

AGENDA

Council Meeting

6.00pm Tuesday 27 February 2024

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

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING
6.00pm Tuesday 26 March 2024

Copies of Golden Plains Shire Council's Agendas & Minutes
Can be obtained online at 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.

Members of the Gallery

Welcome to a Golden Plains Shire Council meeting and thank you for joining us.

MEETING PROCEDURES

The procedures for this Council meeting are provided in Council's Governance Rules. A copy of the Governance Rules can be found on Council's [website](#).

MEETING FACILITIES

Council meetings are generally held at:

- Golden Plains Shire Council Civic Centre (2 Pope Street, Bannockburn)
- Linton Shire Hall (68 Sussex Street, Linton)
- The Well, Smythesdale (19 Heales Street, Smythesdale)

EXPECTATIONS OF THE GALLERY

Council meetings are decision-making forums and it is important that they are open to the community to attend and view proceedings. Community members may participate in Council meetings in accordance with Chapter 2, Division 7 of the Governance Rules.

At each meeting, there is an opportunity for members of the public to ask questions of the Council. Questions must be submitted to Council no later than 10:00am on the day of the meeting in order to be asked at the meeting.

Members of the public present at Council meetings must remain silent during the proceedings except when specifically invited to address the meeting. Mobile devices are permitted for silent use but must not be used for recording, talking or any usage that generates noise, unless permission is granted by the Chairperson of the meeting.

The Chairperson of the meeting may remove a person from the meeting if the person continues to interject or gesticulate offensively after being asked to desist. The Chairperson may cause the removal of any object or material that is deemed by them to be objectionable or disrespectful.

The Chairperson may call a break in a meeting for either a short time or to resume another day if the behaviour at the Council table or in the gallery is significantly disrupting the meeting.

RECORDING OF MEETINGS

Council meetings are recorded and streamed live on the internet. Recordings are archived and available on Council's [Youtube page](#).

All care is taken to maintain your privacy however as a visitor in the public gallery, your presence may be recorded.

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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 Peoples.

Council acknowledges them as the Traditional Owners and Custodians and pays its respects to both Wadawurrung and Eastern Maar Elders past, present and emerging.

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

3 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE**4 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES****Recommendation**

That Council confirms the minutes and the confidential minutes of the Council Meeting held on Tuesday 19 December 2023.

5 DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST**6 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

7 BUSINESS REPORTS FOR DECISION

7.1 DELEGATES REPORT & INFORMAL MEETINGS OF COUNCILLORS RECORDS

File Number:

Author: Elise Holmes, Executive Assistant to the CEO

Authoriser: Eric Braslis, CEO

Attachments:

1. Informal Meeting of Councillors Records - Strategic Briefing - 6 February 2024
2. Informal Meeting of Councillors Records - Briefing Meeting - 20 February 2024

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and note the Delegates Report and Informal Meetings of Councillors for the past two months.

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 two months. This report contains records of informal meetings of Councillors as defined under Rule 1 of Chapter 5 of Council's Governance Rules.

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 Cunningham

- 2023 Mayoral Student Award – Inverleigh Primary School, Bannockburn P-12 College and Napoleons
- Meeting with Libby Coker MP and CEO
- Golden Plains Shire Council Staff End of Year Celebration
- Lethbridge Playground Photo Opportunity
- Community Awards 2023 and Citizenship Ceremony
- Australia Day Breakfasts at Haddon, Napoleons and Shelford
- Golden Plains Farmers Market / Councillor Listening Post
- "Unpacking the Man Box" Workshop

- Kitjarra-dja-bul Bullarto langi-ut Masterplan Launch
- Outdoor Theatre Events at Cape Clear and Bannockburn
- Peri Urban Councils Victoria Delegation to Canberra
- Meeting with Emergency Recovery Victoria CEO

Cr Gamble

- Golden Plains Shire Council Staff End of Year Celebration
- Community Awards 2023 and Citizenship Ceremony
- Dardel Drive - Meeting with Residents
- Kitjarra-dja-bul Bullarto langi-ut Masterplan Launch
- Golden Plains Farmers Market / Councillor Listening Post
- Smythesdale Country Market

Cr Getsom

- 2023 Mayoral Student Award – Linton Primary School, Haddon Primary School, Woady Yaloak (Ross Creek) Primary School and Rokewood Primary School
- Community Awards 2023 and Citizenship Ceremony
- Cape Clear Valentines Day Family Bush Dance

Cr Kirby

- Rokewood Kindergarten End of Year Event
- Community Awards 2023 and Citizenship Ceremony
- Golden Plains Farmers Market / Councillor Listening Post
- Dardel Drive - Meeting with Residents
- Shelford Duck Race

Cr Rowe

- Community Awards 2023 and Citizenship Ceremony
- Dardel Drive - Meeting with Residents
- Golden Plains Farmers Market / Councillor Listening Post

Cr Whitfield

- Community Awards 2023 and Citizenship Ceremony
- Golden Plains Farmers Market / Councillor Listening Post

INFORMAL MEETINGS OF COUNCILLORS

Rule 1 of Chapter 5 of the Governance Rules requires that if there is a meeting of Councillors that:

- a) Is scheduled or planned for the purpose of discussing the business of Council or briefing Councillors.
- b) Is attended by an absolute majority of Councillors and one member of Council staff; and
- c) Is not a Council meeting, delegated committee meeting or community asset committee meeting.

The Chief Executive Officer must ensure that a summary of the matters discussed at the meeting are:

- a) Tabled at the next convenient Council meeting; and
- b) Recorded in the minutes of that Council meeting.

Records of informal meetings of Councillors are reported to an open Council meeting in order to promote transparency of Council decisions, actions and information, in accordance with the Governance Principles as contained in s9(2) Local Government Act 2020. The informal meetings of Councillors records are attached to this report. Rule 6 of Chapter 5 of the Governance Rules provides procedures for the declaration of a conflict of interest at a meeting being held under the auspices of Council, which includes a meeting which meets the definition of an informal meeting of Councillors under Rule 1 of Chapter 5. The informal meetings of Councillors records attached include any declarations of conflicts of interest made at these meetings.

7.2 2024 PRIORITY PROJECTS - ENDORSEMENT

File Number:**Author:** Lisa Baldock, Coordinator Communications and Engagement**Authoriser:** Eric Braslis, CEO**Attachments:** Nil**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council endorse the 2024 Priority Projects listed in the report.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Priority Projects 2024 document has been developed by the Golden Plains Shire on behalf of the community. The Priority Projects program outlines key projects crucial for Golden Plain Shire community's growth and well-being. In its essence, the document serves as a strategic list for lobbying State and Federal Government for investment and shares the story of Golden Plains Shire now and into the future.

The document encompasses a range of projects which are not mere aspirations, but essential initiatives that promise tangible benefits to the community. From managing growth, regional priorities and advocacy initiatives, building the economy, regional alliances, to building a stronger, healthier Golden Plains, the document details the project background information, issues and benefits, with embedded links to a library of supporting documents. Each project includes a 'What we need' box that details Council's specific request to the relevant funding body to advance the project.

BACKGROUND

Since 2018 Council has prepared a Priority Projects document which is used when advocating and lobbying with the State and Federal Governments, to seek funding to deliver on a number of Council and community aspirations. The strategic nature of the document is evident as it aligns with Council's long-term goals, addressing critical infrastructure, community development, and environmental sustainability. The inclusion of these projects demonstrates a forward-thinking approach to shaping Golden Plains Shire's future. To bring these aspirations to fruition, Council emphasises the necessity for support from various governmental tiers. Financial assistance, regulatory backing, and collaborative efforts are essential for the successful implementation of these projects. The Priority Projects document is regularly updated as the status of projects advance, funding is secured or delivered and new initiatives become apparent.

DISCUSSION

Over the past few years, several projects from within the booklet have turned into election commitments. For instance, in the May 2022 Federal Election:

- \$690K for the Victoria Park Bannockburn Female Friendly Changerooms (plus \$1.1M from the 2022/23 State Government Budget)
- \$700K for the Inverleigh Active Youth Space (plus \$1.487M from the Growing Suburbs Fund)
- \$750K for Linton Oval Reconstruction (plus \$200K from the Country Football Netball Program)
- \$450K for the Bannockburn Family Services Centre
- \$550K for the Smythesdale Football/Netball Lights
- \$350K for Maude Community Hub.

Then, in the November 2022 State Election:

- \$1.5M for the Don Wallace Recreation Reserve in Teesdale
- \$7M for the Bannockburn State Emergency Services station
- Provision of a bus service from Ballarat to Smythesdale

In addition to election commitments, Council was also successful in securing state funding via application processes for existing grant programs:

- \$3.5M for the Rokewood Community Hub and Pavilion Upgrade
- \$438K for the Rokewood Netball/Tennis Courts
- \$805K for the Bannockburn Skate Bowl
- \$200K for the Lethbridge Play Space Upgrade
- \$30K for the Golden Plains Tracks and Trails Strategy,
- \$30K for the Woody Yaloak Equestrian Centre Planning.

In addition to the above, the following is a snapshot of several priority projects that reached significant milestones over the past year:

- BerryBank Wind Farm: Stage 1 became operational, with Stage 2 in construction phase
- Golden Plains Wind Farm: Stage 1 construction commenced in early 2023
- Regional Renewable Organics Network business case progressed
- Kitjarra-dja-bul Bullarto Langi Masterplan was adopted and launched by the Minister in February.
- Greater Ballarat Alliance of Councils established (Ballarat, Hepburn, Pyrenees, Central Goldfields, Moorabool and Golden Plains Shires)

2024 Priority Projects

The 2024 booklet is broken into various themes, which include details on the specific priority projects and details of the requests of Government.

- Managing Growth
 - Shire wide Growing Place Strategy
 - Bannockburn Growth Plan
 - Shire wide Road Network Improvements
 - Shire wide Bridge replacements
 - Milton Street Bridge connection
 - Northern Settlement Strategy
 - Small Town Sewerage
 - Bannockburn South Emergency Services Precinct
- Regional Priorities and Advocacy Initiatives
 - Lack of Health Services within the Shire
 - Lack of Public Transport services
 - Need for improved Youth services

- 24-hour Police Station in Bannockburn
 - New ambulance station in Smythesdale
- A Stronger, Healthier Golden Plains
 - Bannockburn Heart Stage 2
 - Bannockburn BMX/Pump Track
 - Bannockburn Recreational Precinct upgrades
 - Bannockburn Cultural Centre Café
 - Smythesdale Regional Playspace
 - Teesdale Recreation Reserve upgrades
 - Woody Yaloak Equestrian Centre upgrades
 - Woody Yaloak Netball court and lighting improvements
 - Inverleigh Oval 2 lighting installation
 - Inverleigh Tennis Court relocation
 - Maude Community Hub
- Building the Economy
 - Lethbridge Airport Expansion
 - Gheringhap Employment Precinct
 - Continued investment in Renewable Energy projects
 - Additional Telecommunication installations in blackspots
 - Investment to support a Green Organic Recycling facility in Geelong
 - Ongoing investment in the restoration of the Moorabool River
- Regional Alliances
 - G21 (Geelong, Surf Coast, Colac Otways and Queenscliff)
 - BRAC (Ballarat, Hepburn, Moorabool, Central Goldfields and Pyrenees)
 - Peri Urban Councils Vic (Moorabool, Surf Coast, Bass Coast and Baw Baw)

As we approach the Federal Election in late 2024 or early 2025 and the State Election in 2026, Council is committed to advocating and lobbying vigorously on behalf of our community's interests. The booklet will be used to inform our existing MPs and other candidates for those elections, in anticipation of securing election commitments to ensure that the needs and priorities of our community.

REPORTING AND COMPLIANCE STATEMENTS

Local Government Act 2020 (LGA 2020)

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

STRATEGIES AND PLANS

The projects within the booklet have strong links to existing Council adopted strategies / plans.

COMMUNICATION

With the support of Councillors, the 2024 Priority Projects will be the key advocacy publication in the final year of the Council term.

HUMAN RIGHTS CHARTER

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

GENDER EQUITY

Many of the projects, actions and advocacy will support and strengthen our commitment to gender equity.

OPTIONS

Option 1 – That Council endorse the 2024 Priority projects

This option is recommended as the 2024 Priority projects reflects Council's commitment to the community, as a roadmap for realising the shared vision for a vibrant and thriving Shire.

Option 2 – That Council does not endorse the 2024 Priority projects

This option is not recommended as the projects demonstrates a forward-thinking approach to shaping Golden Plains Shire's future and supports Council's commitment to setting a roadmap for realising the shared vision for a vibrant and thriving Shire.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

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

CONCLUSION

As Councillors enter the final year of their term, the 2024 Priority Projects becomes a guide for focused and impactful lobbying and advocacy. It encapsulates Council's commitment to the community, acting as a roadmap for realising the shared vision for a vibrant and thriving golden Plains Shire now and into the future.

7.3 BUDGETARY CONSTRAINTS AND FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

File Number:**Author:** Fiona Rae, Manager Finance**Authoriser:** Lynne Gray, Director Corporate Services**Attachments:** Nil**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council acknowledge the challenging financial environment that is confronting Councils across Victoria in the preparation of 2024-25 Council budgets, and the impact upon the long-term financial sustainability of Councils like Golden Plains.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Local Government sector in Victoria is currently facing several challenges impacting its financial sustainability. This report outlines these issues and emphasises the need for prudent financial monitoring in the preparation of the upcoming draft budget. Recognising the burden of cost-of-living challenges on households, Council acknowledges that rate increases are not the sole solution. To navigate these challenges, Council must explore options such as alternative income streams, consider business improvements / efficiencies and service level reductions.

BACKGROUND

The prevailing economic conditions across the nation are influencing all facets of daily life, including the operations of Council. Costs for utilities, insurances, materials and contracts are rising at a rate surpassing CPI, and notably exceeding the yearly increase in rate income. With a significant slowdown in growth within the Shire, Council is now more reliant on support from State and Federal Governments to deliver the necessary services, maintenance, and demanded capital improvements that the community needs.

DISCUSSION

Financial sustainability is Council's ability to manage its financial resources in a responsible and efficient manner over the long term. It involves ensuring that revenue sources are sufficient to cover operating expenses, fund essential services and liabilities, and ensure an adequate surplus to effectively manage and invest in assets. It also includes planning for future needs, such as the upgrade and maintenance of infrastructure to respond to community needs and growth, while considering the potential impacts of economic fluctuations and changing demographics.

A number of challenges continue to impact on the overall operations and financial sustainability of Council.

Fair Go Rates System - Rate Capping

Since its inception in 2016, the 'Fair Go Rates System' has challenged all Victorian Councils' financial sustainability. The Essential Services Commission (ESC) is responsible for recommending a rate cap for all Victorian Councils to the Minister for Local Government each year. The ESC has recommended the rate cap be set equal to the Consumer Price Index (CPI) forecast, however the CPI does not accurately reflect increases in costs faced by Councils, because they have a significantly different composition of expenditure compared to households. Key Council expenditures required to provide services and deliver infrastructure projects, have been increasing faster than the CPI due to escalating contract prices for infrastructure projects driven by factors such as inflation, supply pressures and competition from State infrastructure initiatives.

As an example, this year the Minister has set the 2024-25 rate cap at 2.75%, compared to the Reserve Bank CPI forecast of 3.4% and September 2023 CPI for Melbourne of 4.9%. ESC recommended the rate cap be set at the Department of Treasury and Finance CPI forecast of

3.4%, as opposed to the actual rate cap set at 2.75%, which is a shortfall of 0.65%. This may not sound significant, but this equates to \$684,000 less income in the budget.

The ESC identified five key considerations when making its recommendation, three of which were either not considered enough to understand and reflect the impacts on the sector, or were not able to take into consideration other decisions of the Minister:

- While Council cash reserves are declining, the sector maintains low levels of debt and stable borrowing levels – the recent hike in interest rates has significantly increased the cost of borrowing with many Councils experiencing no appetite to increase debt. There seems to be a push to increase debt to manage increasing costs.
- Council costs increased at a slower rate than inflation during 2022-23 but at a higher rate than the current year (2023-24) rate cap of 3.5% - the analysis would not be effective in capturing the fact that Councils are managing their costs within their means by reducing discretionary costs, which also leads to a reduction in service levels.
- Construction costs continue to rise but at a slower pace than last year – this has resulted in many Councils significantly reducing their capital program, adding to the renewal gap issue and long-term financial sustainability.

ESC further summarised these impacts in their recommendation on the rate cap:

“In our view, the gap between the rate cap and inflation, rising construction costs, and the expectation of future wage increases have the potential to present major cost pressures on Councils going forward”.

A number of Local Government sector bodies strongly oppose this low-rate cap, with the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) lobbying for a review of the rate cap process:

“The rate cap system does not take into account the vastly different needs of Councils across the State with some Councils still facing exhaustive repair bills from natural disasters and others in desperate need of upgraded or new infrastructure. A more flexible approach to the rate cap, recognising unique infrastructure challenges, cost shifting by the State Government, and the true cost of Council services would provide a more effective way forward for the sector”.

An application can be made to the State government requesting higher rate cap, however this isn't necessarily the longer-term answer on its own, as the community capacity to pay continues to become more and more challenging.

Cost Shifting

Cost shifting has also been a major financial issue for many years. Over time, Councils have been required to take on additional responsibilities, deliver them within the prescribed fees and contain our rate increase to a State imposed cap, which have had a detrimental impact on the financial position of Councils. Funds received by State Government have not increased in line with real cost escalation. Council has relied on rate revenue to bridge funding gaps, meet growing service demands, comply with new Government policies, tackle rising costs and fulfill community expectations.

The Australian Local Government Association is calling for additional Federal Government funding noting *‘Many of Australia’s Councils are under significant financial pressure, which is being compounded by increasingly frequent natural disasters, jobs and skills shortages and inflation’*. *‘FA Grants have declined from one per cent of Commonwealth taxation revenue in 1996 to just 0.5 per cent today’*.

Cost shifting is being quoted in a number of arenas and discussions within the Local Government sector, particularly following the announcement of a Parliamentary inquiry into Local Government funding and services which will investigate:

- Cost shifting from State and Federal Governments to local Council,
- Ability of Local Governments to meet core service delivery objectives,

- Local Government's revenue structure, as well as whether these structures are sustainable and appropriate, and whether there are alternative models of funding to consider.

A number of Councils are capturing data on the impacts of cost shifting to their financial plans, operations and service levels. Examples of the services include, but are not limited to:

Reduced funding - Electric line clearance, Libraries, Fire Hydrant maintenance and School Crossings

Services with State fees that are below cost recovery - Statutory Planning, Building Services and Environmental Health

New services that State has imposed upon Councils to provide - 4 Bin Waste Collection

Other Factors that we need to consider:

Election 2024

The Local Government Council Elections 2024 will take place in October 2024. The Victorian Electoral Commission is responsible for the running of these elections however the costs are passed onto each Council. The expected costs for the Election process itself is just over \$200,000 and doesn't consider the additional costs incurred by Council to meet its mandatory obligations.

Windfall Gains Tax

From 1 July 2023, a State Government Windfall Gains Tax applies to all land rezoned by a planning scheme amendment, resulting in a value uplift to the land of more than \$100,000. In determining the value uplift, all land owned by the person or group and subject to that rezoning is taken into account. The recent decision by the Minister, as the Planning Authority, to approve Planning Scheme Amendment C103gpla & Planning Permit P23244 for the rezoning of part of the Bannockburn Recreation Reserve for a 51-lot residential subdivision will result in Windfall Gains Tax being payable. The liability for Windfall Gains Tax arises upon the rezoning occurring. Owners of land liable to pay Windfall Gains Tax will be issued with a Windfall Gains Tax assessment with a due date for payment. We will have the option to defer payment of all or some of their Windfall Gains Tax liability until the next dutiable transaction (or relevant acquisition) occurs, or 30 years after the rezoning event, whichever occurs first.

Insurance Increases

There have been significant increases in workers compensation insurance premiums across many sectors, including Local Government. There are several factors related to this increase; however, the State Government increase in the average premium from 1.27% to 1.80% as part of the State Budget has had a major impact.

Utilities

Utilities continue to increase above CPI, for instance Electricity prices have increased by 6.9% in the 12 months to December 2023 after factoring in the energy bill relief rebates, or 17.6% when excluding rebates (noting as Council is not eligible for a rebate).

Materials

Increases to the cost of materials will continue with key indices confirming further increases in construction and civil engineering costs from previous years. Building construction pricing has increased by 5.4% in the 12 months to December 2023 due to ongoing skilled labour shortages and increases in margins to mitigate risks over longer-term projects. Civil construction indices have increased by 2.7% in the 12 months to December 2023 due to ongoing skilled labour shortages and increases in operating costs of machinery. These increases are on top of the 13.1% and 9.6% for building construction and civil construction respectively for the 12-month period to December 2022.

Proposed Changes to the Waste Charge

Local Government Guidelines for Services Rates and Charges were issued in late December 2023 and include a change to the waste costs that can be recovered via the waste charge. Costs that are excluded are litter and waste collection from public spaces, street/footpath and drain cleaning, graffiti removal, municipal tree planting and maintenance, general and environmental activities such as park maintenance, public education and advocacy. Although our Waste Charge doesn't include all of these, it does include some, and if Council were to be compliant from July 1, Council estimates it would have to find an additional \$850k from its operating budget, to continue to provide those services.

Regulatory compliance

New regulations, such as the Circular Economy Act which mandates the new 4 Bin systems, new recycling processes and requirements, and changes to existing regulations such as the Environment Protection Act/General Environmental Duty/Climate Change Act will all result in increased cost to Councils and residents over the short, medium and longer term to meet the minimum compliance requirements.

Community Consultation

Council will be at the Smythesdale Market in March. This event marks the first opportunity for the community to discuss the challenges posed by the current economic climate and their impact on the 2024-25 budget. Council aims to gather feedback on potential reductions, deferrals or cancellation of services, programs or projects to help create a balanced budget.

REPORTING AND COMPLIANCE STATEMENTS

Local Government Act 2020 (LGA 2020)

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

2020)	GIA but not the budget itself
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GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLES

The 2024-25 Draft Budget will be prepared in accordance with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

POLICY / RELEVANT LAW / REFERENCES

Local Government Act 2020

Local Government Amendment (Fair Go Rates) Act 2015

Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020

Essential Services Commission - Our advice on setting council rate caps –

<https://www.esc.vic.gov.au/local-government/annual-council-rate-caps/our-advice-setting-council-rate-caps>

Municipal Association of Victoria - Disappointing rate cap, system needs review –

<https://www.mav.asn.au/news/disappointing-rate-cap.-system-needs-review#:~:text=%E2%80%9CThe%20rate%20cap%20is%20a,of%20councils%20across%20the%20state.>

Australian Local Government Association – time to deliver ‘fair increases’ to Financial Assistance Grants for Councils –

<https://alga.com.au/time-to-deliver-fair-increases-to-financial-assistance-grants-for-councils/>

Parliament of Victoria – inquiry into Local Government funding and services -

<https://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/get-involved/inquiries/inquiry-into-local-government-funding-and-services/>

Victoria State Government - Local Government Service Rates and Charges –

https://www.localgovernment.vic.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0012/204222/Attachment-A-MinisterialGoodPracticeGuidelinesForServiceRatesAndCharges.pdf

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. The Draft Budget will be prepared based on these adopted principles.

The 2024-25 Draft Budget will be placed on public exhibition for one month in accordance with the Community Engagement Policy. Any resident/ratepayer can make written comment on any proposal contained in the budget. Feedback will be heard at a Council meeting on 4 June 2024.

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 2024-25 Draft Budget will be prepared ensuring consistency with Council’s long term financial plan, and also ensuring alignment with the 2021-2025 Council Plan.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

The 2024-25 Draft Budget will be 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 2024-25 Draft Budget will be 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 2024-25 Draft Budget will be reported to Council as it is formulated with a series of workshops held with Council to facilitate the development of the draft budget. The 2024-25 Draft Budget will be placed on public exhibition for a four week period, with public submissions considered at the 4 June 2024 Council meeting, and adoption of the budget at the 25 June 2024 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

Whilst the 2024-25 Draft Budget itself does not require gender impact assessment, some of the services and programs included in the budget will require a gender impact assessment.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

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

CONCLUSION

In accordance with the legislation, Council will place the draft Budget out for public exhibition in May prior to the adoption of the final budget by 30 June 2024.

7.4 FINANCE REPORT - QUARTER 2

File Number:

Author: Fiona Rae, Manager Finance

Authoriser: Lynnere Gray, Director Corporate Services

Attachments: 1. Q2 Financial Dashboard
2. Q2 Finance Reports

RECOMMENDATION

That Council note the Quarter 2 Finance Report for the 6 months ended 31 December 2023.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Quarter 2 Finance Report outlines the financial results for the six months ended 31 December 2023, together with a comparison to the revised budget adopted by Council (inclusive of carry forwards from 2022-23 and additional funding received to complete projects).

This report includes a summary of Council's financial performance and position for the 2023-24 year up to 31 December 2023, and an update on capital projects as of 31 December 2023. A high-level full year forecast is also included in the financial statements. The Quarter 2 report was presented to the Audit and Risk Committee at their 13 February 2024 meeting.

BACKGROUND

The contents of this report assist the Council to gain assurance in relation to financial management of Council's operations. The *Local Government Act 2020* requires a statement, comparing the budgeted revenue and expenditure for the financial year with the actual revenue and expenditure to date, to be presented to Council at least every three (3) months.

Council has completed six months of the 2023-24 financial year. The attached budget report has been prepared on an operating basis and includes a comparison of actual results for the period to 31 December 2023 to the annual budget adopted by Council for the following financial statements:

- Income Statement
- Balance Sheet
- Statement of Cash Flows
- Statement of Capital Works
- Service Area Summary

DISCUSSION

The financial report and attachments provide a comprehensive overview of Council's financial performance and current financial state, for the second quarter of the 2023-24 financial year up to 31 December 2023 and an update on the status and progress of capital projects.

Operating Result

The operating result for the period is reporting a surplus of \$13.9m compared to the original budgeted surplus of \$16.5m and revised budgeted surplus of \$21.4m. This \$7.4m unfavourable variance to the revised budget is primarily due to:

Revenue lower than budget:

- Operating Grants – \$2.3m unfavourable variance due to additional \$2m General Purpose Grant received in 2022-23 but budgeted in 2023-24 (100% received in advance compared to 75% budgeted) reducing grant income in the current year. This will be offset by grants deferred from 2022-23 and included in budget, which will increase grant income in the current year.

- Capital Grants – \$5.6m unfavourable variance with timing of recognition impacted by grants received in advance (\$3.5m Rokewood Rec Reserve, \$1.5m Inverleigh Active Youth Space, \$880k Vic Park Female Friendly Changeroom, \$805k Bannockburn Skate Park Upgrade, \$734k Smart Shires Network). Grants will be recognised throughout the year as performance obligations are met.
- Monetary contributions - \$178k favourable variance with public open space contributions \$304k higher than budget offset by windfarm income \$106k lower than budget due to timing of invoices raised.
- Net Gain/Loss on Disposals – unfavourable variance due to only 1 Lomandra Drive lot sold to date.

Expenditure variances:

- Materials and services – partly offset by \$1.0m favourable variance due to timing variances between budget phasing and costs - \$379k delay in garbage disposal invoices processed, \$66k bridge maintenance works, asset services costs budget phasing, \$125k projects starting later in year, \$44k budget phasing for fire services levy for Council properties to be paid in February, and \$145k Core Systems Transformation project.
- Depreciation – \$721k unfavourable variance due to higher depreciation costs resulting from increase in asset values of \$46.8m from the asset revaluation at 30 June 2023 (will result in a \$1.4m unfavourable variance for the full year).

Adjusted Underlying Result

The 'Adjusted Underlying Result' removes any non-recurrent grants used to fund capital expenditure, non-monetary asset contributions and other capital contributions to fund capital expenditure from the operating result. This formula is prescribed within the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020*.

At 31 December 2023 the 'Adjusted Underlying Result' is generating a surplus of \$9.3m, compared to a revised budget underlying surplus of \$11.7m. This unfavourable variance of \$2.4m to the revised budget is primarily due to variances in the operating result as outlined above (lower grant income, lower land sales, and higher depreciation compared to budget).

Council's 2023-24 budget generated an Adjusted Underlying Deficit of \$443k. The revised budget has been updated with forecast grants received in advance, reduction of Lomandra Drive land sales from 4 lots to 2 lots, \$1.5m additional gifted assets reflecting year-to-date subdivision handovers, \$1.4m additional depreciation costs, and \$115k additional savings identified which generates an Adjusted Underlying Deficit of \$815k.

Financial Snapshot

	2023-24 Annual Original Budget	2023-24 Annual Revised Budget	Revised Budget December 2023	Actual December 2023
Operating Result	12,398	14,633	21,355	13,938
Adjusted Underlying Result	(443)	(815)	11,711	9,262
Capital Expenditure	22,678	29,947	10,887	4,589
Cash Balance	13,052	7,428	n/a	12,010
Total Borrowings	8,333	8,350	n/a	9,160

Actual December - Operating result includes full year rate revenue as annual rates notices issued in first quarter, only one quarter of expenditure included in first quarter.

Key Issues / Risks

The key items and risks to note at the end of the first quarter of the 2023-24 financial year up until 31 December 2023 are:

- One lot from the Lomandra Drive development has been sold, with three more lots included in the 2023-24 original budgeted income.
- The flood emergency works claims lodged of \$230k in 2022-23 and \$280k lodged to date in 2023-24 are still awaiting finalisation of assessment and payment by the relevant government department. Significant costs were incurred by Council that are either still being worked through for claim lodgement or are not potentially claimable.
- Depreciation expense will be higher than budget due to an increase in asset values of \$46.8m resulting from an asset revaluation of infrastructure and building assets required due to material movements in indices. The impact from the increase in asset values is estimated to generate an additional \$1.4m in depreciation for the year. The Senior Management Team are continuing discussions to identify any additional opportunities to offset this impact.
- Non-monetary contributions - \$3.5m of gifted assets recognised from year-to-date subdivision handovers, compared to \$2.0m annual budget.
- Council has received \$500k from Surf Coast Shire being the reimbursement of Council's contribution towards the replacement of the Pollocksford Road Bridge located on the border of both Shires, as this project is no longer going ahead at this time.

Operational Budget Review

The Senior Management Team has conducted a review of operational budgets to identify \$1m of potential areas to pause/defer or reduce service levels on the presumption that only 2 Lomandra Drive lots are sold by 30 June 2024, compared to the 4 lots included in the 2023-24 budget.

Items identified include reducing maintenance expenditure across programs (e.g. sports oval maintenance, roadside slashing, playgrounds and skate park maintenance), reduction in training, pausing recreation strategy and urban design framework studies to name a few.

Capital Projects

Actual versus Budget

Total expenditure in the Statement of Capital Works is \$4.6m which is \$6.3m below the revised budget of \$10.9m.

The capital program has delivered 43% of the YTD revised budget. The revised budget includes projects totalling \$7.3m rolled forward into 2023-24 for multi-year projects and projects that were delayed due to the damage to road assets from the flood events of October and November 2022 requiring rectification works.

Delivery of Projects

The following project has been completed during the quarter as outlined below:

Project	Project Budget \$	Project Cost \$	\$ Variance	% Variance
Inverleigh Drainage and Carpark	498,125	135,336	\$362,789 favourable against total budget. Budget includes Stage 2.	73% favourable against total budget. Budget includes Stage 2.

The following projects were carried over from 2022-23 into the 2023-24 year with status updates and/or roll-forward details provided below:

- \$1.3m Local Roads Improvements (Roads to Recovery) – Kopkes Road reconstruction 95% complete, remainder of works anticipated to be complete by end of January with road open for traffic in December.
- \$863k Local Roads Improvements – Cape Clear-Rokewood Road tender approved at July Council meeting, works commenced in September and works complete in December and acquittal process underway.
- \$498k Inverleigh Drainage and Car Park Works – works completed, upgrade only between East Street and Inverleigh-Winchelsea Road. Savings could be directed to other drainage projects in Inverleigh or streetscape works.
- \$768k Rokewood Landfill Rehabilitation Works – borehole testing undertaken with the outcome supporting the use of the material for the interim capping. Tender closed in January with evaluation and assessment to be completed in February. Consultant finalising post rehabilitation and after care plans which will inform determining aftercare costs.
- \$375k LRCI Phase 3 – public open space asset renewal – path, furniture and BBQ works in progress at Edinburgh Reserve. Contractor appointed to construct Lethbridge public toilet. Cultural values assessment completed for Leigh River Junction viewing platform, tenders received for structural engineer and land surveyors currently being assessed.
- \$871k Linton Oval Reconstruction – construction commenced in September with delays due to wet weather. Ground works, irrigation and sprinkler installation works well progressed. Perimeter fencing, coaches boxes and drainage works will occur in early 2024.
- \$400k Lethbridge Play Space – stage 1 works completed with playground open to community in December. Additional works to complete nature play and furniture elements scheduled for March.
- \$250k Leighdale Equestrian Upgrade Female Friendly – final stage of previous year project for covered arena and infrastructure. Procurement for arena surface is in progress with works expected in February and March.

Contracts approved under CEO delegation via the Contracts, Tenders and Grants Committee

As part of continuous improvement and reporting in relation to procurement activities, contracts that have been awarded between the values of \$200,000 and \$450,000 are presented to the Contracts, Tenders and Grants Committee to recommend for approval to the CEO. Contracts awarded between these values during the quarter are listed in the table below.

Contracts Awarded – Contract Value Between \$200,000 - \$400,000			
Project	Approved By	Awarded To	Contract Value \$
Nil			

Council officers have been proactive with earlier planning of projects and allocation of budgets than traditional processes, which has enabled a number of tenders to be issued and awarded well in advance of a normal year. Projects advertised during the quarter include:

Project	Timeline
Bannockburn Vic Park Netball Pavillion	Construction to commence February 2024
Construction of Capping and Rehabilitation of Rokewood Landfill	To be awarded at upcoming Council meeting
Replacement of Henderson's Road Bridge, Bamganie	To be awarded at upcoming Council meeting
Road Condition Assessments	To be awarded at upcoming Asset Management Committee meeting
Inverleigh Active Youth Space (select tender)	To be awarded at upcoming Council meeting

The table below outlines tenders/RFQs awarded during the quarter.

Project	Awarded To	Contract Value (ex-GST) \$
Panel of Suppliers – Electrical Services and Maintenance Works	GT Electrical, Barwon Asset Solutions, Stack Electrical	Schedule of rates
Bannockburn Skate Park Bowl	Independent Concrete Constructions Pty Ltd	843,165
Bannockburn Vic Park Netball Pavillion	Bowden Corporation Pty Ltd	904,114
Slate Quarry Road Improvement, Meredith	BILD Infrastructure Pty Ltd	716,200

In addition, if there have been any contract variations to contracts valued over \$200,000 greater than 10% but less than 15%, they will be reported to provide transparency in relation to variances. There were no variations in this category during the quarter.

REPORTING AND COMPLIANCE STATEMENTS

Local Government Act 2020 (LGA 2020)

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

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

GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLES

The Golden Plains Shire Council Quarterly Finance Report has been prepared in accordance with 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

A formal consultation process was not required.

STRATEGIES/PLANS

Financial reports are prepared ensuring consistency with Council's long term financial plan.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

The Quarterly Finance Report is focused on the financial management and results for the reporting quarter. Council's financial management processes are 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 reporting key financial indicators on the financial dashboard.

RISK ASSESSMENT

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

In accordance Section 138 of the *Local Government Act 2020* a Quarterly Finance Report comparing the budgeted revenue and expenditure for the financial year with the actual revenue and expenditure to date is required to be presented to Council at least every three months.

COMMUNICATION

The Quarter 2 report will be presented to Council at their 20 February 2024 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).

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

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

CONCLUSION

The content included in this report and the attached documents are consistent with the adopted Budget and Long-Term Financial Plan after taking in to account the movements described above.

7.5 COUNCIL PLAN 2021-2025 IMPLEMENTATION - QUARTER 2

File Number:

Author: Emma Whitelaw, Business Partner Performance and Change

Authoriser: Lynnere Gray, Director Corporate Services

Attachments: 1. Council Plan Implementation Report - Quarter 2

RECOMMENDATION

That Council note the implementation of the Year 3, Quarter 2 actions (1 October to 31 December 2023) of the Council Plan 2021-2025.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

To update Council on the progress made in implementing Year 3, Quarter 2 actions of the Council Plan 2021-2025.

BACKGROUND

The Council Plan 2021-2025 is Council's commitment to delivering on the aspirations outlined in the Golden Plains Shire Community Vision 2040. 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 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 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 the second quarter of Year 3 of the 2021-2025 Council Plan has commenced across all pillars in the implementation of the plan. A detailed explanation of all actions completed are included in Attachment: 1. Council Plan Implementation Report – Quarter 2.

Delivery of Year 3 Council Plan Actions have progressed well throughout the quarter, with progress commencing across all 82 actions, with some actions well underway.

At the conclusion of the Quarter 2 reporting period, actions which are progressing with an on-track status will reflect progress 50% or greater. 13 of the 82 actions are experiencing delays and report progress less than 50%.

9 of these 13 actions are representing slight delay against the original plan and indicate a behind status of 40%. The delays in these actions are identified and detailed in the attached report and includes the following actions:

- Y3| 1.1.2 Leadership and advocacy to build strong, safe and resilient communities.

Action: Continue to implement and update plans and communications that build resilience and support communities (40% progress for the Y3 Reporting Period)

- Y3| 1.3.1 Empower and build the capacity of residents and groups to get involved and contribute to communities.

Action: Continue to provide and link community volunteers to support, funding opportunities and networks. (40% progress for the Y3 Reporting Period)

- Y3| 3.2.1 Provide sustainable and efficient waste management services.

Action: Continue to collaborate with regional partners and stakeholders to develop waste minimisation, management and education strategies and to advocate for Regional or State waste improvements and initiatives, such as the Container Deposit Scheme (40% progress for the Y3 Reporting Period)

- Y3| 3.3.1 Conduct land management practices and behaviours that enable a safe and thriving natural environment.

Action: Protect the health of waterways and facilitate sustainable water use through implementation of water security initiatives in the Environmental Strategy 2019-2027 (40% progress for the Y3 Reporting Period)

- Y3| 3.4.1 Implement approaches to address and mitigate climate change.

Action: Undertake a review of the Climate Emergency Plan and address risk-based priority adaptation and mitigation actions (40% progress for the Y3 Reporting Period)

- Y3| 4.4.2 Deliver initiatives that support local training and job opportunities in Golden Plains Shire.

Action: Strengthen communities and provide skill development and participation opportunities through delivery of Council's volunteer program (subject to the Best Value Review outcome) (40% progress for the Y3 Reporting Period)

- Y3| 5.3.1 Council service delivery is efficient and responsive to the needs of the community.

Action: Continue to streamline and improve Council's Information and Communications technologies systems and processes (40% progress for the Y3 Reporting Period)

- Y3| 5.3.1 Council service delivery is efficient and responsive to the needs of the community.

Action: Improve the customer experience and build commitment and accountability to service standards and timely responsiveness through the delivery of the Customer Experience Strategy action plan (40% progress for the Y3 Reporting Period)

- Y3| 5.3.2 Provide for a safe working environment and develop a productive and skilled workforce.

Action: Implement People and Culture and organisational development activities, which support a safe, productive workplace and culture (40% progress for the Y3 Reporting Period)

4 of the 13 actions indicate progress less than 40%. Across the Quarter 3 reporting period Council Officers will continue to work with the Senior Management Team and Department Managers to understand and address factors which are causing a delay in the achievement of these actions. Details on these actions are identified below:

- Y3| 3.2.2 Investigate options for the disposal of hard waste and prevention of illegal dumping.

Action: Review of the Waste Strategy to review hard waste initiatives and opportunities (25% progress for the Y3 Reporting Period)

A detailed hard waste collection cost and benefit analysis with options was presented to Council Senior Management Team and Council at a briefing in August 2023. Further cost analysis has been provided for consideration; however no further progress has been recorded.

- Y3| 3.2.3 Education and promotion of responsible behaviours to reduce waste to landfill.

Action: Continue engaging with community and businesses on waste reduction strategies and responsible waste disposal options (35% progress for the Y3 Reporting Period)

Due to resourcing constraints, waste education activities have been delayed. In late September 2023, the vacancy of a Sustainability and Waste Education Officer was filled and has allowed for waste education and communication priorities to recommence. The Quarter 2 reporting period included the re-establishing of waste education linkages and identifying waste education priorities. Education plans for the glass bin introduction and communication surrounding bin contamination will continue to be a focus over the Quarter 3 reporting period.

- Y3| 3.3.1 Conduct land management practices and behaviours that enable a safe and thriving natural environment.

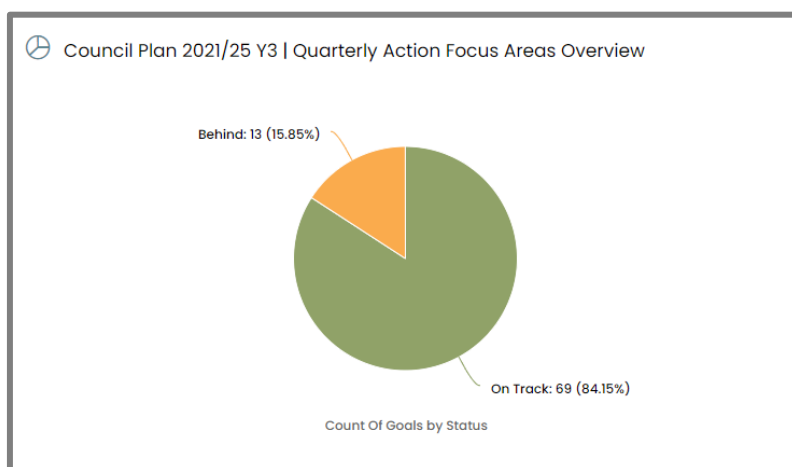
Action: Continue to collaborate with private landowners and businesses to educate and partner in appropriate and sustainable land management, agriculture, and natural resource practices (10% progress for the Y3 Reporting Period)

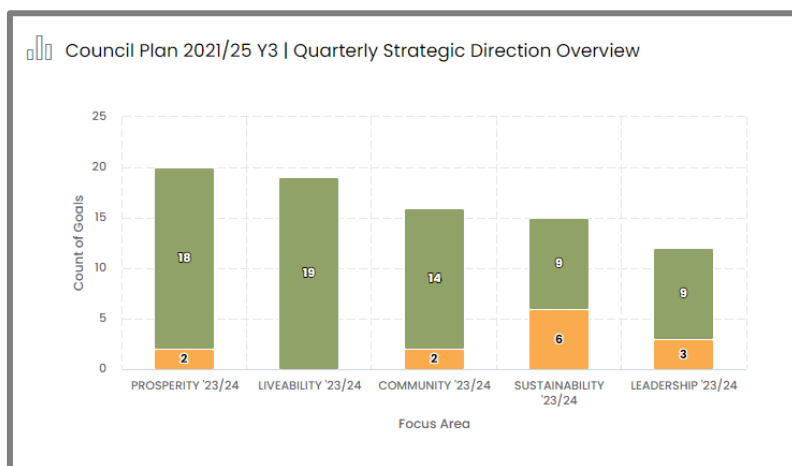
Council Officers regularly respond to enquiries from residents about sustainable land management, agricultural and natural resource practices, however additional deliverables relating to advising, educating, and empowering local farming industries, businesses and communities are expected to progress throughout the Quarter 3 reporting period. Actions surrounding a review of environmental compliance in accordance with the Environmental Protection Act have not progressed.

- Y3| 4.3.1 Support initiatives for local shopping and hospitality businesses.

Action: Advocate for and implement Streetscape and town centre improvements (30% progress for the Y3 Reporting Period)

An expression of interest submitted in Quarter 1, through the Federal Government's Growing Regions Fund for the Northern Streetscape projects seeking \$1.3 Million was unsuccessful. This has resulted in actions being delivered on a as needs basis due to budget constraints and absence of a strategic policy relating to Open Spaces. The development of an Open Space Strategy is due to commence during the Quarter 3 reporting period and will assist in advocating and improving Council streetscapes.





Key updates from the strategic direction of Community for the Quarter 2 reporting period include the awarding of Community Strengthening Grants for 13 community projects in the second round of the 2023 program, the successful delivery of a pilot Golden Space Exhibition program and the Annual Spring in the Shire Photo Essay Competition where 27 entries exhibited. Further highlights include an attendance of over 8,000 people at the annual Twilight Market held in December and 268 young people participating in Youth Hub programs across the quarter. Community infrastructure highlights include the completion of external and internal painting of the Bannockburn Culture Centre, Rokewood Public Toilet Upgrades, and the delivery of works to improve public open space and access to community infrastructure at the Bannockburn Recreation Precinct Picnic Area and Edinburgh Reserve in Linton.

Key updates from the strategic direction of Liveability for the Quarter 2 reporting period include the completion of the Scarsdale Rail Trail Play Space connection, new footpath upgrades in Bannockburn and Lethbridge, widening of Kopkes Road in Haddon and the completion of stage one of the Lethbridge Play Space Upgrade at Lethbridge Recreation Reserve, with the playground opening to the public in December. Further highlights include delivery of 118 physical activities and wellbeing events across the community through the Active Golden Plains Spring into Summer program and 120 people participating in a variety of events throughout the month of October to celebrate the 2023 Victorian Seniors Festival.

Key updates from the strategic direction of Sustainability for the Quarter 2 reporting period include the adoption of the Moorabool River Reserve Masterplan in October, in conjunction with a \$175,000 grant being provisionally awarded as part of the implementation of the plan through the CCMA's Kitjarra dja bul Bullarto langi-ut project. Key waste management activities across the reporting period include the endorsement of a final proposal for the introduction of a purple glass bin across the municipality in November and the progressing of landfill rehabilitation plans for the closed Rokewood landfill site, with tender works advertised in December. Council Officers continue to undertake activities that reduce the risk of wildfires and flood events with annual Fire Hazard Inspections completed, the commencement of the annual roadside slashing program and consultancy phase of the Inverleigh Flood Levee upgrade. Major flood recovery projects are progressing from design to construction and drainage maintenance programs continue to be completed across the municipality.

Key updates from the strategic direction of Prosperity for the Quarter 2 reporting period include progressing of the Haddon and Bannockburn Kindergarten Modular Projects, with the first modular scheduled for completion upon commencement of the 2024 Kindergarten year, and the second due in February. Further highlights include the successful conclusion of three business administration traineeships as part of the LGPro Local Pathways Program, with one trainee secured an ongoing position and another securing a fixed term contract with the organisation. Council continues to advocate for regional connectivity, and welcomed funding for improved mobile connectivity in Rokewood, following a Federal Government announcement to fund the establish of a Macro Mobile site in the town.

Key updates from the strategic direction of Leadership for the Quarter 2 reporting period include preparation of the 2024 Local Government election, the finalisation of a Property Policy legal review and formulation of the 2024-25 budget, with Long-Term Financial Plan modelling continuing during the development of the budget, with key assumptions updated to reflect the rate cap of 2.75% as announced by the Minister in December. A focus on improving resources and customer facing processes continues, alongside the development of a new Customer Request Management System. Further project deliverables include the delivery of the SharePoint Cloud Records project and implementation of new Altus Financial system.

REPORTING AND COMPLIANCE STATEMENTS

Local Government Act 2020 (LGA 2020)

Implications	Applicable to this Report
Governance Principles (Consideration of the Governance Principles under s.9 of LGA 2020)	Yes
Policy/Relevant Law (Consideration of the Governance Principles under s.9 of LGA 2020)	Yes
Environmental/Sustainability Implications (Consideration of the Governance Principles under s.9 of LGA 2020)	No
Community Engagement (Consideration of Community Engagement Principles under s.56 LGA 2020)	No
Public Transparency (Consideration of Public Transparency Principles under s.58 of LGA 2020)	Yes
Strategies and Plans (Consideration of Strategic Planning Principles under s.89 of LGA 2020)	Yes
Financial Management (Consideration of Financial Management Principles under s.101 of LGA 2020)	No
Service Performance (Consideration of Service Performance Principles under s.106 of LGA 2020)	Yes
Risk Assessment	No
Communication	Yes
Human Rights Charter	No
Gender Equality (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 Year 3, Quarter 2 (01 October 2023 to 31 December 2023) actions of the Council Plan 2021-2025.

This option is recommended by officers as the report provides an overview of the implementation of the actions as outlined in the Plan.

Option 2 – that Council do not note the implementation of Year 3, Quarter 2 (01 October 2023 to 31 December 2023) actions of the Council Plan 2021-2025.

This option is not recommended by officers as the actions have already taken place.

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 Year 3, Quarter 2 actions (01 October 2023 to 31 December 2023) 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.

7.6 LOCAL GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE REPORTING FRAMEWORK (LGPRF) MID-YEAR REPORT

File Number:

Author: Emma Whitelaw, Business Partner Performance and Change

Authoriser: Lynne Gray, Director Corporate Services

Attachments: 1. Local Government Performance Reporting Framework (LGPRF) Mid year report

RECOMMENDATION

That Council note the attached mid-year report on the Local Government Performance Reporting Indicators for the period 1 July 2023 to 31 December 2023.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council is required under the *Local Government Act 2020* and Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020 to report on its performance in accordance with the Local Government Performance Reporting Framework (LGPRF).

Council's performance against LGPRF measures is reported to the Audit and Risk Committee and Council on a six-monthly basis and included in the Golden Plains Shire Council Annual Report.

BACKGROUND

The LGPRF, developed by Local Government Victoria (LGV) is a mandatory system of performance reporting that became a requirement for all Victorian Councils from the 2014-15 annual budgeting and reporting cycle onwards. It ensures that Councils are measuring and reporting on their performance in a consistent way to promote transparency and accountability in the Local Government sector.

The framework is made up of 59 measures from a range of service areas, including animal management, food safety, library services, maternal and child health, roads, planning and waste management. It is complemented by a Governance and Management checklist of 24 items, which shows the policies, plans and procedures in place at each Council, and together they build a comprehensive picture of Council performance.

Council's performance against LGPRF measures is reported to the Audit and Risk Committee and Council on a six-monthly basis and included in the Annual Report.

In previous years, the LGPRF data was uploaded to the 'Know Your Council' website via a reporting system at the end of each financial year, which allowed Council to track progress against all Councils in Victoria across the same period. From 31 December 2022 the performance data submitted by Councils will be published via the Local Government Victoria website instead, and all web searches for 'Know Your Council' will be directed there.

In October 2022, the Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations were amended to include a requirement for target setting against measures within the Budget and for reporting targets against results in the Council's Performance Statement (Annual Report). As recommended by the Victorian Auditor-General in 2017, target setting is required from 2023-24, resulting from the amended Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2022. As part of the budget process.

DISCUSSION

A detailed progress report for the period 1 July 2023 to 31 December 2023 is included in Attachment 1: Local Government Performance Reporting Framework (LGPRF) Mid-Year Report.

The data captured in the report shows Council's performance for the first six months of the 2023-24 year against the LGPRF indicators.

Data is measured against Quarter 2 performance dating back to 2020-21 and the 2022-23 end-of-year result with the aim of maintaining all areas that were indicating well and improving those that weren't.

Council only reports on 56 of the 59 indicators, as the remaining 3 relate to aquatic facilities which are not applicable to the organisation. It should be noted that several of these indicator results are cumulative results and will increase across each quarter, possibly changing the positive / negative status by the 2023-24 end-of-year result.

A final report for the 2023-24 year will be provided to Council pending finalisation of the end of year audit results.

REPORTING AND COMPLIANCE STATEMENTS

Local Government Act 2020 (LGA 2020)

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

GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLES

In accordance with the principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, the half-yearly reporting of the LGPRF Indicators to Council will specifically:

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

POLICY/RELEVANT LAW

Reporting on the LGPRF indicators ensures compliance with the *Local Government Act 2020* and Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020.

PUBLIC TRANSPARENCY

Council's performance against the LGPRF measures will be presented to a public Council meeting six-monthly and at year end, and reported in the Golden Plains Shire Council Annual Report.

SERVICE PERFORMANCE

Reporting on the LGPRF Indicators provides valuable insights on the delivery of service performance principles under s.106 of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

RISK ASSESSMENT

There are no identified risk implications associated with this report.

COMMUNICATION

Council's performance against the LGPRF measures will be presented to a public Council meeting six-monthly and at year end and reported in the Golden Plains Shire Council 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)*.

OPTIONSOption 1 – That Council note the mid-year LGPRF report as presented.

This option is recommended by officers as all available indicator results for the first half of the 2023-24 period appear in the report.

Option 2 – That Council require further information

This option is not recommended by officers as all available LGPRF indicators have been reported on. Further requests for additional information or changes may be implemented in future reports.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

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

CONCLUSION

Council is required under the *Local Government Act 2020* and Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020 to report on its performance in accordance with the Local Government Performance Reporting Framework (LGPRF). The LGPRF is a mandatory system of performance reporting that ensures Councils are measuring and reporting on their performance in a consistent way to promote transparency and accountability in the Local Government sector.

7.7 G21 REGIONAL FOOTBALL (SOCCER) STRATEGY - ENDORSEMENT

File Number:

Author: Ben Jordan, Manager Recreation & Community Infrastructure

Authoriser: Phil Josipovic, Director Infrastructure and Environment

Attachments: 1. G21 Regional Football (Soccer) Strategy

RECOMMENDATION

That Council endorse the G21 Regional Football (Soccer) Strategy, as attached.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The G21 Regional Football Strategy aims to guide the future planning and development of football (soccer) throughout the G21 Region for the next 10 years.

The Strategy is an initiative of Football Victoria and the G21 Sport & Recreation Pillar, and has been informed by a facilities audit, participation data and the collaboration and engagement of stakeholders in the G21 Region, including the five participating Councils. The document highlights key findings, current trends and strategic priorities for football throughout the G21 Region, including for Golden Plains Shire.

The Draft G21 Regional Football Strategy was provided to the member Councils to enable a formal public exhibition process, including allowing for broader feedback from the community. A single response relating to Golden Plains Shire was received. Whilst this was considered, no changes were made to the final document.

BACKGROUND

Football Victoria, in partnership with local government authorities within the G21 region (via the Sport & Recreation Pillar), commissioned insideEDGE Sport and Leisure Planning to develop the G21 Regional Football Strategy.

The G21 Regional Football Strategy builds on the efforts and achievements realised since the initial Regional Strategy (2012) and aims to provide a roadmap for the continued enhancement of facility provision and participation, as well as an updated strategic framework that guides all project partners in collaboration.

The Strategy provides clubs, leagues, G21 Councils and other stakeholders with the opportunity to align planning, investment and development priorities across the Region for the next 10 years. It highlights the initial Strategy's achievements and details how changes and trends since this time have impacted and influenced community sports and their facilities.

The Strategy responds to new trends in participation, facilities and demographics and reconsiders and refocuses on new emerging areas which will require strategic action.

DISCUSSION

The Strategy has highlighted a range of critical issues faced by Football Victoria and G21 Councils regarding growth in football and the need to prioritise and plan for infrastructure upgrades and new development.

The Strategy has considered a range of regional and local issues specific to Golden Plains Shire including (officer comments are in italics):

1. Activate a new recreation reserve within Golden Plains Shire to support more football participation.

There is nothing specific to location and type of facility within Golden Plains – any action in this space would be subject to future planning and feasibility work. Current growth planning processes are factoring in future active recreation needs.

2. Provide and/or facilitate access to existing indoor facilities to support increased participation in futsal.

Should there be demand, Council facilities at Bannockburn Rec Centre (YMCA), Woody Yaloak (Smythesdale), Haddon and Linton Recreation Reserves may be appropriate for futsal, depending on compliance requirements in relation to court size and run offs.

3. Support regional advocacy for the Armstrong Creek West Active Open Space Sub-Regional Football Facility.

Minimal specific action for GPSC outside of G21 Strategy endorsement.

Strategic Directions in the Strategy highlight the following outcomes for Golden Plains Shire:

TASK No.	RECOMMENDATIONS	TIMELINE	COUNCIL RESPONSIBILITY (Initiate, Deliver, Support)
1.6	Communicate funding opportunities and support clubs in applications that directly impact and improve outcomes in inclusion, equity, access, sustainability and diversity.	Ongoing	Support
1.7	Work with LGA partners to identify support mechanisms needed to deliver participation strategies in areas of growth and/or decline. Assist LGAs in mapping the establishment and distribution of new clubs, particularly in urban growth areas.	As required	Deliver
1.8	Support the activation of additional and/or existing football facilities in the Surf Coast Shire, Colac Otway Shire and Golden Plains Shire (see Actions 2.5, 2.6 & 2.7) to drive participation growth.	As required	Deliver
2.1	Advocate for continued investment into creating more sustainable football facilities, including improved pitch surfaces (and alternate surface types), drainage and LED lighting as well as inclusive, all gender player and referee facilities (see page 47 of Strategy for current venue condition audits). Advocate to LGAs to enhance or create cyclical upgrade programs (where appropriate) and contribute to a works plan of pitch improvements.	Ongoing	Deliver
2.2	Partner with the City of Greater Geelong to support the ongoing planning, development and advocacy for sub-regional and regional football facilities. The Sub-Regional Football Facility within the Armstrong Creek Active Open Space precinct is seen as an immediate short term priority to support football participation in the region. A future Armstrong Creek facility will be a multi-pitch, multi-use facility capable of accommodating a range of different sports. This facility will investigate the viability of synthetic and hybrid surfaces to improve programmability and usage.	Ongoing	Support
2.3	Support LGAs to roll out the Victorian Government's Fair Access Policy through club education and support, as well as fixturing assistance.	Ongoing	Deliver
2.7	Support the activation of a new football facility in Golden Plains Shire to service increasing demand. Preference should be afforded to a site within the Bannockburn area as the main population centre.	As Required	Deliver
2.9	Trial futsal within suitable indoor facilities in Surf Coast Shire, Colac Otway Shire and Golden Plains Shire. These facilities may include Bluewater, Wurdi Baierr Stadium and Bannockburn YMCA.	Ongoing	Support
2.10	Assist clubs to deliver venue improvement plans for local football venues that have identified infrastructure gaps. The venue improvement plans should be delivered in collaboration with LGAs to outline mutual infrastructure priorities and opportunities for investment in line with FV's facility development guidelines.	Ongoing	Support
2.11	Continue to utilise the Sports Facility Auditor program to undertake annual audits to monitor facility development progress, performance and need.	Annually	Support
3.4	In conjunction with Actions 2.8 & 2.9, support the trialling of futsal in existing indoor centres to increase the exposure and availability of flexible and social formats of the game.	As required	Support
3.6	Deliver programs that enhance and increase participation opportunities for all. This includes more uptake in programs such as GoFutsal, GoProud (LGBTIQ+), GoDeadly (First Nations), GoSoccerMums, Walking Football.	As required	Support

TASK No.	RECOMMENDATIONS	TIMELINE	COUNCIL RESPONSIBILITY (Initiate, Deliver, Support)
4.3	Leverage promotional and potential funding opportunities associated with the FIFA 2023 Women's World Cup (WWC) that target female participation. Support the development of a calendar of events, in conjunction with the timing of the WWC, that are specific for females only across the region.	2020-24	Support
4.5	Undertake an annual state of play report in consultation with Geelong Regional Football Committee (GRFC), LGAs, Geelong Futsal and Leisure Networks to illustrate and monitor participation trends, investment outcomes, Strategy implementation and ongoing priorities.	Annually	Support
5.3	Deliver an annual G21 Local Government forum that brings together key football stakeholders and LGA staff. Forum topics include G21 Strategy implementation progress, annual facility audit findings (see Action 2.12), and regional and local football issues and opportunities.	Immediate	Support
5.4	Work with the GRFC and Geelong Futsal to cross-promote both sports. Enhance local content on playfootball.com.au as the central point that connects the community to football and its providers. Identify the best club and organisation representatives who are equipped to field enquiries and who can buddy/mentor potential participants.	As required	Support

Feedback received following the public exhibition process has been considered, including the following submission specifically relating to Golden Plains Shire:

- “Can there be more areas added to the Golden Plains Shire soccer clubs. Perhaps to include children and give more access in areas more regional like Rokewood and Dereel. More pitches, more funding towards soccer in remote areas. Ideally start a new club in Rokewood or Corindhap”.

Whilst there is likely to be some demand for soccer in these areas, Council forecasting suggests there won't be enough demand within the active age cohort (5-39) to justify new infrastructure or clubs outside Bannockburn. Should demand or community need change during the 10-year period of the Strategy, Council is still able to respond and explore strategies and opportunities to support football outside of Bannockburn.

REPORTING AND COMPLIANCE STATEMENTS

Local Government Act 2020 (LGA 2020)

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

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

GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLES

Overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* have been considered in the preparation of this report including:

- Collaboration with other Councils, Governments and statutory bodies is to be sought;
- The ongoing financial viability of Council is to be ensured; and
- Regional, State and national plans and policies are to be taken into account in strategic planning and decision making.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

A thorough community engagement process was completed as part of the development of the original G21 Regional Football Strategy completed in 2012. The process for the updated G21 Regional Football Strategy included re-engaging with selected stakeholders through a Project Control Group (PCG) and Project Reference Group (PRG) and consultation with the G21 LGAs, Sport & Recreation Victoria, Football Victoria, Deakin University, Leisure Networks and local Leagues.

A formal public exhibition period for the Draft G21 Regional Football Strategy provided opportunities for wider engagement/feedback from Golden Plains residents and community groups.

PUBLIC TRANSPARENCY

Public transparency principles have been considered in the preparation of this report and the recommendation to endorse the G21 Regional Football Strategy, including:

- Council decision making processes must be transparent;
- Council information must be understandable and accessible to members of the community; and
- Public awareness of the availability of Council information must be facilitated.

STRATEGIES/PLANS

The Strategy is an update that builds on the previous G21 Regional Football Strategy and has been informed by an extensive audit of existing facilities, regional participation data, strategic frameworks, facility guidelines, and growth area and infrastructure plans.

The G21 Regional Football Strategy will ensure that the data and recommendations remain current and reflective of industry trends, governing body requirements and community needs and will provide regional alignment for the development of any local level plans and strategies.

RISK ASSESSMENT

As an active participant in the G21 Sport & Recreation Pillar and as a stakeholder in the G21 Regional Football Strategy process, Council is minimising the risk that participation in community sport and the provision of facilities in Golden Plains is not reflective of current best practice, regional priorities or industry trends/guidelines.

COMMUNICATION

Should the recommendations in this report be endorsed, Council Officers will promote the G21 Regional Football Strategy via Council's online platforms and through written communication with key football stakeholders, clubs and user groups.

GENDER EQUALITY

The process for developing a sports specific regional plan, the G21 Regional Football Strategy, has been considered in accordance with s.9 of the *Gender Equality Act 2020*. The recommendations in the Strategy seek to address gender inequality implications.

The implementation of actions and projects in the Strategy would be subject to Gender Impact Assessments (GIA) being undertaken.

OPTIONS

Option 1 – Endorse the G21 Regional Football Strategy for public exhibition

This option is recommended by officers as it will ensure that Council is working towards the implementation of football-related actions that impact Golden Plains and support opportunities for our residents.

Option 2 – Council determines not to endorse the recommendation to endorse the G21 Regional Football Strategy

This option is not recommended by officers as it might prevent future opportunities to support football participation within Golden Plains and impact opportunities to improve access to community football facilities.

Option 3 – Defer a decision to endorse the G21 Regional Football Strategy

This option is not recommended by officers as the proposed timeframe and process for endorsement is a partnership with the five Local Government Authorities in the G21 Region through the Sport & Recreation Pillar and this is the final stage of a comprehensive process.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No officer involved in preparing this report has any conflict of interest regarding this matter.

CONCLUSION

The G21 Regional Football (Soccer) Strategy has been developed to guide the future planning and development of football throughout the G21 Region for the next 10 years and has been informed by a facilities audit, participation data and engagement with stakeholders.

Following the public exhibition period for the Draft G21 Regional Football Strategy, insideEDGE has considered all community feedback and discussed potential amendments with the Project Control Group (PCG) in preparation of the final G21 Regional Football Strategy.

The final G21 Regional Football (Soccer) Strategy has been refined and provided to Golden Plains Shire Council for endorsement and will also be received by the G21 Board, the four other G21 Councils and Football Victoria.

7.8 TRACKS AND TRAILS STRATEGY - ADOPTION

File Number:

Author: Brodie Marston, Coordinator Recreation and Community Facilities

Authoriser: Phil Josipovic, Director Infrastructure and Environment

Attachments:

1. Tracks and Trails Strategy 2023-2033
2. Tracks and Trails Strategy - Detailed Action Plan

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Adopt the Tracks and Trails Strategy (2023–2033) and supporting Detailed Action Plan, as attached.
2. Include Tracks and Trails as a project within the 2024 Priority booklet to advocate for future funding opportunities within Golden Plains.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 'Tracks and Trails Strategy' aims to guide the future planning, development and activation of Tracks and Trails across Golden Plains for the next 10 years. Council received funding under Sport and Recreation Victoria's (SRV) Local Sports Infrastructure Fund: Planning Stream, to support the delivery of this strategy.

The process to develop this strategic document commenced in late 2022, and the final document highlights key findings, current trends and strategic priorities for Tracks and Trails throughout Golden Plains Shire and the wider region. It also responds to feedback collected following an extensive community consultation process.

The 'Tracks and Trails Strategy' has been reviewed by officers and SRV representatives and the Draft Strategy and Detailed Action Plan were made available to the Golden Plains community for a period of six [6] weeks from 30 November 2023 to 11 January 2024. Feedback received during the public exhibition process has been considered and has informed the final Strategy.

BACKGROUND

In June 2022, Council was notified of being successful in securing funding from Sport and Recreation Victoria for the development of a Golden Plains Shire 'Tracks and Trails Strategy'.

Following a Request for Quote process in late 2022, Tredwell Management Services was appointed to develop a 'Tracks and Trails Strategy'. The Strategy seeks to build on the efforts and achievements of the initial Golden Plains Shire Paths and Trails Strategy 2013–2017 and aims to provide a roadmap for the continued enhancement of infrastructure provision and participation, as well as an updated strategic framework to support and improve 'Tracks and Trails' in Golden Plains Shire over the next 10 years.

The 'Tracks and Trails Strategy' (Attachment 1) has been developed following extensive community engagement using a variety of platforms that were promoted via Council communications. These included an online survey, public workshops in the North and South of the Shire, online, internal and external interviews and conversations with neighbouring LGAs.

The 'Tracks and Trails Strategy' is supported by a 'Detailed Action Plan' (Attachment 2) and informed by an extensive evidence base through the Issues and Opportunities Report that was previously presented to Councillors and discussed at the June 2023 Strategic Councillor Briefing.

DISCUSSION

The 'Tracks and Trails Strategy' specifically aims to:

- Embrace and build upon the region's recreational tracks and trails network
- Identify strategies/recommendations for addressing new trails, missing links and realignments
- Improve liveability, and health and wellbeing outcomes for all residents
- Promote safe, active transport and commuting options to reduce reliance on motor vehicles and improve environmental outcomes
- Reflect the needs of the community

In a considered effort to activate Council's existing tracks and trails network, encourage utilisation, and respond to trends in physical activity and active recreation, Council deemed it necessary to review and renew its existing Paths and Trails Strategy.

The term 'Tracks and Trails' refers to the region's recreational trail network (urban roadside footpaths are specifically excluded from the scope of the strategy). This includes community accessible paths - managed by Council or other public authorities - that cater for walking, cycling (including gravel and mountain biking), jogging, trail running and horse riding.

The 'Tracks and Trails Strategy' has considered a range of regional and local issues specific to Golden Plains Shire and how Council can encourage physical activity, monitor and evaluate utilisation, and create a sustainable network of tracks and trails. It highlights critical issues faced by Council regarding the provision and ongoing maintenance of tracks and trails across the Shire and notes the need to prioritise and plan for upgrades and new developments, as well as forecasting future budget requirements.

Key elements as documented and presented in the 'Tracks and Trails Strategy' include:

- Context & Analysis
- Demand for Tracks and Trails
- Participation, Activation and Recreation
- Key Issues and Opportunities
- Action Plan Overview
- Implementation and Review

The Key Issues and Opportunities and Action Plan Overview sections refer to both the existing and future tracks and trails network within the Shire (with more specific depth provided in the draft 'Detailed Action Plan' document). A total of 36 trails were identified, mapped and audited across the Shire, providing a broad range of experiences, and 17 key future track and trail opportunities were identified. Additionally, a series of specific recommendations and considerations to promote and activate trails and encourage physical activity have been identified.

The Strategy provides Council with both short and long-term deliverables as underpinned by the following five Strategic Goals:

- Integrated Planning and Management
- Quality, Safe, and Sustainable Network of Existing Trails
- Sustainable, Responsible and Relevant Trail Developments
- Information and Marketing
- Community, Tourism & Economic Development.

Potential trail infrastructure enhancement opportunities on the existing network are addressed in 'Quality, Safe, and Sustainable Network of Existing Trails', and 'Sustainable, Responsible and Relevant Trail Developments' provides options for new trail developments.

Seventeen potential new/extended trails are highlighted and prioritised, some of which could be subject to further feasibility and/or become future major capital projects. High priority options in this list connecting to major population centres or existing trails include:

- Inverleigh to Bannockburn Trail
- Bannockburn to Teesdale Trail
- Bannockburn to Lethbridge Trail
- Leigh River/Barwon River Junction Trail extension
- Teesdale to Shelford Trail
- Ballarat/Skipton Rail Trail to the centre of Ballarat
- Ballarat to Geelong Trail
- Goldfields Track - connection from Golden Plains Shire

Representing potential project options in the Strategy provides the best possible chance of advocacy, securing external funding or prioritising further planning works to ensure feasibility and financial sustainability/viability prior to development (shelf-ready projects). This is proposed to be further promoted through inclusion in Council's Priority Projects booklet following adoption of the Strategy.

Other major highlights and deliverables outlined in the 'Tracks and Trails Strategy' include:

- A key focus on activating trails through accessibility, community connections, recreation connections, event suitability and providing unique experiences.
- Identifying the opportunities for upgrades and developments with the greatest potential to benefit the community, local economy and the natural environment by facilitating sustainable opportunities for exploring natural areas, focussing on tourism related developments and promoting environmentally friendly transportation options.
- Identification of tracks and trails hierarchy and trail type to help categorise and prioritise future investment and development, with estimated cost ranges and maintenance estimates provided to assist with planning and decision making.
- The need for adequate resourcing to deliver on the identified strategies and actions, which would be subject to future funding decisions and opportunities.
- Council staff, in collaboration with key stakeholders, should report to Council annually on implementation. It is recommended that overall progress should be evaluated after 5 years, with amendments to the strategies, actions and supporting information as required.

Following the presentation of the draft 'Tracks and Trails' Strategy and draft 'Detailed Action Plan' at the November 2023 Council Meeting, both documents were made available for public exhibition from Thursday 30 November 2023 to Thursday 11 January 2024. This was supported by online, print and social media posts to advise residents, with an additional two weeks provided to account for the Christmas and holiday period.

During the public exhibition period for the draft 'Tracks and Trails' Strategy, 11 individual submissions were received and considered by officers. The large majority of the feedback was positive, resulting in only a small number of changes being incorporated into the final 'Tracks and Trails Strategy' and 'Detailed Action Plan'. These are summarised as follows:

- Removed potential new trail opportunity (Strategy C9 - 'Clarksdale Bird Sanctuary') from the Strategy and all other references to it across all documents.
- Added 'Update and replace existing outdated interpretive signage' to Action B25.1 for the Ballarat Skipton Rail Trail.

- Added 'noxious and environmental weed control' to Action 'B25.2 – Maintenance' for the Ballarat to Skipton Rail Trail.
- Strengthened wording around 'regional planning, partnerships and linkages to other networks' within both the Strategy and Detailed Action Plan documents.
- Added the Ballarat Cycling Action Plan (2017-2023) and Greater Geelong Cycle Strategy – Volume 1 (2008) to the Literature Review List.
- Key relevant statistics pulled from the Strava 2023 Trend Report and included in Strategy in the 'Active Participation' section.
- Updated the wording 'road reserve parallel to Rivergum Drive' to 'firebreak' (Strategy C8 Leigh/Barwon River Junction Trail Extension).
- Other minor grammatical edits, typos and page number updates.

These changes from the feedback received were deemed to add value to the final documents and further reflect the aspirations of the Strategy prior to it being adopted.

REPORTING AND COMPLIANCE STATEMENTS

Local Government Act 2020 (LGA 2020)

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

GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLES

The overarching governance principles in s.9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* have been considered in the preparation of this report including:

- Collaboration with other Councils and Governments and statutory bodies is to be sought.
- The ongoing financial viability of Council is to be ensured.
- Regional, State and National plans and policies are to be considered in strategic planning and decision making.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

A thorough community engagement process was completed as part of the development of the 'Tracks and Trails Strategy'. This process included engaging with stakeholders through a Project Control Group (PCG), extensive consultation with internal Council departments and officers, consulting neighbouring LGAs, State Government Departments (including SRV, Parks Victoria and DECCA) and the wider local community – which included conducting in person public forums, an online survey, social media engagements and broad public promotion.

A formal public exhibition period for the draft 'Tracks and Trails Strategy' was also undertaken to provide opportunities for wider engagement/feedback from Golden Plains residents and community groups.

PUBLIC TRANSPARENCY

Public transparency principles have been considered in the process to develop the 'Tracks and Trails Strategy' and recommendation to adopt the final document, including:

- Council decision making processes must be transparent;
- Council information must be understandable and accessible to members of the community; and
- Public awareness of the availability of Council information must be facilitated.

STRATEGIES/PLANS

The 'Tracks and Trails Strategy' is an update that builds on the previous Strategy and has been informed by an extensive evidence base, which includes audits of the existing network, participation data, strategic frameworks, provision and maintenance guidelines, growth area and infrastructure plans.

This strategy provides current data, reflective of industry trends, governing body requirements, regional plans and community needs. It is consistent with the objectives and principles of the Golden Plains Shire Community Vision 2040, Council Plan 2021-2025 and Sport and Active Recreation Strategy 2020-2030.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

Tredwell Management Services were engaged by Council to undertake this process, following a formal 'Request for Quote' process. Council has allocated \$30,000 towards this project, sharing financial commitments with the Victorian State Government – which contributed an additional \$30,000 funding following a successful Sport and Recreation Victoria, *Local Sports Infrastructure Fund* application.

The report and attached 'Tracks and Trails Strategy' do not commit Council to further financial contributions or budget implications at this time and any future investment or funding applications for improvement works would be subject to subsequent decisions.

RISK ASSESSMENT

The 'Tracks and Trails Strategy' seeks to mitigate the risks of insufficient planning and engagement with community and enable future trail improvements or developments to be informed by strong evidence and priorities.

COMMUNICATION

Should the recommendations in this report be endorsed, Officers will promote the final 'Tracks and Trails Strategy' utilising Council's print, online and social media platforms and written communication with key stakeholders, including the Project Control Group.

The Priority Projects booklet will be utilised to advocate for trails investment and assist in the implementation of the Strategy.

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

The process for developing the draft Strategy has been considered in accordance with s.9 of *Gender Equality Act 2020*.

The implementation of any significant projects in the 'Tracks and Trails Strategy' would be subject to future Gender Impact Assessments (GIA) being undertaken.

OPTIONS

Option 1 – That Council adopt the 'Tracks and Trails Strategy'

This option is recommended by officers as a comprehensive process has been undertaken, including thorough research and community engagement, to develop and provide a 'Tracks and Trails Strategy' for the next ten years.

Option 2 – That Council does not adopt the 'Tracks and Trails Strategy'

This option is not recommended by officers as the 'Tracks and Trails Strategy' has been informed by a comprehensive process, including community engagement. It should be noted that adopting the Strategy does not commit Council to any individual decisions in relation to funding or implementation of specific infrastructure or future projects.

Option 3 – That Council delay adopting the 'Tracks and Trails Strategy'

This option is not recommended by officers as a thorough planning and community engagement process has already been undertaken and adoption is the final stage of Strategy development. Further delays may compromise Council's reputation and commitments with the external funding partner (SRV).

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No officer involved in preparing this report has any conflict of interest regarding this matter.

CONCLUSION

Following presentation to Council of an Issues and Opportunities Report, a draft 'Tracks and Trails Strategy' was developed and presented to Council in November 2023. Following a public exhibition and submission period of the Strategy where 11 submissions were received, the final Strategy is now provided.

This document has been informed by research, a review of the previous strategy, audit of the existing trails network and analysis of community engagement activities. The 'Tracks and Trails Strategy' is supported by a 'Detailed Action Plan' to provide strategic direction and identify investment and advocacy opportunities for the region's recreational tracks and trails network over the 10 years from 2023 to 2033.

It is recommended that the 'Tracks and Trails Strategy' be adopted and advocacy for investment in trails be promoted via Council's Priority Projects booklet.

7.9 AWARDING OF TENDER - CONSTRUCTION OF THE HENDERSONS ROAD BRIDGE, BAMGANIE

File Number:

Author: Vicki Shelton, Manager Asset Services

Authoriser: Phil Josipovic, Director Infrastructure and Environment

Attachments: Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Resolves to award Contract RFT-20-2023 – Replacement of Hendersons Road Bridge, Bamganie – to Road and Bridge Pty Ltd for the sum of \$742,401.48 exclusive of GST.
2. Delegates to the Chief Executive Officer or his delegate authority to execute the contract on behalf of Council.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Golden Plains Shire Council sought tenders from suitably qualified and experienced contractors for the replacement of Taylors Bridge over Wilsons Creek on Hendersons Road, Bamganie. The proposed two-lane bridge will have a design life of 100 years and services the farming community of Bamganie. The works are 80% funded via the Federal Bridge Replacement Program – Round 6.

BACKGROUND

The existing single-lane bridge is in poor condition, confirmed by the Level 3 inspection that identified major defects in the bridge, resulting in a load limit being applied. The concrete surface has a gravel re-sheet over it which continues to pothole. Recent damage to the guardrail and bridge edges has occurred with temporary water barriers in place for safety. The approaches are unmade and will be constructed to a sealed surface. The new 7 metre wide bridge deck will span 20 metres across Wilsons Creek via super T-beams, eliminating the existing piles/columns in the waterway. The alignment will be modified to improve access and sight distance with guardrails installed on both approaches.

DISCUSSION

The tender was originally advertised on 10 November 2023 and closed on 13 December 2023, with eight [8] submissions received on closing. The submissions were reviewed and compliance checked, with no submissions identified as non-compliant. The panel members independently reviewed and scored each tender prior to the consensus meeting. A consensus evaluation meeting was held on 18 January 2024. *Road and Bridge Pty Ltd* was chosen as the preferred supplier based on consensus agreement/scores measured by capacity, capability, methodology, price and local content.

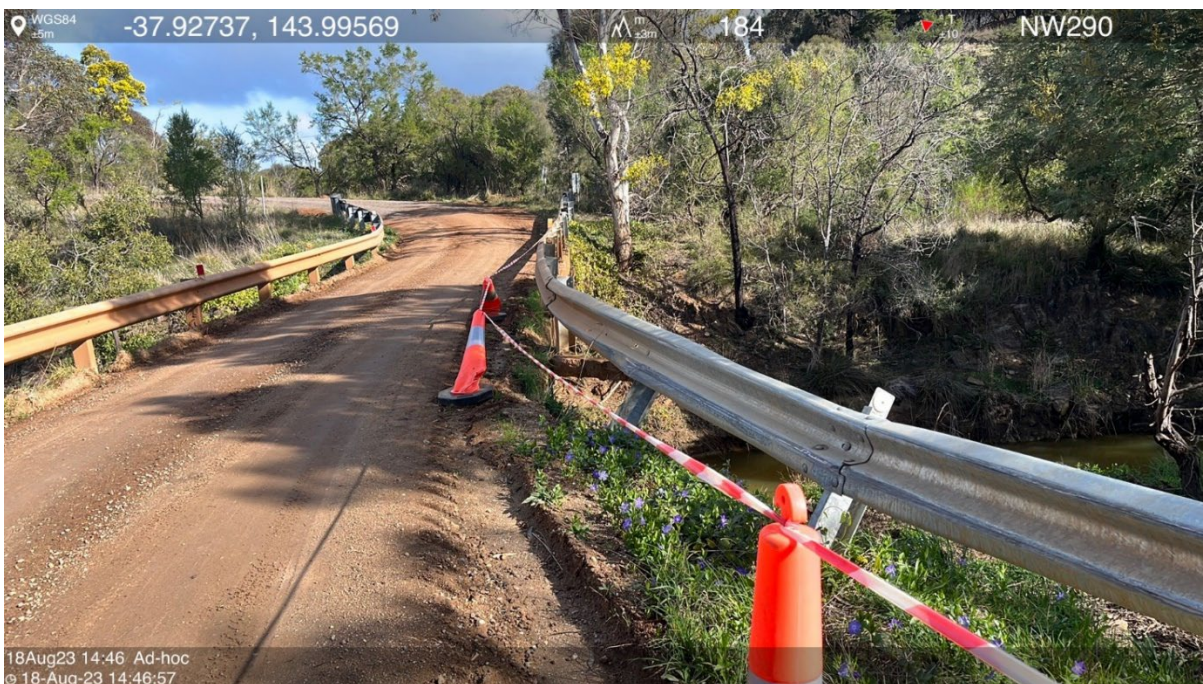
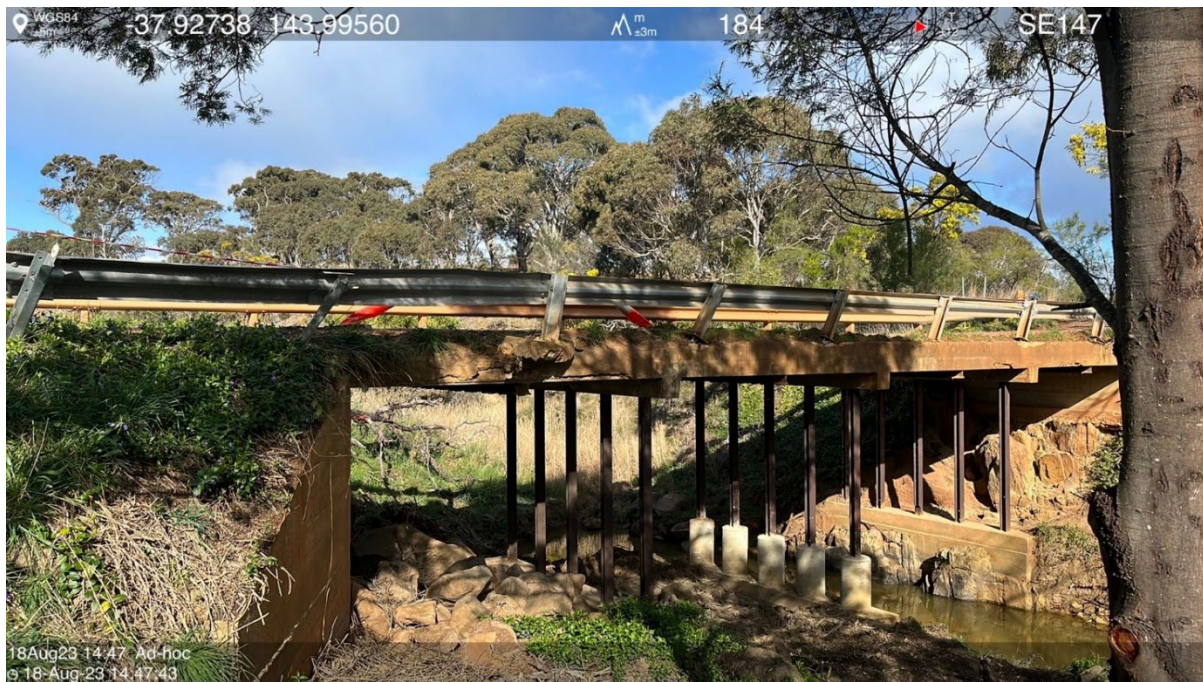
A confidential Tender Evaluation Report has been provided to Councillors.

Location of Works

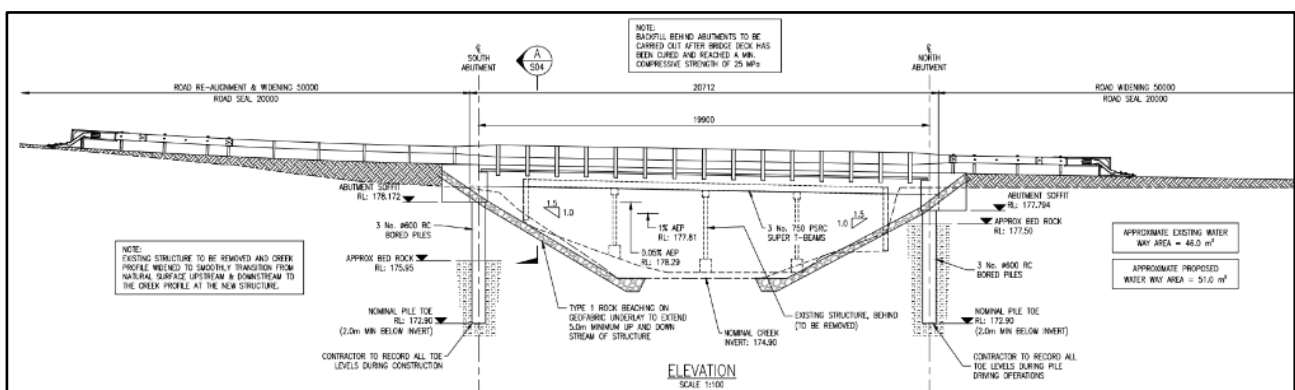


Photos of bridge showing damage to guardrail (vegetation recently cleared)

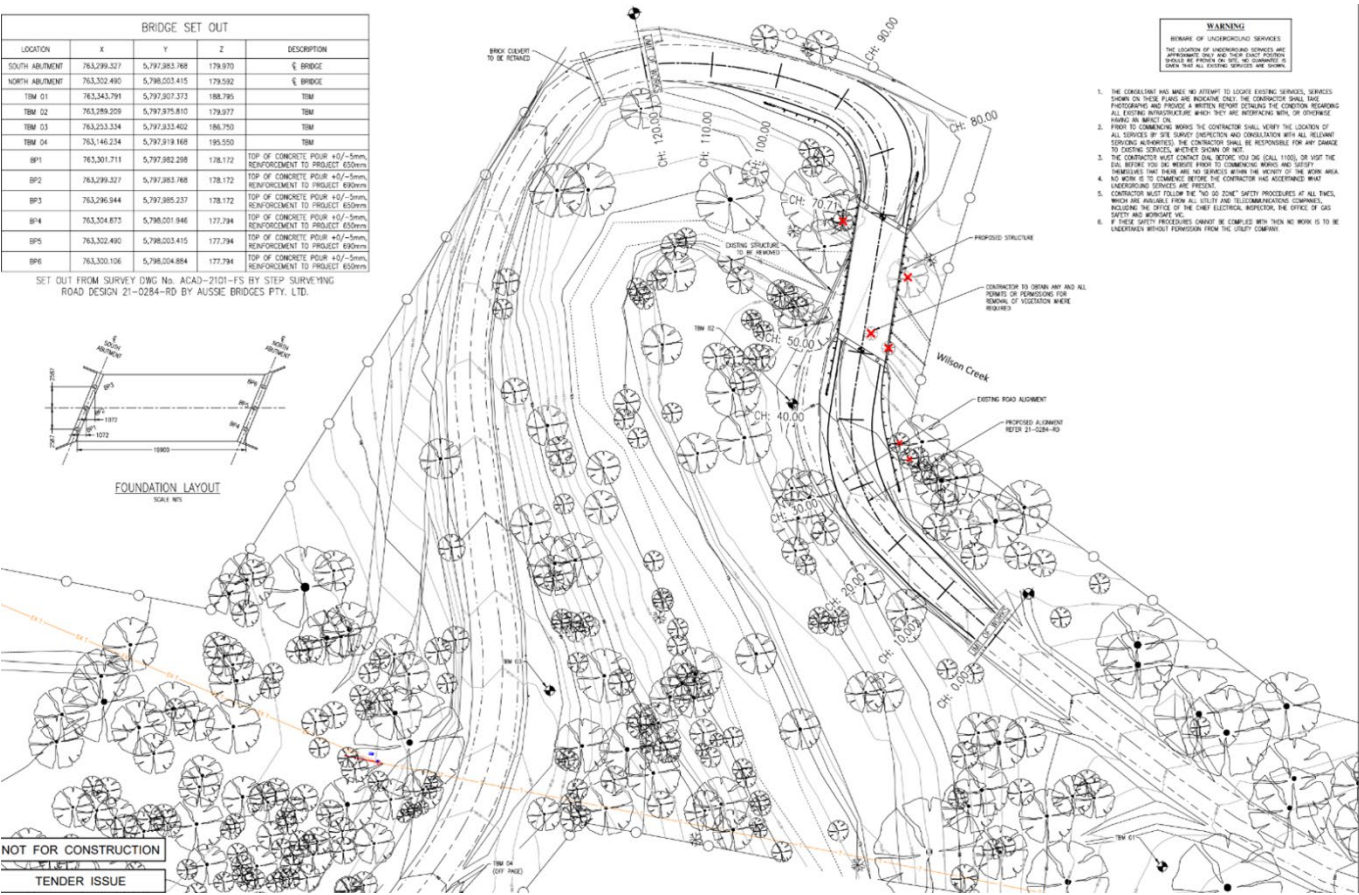




Layout of works (Side View)



Extent of Works



REPORTING AND COMPLIANCE STATEMENTS

Local Government Act 2020 (LGA 2020)

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

GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLES

The overarching Governance Principles of the Act are a key consideration in the tendering processes for delivery of community infrastructure projects including:

- Priority is to be given to achieving the best outcomes for the municipal community.
- Ongoing financial viability is to be ensured.

POLICY/RELEVANT LAW

Tender GPSC-RFT-20-2023 – Replacement of Hendersons Road Bridge, Bamganie – complies with Council's Procurement Policy and the *Local Government Act 2020*.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Residents will be kept informed of restrictions on access prior to and during construction.

PUBLIC TRANSPARENCY

Public notice was provided and included advertisements in the Geelong Times, Ballarat Times, Golden Plains Times and Council's eProcure tender website. Decision outcomes will be advised on eProcure tender website and in Council Minutes.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

The project is funded from the Federal Government Bridge Replacement Program – Round 6 to the value of 80% of the construction cost, with the gap funded by the Bridge Replacement program. The tender price is \$742,401.48 (excl. GST). Allowing for a 10% contingency, total estimated project cost is \$816,641.63 which is within the existing budget of \$1M allocated to this project.

RISK ASSESSMENT

There are no identified risk implications associated with this report.

Risks considered by the evaluation panel requirements associated with this specific type of risk activity are actively monitored throughout the life of the contract.

COMMUNICATION

Council decisions on tenders awarded are advised through Council Minutes, the electronic tender system and supplier notifications via procurement email.

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 Tender Award – GPSC-RFT-20-2023 – Replacement of Hendersons Road Bridge, Bamganie to Road and Bridge Pty. Ltd.

This option is recommended by Council officers through the Tender evaluation and selection process, which recommends that replacement of Hendersons Road Bridge, Bamganie be awarded to Road and Bridge Pty Ltd.

Option 2 – Approve Tender Award – GPSC-RFT-12-2023- Slate Quarry Road Improvement, Meredith to an alternative supplier.

This option is not recommended by Council officers through the Tender evaluation and selection process which recommends tender be awarded to Road and Bridge Pty Ltd as they were identified by panel consensus as the most suitable supplier to provide these works for Council.

Option 3 – Not award contract to any tenderer

This option is not recommended by officers as the road is required for access and works have been identified as high need. If a contract is not awarded, it may result in reputational damage for Council and restricted access for users.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

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

CONCLUSION

The Evaluation Panel has conducted a comprehensive and detailed assessment of the submissions which were received in response to Council's request for tender GPSC-RFT-20-2023 – Replacement of Hendersons Road Bridge, Bamganie – as outlined in this report to ensure compliance with Relevant provisions of the *Local Government Act 2020 (Vic)* and Council's Procurement Policy requirements.

In conclusion, Road and Bridge Pty Ltd met Council's tender requirements and is considered suitable to deliver this project for Council.

7.10 AWARDING OF TENDER - INVERLEIGH ACTIVE YOUTH SPACE**File Number:****Author:** David Miocic, Coordinator Community Projects Engineer**Authoriser:** Phil Josipovic, Director Infrastructure and Environment**Attachments:** Nil**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council:

1. Resolves to award the Contract GPSC-RFT-24-2023 – Inverleigh Active Youth Space Tender to LJM Construction (Australia) Pty Ltd for the cost of \$2,053,608.14 (excluding GST).
2. Delegates to the Chief Executive Officer or his delegate authority to execute the contract on behalf of Council.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Golden Plains Shire Council wishes to engage a suitably qualified and experienced contractor to undertake the construction of the Inverleigh Active Youth Space located within Yerram Yaluk Bun Park, Inverleigh.

Following the undertaking of a selected tender and evaluation process in accordance with Council's Procurement Policy, it is recommended that LJM Construction be appointed to deliver the project requirements as outlined in the tender specifications.

BACKGROUND

The Inverleigh Active Youth Space originated as a proposal received from the Inverleigh Progress Association (IPA) following a Youth Survey they undertook in February 2021. The IPA survey information collected responses from 192 community members, with 42% of the respondents under the age of 20.

In response to this, Council developed a concept plan for the site based on extensive community engagement process with community stakeholders, local young people and families. This involved an online survey and in-person engagement session held at Yerram Yaluk Bun Park in Inverleigh.

After preparation of concept plans and costings, a \$700,000 funding commitment from the Australian Government for the Inverleigh Active Youth Space was secured, following Council and community advocacy. This bipartisan commitment was made in the lead up to the 2022 Federal Election.

In July 2022, Council prepared and submitted an application to the Victorian Government's Growing Suburbs Fund for \$1.48 million, with a \$150,000 contribution from Golden Plains Shire Council. Council was advised it was successful in October 2022, thus providing a total project budget of \$2,337,587.

The Inverleigh Active Youth Space will expand and develop the Yerram Yaluk Bun Play Space into an active recreation and community space, with the upgraded facility to include a new skate park, pump track, 3x3 basketball courts, seating, and shelters, alongside lighting and beautification works. This project will provide residents in Inverleigh and the wider community with greater scope to encourage physical activity, social connection and outdoor play, especially young people.

The Detailed Design phase for the project included significant community input and was finalised in August 2023 prior to the construction documents being prepared for tender advertising.



Image - 3D render of the Inverleigh Active Youth Space Concept.

DISCUSSION

The construction tender was publicly advertised on 29 September 2023 and closed on 1 November 2023, with one [1] submission received on closing. The submission was reviewed and compliance checked and found to be compliant.

After the Evaluation Panel members had individually reviewed and scored the submission, panel consensus evaluation meetings were held on 10 November 2023 and 15 November 2023 to agree on a consensus score for all criteria based on documents submitted.

On the completion of all assessments, the Evaluation Panel agreed to decline the tender after the best and final offer on price received was not within budget (15% higher without contingency). Additionally, the contractor was unable to achieve project timeframes linked to external funding requirements due to other commitments.

Following this, Council quickly moved to a 'select tender' and directly invited tender responses from eight [8] identified companies that have delivered similar recreation/open space infrastructure projects. This process was undertaken from 17 November 2023 to 19 January 2024, with three [3] submissions received on closing.

The submissions were reviewed and compliance checked. One contractor was found to have a high-risk credit score and was therefore considered to be non-compliant. The Evaluation Panel members individually reviewed and scored the remaining two submissions and panel consensus evaluation meetings were held on 23 and 30 January 2024. Consensus scores for all criteria were agreed upon based on the documents submitted, with one of two remaining submissions scoring lower than the minimum requirement on qualitative measures (Capability, Capacity, Methodology).

Following completion of assessments, the Evaluation Panel sought a Best and Final Offer (revised pricing) from the preferred contractor - LJM Construction. Due to the challenges in delivering the project within the allocated budget, savings and alterations identified both within the tender submission and by Council (that could still meet the required project scope with the external funding partners) were requested as part of the Best and Final Offer.

Based on the initial tender response and subsequent Best and Final Offer, the Panel agreed by consensus that LJM Construction (Australia) Pty Ltd be the recommended supplier based on Capability, Capacity, Methodology, Local Content and Price.

A detailed Confidential Tender Evaluation Report has been provided to Councillors.

REPORTING AND COMPLIANCE STATEMENTS

Local Government Act 2020 (LGA 2020)

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

GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLES

The overarching Governance Principles of the Act are a key consideration in the tendering processes for delivery of community infrastructure projects, including:

- Priority is to be given to achieving the best outcomes for the municipal community.
- Ongoing financial viability is to be ensured.

POLICY/RELEVANT LAW

Tender GPSC-RFT-24-2023 – Inverleigh Active Youth Space – Construction Tender - complies with Council's Procurement Policy and the *Local Government Act 2020*.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Community engagement, including feedback from the Inverleigh Progress Association, was a key component informing the scope and funding application for an Inverleigh Active Youth Space. Further engagement was undertaken during the Detailed Design process to develop and share the final plans for construction delivery.

PUBLIC TRANSPARENCY

Public notice was provided for the initial tendering of GPSC-RFT-15-2023 Inverleigh Active Youth Space and included advertisements in the Geelong, Ballarat and Golden Plains Times, The Age and Council's eProcure portal.

Due to the submission received being well over budget and outside of the required construction timelines (not within funding body requirements), the project was retendered by the direct 'select tender' process.

Decision outcomes will be advised on the eProcure tender website and in Council Minutes.

STRATEGIES/PLANS

The Inverleigh Active Youth Space project is aligned with the objectives and principles of the Golden Plains Shire Community Vision 2040, Council Plan 2021-2025, and Sport and Active Recreation Strategy 2020-2030. Youth surveying undertaken in 2021 was also a key driver informing development and advocacy for the project.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

The project is co-funded by the following parties:

• Growing Suburbs Fund	\$1,487,587.00
• Federal Funding (election commitments)	\$700,000.00
• Golden Plains Shire Council	\$150,000.00

Total Budget available for whole of project: \$2,337,587.00

Following the request for a Best and Final Offer, LJM Construction provided a tender price of \$2,053,608.14 (ex GST). This will allow for a 6.5% construction contingency (or approx. \$145,000) which is expected to be sufficient for a project of this nature given the remaining funding available for construction is \$2,198,410.

RISK ASSESSMENT

Risks were considered by the evaluation panel in assessing submissions with a high-risk credit rating ruling one submission as non-compliant. Requirements associated with this specific type of risk activity are actively monitored throughout the life of the contract.

COMMUNICATION

Council decisions on tender/s awarded are advised through Council Minutes, the electronic tender system eProcure and direct supplier notifications via the procurement email.

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

The delivery of the Inverleigh Active Youth Space seeks to provide improved recreation and social infrastructure for users of all genders. A GIA has been conducted and there are no identified gender inequality implications.

OPTIONS

Option 1 – Approve Tender Award – GPSC-RFT-24-2023 – Inverleigh Active Youth Space – Construction Tender – to LJM Construction

This option is recommended by Council officers as a thorough Tender evaluation and selection process has been undertaken and recommends that GPSC-RFT-24-2023 – Inverleigh Active Youth Space - be awarded to LJM Construction.

Option 2 – Approve Tender Award – GPSC-RFT-24-2023 – Inverleigh Active Youth Space – Construction Tender – to alternative supplier.

This option is not recommended by Council officers as a thorough evaluation and selection process has been undertaken of all submissions presented for GPSC-RFT-24-2023 – Inverleigh Active Youth Space. LJM Construction was identified by panel consensus as the most suitable provider of these services to Council with other submissions assessed as not meeting either compliance or expected qualitative measure standards.

Option 3 – Not award the contract to any tenderer.

This option is not recommended as the works have been identified as high need, undergone a full design process and the project includes multiple funding partners. If the contract is not awarded, it may result in reputational damage for Council and compromise external funding.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

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

CONCLUSION

The Evaluation Panel has conducted a comprehensive and detailed assessment of the submissions that were received in response to Council's request for tender GPSC-RFT-24-2023 – Inverleigh Active Youth Space – Construction Tender – as outlined in this report to ensure compliance with:

1. The relevant provisions of the *Local Government Act 2020- (Vic)* and;
2. Council's Procurement Policy requirements.

In conclusion, LJM Construction (Australia) Pty Ltd met Council's tender requirements for the Inverleigh Active Youth Space project and is considered best placed to provide these services for Council.

7.11 INSTRUMENT OF DELEGATION - COUNCIL TO CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

File Number:

Author: Lynnere Gray, Director Corporate Services

Authoriser: Lynnere Gray, Director Corporate Services

Attachments: Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That Council, as requested, receive a report on the Instrument of Delegation – Council to CEO and consider any changes.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The *Instrument of Delegation to Chief Executive Officer* must be re-made periodically to ensure it remains up to date and captures powers made or amended since the delegation was previously resolved by Council.

In February 2023, Council updated the Instrument of Delegation and requested that a report be re-tabled in 12 months' time.

This report considers a couple of options to amend the Chief Executive Officer's delegation, including an increase based on CPI or based on benchmarking of similar Councils. In addition, Council may wish to consider inclusion within the delegation, projects already approved as part of annually adopted Council budget but over the delegation limit.

BACKGROUND

Council can act or make decisions in two ways, being through a resolution of Council or by an officer acting under delegation. Delegation by Council of powers is formalised via written instruments of delegation. Delegation of powers is essential to enable day-to-day decisions to be made.

The CEO has delegation to determine any issue, take any action or do any act or thing, subject to limitations. Council subscribes to the Maddocks Lawyers Delegations and Authorisations service, which provides template instruments of delegation and general advice about the function of delegations. The instrument of delegation from Council to the CEO is provided at Attachment 1. The delegation to the CEO must be re-made periodically (typically annually) to ensure that legislative powers created or amended since the delegation was previously resolved by Council are validly delegated to the CEO.

Procurement thresholds provide the procurement processes which must be followed for purchasing goods, services and construction works. An internal Contracts, Tenders and Grants Committee has been formed by the CEO, which is made up of the Senior Management Team. The internal Committee receives and assesses tender or quote evaluation reports for contracts or purchases between \$200k (which is the delegation of a single Director) and \$450k (which is the current delegation of the CEO). The Committee then makes a recommendation to the CEO as to whether the contract should be awarded or purchase made, following which, the CEO exercises his delegation to award the contract or make the purchase. All these approved items are then reported to the full Council via the quarterly financial report to ensure transparency.

DISCUSSION

Inflationary pressures to contracts and tenders

Over the last few years, construction costs have risen at record rates driven by the demand for raw materials and the cost of labour. Whilst this is not unique to Golden Plains Shire, the smaller and more remote Councils have experienced a lack of competitiveness in the market for suitably qualified commercial and civil contractors who can tender for and deliver projects outside of metropolitan areas. Multiple tender rounds have had to be conducted for certain projects where

only a small number of responses have been received. These are often non-compliant, significantly above budget, or both. In relation to constructing Council facilities, commercial grade builds are required, and it is estimated that costs have increased between 20-40%. This is further complicated when external funding for projects is committed but the design and construction timeframe (to completion) can be anywhere from 12-36 months, leaving Council exposed to market conditions/fluctuations and inflationary pressures in the interim period. Ongoing annual CPI increases to the CEO financial delegation would allow the delegation to remain relevant to market increases.

Benchmarking to similar Councils

All Council CEO's in Victoria have financial delegation, although the amount varies. Below is a list of the financial delegation for other peri-urban and similarly sized medium rural Councils, for benchmarking purposes.

Peri-Urban Councils	CEO Delegation
Golden Plains	\$450,000
Moorabool	\$550,000
Surf Coast	\$600,000
Baw Baw	\$750,000
Bass Coast	\$1,000,000
Average	\$660,000
Medium Rural Councils	
Southern Grampians	\$150,000
Colac	\$300,000
Moyne	\$300,000
Moirra	\$350,000
Golden Plains	\$450,000
Corangamite	\$500,000
Glenelg	\$500,000
Swan Hill	\$1,000,000
Mt Alexander	\$1,000,000
Average	\$500,000

Aligning delegation to adopted Budget

Advice has been sought and has confirmed that the financial delegation can be structured in such a way that allows the CEO to enter into contracts or make expenditure up to a dollar figure limit (as is currently the case) or where the expenditure has been adopted in the annual budget with a dollar figure assigned, would permit the CEO to enter into contracts or make expenditure provided it does not exceed the dollar figure in the adopted budget.

For example, with the current CEO delegation being \$450k, if the adopted budget were to include \$1m for a bridge replacement project, this would allow the CEO to award a tender for that bridge under delegation up to \$1m for that project. If the tender were to be recommended for an amount over the budgeted figure, the CEO would not have the power to enter that contract and report would be required to be tabled at a Council meeting for a formal resolution. Such changes would, if we look at the past 12 months, result in 6 of the last 14 tenders presented to Council being awarded under CEO delegation.

REPORTING AND COMPLIANCE STATEMENTS

Local Government Act 2020 (LGA 2020)

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

GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLES

The CEO's delegation allows for decisions to be made quickly and efficiently to achieve the best outcomes for the municipal community, in giving effect to the overarching governance principles.

POLICY/RELEVANT LAW

Section 11(1) of the *Local Government Act 2020* gives Council the power to delegate its powers, duties or functions under the *Local Government Act 2020* or any other Act, other than those powers, duties or functions specified in section 11(2). If the CEO's delegation was changed, the procurement policy and processes would be updated to reflect the change.

PUBLIC TRANSPARENCY

The CEO's delegation is resolved by Council at an open Council meeting. This provides transparency to the public and transparency in relation to the process to expect when submitting a tender or quote for approval.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

The CEO's financial delegation impacts expenditure and contracts that the CEO can approve and enter into.

RISK ASSESSMENT

There are no identified risk implications associated with this report.

COMMUNICATION

The CEO's delegation must be resolved by the Council. This will be communicated to the public in the Minutes of the meeting. Any changes would be communicated to the CEO and to the relevant business units – for example, Procurement.

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 re-make the delegation to the CEO with an increase to the financial delegation based on CPI or Council benchmarking

This option responds to inflationary pressures on construction contracts and tender costs. This may include applying an incremental increase to the financial delegation amount.

Option 2 – That Council retain the delegation to the CEO with the current financial delegation limit

This option is would not take into account the increasing costs of construction and tenders are increasing.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

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

CONCLUSION

Following a review in 2023, along with recent benchmarking of other similar sized Councils (medium rural) and our Peri Urban Councils, Council may consider an increase to the CEO's financial delegation in line with CPI or inline with other Councils, and consideration to allowing a further increase to the delegation based on any capital works projects approved in the annually adopted Council Budget.

7.12 REVIEW OF INSTRUMENT OF APPOINTMENT AND AUTHORISATION - PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT ACT 1987

File Number:

Author: Sophie Brown, Governance and Risk Specialist

Authoriser: Lynne Gray, Director Corporate Services

Attachments: 1. Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation - Planning and Environment Act 1987

RECOMMENDATION

In the exercise of the powers conferred by s 147(4) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and other legislation referred to in the attached Instrument of Appointment (the 'instrument'), Golden Plains Shire Council (Council) resolves that:

1. The members of Council staff referred to in the instrument as shown in Attachment 1 be appointed and authorised as set out in the instrument;
2. The Chief Executive Officer is authorised to sign the instrument;
3. The instrument comes into force immediately upon being signed by Council's Chief Executive Officer and remains in force until Council determines to vary or revoke it; and
4. The previous instrument dated 26 September 2023 is revoked.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The appointment of authorised officers under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* (the Act) cannot be delegated and must be made through resolution of Council. The Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation (the Instrument) under the Act was last reviewed and adopted by Council in September 2023. A review of the instrument has now been completed and updated to reflect the requirement for additional staff members from the Community, Planning and Growth directorate to carry out authorised officer duties under the Act.

It is recommended that Council consider and adopt the revised Instrument, as shown in Attachment 1.

BACKGROUND

The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) appoints most authorised officers under Council's delegation to the CEO. However, under section 188(2)(c) of the Act, the appointment of authorised officers under this Act cannot be delegated and must be made through resolution of Council.

By authorising the relevant officers to act under the Act, Council will ensure they have the required authority to carry out their roles within legislative requirements.

DISCUSSION

Council subscribes to the Maddocks Lawyers Delegations and Authorisations service. This service includes the provision of templates and regular updates as required to reflect new or amended legislation.

The instrument of appointment and authorisation under the Act was updated by Maddocks Lawyers in January 2023. Authorised staff have been recently reviewed and the instrument has been updated to reflect the requirement for additional staff members from the Community, Planning and Growth directorate to carry out authorised officer duties under the Act.

Officers authorised to act under the Act have authorisation to enter sites, gather evidence or serve legal notices, etc. if required, as appropriate to their level of experience and qualifications.

The specific authorisations provided through this instrument include:

1. under section 147(4) of the Act – appointment as an authorised officer for the purposes of the Act and the regulations made under that Act; and
2. under section 313 of the *Local Government Act 2020* authorisation generally to institute proceedings for offences against the Act and/or any regulations.

The proposed changes to the instrument are detailed below:

Change	Reason
Added Kirsty Blake	Planning Support Officer – Subdivision (requirement to complete site inspections)
Added Rachell Douglas	Planning Support Officer – Subdivision (requirement to complete site inspections)

REPORTING AND COMPLIANCE STATEMENTS

Local Government Act 2020 (LGA 2020)

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

POLICY/RELEVANT LAW

Local Government Act 2020; and
Planning and Environment Act 1987.

ENVIRONMENTAL/SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Delegation of powers provided by the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* will allow Council officers to exercise these powers in protection of the environment.

PUBLIC TRANSPARENCY

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

RISK ASSESSMENT

- Authorised officers are required to ensure Legislative Compliance; and
- Authorisations mitigate risks associated with inappropriate exercise of powers.

COMMUNICATION

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

Changes to the authorisations 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 reviewed Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation (*Planning and Environment Act 1987*)

This option is recommended by officers as this will ensure compliance with legislation and ensure the members of Council staff exercising these powers are appropriately authorised.

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 these authorisations to perform their duties.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

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

CONCLUSION

The appointment of authorised officers under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* cannot be delegated and must be made by resolution of Council. The Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* was last reviewed and adopted by Council in September 2023. A review of that instrument has now been completed and updated to reflect the requirement for additional staff members from the Community, Planning and Growth directorate to carry out authorised officer duties under the Act. It is recommended that Council consider and adopt the revised the Instrument, as shown at Attachment 1.

7.13 COUNCILLOR EXPENSES AND MEETING ATTENDANCE REPORT - QUARTER 2**File Number:****Author:** Lynnere Gray, Director Corporate Services**Authoriser:** Lynnere Gray, Director Corporate Services**Attachments:**
1. Councillor Expenses - YTD 2023-24
2. Councillor Expenses - Q2 2023-24**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council note the contents of the Councillor Expenses and attendance report for Quarter 2.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The report provides a record of expenditure made on behalf of Councillors in the performance of their duties for Quarter two of 2023/24. This report also includes quarterly updates on Councillor attendance at both scheduled and unscheduled meetings of Council, to provide transparency on Council decision making.

BACKGROUND

In accordance with legislation and policy, Councillors can be reimbursed for eligible out of pocket expenditure in relation to resources and training to undertake their role as Councillors.

Furthermore, Councillors have responsibility to provide leadership to the community including decision making on behalf of the community. The formal decision-making process is conducted through council meetings which are typically held on the fourth Tuesday of each month. The meetings provide an opportunity for community members to attend and if required, address the Council in support of their submissions. This report provides a regular update on Councillor attendance at scheduled meetings and unscheduled meetings of Council during the year. A summary of Councillor attendance at meetings is included in the Annual Report.

DISCUSSION

Summarised in the attached document are the figures for expenses for the Mayor and Councillors for quarter two of 2023/24.

The actual expenditure in comparison to the annual budget is as follows:

Category	Annual Budget \$	Actual \$ YTD	Percentage spent
Conferences & Training Expenses	25,445	3,353.68	13.18%
Travel Expenses	5,830	250.48	4.30%
Car Expenses	12,999	1,335.49	10.27%
IT & Communications	6,685	995.15	14.89%
Childcare Expenses	-	-	-
Total Councillor Expenses	50,959	5,934.80	11.65%

Councillor attendance at scheduled and unscheduled meetings of council

The table below outlines the Councillor attendance at both scheduled and unscheduled meetings of Council for quarter two of 2023/24.

Council held the following meetings:

- 3 scheduled Council meetings held on 24 October, 28 November and 19 December.

Councillor	Scheduled meetings (3 meetings)	Unscheduled meetings (0 meetings)	Total meetings (Q2 Oct – Dec 2023)	Total meetings (YTD 2023-24)
Brett Cunningham	3	-	3	6
Gavin Gamble	3	-	3	6
Ian Getsom	3	-	3	6
Helena Kirby	3	-	3	6
Les Rowe	3	-	3	4
Owen Sharkey	3	-	3	6
Clayton Whitfield	3	-	2	5

REPORTING AND COMPLIANCE STATEMENTS

Local Government Act 2020 (LGA 2020)

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

Gender Equality (Gender Impact Assessment required by s.9 of Gender Equality Act 2020)	No
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POLICY/RELEVANT LAW

In accordance with section 41B of the *Local Government Act 2020*, Council must adopt and maintain an expenses policy in relation to the reimbursement of out-of-pocket expenses for Councillors and members of delegated committees.

The expenses outlined in this report comply with Golden Plains Shire Council's Councillor Support and Expenses policy.

PUBLIC TRANSPARENCY

In accordance with Section 58 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, information contained within this report complies with the public transparency principles.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

Councillor expenses and reimbursements are monitored against the annual financial budget to ensure expenses remain within the budget provision adopted.

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 contents of this report.

This option is recommended by officers as it ensures compliance with legislated requirements.

Option 2 – That Council defer the report.

This option is not recommended by officers as the report provides an update on Councillor expenses and attendance for quarter two 2023/24 which has now finished.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

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

CONCLUSION

That Council note the contents of the Councillor Expenses and attendance report for quarter two of 2023/24 being the quarter ended 31 December 2023.

7.14 COUNCIL MEETING DATE - JULY 2024**File Number:****Author:** Elise Holmes, Executive Assistant**Authoriser:** Eric Braslis, CEO**Attachments:** Nil**RECOMMENDATION**

That the Council Meeting be amended from Saturday 27 July 2024 to Tuesday 23 July 2024.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council adopted the schedule for the 2024 scheduled Council meetings on 19 December 2023. In the approved schedule, the July Council Meeting was scheduled for 27 July 2024. This was a typographical error, as 27 July 2024 is a Saturday, and the intended date was Tuesday 23 July 2024. Section 18.2 of Golden Plains Shire Council's Governance Rules states that Council may by resolution change the date, time and place of any Council meeting and must provide reasonable notice of the change to the public. It is therefore recommended that Council resolve to move the July Council Meeting from Saturday 27 July 2024 to Tuesday 23 July 2024.

BACKGROUND

In accordance with Council's Governance Rules, Council must fix the date, time and place of all scheduled meetings and any Delegated Committee meetings for the following year, at or before the last meeting of the calendar year.

DISCUSSION

At the time the dates for the 2024 Council Meetings were set, a typographical error set the date for the July Council Meeting as Saturday 27 July 2024. Council Meetings are typically held on the fourth Tuesday of the month. As 27 July 2024 is a Saturday, and the intended date was Tuesday 23 July 2024, the July 2024 Council Meeting should be moved to Tuesday 23 July 2024.

REPORTING AND COMPLIANCE STATEMENTS

Local Government Act 2020 (LGA 2020)

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

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

GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLES

This report aligns with the overarching governance principles in s9 of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

POLICY/RELEVANT LAW

- *Local Government Act 2020* and Golden Plains Shire Council's Governance Rules

PUBLIC TRANSPARENCY

By approving the change of a scheduled Council meeting date five months in advance, Council ensures that the public are provided with reasonable notice.

RISK ASSESSMENT

There are no identified risk implications associated with this report.

COMMUNICATION

Public notice will be provided via the standard advertising means including Council's website.

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 approve changing the July Council Meeting date to Tuesday 23 July 2024.

This option is recommended by officers as Council meetings are typically held on a Tuesday and this will correct the meeting incorrectly scheduled for Saturday 27 July 2024.

Option 2 – That Council does not approve changing the July Council Meeting date and hold the meeting on Saturday 27 July 2024.

This option is not recommended by officers as Council meetings are typically held on a Tuesday and Councillors and Council officers are unlikely to be available on a Saturday.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

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

CONCLUSION

This report corrects the scheduled date of the July Council Meeting from 27 July to 23 July 2024.

7.15 AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES - 13 FEBRUARY 2024**File Number:****Author:** Sophie Brown, Governance and Risk Specialist**Authoriser:** Lynnere Gray, Director Corporate Services**Attachments:** 1. Audit and Risk Committee - Unconfirmed minutes 13 January 2024**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council note the unconfirmed minutes from the Audit & Risk Committee meeting held on 13 February 2024.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report is being submitted to Council to provide a summary of business considered at the 13 February 2024 meeting of the Audit & Risk Committee. The unconfirmed minutes are attached to this report for noting.

BACKGROUND

The Audit & Risk Committee (the Committee) is an independent advisory committee to Council. The primary objective of the Committee is to assist Council in the effective conduct of its responsibilities for financial reporting, management of risk, maintaining a reliable system of internal controls and facilitating the organisation's ethical development.

REPORTING AND COMPLIANCE STATEMENTS

Local Government Act 2020 (LGA 2020)

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

Gender Equality (Gender Impact Assessment required by s.9 of Gender Equality Act 2020)	No
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POLICY/RELEVANT LAW

To remain compliant with Section 53 of *Local Government Act 2020*, the Audit and Risk Committee has been established to assist Council in fulfilling its responsibilities relating to risk management, financial management and control and reporting.

PUBLIC TRANSPARENCY

A summary of matters considered at the Audit and Risk Committee meetings is presented to an open Council meeting for transparency to the public.

RISK ASSESSMENT

There are no identified risk implications associated with this 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).

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

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

CONCLUSION

This report provides a summary to Council of business considered at the 13 February 2024 meeting of the Audit & Risk Committee. The next meeting of the Audit & Risk Committee will be held on 14 May 2024.

8 NOTICES OF MOTION

8.1 NOTICE OF MOTION - DARDEL DRIVE

File Number:

Attachments: 1. Notice of Motion - Cr Sharkey

I, Councillor Owen Sharkey, give notice that at the next Ordinary Meeting of Council be held on 27 February 2024, I intend to move the following motion:

MOTION

That Council:

1. Request the distribution of the Updated Dardel Information Sheet to all petitioners.
 2. Request the Updated Dardel Information Sheet be published on the dedicated information page on the Council Website.
 3. Request the organisation conduct an Informative Session held by Officers prior to May 2024.
-

RATIONALE

The measures above are aimed at ensuring transparency, accessibility, and engagement with the concerned residents.

It is proposed that the updated Dardel information sheet, reflecting the latest developments and pertinent details, be promptly distributed to all signatories of the recent petition to the council. This step is crucial to keep the affected stakeholders informed.

Additionally, the motion advocates for the placement of the updated Dardel information sheet on the council's official website. A dedicated information page shall be created to host comprehensive details, background information, and any relevant updates.

Furthermore, it is proposed that officers organise an informative session aimed at facilitating meaningful information session with concerned residents. This session should be scheduled prior to the end of April 2024 to ensure timely and thorough engagement. The session will provide residents with the opportunity to voice their concerns, ask questions, and offer feedback.

The intent of this Notice of Motion is to foster a relationship that may mend elements of this process.

I commend this Notice of Motion to Council.

9 PETITIONS

9.1 PETITION - BANNOCKBURN RECREATION PRECINCT

File Number:

Author: Sophie Brown, Governance and Risk Specialist

Authoriser: Eric Braslis, CEO

Attachments: Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Receive the petition.
 2. Refer the petition to the Chief Executive Officer for a report to a future Council meeting.
-

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A petition containing 265 signatures was submitted to Council on 2 February 2024. The petition relates to 3.5 hectares of Council owned land in the northern part of the Bannockburn Recreation Precinct that Council declared surplus to its needs, and Council's intention to initiate a rezoning, subdivision, and development plan process at its meeting on 23 March 2021. This petition has been received and is submitted to Council in accordance with rule 37 of the Governance Rules.

The petition requests Council to:

- *Direct the Chief Executive Officer to put all processes and actions in relation to the Bannockburn Recreation Reserve on hold, pending a full review and extensive consultation with the local community.*
- *Direct the Chief Executive Officer to ensure that the local community is notified of the opportunity to provide feedback and submissions to Council regarding the review of the decision-making surrounding the Bannockburn Recreation Reserve.*
- *Direct the Chief Executive Officer to provide a report back to Council at its meeting on Tuesday 23 April 2024, which fully outlines the community sentiment on the Council decision-making regarding the reserve, community views on whether this land should be retained (in its entirety) as public open space, and views on whether the sale of the land is needed to fund public infrastructure elsewhere in the municipality.*
- *Direct the Chief Executive Officer to provide a report back to Council at its meeting on Tuesday 23 April 2024 with a recommendation on whether the proposal to develop and potentially sell this land should proceed or should be abandoned.*

A full copy of the petition has been circulated to all Councillors.

BACKGROUND

The Governance Rules provide the process for petitions to be received by Council. Specifically, petitions must:

- a. Be lodged with the CEO at least seven [7] days prior to the Council meeting at which they are to be considered to allow inclusion in the agenda;
- b. Be written, typed, or printed;
- c. Contain at least five signatures;
- d. Have the full name, address, and signature of all individual signatories;
- e. Not be defamatory, indecent, abusive, or objectionable in language or content;

- f. Not relate to matters beyond the powers of the Council;
- g. Not be aimed at embarrassing a Councillor or member of Council staff;
- h. Not relate to a matter which will be or is likely to be considered in a meeting closed to the public in accordance with sub-rule 29.1(a); and
- i. Include the whole of the request of the petitioners or signatories on each page.

This petition was received in accordance with sub-rule 37.4 and, as such, the CEO must arrange for petitions to be submitted to the next practicable meeting following their receipt, which in this instance is the February meeting. Governance Rule sub-rule 37.7 provides that the only motions that may be considered for any petitions are:

- a. That the petition be received; and
- b. That the petition be referred to the CEO for consideration and response; or
- c. That the petition be referred to the CEO for a report to a future Council meeting.

DISCUSSION

At the time of receipt, the petition had 265 signatures from the following locations: Bannockburn (230), Lethbridge (13), Teesdale (8), Inverleigh (5), Russells Bridge (2), Shelford (2), Gheringhap (1), Maude (1), Sutherland Creek (1), Durham Lead (1) and Thornbury (1).

REPORTING AND COMPLIANCE STATEMENTS

Local Government Act 2020 (LGA 2020)

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

GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLES

The submission and presentation of petitions to Council supports the overarching Governance Principles, specifically that the transparency of Council decisions, actions and information is to be ensured.

POLICY/RELEVANT LAW

Local Government Act 2020 and Councils Governance Rules

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Petitions are a form of community engagement and allow community members to demonstrate community support for a request or views on a matter and for that request or view to be presented directly to Council.

PUBLIC TRANSPARENCY

Petitions allow community members to demonstrate community support for a request or views on a matter and for that request or view to be presented directly to Council. The processes in the Governance Rules provide transparency in the way that petitions are presented to Council and how Council decisions relating to petitions are made.

RISK ASSESSMENT

There are no identified risk implications associated with this report.

COMMUNICATION

The Chief Executive Officer will provide a response to the lead petitioner, as the obvious intended contact for the petition. If Council resolves the officer's recommendation, the Chief Executive Officer will bring a report to a future Council meeting in response to the petition.

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 – Receive the petition and refer it to the Chief Executive Officer for a report to a future Council meeting.

This option is recommended by officers as this petition satisfies rule 37.2 of the Governance Rules, and Council receiving it at the February meeting is a requirement of rule 37.4 of the Governance Rules.

Option 2 – Do not receive the petition and refer it to the Chief Executive Officer for a report to a future Council meeting.

This option is not recommended by officers as in accordance with rule 37.4 of the Governance Rules the Chief Executive Officer must arrange for a petition to be submitted to the next practicable meeting following its receipt, which in this instance is the February meeting.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

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

CONCLUSION

The petition has been submitted to the Chief Executive Officer and is now presented to Council in accordance with Rule 37 of the Governance Rules.

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 Acquisition of Easement for Drainage Purposes

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 3(1) - f 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 personal information, being information which if released would result in the unreasonable disclosure of information about any person or their personal affairs.
