

AGENDA

Greater Shepparton City Council

ADDITIONAL COUNCIL MEETING

3:00PM, Tuesday 11 May 2021

Council Boardroom

COUNCILLORS

Cr Kim O'Keeffe (Mayor)

Cr Robert Priestly (Deputy Mayor)

Cr Seema Abdullah

Cr Anthony Brophy

Cr Geoffrey Dobson

Cr Greg James

Cr Shane Sali

Cr Sam Spinks

Cr Fern Summer

VISION

GREATER SHEPPARTON, GREATER FUTURE

A thriving economy in the foodbowl of Victoria with excellent lifestyles, innovative agriculture a diverse community and abundant opportunities

Values

Values reflect what we feel is important. Organisations may have core values that reflect what is important in the organisation. These values may be guiding principles of behaviour for all members in the organisation.

Respect first, always

We are attentive, listen to others and consider all points of view in our decision making.

Take ownership

We take pride in honouring our promises and exceeding expectations, and are transparent with and accountable for our actions.

Courageously lead

We lead with integrity, and stand up and stand by what is in the best interests of the Greater Shepparton community.

Working together

We work collaboratively to create higher quality outcomes that are more efficient, thoughtful, effective and responsive. We cannot accomplish all that we need to do without working together.

Continually innovate

We are open to new ideas and creatively seek solutions that encourage us to do our best for our community.

Start the celebration

As ambassadors for our people and place, we proudly celebrate the strengths and achievements of Council and the Greater Shepparton community.

**A G E N D A
FOR THE
ADDITIONAL COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON
TUESDAY 11 MAY 2021 AT 3:00PM**

**CHAIR
CR KIM O'KEEFFE
MAYOR**

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Risk Level Matrix Legend

Note: A number of reports in this agenda include a section on “risk management implications”. The following table shows the legend to the codes used in the reports.

Likelihood	Consequences				
	Negligible (1)	Minor (2)	Moderate (3)	Major (4)	Extreme (5)
Almost Certain (5) Would be expected to occur in most circumstances (daily/weekly)	LOW	MEDIUM	HIGH	EXTREME	EXTREME
Likely (4) Could probably occur in most circumstances (i.e. Monthly)	LOW	MEDIUM	MEDIUM	HIGH	EXTREME
Possible (3) Reasonable probability that it could occur (i.e. over 12 months)	LOW	LOW	MEDIUM	HIGH	HIGH
Unlikely (2) It is not expected to occur (i.e. 2-5 years)	LOW	LOW	LOW	MEDIUM	HIGH
Rare (1) May occur only in exceptional circumstances (i.e. within 10 years)	LOW	LOW	LOW	MEDIUM	HIGH

Extreme Intolerable – Immediate action is required to mitigate this risk to an acceptable level. Event/Project/Activity is not to proceed without authorisation

High Intolerable – Attention is needed to treat risk.

Medium Variable – May be willing to accept the risk in conjunction with monitoring and controls

Low Tolerable – Managed by routine procedures

PRESENT:

1 Welcome to Country

To be presented by Cr James on behalf of the Yorta Yorta Elders Council and the 16 family groups.

2 Acknowledgement

“We, Greater Shepparton City Council, acknowledge the Yorta Yorta Peoples of the land which now comprises Greater Shepparton, we pay our respect to their tribal elders, we celebrate their continuing culture and we acknowledge the memory of their ancestors.”

3 Privacy Notice

This public meeting is being streamed live via our Facebook page and made available for public access on our website along with the official Minutes of this meeting.

4 Governance Principles

Council considers that the recommendations contained in this Agenda gives effect to the overarching governance principles stated in Section 9(2) of the *Local Government Act 2020*. These principles are as follows:

1. Council decisions are to be made and actions taken in accordance with the relevant law;
2. priority is to be given to achieving the best outcomes for the municipal community, including future generations;
3. the economic, social and environmental sustainability of the municipal district, including mitigation and planning for climate change risks, is to be promoted;
4. the municipal community is to be engaged in strategic planning and strategic decision making;
5. innovation and continuous improvement is to be pursued;
6. collaboration with other Councils and Governments and statutory bodies is to be sought;
7. the ongoing financial viability of the Council is to be ensured;
8. regional, state and national plans and policies are to be taken into account in strategic planning and decision making;
9. the transparency of Council decisions, actions and information is to be ensured.

5 Apologies

Nil Received.

6 Declarations of Conflict of Interest

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

Disclosure must occur immediately before the matter is considered or discussed.

7 Sustainable Development Directorate

7.1 Murray Darling Association AGM Motion - Region 2

Author	Manager Environment
Approved by	Director Sustainable Development
Purpose	For Decision by Council

Disclosures of Conflict of Interest in Relation to this Report

Under section 130 of the *Local Government Act 2020* officers, delegates and persons engaged under a contract providing advice to Council must disclose any conflicts of interests.

No Council officers or contractors who have provided advice in relation to this report have declared a conflict of interest regarding the matter under consideration.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Council endorse Cr Dobson as the representative of Greater Shepparton City Council, to move the following motion at the Murray Darling Association Annual General Meeting:

“That the Murray Darling Association support a process to promote greater representation of First Nations people in local government and in water policy”.

Executive Summary

Greater Shepparton City Council has been a member of the Murray Darling Association (MDA) since 2012. The purpose of the Murray Darling Association is to provide effective representation of local government and communities at state and federal level in the management of Basin resources by providing information, facilitating debate and seeking to influence Government policy. In the last six years, Council’s participation and leadership in Region 2 has accelerated, influencing the knowledge and direction of the Association to ensure community and environmental outcomes are achieved.

The recommendation in this report extends that level of influence to incorporate recognition of the Murray Darling Basin’s First Nations people’s local knowledge in land and water management and to support improved cultural, environmental, social and economic outcomes for First Nations people throughout the Basin.

The recommendation is to endorse Greater Shepparton’s MDA Region 2 representative, Cr Geoff Dobson, to move the motion at the Murray Darling Basin Annual General Meeting being held on Wednesday 19 May in Wentworth.

Report Detail

The Murray Darling Association (MDA) is the peak body for local government in the Murray Darling Basin, forming policy and contributing local knowledge and regional solutions since 1944. There are currently 167 councils over four states, a large percentage of these are members of the MDA. The Association has 12 regions, meeting four times per year and consisting of Councillor representatives.

Greater Shepparton is part of Region 2, along with the following Councils:

- Federation Council (Chair)
- Berrigan Shire Council
- Edward River Council
- Moira Shire Council.

Following on from former Cr Dennis Patterson's leadership, Cr Dobson is now representing Greater Shepparton City Council in Region 2.

The 77th MDA conference and Annual General Meeting will be held 16 – 19 May in Wentworth. Cr Dobson will attend and is seeking to have Council endorsement to move Motion 5.10 First Nations Representation in Local Government with the recommendation *"That the Murray Darling Association support a process to promote greater representation of First Nations people in local government and in water policy"*.

The objective of the motion is:

- To support improved social, economic, environmental and cultural outcomes in the Murray Darling Basin by supporting First Nations people to have a greater role in the decision making process.
- To ensure local knowledge informs our national priorities.

Across the Murray Darling Basin there are 40 Aboriginal nations with an extensive history of land and water management. Since the arrival of Europeans and expanded land acquisition across the Basin, these management techniques have been declining or completely absent. Calls for Indigenous voices have been made over this time, supported nationally most recently through the Uluru Statement from the Heart.

The motion also recognises local government have a central role to play in this, it is this level of government that most directly reflects the aspirations, concerns and needs of our communities. Local government has long been a leadership model for significant and lasting change for our communities. Recent examples in Greater Shepparton are the response to the COVID, climate and biodiversity emergencies we are facing.

The graduates of the Murray Darling Association Basin Communities Leadership Program developed the motion in consultation with, and with the approval of, the Northern Basins Aboriginal Nations and Murray Lower Darling Indigenous Nations in Cunnamulla in 2021. Cr Geoff Dobson is seeking to move this motion at the MDA Annual General Meeting, and Cr Greg James, Greater Shepparton City Council's first Indigenous Councillor will connect with the conference via electronic means to speak to the Motion.

This motion is supported in the MDA Strategic Plan 2020-25 in pillar 3, ref 3.5.3 - *First Nations culture is reflected in and supported by MDA policy and position statements.*

Council Plan / Key Strategic Activity

LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE

Provide strong civic leadership, advocacy and good governance in the operation of Greater Shepparton City Council.

1.1 Council demonstrates strong regional and local partnerships to improve health and

wellbeing access and inequity.

1.3 Council demonstrates strong leadership and sound decision making in the best interests of the community.

1.7 Council advocates on issues, priorities and needs that matter to our community in partnership with key stakeholders.

SOCIAL

Develop resilient, inclusive, healthy communities that make Greater Shepparton a safe and harmonious place to live, work, learn, and play.

2.8 Our Aboriginal culture and people are valued and celebrated, with collaborative actions undertaken to enable peaceful, healthy and productive lives in a safe environment.

ECONOMIC

Build a thriving, resilient economy where Greater Shepparton is recognised as a competitive place to invest and grow business.

3.4 Water is protected and managed to optimise sustainable benefits for industry, the environment and the community.

ENVIRONMENT

Enhance and protect the clean, green environment that makes Greater Shepparton the unique place it is.

5.2 The region's environmental assets are planned and managed to ensure they are enhanced and sustainable for future generations.

5.4 Council has positioned itself to be a leader in building Greater Shepparton's response to climate change issues, in partnership with key stakeholders.

Risk Management

There is no medium to extreme risk as a result of this recommendation.

Policy Considerations

The recommendation within this report aligns with Council policy.

Financial Implications

There are no direct financial implications arising from this recommendation.

Legal / Statutory Implications

There are no legal or statutory implications arising from this recommendation.

Environmental / Sustainability Impacts

There are no negative environmental or sustainability impacts from this recommendation but it will have positive impacts by enabling the voice of First Nations people in the policy and management of the Murray Darling Basins resources.

Social Implications

There are no negative social implications from this recommendation, there are beneficial implications through the provision of a voice of First Nations people in the policy development and management of the Murray Darling Basin resources.

Economic Impacts

There are no direct economic impacts from the endorsement of the recommendation, however enhanced policy development and management of the Murray Darling Basin resources could lead to increased economic prosperity across the Basin.

Consultation

Murray Darling Association Basin Communities Leadership Program developed this motion in consultation with, and approval of, the Northern Basins Aboriginal Nations and Murray Lower Darling Indigenous Nations.

Officers believe that appropriate consultation has occurred and the matter is now ready for Council consideration.

Strategic Links

a) Greater Shepparton 2030 Strategy

- Environment –
 - Objective 1 – To maintain and enhance biodiversity and native flora and fauna communities
 - Objective 2 – To protect and manage the natural resources of water, air and land.

b) Other strategic links

- RiverConnect Strategic Plan 2017-22
- Reconciliation Action Plan

Conclusion

This recommendation is supported by the MDA. Endorsement builds on Greater Shepparton City Council's reputation for providing strong leadership in water and land management, climate change and respect for community cohesion and aspirations.

The motion also supports the growing recognition of the need for Australia to hear and heed the voice of First Nations people in the governance of the nation and its resources.

Attachments

1. 2021 AGM Meeting Motion Region 2 - First Nations Representation in Local Government [7.1.1 - 1 page]



8 Close of Meeting