

# **AGENDA**

## **Council Meeting**

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**6.00pm Tuesday 28 June 2022**

**VENUE:**  
**Golden Plains Civic Centre**  
**Council Chamber**  
**2 Pope Street, Bannockburn**

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING  
6.00pm Tuesday 26 July 2022

Copies of Golden Plains Shire Council's Agendas & Minutes  
Can be obtained online at [www.goldenplains.vic.gov.au](http://www.goldenplains.vic.gov.au)

## **Code of Conduct Principles**

### **WORKING TOGETHER**

We Councillors will:

- acknowledge and respect that a diversity of opinion exists among us;
- recognise that each of us has different life experience, knowledge and values, and that all of these contribute collectively to our discussions;
- behave with courtesy towards each other, Council officers and our citizens;
- conform to the policy and precedents that guide the conduct of meetings;
- attend punctually and participate in all relevant meetings, workshops and briefings;
- share reasonably in the representation, ceremonial and hosting tasks of the full Council; and
- honour the majority decisions made by the Council, irrespective of our own position, and explain these decisions frankly to the community, once made.

### **BEHAVING WITH INTEGRITY**

We Councillors will:

- identify our financial and personal interest, or potential interest, in any matter that comes before the Council;
- be honest and truthful;
- comply with laws and the regulations deriving there from;
- respect Council property and be frugal in its use, where allowed;
- avoid using our position for personal gain or to achieve advantage over others or to obtain preferential treatment;
- be sympathetic to the legitimate concerns of our citizens;
- act impartially when making decisions and have due regard to the needs of the community as a whole, rather than that of narrow vested interest; and
- acknowledge the role of Council officers in providing advice to us and in implementing Council decisions.

### **MAKING COMPETENT DECISIONS**

We Councillors will:

- without diminishing the short term focus, approach decisions with due regard to the long term needs of the municipality;
- form policies with regard to the needs of the entire Shire;
- direct our attentions to the strategic and statutory needs of the municipality rather than short term, transient, operational issues;
- seek to fully inform ourselves on the issues before Council before making a decision;
- take all reasonable steps to improve our knowledge of matters relevant to our municipal duties; and
- use and respect the professional knowledge of Council officers and other advisers to Council.

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## **1 OPENING DECLARATION**

We the Councillors of Golden Plains Shire declare that we will undertake, on every occasion, to carry out our duties in the best interest of the community and that our conduct shall maintain the standards of the code of good governance so that we may faithfully represent and uphold the trust placed in this Council by the people of Golden Plains Shire

## **2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

Golden Plains Shire spans the Traditional lands of the Wadawurrung and Eastern Maar people. We acknowledge them as the Traditional Owners and Custodians. Council pays its respects to Wadawurrung Elders past, present and emerging. Council also respects Eastern Maar Elders past, present and emerging.

Council extends that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People who are part of the Golden Plains Shire.

## **3 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

## **4 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

### **Recommendation**

That the minutes of the Council Meeting held on Tuesday 7 June 2022 as circulated, be confirmed.

## **5 DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

## **6 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

## **7 BUSINESS REPORTS FOR DECISION**

### **7.1 CITIZEN RECOGNITION AWARD**

**File Number:**

**Author:** Elise Holmes, Executive Assistant to the CEO

**Authoriser:** Eric Braslis, CEO

**Attachments:** Nil

Golden Plains Shire is proud to recognise the fantastic achievements and contributions made by young people in the community. We are fortunate today to present two Citizen Recognition Awards, which includes a certificate of recognition to Ruby Flett and Lachlan Flett. Both Ruby and Lachlan are being recognised for their achievements in sport.

- Ruby is 11 years old, lives in Inverleigh and has been playing cricket for 5 years. Ruby was recently selected and competed in the Team Vic, 12 and under Girls Cricket Merit Team.
- Lachlan has been selected for the Australian team for the In-Line Hockey Championships that is competing in the USA Championships in July 2022.

## 7.2 DELEGATES REPORT

**File Number:****Author:** Elise Holmes, Executive Assistant to the CEO**Authoriser:** Eric Braslis, CEO**Attachments:** Nil**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council receive and note the Delegates Report for the past month.

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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

At each Council meeting, Councillors have the opportunity to update their colleagues and the community about attendances at various Delegated Boards/Committees/Meetings that they attended on behalf of the Council and can acknowledge significant community events or Council functions / engagement opportunities that they have attended over the past month.

**MANDATORY BOARDS / COMMITTEES / MEETINGS**

- Audit Committee
- G21 - Board of Directors
- Central Highlands Councils Victoria
- Peri Urban Group of Rural Councils
- Berrybank Wind Farm Community Engagement Committee
- Municipal Association of Victoria
- Geelong Regional Library Corporation
- Tourism Greater Geelong and the Bellarine Board
- Grampians Central West Waste & Resource Recovery Group - Local Government Forum
- Council Meeting, Strategic Briefing, Councillor Briefing and Portfolio meetings

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT / EVENTS****Cr Gamble**

- National Simultaneous Storytime 2022
- Bannockburn Industrial Estate Site Tour
- Woody Yallock Equestrian
- Coffee With The Mayor - Napoleons General Store
- Inverleigh Book Bazaar
- Election commitment announcement by Louise Staley MP – Smythesdale Bus services
- Youth Hub Reconciliation Week Smoking Ceremony & Didgeridoo Performance
- Funding announcement by Christine Couzens and Gayle Tierney – Bannockburn Female Friendly Netball Changerooms
- Golden Plains Farmers' Market
- Official Opening of the Inverleigh Change Rooms Upgrade
- Living Sculptures Project Launch
- Coffee with Mayor – Linton Hotel

- Briefing on Planning for a Safe Climate Advocacy Campaign
- Managing Growth Advisory Group
- Farewell to Aged and Disability Services
- Golden Plains Shire Council Community Leadership Program - Session 12
- National General Assembly, Canberra
- Golden Plains Business Networking Evening – Smythesdale Pub
- Youth Hub Visit with Gayle Tierney and Christine Cousins
- Smythesdale CFA Service Awards and Truck Handover

**Cr Cunningham**

- Funding announcement by Christine Couzens and Gayle Tierney – Bannockburn Female Friendly Netball Changerooms
- Youth Hub Community Reference Group Meeting

**Cr Getsom**

Election commitment announcement by Louise Staley MP – Smythesdale Bus services

- Golden Plains Farmers' Market
- Official Opening of the Inverleigh Change Rooms Upgrade
- Smythesdale Fire Brigade Rehab Truck Handover & CFA Service Award Presentations
- Announcement by Sport and Rec Victoria
- Living Sculptures Project Launch
- Farewell to Aged and Disability Services
- Opening of the Linton & District Men's Shed
- Woody Yalluk Equestrian Event

**Cr Kirby**

Inverleigh Book Bazaar

- Reconciliation Week Indigenous Storytelling
- Funding announcement by Christine Couzens and Gayle Tierney – Bannockburn Female Friendly Netball Changerooms
- Golden Plains Farmers' Market
- Official Opening of the Inverleigh Change Rooms Upgrade
- Golden Plains Shire Council Community Leadership Program - Session 12
- Farewell to Aged and Disability Services
- Active Ageing and Inclusion External Advisory Group Meeting
- Opening of the Linton & District Men's Shed

**Cr Rowe**

- Funding announcement by Christine Couzens and Gayle Tierney – Bannockburn Female Friendly Netball Changerooms
- Official Opening of the Inverleigh Change Rooms Upgrade

**Cr Sharkey**

- Funding announcement by Christine Couzens and Gayle Tierney – Bannockburn Female Friendly Netball Changerooms



**Cr Whitfield**

- 2022 Rural and Regional Planning Conference, Torquay
- Funding announcement by Christine Couzens and Gayle Tierney – Bannockburn Female Friendly Netball Changerooms
- Official Opening of the Inverleigh Change Rooms Upgrade
- Farewell to Aged and Disability Services
- Golden Plains Shire Council Community Leadership Program - Session 12
- Woody Yalluk Equestrian Event

**7.3 ADOPTION OF GOLDEN PLAINS SHIRE COUNCIL BUDGET 2022-23****File Number:****Author:** Fiona Rae, Manager Finance**Authoriser:** Simon Rennie, Director Corporate Services**Attachments:**  
1. 2022-23 Draft Budget (under separate cover)  
2. 2022-23 Draft Revenue & Rating Plan (under separate cover)**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council:

1. Note the 5 written submissions received on the Draft Budget 2022-23 and considered at 7 June 2022 Special Council Meeting
2. Adopt the 2022-23 Budget contained in attachment 1 in accordance with section 94 of the *Local Government Act 2020*
3. Adopt the Revenue and Rating Plan contained in attachment 2 in accordance with section 93 of the *Local Government Act 2020*.
4. Approve and adopt the service and user fees as set in the 2022-23 Budget
5. Declare the amount of rates and charges intended to be raised from the period 1 July 2022 – 30 June 2023 as follows:
  - (a) An amount of \$27,037,501 (or such greater amount as is lawfully levied as a consequence of this recommendation being adopted) be declared as the amount which Council intends to raise by general rates, the municipal charge and the annual service charges, which amount is calculated as follows:
    - (i) General Rates (including supplementary rates and interest) - \$20,480,119
    - (ii) Municipal Charge (including on supplementary rates) - \$2,807,500
    - (iii) Annual service (garbage) charge - \$3,749,882
6. Declare the rates, rating differentials and charges for the period 1 July 2022 – 30 June 2023 as detailed in:
  - (a) Appendix 1 of the 2022-23 Budget, noting the adjustment of the rate in the dollar based on final revaluation for 2022; and
  - (b) Council's Revenue and Rating Plan as required under s94(2)(i) of the *Local Government Act 2020* and s161(2) of the *Local Government Act 1989*
7. Determine to allow:
  - (a) In accordance with section 167(1) and (2) of the *Local Government Act 1989*, payment of rates and charges by four approximately equal instalments paid on or before 30 September 2022, 30 November 2022, 28 February 2023 and 31 May 2023;
  - (b) In accordance with section 167(2A) and (2B) of the *Local Government Act 1989*, payment of rates and charges by lump sum on or before 15 February 2023; or
  - (c) Payment of rates and charges by ten approximately equal direct debit payments from 15 September 2022 until 15 June 2023;
8. Require that any person pay interest on any amounts of rates and charges which"
  - (a) That person is liable to pay;
  - (b) Have not been paid by the dates specified for their payment; and
  - (c) Is not otherwise waived as part of Council's Hardship Policy
9. Authorise the Director Corporate Services and Manager Finance to levy and recover the

general rates and service charges in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1989*;

10. Authorise the Manager Finance to make any changes to the 2022-23 Budget as a result of this resolution, including minor and/or administrative wording and grammar changes if required.

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report seeks to formally adopt the 2022-23 Budget, incorporating the 2022-23 rating fees and charges pursuant to Section 96 of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

The 2022-23 Draft Budget has been prepared based on the adopted principles within the 2021-2025 Council Plan and Financial Plan within the framework of a 1.75% rate increase cap mandated by the State Government.

After making the document available for public inspection and inviting submissions under Section 96 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, Council received a total of 5 submissions. A Special Meeting of Council was held on Tuesday 7 June 2022 to consider the submissions received.

Amendments to the budget include the following:

- \$115k reduction in garbage costs to reflect final kerbside collection costs with corresponding amendment to garbage revenue;
- \$519k additional rate revenue from modelling using certified stage 4 valuation data;
- Lomandra Drive profit on land sales revised to \$3.1m (6 lots);
- \$403k additional Financial Assistance Grant as announced in May;
- Workforce turnover ratios included for 2021-22 forecast, 2022-23 budget and 2023-24 2024-25 and 2025-26 projections.

## BACKGROUND

Section 96 of the *Local Government Act 2020* requires Council to adopt the Annual Budget by 30 June each year.

As part of Council's ongoing Community Engagement activities, Council and officers have undertaken many forms of engagement with the community. The feedback from this engagement has been utilised throughout the process of developing both the Council Plan and Annual Budget.

Prior to the Draft Budget being finalised, Council reviewed the document and participated in a workshop to ensure it delivered the services and initiatives contained in the Council Plan and again reflective of the feedback from the community. The final draft of the budget was discussed at the 26 April 2021 Council meeting where Council confirmed its support for the document and resolved to place it on public exhibition and invite submissions from the community.

After making the document available for public inspection and inviting submissions under Section 6 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, Council received a total of 5 submissions. A Special Meeting of Council was held on Tuesday 7 June 2022 to consider the submissions received. After having considered the written submissions, Council undertook detailed discussion of the issues raised during a workshop following the Special Meeting.

## DISCUSSION

The 2022-23 Draft Budget is appended to this report and includes a detailed list of the capital works program. 2022-23 Draft Fees and Charges are provided in the appendix of attachment 1.

### Budget Summary

- Total operating revenue of \$53.3 million;
- Operating Expenditure of \$45.8 million to continue to deliver services to the Golden Plains community with an increased focus on infrastructure maintenance;
- Operating surplus \$7.5 million;

- Underlying surplus of \$0.1 million;
- Cash inflow from operations of \$13.3 million; and
- Total Capital Works investment of \$18.8 million of which asset renewal makes up 36%, capital upgrade 56% and new assets of 8%.

The Financial Performance Indicators disclosed in the budget reflect Council's ongoing commitment to sound financial management. The indicators Council considers critical are outlined in table below and shows that the 2022-23 results are generally positive when compared to best practice and Council's preferred targets.

Indicator	Budget 2022-23	Best Practice	GPS Target	Traffic Light Position
Surplus <sup>1</sup>	\$7,451k	>\$0	>\$5,000k	
Adjusted Underlying Result <sup>2</sup>	\$100k	>\$0	>\$0	
Working Capital (%) <sup>3</sup>	108%	>100%	>180%	
Borrowings (% of Rates and Charges) <sup>4</sup>	37%	<60%	<30%	
Cash Balance <sup>5</sup>	\$9,295k	>\$0	>\$5,000k	

### Budget Principles

The draft budget has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020*. The budget seeks to achieve the actions and activities set out in the Council Plan by balancing the demand for services and infrastructure with the community's capacity to pay.

This year, the creation of the draft budget was based on the following principles;

- Rate revenue modelled on 2022 valuations with a 1.75% average rate cap increase;
- Waste management fee increase from \$379 to \$389 per property
- Council User Fees – majority of fees at 1.75% increase
- Lomandra Drive land sales - \$3.1m profit included
- No increases in operational expenditure beyond a 1.75% increase in line with the rate cap;
- Additional \$200k for potential increase in workers compensation and public liability insurance premiums following the cessation of MAV's workcover scheme;
- Salary and wages increased based on estimates of new Enterprise Bargaining Agreement;
- 3 additional FTEs; and
- Waste management cost increases for the State Government mandated landfill levy increase and contracted expenses.

### Capital Works

Of the \$18.8 million capital works programme Council is investing more than \$6.7 million into the maintenance and renewal of assets including our extensive rural roads and bridge network. In our large rural Shire, Council maintains more than 1,744km of local roads across Golden Plains. Council has maintained its commitment to improving, resealing and resheeting local roads, and new infrastructure including bridge replacements, kerb and channelling, and widening existing roads. Key projects included in the 2022-23 budget are:

<sup>1</sup> Surplus – The net result of total revenue and expenditure, including non-cash items such as depreciation.

<sup>2</sup> Adjusted Underlying Result – Surplus less non-recurrent capital grants, non-monetary asset contributions and other contributions to fund capital expenditure. These items have the potential to incorrectly inflate the operating surplus.

<sup>3</sup> Working Capital – This is a measure of Council's ability to meet its short term commitments.

<sup>4</sup> Borrowings – Balance of total interest bearing loans and liabilities as a percentage of rates and charges (including garbage charges). The prudent limit is considered to be 60%.

<sup>5</sup> Cash Balance – The total cash and cash equivalents.

- Local road resealing program;
- Local road improvements (Slare Quarry Road widening Meredith, Snowgum Road Dereel intersection, Thompson Road Maude rehabilitation, Kopkes Road Haddon, Mt Mercer-Dereel Road Dereel);
- Bridge renewal (Two Bridges Road Rokewood, Wilgul-Werneth Road-Howells Road Berrybank, Wurook Road Rokewood);
- Russell Bridge Road bridge replacement;
- Storm water drainage improvements;
- Landfill rehabilitation works;
- Inverleigh drainage and car park works;
- Northern Streetscape Stage 1;
- Meredith Multi Playspace;
- Rokewood Community Hub and Pavillion upgrade;
- Rokewood Netball Courts; and
- Linton Oval Reconstruction.

### Rating Strategy

As part of the *Local Government Act 2020*, Council are required to adopt a 4 year Revenue and Rating Plan, however it is important to note that the plan can be reviewed and updated at any time during the 4 year period.

Council's Rating Strategy was reviewed during 2021-22 with the objective of delivering a more equitable rating structure with the following changes effective from 1 July 2022:

- Municipal charge reduced from \$310.60 to \$250 per property
- Farm Broadacre differential increased from 85% to 87.5%
- Farm Intensive differential increased from 90% to 95%
- Bannockburn Business differential increased from 120% to 130%
- Non-Farm Vacant Land differential increased from 200% to 205%

These changes have been updated in the Revenue and Rating Plan provided in attachment 2.

This year, rates are based on the 2022 valuations with rate increases varying across the differential rating categories and individual properties. There can be a misunderstanding that as properties are revalued, council receives additional revenue. However, this is not the case, but instead the total revenue is re-distributed across all properties in the shire. As such, as property values increase, the rate in the dollar will decrease. Total income from rates can only be increased by the 1.75% rate cap, an increase from the 1.5% 2021-22 rate cap.

### Declaration of Rates

The amount of \$27,037,501 (or such other amount as is lawfully raised) is declared in respect of the 2022-23 financial year as the amount which Council intends to raise by general rates, municipal charge and annual services charges, which is calculated as follows:

<i>General Rates</i>	<i>\$20,098,875</i>
<i>Municipal Charge</i>	<i>\$2,807,500</i>
<i>Annual Service (Garbage) Charge</i>	<i>\$3,749,882</i>
<i>Supplementary Rates Income</i>	<i>\$256,244</i>
<i>Municipal Charge on Supplementary Rates</i>	<i>\$25,000</i>
<i>Interest on Rates</i>	<i>\$100,000</i>

## 1. General Rates

- 1.1. A general rate be declared in respect of the 2022-23 Financial Year.
- 1.2. It be further declared that the general rate be raised by the application of differential rates.
- 1.4. Each differential rate will be determined by multiplying the Capital Improved Value of each rateable land (categorised by the characteristics described in the Attachment to this resolution) by the relevant cents in the dollar indicated in the following table, or such lesser amount as required to achieve compliance with Part 4, Section 94 – Rate caps of the Local Government Act 2020:

Category	Cents in the dollar on CIV*
Residential Improved	0.2185 cents in the dollar of Capital Improved Value
Business, Industrial & Commercial	0.2185 cents in the dollar of Capital Improved Value
Business, Industrial and Commercial (Bannockburn)	0.2841 cents in the dollar of Capital Improved Value
Farm Land Broadacre	0.1912 cents in the dollar of Capital Improved Value
Farm Land Intensive	0.2076 cents in the dollar of Capital Improved Value
Farm Land < 40 Hectares	0.2185 cents in the dollar of Capital Improved Value
Non Farm Vacant Land	0.4479 cents in the dollar of Capital Improved Value
Vacant Land Non Developable	0.2185 cents in the dollar of Capital Improved Value

\*The above rates in the dollar are based on stage 4 certified 2022 Revaluations.

## 2. Municipal Charge

- 2.1. A municipal charge be declared in respect of the 2022-23 Financial Year.
- 2.2. The municipal charge be declared for the purpose of covering some of the costs of Council.
- 2.3. The municipal charge to be reduced from \$310.60 to \$250.00 for each rateable land (or part) in respect of which a municipal charge may be levied.
- 2.4. It be confirmed that the municipal charge is declared in respect of all rateable land within the municipal district in respect of which a municipal charge may be levied.

## 3. Annual Service (Garbage) Charge

- 3.1. An annual service charge be declared in respect of the 2022-23 Financial Year.
- 3.2. The annual service charge be declared for the collection and disposal of refuse (including recyclables).
- 3.3. The annual service charge be:
  - 3.3.1. in the sum of \$389 for each rateable land (or part) in respect of which the annual service charge may be levied; and
  - 3.3.2. based on ownership of any land used primarily for residential purposes within the area designated for waste collection in the plan, which are the criteria for the annual service charge so declared.

## 4. Consequential

- 4.1. It be recorded that Council requires any person to pay interest on any amount of rates and charges to which:
  - 4.1.1. that person is liable to pay; and
  - 4.1.2. have not been paid by the date specified for their payment

- 4.2. *The Chief Executive officer be authorised to levy and recover the general rates, municipal charge and annual service charge in accordance with the Local Government Act 2020.*
- 4.3. *The Chief Executive officer be authorised to make so much of Council's rating database available as is reasonably necessary to enable any person to ascertain the designation of any land located within any of the areas bounded by the continuous and unbroken lines in the plans included in the 2022-23 Budget.*

### Budget Submissions

After placing the 2022-23 Draft Budget on public exhibition, 5 submissions were received, which are summarised in the table below (Please note that some submissions raised multiple issues).

Township	Summary of Submission
Inverleigh	Would like to see improved street lighting in the commercial precinct of Inverleigh including outside the public hall, would also like to see a pathway established to connect the north and south side of the service roads between the hardware store and shops opposite on the south. The bushes located on the Dundas St/Hamilton Highway intersection need to be removed to improve visibility as there have been a number of serious accidents at this intersection.
Bannockburn	Elderly safety being ignored as it is not safe to cross High Street and Milton Street.
Inverleigh	The Inverleigh Progress Association (IPA) requests all 27 public toilet blocks across the Shire to be fitted with vandal-proof soap dispensers and paper towel dispensers and acknowledges that Council may choose to run a trial or pilot program for 12 months at Inverleigh. This request is in the interest of public health and Covid-19 impacts.
Bannockburn	Congratulate Council on decreasing the municipal charge. Windfarm revenue should be included in the rates table and this income should be used to ease the rate burden within the Shire. Staff turnover ratios missing in budget, and note they were provided on request as 19% 21/22 forecast, 17% 22/23 budget, 15% 23/24 projection, 14% 24/25 projection and 13% 25/26 projection. Note 19% forecast is below the 24% of last year and hope it will continue to improve as this is a hidden but real cost to Council. Do not see the commitment to markedly reduce debt levels translated in the 22/23 budget and would welcome a more concerted effort at reducing the debt levels.
Batesford	<p>Provide the following items for consideration to support the Batesford community:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Funding to undertake an update to the Batesford township structure plan (detailing future residential developments and land uses; future road rail pathways and public transport connectivity opportunities; defined opportunities for future active recreation/community facilities; identification of Geelong Western Growth Zone land uses and conflicts; future drainage challenges; defined future pedestrian connectivity across township).</li> <li>Funding to complete detailed master planning, design and delivery of natural environment improvements in the new public open space (Riverstone Estate) to align to national and state best practice for passive recreation and cultural heritage preservation through - (extensive local community engagement; supporting the aspirations of the Kitjarra-dja-bull Bullarto Langi-ut initiative via the CCMA; evidence based management through traditional knowledge science and research; ecologically sustainable use to enhance social and economic well-being; partnerships and working together with all community stakeholders to support delivery of innovative programs to benefit future generations of Batesford residents).</li> </ul>

## REPORTING AND COMPLIANCE STATEMENTS

*Local Government Act 2020 (LGA 2020)*

Implications	Applicable to this Report
<b>Governance Principles</b> (Consideration of the Governance Principles under s.9 of LGA 2020)	Yes
<b>Policy/Relevant Law</b> (Consideration of the Governance Principles under s.9 of LGA 2020)	Yes
<b>Environmental/Sustainability Implications</b> (Consideration of the Governance Principles under s.9 of LGA 2020)	Yes
<b>Community Engagement</b> (Consideration of Community Engagement Principles under s.56 LGA 2020)	Yes
<b>Public Transparency</b> (Consideration of Public Transparency Principles under s.58 of LGA 2020)	Yes
<b>Strategies and Plans</b> (Consideration of Strategic Planning Principles under s.89 of LGA 2020)	Yes
<b>Financial Management</b> (Consideration of Financial Management Principles under s.101 of LGA 2020)	Yes
<b>Service Performance</b> (Consideration of Service Performance Principles under s.106 of LGA 2020)	Yes
<b>Risk Assessment</b>	Yes
<b>Communication</b>	Yes
<b>Human Rights Charter</b>	Yes
<b>Gender Equality</b> (Gender Impact Assessment required by s.9 of Gender Equality Act 2020)	Yes

### GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLES

The 2022-23 Draft Budget has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

### POLICY/RELEVANT LAW

*Local Government Act 2020*

*Local Government Amendment (Fair Go Rates) Act 2015*

*Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020*

Financial Plan

Annual Budget

### ENVIRONMENTAL/SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Environmentally sustainable design and construction is included for all projects.

### COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The principles contained in the 2021-2025 Council Plan were adopted after an extensive community engagement and consultation process. As mentioned earlier in the report the Draft Budget has been prepared based on these adopted principles.



As part of Council's Community Engagement Strategy, Council has implemented an ongoing process which has seen Councillors and officers participate in engagement activities prior to, and throughout, the process of developing the draft Budget.

A range of mediums were used in order to communicate to the community about the public exhibition period, including:

- Budget Engagement workshops in February;
- Public Consultation online and phone sessions in May;
- Four page article in Golden Plains Shire Gazette;
- Notices in the Geelong Advertiser and Ballarat Courier;
- Notices on Council's website, including a link directly to the submission page;
- Posts on Council's social media accounts; and
- Electronic copy made available on Council's website or in hard copy on request.

The 2022-23 Draft Budget has been placed on public exhibition as part of the legislated four week consultation period and was made available for inspection and comment up to the 30 May 2022 with feedback heard at a council meeting on 7 June 2022.

## **PUBLIC TRANSPARENCY**

The public consultation process facilitates transparency of the budget submitted for adoption and all Council reports are available for the public to access.

## **STRATEGIES/PLANS**

The 2022-23 Draft Budget has been prepared ensuring consistency with Council's long term financial plan, and also ensuring alignment with the 2021-2025 Council Plan.

## **FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT**

The 2022-23 Draft Budget has been prepared in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020*, *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020*, Australian Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements. Financial sustainability is monitored by considering the financial result for the period and key financial indicators within Council's long term financial plan

## **SERVICE PERFORMANCE**

Service performance levels are considered when developing the annual budget to ensure sufficient funds are available to meet required levels of performance.

## **RISK ASSESSMENT**

There are identified risk implications associated with this report, detailed below:

The 2022-23 Draft Budget has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020* incorporating long term financial plan requirements to ensure financial sustainability over the short and long term.

## **COMMUNICATION**

The 2022-23 Draft Budget has been reported to Council as it has been formulated with a series of workshops held with Council to facilitate the development of the draft budget. Budget engagement workshops were held in February 2022 and the 2022-23 Draft Budget was placed on public exhibition for a four week period up to 30 May 2022, with public submissions considered at the 7 June 2022 Council meeting, and adoption of the budget at the 28 June 2022 Council meeting.

## **HUMAN RIGHTS CHARTER**

It is considered that this report does not impact negatively on any rights identified in the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006 (VIC).

## **GENDER EQUALITY**

A gender impact assessment has been undertaken on the budget development process and has not identified any gender equality concerns. Any policies, programs or services that are proposed to be reviewed or developed as a result of adoption of the 2022-23 budget that would have a direct or significant impact on the public will be subject to a specific gender impact assessment at the planning stage.

## **OPTIONS**

### Option 1 – Council adopt the 2022-23 Budget

This option is recommended by officers as it is a requirement of the *Local Government Act 2020* to prepare and annual budget and formally adopt the budget by 30 June. Council have provided an extensive amount of information on all aspects of the budget and have also been involved in key decisions during the formulation. Adoption of the 2022-23 Budget will enable operations to continue, such as purchases relating to operations and capital works, and the issuing of the annual rates notices.

### Option 2 – Council postpone the adoption of the 2022-23 Budget

This option is not recommended by officers as postponing the adoption of the 2022-23 Budget will cause delays in delivering programs and projects as any new budgets are required to be approved by Council. If there are any delays in the adoption of the 2022-23 Budget this would impact the timing of the issuing of annual rates notices as the annual declaration of rates is included as part of the budget process. If not adopted this would prevent issuing the annual rates notices to customers.

## **CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

No officer involved in preparing this report has any conflicts of interest in regards to this matter.

## **CONCLUSION**

Council has prepared the 2022-23 budget in accordance with Section 96 of the *Local Government Act 2020* and undertaken all requirements under the *Local Government Act 2020*; including undertaking the statutory advertising process, the call for submissions, and providing the opportunity for submissions to be considered prior to adoption.

**7.4 COMMUNITY STRENGTHENING GRANTS - ROUND 1 2022****File Number:****Author:** Derek Scott, Corporate Strategic Planner**Authoriser:** Steven Sagona, Director Community Services**Attachments:** Nil**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council:

1. Note and acknowledge the approved Community Strengthening Grants, Round 1 2022 to the value of \$78,346 (as summarised in Attachment 1) to the following recipients:
  - Napoleons Memorial Hall Committee Ltd - Heating Napoleons Hall - \$7,628
  - Woody Yaloak Historical Society Inc - Market Equipment upgrade - \$2,645
  - Bicycle Network Incorporated - Great Vic Bike Ride 2022 - \$5,000
  - Linton and District Historical Society Inc. - Restoration of Linton Library Stage 2 - \$10,000
  - Golden Plains Arts Inc - Echoing Landscape: A creative learning experience - \$7,167
  - Inverleigh Historical Society - Inverleigh Community Stories - \$5,416
  - Wallinduc Community Group Inc - Wallinduc Welcome Rock Sculpture - \$4,950
  - Smythesdale Progress Association - Eagle Tree - \$1,000
  - Turtle Bend Committee Incorporated - Live@Turtle Bend 2022 - \$7,000
  - Ross Creek Landcare Group - Bridge over creek, Ross Creek Reserve - \$5,500
  - Friends of the Woody Landcare Group - Smythesdale Woody Yaloak River Community Project - \$2,294
  - Inverleigh Golf Club - Chipper Project - \$3,100
  - Geelong Landcare Network Inc. - Wildlife Hollows and Nesting Box Building Workshops - \$3,500
  - Ross Creek Tennis Club Incorporated - Ross Creek Social Pickle Ball - \$3,120
  - Haddon Community Learning Centre Inc - Blue Collar White Collar High Vis meals - \$4,480
  - Golden Plains Arts Inc - Journal To The Self - \$2,900
  - Bannockburn Inclusive - A bus trip and outing to Werribee Open Range Zoo - \$2,645
2. Allocate uncommitted funds from the 2021-22 Community Strengthening Grants program budget to increase the available seed funding from \$500 to \$3,000 for each of the three projects undertaken as part of the 2022 Golden Plains Shire Community Leadership Program (subject to application and acquittal processes), namely:
  - Bunjil Lookout Creative Gathering
  - Sharing Woodworking skills across the Generations
  - Breakfast Club at Lethbridge Primary School.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The purpose of this report is for Council to note and acknowledge the recommended funding of 17 projects, proposed by a variety of community groups through Council's Community Strengthening Grants Program, Round 1 2022.

Council received 18 applications for Round 1 during April 2022 as summarised in Attachment 1. The 17 proposed projects assessed as successful for grant funding will require \$78,346 to complete across the grant streams as follows:

- \$15,273 for the Safety related projects through the Community Safety Stream
- \$35,533 for Arts and Culture projects through the Creative Communities Stream
- \$14,394 for Environmental projects through the Environment and Sustainability Stream.
- \$13,145 for Health and Wellbeing, Sports and Recreation projects through the Healthy Active Living Stream.

Council's contribution of \$78,346 for the Round 1 Community Strengthening Grants 2022 will deliver \$234,693 in total value (across the 17 projects).

Successful recipients will be acknowledged via a Community Strengthening Grants presentation at the Council Meeting on 28 June 2022.

## BACKGROUND

Council is committed to ensuring Golden Plains communities thrive. The Community Strengthening Grants Program provides funding, expertise and support to not-for-profit organisations and community groups that deliver outcomes aligned to the Golden Plains Community Vision 2040 and the Council Plan 2021-2025.

A revised Community Grants Program Framework was developed and adopted by Council in February 2020. The grants program has a focus on:

- Empowering communities to identify and respond to local areas of need
- Partnering with community organisations to deliver shared outcomes
- Activating community participation amongst residents
- Building capacity within the community sector.

Under the Community Grants Program Framework, there are objectives, criteria, application and assessment forms specific to each of the following 4 grant streams:

- **Healthy Active Living** which seeks projects that help achieve the strategic objectives of the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan and of the Sport and Active Recreation Strategy 2020-2030.
- **Community Safety** which seeks projects that help achieve the goals, outcomes and strategic objectives of the Council's Community Safety Team.
- **Creative Community** which seeks projects that help achieve the goals, outcomes and strategic objectives of Council's Arts, Culture and Heritage Strategy 2022-2026.
- **Environment and Sustainability** which seeks projects that help achieve the goals, outcomes and strategic objectives of Council's Environment Strategy 2019-2027.

All streams of the Community Strengthening Grants are funded on a matched 1:1 ratio for amounts of up to \$10,000.

## DISCUSSION

The Community Strengthening Grants, Round 1 2022 opened on 1 April and closed on 2 May 2022, with extensive promotion and advertising through:

- Council's website
- Media release
- Social media
- Community newsletters
- Golden Plains eGazette, dated 4 March, 2022
- Golden Plains eGazette, dated 11 April, 2022
- Email blasts to Community Groups, Committees, Sport and Recreation Clubs
- Web banner.

Community Strengthening Grant drop-in sessions were conducted at Bannockburn, Teesdale, Inverleigh, Smythesdale, Linton, Dereel and Meredith. Two additional drop-in sessions were held on-line to accommodate community members unable to attend in person. Additionally, communities were offered one-to-one grant conversations and support sessions with Council's Community Partnerships Officer.

## Applications Received and Assessed

Initially, 18 applications were received for the Community Strengthening Grants Round 1 2022 requesting \$87,146 in funding. Following initial eligibility assessments of grant applications, none were ruled as ineligible under the program guidelines. Scoring and panel assessments against criteria determined that 1 grant application was unsuccessful due to not providing the community benefit needed to be considered. Two grants were awarded reduced funding from their application.

The 18 applications were assessed with the outcomes and breakdown of grants across all streams as follows:

- Council received 4 applications to the **Community Safety** stream requesting \$21,073 in funding. The applications were from:
  - Napoleons Memorial Hall Committee Ltd - Heating Napoleons Hall - \$7,628
  - Woody Yaloak Historical Society Inc - Market Equipment upgrade - \$2,545
  - Bicycle Network Incorporated - Great Vic Bike Ride 2022 - \$10,000. The recommended funding reduces the total amount to \$5,000.
  - Smythesdale Progress Association - Smythesdale Public Gardens Security Cameras - \$800. Application was determined to be unsuccessful by the assessment panel.
- Council received 6 applications to the **Creative Community** stream requesting a total of \$38,533 in funding. This included applications from:
  - Linton and District Historical Society Inc. - Restoration of Linton Library Stage 2 - \$10,000.
  - Golden Plains Arts Inc - Echoing Landscape: A creative learning experience - \$7,167.
  - Inverleigh Historical Society - Inverleigh Community Stories - \$5,416.
  - Wallinduc Community Group Inc - Wallinduc Welcome Rock Sculpture - \$4,950.
  - Smythesdale Progress Association - Eagle Tree - \$1,000.
  - Turtle Bend Committee Incorporated - Live@Turtle Bend 2022Live@Turtle Bend 2022 - \$10,000. The recommended funding reduces the amount to \$7,000.
- Council received 4 applications to the **Environment and Sustainability** stream requesting a total of \$14,394 in funding. This included applications from:
  - Ross Creek Landcare Group - Bridge over creek, Ross Creek Reserve - \$5,500.
  - Friends of the Woody Landcare Group - Smythesdale Woody Yaloak River Community Project - \$2,294.
  - Inverleigh Golf Club - Chipper Project - \$3,100.
  - Geelong Landcare Network Inc. - Wildlife Hollows and Nesting Box Building Workshops - \$3,500.
- Council received 4 applications to the **Healthy and Active Living** stream requesting a total of \$13,145 in funding. This included applications from:
  - Ross Creek Tennis Club Incorporated - Ross Creek Social Pickle Ball - \$3,120.
  - Haddon Community Learning Centre Inc - Blue Collar White Collar High Vis meals - \$4,480.

- Golden Plains Arts Inc - Journal To The Self - \$2,900.
- Bannockburn Inclusive - A bus trip and outing to Werribee Open Range Zoo - \$2,645.

### **Assessment Process**

Each application was assessed for eligibility and then evaluated by an internal panel using SmartyGrants software against the following criteria identified in the funding guidelines for applicants:

- Clear objectives (10%)
- Alignment with the specific grant streams objectives (30%)
- Clear outcomes and benefits to target group (20%)
- Lasting community impact (20%)
- Project management ability (10%)
- Budget (10%)

The panel for each stream was made up of the Community Partnerships Officer or the Strategic Corporate Planer with officers whose roles are directly related to each particular stream - for example, the Arts and Culture Advisor for the Creative Community Stream or Recreation Officer for Healthy Active Living Grants. The panel members assessed each application they were assigned individually, through SmartyGrants. The assessment forms were consistent across streams. Once the applications had been assessed and scored individually, these assessments were collated and the panel met to discuss each one, to compare and justify the scores they had given.

As required under the Community Grants Framework, the full list of projects, details of assessment and recommendations for funding were provided to the Chief Executive Officer for review and approval (as detailed in Attachment 1). The CEO has reviewed and approved the 17 projects for funding to the total value of \$78,346 as listed in the report recommendation.

Council's contribution of \$78,346 for the Round 1 Community Strengthening Grants 2022 will leverage a further \$156,346 from the community in the delivery of the 17 projects. With matching community contributions, this equates to \$234,693 in total value for Council's investment.

It should be noted that for grants applications that either did not meet the funding criteria or were assessed as unsuccessful, Council officers will make contact with the applicants to further advise and assist with future funding rounds or alternative options.

### **Program Analysis**

Analysis of the previous Community Strengthening Grants Round identified the need to further build the capacity of community groups in gathering information and presenting quality grant applications and opportunities for support/mentoring. Activities to assist with this included:

- In the lead up to Round 1 of the Community Strengthening Grants 2022, six scheduled community grant drop-ins at Bannockburn, Teesdale, Inverleigh, Smythesdale, Linton, Dereel and Meredith were scheduled, allowing community groups/members an opportunity to discuss their grant applications, clarify any grant criteria requirements and better understand the requirements of an auspice arrangement. Two on-line drop-in sessions were also conducted with one-to-one online or phone conversations to further support community groups.
- A revised set of guidelines were developed to streamline the application process and requirements pertaining to grants submissions. This provided further clarity by condensing the previous five guidelines into one document to avoid duplication and provide additional clarity.
- A new Auspice agreement form was developed and implemented for the Round 1 2022 Community Strengthening Grant program to assist community groups who were not incorporated and required insurance support.
- Changes to the online grant application forms and user interface were implemented based on feedback provided after the Community Strengthening Grants Round 2 2021.

Round 1 of the 2022 Community Strengthening Grants Program was oversubscribed with 18 initial applications requesting a total \$87,146. This is a strong indication that the additional support provided to community groups has assisted in building community capacity to prepare applications.

In addition, for the second time, a question asking grant applicants how many volunteers will work on the grant projects was collected. It has been indicated that a total of 1,702 volunteer hours will contribute to the successful grant projects.

A short program summary detailing the delivery of Community Strengthening Grants over the previous two calendar years (and since adoption of new Framework in February 2020) is provided as Attachment Two. This also highlights a sample of the various projects delivered and community outcomes achieved with the assistance of Council's Strengthening Grants Program.

### **Awarding of Successful Grants**

Following acknowledgement of this report at the Council Briefing on 21 June, Councillors will be invited to recognise the 17 successful grant recipients at the commencement of the Council Meeting on 28 June 2022. A short description of each group's project, its importance to the community and the amount of funding awarded will be announced.

Representatives from the successful community groups will be invited to attend the Council Meeting or dial into the meeting virtually.

### **Community Leadership Program**

Since March 2022, eleven aspiring community leaders from across Golden Plains have come together to undertake a Community Leadership Program run by Council's Health & Wellbeing Team. Participants have undertaken training on the concepts of leadership, goal setting and the importance of learning and working together.

The program has been run over a 12-week period and will culminate in three community led group projects being implemented that link to the objectives the Council Plan and integrated Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021-2025. The three group projects, as presented to a number of Councillors and members of Council's Management Team at an online session on Tuesday 14 June, are as follows:

- **Bunjil Lookout Creative Gathering** - a community event will be held at Bunjil Lookout and Community Centre in Maude with a focus on connecting community with Arts, Culture and Heritage. The event will include free engagement activities and workshops led by local First Nation's Peoples and experienced artists to attract visitors/residents from across the Shire.
- **Sharing Woodworking skills across the Generations** – this intergenerational partnership project will work with the Dereel Men's Shed and school students to build multiuse desks and gaming consoles. Participants in this community connection activity will teach or learn traditional skills in woodworking, carpentry and using specialised equipment and tools.
- **Breakfast Club at Lethbridge Primary School** – this project will partner with the primary school, business and community groups to target concerns about school aged children not having access to a healthy breakfast or adequate levels of fruit. A Breakfast Club will run in the last four weeks of Term 4 and fruit boxes will be delivered to classrooms.

To further support the delivery of the three initiatives, it is proposed that a further \$2,500 in seed funding (on top of the existing \$500 already available under the Community Leadership Program) be made available to each of the three projects. This will occur subject to the application details being submitted by the three groups (via SmartyGrants) and require acquittal processes equivalent to what occurs with all Community Strengthening Grants.

### **REPORTING AND COMPLIANCE STATEMENTS**

*Local Government Act 2020 (LGA 2020)*

Implications	Applicable to this
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	<b>Report</b>
<b>Governance Principles</b> (Consideration of the Governance Principles under s.9 of LGA 2020)	Yes
<b>Policy/Relevant Law</b> (Consideration of the Governance Principles under s.9 of LGA 2020)	Yes
<b>Environmental/Sustainability Implications</b> (Consideration of the Governance Principles under s.9 of LGA 2020)	Yes
<b>Community Engagement</b> (Consideration of Community Engagement Principles under s.56 LGA 2020)	Yes
<b>Public Transparency</b> (Consideration of Public Transparency Principles under s.58 of LGA 2020)	Yes
<b>Strategies and Plans</b> (Consideration of Strategic Planning Principles under s.89 of LGA 2020)	No
<b>Financial Management</b> (Consideration of Financial Management Principles under s.101 of LGA 2020)	Yes
<b>Service Performance</b> (Consideration of Service Performance Principles under s.106 of LGA 2020)	No
<b>Risk Assessment</b>	Yes
<b>Communication</b>	Yes
<b>Human Rights Charter</b>	Yes
<b>Gender Equality</b> (Gender Impact Assessment required by s.9 of Gender Equality Act 2020)	Yes

## GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLES

The Governance Principles under section 9 of the Local Government Act 2020 have been considered and applied both in the recent review of the Community Strengthening Grants program and in the assessment of applications in this round.

## POLICY/RELEVANT LAW

Council 5.1 Community Grants Program Policy.

The Community Grants Program aims to enable community groups to further enhance the wellbeing and quality of life of the wider community in a partnership relationship with Council.

## ENVIRONMENTAL/SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

The Environment and Sustainability funding stream of the Community Strengthening Grants Program directly targets environmental sustainability, resilience and a healthy environment for communities in Golden Plains Shire.



## **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

The following strategies were undertaken to promote the Community Strengthening Grants Program, Round 1 2022:

- Promotional articles published in the Golden Plains Gazette and in a number of community newsletters.
- Emails were provided to community groups, sport and recreation clubs, community and coordinators.
- A variety of articles and promotion was undertaken via Council's website and Social Media platforms including the promotion of drop-in sessions.
- One-on-one mentoring was offered and provided via meetings, online conferencing or over the telephone.

## **PUBLIC TRANSPARENCY**

The Community Grants Program Framework was adopted in February 2020 and provides clear processes and criteria for public transparency in the submission, assessment and awarding of community grants.

## **FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT**

Council's Annual Budget provides an allocation of \$157,500 toward the Community Grants Program, of which \$12,500 is allocated to SmartyGrants management software. This enables \$145,000 in total grant value to be provided across the Financial Year.

Proposed funding of \$78,346 in this round will be paid from the FY22/23 budget and will leave \$66,653 in budget for the Community Strengthening Grants Round 2, 2022 which is scheduled for September 2022. It is also anticipated the Berrybank Windfarm Grants funding will come online and be available for community applications later in 2022 (expected value \$60,000).

The additional \$7,500 in seed funding provided to the Community Leadership Program projects/initiatives (extra \$2,500 each) will come from the 2021/22 Community Strengthening Grants budget - where an underspend exists across the current financial year.

## **RISK ASSESSMENT**

There are identified risk implications associated with this report, detailed below:

A common risk associated with grant programs concerns the application of fair, consistent, transparent and merit-based assessment processes. The Community Strengthening Grants Framework is applied to the assessment of all applications for grants in the interests of a consistent approach to both identifying and mitigating risks to the community and Council.

## **COMMUNICATION**

Communication on the outcome of all applications received for the Community Strengthening Grants will occur following this report being acknowledged by Council. A ceremony to award the grants at the Council meeting on 28 June 2022 will be undertaken and the outcomes will be promoted via Council's digital and print media platforms.

## **HUMAN RIGHTS CHARTER**

It is considered that this report does not impact negatively on any rights identified in the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006 (VIC).

## **GENDER EQUALITY**

As this report relates to the development or review of a policy, program or service that has a direct and significant impact on the public, the Gender Equality Act 2020 requires that a Gender Impact Assessment (GIA) be undertaken. A GIA was conducted on the Community Strengthening Grants Program in May 2022 and there are no identified gender inequality implications.

## OPTIONS

Option 1 – Council note and acknowledge the approved community grants recipients and provide additional seed funding to the Community Leadership Program projects as detailed in this report.

This option is recommended by officers as the Community Grants Framework as adopted by Council in February 2020 has been applied to all grants applications and following an assessment process, the funded projects have been approved by the CEO.

The additional seed funding contributions of \$2,500 each will be subject to application and acquittal processes as required for the Community Strengthening Grants.

Option 2 – Council do not acknowledge the approved community grants recipients and provide additional seed funding to the Community Leadership Program projects as detailed in this report.

This option is not recommended by officers as Council's adopted Community Grants Framework has been applied to all grants applications and the funded projects have been approved by the CEO.

Not making additional seed funding available to the Community Leadership Program projects will limit the scale, reach and potential sustainability of these valuable community initiatives.

Option 3 – Council defer the report.

This option is not recommended by officers as Council's adopted Community Grants Framework has been applied to all grants applications and the funded projects have been approved by the CEO. Furthermore, this would likely lead to a delay in the provision of grants to community groups who lodged their grant applications during April 2022 and not enable timely additional seed funding for implementation of the Community Leadership Program projects.

## CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No officer involved in preparing this report has any conflicts of interest in regards to this matter.

## CONCLUSION

Round 1 applications for the 2022 Community Strengthening Grants Program have been assessed against the criteria set by Council under the Community Grants Program framework that was revised and adopted in February 2020.

Following CEO review, 17 projects as summarised in Attachment One have been approved for funding to the total value of \$78,346 across the four funding streams – Healthy Active Living, Creative Community, Community Safety and Environment & Sustainability. Council's investment of \$78,346 will deliver a return of \$234,693 in total project value to local communities across Golden Plains Shire and it is estimated that 1,702 volunteer hours will be engaged in these projects.

Following acknowledgement of this report at the Council Briefing on 21 June, Councillors will be invited to recognise the successful grant recipients at the commencement of the Council Meeting on 28 June. A short description of each group's project, its importance to the community and the amount of funding awarded will be announced.

Representatives from the successful community groups will be invited to attend the Council Meeting or dial into the meeting virtually.

The additional \$2,500 in seed funding for each of the Community Leadership Program projects will provide the program participants with further assistance, reach and capacity in the delivery of these community-based initiatives.

## 7.5 COMMUNITY SATISFACTION SURVEY 2022 - REPORT FINDINGS

### File Number:

**Author:** Ben Jordan, Manager Recreation & Community Development  
**Authoriser:** Steven Sagona, Director Community Services  
**Attachments:** 1. Community Satisfaction Survey 2022 Report  
2. Community Satisfaction Survey 2022 Tailored Questions Report

### RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and note the 2022 Community Satisfaction Survey reports for Golden Plains Shire Council.

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### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Each year, Local Government Victoria (LGV) coordinates a State-wide Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey (Survey) throughout Victorian local government areas. JWS Research conducted the survey on behalf of the participating Councils, including Golden Plains Shire Council in 2022.

The Survey was conducted in early 2022 via telephone interviews with 400 Golden Plains Shire residents with the results and survey reports provided to Council. The survey provides insights into the community's views on both importance and performance in relation to Council services and infrastructure and is comparable to previous years' results, the average at like Councils (Large Rural group) and the Victorian State-wide average.

The community perceptions of Council's performance have improved from 2021 with positive movement in index score results recorded for Value for money, Customer service, Waste management, Lobbying on behalf of community, Decisions made in the interests of community and Consultation & engagement. Community perception continues to fall in the areas of Sealed Local roads and Unsealed roads.

Overall, Golden Plains Shire Council's community satisfaction scores rate lower than both the average of the Large Rural Councils (like Council grouping) and Victorian State-wide Councils averages. However, between 2021 and 2022, Golden Plains scores have improved in comparison to these averages across all areas except Sealed Local roads.

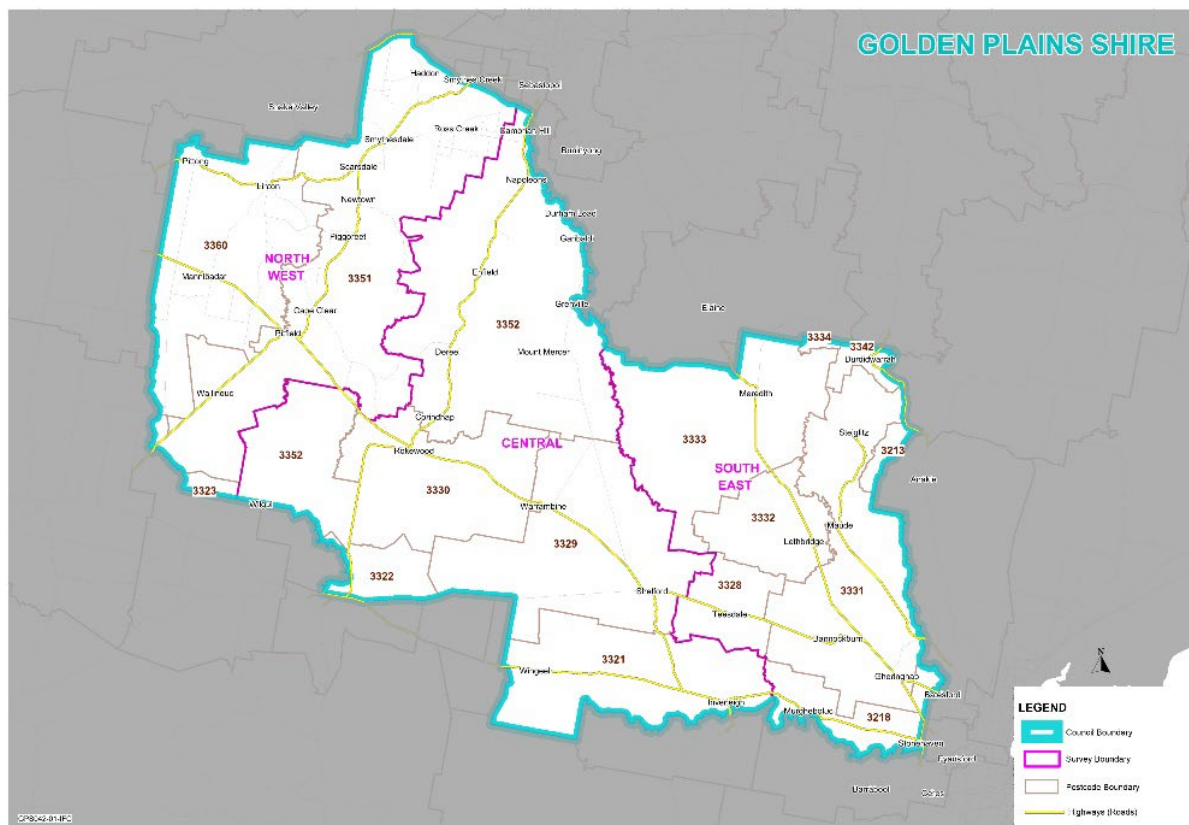
The full reports (Attachment One and Two) detail key findings and recommendations on areas for improvement for Council. Mark Zuker, from JWS Research presented and discussed the survey results at the Councillor Briefing on 21 June 2022.

### BACKGROUND

Since 1998, Local Government Victoria has coordinated a State-wide Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey (CSS) throughout Victorian local government areas. The main objectives of the survey are to assess the performance of Golden Plains Shire Council across a range of measures and to seek insight into the ways to provide improved or more efficient service and infrastructure delivery. The CSS also enables Council to fulfil statutory reporting requirements by collecting indicator data that is reported to the Local Government Performance Reporting Framework and Annual Report (Performance Statement).

The data was collected through 400 resident telephone surveys over the period 27 January to 24 March 2022 with respondents being a representative random sample of Golden Plains Shire community members aged 18+ including minimum quotas of gender within various age groups. Data/scores within the each of the areas measured in the survey is reported by age group and gender. To enable a further local geographical split and a deeper understanding of the view of residents across the Shire, Council requested the ability to capture community responses by 3

different areas from 2020 onwards. These three areas, as presented below, are the North-West, Central and South-East.



In 2022, 67 of the 79 Victorian Councils participated in the Community Satisfaction Survey – the remaining 12 Councils individually conduct their own equivalent survey. Since 2015, Golden Plains Shire Council has been included in the ‘Large Rural’ Council category. This groups Golden Plains with the following 17 other LGAs in the 2022 survey: Bass Coast, Baw Baw, Campaspe, Colac Otway, Corangamite, Glenelg, Macedon Ranges, Mitchell, Moira, Moorabool, Mount Alexander, Moyne, South Gippsland, Southern Grampians, Surf Coast, Swan Hill and Wellington.

In addition to the standard CSS survey questions, some optional and tailored questions were added to the 2022 survey of Golden Plains residents to further explore areas for improvement or elicit more detailed responses. These questions were:

- If Golden Plains Shire Council was going to get in touch with you to inform you about Council news and information and upcoming events, which one of the following is the best way to communicate and engage with you? (Multiple choice question)
- You earlier rated the performance of sealed local roads as [average / poor / very poor], what is your major complaint that influenced your rating of sealed local roads? (Open response)
- Can you specify which particular sealed local road or roads are of concern? (Open response)
- You earlier rated the performance of unsealed local roads as [average / poor / very poor], what is your major complaint that influenced your rating of unsealed roads? (Open response)
- If you had to choose, would you prefer to see Council rates rise to improve rural roads, Council services or facilities or would you prefer to see future rate rises kept to a minimum? (Multiple choice from a list of four responses)
  - For those who answered they would prefer to see Council rates rise to improve rural roads, Council services or facilities - Where would you like to see this greater investment? (Open response)

- For those who answered keep rate rises kept to a minimum - What services or facilities would you be prepared to see reduced? (Open response)
- What do you think is the best achievement or project that Golden Plains Shire Council has delivered in recent years? (Open response)

All analysis of responses is provided in two attached reports – the Community Satisfaction Survey Report (Attachment One) and the Golden Plains Shire Council Tailored Questions Report (Attachment Two).

## DISCUSSION











The Community Satisfaction Survey Report (Attachment One) is divided into two areas:

- Key Performance Areas – Overall performance, Value for money, Overall Council direction, Customer service
- Individual Service Areas – Waste management, Lobbying, Community decisions, Consultation and engagement, Sealed local roads and Unsealed local roads which provides resident data on both importance and performance of these services.

The results of the two areas above are benchmarked against the 2021 Golden Plains results, the Large Rural Councils Average and Victorian State-wide Average.

## Survey Results

Figure 1 below provides a high-level summary on the Key Performance Areas and Individual Service Areas of the CSS.

Services		Golden Plains 2022	Golden Plains 2021	Large Rural 2022	State-wide 2022
	Overall performance	51	51	55	59
	Value for money	42	40	48	53
	Overall council direction	45	45	47	50
	Customer service	64	62	67	68
	Waste management	60	57	65	68
	Lobbying	51	50	51	53
	Community decisions	50	49	51	54
	Consultation & engagement	49	47	51	54
	Sealed local roads	37	42	45	53
	Unsealed roads	33	36	39	41

The summary of Council's performance indicates mostly minor positive change in the 2022 CSS scores when compared to those recorded in 2021 except in the areas of roads. This includes:

- Small improvements in Golden Plains index scores for Waste management (+3), Value for money (+2), Customer service (+2), Consultation and engagement (+2), Lobbying on behalf of community (+1) and Decisions made in the interests of community (+1).
- Negative movement in the index scores for Sealed local roads (-5) and unsealed roads (-3) from the 2021 scores.
- No movement in Overall performance and Overall Council direction from the 2021 results.
- Results across the CSS for Golden Plains Shire remain lower than the Large Rural Councils Average and Victorian State-wide Average - the only exception is Lobbying on behalf of community (score of 51) which is equal to the Large Rural Councils Average.
- Customer service remains Council's highest index score (64) – consistent with the Large Rural and State-wide averages where Customer service is the highest/equal highest score.
- Unsealed roads is the lowest index score (33) for Golden Plains – consistent with the Large Rural and State-wide averages where Unsealed roads is also clearly the lowest score.

### Year to Year Trends 2021 to 2022 – Golden Plains compared to other Councils

It is interesting to note, that Golden Plain Shire Council's year to year (from 2021 to 2022) trend in improving or maintaining results across all categories except roads, is the opposite of the year to year trend in the Large Rural Councils and State-wide Councils averages. However, the year to year decline in the Sealed Local Roads and Unsealed Roads results is consistent with the trend for both the Large Rural Councils and State-wide Councils averages as depicted in the table below.

Services	GPSC Change 2021 to 2022	Large Rural (Ave) Change 2021 to 2022	State-wide (Ave) Change 2021 to 2022	Net Change – Trend comment 2021 to 2022
<b>Overall performance</b>	unchanged	-3	-2	GPSC is 3 points closer to Large Rural Average and 2 points closer to State-wide Average than in 2021
<b>Value for money</b>	+2	-2	-1	GPSC is 4 points closer to Large Rural Average and 3 points closer to State-wide Average than in 2021
<b>Overall Council direction</b>	unchanged	-4	-3	GPSC is 4 points closer to Large Rural Average and 3 points closer to State-wide Average than in 2021
<b>Customer service</b>	+2	-1	-2	GPSC is 3 points closer to Large Rural Average and 3 points closer to State-wide Average than in 2021
<b>Waste management</b>	+3	-1	-1	GPSC is 4 points closer to Large Rural Average and 4 points closer to State-wide Average than in 2021
<b>Lobbying</b>	+1	-3	-2	GPSC is 4 points closer to Large Rural Average and 3 points closer to State-wide Average than in 2021
<b>Community Decisions</b>	+1	-3	-2	GPSC is 4 points closer to Large Rural Average and 3 points closer to State-wide Average than in 2021
<b>Consultation &amp; engagement</b>	+2	-3	-2	GPSC is 5 points closer to Large Rural Average and 4 points closer to State-wide Average than in 2021
<b>Sealed local roads</b>	-5	-5	-4	GPSC is same compared Large Rural Average and 1 point further behind State-wide Average than in 2021
<b>Unsealed roads</b>	-3	-5	-4	GPSC is 2 points closer to Large Rural Average and 1 point closer to State-wide Average than in 2021

As summarised in the table - over the past year, Golden Plains has moved closer to the Large Rural Councils Average on all scores except for Sealed local roads which remains unchanged. Golden Plains has also moved closer to the State-wide Councils Average on all scores except Sealed Local Roads which has slipped a further point behind the State-wide Councils Average.

### Contact with Council and Customer Service

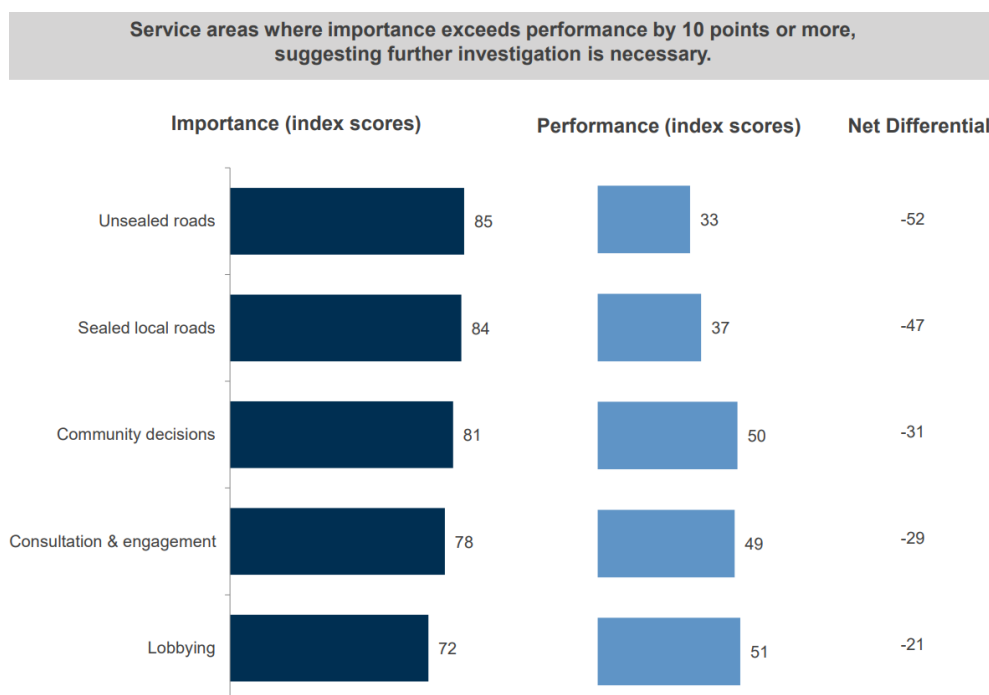
Over two thirds (67%) of Golden Plains Shire survey respondents had contact with Council in the last 12 months which is 4% higher than in 2021. In the last 12 months, the rate of contact has increased significantly among residents aged 18 to 34 years (from 52% to 67%) and among people in the North-West of the Shire (from 57% to 70%). Six in ten (61%) respondents who had contact with Council provided a customer service rating of 'very good' or 'good', including 27% of respondents rating Council's customer service 'very good'.

### Council direction

Perceptions of Council's overall direction in the 2022 CSS are very similar to those seen in 2021. Seven in ten residents (70%) believe the direction of Council's overall performance over the last 12 months has stayed the same, up five percentage points on 2021. The cohorts most satisfied with Council's direction are those aged 18-34 years (index score of 52) and those in the North-West of the Shire (index score of 51) which represents score increases of 7 and 6 respectively when compared to Council's overall direction in 2021.

### Importance vs Performance

The individual service areas showing the largest differential of Importance vs Performance as rated by survey respondents and the net differential is shown below.



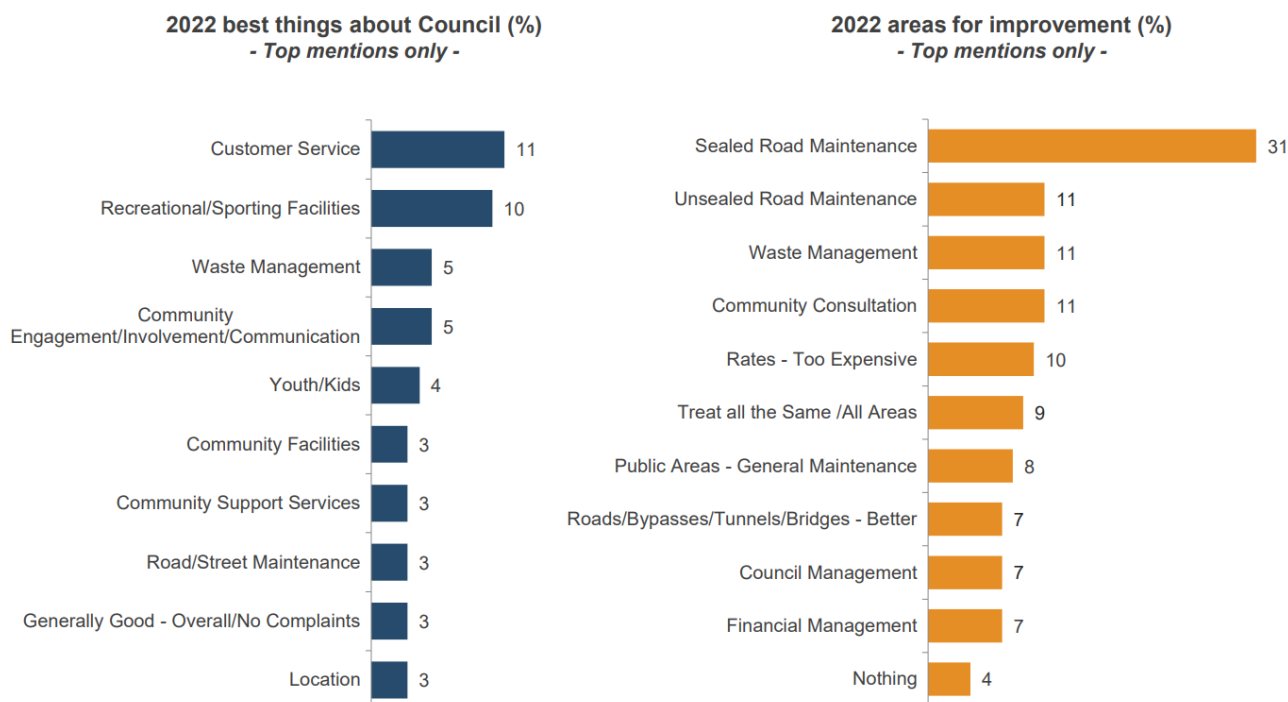
Unsurprisingly, the biggest differentials (-52 and -47) in index scores for Importance vs Performance were in the lowest performing service areas of Unsealed roads and Sealed local roads. The lowest differential from this list (-21) - still more than double what is regarded as statistically significant [ $\pm 10$ ] was in Lobbying on behalf of community where Council's performance score was somewhat higher (index score of 51).

### Best Things about Council and Areas for Improvement

Survey participants were asked "What is the one best thing about Golden Plains Shire Council?" and also "What does Council need to do to most improve its performance?" The results in Figure 3 below indicate Customer Service as the most popular response for the one best thing about Council closely followed by Recreation and Sporting Facilities. The area for most improvement by a significant margin (as in 2021) was Sealed Road Maintenance.



Figure 1 – Best things about Council and areas for improvement



### Tailored Questions

The responses and results to the Tailored Questions specifically requested by Golden Plains Shire are available in Attachment Two. Key highlights from this section of the CSS report and the upward/downward trends when compared to 2021 survey results are as follows:

- Best way to Communicate and Engage (%):
  - The Gazette – 30% (↑4%)
  - E-newsletters – 23% (↑1%)
  - Social Media – 19% - (↓3%)
- Major complaints influencing the rating of Local Sealed Roads (%):
  - Potholes – 77% (↑6%)
  - Poor surface condition - 34% (↓2%)
  - Road shoulder issues – 18% (↑2%)
  - Road safety – 18% (↑4%)
- Of the individual sealed local roads identified multiple times (all responses are provided verbatim in a file), those that are of most concern are McPhillips Rd, Bannockburn (4%) and Hope Plains Rd/Faulkner Rd, Inverleigh (3%). 26% of respondents answered unsure / no specific road / all roads in general.
- Major complaints that influence the rating of Unsealed Local Roads (%):
  - Potholes – 52% (same as 2021)
  - Road Corrugation – 38% (↑2%)
  - Loose surface – 25% (↑4%)
- Services or facilities where people would like to see greater investment (%):
  - Roads – 62% (↑6%)
  - Community facilities, service infrastructure – 10% (↓14%)
- Services or facilities that people are prepared to see reduced (%):
  - Don't know / can't say – 66% (↑1%)
  - Council buildings / staff personal expenses / functions / wages – 13% (same as in 2021)



- Parks and recreational facilities – 5% (↑2%)
- The best achievement or projects identified that Council had delivered in recent years were:
  - Bannockburn Heart (water/adventure park) – 12%
  - Roads upgrades / maintenance – 11%
  - Sporting grounds and facilities – 7%
  - Playgrounds, parks – 6%

### Geographical Split

The geographical split of Golden Plains Shire into the three areas – North-West, South-East and Central is provided in response to all the questions on performance and importance within the standard CSS Report (Attachment One).

It is worth noting that although the scores vary across the different measures for the three locations, the North-West area respondents rated Council's performance highest (or equal highest) on nine of the ten results where performance comparisons are made. The lowest individual service performance rating across all geographical areas was for Unsealed roads in the Central area of the Shire (with an index score of only 29).

### Areas for Council to focus on / improve

The CSS Report (Attachment One) outlines that with sealed local roads and unsealed roads having declined further over the past 12 months (to the lowest ratings ever recorded), they warrant further focus. Perceived importance in both these areas continues to exceed performance by the widest margins and these are also the top 2 areas identified by survey respondents for improvement.

The report also advises that Golden Plains Shire Council:

- Should look to build upon its relatively strong performance on waste management and customer service.
- Is rated most similarly to the like Council (Large Rural) and State-wide averages in the area of lobbying on behalf of community.
- Should make endeavours to consolidate performance in the service areas where ratings are stable and to ensure ratings in other areas do not slip.
- Has achieved community opinion of performance that is more favourable in the past in most service areas, so there is evidence Council can do better.

## REPORTING AND COMPLIANCE STATEMENTS

*Local Government Act 2020 (LGA 2020)*

Implications	Applicable to this Report
<b>Governance Principles</b> (Consideration of the Governance Principles under s.9 of LGA 2020)	Yes
<b>Policy/Relevant Law</b> (Consideration of the Governance Principles under s.9 of LGA 2020)	Yes
<b>Environmental/Sustainability Implications</b> (Consideration of the Governance Principles under s.9 of LGA 2020)	No
<b>Community Engagement</b> (Consideration of Community Engagement Principles under s.56 LGA 2020)	Yes
<b>Public Transparency</b> (Consideration of Public Transparency Principles under s.58 of LGA 2020)	Yes
<b>Strategies and Plans</b>	Yes

(Consideration of Strategic Planning Principles under s.89 of LGA 2020)	
<b>Financial Management</b> (Consideration of Financial Management Principles under s.101 of LGA 2020)	No
<b>Service Performance</b> (Consideration of Service Performance Principles under s.106 of LGA 2020)	Yes
<b>Risk Assessment</b>	Yes
<b>Communication</b>	Yes
<b>Human Rights Charter</b>	Yes
<b>Gender Equality</b> (Gender Impact Assessment required by s.9 of Gender Equality Act 2020)	See comment below under 'Gender Equality'

## GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLES

Consideration of the governance principles in Section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, has been applied to Council's participation and reporting of the CSS, including:

- Council decisions are to be made and actions taken in accordance with the relevant law.
- The municipal community is to be engaged in strategic planning and strategic decision making.
- Innovation and continuous improvement is to be pursued.
- Ensuring transparency of Council decisions, actions and information.

## POLICY/RELEVANT LAW

Section 98 (Annual report) of the *Local Government Act 2020* includes that the prescribed indicators of service performance for the services provided by Council and the prescribed measures relating to those indicators are required to be reported.

The CSS is the mechanism/source for collecting and reporting a number of these service indicators annually for Council's across Victoria including Golden Plains Shire Council.

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Community Satisfaction Survey is an engagement exercise to collect, analyse and report information directly from the public on the community's perceptions of importance and performance on a number of the services provided by Council.

The CSS is consistent with the community engagement principles in the *Local Government Act 2020* including that a community engagement process must have a clearly defined objective and scope and that participants in community engagement must be representative of the persons and groups affected by the matter that is the subject of the community engagement.

## PUBLIC TRANSPARENCY

The independent process for the collection, analysis and reporting of the CSS data provides for a consistent approach and public transparency to inform decision making through actions and information that is accessible and guided by members of the community.

## STRATEGIES/PLANS

Council has given effect to the Strategic Planning principles under Section 89 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, including that the Community Satisfaction Survey processes and data contribute to:

- an integrated approach to planning, monitoring and performance reporting is to be adopted.

- strategic planning must provide for ongoing monitoring of progress and regular reviews to identify and address changing circumstances.

## **SERVICE PERFORMANCE**

The Strategic Performance principles under Section 106 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, are informed through the data/results from the Community Satisfaction Survey, including that:

- services should be provided in an equitable manner and be responsive to the diverse needs of the municipal community.
- services should be accessible to the members of the municipal community for whom the services are intended.
- quality and costs standards for services set by the Council should provide good value to the municipal community.
- Council should seek to continuously improve service delivery to the municipal community in response to performance monitoring.

## **RISK ASSESSMENT**

- The annual surveying, data collection and reporting of the CSS mitigates the risk of Council not complying with the reporting requirements under the *Local Government Act 2020*.
- The provision of this report, presentation and further communication of Council's CSS results (including via the Annual Report and Know Your Council website) demonstrates how community involvement can inform Council decision making and minimises the risk of not providing public transparency on reporting on feedback from community engagement.

## **COMMUNICATION**

Communication on conducting of the Community Satisfaction Survey was provided internally and externally in early 2022 to inform Council staff and the community of the process being undertaken by JWS Research.

Further communication regarding the CSS results will be provided following the receiving of this report by Council including information that will be provided to the Know Your Council website and Council's Annual Report.

## **HUMAN RIGHTS CHARTER**

It is considered that this report does not impact negatively on any rights identified in the *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006* (Vic).

## **GENDER EQUALITY**

While a Gender Impact Assessment in relation to this report is not specifically required, it is worth noting that gender equality in the CSS process is ensured through the application of quotas of gender within age groups during the fieldwork phase. Post-survey weighting is also applied to ensure accurate representation of the age and gender profile of the Golden Plains Shire Council area and scores within the each of the areas measured in the survey are reported by age group and gender.

## **OPTIONS**

Option 1 – That Council receive the 2022 Community Satisfaction Survey reports for Golden Plains Shire Council.

This option is recommended by officers as the annual Community Satisfaction Survey has been completed across Victoria for 2022 with results and information now available for reporting to Council and providing back to the community.

Option 2 - That Council does not receive the 2022 Community Satisfaction Survey reports for Golden Plains Shire Council.

This option is not recommended by officers as the CSS provides the opportunity to review, consider and benchmark community feedback on Council's services and infrastructure and there is a legislative requirement for Council to report against a number of the measures collected through the CSS.

Option 3 – That Council defer receiving the 2022 Community Satisfaction Survey reports for Golden Plains Shire Council.

This option is not recommended by officers as CSS results are collected and reported annually at this time for review and to consider community feedback on Council's performance. This also enables end of financial year reporting for 2021/22.

### **CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

No officer involved in preparing this report has any conflicts of interest in regards to this matter.

### **CONCLUSION**

The 2022 Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey has been completed with 400 Golden Plains Shire community members being surveyed and providing input. The two survey reports have been provided by JWS Research for Council to review and receive. Mark Zuker from JWS Research presented the survey results at the Councillor Briefing on 21 June 2022.

Attachment One provides Council's 2022 CSS results across a number of measures that enable benchmarking and comparison with previous Golden Plains Shire Council results, the Large Rural Councils averages and the Victorian State-wide averages. Attachment Two reports on tailored CSS questions specific to Golden Plains Shire for further information and depth on local issues.

## **7.6 COUNCIL PLAN 2021-2025 IMPLEMENTATION - QUARTER THREE**

### **File Number:**

**Author:** Sophie Brown, Governance and Legal Services Specialist

**Authoriser:** Simon Rennie, Director Corporate Services

**Attachments:** 1. Council Plan Implementation Report – Quarter 3

### **RECOMMENDATION**

That Council note the report and implementation of the actions contained in the Council Plan 2021-2025 for Q3 from 1 January 2022 31 March 2022.

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### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This report is to update Council on the progress made in actioning the Council Plan 2021-2025 for Q3.

### **BACKGROUND**

The Council Plan 2021-2025 is Council's commitment to delivering on the dreams and aspirations outlined in the Golden Plains Shire Community Vision 2040.

The Local Government Act 2020 requires that a Council Plan be prepared and adopted by 31 October in the year following a general election and that Council must address the strategic planning principles outlined in the Act in the preparation of its Council Plan and other strategic plans.

The Plan plays a key role in setting the strategic direction of Council for the Council term and ensuring an integrated approach is taken to planning, monitoring and performance reporting. The Council Plan has been informed by extensive community engagement and expands on the four Themes of the Community Vision - Community, Liveability, Sustainability and Prosperity with the inclusion of an additional theme in Leadership. The Themes and Community Priorities provide the framework for Golden Plains Shire to align its strategic objectives and actions to for the next four years.

In addition, the Council Plan 2021- 2025 incorporates the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan (MPHWP) as required under the Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008. This ensures the priorities for supporting, protecting and improving the health and wellbeing of the Golden Plains Shire community are at the forefront of Council's strategic planning and are integrated across all Council services and initiatives.

### **DISCUSSION**

Progress for Q3 of the 2021-2025 Council Plan has continued across all pillars in the implementation of the Council Plan.

A detailed explanation of all actions completed to date can be obtained from Attachment 1 – Council Plan Implementation Report – Quarter 3.

### **REPORTING AND COMPLIANCE STATEMENTS**

*Local Government Act 2020 (LGA 2020)*

<b>Implications</b>	<b>Applicable to this Report</b>
<b>Governance Principles</b> (Consideration of the Governance Principles under s.9 of LGA 2020)	Yes
<b>Policy/Relevant Law</b> (Consideration of the Governance Principles under s.9 of LGA 2020)	Yes
<b>Environmental/Sustainability Implications</b> (Consideration of the Governance Principles under s.9 of LGA 2020)	No
<b>Community Engagement</b> (Consideration of Community Engagement Principles under s.56 LGA 2020)	No
<b>Public Transparency</b> (Consideration of Public Transparency Principles under s.58 of LGA 2020)	Yes
<b>Strategies and Plans</b> (Consideration of Strategic Planning Principles under s.89 of LGA 2020)	Yes
<b>Financial Management</b> (Consideration of Financial Management Principles under s.101 of LGA 2020)	No
<b>Service Performance</b> (Consideration of Service Performance Principles under s.106 of LGA 2020)	Yes
<b>Risk Assessment</b>	No
<b>Communication</b>	Yes
<b>Human Rights Charter</b>	No
<b>Gender Equality</b> (Gender Impact Assessment required by S.9 of Gender Equality Act 2020.)	No

## GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLES

In accordance with the principles in Section 9 of the Local Government Act 2020, the quarterly reporting of the Council Plan will specifically:

- Contribute to innovation and continuous improvement.
- Ensure transparency of Council decisions, actions and information.

## POLICY/RELEVANT LAW

The quarterly progress report is provided in relation to the Council Plan 2021-2025. Ongoing monitoring of progress is a requirement under section 89 of the LGA 2020.

## PUBLIC TRANSPARENCY

The Council Plan quarterly progress report is available for the public to view as part of the Council Meeting agenda or on request.

## STRATEGIES/PLANS

The quarterly Council Plan reports provide for ongoing monitoring of progress and regular reviews under section 89 of the LGA 2020.

**SERVICE PERFORMANCE**

The quarterly progress report focuses on Council's performance in relation to the actions of the Council Plan 2021-2025. Each quarterly report is a valuable tool in demonstrating service gains and improvements.

**RISK ASSESSMENT**

There are no identified risk implications associated with this report.

**COMMUNICATION**

The Council Plan quarterly progress report will be available for the public to view as part of the Council Meeting agenda or on request.

**HUMAN RIGHTS CHARTER**

It is considered that this report does not impact negatively on any rights identified in the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006 (Vic).

**OPTIONS**

Option 1 – that Council note the implementation of the actions contained in the Council Plan 2021-2025 for Q3 from 1 January 2022 to 31 March 2022

This option is recommended by officers as the report is to provide an overview of the implementation of the actions contained in the Council Plan 2021-2025 for Q3 from 1 January 2022 to 31 March 2022.

Option 2 – that Council do not note the implementation of the actions contained in the Council Plan 2021-2025 for Q3 from 1 January 2022 to 31 March 2022

This option is not recommended by officers as the report is to provide an update only.

Option 3 – that Council require further information

This option is not recommended by officers as the full content of the implementation of the actions throughout quarter three is accessible to Councillors.

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

No officer involved in preparing this report has any conflicts of interest in regard to this matter.

**CONCLUSION**

As outlined in the attached report, actions for Q3 of the Council Plan 2021-2025 have commenced, with some well underway. Continued action and future planning will continue to see the successful progression and completion of the Council Plan 2021-2025.

## 7.7 ASSET PLAN - ADOPTION

**File Number:****Author:** Wendy McAlpine, Coordinator Strategic Asset Management and Systems**Authoriser:** Phil Josipovic, Director Infrastructure and Development**Attachments:** 1. Asset Plan 2022-2032**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council:

1. Note the requirement to develop and adopt an Asset Plan by 30 June 2022 in accordance with Section 92 of the Local Government Act 2020.
  2. Note the Draft Asset Plan 2022-2032 was placed on public exhibition for a three-week period with two submissions received.
  3. Adopt the Golden Plains Shire Asset Plan 2022-2032.
- 

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Section 92 of the Local Government Act 2020 includes a new requirement for Councils to prepare an Asset Plan for the period of the next 10 financial years. The inaugural Asset Plan is required to be adopted by 30 June 2022.

In accordance with Councils Community Engagement Practices, the Draft Asset Plan 2022-2032 was made available for community feedback. Two submissions were received, however neither submission was seeking amendments to the plan.

The plan has undergone some minor editing changes since the plan was out for consultation however these changes have no impact on the wording within the plan as such. The Asset Plan 2022-2032 as attached can now be adopted.

**BACKGROUND**

The Asset Plan 2022-2032 summarises the key elements of individual Asset Management Plans which have been developed for each major asset class.

The purpose of the Asset Plan 2022-2032 is to:

- Show how Council will responsibly manage its assets to meet the service delivery needs of the community into the future in a cost-effective way.
- Define the services to be provided, the service standards that Council aims to achieve, and the measures to be used to monitor performance.
- Summarise the operating and capital expenditure requirements for infrastructure assets.
- Ensure that there is integration between asset management planning outcomes and strategic objectives, *Long Term Financial Plan*, and *Annual Budget*.
- Maximise alignment with Council, Regional and Government Strategies, Policies and Plans that effect the management of infrastructure assets.
- Make sure Council complies with legislative obligations.

The development of the Asset Plan 2022-2032 is dependent and relies upon an understanding of the performance of Council assets and a number of key assumptions. Assumptions and forecasts will change based on enhancement of Council's asset knowledge along with ever evolving internal and external drivers.



Ongoing development and review of the Asset Plan 2022-2032 will promote the viability and long-term use of assets in line with the aspirations of the community and Council's strategic objectives. The Asset Plan 2022-2032 will be actively monitored and updated to reflect any major changes.

## DISCUSSION

The Asset Plan 2022-2032 covers all infrastructure that is recognized as an asset of Golden Plains Shire Council.

The main theme underpinning the Asset Plan 2022-2032 and broader asset management planning principles is ensuring responsible stewardship of assets to meet the needs of tomorrow's community.

This acknowledges the many and varied factors that influence the delivery of our community's infrastructure. Some of these challenges are legacy issues, others are simply the demands of a progressive society that is constantly seeking to improve. Either way, Council is responsible for ensuring that its infrastructure contributes to achieving Council's long-term aspirations and supports a healthy, well connected, and prosperous community.

A key component of the Asset Plan 2022-2032 includes how Council is investing in infrastructure assets. Funding has been grouped into three categories: recurrent (operational costs), renewal and growth/acquisition

Over the next 10 years Council plans to spend an estimated \$213.2 million on infrastructure assets, where:

- Around 27% (\$57 million) is renewal expenditure for replacement of assets that are reaching the end of their lives.
- Around 35% (\$74.9 million) relates to expenditure to meet growth or additional future demand.
- Around 38% (\$81.3 million) relates to caring for our assets through ongoing maintenance and other activities to make sure that they are safe and functional.

As part of Council's asset management planning practices, modelling has been completed to project future lifecycle costs of assets over the next 10 years. Modelling suggests Council needs to spend a total of \$297.9 million to maintain planned levels of service. When compared to asset expenditure in the *Long-Term Financial Plan* (\$213.2 million), there is a total funding gap of \$84.7 million.

This shortfall is largely as a direct result of projected renewal gap across all of infrastructure assets. It is acknowledged there are areas to improve in long term infrastructure planning and integrating the financial outcomes of this with our *Long-Term Financial Plan*.

The imperative is to ensure that assets are safe, fit for purpose and meet the needs of the community. Council must strive to responsibly fund the renewal of assets in the future to minimise the impact to our community of the costs of unsustainable asset provision by proactively renewing and maintaining assets. The gap between the LTFP funding and the asset management modelling then informs the discussion on achieving the balance between services, costs, and risk to achieve best value outcomes.

The Asset Plan 2022-2032 was placed on public exhibition for a three-week period from 27 April 2022 in accordance with requirements of Section 92 of the *Local Government Act 2020* with two submissions received. Neither submission was seeking amendments to the plan. One submission reported maintenance issues which have since been logged as CRMS cases while the other submission congratulated the organization on the plan. This report is recommending to adopt the Asset Plan 2022-2032.

**REPORTING AND COMPLIANCE STATEMENTS***Local Government Act 2020 (LGA 2020)*

<b>Implications</b>	<b>Applicable to this Report</b>
<b>Governance Principles</b> (Consideration of the Governance Principles under s.9 of LGA 2020)	Yes
<b>Policy/Relevant Law</b> (Consideration of the Governance Principles under s.9 of LGA 2020)	Yes
<b>Environmental/Sustainability Implications</b> (Consideration of the Governance Principles under s.9 of LGA 2020)	Yes
<b>Community Engagement</b> (Consideration of Community Engagement Principles under s.56 LGA 2020)	Yes
<b>Public Transparency</b> (Consideration of Public Transparency Principles under s.58 of LGA 2020)	Yes
<b>Strategies and Plans</b> (Consideration of Strategic Planning Principles under s.89 of LGA 2020)	Yes
<b>Financial Management</b> (Consideration of Financial Management Principles under s.101 of LGA 2020)	Yes
<b>Service Performance</b> (Consideration of Service Performance Principles under s.106 of LGA 2020)	Yes
<b>Risk Assessment</b>	Yes
<b>Communication</b>	Yes
<b>Human Rights Charter</b>	Yes
<b>Gender Equality</b> (Consideration of the Gender Equality Act 2020 and obligations to conduct gender impact assessments on new or reviewed policies, procedures and services that have a significant and direct impact on the public)	Yes

**GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLES**

The Asset Plan has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

**POLICY/RELEVANT LAW***Local Government Act 2020***ENVIRONMENTAL/SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS**

The Asset Plan considers the following issues facing the provision of assets and services:

- Social Demands, including population trends, demographic change, changing community needs.
- Built Environment, includes issues such as aging infrastructure, rapid technology change
- Economic Demand, including issues of diminishing income, increasing costs to provide services, and delivering on community expectations while keeping it affordable.
- Policy and Regulatory Influence
- Natural Environment, including climate change and natural hazards.

## **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

The Draft Asset Plan 2022-2032 was placed on public exhibition and invite submissions from 27 April until 18 May 2022 as part of the *Local Government Act 2020* requirements.

## **PUBLIC TRANSPARENCY**

The public consultation process facilitates transparency of the Asset Plan submitted for adoption and all Council reports are available for the public to access.

## **STRATEGIES/PLANS**

The *Local Government Act 2020* drives an integrated approach to planning and reporting to support strategic decision-making. The following plans are key strategic planning documents related to the Asset Plan:

*Long Term Financial Plan*

*Workforce Plan*

*Community Vision*

*Council Plan*

*Annual Report*

## **FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT**

The Asset Plan has been prepared in accordance with the Local Government Act 2020. The Asset Plan has been prepared with consideration to the Long-Term Financial Plan.

## **SERVICE PERFORMANCE**

Councils' assets exist to enable the provision of a broad range of services for community benefit. Council's ability to effectively manage assets has a direct impact on the quality of services enjoyed by the community. Councils is continuously looking to improve the way services are planned. This is to make sure that they are aligned with goals, have clear and measurable outcomes and respond to the community expectations and affordability.

## **RISK ASSESSMENT**

There are identified risk implications associated with this report, detailed below:

The Asset Plan has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020* incorporating long term financial plan requirements to ensure financial sustainability over the short and long term.

## **COMMUNICATION**

As per community engagement, the Draft Asset Plan 2022-2032 was placed on public exhibition from 27 April until 18 May 2022, providing an opportunity for community feedback.

## **HUMAN RIGHTS CHARTER**

It is considered that this report does not impact negatively on any rights identified in the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006 (VIC).

## **GENDER EQUALITY**

This report has considered the gender equality principles as set out in the Gender Equality Act 2020.

## **OPTIONS**

### Option 1 – Council adopt the Asset Plan 2022-2032

This option is recommended by officers as the Asset Plan 2022-2032 has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020*. The Draft Asset Plan 2022-2032 was presented at April 26 2022 Council meeting and then placed on public exhibition for a three week period with neither submission seeking amendment/s to the plan.

### Option 2 – Council note the Asset Plan 2022-32

This option is not recommended by officers as the requirement to develop and adopt an Asset Plan by 30 June 2022 in accordance with Section 92 of the *Local Government Act 2020*

### Option 3 – Council do not action

This option is not recommended by officers as it's a requirement of the *Local Government Act 2020* to develop and adopt an Asset Plan by 30 June 2022.

## **CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

No officer involved in preparing this report has any conflicts of interest in regard to this matter.

## **CONCLUSION**

The Asset Plan 2022-2032 has been developed based on existing processes, practices, data and standards. Council is committed to striving towards best asset management practices and is always working to improve knowledge about its assets and enhance the tools used to manage them. As data and systems improve, so too will the analysis and information on which the Asset Plan 2022-2032 is based. It is intended that the Asset Plan 2022-2032 should always reflect as closely as possible the actual practices used in managing assets. Only in this way will Council be best able to ascertain the long term needs for infrastructure.

**7.8 REMOVAL OF TWO (2) DRY STONE WALLS UNDER CLAUSE 52.33 (POST BOXES AND DRY STONE WALLS) AT LOT M ON PLAN OF SUBDIVISION 809696Y****File Number:****Author:** Sandra Tomic, Town Planner**Authoriser:** Phil Josipovic, Director Infrastructure and Development**Attachments:** 1. Attachment 1 Recommended conditions**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council resolves to issue a planning permit for the Removal of two (2) dry stone walls under clause 52.33 (Post boxes and dry stone walls), subject to the recommended conditions attached to this report.

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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The report relates to a planning permit application for the removal of two (2) dry stone walls. One on the frontage of McPhillips Road (Bannockburn), the second intersects with this same dry stone wall but runs generally east-west from Bruce Creek to the McPhillips Road frontage. The application has been referred to the Council Meeting as it was called in by Cr. Rowe and seconded by Cr. Gamble at a time when councillor delegations allowed for the call-in of an application considered to be of interest/significance to the community. The application was extensively advertised, and no objections were received.

This report provides background to the application and a summary of the relevant planning considerations. The Councillors have also been provided with a full copy of the application for consideration prior to deciding.

**BACKGROUND****Site description**

One dry stone wall is located along the frontage of Lot M, PS809696Y McPhillips Road, Bannockburn the second is located along the northern property boundary between the subject site and the neighbouring property CA 15, Sec E (refer to aerial image on following page). This land is in the General Residential Zone 1 (GRZ1) and is subject to Development Plan Overlay 1 (DPO1), Environmental Significance Overlay 2 (ESO2), in part, and Land Subject to Inundation Overlay (LSIO), in part.

The subject site is part of the approved Somerset Estate Development Plan and the removal of the dry stone walls is associated with the residential development of the remaining stages of the approved subdivision associated with the Somerset Estate, stages 19-25.

### The subject site



### Proposal

The proposal as described by the permit applicant is for the removal of a dry stone wall in two locations, identified as the Bruce Creek dry stone wall and McPhillips Road dry stone wall.

#### Bruce Creek Dry Stone Wall

This wall runs from Bruce Creek northeast to McPhillips Road where it abuts the McPhillips Road dry stone wall, for a length of approximately 400m. This wall forms the northern boundary of the survey area and runs up the escarpment of the creek. Star pickets have been driven into the wall over time, at 15m intervals and are strung with 4 plain wires and a strand of barbed wire; there are also a couple of points where wooden posts can be found. Also identified is a 25m gap where a portion of the wall has been removed though no gates exist in this location. The wall is described as being in a state of collapse, in part as a result of these later interventions (addition of posts, wire and removals), coupled with a lack of maintenance.

#### McPhillips Road Dry Stone Wall

This wall runs adjacent to McPhillips Road for a distance of approximately 387m. This wall forms the eastern boundary of the development site and is also noted as being punctuated with star pickets at 10m intervals. These star pickets are strung with 2 strands of plain wire and 1 of barbed wire; again, these interventions appear to have contributed to its collapse in part.

Approximately 295m of dry stone wall is proposed to be removed from along McPhillips Road and 456m from the Bruce Creek section – a total of 751m.

The removal of the dry stone walls is required as it is not suited to a residential area. Access to the eastern lots along McPhillips Road is required and proper rear fencing is required along the northern lots.

An archaeological survey was undertaken and submitted with the application. It concludes that the walls are in a state of collapse and deterioration due to loose stones because of the additions of star pickets and wire, coupled with a lack of maintenance.



Photograph provided by applicant of dry stone wall on McPhillips road looking north-west



Photograph provided by applicant of the dry stone walls intersecting including later inclusions of timber post and wire





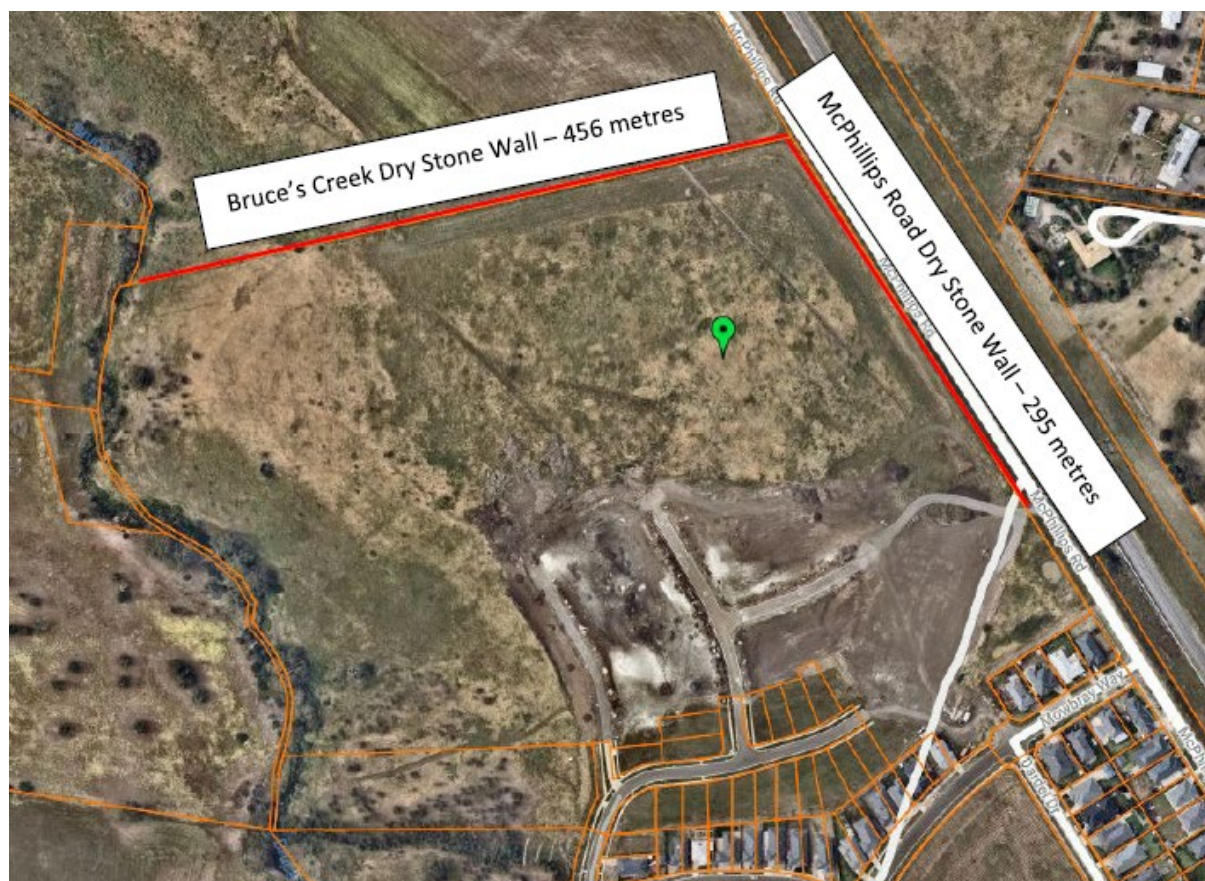
Photographs taken by officers during site inspection (March 2022) on McPhillips Road frontage looking south and showing the introduction of star pickets and wire



Photograph taken by officers during site inspection (March 2022) on McPhillips Road frontage looking south-east towards Bannockburn





**Proposed removal locations****CONSULTATION**

Notice of the application was given in accordance with Section 52 (1)(a), (c) and (d) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*. Notice was given by mail to eighty (80) owners and occupiers and three (3) signs were erected, two along McPhillips and one in Mowbray Way. The advertising material was available on Council's website.

As a result of the public notice, no objections were received, therefore no consultation was required.

**ASSESSMENT**

A planning permit is triggered under the following particular provision of the Golden Plains Planning Scheme:

Clause 52.33 Post Boxes and Dry Stone Walls, a planning permit is required to demolish, remove or alter a dry stone wall constructed before 1940.

The application was lodged on 21/09/2021. Further information was requested on 22/10/2021. A response to the further information was submitted 8/3/2022.

There are no referral authorities specified in the planning scheme for an application of this type.

The application was internally referred to Council's Heritage Advisor. This is discussed in detail under the discussion heading within this report.

## **PLANNING SCHEME**

### **Municipal Planning Strategy**

#### Clause 11.03-6L Bannockburn

This policy applies to the land identified on the Bannockburn Framework Plan.

#### Clause 15.03-1S Heritage conservation

##### **Objective**

- To ensure the conservation of places of heritage significance

##### **Strategies**

- Identify, assess and document places of natural and cultural heritage significance as a basis for their inclusion on the planning scheme
- Provide for the protection of natural heritage sites and man-made resources
- Provide for the conservation and enhancement of those places that are of aesthetic, archaeological, architectural, cultural, scientific or social significance
- Encourage appropriate development that respects places with identified heritage values
- Retain those elements that contribute to the importance of the heritage place
- Encourage the conservation and restoration of contributory elements of a heritage place
- Ensure an appropriate setting and context for heritage places is maintained or enhanced
- Support adaptive reuse of heritage buildings where their use has become redundant
- Consider whether it is appropriate to require restoration or reconstruction of a heritage building in a Heritage Overlay that has been unlawfully or unintentionally demolished in order to retain or interpret the cultural heritage significance of the building, streetscape or area

### **Zone and overlay provisions**

#### Clause 32.08 – General Residential Zone schedule 1 (GRZ1)

##### **Purpose**

- To implement the Municipal Planning Strategy and the Planning Policy Framework.
- To encourage development that respects the neighbourhood character of the area.
- To encourage a diversity of housing types and housing growth particularly in locations offering good access to services and transport.
- To allow educational, recreational, religious, community and a limited range of other non-residential uses to serve local community needs in appropriate locations.

#### Clause 42.01 Environmental Significant Overlay Schedule 2 (ESO2)

##### **Watercourse Protection**

##### **Statement of environmental significance**

- Water quality is important for urban and rural communities alike and consideration of downstream effects is essential. The Corangamite Catchment Management Board has identified high priority issues in the catchment as water erosion, eutrophication and the quality of groundwater.
- The protection of watercourses is necessary to prevent the degradation of the environment, with respect to water quality, habitat, vegetation and erosion.

Clause 44.04 Land Subject to Inundation Overlay (LSIO)

## Purpose

- To implement the Municipal Planning Strategy and the Planning Policy Framework.
- To identify flood prone land in a riverine or coastal area affected by the 1 in 100 (1 per cent Annual Exceedance Probability) year flood or any other area determined by the floodplain management authority.
- To ensure that development maintains the free passage and temporary storage of floodwaters, minimises flood damage, responds to the flood hazard and local drainage conditions and will not cause any significant rise in flood level or flow velocity.
- To minimise the potential flood risk to life, health and safety associated with development.
- To reflect a declaration under Division 4 of Part 10 of the Water Act, 1989 .
- To protect water quality and waterways as natural resources by managing urban stormwater, protecting water supply catchment areas, and managing saline discharges to minimise the risks to the environmental quality of water and groundwater.
- To ensure that development maintains or improves river, marine, coastal and wetland health, waterway protection and floodplain health.

Clause 43.04 Development Plan Overlay Schedule 1 (DPO1)

## Township Development Plan - Bannockburn

A development plan is required to be submitted with a planning permit application or before a planning permit is granted to subdivide land into two or more lots. A development plan was approved on 12 January 2010.

A planning permit is not triggered under the zone or any of the overlays that apply to the land.

Clause 52.33 – Post Boxes and Dry Stone Walls

## Purpose

- To conserve historic post boxes and dry stone walls.

A permit is required to demolish, remove, or alter a dry stone wall constructed before 1940 on land specified in the schedule to this provision.

**General provisions**

The decision guidelines contained in Clause 65.01 of the planning scheme require Council to consider the following matters, as appropriate:

- The matters set out in section 60 of the Act.
- The Municipal Planning Strategy and the Planning Policy Framework.
- The purpose of the zone, overlay or other provision.
- Any matter required to be considered in the zone, overlay or other provision.
- The orderly planning of the area.
- The effect on the amenity of the area.
- The proximity of the land to any public land.
- Factors likely to cause or contribute to land degradation, salinity or reduce water quality.
- Whether the proposed development is designed to maintain or improve the quality of stormwater within and exiting the site.
- The extent and character of native vegetation and the likelihood of its destruction.
- Whether native vegetation is to be or can be protected, planted or allowed to regenerate.

- The degree of flood, erosion or fire hazard associated with the location of the land and the use, development or management of the land so as to minimise any such hazard.
- The adequacy of loading and unloading facilities and any associated amenity, traffic flow and road safety impacts.

## CULTURAL HERITAGE IMPLICATIONS

This proposal does not require the preparation of a Cultural Heritage Management Plan under the *Aboriginal Heritage Regulations* 2007.

## DISCUSSION

There is limited policy relevant to the consideration of this proposal. The removal is not triggered under the zone or the overlays which (partially) affect the location of the walls and although they are not subject to heritage protection, Clause 15.03-1S has been considered and the application was referred to Council's heritage advisor for comment as part of the assessment process.

Decision making is therefore largely reliant on the assessment of the application information against the decision guidelines of Clause 52.33 and the decision guidelines of Clause 65.01.

The initial heritage referral response required further information to aid the assessment of the proposal. Additional information was provided to Council and re-referred with a second referral response received 1 April 2022.

The final referral response acknowledges that the Dry Stone Wall Assessment (2022) submitted with the application confirms that the walls do not have State (heritage) significance nor are they subject to any local heritage controls. The response notes that the walls are likely a legacy of the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century rural farming development following post-contact European colonisation at Bannockburn and thus forms part of the cultural landscape.

The Wall Assessment (2022) does not give the condition of the dry stone wall but alludes to a 'low level of significance' due in part to it not being in its original state, however the heritage assessment concludes that the removal of the dry stone wall will not meet the purpose of Clause 52.33.

The decision guidelines of this clause are as follows:

- The significance of the post box or dry stone wall
- Any applicable heritage study, statement of significance and conservation policy
- Whether the proposal will adversely affect the significance of the post box or dry stone wall
- Whether the proposal will adversely affect the significance, character or appearance of the area.

As noted, the significance of the dry stone walls is considered as a likely legacy of the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century rural farming development following post-contact European colonisation at Bannockburn and thus forms part of the cultural landscape. Also noted in the referral response, the fencing has likely taken advantage of the volcanic landscape referring to the post-contact settlement practice of using the natural resources available (in this instance rocks) to assist in the settlement of the area, defining ownership boundaries and for the containment of stock.

In the passage of time, there have been additions and alterations to the walls by way of the insertion of star pickets (steel posts), some timber fence posts and the addition of plain and barbed wire to these posts and there is at least one noted example of an opening being made in one of the walls. There is no evidence provided to suggest that these walls have benefited from maintenance over time – it is a reasonable assertion that the state and condition of the walls over time has altered.

In terms of any heritage study, it is noted that the Bannockburn South East PSP Historical Heritage Assessment (12 July 2021) identified a '*partially preserved, damaged and truncated*' dry stone wall

at 430 Burnside Road and recommended a heritage overlay. The Burnside Road site is not connected to this location and it is reiterated that the two walls in question do not benefit from any heritage protection at State or local level.

While the walls are not as highly visible as walls in other locations around the Golden Plains on account of the modest height (approximately 70-80cm) and the obscurity from the Phalaris that has grown alongside the walls (refer to earlier roadside photos), the proposal clearly adversely affects the significance of the dry stone wall and area, as this application seeks complete removal of 751m of dry stone wall from the two areas identified.

Decision guidelines at Clause 65 require various matters to be taken into account including Section 60 of the Act. The relevant though limited requirements of the planning scheme have been taken into account along with referral comments as mentioned. There are no objections to this proposal. There are no significant environmental impacts related to the removal of the walls. The removal within the LSIO and ESO results in just that, the removal of rocks that have been used to create a wall, they will not require large scale excavation of a paddock that can result when rocks are cleared for the purposes of making the land arable for cropping, for example.

There are significant social and economic effects that are connected to this proposal which the Act sets out for consideration. The removal of the walls is required to enable the final stages of the Somerset Estate (stages 19-25) to continue with the associated subdivision civil works. McPhillips Road will provide direct access to the new lots which front it (in the same manner as the portion on the estate on the south-east side of Mowbray Way) thus rendering the wall redundant. The portion on the northern estate boundary will be the rear boundary of the estate and the new residential lots which will have frontage to the new road which has been named Sun Orchid Grove.

The economic effects of the developer not being able to continue with the civil works and progress the final stages of the subdivision is multi-faceted. There are holding costs, costs associated with contractors and employees and of course there are purchasers who may have paid a deposit on land and the longer the project stretches on, the greater the impact. This includes social impacts associated with persons who may have paid a deposit and made other life choices and arrangements associated with anticipated end points.

The unfortunate reality of this proposal is that consideration of the walls was overlooked during the approval of the Development Plan in 2010. DPO1 required, among other things, for the approved DP to include requirements for *any sites of conservation, heritage or archaeological significance and the means by which they will be managed*. A snip of the approved plan (below) indicates 'Stone Wall'. This does not include reference to the Bruce Creek wall and it provides no other reference or requirements in relation to the walls. Consequently, the subsequent subdivision layouts have followed that of the approved DP which did not make allowances for the retention of the walls, full or in part. If the DP had considered that the walls be retained, the layout of the subdivision would have looked different and not resulted in lots gaining access from McPhillips Road.



The removal of the walls needed to be considered at an earlier stage but unfortunately this has not happened. However, even if they were, there is no guarantee that the outcome would have been any different to what is now proposed.

One of the overarching principles of planning is that of orderly planning and also amenity. The retention of dry stone walls which have structurally changed over time on account of later inclusions of other materials and which have not benefited from maintenance, is largely at odds with a general residential setting. If they had been proposed for retention and incorporated into front or rear fencing settings, it is very likely that Council would continually be asked by new residents about the prospects of removing the walls, safety concerns would be flagged and likely concerns would also be raised about matters such as rabbit infestation or snakes inhabiting them. Therefore, from an orderly planning perspective and a sense of amenity in an urban residential housing development, the walls are not compatible to the setting.

In summary, while acknowledged that the walls do have a level of heritage significance albeit without any formal recognition, they have also been found to have suffered a level of deterioration over time and have not been maintained. It is regrettable that this matter was not identified and dealt with at the inception of the estate approvals however it does not necessarily follow that the proposed outcome would be any different. The layout of the subdivision reflects the approved DP and the final stages and now stifled until this matter is resolved resulting in economic pressure on the development parties and any purchasers that have a financial commitment to land within these final stages. An alternative layout to the subdivision at this late stage is not possible because these stages are designed to connect with existing infrastructure and networks, associated approvals are in place and civil works are underway.

Finally, it was suggested in the heritage referral assessment that an audit and assessment of dry stone walls within the Golden Plains Shire take place, and particularly those that may be subject to development pressure in the future. This would give a more informed appreciation of the provenance, type, condition, integrity, and significance of the walls in relation to the specific local contexts throughout the Shire. While this cannot be required through this permit application process, the comment is valid and is noted.

## REPORTING AND COMPLIANCE STATEMENTS

*Local Government Act 2020 (LGA 2020)*



<b>Implications</b>	<b>Applicable to this Report</b>
<b>Governance Principles</b> (Consideration of the Governance Principles under s.9 of LGA 2020)	Yes
<b>Policy/Relevant Law</b> (Consideration of the Governance Principles under s.9 of LGA 2020)	Yes
<b>Environmental/Sustainability Implications</b> (Consideration of the Governance Principles under s.9 of LGA 2020)	Yes
<b>Community Engagement</b> (Consideration of Community Engagement Principles under s.56 LGA 2020)	Yes
<b>Public Transparency</b> (Consideration of Public Transparency Principles under s.58 of LGA 2020)	Yes
<b>Strategies and Plans</b> (Consideration of Strategic Planning Principles under s.89 of LGA 2020)	Yes
<b>Financial Management</b> (Consideration of Financial Management Principles under s.101 of LGA 2020)	No
<b>Service Performance</b> (Consideration of Service Performance Principles under s.106 of LGA 2020)	No
<b>Risk Assessment</b>	Yes
<b>Communication</b>	Yes
<b>Human Rights Charter</b>	Yes

## **GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLES**

In assessing and formulating a recommendation for this planning application, the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and Golden Plains Shire Planning Scheme have been considered in the officers' assessment.

## **POLICY/RELEVANT LAW**

In assessing and formulating a recommendation for this planning application, the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and Golden Plains Shire Planning Scheme have been considered in the officers' assessment.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL/SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS**

Environmental considerations have been taken into account in formulating a recommendation in this matter.

## **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Notice of the planning application has been undertaken in accordance with the requirements sets out in the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, by way of letters to adjoining and adjacent landowners.

## **PUBLIC TRANSPARENCY**

The application was extensively advertised, and the application material was available on Council's website. No objections were received as part of the process. The application has been called by Councillors for a decision.

## **STRATEGIES/PLANS**

In assessing and formulating a recommendation for this planning application, the Golden Plains Shire Planning Scheme (which consists of strategic plans) has been considered in the officers' assessment.

## **RISK ASSESSMENT**

- Applicant lodging an Application for Review at the Victorian Civil & Administrative Tribunal, and due to the unnecessary delay, apply for costs against Council. This outcome may impact Council's professional indemnity insurance and reputational risk to Council.

## **COMMUNICATION**

For all options proposed for this application, the outcome will be communicated to all parties in writing.

## **HUMAN RIGHTS CHARTER**

It is considered that this report does not impact negatively on any rights identified in the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006 (VIC).

## **OPTIONS**

### Option 1 – Issue a Notice of Decision to Refuse to Grant a Permit

This option is not recommended by officers for the reasons set out in this report.

### Option 2 – Issue a Planning permit

This option is recommended by officers as the matters which are required to be considered have been, no objections have been received and on balance, it is recommended that a permit be issued.

### Option 3 – Defer the matter to another Council Meeting for Consideration

This option is not recommended by officers as there is no outstanding information which would alter the officer recommendation on this matter.

## **CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

No officer involved in preparing this report has any conflicts of interest in regard to this matter.

## **CONCLUSION**

Taking into account relevant matters as set out in the scheme and the Act, it is recommended that a permit be issued for the removal of two (2) dry stone walls under Clause 52.33 (Post boxes and dry stone walls) in accordance with the recommended conditions.



## 7.9 REVOKE CITIZEN RECOGNITION POLICY

### File Number:

**Author:** Renee Williams, Coordinator Community Development

**Authoriser:** Steven Sagona, Director Community Services

**Attachments:** 1. 5.5 Citizen Recognition Policy

### RECOMMENDATION

That Council revoke Policy 5.5 Citizen Recognition - Recognition of Community Involvement (Attachment One).

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### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 1999, Council developed a Citizen Recognition Policy for the purpose of acknowledging the contributions and achievements of Golden Plains Shire citizens. Since that time, the Policy has been reviewed four times – most recently in April 2018 where no amendment was made.

The Policy was again subject to a review in April 2022, and it is recommended that the Policy be revoked as it is outdated in terms of good practice in meeting legislation and duplicates other more appropriate and transparent processes that are now in place for recognising Golden Plains citizens.

### BACKGROUND

Policy 5.5 *Citizen Recognition - Recognition of Community Involvement* was adopted by Council on 27 May 1999 and was subsequently reviewed in 2004, 2009, 2014 and 2018. The purpose of the Policy is to recognise citizens who have made significant contributions to their local communities or achieved outstanding success in the broader community.

Under the Policy, any Councillor can select an individual or group to receive a framed certificate of appreciation or acknowledgment from Golden Plains Shire Council. The acknowledgment is at the discretion of the Mayor and nominating Councillor.

### DISCUSSION

On undertaking a review of Policy 5.5 *Citizen Recognition - Recognition of Community Involvement*, officers determined that it is not consistent with a number of provisions and principles in the *Local Government Act 2020* - particularly around accountability, transparency of decisions, integrity and governance. The current Policy:

- Does not provide clear processes, criteria, guidelines or procedures to support the Policy and to protect individual Councillors against allegations of bias or improper conduct.
- From a public transparency and risk management perspective, it is inappropriate that the form or means of such acknowledgment be at the discretion of the Mayor and nominating Councillor.
- Policy 5.5 *Citizen Recognition - Recognition of Community Involvement* has not been used for a long time bringing into question its currency and relevance.

Officers also identified that Council has an existing policy and programs that encompass the same intent and are supported by guidelines, processes and criteria to ensure transparency around decision making in recognising Golden Plains Shire citizens. These include:

- Policy 5.3 *Recognition of Citizens Who Take Part in State Level or Above Competition* – this Policy was adopted by Council in 1997 to recognise State and National level competition. It is determined by a set eligibility criterion and supported by a Procedure.
- Golden Plains Shire Council Community Awards – this program provides an annual opportunity to formally acknowledge individuals and community groups who make an

outstanding contribution to the Shire in areas including community service, arts and culture, environment, business, economic development and sport. Four categories are awarded by Council each year through an open and extensively promoted process where community nominations are received, and a clear criterion is applied.

- National Volunteer Week Celebrations – Council conducts National Volunteer Week activities in May of each year to celebrate the contributions of volunteers Shire-wide. This includes an event to specifically acknowledge and thank Golden Plains Shire Council Volunteers and Community Coordinators.

It should be noted that the revoking of this Policy would not preclude Councillors from individually participating in or attending other (non-Council) citizen contribution, awards or celebration activities. It merely seeks to remove a formal and redundant process of recognition/achievement by Golden Plains Shire Council.

## REPORTING AND COMPLIANCE STATEMENTS

*Local Government Act 2020 (LGA 2020)*

Implications	Applicable to this Report
<b>Governance Principles</b> (Consideration of the Governance Principles under s.9 of LGA 2020)	Yes
<b>Policy/Relevant Law</b> (Consideration of the Governance Principles under s.9 of LGA 2020)	Yes
<b>Environmental/Sustainability Implications</b> (Consideration of the Governance Principles under s.9 of LGA 2020)	No
<b>Community Engagement</b> (Consideration of Community Engagement Principles under s.56 LGA 2020)	No
<b>Public Transparency</b> (Consideration of Public Transparency Principles under s.58 of LGA 2020)	Yes
<b>Strategies and Plans</b> (Consideration of Strategic Planning Principles under s.89 of LGA 2020)	No
<b>Financial Management</b> (Consideration of Financial Management Principles under s.101 of LGA 2020)	No
<b>Service Performance</b> (Consideration of Service Performance Principles under s.106 of LGA 2020)	No
<b>Risk Assessment</b>	Yes
<b>Communication</b>	No
<b>Human Rights Charter</b>	No
<b>Gender Equality</b> (Gender Impact Assessment required by s.9 of Gender Equality Act 2020)	No

## GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLES

The governance principles in s.9 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, have been considered in relation to reviewing and recommending the revoking of Policy 5.5 Citizen Recognition - in particular, ensuring transparency of Council decisions, actions and information.

## **POLICY/RELEVANT LAW**

Policy 5.5 Citizen Recognition is essentially a duplication of a similar existing policy and other Council processes. The policy does not have supporting processes to guide transparency in decision making for council members.

## **PUBLIC TRANSPARENCY**

Public transparency (in considering the principles of the Act) will be improved through the revoking of Policy 5.5 Citizen Recognition. Acknowledgement of citizen achievements and contributions is enabled via another existing policy and programs with more rigorous and transparent criteria and processes.

## **RISK ASSESSMENT**

Risks identified and assessed in reviewing Policy 5.5 Citizen Recognition are that the current Policy is subject to, and does not sufficiently protect individual Councillors against, allegations of bias or improper conduct. Revoking of the Policy mitigates these risks.

## **COMMUNICATION**

As this Policy has not been used for some time, its revocation will not be broadly communicated. However, the Policy will be removed from Council's Register of adopted Policies, (including the Policies list on Council's website) and the decision will be published in Council Meeting Minutes.

## **HUMAN RIGHTS CHARTER**

It is considered that this report does not impact negatively on any rights identified in the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006 (Vic).

## **OPTIONS**

### Option 1 – Approve the recommendation to revoke Policy 5.5 *Citizen Recognition - Recognition of Community Involvement*

This option is recommended by officers as there are existing Council policy and programs with clear transparency in decision making processes for citizen recognition.

### Option 2 – Maintain Policy 5.5 *Citizen Recognition - Recognition of Community Involvement*

This option is not recommended by officers - the Policy has been reviewed and is not consistent with good governance practices. As it stands, it leaves councillors open to potential allegations of bias or improper conduct.

### Option 3 – Update the current Policy to include a more detailed criterion or eligibility requirements

This option is not recommended by officers as it is considered a duplication of an already existing policy and other programs that recognise citizen contributions and achievements.

## **CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

No officer involved in preparing this report has any conflicts of interest in regard to this matter.

## **CONCLUSION**

Following a recent review, Policy 5.5 *Citizen Recognition - Recognition of Community Involvement* is recommended to be revoked.

The Policy is considered to not support good governance in terms of transparency in decision making, accountability and integrity. It lacks clear procedures and guidelines, has not been applied for a number of years and duplicates other Council policies and processes.

Council can instead continue to recognise citizen contributions and achievements through Policy 5.3 *Recognition of Citizens Who Take Part in State Level or Above Competition*, the Golden Plains Shire Council Community Awards and National Volunteer Week.

**7.10 TOURISM & SERVICES SIGNAGE ON ROADS POLICY UPDATE****File Number:****Author:** Vicki Shelton, Manager Asset Services**Authoriser:** Phil Josipovic, Director Infrastructure and Development**Attachments:** 1. Tourism & Services Signage on Roads Policy**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council reaffirm and adopt the reviewed Tourism & Services Signage on Roads Policy, noting that no changes have been made to the 2018 policy except for relevant formatting changes.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Tourism & Services Signage on Roads Policy 2018 is due for review. The policy has been reviewed with no changes and reproduced in the new Policy template format.

**BACKGROUND**

Council is the Road Authority for the purpose of managing tourism and services signing on main roads within built up areas and local roads pursuant to section 66 of the Road management Act 2004.

The purpose of the Policy is to provide guidance for an integrated and consistent approach to tourism and services signage on Council managed roads. All new tourist signing including direction signs, tourist attraction signs, services signs and community facility signs are approved and installed in accordance with the VicRoads Tourism Signing Guidelines (February 2009).

**DISCUSSION**

Council receives requests for new signs to provide identification and direction to various facilities within the municipality. Applications are assessed in accordance with the policy and VicRoads guidelines to ensure a consistent approach to installation.

The policy provides that guidance and has been reviewed with no changes and rewritten to accord with the current Policy template.

**REPORTING AND COMPLIANCE STATEMENTS**

*Local Government Act 2020 (LGA 2020)*

<b>Implications</b>	<b>Applicable to this Report</b>
<b>Governance Principles</b> (Consideration of the Governance Principles under s.9 of LGA 2020)	No
<b>Policy/Relevant Law</b> (Consideration of the Governance Principles under s.9 of LGA 2020)	Yes
<b>Environmental/Sustainability Implications</b> (Consideration of the Governance Principles under s.9 of LGA 2020)	No
<b>Community Engagement</b> (Consideration of Community Engagement Principles under s.56 LGA 2020)	No
<b>Public Transparency</b> (Consideration of Public Transparency Principles under s.58 of LGA 2020)	No

<b>Strategies and Plans</b> (Consideration of Strategic Planning Principles under s.89 of LGA 2020)	No
<b>Financial Management</b> (Consideration of Financial Management Principles under s.101 of LGA 2020)	Yes
<b>Service Performance</b> (Consideration of Service Performance Principles under s.106 of LGA 2020)	No
<b>Risk Assessment</b>	Yes
<b>Communication</b>	Yes
<b>Human Rights Charter</b>	Yes
<b>Gender Equality</b> (Gender Impact Assessment required by s.9 of Gender Equality Act 2020)	No

## POLICY/RELEVANT LAW

Council is the Road Authority for the purpose of managing tourism and services signing on main roads within built up areas and local roads pursuant to section 66 of the Road management Act 2004

## FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

Operators of attractions and services will be responsible for the costs related to the development, installation, maintenance and removal of signs relating to their operation. Signs must be maintained to the satisfaction of Council.

## RISK ASSESSMENT

There are no identified risk implications associated with this report.

## COMMUNICATION

When approved, the Tourism & Services Signage on Roads policy will be published on Council's web site.

## HUMAN RIGHTS CHARTER

It is considered that this report does not impact negatively on any rights identified in the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006 (VIC).

## OPTIONS

### Option 1 – Council approve the updated Tourism & Signage on Roads Policy

This option is recommended by officers as the policy continues to provide consistent outcomes for applicants and the community.

### Option 2 – Council not approve the updated Tourism & Signage on Roads Policy

This option is not recommended by officers as any updates to the Tourism & Signage on Roads Policy require adoption by Council.

## CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No officer involved in preparing this report has any conflicts of interest in regards to this matter.

## CONCLUSION

The updated Tourism & Services Signage on Roads Policy will come into force following adoption and will be updated on Council's website.

## 7.11 REVIEW OF INSTRUMENTS OF DELEGATION

### File Number:

**Author:** Rosie Wright, Coordinator Governance and Risk

**Authoriser:** Simon Rennie, Director Corporate Services

**Attachments:** 1. Instrument of Delegation - Council to Members of Staff

### RECOMMENDATION

In the exercise of the powers conferred by the legislation referred to in the attached instrument of delegation, Golden Plains Shire Council resolves that:

1. There be delegated to the members of Council staff holding, acting in or performing the duties of the offices or positions referred to in the attached *Instrument of Delegation – Council to Members of Council Staff*, the powers, duties and functions set out in that instrument, subject to the conditions and limitations specified in that instrument.
2. The instrument comes into force immediately once the common seal of Council is affixed to the instrument.
3. On the coming into force of the instrument all previous versions of the same are revoked.
4. The duties and functions set out in the instrument must be performed, and the powers set out in the instruments must be executed, in accordance with any guidelines or policies of Council that it may from time to time adopt.

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### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The legislation referred to in the attached *Instrument of Delegation – Council to Members of Council Staff* (Attachment 1) enables Council to delegate functions, duties and powers, other than specific exemptions, to Council staff.

One updated instrument of delegation is presented for Council's adoption:

- *Instrument of Delegation – Council to Members of Staff* (Attachment 1)

### BACKGROUND

Council can act in only one of two ways:

1. A decision by resolution of Council, and
2. Instrument of delegation to others to act on Council's behalf.

Delegation by Council of powers is formalised via written instruments of delegation. Delegation of powers is considered essential to enable day-to-day decisions to be made.

There are several reasons why delegations should be reviewed regularly, including:

- identifying decision-makers to ensure accountability and responsibility for decisions;
- ensuring Council set conditions, limitations and guidelines for decision-makers, including reporting requirements;
- Council decisions are often subject to legal scrutiny in courts and tribunals. This calls for precision about what decision was made, who made it and when it was made.

Delegations must be performed and executed in accordance with any guidelines or policies of Council and position roles and responsibilities. Members of Council staff who have delegated powers are provided with the necessary training and supporting materials to assist them in understanding their roles as a delegated officer.

Council last reviewed and adopted Instrument of Delegation to Members of Council Staff at the 24<sup>th</sup> of August 2021 Council meeting.

## DISCUSSION

Council subscribes to the Maddocks Lawyers Delegations and Authorisations Service. This service not only assists Council in managing its delegations and authorisations, but also assists members of staff to understand the scope of their powers and avoid any risk of acting outside their delegated authority. This service includes provision of instruments of delegation templates based on the best practice model along with regular updates taking into account any legislative changes to the various acts and regulations included in the delegations.

A review of the instruments of delegation from Council to members of Council staff has been undertaken.

### **Summary of Changes – S6 Instrument of Delegation from Council to members of Council staff:**

- Changes required under the instrument template issued by Maddocks Lawyers (January 2022);
- An internal review to ensure alignment with overall organisational requirements, structure and position responsibilities; and
- Minor cosmetic changes.

## REPORTING AND COMPLIANCE STATEMENTS

*Local Government Act 2020 (LGA 2020)*

<b>Implications</b>	<b>Applicable to this Report</b>
<b>Governance Principles</b> (Consideration of the Governance Principles under s.9 of LGA 2020)	Yes
<b>Policy/Relevant Law</b> (Consideration of the Governance Principles under s.9 of LGA 2020)	Yes
<b>Environmental/Sustainability Implications</b> (Consideration of the Governance Principles under s.9 of LGA 2020)	No
<b>Community Engagement</b> (Consideration of Community Engagement Principles under s.56 LGA 2020)	No
<b>Public Transparency</b> (Consideration of Public Transparency Principles under s.58 of LGA 2020)	Yes
<b>Strategies and Plans</b> (Consideration of Strategic Planning Principles under s.89 of LGA 2020)	No
<b>Financial Management</b> (Consideration of Financial Management Principles under s.101 of LGA 2020)	Yes
<b>Service Performance</b> (Consideration of Service Performance Principles under s.106 of LGA 2020)	No

<b>Risk Assessment</b>	No
<b>Communication</b>	Yes
<b>Human Rights Charter</b>	Yes
<b>Gender Equality</b> (Gender Impact Assessment required by s.9 of Gender Equality Act 2020)	No

## GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLES

The overarching Governance Principles have been taken into consideration when completing the update of the Delegations attached to this report.

## POLICY/RELEVANT LAW

*Local Government Act 2020*; and

The legislation referred to in the attached Instrument of Delegation.

## PUBLIC TRANSPARENCY

Council will make available for public inspection a register of delegations, including the dates on which the last reviews took place.

## FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

The delegations presented to Council, ensure only limited staff are delegated to make financial decisions, therefore ensure Council has provisions in place to mitigate risks of financial mismanagement, and risks associated with fraud.

## RISK ASSESSMENT

- Delegates are required to ensure Legislative Compliance; and
- Delegations mitigate risks associated with Fraud and Corruption.

## COMMUNICATION

Council will make available for public inspection a register of delegations, including the dates on which the last reviews took place.

Changes to the delegations will be communicated internally.

## HUMAN RIGHTS CHARTER

It is considered that this report does not impact negatively on any rights identified in the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006 (Vic).

## OPTIONS

### Option 1 – That Council adopt the amended Instrument of Delegation

This option is recommended by officers as this will ensure compliance with legislation and provide a clear framework to ensure the members of Council staff are aware of and acting within their designated levels of authority.

### Option 2 – That Council defer the report.

This option is not recommended by officers as it will risk non-compliance with legislation and hinder Council staff who require delegations when acting within their position, and delay items for the community.



**CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

No officer involved in preparing this report has any conflicts of interest with regard to this matter.

**CONCLUSION**

After a thorough review of Council's Instruments of Delegation to Members of Council Staff, it is now appropriate for Council to adopt the amended Instrument of Delegation. By carrying out a review of the instruments of delegation, Council will ensure compliance with legislation and provide a clear framework to ensure the members of Council staff are aware of and acting within their designated levels of authority.

## **7.12 MAYORAL ATTENDANCE - NATIONAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY, AUSTRALIAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION 2022**

**File Number:****Author:** Elise Holmes, Executive Assistant to the CEO**Authoriser:** Eric Braslis, CEO**Attachments:** 1. NGA 2022 Communiqué**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council receive and note the Mayoral conference report in relation to the 2022 National General Assembly.

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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Mayor, Cr Gavin Gamble, along with CEO, Eric Braslis, attended the 2022 Rural and Regional Summit and the National General Assembly (NGA) of Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) in Canberra from Saturday 18 June to Wednesday 22 June 2022.

**BACKGROUND**

Mayor Gamble attended the conference along with 1000 delegates from the over 500 Councils across Australia. Many seminars were attended addressing the theme of being Future Focused and gaining insight into what Councils can do today to get ready for the challenges, opportunities and changes that lie ahead.

**DISCUSSION**

Council's attendance at the NGA provides the opportunity to listen to the current challenges confronting the sector from Councils across the country and consider solutions or innovative ideas that may be relevant to Golden Plains Shire.

The Regional Forum specifically targets those Councils considered rural, regional and remote. The day focused on topics such as post pandemic tourism, housing and population challenges, regional leadership and the impacts of climate change (increasing the resilience of rural communities affected by floods and fires).

The theme of this year's NGA – Partners in Progress – reflects the important role we all play in building a stronger, more inclusive, and more sustainable Australia – and our willingness to work with other governments to get the job done.

A significant number of motions were put to the Assembly, generating lively, vigorous and constructive debate. All the motions that were supported at the NGA are submitted to the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) board for consideration and, ultimately, to advance the cause of Local Government and the communities we seek to serve.

The program for this year's NGA also provided a chance for delegates to meet the exhibitors and discover the latest developments in recycling technologies, Light-emitting diode (LED) lighting, indigenous procurement, government funding, regional technology, and much more. There was also lots of discussion about electric vehicles and what the technology means for the future of transport in Australia.

Keynote speakers were Stan Grant, Journalist and Author, Alicia McKay (NZ), Strategic Leadership Expert, Dr Jonathan Carr-West (UK), CEO, Local Government Information Unit, UK, Val Dempsey, 2022 Senior Australian of the Year, Paul Tilley, Economist, Marcus Spiller, Principal & Partner, SGS Economics & Planning. The summit was also fortunate to hear from a number of newly appointed Federal Ministers including Catherine King, Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government, Minister for Local Government, Murray Watt, Minister for Agriculture, Forestry and Fishery and Emergency Management.

## REPORTING AND COMPLIANCE STATEMENTS

*Local Government Act 2020 (LGA 2020)*

Implications	Applicable to this Report
<b>Governance Principles</b> (Consideration of the Governance Principles under s.9 of LGA 2020)	No
<b>Policy/Relevant Law</b> (Consideration of the Governance Principles under s.9 of LGA 2020)	No
<b>Environmental/Sustainability Implications</b> (Consideration of the Governance Principles under s.9 of LGA 2020)	No
<b>Community Engagement</b> (Consideration of Community Engagement Principles under s.56 LGA 2020)	No
<b>Public Transparency</b> (Consideration of Public Transparency Principles under s.58 of LGA 2020)	No
<b>Strategies and Plans</b> (Consideration of Strategic Planning Principles under s.89 of LGA 2020)	No
<b>Financial Management</b> (Consideration of Financial Management Principles under s.101 of LGA 2020)	No
<b>Service Performance</b> (Consideration of Service Performance Principles under s.106 of LGA 2020)	No
<b>Risk Assessment</b>	No
<b>Communication</b>	Yes
<b>Human Rights Charter</b>	Yes
<b>Gender Equality</b> (Gender Impact Assessment required by s.9 of Gender Equality Act 2020)	No

## HUMAN RIGHTS CHARTER

It is considered that this report does not impact negatively on any rights identified in the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006 (VIC).

## OPTIONS

### Option 1 – Note the update

This option is recommended by officers

### Option 2 – Request further information

This option is not recommended by officers

## CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No officer involved in preparing this report has any conflicts of interest in regards to this matter.

## CONCLUSION

That Council note Mayor Gamble's report.

## **8 NOTICES OF MOTION**

### **8.1 NOTICE OF MOTION - ENVIRONMENTALLY SIGNIFICANT OVERLAYS**

**File Number:**

**Attachments: 1. Notice of Motion - Environmentally Significant Overlays**

I, Councillor Gavin Gamble, give notice that at the next Ordinary Meeting of Council be held on 28 June 2022, I intend to move the following motion:-

#### **MOTION**

That Council prepare a report for a future briefing to better understand where the environmentally significant overlays currently exist and where they may best be applied in the future.

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#### **RATIONALE**

This is an area that hasn't been addressed for a considerable time and given the significant development and consequent environmental pressures to come, I believe it is appropriate for Council to seek clarification and review of the environmentally significant overlays in Golden Plains Shire.

I commend this Notice of Motion to Council.

## **8.2 NOTICE OF MOTION - SEEKING A REPORT ON HOUSING IN GOLDEN PLAINS SHIRE**

### **File Number:**

### **Attachments: 1. Notice of Motion - Seeking a Report on Housing in Golden Plains**

I, Councillor Gavin Gamble, give notice that at the next Ordinary Meeting of Council be held on 28 June 2022, I intend to move the following motion:-

### **MOTION**

That Council prepare a report for a future briefing on how Council can encourage a greater diversity of housing choice and availability in Golden Plains Shire.

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### **RATIONALE**

To provide consideration of how council may help alleviate housing stress and provide greater choices and options in helping people in our community.

I commend this Notice of Motion to Council.

**9 PETITIONS**

Nil

## **10 CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS FOR DECISION**

### **RECOMMENDATION**

That Council considers the confidential report(s) listed below in a meeting closed to the public in accordance with Section 66 of the Local Government Act 2020:

#### **10.1 Extension Recyclables Processing Agreement**

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 3(1) - g of the Local Government Act, and the Council is satisfied that discussion of this matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest as it deals with private commercial information, being information provided by a business, commercial or financial undertaking that—.

#### **10.2 Victorian School Crossing Supervisor Program**

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 3(1) - g of the Local Government Act, and the Council is satisfied that discussion of this matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest as it deals with private commercial information, being information provided by a business, commercial or financial undertaking that—.

#### **10.3 Confirmation of Confidential Council Meeting Minutes - 24 May 2022**

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 3(1) - h of the Local Government Act, and the Council is satisfied that discussion of this matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest as it deals with confidential meeting information, being the records of meetings closed to the public under section 66(2)(a).

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