



MINUTES

SCHEDULED MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD AT COBRAM
CIVIC CENTRE, PUNT ROAD COBRAM VIC 3644,
WEDNESDAY 27 APRIL 2022

The meeting commenced at 5.03 PM

PRESENT

- Councillor Libro Mustica (Mayor)
- Councillor Peter Lawless (Deputy Mayor)
- Councillor John Beitzel
- Councillor Julie Brooks
- Councillor Ed Cox
- Councillor Peter Elliott
- Councillor Judy Heather
- Councillor Wayne Limbrick
- Councillor Peter Mansfield

IN ATTENDANCE:

Clare Keenan	Chief Executive Officer
Matt Jarvis	Chief Financial Officer
Josh Lewis	Director Infrastructure Services
Sally Rice	Director Sustainable Communities
Amanda Chadwick	Manager Governance and Performance

RECORDING

Consistent with section 12.3 of our Governance Rules, Council officers have been authorised to record the public session of this meeting using an audio recording device.

LIVE STREAMING

Council meetings will now be lived streamed to allow those interested in viewing proceedings greater access to Council decisions and debate, without attending the meeting in person.

1. WELCOME CALLING TO ORDER – CEO

Clare Keenan welcomed Marg Allan PSM who is observing the meeting of Moira Shire Council.

2. PRAYER

Almighty God we humbly ask you to guide our deliberations for the welfare and benefit of the Moira Shire and its people whom we serve.

Amen

Read by the Mayor

3. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL OWNERS

We, the Moira Shire Council, would like to acknowledge the traditional owners of the land upon which we meet and pay our respects to their Elders both past and present.

Read by the Mayor

The Mayor welcomed Marg Allan PSM to the meeting and thanked the Minister of Local Government for acting so promptly to our concerns.

4. APOLOGIES / LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Cr Limbrick requested a leave of absence from the 13th May 2022 to the 8 June 2022.

MOTION

CRS PETER LAWLESS / JULIE BROOKS

That Cr Limbrick request for leave of absence be accepted.

(CARRIED)

5. DECLARATION UNDER ACTS, REGULATIONS, CODES OR LOCAL LAWS

Nil

6. DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Nil

7. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

MOTION:

CRS JULIE BROOKS / ED COX

"That the minutes of the Scheduled Council Meeting held on Wednesday, 23 March 2022, as prepared, be confirmed."

(CARRIED)

8. COUNCILLOR REPORTS

- Cr Elliott reported on his attendance at the Premiere Screening of Travel Oz "Magnificent Moira"
- Cr Limbrick reported on his attendance at the Hon Bridget McKenzie MP funding announcement for the Numurkah Flood Levy, ANZAC Day Services at Barmah and Nathalia and being the MC (Master of Ceremonies) at the Nathalia CFA awards.
- Cr Beitzel reported on his attendance at the unveiling of the Solider Settlement Memorial in Numurkah.
- Cr Lawless reported on his attendance at the funding announcement by the Deputy Prime Minister, The Hon Barnaby Joyce MP for the Yarrawonga Multi Sports Stadium, the funding announcement for the Numurkah Flood Levy by the Hon Bridget McKenzie MP, the official opening of the Katamatite Netball Courts, the Yarrawonga and Katamatite ANZAC Day Services and the amount of young people playing netball and football at Tungamah.
- Cr Lawless would like to make an improvement to the running of the Council Meetings by having officers introduce their reports following MAV training where this was talked about.
- Cr Mansfield reported on his attendance at the Goulburn Murray Water Networking event, Yarrawonga Showgrounds meeting and the Committees issue with irrigation water.
- Cr Brooks reported on her attendance at the Cobram ANZAC Day Service.

- Cr Cox reported on his attendance at the Cobram and Strathmerton Anzac Day Services.

9. OFFICERS REPORTS

Office of the Chief Executive Officer

Clare Keenan welcomed and introduced Matt Jarvis Council's new Chief Financial Officer.

Clare stated that one of the most important duties of a CEO is to provide a safe work place for staff and Councillors, and her and the Mayor were therefore very pleased to have the highly regarded Marg Allan PSM as Monitor.

Council supported the RSL with Anzac Commemorations with some important road closures and she thanked all those in the community who organised the special day.

Corporate, Governance and Performance Directorate.

During March, Council managed 15 recruitment vacancies including strategic and town planning positions. We welcomed 8 new employees including the transition of a Trainee to a temporary position within finance and the permanent appointment for the Team Leader Administration (Operations) position.

Council's Australian Management Challenge Team, Moving Moira, continue to complete pre-challenge tasks and are ready and excited for the challenge day on 19 May.

The pandemic continued to create workforce issues for Council with six staff members unable to work during March, due to illness, isolation or caring for family members as a result of COVID-19. For the financial year, COVID leave has cost Council just over \$80,000. We have continued to recruit for casual opportunities, to provide back up to our workforce.

Council has signed a Service Level Agreement with Goulburn Valley Libraries to provide shared services with human resources and health and safety support for the next 12 months, with a view to continuing the arrangement.

Over a four week period Council trialed an extension of hours to the service centre, which saw us open at 8am on a Thursday and from 9 till 12 on a Saturday morning over a four week period. This trial was in response to what the community have told us about wanting Council to be more available, in particular to those who work full time, and may not be able to access face to face service during our standard hours Monday to Friday.

The demand was not strong with under 10 people accessing those services during the extended trial, however, we are currently determining options going forward.

For the month of March, Council's call centre received over 4,100 calls, up 15% from the previous month, with 47% of calls being able to be resolved by first point of contact. The customer experience team received just under 4,500 customer requests via the call centre and online.

There were over 900 payments made during the month, with 490 of these for animal registrations, with the annual notice going out early in the month.

Sustainable Communities Directorate

The completion of the Numurkah skate park extension was celebrated on the 16 April.

Fifty young people and their families attended the day that included a skateboarding skills sessions facilitated by YMCA and a 'design your own skateboard' workshop which was run by the CAN Hub.

Special thanks to the Numurkah Community Learning Centre who provided a delicious BBQ.

Over the ANZAC long weekend Council, with our FReeZA funding, hosted a series of movie nights across the Shire. Movies were shown on inflatable screens at Nathalia, Strathmerton and Tungamah. These movie nights were a great success with many people attending to enjoy the shows.

As part of Council's partnership with the National De-sexing Network program since August 2020 257 cats have been desexed, 245 have been microchipped and 253 registered with council.

This program is available to residents of Moira Shire who low income earners or people with an excessive number of cats and they benefit from a substantial reduction in the costs associated with desexing cats.

Funding for this program has come from a combination of the State Government and Council.

Thank you to those pet owners who have paid their animal registration. Domestic animal registrations were due on 10 April 2022. Council has 5807 registered animals and 74% of them have been re-registered on time, so for those who have not yet done so please remember to do so.

Infrastructure Services Directorate

It was fantastic to learn of the Federal Governments commitments to both the Yarrawonga Multi-Sport Pavilion (\$3.3M) and the Numurkah Flood Mitigation Project Stage 1 (\$2.382M)

This funding makes both projects a reality, with planning and design work rapidly progressing to enable the physical commencement of works as soon as possible.

Compliance with Council's Road Management Plan remains suspended as we continue to deal with implications associated with the Covid-19 pandemic.

Council's ability to recommence conformance with the plan will be closely monitored and is expected to resume in the near future as available resources return to the minimum levels required.

Council has delivered approximately \$13.6m of capital works, with a further \$11.6m having been committed.

Project progress includes:

- The Barmah boat ramp is scheduled to start next week
- The Cobram pedestrian crossings are in progress with two having been completed and a further two to come
- Cobram kindergarten project is essentially complete
- Good progress is being made on the Numurkah Road GMW crossings
- Federation Street drainage upgrades will soon commence.

Chief Financial Officer

Federal Financial Assistance Grants are a vital source of income – representing 18% of total revenue in our current adopted budget.

These grants are split into two elements – general purpose grants and Local Roads grants which are both untied and can be spent on specific community needs, including operations and maintenance.

The distribution of grants is undertaken by the Victorian Local Government Grants Commission which uses a range of formulas to determine each Council's allocation.

The total grants funded by the Federal Government equates to roughly 0.6% of Commonwealth taxation revenue – in the mid-90s it had been at 1.0%. The Treasurer also has discretion when calculating annual indexation which should take into account inflation and population increases.

Advocating to restore the financial assistance grants to 1.0% of Commonwealth taxation revenue and applying the proper escalation of grants on an annual basis is therefore important to ensure the ongoing financial sustainability of the local government sector.

At the Federal budget in March it was announced that 75% of the Federal Financial Assistance Grant allocations for 22/23 will be 'brought forward' and paid this financial year. The adopted budget had anticipated a brought forward payment of 50%.

Council has this month received that brought forward allocation of approximately \$9m.

This is an early payment, not an additional payment, which has been invested to maximise the return on the funds before they are required operationally in the 22/23 financial year.

Earlier today annual inflation was reported at 5.1%, the highest level since the introduction of the GST.

This is yet another challenge for ensuring Council's financial sustainability with the State Government rate cap for 22/23 set at 1.75% - well under the headline inflation rate.

With the sector in the midst of recovering from the economic impacts of COVID, these multiple cost pressures provide a challenging environment to continue to deliver numerous services to the community and meet the infrastructure demands of a growing municipality.

A number of departments are working together to use COVIDSafe Outdoor Activation grant funds within the municipality to support ongoing community safety and confidence.

Some examples include the purchase and installation of solar-recharge table settings and the purchase and installation of exercise equipment.

10. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Nil

FILE NO: 22/04
5. TRANSPARENT AND ACCOUNTABLE
GOVERNANCE

ITEM NO: 11.1.1
(GRANTS OFFICER, COURTNEY HAMILL)
(CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, CLARE
KEENAN)

GRANT APPLICATION STATUS UPDATE

Executive Summary

Council is currently in the process of fulfilling their obligations to \$27million in funds from grants and infrastructure specific low-interest loans. There are current applications for a further \$8 million, however it is expected that a number of these applications will not be successful.

After an extremely busy period in grants stemming from economic pump-priming, COVID-19 recovery stimulus packages there is now a noticeable lull. Pending elections are expected to have an impact on the grants climate.

MOTION

CRS PETER LAWLESS / ED COX

That Council receive and note the report.

(CARRIED)

**FILE NO: F13/503
5. TRANSPARENT AND ACCOUNTABLE
GOVERNANCE**

**ITEM NO: 11.2.1
(SENIOR GOVERNANCE OFFICER,
MARGARET HINCK)
(DIRECTOR CORPORATE GOVERNANCE
AND PERFORMANCE BRANT DOYLE)**

ASSEMBLIES OF COUNCILLORS FOR MARCH 2022

Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to detail the Assemblies of Councillors held in March 2022. These records provide transparency in councils decision making process, in line with Council's commitment to the principles for public transparency and Council's Public Transparency Policy

MOTION

CRS PETER ELLIOTT / JOHN BEITZEL

That Council receive and note the record of Assemblies of Councillors for March 2022.

(CARRIED)

**FILE NO:
3. A CLEAN GREEN ENVIRONMENT**

**ITEM NO: 11.3.1
(ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY
OFFICER, JANE WHITE)
(DIRECTOR SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES
SALLY RICE)**

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY 2022-2026

Executive Summary

Council has developed a draft Environmental Sustainability Strategy (ESS) 2022-2026 (a copy is attached). This is the third ESS that Moira Shire Council (Council) has developed. The 2022 ESS builds on the achievements of the 2017 ESS. This is another great opportunity to highlight the achievements report that was presented at the 23rd February 2022 Council meeting.

The sustainability department have lead a consultation phase for the drafting of the 2022 ESS. Consultation has been completed with key stakeholders including Council staff, Councilors and key agency partner representatives. Learnings from the feedback received via a survey and presentations have been incorporated in the ESS.

The next phase of consultation is to occur with the community. Therefore, this report recommends that Council endorses the Draft ESS 2022-2026 and makes it available for community consultation in accordance with the proposed consultation plan.

MOTION

CRS WAYNE LIMBRICK / PETER LAWLESS

That Council endorses the Draft Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2022-2026 being made available for community consultation in accordance with the proposed consultation plan.

(CARRIED)

FILE NO:
2. A DIVERSE AND DYNAMIC ECONOMY

ITEM NO: 11.3.2
(TOURISM DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR,
CAMERON SUTTON)
(DIRECTOR SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES,
SALLY RICE)

PROPOSED TOURISM PLAN

Executive Summary

The proposed Tourism Plan 2022-26 (the Plan), in Attachment 1, sets out a clear and accountable framework to guide Council's future tourism activities and investments.

Council has been reviewing its role in and approach to Tourism. This has been informed by internal knowledge and reflection, ongoing feedback from the tourism industry, analyzing tourism trends, the impacts of Covid and reviews of the State and regional level directions. This feedback and information informed the development of the Draft Tourism Plan. A critical element of the Draft Tourism Plan was that it needed to be an industry agreed plan for the future of tourism in Moira Shire.

This draft Tourism plan has since been used to consult widely with key stakeholders including the local and regional Tourism Sector. Following this consultation, minor changes were made to the draft which is now presented as the proposed Tourism Plan 2022-26.

The proposed Tourism Plan is high level document. The implementation of the Plan will occur through the development of a detailed action plan. The purpose of the Plan is to set out a clear and accountable framework for Tourism in the Moira Shire including clarifying Council's role in the Tourism industry.

The Plan has been prepared in consultation with key stakeholders including the local and regional tourism industry. This report recommends that Council adopt the proposed Tourism Plan.

MOTION

CRS PETER LAWLESS / WAYNE LIMBRICK

That Council adopt the proposed Tourism Plan 2022-26 and approve its implementation.

(CARRIED)

FILE NO: D21/191135
1. A WELCOMING AND INCLUSIVE PLACE

ITEM NO: 11.4.1
(INFRASTRUCTURE LIAISON OFFICER, LYN
COOPER)
(DIRECTOR INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES
JOSHUA LEWIS)

DOG OFF-LEASH AREA POLICY

Executive Summary

In recent years there has been growing interest in fenced dog parks and other off-leash areas as they provide a great way for both owners and their dogs to exercise and socialize. This reduces both social isolation for our people and nuisance behaviours such as barking and wandering in our pets.

In 2021 we conducted a survey of our residents, ratepayers and visitors and found that 94% of a total of 329 responses supported the provision of fully-fenced off-leash dog parks in Moira Shire.

That survey also asked a number of questions about what should be taken into consideration when looking at the location and design of off-leash areas. This information was used to draft the Dog Off-leash Area Policy that will guide the provision and development of Dog Off-Leash Areas in Moira Shire.

The draft policy was placed on public exhibition from 25 February 2022 until midnight on 27 March 2022. A total of 20 submissions was received. Of the submissions, 18 supported off-leash areas and contained suggestions around possible locations as well as asking Council to avoid placing them in existing parks that are used by people for general recreation. Two comments were not supportive of the provision of dog off-leash areas (OLA's).

The submissions did not require an amendment to the policy so it is presented to Council unchanged for their consideration.

This report seeks Council's support for the principles; site selection criteria; development standards; and rules for use of OLA's as set out in the policy.

MOTION

CRS ED COX / JOHN BEITZEL

That Council adopt the Dog Off-Leash Area Policy.

(CARRIED)

FILE NO:
4. CUSTOMER FOCUSED AND RESPONSIVE

ITEM NO: 11.4.2
(TEAM LEADER COMMUNITY AND
RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, CORRENE
COOPER)
(DIRECTOR INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES
JOSHUA LEWIS)

YARRAWONGA SHOWGROUNDS/ VICTORIA PARK MASTER PLAN- FOR ADOPTION

Executive Summary

The final draft Yarrowonga Showgrounds/ Victoria Park Master Plan has been developed by @Leisure Planners in consultation with Moira Shire Council staff and stakeholders including the user groups of the Yarrowonga Showgrounds/ Victoria Park Reserve and wider community.

The draft plan was brought to ELT and Council briefing in January 2022, and subsequently released for public exhibition for a six week period from the 28th January to the 4th March 2022. As part of this, the public were invited to make submissions providing feedback on the draft plan, and one-on-one meetings were held with user groups as requested.

Taking into account all feedback received during the public exhibition period, the final draft document is now complete for Council adoption.

MOTION

CRS PETER MANSFIELD / JUDY HEATHER

That Council adopt the Yarrowonga Showgrounds/ Victoria Park Master Plan with stage 2 and 3 swapped to the multisport stadium.

(CARRIED)

FILE NO: C004/22
5. TRANSPARENT AND ACCOUNTABLE
GOVERNANCE

ITEM NO: 11.4.3
(PROCUREMENT COORDINATOR, JOVIAL
MATHEWS)
(DIRECTOR INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES
JOSHUA LEWIS)

C004/22 - BOAT RAMP UPGRADE - CULLENS ROAD YARRAWONGA

Executive Summary

Moira Shire Council invited submissions from suitably qualified contractors for upgrade works to the Cullens Road boat ramp in Yarrawonga. The boat ramp is located on the Murray River approximately 2.2km downstream from the Lake Mulwala Weir structure.

After consideration of the submissions, the evaluation panel recommends that contract C004/22 be awarded to Waratah Bridge Constructions (Vic) Pty Ltd.

MOTION

CRS PETER LAWLESS / PETER MANSFIELD

That Council:

1. Award the contract for C004/22 – Boat Ramp Upgrade – Cullens Road Yarrawonga to Waratah Bridge Constructions (Vic) Pty Ltd; and
2. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to sign and seal the contract documents; and
3. Assign Waratah Bridge Constructions (Vic) Pty Ltd as the Principal Contractor for undertaking the project.

(CARRIED)

11. OFFICER REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

12. ACTION OFFICERS LIST

NIL

13. NOTICES OF MOTION

NIL

FILE NO:
**5. TRANSPARENT AND ACCOUNTABLE
GOVERNANCE**

ITEM NO: 15.1
**(MANAGER GOVERNANCE & RISK,
AMANDA CHADWICK)**
**(DIRECTOR INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES,
JOSHUA LEWIS)**

PETITION RESPONSE ROAD MAINTENANCE WUNGHNU

Executive Summary

Council tabled 2 petitions at the scheduled Council Meeting on 23 March 2022 regarding concerns raised of the condition of the off-road parking and kerb adjacent to the Wunghnu Post Office and Café and the ongoing dust issues from an unsealed section of Wunghnu Road between Katamatite Road and Labuan Road.

This report provides an update on the actions taken by Council in relation to the concerns.

MOTION

CRS ED COX / PETER MANSFIELD

That Council:

1. Note the concerns raised by the petitions tabled at the March Council Meeting; and
2. Note that the actions taken by Council in relation to the first petition regarding the condition of the Carlisle Street Wunghnu; and
3. Continue to investigate the costs associated with sealing an unsealed section of Wunghnu Road for dust suppression.
4. Consider the sealing of a section on Wunghnu Road in future budgets and actively pursue grant funding opportunities.

(CARRIED)

16. COUNCIL SEAL

NIL

FILE NO: VARIOUS

ITEM NO: 17

GENERAL BUSINESS

MOTION

CRS PETER LAWLESS / WAYNE LIMBRICK

That urgent business in relation to the Yarrawonga Showgrounds Irrigation issues be considered.

(CARRIED)

FILE NO: VARIOUS

ITEM NO: 18

MEETING CLOSE

The Mayor stated: This now concludes our Council meeting, for those watching via live stream, on behalf of Council I would like to thank our community for participating in our meeting.

Please stay safe and good night.

18 MEETING CLOSE AT 6:11 PM