk of Council or contractors working on the wrong road and to provide high standard of customer service by being able to clearly identify which road customers have concerns with.

This section of road is an unsealed road servicing rural property and is not a through road therefore the road type “Lane” is recommended.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Priority 1 - People

1a. Prepare for emergencies and ensure community safety.

Enabling Principles

b. Provide transparency and accountability

Council Policy: Principles on Road Naming

Geographic Place Names Act 1998

Road Management Act 2004

Standards Australia AS/NZS 4819:2011 Rural and urban addressing.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT / CONSULTATION OUTCOMES

Public consultation seeking alternative names for this section consisted of the following: -

1. Letters to all affected landholders offering a suggestion (Lamb Lane) or seeking alternative names.
2. Submission received and checked for compliance with naming principles resulting in only one suitable and no support for Lamb Lane.
3. Indigenous name ‘Araluen’ submitted to Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Council for approval and rejected as not being of local language.

4. Second Consultation letters asking for further submission.
5. Further responses received from affected landholders mentioning a couple of names which were considered not suitable or insufficient backup documentation received leaving one name that referred to a local characteristic Pear Tree Lane.

A final letter then went to all landholders offering them the opportunity to object to the proposed name of Pear Tree Lane. After the statutory consultation period no objections were received.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

Risks identified in not naming the roads according to the principles.

1. Increased possibility of emergency service vehicles not locating a property in a timely manner
2. Increased difficulty clearly identifying road asset and properties.

Costs to Council after adoption by Geographic Names

1. Administration to change property addresses, requiring letters to landholders, editing council systems, editing Vicmap Address
2. Purchase and installation of one street blade on pole at beginning of this section of road.

CONCLUSION

Road 1 - Proposed name – Pear Tree Lane – Ercildoune. Five properties (6 landholders) consulted by letter – resulting in no objections. As there were no objections, it is recommended that Council proceeds with supporting this road naming so it can be lodged with Geographic Names for approval and adoption.

Cr David Clark / Cr Damian Ferrari

That Council:

1. Adopts Pear Tree Lane as the road name for the road currently unnamed between Western Highway and end of Government Road alignment on southern edge of Lot 2 PS708449

CARRIED

13.2.4. ADOPTION OF 2022/23 FINANCIAL STATEMENT AND 2022/23 PERFORMANCE STATEMENT

Presenter: Kathy Bramwell - Director Corporate and Community Services

Declaration of Interest: As presenter of this report, I have no disclosable interest in this item.

Report Author: Glenn Kallio – Manager Finance

Declaration of Interest: As author of this report, I have no disclosable interest in this item.

File No: 32/08/30

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to present the 2022/23 Financial Statements and Performance Statement to Council for adoption “in principle” and authorisation of two Councillors, being the Councillor members of the Audit and Risk Committee, to sign the audited statements, before being submitted to the Auditor-General for certification.

BACKGROUND

The Local Government Act 2020 requires that the Council complete the following at the end of each financial year with respect to producing an Annual Report.

S. 98 Annual report

1. A Council must prepare an annual report in respect of each financial year.
2. An annual report must contain the following —
 - a. a report of operations of the Council;
 - b. an audited performance statement;
 - c. audited financial statements;
 - d. a copy of the auditor's report on the performance statement;
 - e. a copy of the auditor's report on the financial statements under Part 3 of the Audit Act 1994;
 - f. any other matter required by the regulations.
1. The financial statements must —
 - a. include any other information prescribed by the regulations; and
 - b. be prepared in accordance with the regulations.

S. 99 Preparation of annual report

1. As soon as practicable after the end of the financial year, a Council must cause to be prepared in accordance with section 98, the performance statement and financial statements of the Council for the financial year.
2. The Council, after passing a resolution giving its approval in principle to the performance statement and financial statements, must submit the statements to the auditor for reporting on the audit.
3. The Council must ensure that the performance statement and financial statements, in their final form after any changes recommended or agreed by the auditor have been made, are certified in accordance with the regulations by —
 - a. Two Councillors authorised by the Council for the purposes of this subsection; and
 - b. any other persons prescribed by the regulations for the purposes of this subsection.
2. The auditor must prepare a report on the performance statement.
 Note: The auditor is required under Part 3 of the Audit Act 1994 to prepare a report on the financial statements.

3. The auditor must not sign a report under subsection (4) or under Part 3 of the Audit Act 1994 unless the performance statement or the financial statements (as applicable) have been certified under subsection (3).
4. The auditor must provide the Minister and the Council with a copy of the report on the performance statement as soon as is reasonably practicable.

Note: The auditor is required under Part 3 of the Audit Act 1994 to report on the financial statements to the Council within 4 weeks and to give a copy of the report to the Minister.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

The 2022/23 Financial Statements and Performance Statement have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act 2020, Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020 and Australian Accounting Standards.

In accordance with Council's Governance protocols, the reports will be presented to Council's Audit and Risk Committee for review and recommendation to Council for adoption "in principle" and authorisation of two Councillors, being the Councillor members of the Audit and Risk Committee, to sign the audited statements.

The significant factor impacting the financial statements was the revaluation of Council assets being:

- Impairment of assets as a result of the October 2022 floods.
- Revaluation of assets based on costs increasing significantly since the revaluation.
- Receipt of the 2023/24 Financial Assistance grants in 2022/23.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Enabling Principles

b. Provide transparency and accountability

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT / CONSULTATION OUTCOMES

Enter community engagement / consultation activities (community cuppas, engagement hub activities etc.)

ATTACHMENTS

1. Att 13.2.4.1 - Final Draft PSC Performance Statement for year end 30 June 2023 [**13.2.4.1** - 17 pages]
2. Att 13.2.4.2 - PSC Annual Statement 22-23 [**13.2.4.2** - 63 pages]

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

The financial statements detail the Council's financial performance and position for 2022/23. They demonstrate that over time Council has steadily improved its financial position but indicate that there are still numerous financial challenges that lay ahead which will require responsible fiscal stewardship.

CONCLUSION

The attached Financial Statements and Performance Statement for 2022/23 have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act 2020. The Council's Audit and Risk Committee will review the statements at its September 2022 meeting. The Statements will then be submitted to the Auditor-General for certification. Council is also required to authorise two Councillors to sign the statements on behalf of Council, as required under the Local Government Act.

It is standard practice for the Councillor members of the Audit and Risk Committee to sign the certified statements on behalf of Council.

Cr Robert Vance / Cr Tanya Kehoe

That Council:

1. Adopts in principle and submits the 2022/23 Financial Statements and Performance Statement to the Auditor-General for certification subject to recommendation of the Audit and Risk Committee.
2. Authorises Council's Audit and Risk Committee representatives, Councillor Ferrari and Councillor Vance, to certify the 2022/23 Financial and Performance Statements in their final form, after any changes recommended, or agreed to by the Auditor, have been made.

CARRIED

13.2.5. SERVICE REVIEWS 2023

Presenter: Kathy Bramwell - Director Corporate and Community Services

Declaration of Interest: As presenter of this report, I have no disclosable interest in this item.

Report Author: Kathy Bramwell – Director Corporate and Community Services

Declaration of Interest: As author of this report, I have no disclosable interest in this item.

File No: 16/24/17

PURPOSE

This report seeks Council approval of a new service review plan for 2023-2026.

BACKGROUND

The Council has a strong commitment to continuously plan, review, and improve its services. In line with the service planning principles included within the *Local Government Act 2020*, Council must ensure that community expectations and standards are met in a cost-effective manner and that service outcomes are aligned to Council's long-term strategic objectives and plans.

Service reviews are processes that review the delivery of Council services and ensure they are:

- Appropriate – services that meet current community needs and wants and can be adapted to meet future needs and wants.
- Effective – that Council delivers targeted, better-quality services in the most effective way.
- Efficient – that Council improves resource use (people, materials, plant and equipment, infrastructure, buildings) and redirects savings to finance new or improved services.

Service reviews also strive to relieve increasing financial pressures and the widening gap between revenue and expenditure, by ensuring that Council focuses on its primary deliverables whilst continuing to meet community expectations in being environmentally and socially responsible and providing a wide range of quality services.

Service reviews help clarify the needs of our community and use an evidence-based approach to assess how efficiently and effectively it is meeting those needs. Using this information, Council and its senior leadership team can determine what changes should be made to service delivery that will provide benefits to stakeholders whilst remaining financially sustainable.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

Over 2021-2023 service reviews were conducted:

1. 2021/22 Avoca Community Car – The outcome identified this service as needed by the community and, although it might be better delivered by a more focused health service, is filling a gap currently in the Avoca community. The service costs Council approximately \$8,000 annually, including vehicle depreciation. The service has some risk issues identified which must be addressed through improvements to volunteer training and induction.
2. 2021/22 Beaufort Caravan Park – The review was conducted to address areas of concern arising from an internal audit review and one outcome was a report including a new masterplan adopted by Council in 2022. Funding has since been obtained towards implementing improvements.
3. 2022 Future of Aged Care Service Delivery – This revisited the 2019 review of the provision of home-based care in response to the outcomes of the Royal Commission into Aged Care and the Commonwealth Government aged care reforms. Following this review, Council exited direct delivery of care programs at the end of August 2023.

4. 2022/23 Corporate Services – This review focused on synergies between functions that might be better served by a change in operational structural alignment of the relevant teams. Review outcome recommendations included:
 - a. The creation of an Information Management business unit by merging the existing ICT (Information and Communications Technology) and Records Management business units – focusing on the need to have a consistent organisational approach to the management, retention, and disposal of physical records and electronic data. Consultation with all staff and stakeholders is complete, and a recommendation will be made to the Chief Executive Officer in the coming weeks.
 - b. The separation of the Frontline Services unit from the larger Governance Risk & Compliance department and the accompanying creation of a new managerial role – Customer Experience Manager. The change is intended to achieve:
 - i. Reduced workload to allow the Governance Risk & Compliance team greater ability to focus on improving governance and take over organisational performance monitoring, measuring, and reporting.
 - ii. Escalate Frontline Services in importance within the organisation – as a separate business unit this would give the team greater visibility and relevance within the wider organisation.
 - iii. Provide a dedicated role that can support the Executive Leadership Team in improving organisation-wide customer service culture and subsequently improve customer satisfaction.

The balance of the previously endorsed program has been suspended:

- Planning & Development – a service review was planned for 2023/24 but it was considered that an internal audit may be more useful which was conducted in 2023.
- Asset Management – a service review was planned for 2022/23 but it was considered that an internal audit may be more useful which was conducted in 2023.
- Community Safety & Public Health – a service review was planned for 2023/24 but was not yet conducted.
- Waste Management – a service review was planned for 2024.

Recent discussion within the Executive Leadership Team identified greater priorities than those outstanding topics listed above, and it is proposed that Council approve the following amended program for coming years.

- 2023/24 - Revisit of former reviews of Frontline Services to identify potential improvements in service delivery to the community and opportunities for savings.
- 2023/24 - Aquatic Facilities Management to focus on a long-term strategy around the needs of the community and the life cycle of existing facilities.
- 2024/25 - Waste Management to focus on continuing delivery of the State Government's circular economy intentions.
- 2024/25 - Early Years in the context of the State Government's Early Years Reform Program.
- 2025/26 - Council's Caravan Parks.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Enabling Principles

- b. Provide transparency and accountability
- c. Use resources efficiently and effectively

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT / CONSULTATION OUTCOMES

Internal stakeholders were involved in all aspects of service reviews already concluded and will be involved as appropriate in forthcoming reviews.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

All risk implications are included in the body of the report.

CONCLUSION

A rolling program of two service reviews per year was approved by Council in April 2021. This report provides an overview of reviews completed in recent years and an amended program for 2023-2026 for consideration and approval by the Council.

Cr David Clark / Cr Damian Ferrari

That Council:

1. Receives the information relating to service reviews as detailed in this report, and
2. Approves the amended service review program for 2023-2026 as follows:
 - a. 2023/24 - Revisit of Frontline Services
 - b. 2023/24 - Aquatic Facilities Management
 - c. 2024/25 - Waste Management and the Circular Economy
 - d. 2024/25 - Early Years in the light of the Early Years Reform Agenda
 - e. 2025/26 - Caravan Parks

CARRIED

13.2.6. ANNUAL REPORT - COMMUNITY ASSET COMMITTEES

Sean Leyland – Acting Manager Governance Risk & Compliance

Declaration of Interest: As author of this report, I have no disclosable interest in this item.

File No: 16/16/04, 16/16/10, 16/16/20, 16/16/28, 16/16/26, 16/16/24

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide an Annual Report of the activities of Community Asset Communities during the 2022/23 financial year to Council.

BACKGROUND

Section 65 of the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act) allows councils to establish Community Asset Committees for the purpose of managing a community asset in the municipal district.

In accordance with the Act, Council has appointed six Community Asset Committees, with the newest committee being appointed in March 2023 for the Lexton Community Hub -

- Beaufort Community Bank Complex Community Asset Committee
- Brewster Hall Community Asset Committee
- Landsborough Community Precinct Community Asset Committee
- Snake Valley Community Hall Community Asset Committee
- Waubra Community Hub Community Asset Committee
- Lexton Community Hub Community Asset Committee

Section 47 of the Act provides for the Chief Executive Officer to delegate powers, duties and functions to Community Asset Committees and requires an Annual Report to be submitted to Council each year on the activities and performance of its Community Asset Committees.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

This report provides the third Annual Report on the activities and performance of Council's Community Asset Committees pursuant to section 47(6) of the Act. A summary of committee activities is provided below and a document providing reports provided by the committees is attached for Council information.

In summary, COVID-19 has had significant impacts on events and activities at the community facilities, with a subsequent effect on the financial sustainability of the committees managing those facilities.

Beaufort Community Bank Complex Community Asset Committee

No information is available at the time of this report.

Brewster Hall Community Asset Committee

The committee has been inactive for this period. A current financial report has been provided.

Landsborough Community Precinct Community Asset Committee

A perceived lack of interest from residents in joining the committee following several resignations has seen Graeme Sandlant commit to provide daily maintenance of the Hub, amenities block, resource centre, caravan park, cabins, playground, and BBQ.

Council has undertaken a number of maintenance works for the swimming pool, hub (roadworks), sewerage and hot water services.

No events have been held.

Snake Valley Hall Community Asset Committee

Minutes provided for the latest meeting show the committee is still going strong – elections for committee positions were held and completed at this meeting.

Business included in the minutes-

The Committee currently has 9 members

A grant was received for an Easter function from the Pyrenees Shire Council (successful event)

A gazebo was purchased with funding from the 2022 round of Council grants

The Hall is used weekly by a Community Craft group, and the Committee has bookings for birthday parties, weddings, and funerals reasonably regularly

The current financial position is stable – funds are used to maintain the Hall where it is not covered by Council.

Waubra Community Hub Community Asset Committee

The minutes of this meeting was held in June 2023, with the next scheduled for September.

A great deal of discussion revolved around ongoing maintenance issues – particularly the water pump for the toilets and solar power.

Other discussions talked about planning permits for netball court fencing and drafting a hire agreement for the Waubra Community Hub.

Lexton Community Hub Community Asset Committee Meeting

This committee met for the first time on 9th March 2023.

Committee members were duly elected with Cr. Clark and CEO Jim Nolan in attendance.

A manual was provided to all members of the committee, and this included the formal delegation from Council to the Committee, as well as guidelines for the conduct of committees with a table outlining the responsibilities (for Council and the Committee).

General business –

- Trip hazard reported at front of the building – to be inspected and rectified by Council.
- Committee members provided with a limited number of master keys. Further advice and keys to be provided by Council.
- Insurance – a Council officer to provide advice on the extent of Council insurance coverage and other insurances that may be required by the committee
- Rubbish bins – a limited number of bins provided by Council to be serviced on days of town collection. A council officer to provide advice about options for waste collection to suit game day and other waste needs.
- Bank account – to be obtained to allow transfer of Council seed funds.

Other matters for future consideration include marketing, website, future meeting dates, fees, conditions of hire, water, and power bills.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Strategic Objective 3 - We will engage with communities to provide responsive, efficient services that enhance the quality of life of residents and promote connected, active, and resilient communities.

3.3 - Community Development – Supporting communities to build connections, capacity, and resilience.

ATTACHMENTS

1. 2023 03 09 MINUTES Lexton Community Hub Community Asset Committee [**13.2.6.1** - 3 pages]
2. Landsborough [**13.2.6.2** - 28 pages]
3. Snake Valley Asset Committee and AGM Minutes August 2022 [**13.2.6.3** - 4 pages]
4. Snake Valley Asset Committee Minutes April 2023 [**13.2.6.4** - 3 pages]
5. Snake Valley Asset Committee Minutes Feb 2023 [**13.2.6.5** - 5 pages]
6. Snake Valley Asset Committee Minutes June 2023 [**13.2.6.6** - 3 pages]

7. SVAC Minutes March Extra Meeting 2023 [**13.2.6.7** - 2 pages]
8. Waubra Community Assets Committee 6th of June 2023 [**13.2.6.8** - 2 pages]

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

The greatest risks from this report are the financial sustainability of our community asset committees and the impacts upon our communities' mental health resulting from a lack of sporting and social activities because of ongoing COVID-19 restrictions.

CONCLUSION

The *Local Government Act 2020* requires an annual report to be provided to Council on the activities and performance of its Community Asset Committees. This report provides the first such Annual Report under this Act, for the financial year 2022/23.

Cr Tanya Kehoe / Cr David Clark

That Council

1. notes this report and its attachments
2. Writes to each of the Asset Committees recognising their volunteer contribution to the maintenance and management of the community assets.

CARRIED

13.3. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

13.3.1. MEMBERSHIP - GREATER BALLARAT ALLIANCE OF COUNCILS (GBAC)

Presenter: Jim Nolan - Chief Executive Officer

Declaration of Interest: As presenter of this report, I have no disclosable interest in this item.

Report Author: Chantelle Sandlant – Executive Assistant to the CEO and Councillors

Declaration of Interest: As author of this report, I have no disclosable interest in this item.

File No: 44/06/12

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is for Council to receive an update on the activities of Greater Ballarat Alliance of Councils (GBAC), and to endorse the ongoing participation.

BACKGROUND

Greater Ballarat Alliance of Councils (GBAC) is a newly formed grouping of six rural and regional councils located in and around Ballarat. It has been established to act as a united voice for member councils to tackle common issues and secure a fair share of Victorian and Commonwealth government funding for the Greater Ballarat region.

The six participating councils are the City of Ballarat, Central Goldfields Shire Council, Golden Plains Shire Council, Hepburn Shire Council, Moorabool Shire Council and Pyrenees Shire Council.

Federal Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government Catherine King launched GBAC at an event in Creswick on 8th September 2023.

GBAC replaces the previous regional partnership known as Central Highlands Councils Victoria (CHCV).

The principal purpose of Greater Ballarat Alliance of Councils (GBAC) is:

- **United voice:** promote a collective voice for the members' region and address common issues.
- **Advocacy:** provide an avenue for engagement with state and federal governments and departments.
- **Strategy:** determine the strategic priorities and issues of the members' region.
- **Policy:** support state and federal policy setting by preparing submissions and policy papers on matters that align with GBAC's priorities.
- **Leadership:** build relationships with state and federal governments' representatives to become the main peak body for the region.

The three priority pillars of advocacy of GBAC are

- Transport
- Digital coverage and access
- Enabling growth

Leadership of the group is provided by the Mayors and CEOs of the six councils and Cr Des Hudson, Mayor of the City of Ballarat has been elected as the Chair of GBAC.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

Participation with a regional cluster of councils provides a greater opportunity for advocacy to state and commonwealth governments on matters of regional significance.

The alliance also enables a more strategic approach to understanding and addressing common issues for the region.

Prior to the formation of the new entity, the Central Highlands cluster of councils agreed to disband the former entity and the Incorporated Association to establish a more flexible and focused entity.

The GBAC Strategic Advocacy Plan is attached to this report.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Priority 1 - People

1d. Promote health, wellbeing, engagement and connection.

Enabling Principles

b. Provide transparency and accountability

c. Use resources efficiently and effectively

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT / CONSULTATION OUTCOMES

The Pyrenees Councillor Delegate for GBAC is Cr Ron Eason.

ATTACHMENTS

1. GBAC strategic advocacy plan 202324 [**13.3.1.1** - 5 pages]

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

GBAC will incur expenses in order to deliver its program, and Premier PR has been appointed as the secretariat for the group. A membership fee is necessary to offset the the operating costs, and a formula for establishing membership fees has recently been established comprising 30% equal base fee and 70% based on a combination of population pro rata.

The annual membership fee with GBAC for Pyrenees for 2023/24 is approximately \$13,000

CONCLUSION

Greater Ballarat Alliance of Councils (GBAC) is a newly formed grouping of six rural and regional councils located in and around Ballarat. It has been established to act as a united voice for member councils to tackle common issues and secure a fair share of Victorian and Commonwealth government funding for the Greater Ballarat region.

Cr David Clark / Cr Damian Ferrari

That Council endorses the participation with the Greater Ballarat Alliance of Councils.

CARRIED

13.3.2. PETITION - PUT THE BROLGA AHEAD OF WIND TURBINES

Presenter: Jim Nolan - Chief Executive Officer

Declaration of Interest: As presenter of this report, I have no disclosable interest in this item.

Report Author: Jim Nolan – Chief Executive Officer

Declaration of Interest: As author of this report, I have no disclosable interest in this item.

File No: 66/22/32

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with details of a petition received by the communities of Trawalla and Brewster in relation to RE Futures planning application for wind turbines and infrastructure.

BACKGROUND

Council received a copy of a petition from the communities of Trawalla and Brewster as a voice to the Planning Minister, Hon Sonia Kilkenny that the community stand firm and say Yes to sustainable protection of broлга in the Pyrenees Shire and no to this windfarm.

The petition received contained 92 signatures and was accompanied with information relating to brolgas and RE Futures planning application (PA2101150) for a wind farm.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

Before making any decision in respect of the matter, Council should have regard to the Pyrenees Shire Council Governance Rules 2022, Section 4.8.3 which states that:

- a) No motion may be made on any petition, joint letter, memorial or other like application until the next Council meeting after that at which it has been presented (except where it meets sub-Rule 4.9(b)) except for:
 - I. That the petition be received, and
 - II. That the petition be referred to the Chief Executive Officer or relevant Director for consideration and response, or
 - III. That the petition be referred to the Chief Executive Officer or relevant Director for a report to a future Council meeting.

It is normal practice then for Council to seek a report to be prepared by the relevant officer for a subsequent meeting addressing the merits of the issues contained in the petition. However, the petition does not seek any specific action by Council but rather it seeks to draw attention of the issue to the Victorian Planning Minister who is the decision maker in respect of the planning matter.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Priority 2 - Place

2a. Sustain and enhance unique character of our communities.

2c. Promote responsible development.

Enabling Principles

b. Provide transparency and accountability

ATTACHMENTS

1. Broлга Petition- Redacted [13.3.2.1 - 14 pages]

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

Financial implications will be addressed within any future report for decision.

Cr Damian Ferrari / Cr Tanya Kehoe

That Council:

1. Receives the petition;
2. Continues to advocate on behalf of the community in respect of the Brewster windfarm planning application and the protection of broilga.
3. Writes to the Minister for Planning providing a copy of the petition.

CARRIED

13.3.3. PROJECT UPDATE - SEPTEMBER 2023

Presenter: Jim Nolan - Chief Executive Officer

Declaration of Interest: As presenter of this report, I have no disclosable interest in this item.

Report Author: Jerry van Delft – Project Management Facilitator

Declaration of Interest: As author of this report, I have no disclosable interest in this item.

File No: 16/21/08

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is for Council to receive a high-level update on key Council projects.

BACKGROUND

Updates on Council projects have been reported regularly to Council and the community through information reports in quarterly Council meeting agendas, in addition to the project dashboard which has been developed in recent years and is accessible on Council's website.

Major projects are reported through the weekly community noticeboard and as provided in the summary below.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

Projects from the 2019/20 financial year were archived on the Dashboard at the end of June.

Below is a summary of the current status of a selection of projects underway.

Avoca Carpark and EV charging station

Construction of the extended car park is now complete, and the EV charging station is online. The 50kW fast charger can charge two vehicles at a time. The carparks will be delineated with blue lines to identify the carparks allocated to the charging station.

Beaufort cricket practice nets

Construction is nearing completion on the cricket practice nets at the Goldfields Recreation Reserve. The synthetic turf has been laid. The soft nets are expected to be installed by mid-September.

Beaufort Goldfield Reserve Electrical upgrade and oval lighting

The electrical service at the reserve is being upgraded, which includes alteration to metering, electrical feeds, switchboards and controls. The oval's lighting is also being upgraded, including the installation of light masts and footings. Works are expected to begin early September and be finished by the end of the year.

Neill Street footpath (Motel to Broadbent)

Work has started and is expected to be completed by early October.

Pathway to connect Acacia Court and Casuarina Court

The concrete path, along with a ramp and stairs has been finished. Drainage work and solar light bollards and access ramp handrails will be installed soon.

Planned tree removal in Snake Valley

Ageing cypress trees will be removed from the Smythesdale-Snake Valley Road. While it is acknowledged that the trees provide shade and contribute to the streetscape, the safety of our community has been prioritized. The trees will be removed during the school holidays to minimize disruption. Work will start on September 18.

Beaufort Lake BBQ Shelter

Construction of a new multi-purpose BBQ shelter at Beaufort Lake is in its final stages with drainage works and landscaping now underway.

Havelock Street toilet redevelopment

The Havelock Street public toilets are being refurbished. The facility in Beggs Street is open. Portable toilets are available on the opposite side of Neill Street. The toilet block in Wotherspoon Park remains open. Work is expected to be completed in September.

Beaufort Lake jetty

A boating and fishing jetty is being installed at Beaufort Lake. The floating platform has been installed. An access ramp needs to be installed before the jetty is operational. The project is expected to be finished by the end of November.

Footpath works, Beaufort

The footpath between Acacia and Casuarina Court in Beaufort almost finished. Bollards and solar lights will be installed at a later date.

Beaufort Linear Park Project

The development of a master plan for the Beaufort Linear Park has commenced and community consultation is being planned for September. The linear park extends from the Beaufort lake to the Yam Holes Creek near the railway line.

Internal Projects

Internal projects including the Customer First Culture Change project (end June 2024), the End User Computing Strategy Implementation Stage 3 (end December 2024) and the Rural Council Transformation project Phase 2 (end July 2024) have commenced and are on track to be completed by the planned end date.

Flood recovery program

The Flood Recovery Program has been added to the dashboard. The Finish Date has been set at the end of the funding program – June 2025.

Beaufort Krupps Gun

The RSL has moved the Gun on the recently completed slab and fence. The planned shelter is stage 2 however there is no funding available at this stage.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Priority 2 - Place

2a. Sustain and enhance unique character of our communities.

2b. Enhance the liveability and resilience of our communities.

Priority 4 - Economy

4b. Invest in road infrastructure to improve connectivity for commerce and community.

4c. Encourage and invest in assets and infrastructure for commerce and community.

Enabling Principles

- b. Provide transparency and accountability
- c. Use resources efficiently and effectively

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

This reporting on progress of projects is intended to inform Council and the community.

Cr Tanya Kehoe / Cr David Clark

That Council:

1. That Council notes this report.
2. Recognises the achievement of staff and contractors involved in the direct delivery of the recently completed projects.
3. Seeks to facilitate official openings of relevant completed projects in conjunction with funding partners.

CARRIED

14. COUNCILLOR REPORTS AND GENERAL BUSINESS

Cr Clark

- Congratulations to all the teams within the Shire that made it in the Central Highlands finals this year, we had at least one team from each of our four towns which was lovely.
- It is good to see the flood works continue to happen around the shire.
- There was quite a significant public meeting organised in Waubra around two weeks ago in relation to the recognition settlement agreement between the state and Barengi Gadjin on behalf of the local governments. This recognition settlement agreement takes in a very small slice of the very west side of the shire. I think it is probably important to note that there is quite a bit of talk about this, but it is certainly not something that binds council in any way. It is interesting that there is a number of state politicians that spoke about it, but my understanding is that at the state level, all of the major parties and the minor parties are very supportive of this process, particularly in what's happening and local government is a part of that process, and we get the chance to make our decisions. We will see how that evolves and I understand there is some discussion that there may be future meetings coming up of that group.

Cr Vance

- I had the opportunity to go to Lake Goldsmith and we had quite a vibrant cuppa and quite a deal of discussion which is good, it is very healthy when your constituents are airing their opinions on how council should operate in some places, and it was one of the longer cuppas that I have been to. I thoroughly enjoyed it. Hopefully we resolved a few problems.
- Attended the Brewster cuppa, it was quite informative also, I was very disappointed that I wasn't able to get to the inspection day where council was looking at the brologa sites, but it certainly concerns me that our current state government is probably fairly quiet on this one, it will be interesting to see what comes up. It has been left up to the proponents to come up with some solutions.
- Attended the Moonambel Public Hall committee meeting and they have got quite a vibrant little group going, they are very happy with the new fence around their hall and the improvements to their hall. The future of the hall committee is quite strong.
- I attended a forum and AGM for Timber Towns in Portland at the end of the month. I had the privilege of going out and seeing some harvesting happening in the blue gum forest where the timber found its way from the tree, chopped down, carried to the tipper, de-barked, all the leaves stripped off, what a magnificent machine it was and it produced the chips straight in the transport ready to go through to the port, all in one operation. Unfortunately for them, they got about halfway through where they were working and all of a sudden the ships stopped arriving at the port. They can only operate whilst the ships are moving, sending the valuable chips off to Japan and them returning it as paper or paper pulp back to Australia at the end of the process. It is obvious that the number of ships operating on the waters now are slowing down. We then had the privilege of going to mills where the amount of timber coming through is astronomical and the operation is also the same. Everything is now computer operated, there is not one physical worker out there. Greasing and sharpening saws is all done with computers it was really eye opening and the future of the pine plantations is very strong, but the hardwood timber side is another story in Victoria. On the Thursday we had an AGM and Joel Fitzgibbon, former cabinet minister was the guest speaker, and he is not quite sure that the closing down of the hardwood industry in Victoria, especially in Gippsland and up into the northeast is the smartest move that the Victorian Government has made. Purely when you see the amount of damage that is done by bushfires, the weeds that are not being looked after and vermin and all of this is really going to have to be addressed into the future, a complete closure is not necessarily the way to go. It will be a matter of watching this space as time goes by.
- I understand that Ms Stephens addressed Council at the briefing this afternoon. At the Timber Towns AGM, I stood down from a position on the board.

Cr Kehoe

- Met with the beautiful Brewster crew last week. Going back to a couple of meetings we have had with them over the last few months to understand just how much effort has been put into protecting the broлга community there, which is quite extensive, we saw some of the footage of the beautiful broлга and their beautiful hatchlings from this latest season. They have collected a great deal of evidence and critical information. That shows their love of the beautiful area that they live and then wanting to protect the population of that area in our shire greatly. Also, the fact that we were meeting in the beautiful Brewster hall, it is such a beautiful hall, it is so well maintained. Tonight, we looked at some of those asset committees, it takes our asset committees across the shire to protect these amazing and very historical, valuable assets as well as important community areas and an areas of last resort. A huge thanks to everyone out there that gives so much of their time to these committees.
- Another item tonight that related to roads was also very welcomed as we are gazetting more roads, these will start to become busier, of course it is probably spray trucks and things now but more so in the months ahead as the crops mature with the good weather in the coming months.
- Last week Kathy, Doug and I had a MEMPC meeting, agencies are preparing for the summer season ahead, it will be an interesting one and it will be one that we will have to be very much prepared for. To protect residents and visitors to our shire we looked at events scheduled in the warmer months across the shire from smaller events to larger events.
- I urge residents to take precautionary actions to safeguard their property for this coming fire season, now is a really good time to start preparing because there might be quite a lot of preparation required this season. Please take those precautions and if you need support or advice on what to do, please contact council or check out our social media sites. Also, the CFA has some fantastic information to support residents.
- Finally, with the warmer weather, we have already had three close calls with snakes on our property, please be vigilant around long grass and working around properties and around your house. Please make sure that children are aware of appropriate snake safety.

Cr Ferrari

- Attended the Brewster cuppa, it was fantastic, and I don't think I have been to that hall for a very long time, it's a lovely little hall down there and it is kept very nice and neat.
- I did mention in my column last week about the secondary college deb ball but I can't help but mention it again. I attended and had the debbs presented to myself and my partner, there were 18 in all, and they were absolutely fantastic, they all looked beautiful, and they presented well, it was such a great evening, and it went off really well. Congratulations to all of those debbs and also all of those involved in the organisation and setting up of that because the hall looked fantastic and the night went so smoothly, Cr Kehoe was one of those so well done, it was a fantastic evening.
- With the warmer weather and the grass growing I urge residents to do their slashing and clean ups early, get in early and get it done and if you need to engage someone get in early so that you make sure it is done before it gets dry and becomes an issue, get it done before the fire season.
- I have had a couple of constituents through the week tell me about a couple of close calls that they have had with snakes whilst cleaning up and even mowing so the snakes are certainly out and about, please be very careful.
- There has been a lot of progress in the Beaufort lake area with the barbeque shelter nearly finished, the jetty well underway, the cricket nets are nearly finished and the lighting upgrade of the oval will start now that football has finished. There is a lot happening up there and it is a lot of money's worth of work. It is going to make that precinct up there so nice and improve it so much. I urge everybody to go up there and make the best use of those facilities and enjoy what we have been doing and what we have

achieved up there. I think you will find it is very impressive and there is more to come with the linear project.

- Congratulations to the Brewster and Trawalla residents involved in the 'Put the brolgas ahead of the wind turbines' project. They have undertaken a significant amount of work already in their own time and they are all busy people. They have gathered a significant amount of really important data so that is fantastic. I note one of the committee members have made the effort to come to the council meeting tonight so I thank him for his attendance. Keep up the good work in that space.

Cr Eason

- In regard to the last report, the project update, well done to all of the staff and all of the organisation behind getting those projects completed or on their way. There is a lot of effort that goes into the initial plan to start something, the approval process through council, and then the work to get it done and everybody puts in whatever is needed to get it done and thank you very much to all of those concerned. It is very good to see it out in the public realm through a report of this nature and hopefully as many people as possible can get to read it.
- Unfortunately, I was unable to attend the councillor cuppa at Lake Goldsmith, it is usually a very interesting meeting, and I am sorry that I missed it.
- Had a meeting with the chair of GBAC, Cr Hudson and heard his thoughts on GBAC and what it can attain and how they match with ours, hopefully that group can move onwards and upwards regionally around ourselves and the Ballarat region and we can start to move things along.
- Finally, I wish Cr Kehoe all the best in her upcoming event in the not-too-distant future and I wish Cr Kehoe every health and healthy result.

Cr Clark asked the following question to Mr Gowans:

I know we were delayed earlier in the year with the late autumn and winter with grading works, could you please give us a bit of an update on where we are at with grading works across the shire?

Mr Gowans thanked Cr Clark for his question and provided the following response:

According to my latest report, grading is almost fully complete. There are three small areas of the shire that were listed in a recent report that we are doing some final grading work in, but the majority of grading had been completed. We are about to start on resheets and reseals in the very near future.

Cr Tanya Kehoe / Cr Damian Ferrari

That Council considers an urgent report: Change in Date – Council Statutory Meeting 2023.

CARRIED

14.2. CHANGE IN DATE - COUNCIL STATUTORY MEETING 2023

Presenter: Kathy Bramwell - Director Corporate and Community Services

Declaration of Interest: As presenter of this report, I have no disclosable interest in this item.

Report Author: Kathy Bramwell - Director Corporate and Community Services

Declaration of Interest: As author of this report, I have no disclosable interest in this item.

File No: 16/17/02

PURPOSE

This report seeks Council endorsement to change the date of the 2023 Statutory Meeting of the Pyrenees Shire Council.

BACKGROUND

At its meeting in December 2022, the Council approved the schedule of meetings for the 2023 calendar year, including for the Statutory Meeting. The date for the Statutory Meeting was scheduled for 6.00 pm on Tuesday, 14th November 2023, to be held at Lexton Community Centre.

Section 4.2 and Clause 4.2.1(b) provides that *Council, by resolution, or the Chief Executive Officer may change the date, time, and place of, or cancel, any meeting that has been fixed and must provide reasonable notice of the change to the public.*

Section 4.2 and Clause 4.2.3 provides that *Reasonable notice of each Council meeting must be provided to the Public. This may be done by giving notice on Council's website and in a newspaper generally circulating in the municipal district.*

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

The scheduled date for the 2023 Statutory Meeting was approved as Tuesday, 14th November 2023. It is noted that this is scheduled on the same date as the 'Cuppa and Chat' session with the Evansford community, following a Council briefing on the same day.

The 'Cuppa and Chat' sessions are held monthly to give an opportunity for communities around the shire to talk informally with their Councillors and Council's senior officers. These sessions generally commence at 5.00 pm and finish between 6.30 - 7.00 pm. Formerly the sessions were held at lunchtimes but were changed to early evening to allow for more time with community members and resulted in a greater attendance rate.

Scheduling the early evening 'Cuppa and Chat' session on the same day as the Statutory Meeting allows insufficient time to effectively hear everything the Evansford community may want to say and it is, therefore, proposed that the date of the Statutory Meeting be changed to accommodate this. Consideration of alternative dates identified that the previous week was the same date as the Melbourne Cup Public Holiday.

The Council is, therefore, requested to endorse the change of date for the Pyrenees Shire Council Statutory Meeting 2023 to 6.00 pm on Tuesday 31st October 2023.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Enabling Principles

- a. Motivate and inspire community involvement
- b. Provide transparency and accountability

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT / CONSULTATION OUTCOMES

Subject to approval by the Council, public notice of the change in date of the Statutory Meeting will be published on Council's noticeboard in the local media and promoted via the website and media release on or before Friday 13th October 2023.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil.

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

Reputation risk is likely if the original scheduled date for the Statutory Meeting is not changed as insufficient time would be provided at the Evansford community 'Cuppa and chat' to discuss issues informally with community members, Councillors and senior officers, compared to that enjoyed by other communities.

CONCLUSION

Since the change in timing for the community 'Cuppa and chat' sessions with Councillors and senior officers, the scheduling of a session with the Evansford Community on the same date as the 2023 Statutory Meeting of the Pyrenees Shire Council allows insufficient time for all issues to be discussed with the community. The Council's approval is therefore sought to change the date of the Statutory Meeting to earlier in the year – Tuesday 31st October 2023.

Cr Tanya Kehoe / Cr Damian Ferrari

That Council:

1. Approves the change in date for the Pyrenees Shire Council 2023 Statutory Meeting to 6.00 pm on Tuesday 31st October 2023, and
2. That public notification of the change in date will be provided through local media, website and media release giving at least two weeks' notice of the new date.

CARRIED**15. CLOSE OF MEETING**

The Ordinary Meeting of Council 19 September 2023 closed at 7.16pm.

Minutes of the Meeting confirmed _____

2023

Mayor Cr Ron Eason