

# AGENDA

Greater Shepparton City Council

## COUNCIL MEETING

**3:00PM, Tuesday 20 December 2022**

Studio 1, Riverlinks Studios

### COUNCILLORS

Cr Shane Sali (Mayor)

Cr Seema Abdullah

Cr Dinny Adem

Cr Anthony Brophy

Cr Geoffrey Dobson

Cr Greg James

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  
COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD ON  
TUESDAY 20 DECEMBER 2022 AT 3:00PM**

**CHAIR  
CR SHANE SALI  
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)
<b>Almost Certain (5)</b> Would be expected to occur in most circumstances (daily/weekly)	<b>LOW</b>	<b>MEDIUM</b>	<b>HIGH</b>	<b>EXTREME</b>	<b>EXTREME</b>
<b>Likely (4)</b> Could probably occur in most circumstances (i.e. Monthly)	<b>LOW</b>	<b>MEDIUM</b>	<b>MEDIUM</b>	<b>HIGH</b>	<b>EXTREME</b>
<b>Possible (3)</b> Reasonable probability that it could occur (i.e. over 12 months)	<b>LOW</b>	<b>LOW</b>	<b>MEDIUM</b>	<b>HIGH</b>	<b>HIGH</b>
<b>Unlikely (2)</b> It is not expected to occur (i.e. 2-5 years)	<b>LOW</b>	<b>LOW</b>	<b>LOW</b>	<b>MEDIUM</b>	<b>HIGH</b>
<b>Rare (1)</b> May occur only in exceptional circumstances (i.e. within 10 years)	<b>LOW</b>	<b>LOW</b>	<b>LOW</b>	<b>MEDIUM</b>	<b>HIGH</b>

**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

## 1 Welcome to Country

Cr James will now present a Welcome to Country 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.

All care is taken to maintain your privacy; however as a visitor in the public gallery, it is assumed that your consent is given in the event that your image is broadcast to the public. It is also assumed that your consent is given to the use and disclosure of any information that you share at the meeting (including personal or sensitive information) to any person who accesses those recordings or Minutes.

## 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 Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meetings

### RECOMMENDATION

**That the minutes of the 29 November 2022 Council Meeting as circulated, be confirmed.**

## 8 Public Question Time

Nil Received.

## 9 Deputations and Petitions

### 9.0 Petition regarding the intersection of Archer Street and Channel Road, Shepparton Vic. December 2022

#### Summary

A petition containing 434 signatures has been received by Council regarding the intersection of Archer Street and Channel Road, Shepparton Vic. December 2022.

#### RECOMMENDATION

**That the Council receive and note the petition titled 'Petition regarding the intersection of Archer Street and Channel Road, Shepparton Vic. December 2022' in accordance with Governance Rule 81.**



## 10 Community Directorate

### 10.1 Multicultural Strategy Update 2022

Author                      Coordinator – Community Partnerships  
 Approved by              Director Community  
 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:**

- 1. Note progress made against the Greater Shepparton Multicultural Strategy 2019-22 in year three of the Strategy.**
- 2. Approve the recommendation that the Multicultural Strategy is diversified into a three year Multicultural Action Plan that is integrated into the broader Greater Shepparton City Council Plan.**
- 3. Note the next version of the Multicultural Action Plan will contain an action that the Mayor is to acknowledge culturally significant festivals observed by the multicultural communities in Greater Shepparton and issue a greeting message to the respective communities on the festival day.**

#### Executive Summary

This Report responds to the Notice of Motion resolved at the Council Meeting held on 20 September 2022 Item 16.3.1 Notice of Motion 9/2022 - Culturally Significant Events/Festivals stating *“that a report be provided to the 20 December 2022 Council Meeting which:*

- outlines the progress of the Greater Shepparton City Council Multicultural Strategy 2019-2022
- includes a recommendation for the preparation of the next version of the Multicultural Strategy
- contains an action in the draft Multicultural Strategy that the Mayor is to acknowledge key culturally significant festivals observed by the multicultural communities in Greater Shepparton and issue a greeting message to the respective communities on the festival day”.

It is important to note that the October 2022 flood event has necessitated rapid engagement with a number of local and state-wide multicultural agencies and community members, to support the community with relevant, timely information and access to essential relief.

It is clear that this work must continue to embed multicultural community representation and interests in emergency planning, and broader Council activities.

## Report Detail

### Greater Shepparton Multicultural Strategy 2019-2022

The Greater Shepparton Multicultural Strategy 2019-2022 (the Strategy) is Council's third iteration of a strategy that supports and promotes Greater Shepparton's multicultural communities. It was adopted at a Council Meeting on 19 March 2019.

Council Officers, in partnership with community members, networks, service providers, organisations and government agencies, continue to create a more inclusive community by implementing the ongoing actions of the Strategy.

The list below showcases the key achievement/s of each priority area of the Strategy for Year 3. Please refer to attachment 5.1.2 for a full copy of the annual review.

### Theme 1 - Enabling Contribution and Participation

- Council's Dates of Acknowledgement/Significance increases promotion and awareness of significant cultural events and activities to the Greater Shepparton community across Council's social media platforms.
- The delivery of a Pledge Event at Greater Shepparton Secondary College (GSSC) as part of 2022 Refugee Week fostered empathy and understanding, encouraged and promoted a safe and welcoming environment for people seeking safety in Australia, and educated about the journey of refugees.

This event was attended by Mayor Cr Shane Sali, Councillors Dobson, Spinks, James and Summer. Representatives from GOTAFE, the Ethnic Council, St Pauls African House, students and staff of the Greater Shepparton Secondary College and Council staff also attended the event. The outcome of this event was increased awareness of refugees and their journeys by the community through storytelling.

Increased connection with agencies and individuals via:

- the distribution database for the Multicultural Newsletter increased by over 10 per cent in 2022, taking the total distribution list to 160 members
- participation of the Multicultural Development Officer on the Regional Advisory Committee for the Victorian Multicultural Commission (VMC), Greater Shepparton Secondary College Cultural Inclusion Sub-Committee and the Door Bells Migrant Women's Network
- participation of the Team Leader Diversity on the Greater Shepparton Cultural Inclusion Roundtable and One Mob Project Group, both hosted by the Victorian Multicultural Commission.
- Council's support, for Converge on the Goulburn and St George's Rd Food Festival, continues to provide an opportunity for communities to be stallholders and provide cultural food for events. Many communities now have members with food handling certificates and kitchens that are registered commercially and compliant with environmental health legislative requirements. Anecdotal evidence suggests St George's Rd Food Festival attendees, have returned to the precinct to purchase groceries. Council provides workshops for businesses and business start-ups which are

well attended by Multicultural community members. Support and promotion of new and existing Multicultural businesses have also increased their profile.

### **Theme 2: Accessing Opportunity**

Emergency Services Expo to be held on 15 October 2022 (postponed due to the October 2022 flood event, new date yet to be set). This partnership between Council and emergency services includes Victoria Police, Australian Federal Police, Country Fire Authority, Ambulance Victoria and Fire Rescue Victoria aims to achieve the following:

- support initiatives that educate multicultural community to better understand emergency situations
- how to connect to with emergency services
- build stronger connections with the community
- increased awareness and knowledge of the emergency services.

The formation of new partnerships with organisations to expand upon the delivery and support of projects to benefit the community has facilitated the development of new initiatives including The Friendship Café, Greater Shepparton Secondary College Pledge Event and water safety education programs. New partnerships include:

- Life Saving Victoria
- Fire Rescue Victoria
- Australian Federal Police
- Cultural Inclusion Sub Committee
- Goulburn Valley Seniors Inc
- Friendship Café

### **Theme 3 - Valuing Cultural Diversity**

Continued support and coordination of multicultural and intersectional events and programs. New events in Year 3 included:

- Iftar – Significant Muslim Day
- Women’s Health Expo
- Ashura – Muslim Significant Day
- Pledge Event - Greater Shepparton Secondary College
- Community Capacity Development Workshops
- Emergency Services Expo
- Water Safety Program
- IDAHOBIT Day
- Wear it Purple Day
- COVID-19 Response and Recovery Support
- The development of the Culture Kitchen Project, is a project supported by Multicultural Arts Victoria and Greater Shepparton City Council. The Projects brings together a group of culturally diverse and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women to address significant issues of health inequity and disadvantage facing the region through food.

Community storytelling and non - Western knowledge is at the heart of this project that responds to issues of health inequity, reconnection with mother cultures, and builds and diversifies local knowledge around food cultures and healthy eating.

- Funding provided to St Pauls African House to support the Taste of African Culture event. In addition to a financial contribution, Council Officers supported the event as volunteers on the day. This Festival provides a welcoming and safe environment for newly arrived people to Greater Shepparton and fosters community pride whilst strengthening relationships within the community.

**Preparation for the next iteration of the Greater Shepparton Multicultural Strategy**

The current iteration of the Greater Shepparton Multicultural Strategy concludes at the end of 2022. It is recommended the diversification of the Strategy into a 3 Year Multicultural Action Plan that is integrated into the broader Greater Shepparton City Council Plan. The 3 Year Multicultural Action Plan would be supported by an Annual Implementation Plan with clear actions and deliverables that provide for flexibility to responds to community need.

Key to the development of a 3 Year Multicultural Action Plan will be an extensive community consultation plan that allows for direct input from community and partners. The following outlines the key dates for the development of a 3 Year Multicultural Action Plan:

Date	Task/Activity
December 2022	Development of Community Consultation Plan
February to mid-April 2023	Community Consultation (including session with ELT & Councillors)
End April 2023	Finalisation of Findings Report
May 2023	Finalisation of Draft Strategy/Action Plan
June to July 2023	Presentation of Multicultural Strategy/Plan to ELT for consideration
	Presentation of Multicultural Strategy/Plan at OCM for adoption
	Presentation of Multicultural Strategy/Plan at OCM for adoption

**Mayoral acknowledgement of key culturally significant festivals observed by the multicultural communities in Greater Shepparton**

It is recommended the action item of *The Mayor is to acknowledge key culturally significant festivals observed by the multicultural communities in Greater Shepparton and issue a greeting message to the respective communities on the festival day* be included as key action of the new iteration of the new Multicultural Strategy/Action Plan. This recommendation would complement the list of Council’s Dates of Acknowledgement/ Significance.

In addition to the above Council Officers have been actively working with multicultural agencies and community in direct response to the recent flood event. These efforts align with all of the key themes of the current multicultural strategy. Some key examples include; support of multicultural food relief activities, sandbag initiatives, incorporation of translators at Emergency Relief Centres, bilingual workers accompanying emergency service agencies during door knocking.

**Council Plan/Key Strategic Activity**

**COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP**

We will prioritise leadership in the community to celebrate our cultures, people and places that makes Greater Shepparton a unique, vibrant, diverse and liveable region.

1.1 Council to take an active leadership role for access and inclusion in our community.

1.2 Council to work with stakeholders to support leadership within our multicultural communities.

1.3 Council services will be realistic and delivered in an efficient and effective manner with the aim of continuously looking for delivery that matches our ever-changing environment.

1.6 Council provides customer service that meets the needs of the community.

**SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY and WELLBEING**

We will support the mental and physical health and wellbeing of all in our community, ensuring universal access to information, services, housing, healthcare and learning

opportunities.

2.6 Welcome and embrace multicultural communities and their cultures.

2.9 Community members are supported to achieve and sustain physical, emotional and creative wellbeing.

### **ENVIRONMENT and CLIMATE EMERGENCY**

We will prioritise our environment and take urgent action to reduce emissions and waste in order to protect public health and create a region that mitigates and adapts to climate change.

5.2 Council will focus on emission reductions committing to a Zero Emissions 2030 Target.

#### **Risk Management**

Insignificant to Low risks have been identified and will be addressed at the operational level.

#### **Policy Considerations**

The Multicultural Strategy and Action Plan 2019-2022 is consistent with Council Policy.

#### **Financial Implications**

The implementation costs associated with the Greater Shepparton Multicultural Strategy 2019-2022 are budgeted as part of Council's operational budget.

#### **Legal/Statutory Implications**

There are no legal/statutory implications associated with this report.

#### **Environmental/Sustainability Impacts**

There are no environmental/sustainability impacts associated with this report.

#### **Social Implications**

Council has been actively involved in the promotion and celebration of cultural diversity in the community for many years. We are continually striving to improve the wider community's awareness and understanding of the economic, education, social and cultural benefits of multiculturalism. Council is working towards mitigating the effects of racism and cultural isolation for multicultural communities in Greater Shepparton.

#### **Economic Impacts**

Council's support, for Converge on the Goulburn and St George's Rd Food Festival, continues to provide an opportunity for communities to be stallholders and provide cultural food for events. Many communities, now have members with food handling certificates, kitchens that are registered commercially, complying with Environmental Health legislative requirements. Anecdotal evidence suggests St George's Rd Food Festival attendees, have returned to the precinct to purchase spices and food. Council provides workshops for businesses and business start-up which are well attended by Multicultural community members. Support and promotion of new and existing Multicultural businesses have also increased their profile.

#### **Consultation**

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

#### **Strategic Links**

a) Greater Shepparton 2030 Strategy

Direction 2 – Community Life

b) Other strategic links

Greater Shepparton Council Plan 2021-2025  
Greater Shepparton's Municipal Health and Wellbeing Action Plan 2019 - 2023  
Greater Shepparton's Volunteer Strategy and Action Plan 2019 – 2022  
Greater Shepparton's Creative City Strategy 2022- 2027  
Greater Shepparton's Multicultural Strategy 2019 –2022  
Greater Shepparton's Gender Equity Action Plan 2021-2025

### Conclusion

Council Officers in partnership with community members, service providers, organisations and government agencies, have been working towards strengthening partnerships, engaging community and celebrating culture.

Implementing the actions of the Greater Shepparton Multicultural Strategy 2019-2022 has created positive outcomes, and ongoing work continues to drive the adopted Action Plan.

Council Officers will develop an extensive consultation plan for the development of the next iteration of an Action Plan to support the Multicultural Portfolio.

### Attachments

1. 4.1.1. Multicultural Strategy 2019-2022 Web [10.1.1 - 24 pages]
2. 4.1.2. Multicultural Strategy Action Plan Update [10.1.2 - 9 pages]

## 11 Corporate Services Directorate

### 11.1 Contracts Awarded Under Delegation - November

Author                      Team Leader – Contracts and Procurement  
Approved by              Director Corporate Services  
Purpose                    For Noting

#### 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:

1. **note the contracts awarded under delegation pursuant to a formal tender process for the reporting period; and**
2. **note the requests for tender advertised but not yet awarded.**

#### Report

To inform the Council of the status of request for tenders that have been awarded under delegation during the period 1 November 2022 to 30 November 2022, and those that have been publicly advertised but are yet to be awarded as at 7 December 2022. The report does not include all purchasing activities, only procurement which requires a formal quotation or tender process.



### Contracts Awarded under Delegated Authority

Contract No.	Project Name	Details	Value inclusive of GST	Awarded to
2286	Shepparton East Midland Highway Recreational Path	Lump Sum Contract for the Shepparton East Midland Highway Recreational Path	\$56,815.00	Tactile Australia Pty Ltd
2271	Construction of Karibok Park, Shepparton – Stage 2	Lump Sum Contract for the Construction of Karibok Park, Shepparton – Stage 2	\$438,229.00	Cleaves Earthmoving & Drainage Pty Ltd
2280	Construction of Stage 3 Echuca Road, Mooroopna - Shared Path	Lump Sum Contract for the Construction of Stage 3 Echuca Road, Mooroopna - Shared Path	\$121,301.40	Tactile Australia Pty Ltd

### Requests for Tenders advertised but not yet awarded

Contract No.	Contract Name	Contract detail, including terms and provisions for extensions	Status
2288	Marlboro Drive Development Road Upgrade	Lump Sum Contract for the Marlboro Drive Development Road Upgrade	Tender currently under evaluation
2285	Monash Park, Shepparton Footpath Renewal	Lump Sum Contract for Monash Park, Shepparton Footpath Renewal	Tender currently under evaluation
2281	Design and Construction of Irrigation Renewal - Ferrari Park, Mooroopna	Lump Sum Contract for the Design and Construction of Irrigation Renewal - Ferrari Park, Mooroopna	Tender Scheduled to close on 9 December 2022

- Contract 2240 Tallygaroopna Children's Centre Upgrade has now been abandoned due to insufficient funding to complete the project.
- Contract 2272 Detailed Design for Shepparton and Ardmona Resource Recovery Centres Upgrades has now been abandoned due to a change in scope. It will be re-tendered with a revised scope in early 2023.

Through the S5 Instrument of Delegation to the Chief Executive Officer the Council has delegated authority to the Chief Executive Officer to award a contract up to the value of \$1,000,000.

The financial delegation to Directors to approve contracts up to a value of \$500,000 for goods and services and works are included in the S7 Instrument of Sub-Delegation by Chief Executive Officer.



### **Legal/Statutory Implications**

Previously, Section 186 of the *Local Government Act 1989* (the Act) established the requirements for tendering and entering into contracts.

In accordance with Section 108 of the Local Government Act 2020, Council has adopted its Procurement Policy establishing the value at which Council must invite a tender or seek an expression of interest.

### **Conclusion**

It is important that decisions and actions taken under delegation be properly documented and transparent in nature. The report details the contracts awarded under delegated authority of the Council during the period 1 November 2022 to 30 November 2022.

### **Attachments**

Nil

## 11.2 November 2022 Monthly Financial Report

Author	Acting Team Leader – Financial Reporting
Approved by	Director Corporate Services
Purpose	For Information

### 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 receive and note the November 2022 Monthly Financial Report, as attached.**

### Executive Summary

The report presents the Council's actual financial performance compared to the budget for the four months ended 30 November 2022.

### Report Detail

The November 2022 Monthly Financial Report incorporates the following sections which are presented for Council's consideration:

- Operating Performance
- Capital Works Performance
- Income Statement
- Balance Sheet
- Cash Flow Statement
- Capital Works Statement

The 2022/2023 Budget was adopted at the Ordinary Council Meeting held 21 June 2022. Council endorsed the Q1 Forecast Review of the Ordinary Council Meeting held Thursday 27 October 2022.

### Operating Position

Council's measure of financial sustainability in relation to operating performance is the underlying operating position, as adopted in the 2021-2031 Financial Plan. This measure subtracts all capital related income from the accounting surplus to give a true operating result.

The 2022/2023 Budget adopted an operating deficit of \$21.615 million. The Quarter 1 Forecast Review projected a \$3.11 million improvement, with a projected operating deficit of \$19.46 million reported.

The adopted operating deficit was influenced by many factors, including \$4.97 million of non-recurrent expenditure on non-Council assets, the early receipt of 75 per cent of the 2022/2023 Federal Financial Assistance Grants in 2021/2022 of \$11.16 million, the ongoing recovery of user fees from COVID, cost pressures as a result of inflation and limitation of rate revenue following two zero per-cent rate rises.

In alignment with strategic actions identified to support the achievement of the aspirations of the Council Plan, Council must ensure continued focus on improving its underlying operating position, through reduction of recurrent expenditure, review of services or increases in revenue. External pressures such as inflation, natural disasters and other world events impacting supply place additional pressure on Council's financial sustainability.

Council's year-to-date performance is favourable compared to budget, largely due to receipt of State Government funding in support of flood recovery, for which expenditure is still being incurred. The projected full year operating position remains favourable compared to Adopted Budget, but has deteriorated since the Quarter 1 Forecast Review, due to the impact of the October 2022 Flood Event.

### **October 2022 Flood Event**

As the financial impacts of the October 2022 Flood Event are established, budget forecasts will continue to be updated.

Some relief and recovery activities undertaken by Council, in addition to damage to essential infrastructure assets such as roads and bridges are covered under the National Disaster Funding Arrangement (NDFA). The current forecast remains an estimate based on projected employee costs and materials and services incurred in relation to these activities. Emergency works are ongoing and condition assessments are underway to determine reconstruction works, with approval required from the funding body prior to reconstruction works commencing.

Damage to non-essential infrastructure owned by Council is generally covered under insurance. The current forecast reflects expenditure incurred to date through activities to assess, make safe and avoid further damage of impacted insured assets. Insurance revenues reflect anticipated successful claims based on expenditure incurred so far, with regard given to the excess payable under the policy. The forecast will continue to be revised as scopes of remediation works are received and agreed to.

Council has received support from the State Government Council Flood Support Fund. Following an initial allocation of \$500k in October 2022, a further \$500k was announced in November. This funding will go towards remediation of assets and recovery activities not covered by NDFA or insurance, such as clean-up of open space and minor infrastructure works such as repairs to the shared path network. This funding goes some way to reducing the financial impact of the flood on Council.

Refer to the Operating Statement within the attachment for further information.

### **Capital Works**

The 2022/2023 Budget provided for capital works of \$62.60 million, of which \$41.37 million is funded by government grants. The Q1 Forecast Review provided for capital works of \$67.76 million, of which \$41.89 million is funded by government grants. Renewal and upgrade expenditure as a percentage of depreciation is forecast to be 153 per cent, which is a measure of investment in maintaining Council's existing asset base.

Refer to the Capital Works Statement within the attachment for year-to-date budget commentary.

### Balance Sheet

Council has adopted the liquidity ratio (current assets as a percentage of current liabilities) as a further measure of financial sustainability. The current liquidity ratio is impacted by the high rates receivable balance, which will reduce over the year as Council receipts payments and expends funds on services and infrastructure. 2022/2023 ending liquidity based on the Q1 Forecast Review is projected to be 160 per cent, which is within the desired range. The 2022/23 Adopted Budget and 2021-2031 Financial Plan indicate future challenges in maintaining liquidity at the required level, with those strategic actions previously outlined key to addressing this.

## Council Plan/Key Strategic Activity

### COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

We will prioritise leadership in the community to celebrate our cultures, people and places that makes Greater Shepparton a unique, vibrant, diverse and liveable region.

1.8 Good governance and sustainable financial management.

## Risk Management

Risks	Likelihood	Consequence	Rating	Mitigation Action
Poor performance against budget	Possible	Moderate	Medium	Regular monitoring and reporting of performance against budget and forecast variances.
Deterioration of Council's financial position against the adopted Financial Plan, resulting in diminished ability to achieve and maintain financial sustainability, as measured by the adjusted underlying operating result, liquidity and renewal and upgrade of assets.	Possible	Moderate	Medium	Linkage of budget setting and performance to the adopted Financial Plan.

## Policy Considerations

The monthly financial report has been prepared in accordance with accounting policies.

## Financial Implications

The financial implications associated with this report are detailed in the monthly financial report.

### **Legal/Statutory Implications**

Section 101 of the Local Government Act 2020 provides that Council maintains a budgeting and reporting framework that is consistent with the principles of sound financial management. In addition, Section 97 requires that at least every 3 months a statement comparing the budgeted revenue and expenditure for the financial year with the actual revenue and expenditure to date is presented to Council at a Council meeting which is open to the public.

### **Environmental/Sustainability Impacts**

No environmental or sustainability impacts have been identified in relation to this resolution.

### **Social Implications**

No social implications have been identified in relation to this resolution.

### **Economic Impacts**

No economic impacts have been identified in relation to this resolution.

### **Consultation**

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

### **Strategic Links**

No strategic links have been identified.

### **Conclusion**

The report presents Council's actual financial performance compared to the budget for the month ending 30 November 2022.

### **Attachments**

1. November 2022 - GSCC Council Report - Monthly Financial Statements [11.2.1 - 12 pages]

## 11.3 Councillor Representation on Committees

Author                    Team Leader Governance  
 Approved by          Director Corporate Services  
 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:**

1. **appoint the Councillors listed in the table, below as representatives on the Committees of Council, established in accordance with the Local Government Act 2020:**

Committee	Councillor Representative(s) 2023
Audit and Risk Management Committee	Mayor Cr Anthony Brophy
Development Hearings Panel	Chair, Cr Shane Sali Cr Seema Abdullah
CEO Remuneration Review	Mayor Cr Dinny Adem Cr Sam Spinks Vacant Councillor (TBD)

2. **appoint the Councillors listed in the table below, as representatives on the following Advisory Committees of Council:**

Committee	Councillor Representative(s) 2023
Australian Botanic Gardens Shepparton Advisory Committee	Cr Geoff Dobson
Calder Woodburn Memorial Advisory Committee	Cr Anthony Brophy

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Councillor Representative(s) 2023</b>
<b>Disability Advisory Committee</b>	<b>Cr Sam Spinks</b>
<b>Greater Shepparton Aerodrome Advisory Committee</b>	<b>Cr Dinny Adem</b>
<b>Greater Shepparton Public Health and Wellbeing Plan Advisory Committee</b>	<b>Cr Shane Sali</b>
<b>Greater Shepparton Women's Charter Alliance Advisory Committee</b>	<b>Cr Sam Spinks</b>
<b>Heritage Advisory Committee</b>	<b>Cr Greg James Cr Fern Summer</b>
<b>Positive Ageing Advisory Committee</b>	<b>Cr Seema Abdullah</b>
<b>RiverConnect Community Advisory Committee</b>	<b>Cr Seema Abdullah Cr Sam Spinks</b>
<b>Shepparton Regional Saleyards Advisory Committee</b>	<b>Cr Geoff Dobson</b>
<b>Shepparton Showgrounds Advisory Committee</b>	<b>Cr Fern Summer</b>
<b>Sports Hall of Fame Advisory Committee</b>	<b>Cr Anthony Brophy Cr Geoff Dobson</b>
<b>Tatura Park Advisory Board</b>	<b>Cr Greg James Cr Shane Sali</b>
<b>Affordable Housing Reference Group</b>	<b>Mayor</b>

3. appoint the Councillors listed in the table below, as representatives on the following Committees and Organisations, that are independent of Council:

<b>Committee / Organisation</b>	<b>Councillor Representative(s) 2023</b>
<b>Best Start Early Years Alliance</b>	<b>Cr Seema Abdullah</b>
<b>Goulburn Broken Greenhouse Alliance</b>	<b>Cr Sam Spinks</b>
<b>Goulburn Valley Highway Bypass Action Group</b>	<b>Mayor</b>
<b>Goulburn Valley Local Government Waste Forum</b>	<b>Cr Sam Spinks</b>
<b>Goulburn Valley Regional Library Corporation Board</b>	<b>Cr Greg James</b>

<b>Committee / Organisation</b>	<b>Councillor Representative(s) 2023</b>
<b>Municipal Association of Victoria</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Councillor Representative</b></li> <li>• <b>Substitute Council Representative</b></li> </ul>	<b>Cr Seema Abdullah</b> <b>Cr Sam Spinks</b>
<b>Murray Darling Association</b>	<b>Cr Geoff Dobson</b>
<b>Rail Freight Alliance Committee</b>	<b>Cr Shane Sali</b>
<b>Regional Cities Victoria (RCV)</b>	<b>Mayor</b>
<b>Shepparton Chamber of Commerce and Industry Parking Reference Group</b>	<b>Cr Anthony Brophy</b> <b>Cr Greg James</b>

### Executive Summary

As part of the Council's community consultation, communication and advocacy role, the Mayor, Councillors and officers are represented on various community organisations and government agency groups, Council committees required by legislation and advisory committees of Council.

In some cases, the Council is represented by the Mayor, and therefore, a separate appointment is not required.

Mayoral appointments include:

- Audit and Risk Management Committee
- Goulburn Valley Highway Bypass Action Group
- Regional Cities Victoria (RCV)
- Shepparton Education Plan Project Board

As a Development Hearings Panel is a delegated committee, the Mayor has the power to appoint the Chair of this committee, with Council appointing an additional Councillor as a member.

Previously, the Mayor was a member of the Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee (MEMP), however legislation has changed removing the requirement for a Councillor to be a member of this committee.

A review of Councillor representation on committees takes place annually.

### Report Detail

As part of the Council's community consultation, communication and advocacy role, the Mayor, Councillors and officers are represented on various community organisations and government agency groups, as well as purpose groups appointed by the Council. Councillor Representation on committees will be reviewed annually.

The purpose of each of the committees, groups or organisations is provided below for information.

#### 1. Committees of Council, established in accordance with the Local Government Act 2020

The following committees are established in accordance with the Local Government Act 2020.



### **Audit and Risk Management Committee (ARMC)**

The Audit and Risk Management Committee has been established in accordance with section 53 of the Local Government Act 2020. Section 53(3)(a) states that the ARMC must include members who are Councillors of Council. The ARMC provides Council with additional assurance that the financial and internal procedures and systems of the organisations are in order, risks are identified and managed, and the organisation is complying with all laws and regulations affecting it.

### **Development Hearings Panel (DHP) is a delegated committee of the Council**

Development Hearings Panels are established under section 63 of the Local Government Act 2020 and must include at least 2 Councillors. The functions of the DHP are to consider various matters under the Planning and Environment Act 1987, the Greater Shepparton Planning Scheme and other relevant regulations. Specifically, this includes:

- planning permit and permit amendment applications where up to (and including) 5 objections are received (applications with 6 or more objections must go to Council);
- any permit application or permit amendment application, secondary consent, request for extension of time or other determination of an Officer (under a delegated authority) which is recommended for refusal by an Officer;
- any relevant matter referred to the DHP by an Officer; and
- any relevant matter referred to the DHP by the Council.

As a delegated committee, the Mayor has the power to appoint the Chair of this committee, with Council appointing an additional Councillor as a member.

### **CEO Performance and Remuneration Committee**

The purpose of this committee is to oversee recruitment of the CEO, provide recommendations as to the remuneration and conditions of employment, assess the CEO's performance, perform an annual review, and determine annual remuneration. This committee will consist of the Mayor, Deputy Mayor (where appointed) and two councillors.

## **2. Advisory Committees of Council:**

Advisory Committees play a vital role in community consultation, communication and advocacy. Council supports these committees through Councillor and Council officer involvement and administrative support as required.

### **Australian Botanic Gardens Shepparton Advisory Committee**

Council authorised the formation of the Australian Botanic Gardens Shepparton Advisory Committee at the Ordinary Council Meeting on 16 June 2020. The Terms of Reference were adopted in April 2021 with a Councillor representative being appointed to the committee. The purpose of the Advisory Committee is to provide advice to Council in relation to the ongoing development, functioning and performance of the Australian Botanic Gardens Shepparton.

### **Calder Woodburn Memorial Avenue Advisory Committee**

The purpose of the Calder Woodburn Memorial Avenue Advisory Committee is to provide advice to Council in relation to maintaining, enhancing and conserving the heritage and environmental values of the Calder Woodburn Memorial Avenue.

### **Disability Advisory Committee**

This Committee aims to improve the accessibility and inclusiveness of Council services and facilities and assist in the strategic and detailed planning of all new activities. As part of a capacity building opportunity, a rotating chairperson position is filled by members of the

Disability Advisory Committee with the Councillor playing a key role in connecting the committee and its objectives with the Council.

**Greater Shepparton Aerodrome Advisory Committee**

This Committee advises Council on the management and operation of the Shepparton Aerodrome.

**Greater Shepparton Public Health Advisory Committee**

The Health and Wellbeing Advisory Committee (HWBAC) is a collaborative partnership that guides the strategic direction of the Municipal Public Health Plan (MPHP) for Greater Shepparton to meet statutory obligations and support the delivery of health initiatives. Together emerging health trends are identified from analysis of local demographics, indicators and working knowledge to maximise local health outcomes.

**Greater Shepparton Women's Charter Alliance Advisory Committee**

This Committee provides advice to promote women in leadership and decision-making roles.

**Heritage Advisory Committee**

The Heritage Advisory Committee advises Council on the future development of cultural heritage matters across Greater Shepparton and promotes community participation in and awareness of cultural heritage issues within the Municipality.

**Positive Ageing Advisory Committee**

This Committee works in partnership with the community and Council to ensure there are consultation and participation mechanisms in place for seniors, their families, carers, advocates and service providers to enable meaningful input into Council's service planning and policy development. The committee also informs and educates Council and the community about issues for seniors, their families, carers and others, informs and educates federal and state government through local government and provides advice and assistance to Council to ensure all capital works and services are accessible and inclusive of seniors.

**RiverConnect Community Advisory Committee**

This Committee has been established to achieve the best possible outcome from the implementation of a very significant, unique and complex community orientated project through the redevelopment of the Goulburn-Broken River flood plain between Shepparton and Mooroopna, incorporating high level community involvement and participation.

**Shepparton Regional Saleyards Advisory Committee**

The purpose of this Committee is to provide advice in relation to the annual budget, fees and charges and the strategic direction of the saleyards.

**Shepparton Showgrounds Advisory Committee**

The purpose of this Committee is to advise Council on procedures, rules, conditions of use, future strategic planning and proposed capital works which are necessary for the optimum management of the Shepparton Showgrounds.

**Sports Hall of Fame Advisory Committee**

This advisory committee has been formed to recognise and celebrate significant sporting achievements of Greater Shepparton residents at both at a national and international level.

### **Tatura Park Advisory Board**

This advisory board provides feedback to Council from user groups and discusses and puts forward ideas for the future development of the facility.

### **Greater Shepparton Affordable Housing Reference Group**

The Greater Shepparton Affordable Housing Reference Group (the Group) will advise Greater Shepparton City Council (Council) on the application and implementation of the *Greater Shepparton Affordable Housing Strategy: Houses for People 2020*, in pursuit of the vision that 'all members of the Greater Shepparton community have access to safe, affordable and appropriate housing'.

### **3. Committees and Organisations, independent of Council**

Council participates in a number of committees and organisations that are conducted outside of Council operations. It is important for Councillors to represent Council at these meetings to advocate of behalf of the community and for the Greater Shepparton region at a State and National level.

#### **Best Start Early Years Alliance**

The committee comprises a wide range of participants from the field of early childhood development who collectively provide expert direction to coordinate activities and provide advice to Council on how best to ensure a best start in life for children in Greater Shepparton. The committee is responsible for the creation and implementation of the Greater Shepparton Municipal Early Years Plan.

#### **Goulburn Broken Greenhouse Alliance**

The Goulburn Broken Greenhouse Alliance is a program that will work with councils and groups in our region to reduce greenhouse emissions and adapt to climate change.

#### **Goulburn Valley Highway Bypass Action Group**

The Goulburn Valley Highway Bypass Action Group will provide advice to Greater Shepparton City Council on the development of the proposed Goulburn Valley Highway Shepparton Bypass.

#### **Goulburn Valley Local Government Waste Forum**

To develop the capacity of local government to deliver effective, efficient and sustainable waste and resource recovery planning and management across the Region. Comprises of five Councils and representatives including Greater Shepparton City Council, Moira, Strathbogie, Mitchell and Murrindindi Shire Council's.

#### **Goulburn Valley Regional Library Corporation Board**

This Committee enables member Councils (Greater Shepparton, Moira and Strathbogie municipalities) to provide, through economy of scale and structure, a standard level of library service for their communities and the regional community which they would be unable to provide individually for the same level of annual expenditure.

#### **Municipal Association of Victoria**

The State Council is the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) governing body, made up of representatives from each member of Council. State Council's powers include:

- determining the rules of the Association
- electing the President and other members of the Board
- determines the strategic direction
- appointing the auditor

Two State Council meetings per year, held in Melbourne - conducted in May and October

### **Murray Darling Association**

The Murray Darling Association (MDA) is a peak body which has been representing Local Government, community groups, businesses, individuals and agencies across the Murray Darling Basin since 1944. Representatives on this association undertake an advocacy role in presenting the needs and priorities of our community to the board members of the MDA.

### **Rail Freight Alliance Committee**

The Rail Freight Alliance Committee has been established to advocate for rail standardisation of all key rail lines in Victoria as well as the upgrading and connecting to a National Rail Freight Network. It will lobby for a competitive, independent and open access rail freight system and a seamless freight logistics that will facilitate rail freight movement.

### **Regional Cities Victoria**

Regional Cities Victoria (RCV) comprises Mayors and Chief Executive Officers of the 10 largest cities in regional Victoria. The group meets bi-monthly and is chaired by a host council which is voted to the position annually. RCV is an alliance of regional cities dedicated to achieving real change in regional Victoria through policy development and active implementation of those policies. Regional cities are the heart of regional Victoria and by improving their infrastructure and liveability, regional cities can help to grow and support wider regional and rural communities.

### **Shepparton Chamber of Commerce and Industry Parking Reference Group**

The Parking Reference Group will provide feedback to Greater Shepparton City Council on the application and implementation of the Shepparton CBD Car Parking Strategy.

### **Shepparton Education Plan Project Board**

Developed to provide strategic advice on matters relevant to the development and implementation of the Shepparton Education Plan.

## **Council Plan/Key Strategic Activity**

### **COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP**

We will prioritise leadership in the community to celebrate our cultures, people and places that makes Greater Shepparton a unique, vibrant, diverse and liveable region.

1.1 Council to take an active leadership role for access and inclusion in our community.

1.2 Council to work with stakeholders to support leadership within our multicultural communities.

1.3 Council services will be realistic and delivered in an efficient and effective manner with the aim of continuously looking for delivery that matches our ever changing environment.

1.4 Communities have resources and abilities to self-advocate.

## **Risk Management**

The review of Councillor Representation on Committees ensure that representation is reviewed within statutory requirements. No risks associated with these appointments have been identified.

## **Policy Considerations**

There are no conflicts with existing council policies.

## **Financial Implications**

The only financial implications associated with this proposal are the expenses associated with the Councillors' attendance at meetings and functions. All such expenses have budgetary provision.

### Legal/Statutory Implications

This proposal conforms to all relevant legislation.

### Environmental/Sustainability Impacts

There are no environmental or sustainability impacts arising from this proposal.

### Social Implications

There are no social implications arising from this proposal.

### Economic Impacts

There are no economic impacts arising from this proposal.

### Consultation

As part of the Council's community consultation, communication and advocacy role, the Mayor, Councillors and officers are represented on various community groups and committees.

Level of public participation	Promises to the public/stakeholders	Examples of techniques to use
Collaborate	Feedback received from the Committee will be incorporated into decisions at the maximum level possible.	Councillor appointees to the Committees enables ongoing collaboration between the committee and the Council.

Consultation has previously been undertaken with the committee support officers and the responsible Manager regarding the role of Councillors play on each committee, the benefit to having a Councillor representative and whether or not the committee could function without Councillor representative. In most instances, it was determined that having a Councillor representative was very significant to the operation of the various committees.

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

### Strategic Links

#### a) Greater Shepparton 2030 Strategy

There are no direct links to the *Greater Shepparton 2030 Strategy*.

#### b) Other strategic links

No other strategic links have been identified.

### Conclusion

It is recommended that Councillors be appointed to committees as per the recommendation.

### Attachments

Nil

## 12 Sustainable Development Directorate

### 12.1 Small Town Festive Event Grants 2022

Author                      Team Leader – Major Events  
 Approved by              Director Sustainable Development  
 Purpose                     Information Only

#### 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 note the successful applicants awarded funding under delegated authority for the Small-Town Festive Events Grants Program 2022 as outlined below:

Group	Event	Grants Awarded (GST Free)
Karramomus Hall and Recreation Reserve	Karramomus Christmas for the Community	\$500
Lions Club of Tatura	Tatura Carols by Candlelight	\$1,100
Byrneside Public Hall Committee of Management	Byrneside Community Christmas Celebration	\$750
Harston Hall Community Asset Committee	Harston Hall Community Get-Together	\$500
Kiwanis Club of Mooroopna	Mooroopna Carols in the Park	\$1,450
Toolamba Lions Club	Toolamba Lions Club Carols in the Park	\$600
Bunbartha Community Centre	Bunbartha Christmas Tree	\$500
Dookie and District Development Forum	Dookie Carols by Candlelight	\$500
Neighbourhood House Murchison	Murchison Christmas Carols	\$1,100
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$7,000</b>



## Executive Summary

The Small-Town Festive Events Grants Program was established to assist not-for-profit community organisations with the implementation and delivery of festive celebrations in our small towns by providing funding for facilitation of an event.

Through the Small-Town Festive Events Grant, each year Council offers a grant for the community of small towns to apply for funding from a pool of \$7,000. Funding can be awarded between \$500 - \$2,500 per event, to contribute to the facilitation and running of festive events.

This grant provides Council the opportunity to assist communities to enhance community spirit and encourage participation across all sectors of the community within the Greater Shepparton municipality.

This year Council received nine applications under the Small-Town Festive Events Grant Program. The Grants Assessment Panel assessed and recommended that all applications be granted funding under delegated authority, allocating the total available pool of \$7,000 (GST Free) for this Round.

## Report Detail

The Small-Town Festive Events Grant Program opened on 18 July 2022 and closed on 29 August 2022.

In total, nine community groups applied for the Small-Town Festive Event Grants Program, all nine applications met the guidelines and were recommended for funding. Listed below are the successful groups with details of their events, requested amounts and awarded amounts;

Organisation	Event	Event Brief	Amount Requested	Amount Awarded (GST Free)
Karramomus Hall and Recreation Reserve	Karramomus Christmas for the Community	Community BBQ to celebrate community involvement and thank all who have attended, assisted and/or donated their time and money to the Karramomus Hall.	\$500	\$500
Lions Club of Tatura	Tatura Carols by Candlelight	Tatura Carols by Candlelight is an event designed to improve community spirit and to celebrate the festive season.	\$1,700	\$1,100
Byrneside Public Hall Committee of Management	Byrneside Community Christmas Celebration	An Annual Byrneside community Christmas celebration to be held at the Byrneside Hall. It will consist of dinner and a visit from Santa to bring the community together.	\$2,500	\$750

Organisation	Event	Event Brief	Amount Requested	Amount Awarded (GST Free)
Harston Hall Community Asset Committee	Harston Community Get-Together	This event aims to bring the community together. There will be a free meal and entertainment for those in attendance.	\$980	\$500
Kiwanis Club of Mooroopna	Mooroopna Carols in the Park	The Carols involve local artists, local school groups, local bands and choirs. This is a free event for the Mooroopna community and has previously attracted 2,500 attendees.	\$2,500	\$1,450
Toolamba Lions Club	Toolamba Lions Club Carols in the Park	Toolamba Carols brings the community together and provides an opportunity to socialise, sing and provide performance opportunities for the many talented singers in our community, local and more broadly.	\$1,629	\$600
Bunbartha Community Centre	Bunbartha Christmas Tree	The Bunbartha Christmas Tree is a BBQ event to bring community together. There will be games and activities to entertain the kids.	\$1,000	\$500
Dookie and District Development Forum	Dookie Carols by Candlelight	The Dookie Carols by Candlelight will be held as a community celebration. There will be singers and performers as well as a BBQ.	\$500	\$500
Neighbourhood House Murchison	Murchison Christmas Carols	A celebration for the whole Murchison community to come together featuring music and entertainment, children's activities, market stalls, food vans and stalls, raffles and prizes.	\$2,200	\$1,100
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$13,509</b>	<b>\$7,000</b>

The Small-Town Festive Event Grants Program has an acquittal process at the completion of the project which is overseen by the Grants Coordinator. Each applicant must ensure that they complete the acquittal and include supporting documentation such as invoices and photographs of the events in order to be eligible to apply for future Council Grant Programs.



## Council Plan / Key Strategic Activity

### SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY and WELLBEING

We will support the mental and physical health and wellbeing of all in our community, ensuring universal access to information, services, housing, healthcare and learning opportunities.

2.1 Council will promote the use of the Universal Design Principles across the region to ensure fair and reasonable access for all members of our community.

2.4 Leave no one behind.

2.6 Welcome and embrace multicultural communities and their culture.

2.9 Community members are supported to achieve and sustain physical, emotional and creative wellbeing.

### ENVIRONMENT and CLIMATE EMERGENCY

We will prioritise our environment and take urgent action to reduce emissions and waste in order to protect public health and create a region that mitigates and adapts to climate change.

5.1 Council endeavours to make the natural environment accessible to all, regardless of age and abilities

5.5 Council commits to working with our community to deliver a climate safe future.

5.8 Support a circular economy and reduce waste to landfill.

## Risk Management

Consideration has been given to risk management issues during the assessment of all applications for funding support.

Risks	Likelihood	Consequence	Rating	Mitigation Action
Negative feedback from applicants who were not successful or did not receive the funds requested	Possible	Minor	Low	Ensure all Program Guidelines are equitable and assessments are consistent. Provide constructive feedback to unsuccessful applicants.

## Policy Considerations

Applications under the Small-Town Festive Events Grants Program have been assessed and awarded funding under delegated authority in accordance with Council's Grant Distribution Policy adopted on 16 March 2021.

## Financial Implications

The Small-Town Festive Event Grants has a budget of \$7,000 (GST Free), all of which has been allocated.

	2022/2023 Approved Budget	This Proposal GST Free	Variance to Approved Budget Estimate	This Proposal GST Free
Revenue	\$0	\$0		\$0
Expense	\$7,000	\$7,000		\$7,000
Net Total	\$7,000	\$7,000		\$7,000

### Legal / Statutory Implications

There are no legal / statutory implications arising from this report.

### Environmental / Sustainability Impacts

There are no environmental / sustainability implications arising from this report. Successful applicants must ensure that their event adheres to sustainable event management practices as contained in the Grant Program Guidelines.

### Social Implications

These events will support and strengthen the community with the capacity to attract the whole community to come together and celebrate and share festive occasions, along with providing community pride, wellbeing and esteem.

### Economic Impacts

There is expected to be minor regional economic stimulus arising from these events with the engagement of local contractors and providers.

### Consultation

Council Officers have promoted this grants program through Council's social media platforms, Council's website, external print advertisements and through Council hosting Community Grant Information Sessions.

Council's Events Team and Grants Coordinator have also liaised with potential applicants to discuss future applications. Council Officers were also available to assist applicants with any queries they had throughout the application process. Officers believe that appropriate consultation has occurred and the matter is now ready for approval.

### Strategic Links

#### a) Greater Shepparton 2030 Strategy

- 2.3.2 Community Life
- 2.4.4 The Need to Grow
- 3.2 Supporting Principles
- 4.3.4 The Municipality is More Attractive
- 4.3.9 The Municipality is Culturally Active

#### b) Other strategic links

- Economic Development, Tourism and Major Events Strategy

### Conclusion

A total of nine applications for the Small-Town Festive Events Grants Program have been received and assessed by the Grants Assessment Panel. All nine applications have been awarded funding under delegated authority in accordance with Council's Grant Distribution Policy.

### Attachments

Nil

## 12.2 Major and Minor Event Grants Round One 2022/2023

Author Team Leader – Major Events  
 Approved by Director Sustainable Development  
 Purpose For Noting

### 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 note the successful applicants awarded funding under delegated authority for Round One of the 2022/2023 Major and Minor Event Grants Program as outlined below:

Organisation	Grant Awarded (GST Free)
Albanian Moslem Society Shepparton	\$3,000
Lions Club of Tatura	\$2,500
Shepparton Athletics Club	\$5,000
Goulburn Valley Pride	\$5,000
Shepparton District Kennel Club	\$2,000
Shepparton Cycling Club	\$2,000
Aviculture Society of Australia	\$2,000
South Shepparton Community Centre	\$1,450
SSAA Shepparton Shotgun Club	\$1,411
Devenish Dookie and District Good Friday Appeal	\$2,000
Dookie and District Development Forum	\$500
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$26,861</b>

## Executive Summary

Each year Council provides two Major and Minor Event Grant Programs for funding for community event organisers to apply for funding for events to be hosted in the municipality. Our first round for the year has closed for the 2022/2023 period. These grants are open to not-for-profit groups to assist them with their event logistics and requirements in our region.

The purpose of the Event Grants program is to provide financial assistance as well as marketing support to not-for-profit groups who are organising and running events within the Greater Shepparton municipality. The total amount of funding allocated to the Major and Minor Events Grant Program is \$45,000 (No GST) for the 2022/2023 financial year which is split across two rounds. Minor Events can be funded from \$500 up to \$2,000 and Major Events can be funded from \$2,000 up to \$5,000 under delegated authority.

Round One of the Major and Minor Events Grants 2022/2023 opened on 18 July and closed on 29 August 2022 with a total of 16 applications received.

Based on the Grant Policy and approved Guidelines, two of the applications were deemed ineligible and therefore notified that their application would not be considered under this round of funding, three other applications were not funded for various reasons. The Grant Assessment Panel assessed the remaining eleven applications and recommended these to be awarded funding.

To further enhance the event and ensure its success, a dedicated Council Events officer will be assigned to each applicant who will assist them with the facilitation of the event. Officers will also assist with booking forms, risk assessments and any other enquiries they have to ensure event organisers conduct a successful and safe event.

## Report Detail

The Events Grants applications are assessed in two rounds annually. A total of 16 applications were received in the Major and Minor Events Grants Round One 2022/2023. In total, eleven applications met the grant guidelines and were awarded funding, two were ineligible and three more were not awarded funds due to various reasons. The table below outlining the specifics of the eligible applications:

Group	Event	Event and brief description	Grant amount requested (GST Free)	Grant amount awarded (GST Free)
Albanian Moslem Society Shepparton	Shepparton Albanian Harvest Festival	Annual one day festival celebrating Albanian culture, food and music including a fruit and vegetable market and kids' activities.	\$5,000	\$3,000
Lions Club of Tatura	TatFest 2023	One day festival including live entertainment, market stalls and local food.	\$2,500	\$2,500
Shepparton Athletics Club	Shepparton Gift	New sport event – running in similar vein to Stawell gift.	\$5,000	\$5,000

Group	Event	Event and brief description	Grant amount requested (GST Free)	Grant amount awarded (GST Free)
Shepparton Cycling Club	Shepparton Christmas Track Carnival 2022	Victorian Annual Christmas Track Cycling Carnival, which forms part of the state-wide carnival series.	\$5,000	\$2,000
Goulburn Valley Pride	Out in the Open Festival	Festival celebrating LGBTIQA+ pride and community diversity held over multiple days and event	\$5,000	\$5,000
Shepparton District Kennel Club	Shepparton and District Kennel Club 75 Championship Show	Two-day championship dog show.	\$5,000	\$2,000
Aviculture Society of Australia	Aviculture Convention 2023	Three-day aviculture conference.	\$2,000	\$2,000
South Shepparton Community House	Open Day and Book Launch	Book launch of stories of inspiring women who have contributed to the Vibert Reserve Community Centre and the celebration of the recent redevelopment, includes entertainment and morning tea.	\$1,450	\$1,450
SSAA Shepparton Shotgun Club	SSAA 5 Stand National Championships	Clay shooting event attracting shooters from across the state to compete in multiple levels of competition.	\$1,411	\$1,411
Devenish Dookie and District Good Friday Appeal	Dookie Show'n Shine and Charity Auction	Show'n Shine of approx. 200 cars and 100 motorbikes including entertainment and charity auction.	\$2,000	\$2,000
Dookie and District Development Forum	130-year Memorial Hall Celebration	130-year Memorial Hall Celebration including burying of a time capsule, family entertainment, dancing and choir performance.	\$1,500	\$500
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$35,861</b>	<b>\$26,861</b>

The Major and Minor Events Program has an acquittal process at the completion of the project. A funding acquittal form is received from applicants which includes supporting documents including invoices and photographs of the events. Failure to acquit appropriately deems the applicant ineligible to apply for future grants through Greater Shepparton City Council.

### Council Plan / Key Strategic Activity

#### **SOCIAL**

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

2.1 Greater Shepparton is a welcoming, inclusive and safe place for all.

2.7 Greater Shepparton is valued for cultural celebrations, inclusion and engagement of our diverse communities.

#### **LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE**

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

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

#### **ECONOMIC**

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

3.3 Greater Shepparton is a major destination for events and tourism (e.g. progression of the business case for the Greater Victoria Commonwealth Games bid).

3.3 Greater Shepparton is a major destination for events and tourism (e.g. progression of the business case for the Greater Victoria Commonwealth Games bid).

### Risk Management

Consideration has been given to risk management issues during the assessment of all applications for funding support. As Covid-19 now does not pose a threat to events being postponed or cancelled, officers have deemed the likelihood of risk minimal.

### Policy Considerations

There are no conflicts with existing Council policy.

### Financial Implications

The Major and Minor Events Grant Program has a budget of \$45,000 which consists of two rounds, this being Round One.

	Approved Budget Estimate for this proposal GST Free	This Proposal GST Free	Variance to Approved Budget Estimate	This Proposal GST Inclusive (Not applicable)
Revenue	\$0	\$0		\$0
Expense	\$45,000	\$26,861		\$0
Net Total	\$45,000	\$26,861		\$0

## Legal / Statutory Implications

All event grants applicants must comply with planning, building, compliance and health legislative and statutory requirements prior to commencement of events and/or release of the Council's funds. All events supported by Council must also comply with legislation requirements.

## Environmental / Sustainability Impacts

There are no environmental/sustainability impacts from these projects.

## Social Implications

Event grants provided by Council are aimed at increasing opportunities for the community to come together as a whole, celebrate and foster community pride and esteem.

## Economic Impacts

Events funded by Council have in the past resulted in increased visitation and an increase in overnight stays with participants of the events, organisers, families spending more time in the Greater Shepparton region over the course of events. Retail stores, local speciality stores, accommodation, as well as cafes and restaurants have also reported a positive economic impact during these events.

## Consultation

The Grants Working Group have successfully organised community information evenings and workshops to educate and inform the public regarding what Council grants are available as well as how to write and submit an online application.

There are a number of Grants Administrators throughout Council who are available to answer and meet with members of the community to discuss future applications and events. Officers believe that appropriate consultation has occurred and the matter is now ready for approval.

## Strategic Links

### a) Greater Shepparton 2030 Strategy

- 2.3.2 Community Life
- 2.4.4 The Need to Grow
- 3.2 Supporting Principles
- 4.3.4 The Municipality is More Attractive
- 4.3.9 The Municipality is Culturally Active

### b) Other strategic links

- Economic Development, Tourism and major Events Strategy

## Conclusion

The applications for funding through the Major and Minor Events Funding Round One 2022/2023 were reviewed by the Grant Assessment Panel and awarded funding under delegated authority as outlined in the abovementioned table.

The approved events meet eligibility requirements of Council's Grants Policy and the Events Grants Guidelines.

## Attachments

Nil



## 12.3 Extension of time request - IGA Numurkah Road

Author	Statutory Planner
Approved by	Director Sustainable Development
Purpose	For Decision at a Council Meeting

### 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:**

1. **Adopt the position at VCAT that it would have refused to extend Permit No. 2017-177, having regard to the relevant legal tests relevant to the consideration of the extension of a planning permit.**
2. **Would have refused an extension of the permit had an appeal for failure not been lodged with VCAT before it was able to make a formal decision on the following grounds:**
  - **The applicant for an extension has not advanced material reasons as to why an extension should be granted.**
  - **There has been a change in policy (c192, C193pt1 & C196) since the grant of the permit.**
  - **The permit holder appears to be warehousing the permit.**
  - **The applicant for extension has indicated that the permit, if extended, would not be relied upon in its current form.**
  - **The total time period allowed for commencement (including a previous extension) was arguably adequate.**
  - **The permit has not imposed any unreasonable burden on the owner.**
  - **Although a fresh permit for a similar development would likely be granted, the form of the development would likely be different.**



## Executive Summary

Planning permit 2017-177 (the permit) authorised the redevelopment of the IGA site on Numurkah Road to allow a supermarket-based shopping centre.

Conditions of the permit required that the development commence within 3 years of the date of the permit. Officers under delegation extended the commencement date to 4 August 2022.

On 4 August 2022, the permit holder applied to further extend the commencement date by two years, which if allowed would require that the development be started by no later than 4 August 2024.

Council Officers were in discussion with the applicant regarding the extension application, there were also discussions between Council's lawyers and the applicant's lawyers, however, before a decision could be made by Council, the applicant filed an application under section 81 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, on the basis that a decision regarding the extension had not been made.

As the permit holder has lodged a VCAT application in regards to this extension request, it is not Council's role to decide on this extension request, Council's resolution is to set the responsible authority's position at the VCAT hearing which is to be heard in January 2023.

Officers have undertaken an assessment of the extension request against the relevant considerations which include:

- Whether there has been a change in planning policy
- Warehousing of the permit
- Intervening circumstances
- Total elapse of time since the permit was granted and whether the time limit was adequate
- Economic burden on the permit holder
- Probability of a fresh permit issuing

Officers recommend that Council oppose the extension of time request as:

- Policy directions have changed since the introduction of C-192
- The permit appears to be warehoused
- An intervening circumstance has been identified, being an alternative shopping centre proposal, that requires further planning approval
- A reasonable amount of time has been provided for the development to commence
- The economic burden to the permit holder is not so significant to warrant approval of the extension

## Application Details

Application Number:	2017-177
Applicant Name:	Shepparton Pty Ltd
Permit issue date	27 April 2018
Permit expiry date	4 August 2022
Date extension request received:	4 August 2022
Has the owner consented to the extension request?	Yes, on 16 August 2022
Has the development commenced?	No
How much additional time is requested?	2 years

Land/Address:	177-193 Numurkah Road, Shepparton
Land size:	4.4ha
Zoning & Overlays:	Commercial 1 Zone Land Subject to Inundation Overlay Specific Controls Overlay 3
Why was a permit required at the time of issue (include Permit Triggers):	34.01-1 Use of the land for retail greater than 8,000m <sup>2</sup> and a gymnasium 34.01-4 Buildings and works 44.04-1 Buildings and works in the Land Subject to Inundation Overlay 52.02 Removal of easement 52.05 Advertising Signage 52.17 Removal of native vegetation 52.27 Sale of liquor
What does the permit allow?	The use and development of the land for a shop (including two supermarkets and bottle shops) and gymnasium, use of land for the sale of liquor under clause 52.27 of the Greater Shepparton Planning Scheme, development of a medical centre and community centre and associated buildings and works, alteration of access onto a Road Zone (category 1), removal of Easement E-3 and removal of three Grey Box trees in accordance with the endorsed Plans forming part of this permit

## Proposal in Detail

The application seeks a two-year extension to the commencement date of the development.

The cover letter attached to the application provides the following explanation of the request:

*We request an extension of time of two years to start the development. This request has been driven by the agreement that has been reached with Coles to lease the second full line supermarket. We have enclosed information in support of this request.*

Officers confirm that the extension request was made before the permit expired and it is therefore open to VCAT to decide on the application.

On about 4 October 2022, the applicant lodged a failure to decide appeal with VCAT. As a VCAT application has been lodged, Council cannot decide on the extension of time request, Council's role is to set a position for the VCAT proceeding which is to be heard in January 2023.

## Assessment

In assessing an application for an extension of a planning permit the responsible authority should consider the matters identified in *Kantor & Ors v Murrindindi Shire Council 18 AATR 285 at 313*.

In *Kantor*, Ashley J stated that where a request to extend is made, a responsible authority:

*should treat the applicant as being obliged to advance some reason or material in support of the grant of an extension. An extension should not be granted simply because a request to extend has been made. The Act, after all, contemplates the imposition of an expiry date – whether by the permit or the operation of the legislation itself. True it is that the legislation also contemplates the making of a request to extend. But the exercise of the discretion to extend reverses the outcome which the permit or legislation would otherwise require.*

In the current case the applicant for the extension has not provided substantive reasons as to why the time period for commencement under the permit (including a previous extension of time) was inadequate.

**WHETHER THERE HAS BEEN A CHANGE OF PLANNING POLICY.**

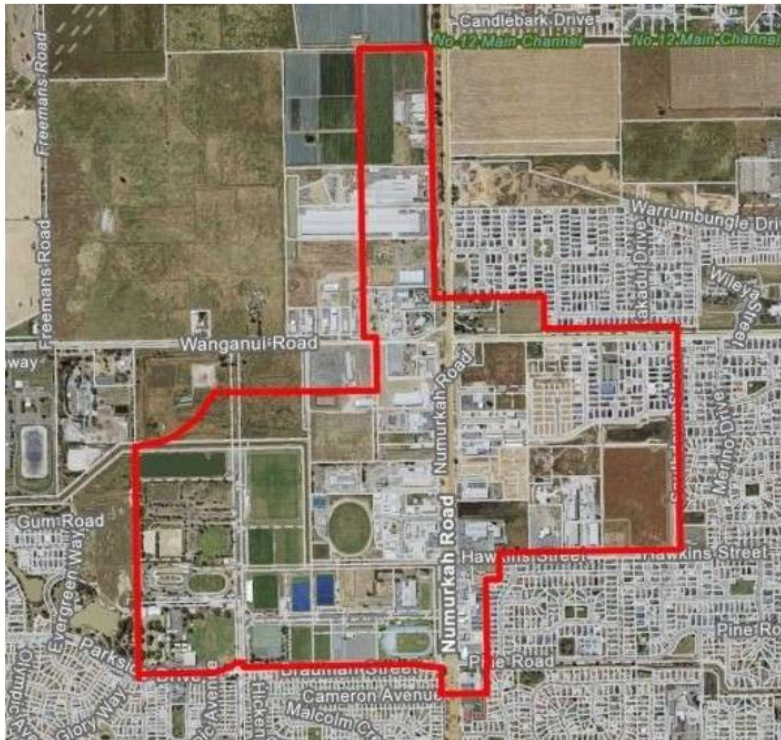
The policy setting has changed since the grant of the permit as set out below.

Amendment	Date	What the Amendment Does	Officers Response
C192 (C18/13942)	7 June 2018	<p>Implement the recommendations of the <i>Commercial Activity Centres Strategy, November 2015</i>.</p> <p>Amends the MSS to encourage expansion of retail and commercial convenience facilities in Shepparton North, subject to detailed planning and development assessment criteria.</p>	<p>Prior to C192 Fairley's was one of three neighbourhood / township centres.</p> <p>The amendment removed reference to Fairley's and replaces with Shepparton North.</p> <p>Shepparton North is moved from designation of neighbourhood / township centres to sub regional centre.</p> <p>Policy direction is amended from 'facilitate the expansion of the neighbourhood centre in the north at the Fairley's supermarket site subject to an Economic Impact Assessment' to</p> <p>'facilitate and support the expansion and concentration of additional retail and commercial facilities for the Shepparton North activity centre, between Ford Road and Hawkins Street on the eastern side of Numurkah Road, to reflect the designated sub-regional role and function of the centre'.</p> <p>Officers consider that the amendment has changed the policy direction from focusing on facilitating development of the Fairley's site to the wider Shepparton North activity centre.</p> <p>This amended policy direction weighs against an extension being allowed.</p>

C193 Pt 1 (C18/13945)	7 June 2018	The amendment applies a Public Acquisition Overlay to part of 221-229 Numurkah Road, part of 38-50 Ford Road and part of 25 Hawkins Road.	The amendment enabled the implementation of a Council drainage scheme to construct a regional drainage basin, known as Yakka Basin, which services (retention and treatment) the catchment including the IGA site.  Officers consider that this amendment does not impact on whether the application should or should not be extended.
Amendment	Date	What the Amendment Does	Officers Response
C196	28 June 2018	Introduces the <i>Addendum to the Urban Design Framework: Shepparton North and South Business Areas July 2017</i> (UDF Addendum) to the Planning Scheme as a reference document and implements its findings to provide guidance for the design and development of land in Kialla and Shepparton North.	The amendment introduced DDO9 to the Shepparton North Gateway Commercial Precinct. The DDO9 was not applied to the land.  Despite this, the UDF identifies that the land as a 'Prominent Site'.  Officers consider there is a limited link between this amendment and the extension of time request, as the DDO9 was not applied to the site.  C196 does not either support or not support the extension request.

No amendments to zone or overlays have occurred that change permit permissions for the proposal.

Proposed Structure Plan for Shepparton North  
The area of the proposed Structure Plan is shown below.



Note: The boundary for the Structure Plan will be finalised as part of the completion of the final Structure Plan.

Council’s website explains the Structure Plan as:

*In November 2021, Council engaged Mesh Liveable Urban Communities Pty Ltd (Mesh) to prepare a Structure Plan for Shepparton North Shepparton North. The Structure Plan will guide the future development of the SNAC for predominantly retail and commercial purposes whilst also investigating the wider Shepparton North Area. This will better ensure that the Structure Plan it provides appropriate connections to surrounding commercial, recreational and residential areas in the wider Shepparton North area.*

*To inform the Structure Plan, One Mile Grid Pty Ltd was subcontracted by Mesh to identify existing issues, constraints and opportunities for the local and arterial traffic network. Geografia Pty Ltd was also subcontracted by Mesh to provide technical advice on retail, commercial and industrial economics, including an audit and analysis on floor space area and office demand.*



The website provides a timeline for the preparation of the Structure Plan. The fourth step is currently being undertaken by the Planning Authority.

## Timeline

Indicative timeline for the Structure Plan is below:

- **2021 – early-2022**  
Information gathering and background analysis
- **21 February – 21 March 2022**  
Pre-draft consultation with the community, landowners and key stakeholders
- **April 2022**  
Preparation of an Key Issues and Opportunities Paper
- **September – October 2022**  
Community, landowner and key stakeholder consultation on the findings of the Key Issues and Opportunities Paper
- **November 2022**  
Draft Shepparton North Activity Centre Structure Plan prepared by Mesh
- **Late 2022**  
Community consultation on the Draft Structure Plan
- **Early 2023**  
Preparation of a final Shepparton North Activity Centre Structure Plan

<https://greatershepparton.com.au/bpi/planning/strategic-planning/current-strategic-projects/shepparton-north-activity-centre-structure-plan>

To date, Council have not considered the Structure Plan (i.e., no Council resolution has been obtained), no amendment C number has been allocated to the Structure Plan, no amendment documentation has been prepared and DELWP have not reviewed the amendment.

For these reasons, officers place no weight on the proposed Structure Plan as part of this extension of time assessment.

### **WHETHER THE LANDOWNER IS SEEKING TO ‘WAREHOUSE’ THE PERMIT.**

On 27 April 2018, the permit was issued.

Condition 23 required that the development commenced within 3 years of the date of the permit.

The permit was subsequently extended (by officers) to require commencement by 4 August 2022.

To date the development has not commenced.

A second request for extension of time was lodged on 4 August 2022 which seeks a further two years to commence the development.



Since the grant of the permit, condition 1 plans were endorsed on 14 May 2020. No detailed design civil plans have been submitted to Council for review or approval.

The Shepparton North Activity Centre Advisory Committee Report Amendment C193 Part 2 and PPA2016-269, 14 August 2020 (2021/36077) made the following comment on the importance of the IGA development commencing:

*...there is a time imperative for Shepparton/Metcash to act on its permit and its verbal commitment to proceed to develop the site. The community will be far better off to have two supermarkets on the one site. But it will be worse off if Shepparton/Metcash does not make good their permit and nothing happens (executive summary and recommendations Page ii).*

*There will be a significant short to medium term negative economic impact on the SNAC if construction of the first stage of the Shepparton centre does not commence by early 2021 and if the second stage does not commence immediately after. (4.3 Page 37)*

The permit holder has had more than 4 years from the issue of the permit, in that time, the advances in complying with the permit are limited to obtaining endorsed condition 1 plans.

Officers consider that the lack of advancement in acting upon the permit suggests that the permit may be being warehoused. Officers also consider that the development has not progressed as sought in the Advisory Committee Report and as a result the community has been deprived of needed retail facilities.

**INTERVENING CIRCUMSTANCES BEARING ON GRANT OR REFUSAL OF THE EXTENSION.**

Officers acknowledge the impacts on Covid on every part of life, including its impact on the ability of commence a development such as this shopping centre.

On 1 August 2022, Council received an application to amend this permit.

Officer's note that the proposed amendment represents a \$16 million increased spend as part of the development (\$34M to \$50M).

Officers consider that the submission of this amended application is an intervening circumstance that does not support an extension of time, as the proponent is seeking to develop the site for a development that differs considerably from the approved proposal under 2017-177. Approval of the amended proposal is subject to statutory planning process and its approval in the form requested is not guaranteed.

It is noted the amendment of the proposal cannot be processed at the current time as the permit has expired.

**THE TOTAL ELAPSE OF TIME AND WHETHER THE TIME LIMIT ORIGINALLY IMPOSED WAS ADEQUATE.**

The permit holder has had more than 4 years to commence the development (about 4 years and 4 months).

The strategy at clause 17.02-1S provides that a five-year time limit for commencement be applied to large shopping centre developments.

The permit, which was issued following a consent position between Council and the proponent required commencement within 3 years in order to commence the development

as soon as possible, consistent with the recommendations of the Advisory Committee and representations made by the proponent.

Officers consider that the original time allowed for commencement was adequate to commence the development.

**THE ECONOMIC BURDEN IMPOSED ON THE LANDOWNER BY THE PERMIT.**

The application sets out that \$600,000 has been spent by the permit holder in association with this file. Officers acknowledge that this is a considerable amount of money.

By comparison, the money spent represents 1.76% of the total development cost, being \$34M.

Officers consider that whilst \$600,000 is a significant amount of money, in the context of the cost of the development, the spend to date, is not a reason to extend the permit.

There are no circumstances disclosed by the proponent that indicate the financial burden arising from this permit is abnormal for such a proposal.

**THE PROBABILITY OF A FRESH PERMIT ISSUING SHOULD A FRESH APPLICATION BE MADE.**

Officers consider that given the land is within the C1Z, it is likely that a permit would issue for a shopping centre development at the land.

Based on the above assessment officers consider that the extension request should not be allowed as:

- Policy directions have changed since the introduction of C-192
- The permit appears to being warehoused
- An intervening circumstance has been identified, being an alternative shopping centre proposal, that requires further planning approval
- A reasonable amount of time has been provided for the development to commence
- The economic burden is not so significant to warrant approval of the extension

**Council Plan / Key Strategic Activity**

**VIBRANT and DIVERSE ECONOMY**

We will drive the visitor economy by growing visitor experiences and major events that provide employment and other opportunities to the community. Our economic development will focus on establishing a strong, adaptive, sustainable and thriving region supported by agriculture and a diverse range of industries.

3.5 Encourage and facilitate investment and expansion.

3.10 Efficient land use planning to encourage and support future development.

**Risk Management**

Officers have not identified any risks associated with the extension of time request.

**Policy Considerations**

Officers have undertaken an assessment of the extension request against the Kantor principles.

**Financial Implications**

The extension of time request has no significant financial implications for Council.

### **Legal / Statutory Implications**

The applicant has filed a VCAT application for this extension of time request. VCAT has scheduled a hearing on 23 January 2023.

VCAT will determine if the extension of time request is allowed or disallowed.

### **Cultural Heritage**

The land is not within an area of aboriginal cultural heritage sensitivity.

### **Environmental / Sustainability Impacts**

The extension of time request has no environmental or sustainability impacts.

### **Social Implications**

The extension of time request has no social implications.

### **Economic Impacts**

The extension of time request has no significant economic impacts to Greater Shepparton City Council.

### **Referrals/Public Notice**

The extension of time request is not required to be referred to authorities or notified to neighbours.

### **Strategic Links**

Greater Shepparton 2030 Strategy (GS2030)

GS2030 provides no policy directions relating to applications to extend the commencement date of a permit.

### **Conclusion**

Officers having completed an assessment of the extension request, recommend that Council oppose the two-year extension to the commencement date of the permit.

### **Attachments**

Nil

## 12.4 Community Sustainability Grants Round 1 2022 2023

Author                      Climate Change Officer  
 Approved by            Director Sustainable Development  
 Purpose                   Information Only

### 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 note the successful applicants awarded funding under delegated authority for Round One of the 2022/2023 Community Sustainability Grants Program as follows:**

Group	Project	Grant Amount Awarded (GST Free)
Greater Shepparton Lighthouse Project (GSLP)	Woodworking for Wildlife	\$2,920
Tatura Scouts	Energy efficient light upgrade	\$1,049
*Dookie Memorial Hall Community Asset Committee	Dookie Memorial Hall Heating Upgrade	\$3,000
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$6,969 (GST Free)</b>

### Executive Summary

The Community Sustainability Grants support the development and implementation of sustainable projects and events, which assist in achieving sustainability actions within the Environmental Sustainability Strategy and Climate Emergency Action Plan.

Greater Shepparton City Council launched the first round of the Community Sustainability Grants program in July 2016, with two rounds offered per financial year.

Round 1 of the Community Sustainability Grant for 2022/2023 opened to applications on 18 July 2022 and closed on 29 August 2022 with two applications received.

The applications were assessed by an internal grants assessment panel with one application recommended for full funding and one application recommended for partial

funding. Both projects meet the objectives of the grant guidelines and the Environmental Sustainability Strategy.

### Report Details

The Community Sustainability Grants are designed to support the development and implementation of sustainable projects and events, which will contribute to achieving sustainability related actions within the Environmental Sustainability Strategy. Council has a budget of \$25,000 allocated to the grants program for 2022/2023, with a maximum grant of \$3,000 per application.

The intention of the funding is to facilitate projects which achieve some or all of the following objectives:

- Encourage and support the community to address the climate emergency by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and working towards a zero emissions future.
- Raise community awareness of the relevance of climate change, the impacts it will have on our environment and way of life, and opportunities for adaptation.
- Increase the energy efficiency of existing community buildings across the municipality.
- Encourage participation in sustainability activities and events.
- Enable community members to acquire or develop new skills in relation to Sustainability.

This round of Community Sustainability Grants has been promoted through the Council's external website, online grants information session, social media and a media release. The internal Grants Working Group facilitated by the Grants Coordinator continues to collaborate to improve access for community organisations across the different grant programs within Council.

Organisation	Greater Shepparton Lighthouse Project (GSLP)
Project	Woodworking for Wildlife
Short Project Description	The Woodworking for Wildlife aims to successfully engage and motivate young people with special learning or behavioural needs by constructing 30 Bird Boxes under the guidance of mentors at the Pitstop premises. The proposed outcome will be increasing young people's engagement in a small hands-on project while contributing to wildlife sustainability in our local area. The project will increase the suite of engagement options available for young people at Pitstop, with a potential to be an on-going offering.
Request for funding activities	Budget items include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tin for Roof x 30</li> <li>• Pre-Cut - Marine Ply 12mm</li> <li>• Fixtures – Screws</li> <li>• Liquid Nails</li> <li>• Paint 5lt</li> </ul>
Requested Council contribution	\$2,920.00
Amount awarded	\$2,920.00

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Tatura Scouts</b>
Project	Upgrade Lights
Short Project Description	Tatura Scout Hall aims to improve the energy efficiency at the Scout building by replacing old internal lights with energy efficient alternative globes, and install new energy efficient external lights.
Request for funding activities	Total project budget: \$2098.00 Budget includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>replacing the existing internal lights</li> <li>install external lights</li> </ul>
Requested Council contribution	\$2098.00
Amount awarded	\$1049.00
Recommendation from the Assessment Panel	Recommended to part fund \$1049 for the upgrade of the internal lights to be in line with grant guidelines to increase energy efficiency. *\$1049 request for external lights not aligned with grant guidelines as this involves the addition of new lights

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>* Dookie Memorial Hall (application through Community Matching Grants program)</b>
Project	Dookie Memorial Hall Heating Upgrade
Short Project Description	The Dookie Memorial Hall currently has ineffective gas heating, and would like to replace this heating with 3 reverse cycle systems.
Request for funding activities	Total project budget: \$10,551 Community Sustainability grants will provide \$3,000, \$2,000 provided by Community Matching Grants and the remaining \$5,551 will be contributed by the applicant.
Requested Council contribution	\$5000.00
Amount awarded	\$3000.00
Recommendation from the Assessment Panel	Fully funded, with Community Matching Grants funding \$2,000 and the Community Sustainability Grants funding \$3,000.

\*The Dookie Memorial Hall Heating upgrade application was received through the Community Matching Grant program. This application has been co-funded with the Community Matching Grant Scheme funding \$2,000 and the Community Sustainability Grant Scheme funding \$3000 at the direction of Council Grants Officer. This project was assessed by the Community Matching Grants assessment panel and reviewed by the Community Sustainability Grants assessment panel. This project met the eligibility criteria of both community grant programs and therefore, the assessment panels agreed to fully fund this project.

The Community Sustainability Grants assessment panel agree that the Lighthouse Shepparton and Tatura Scouts projects will be a worthy investment into the community to achieve the grant objectives, and assist the community in raising awareness about sustainability and climate change. Both of the projects meet eligibility requirements and aim to implement sustainability projects within the community.



## Council Plan/Key Strategic Activity

### **COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP**

We will prioritise leadership in the community to celebrate our cultures, people and places that makes Greater Shepparton a unique, vibrant, diverse and liveable region.

1.4 Communities have resources and abilities to self-advocate.

### **SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY and WELLBEING**

We will support the mental and physical health and wellbeing of all in our community, ensuring universal access to information, services, housing, healthcare and learning opportunities.

2.9 Community members are supported to achieve and sustain physical, emotional and creative wellbeing.

### **INFRASTRUCTURE and TECHNOLOGY**

We will focus on the planning of our region's requirements to enable delivery of technology and infrastructure to meet the current and future needs of the community.

4.11 Develop and improve Community and recreation facilities.

### **ENVIRONMENT and CLIMATE EMERGENCY**

We will prioritise our environment and take urgent action to reduce emissions and waste in order to protect public health and create a region that mitigates and adapts to climate change.

5.1 Council endeavours to make the natural environment accessible to all, regardless of age and abilities.

5.4 Council commits to improving biodiversity and the natural environment within Greater Shepparton.

5.5 Council commits to working with our community to deliver climate safe future.

5.6 Reduce carbon emissions in our community.

5.7 Conserve and improve biodiversity and our natural environment, and protect and improve river health.

5.9 Drive climate change mitigation and adaptation.

## Risk Management

Insignificant to low risks have been identified, and will be addressed at the operational level (such as impact of Covid-19 on planned events, which has affected many grant project activities during 2020-2021). All grantees will be required to consult with Council representatives prior to, and during their projects to identify any potential adverse consequences, and to devise a strategy to minimise any risks.

Public liability insurances for projects where activities are being undertaken by the Grantees themselves have been included in the application documents.

## Policy Considerations

Applications under the Community Sustainability Program have been assessed and awarded under delegated authority in accordance with Council's Grant Distribution Policy adopted on 16 March 2021.

## Financial Implications

Council has committed \$25,000 for the 2022/2023 financial year for the Community Sustainability Grant program, with Round One allocating \$3969.00, \$21,031.00 and \$3,000.00 remaining for Round Two. Funding in the total sum of \$3969.00 has been awarded under delegated authority for two projects in Round One of the 2022/2023 program.



	Approved Budget Estimate for this proposal <sup>1</sup> \$	This Proposal GST Exclusive \$	Variance to Approved Budget Estimate \$	This Proposal GST Inclusive <sup>2</sup> \$
Revenue	\$0	\$0		\$0
Expense	\$25,000	\$6,969.00		\$6,969
Net Total	\$25,000	\$6,969.00		\$6,969

<sup>1</sup> Budgets are GST exclusive

<sup>2</sup> For Contract Award reports the GST inclusive expense shall match the amount reported in the recommendation

### Legal/Statutory Implications

There are no legal/statutory implications arising from this report.

### Environmental/Sustainability Impacts

Funding all projects will support the implementation of the associated projects which will have a positive impact on the improvement of sustainability with the community.

### Social Implications

The applications received this Round demonstrate the significant value of local volunteers and community organisations who contribute to the social connectedness of the Greater Shepparton community. These are projects that will engage the community to be involved in and therefore have a positive social impact.

### Economic Impacts

Grant allocations this round will contribute to community organisations being able to provide community events and opportunities. This will promote local business and have a positive effect on the local economy. The recommendation will also assist the grant recipients an opportunity to reduce their energy costs.

### Consultation

Level of public participation	Promises to the public/stakeholders	Examples of techniques to use
Inform	Ensure that the information about the application process was widespread	Media Release Website Social Media Emailed to networks Information Sessions
Consult	Two online grant information sessions were attended	Sessions offered at various times throughout the year
Involve	Climate Change Officer to provide assistance to community groups	Consultation on an individual basis during the application process

Level of public participation	Promises to the public/stakeholders	Examples of techniques to use
Collaborate	Successful community groups/members will be responsible for the implementation of their projects which will provide the opportunity for incorporating sustainability initiatives into the community	Successful applicants will drive their own community initiatives
Empower	Whilst decision making regarding successful grant applications are made by Council, community groups will be responsible for the delivery of projects	Community groups will drive the delivery of their projects

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

### Strategic Links

#### a) Greater Shepparton 2030 Strategy

- Direction 2: Community Life
- Direction 3: Environment

#### b) Other strategic links

- *Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2014-2030*
- 3 Using our resources wisely – climate change and energy efficiency
- 3.5 Council supports our businesses, industries, and residents to live more efficiently and sustainably.
- 3.7 Advocate and maximise partnership opportunities to reduce Council and community greenhouse gas emissions and respond to the opportunities and challenges of climate change.
- *Climate Emergency Action Plan*
- 3.25 Expand community grants program to provide ongoing support to the Greater Shepparton community to implement projects that build resilience to climate change and reduce emissions and other environmental impacts.

### Conclusion

The applications for Round 1 Community Sustainability Grants 2022/2023 have been reviewed by an internal assessment panel in accordance with Council's Grant Distribution Policy and Grant Program Guidelines. All applications have been awarded funding under delegated authority. All projects meet the eligibility requirements of the Community Sustainability Grant Program and aim to build or strengthen sustainability in the Greater Shepparton community.

### Attachments

Nil

## 12.5 Awarding of Grants under the Heritage Conservation Grants Program 2022/2023

Author Senior Strategic Planner  
 Approved by Director Sustainable Development  
 Purpose For Decision at a Council Meeting

### 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 note the successful applicants of the Greater Shepparton Heritage Conservation Grants Program 2022/2023 as outlined below (GST inclusive):

Group	Project	Grant Amount Awarded (GST Inclusive)
St Germain's Homestead, 820 Hutchison Rd, Undera	Structural repairs to brick walls and replace roof timbers	\$16,500.00
Alexander Miller Home, 47-53 Wyndham St, Shepparton	Repair and paint windows	\$8,800.00
Harston Church, 915 Springvale Rd, Harston	Renew damp proof course and repoint brickwork	\$5,285.00
St Andrews, 2 Alexandra St, Mooropna	Repair fascia boards and paint exterior	\$13,004.20
Nimitybelle, 110 Craven Rd, Tatura	Repair roof, verandah and chimneys	\$3,903.90
St Augustine's Anglican Church, 95-97 Maude St, Shepparton	Repair leadlight windows and paint exterior	\$1,602.70
Original Post Office building, 33 McLennan St, Mooropna	Restore and paint timber gable, and reconstruct front fence	\$16,500.00
715 Midland Hwy, Shepparton East	Repair roof and verandah, and restore original doorway	\$16,500.00
Aloi Thai, 339 Wyndham St, Shepparton	Repair roof and replace capping	\$7,977.20
Pine Lodge Uniting Church, Pine Lodge South Rd, Pine Lodge	Replace guttering and downpipes, and repair loose roof	\$1,633.50

## Executive Summary

In July 2022, Council launched the Greater Shepparton Heritage Conservation Grants Program (the Program) for the 2022/2032 financial year.

The Program is an initiative of the Greater Shepparton Heritage Advisory Committee (the Committee), which was established by Council at the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 17 January 2012.

The Committee, amongst other things, provides the best possible advice to Council on how to conserve and promote the unique cultural heritage of Greater Shepparton, and acts as an advocate for all cultural heritage matters within the municipality.

The Program seeks to promote conservation works that improve the physical security or appearance of a place, whilst being respectful of the place's significance. The Program commenced in late 2017 and has been heavily subscribed over the past five financial years. Completed works from previous years have demonstrated consistently positive outcomes, providing benefits for both owners of significant properties and the community.

The current round was allocated funding of \$80,000 (excluding GST) and has been informed by the *Heritage Grants Guidelines 2019* (the Guidelines), which were adopted by Council at the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 16 July 2019.

Council received 28 applications during the six-week application period extending from 25 July to 14 September 2022 and one late application. In accordance with the Guidelines, a Judging Panel was formed to assess the applications and provide recommendations to Council. As in previous years, the calibre of applications was extremely high.

It is recommended that Council note the award of 10 grants under the Program, to the total value of \$91,706.50 (including GST) as outlined in the recommendation.

## Report Detail

Greater Shepparton contains a wide variety of cultural heritage places of local, regional and international significance owing to its richly-layered history, dating back over 40,000 years. Shepparton's cultural heritage is an integral part of the rich tapestry that connects our community, as well as adding character, appeal and interest to our Municipality. Greater Shepparton is notable for the great diversity and variety of cultural heritage places.

At the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 17 January 2012, Council authorised the formation of the Greater Shepparton Heritage Advisory Committee (the Committee). The Committee, amongst other things, provides the best possible advice to Council on how to conserve and promote the unique cultural heritage of Greater Shepparton, and acts as an advocate for all cultural heritage matters within the municipality.

In February 2017, the Committee agreed to request that Council resolve to support a Heritage Grants Program and to commence such a program in the 2017/18 financial year. The Committee prepared the *Heritage Grants Guidelines 2017* to provide an overarching framework to inform any future Heritage Grants Program.

The Guidelines were prepared in accordance with Council's Grants Distribution Policy. At the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 21 March 2017, Council resolved to endorse the Greater Shepparton Heritage Grants Program (the Program), adopt the Heritage Grants Guidelines 2017, and allocate \$25,000 in the 2017/18 financial year to fund the Program.

This was the first time that such a program had been undertaken independently by a council in regional Victoria. The Program has proven to be highly successful and, as a result, increasing budgets have been allocated in each subsequent year, totalling \$50,000 in the 2018/2019 financial year, \$65,000 in the 2019/2020 financial year and \$80,000 in the 2020/2021 and 2021/2022 financial years.

In July 2019, Council resolved to adopt the updated *Heritage Grants Guidelines 2019* (the Guidelines). Completed works from previous years have demonstrated consistently positive outcomes, providing benefits for both owners of significant properties and the community.

The objectives of the Heritage Grants Program are to:

- enhance, protect and conserve places and sites included in the Heritage Overlay in the Greater Shepparton Planning Scheme;
- provide financial and advisory assistance for the repair, maintenance, or enhancement of heritage sites included in the Heritage Overlay that have a community benefit;
- promote cultural heritage conservation by providing financial assistance to those in the community who may otherwise not be able to afford to undertake conservation works;
- strengthen and foster a sense of community identity and community ownership in the long-term conservation of local heritage sites; and
- increase public awareness and understanding of heritage places in the Municipality.

Conservation, restoration and/or reconstruction may be eligible for funding assistance under the Program, as well as documentation projects that demonstrate a commitment to obtaining specialist assessments or studies, or the preparation of conservation management plans as a preliminary to future works. Works must contribute to the retention of the significance of the place, and ideally be visible from a public place or improve a building or structure's external appearance.

Applications for the Program were invited from 25 July 2022 to 8 September 2022; however, this date was subsequently extended to 14 September 2022. All owners of eligible properties were notified of the application period by mail on 15 July 2022. Numerous enquiries were received and 28 applications, with one late application, were lodged during this time. In accordance with the Guidelines, a Judging Panel was formed to assess the applications and provide recommendations to Council. The Judging Panel comprised one member of the Committee, the Heritage Adviser and the Shepparton CBD Manager from the Economic Development Department.

Applications were assessed against the following assessment criteria:

1. significance of the place;
2. need for the works;
3. community benefit, such as the conservation of a historically or architecturally significant place or increasing the public awareness of heritage;
4. additional consideration was given to projects that encourage heritage trade skills; and
5. capacity of the applicant to fund the works independently.

The Judging Panel has agreed that the following 10 applications be awarded a heritage grant (in no particular order):

Group	Project	Grant Amount Awarded (GST Inclusive)
St Germain's Homestead, 820 Hutchison Rd, Undera	Structural repairs to brick walls and replace roof timbers	\$16,500.00
Alexander Miller Home, 47-53	Repair and paint windows	\$8,800.00*

Wyndham St, Shepparton		
Harston Church, 915 Springvale Rd, Harston	Renew damp proof course and repoint brickwork	\$5,285.00
St Andrews, 2 Alexandra St, Mooroopna	Repair fascia boards and paint exterior	\$13,004.20
Nimitybelle, 110 Craven Rd, Tatura	Repair roof, verandah and chimneys	\$3,903.90
St Augustine's Anglican Church, 95-97 Maude St, Shepparton	Repair leadlight windows and paint exterior	\$1,602.70**
Original Post Office building, 33 McLennan St, Mooroopna	Restore and paint timber gable, and reconstruct front fence	\$16,500.00
715 Midland Hwy, Shepparton East	Repair roof and verandah, and restore original doorway	\$16,500.00**
Aloi Thai, 339 Wyndham St, Shepparton	Repair roof and replace capping	\$7,977.20
Pine Lodge Uniting Church, Pine Lodge South Rd, Pine Lodge	Replace guttering and downpipes, and repair loose roof	\$1,633.50

\* Total amount requested is greater than 50% of total project cost

\*\* Application is unclear as whether requested amount inclusive of GST, 10% GST has been added to requested amount

The completion of works resulting from successful grant applications will assist in the conservation of places of heritage significance across Greater Shepparton.

### Council Plan/Key Strategic Activity

#### VIBRANT and DIVERSE ECONOMY

We will drive the visitor economy by growing visitor experiences and major events that provide employment and other opportunities to the community. Our economic development will focus on establishing a strong, adaptive, sustainable and thriving region supported by agriculture and a diverse range of industries.

3.9 Expand Greater Shepparton's visitor economy.

### Risk Management

There are no anticipated risks associated with awarding 10 grants in accordance with the Guidelines. The 2022/23 budget includes an allocation of \$80,000 (excl. GST) for the 2022/23 Program. The recommendation will not exceed this budget allocation.

### Policy Considerations

The recommendation does not conflict with any existing Council policy. The Guidelines were prepared in accordance with Council's Grants Distribution Policy.

### Financial Implications

The recommendation is unlikely to result in any unforeseen financial implications. The 2022/23 Budget includes an allocation of \$80,000 for the Program. All grants are GST exclusive. The grants to be awarded do not exceed this allocation.

### Legal/Statutory Implications

The recommendation will not result in any legal/statutory implications.

### Environmental/Sustainability Impacts

The recommendation will not result in any environmental/sustainability impacts.



## Social Implications

The recommendation will result in positive social outcomes for the community. The Program promotes conservation (maintenance, preservation, reconstruction or restoration) works that improve the physical security or appearance of a place, whilst being respectful of the place's significance. It is a critical way of promoting owner participation in conserving places of cultural heritage significance, and provides opportunities for the community to appreciate the municipality's cultural heritage.

## Economic Impacts

The recommendation will result in positive economic impacts. The completion of works will assist in the conservation of places of heritage significance, and this will result in positive additional effects regarding increased property values, and potential tourism opportunities. There are no negative economic impacts associated with the Program.

## Consultation

The Program was promoted in local media and letters were sent to all owners of properties within the Heritage Overlay in the municipality.

Applications for the Program were open from 25 July 2022 until 14 September 2022. During this time, numerous enquiries were received, and Council officers and the Heritage Adviser undertook various site visits with land owners. As a result of this engagement, Council received 28 applications and one late application.

The extent and calibre of applications indicates that this consultation was successful. Council officers believe that appropriate consultation has occurred and the matter is now ready for Council consideration.

## Strategic Links

### a) Greater Shepparton 2030 Strategy

The Program is consistent with the objectives, strategies and actions outlined in the Environment Section of the Greater Shepparton 2030 Strategy 2006, specifically: Direction 3: Environment: Conservation and enhancement of significant natural environments and cultural heritage.

### b) Other strategic links

- Greater Shepparton Heritage Strategy 2019.
- Greater Shepparton Heritage Study Stage II 2020.

## Conclusion

The Greater Shepparton Heritage Advisory Committee agreed to request that Council resolve to support a Heritage Conservation Grants Program in the 2017/18 financial year. The Program seeks to promote conservation works that improve the physical security or appearance of a place, whilst being respectful of the place's significance.

The Program is now in its sixth year, and the responses received demonstrate its continuing support from and relevance to the community. Applications for the Program were open from 25 July 2022 until 14 September 2022.

Council received 28 applications and one late application was received during this time, all of which met the eligibility criteria. In accordance with the Guidelines, a Judging Panel was formed to assess the applications and provide recommendations to Council.

The Program was well supported and the calibre of applications was exceptionally high.



It is recommended that Council note the award of 10 grants as part of the Program, as outlined in this report.

## Attachments

Nil

## 12.6 Proposed Lease of Land to Kids Under Cover to realise a Village 21 Development

Author Graduate Strategic Planner  
 Approved by Director Sustainable Development  
 Purpose For Decision at a Council Meeting

### 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, having undertaken a community engagement process in accordance with Section 115 of the *Local Government Act 2020*:**

1. receive and note the contents of the submissions received or heard and Council officers' responses outlined in the *Conversation Report – Proposed lease of land at 20-22 Perrivale Drive, Shepparton December 2022*, as attached;
2. endorse the leasing of Council-owned land at 20-22 Perrivale Drive, Shepparton to Kids Under Cover for a term of 10 years at a peppercorn rental of \$1.00 per annum (excluding GST) with a single option to renew to realise a Village 21;
3. authorise the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate and enter into an Agreement for Lease and Lease with Kids Under Cover to realise a Village 21, provided further that Kids Under Cover provides evidence of funding for its proposal before 31 December 2023;
4. inform all submitters of Council's decision in relation to this matter; and
5. keep submitters informed in relation to the announcement of any future funding to realise this project.

## Executive Summary

In June 2018, the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* (the Act) was amended to include the objective “to facilitate the provision of Affordable Housing in Victoria”. The Act defines ‘Affordable Housing’ as ‘housing, including Social Housing that is appropriate for the housing needs of very low, low and moderate income households’.

Following extensive consultation, Council resolved to adopt the *Greater Shepparton Affordable Housing Strategy: Houses for People 2020* in April 2020. Council also subsequently resolved to form the Greater Shepparton Affordable Housing Reference Group to provide expert advice on ways that Council can realise Affordable Housing outcomes.

In late 2019, the Affordable Housing Strategy found that Greater Shepparton was estimated to have the highest homeless rate in regional Victoria, with 5.56 homeless persons per 1,000 people, and 1,041 households on the waiting list for social housing. Rental affordability fell by 10% between 2008 and 2018, with 27% of low-income households experiencing housing stress. With these alarming statistics, it was estimated that 42% of all forecast dwelling supply needed to be delivered as Affordable Housing to meet demand in 2036.

Following an investigation by Affordable Development Outcomes Pty Ltd into housing affordability in Greater Shepparton, the investigation found that between December 2018 and June 2022 there was a significant increase in households on the Victorian Housing Register, from 1,041 households on the waiting list to 1,674. 904 households are now considered priorities for housing assistance. These alarming statistics means that there are now more households on the waiting list for Affordable Housing in Greater Shepparton than there is current supply.

In early 2022, Kids Under Cover made enquires with Council as to whether it would lease land to develop a Village 21, which is an innovative model seeking to assist at-risk young people to successfully transition to independent living from out of home care.

Kids Under Cover is a not-for-profit organisation focused on delivering a unique combination of studio accommodation and education scholarships as a practical and proven strategy in preventing youth homelessness. The Village 21 Program is an accommodation and support program for six young people between the ages of 18-21 who have exited foster care. The program would involve construction of a communal building containing a kitchen, living room and laundry, three two-bedroom studios with a bathroom and two one-bedroom studios for two live-in mentors, and a communal BBQ area. The purpose of the program is to assist at-risk young people, between the ages 18 to 21, to successfully transition to independent living from out of home care.

Council officers proposed three Council-owned lots considered suitable given the requirements of Kids Under Cover: 4 Deane Court, Shepparton was the preferred lot. On 24 February 2022, Kids Under Cover requested formal assistance from Council and stated that its preference was also 4 Deane Court, Shepparton. The land is currently vacant, owned by Council, zoned General Residential Zone and located within an existing residential area.

At the Council Meeting held on 17 May 2022, Council resolved, amongst other things, to provide in-principle support for the proposal and undertook a community engagement process from May to June 2022.

After re-evaluating the suitability of the site and community consultation, on 1 August 2022, Kids Under Cover formally withdrew its request to lease the land at 4 Deane Court, Shepparton and instead requested support to lease 20-22 Perrivale Drive, Shepparton.

At the Council Meeting held on 20 September 2022, Council resolved, amongst other things, to commence a community engagement process in accordance with *Section 115 of the Local Government Act 2020* and the *Greater Shepparton City Council Community Engagement Policy 2021* regarding the proposed lease of the land at 20-22 Perrivale Drive, Shepparton.

Community consultation commenced on 3 October 2022 and was subsequently extended until 28 November 2022. Council received one early submission, 19 submissions and three verbal presentations during the consultation period.

Following the consideration of all submissions, Council officers consider this to be an effective way of realising Affordable Housing outcomes, and is supported by Council's Affordable Housing Strategy and Council Plan 2021-2025. The site's ideal location within Shepparton will ensure excellent amenity for future residents, enabling them to be securely and appropriately housed.

Utilising Council land for Affordable Housing projects is an important way in which Council can have real and tangible impact in addressing the urgent need for housing in Greater Shepparton. In not supporting this proposal, Council will not achieve its adopted and stated objectives in supporting affordable housing. This will result in a policy failure, undermine the support for the sector and contribute to a worsening housing crisis.

This Council report recommends that Council proceed with the leasing of the land.

### Report Detail

In June 2018, the Act was amended to include the objective "to facilitate the provision of Affordable Housing in Victoria". The Act defines 'Affordable Housing' as 'housing, including Social Housing that is appropriate for the housing needs of very low-, low- and moderate income households.

Following extensive consultation, Council resolved to adopt the *Greater Shepparton Affordable Housing Strategy: Houses for People 2020* (the Affordable Housing Strategy) at the Ordinary Council Meeting held in April 2020. The Affordable Housing Strategy demonstrated an undeniable need for Affordable Housing across Greater Shepparton. Beyond the municipality's identification as the Victorian regional city with the highest level of homelessness, at 5.6 homeless persons per 1,000, 1,041 households are on the waiting list for social housing support, 27% of low-income households are facing housing stress (2,716 households), and overall rental affordability decreased by 10% between 2008 and 2018.

Up to 2020, the Affordable Housing Strategy found that despite some allocations under a number of Commonwealth and State-funded programs, Council advocacy and programs to support low-income households, and remarkable work by housing providers, the resources required to address housing issues in Greater Shepparton substantially exceeded those available.

The Affordable Housing Strategy draws on the premise of 'Housing First' that has been successfully implemented in Finland to reduce homelessness levels by a third over a seven-year period. Beyond advocacy for Commonwealth and State funding to undertake substantial construction of new stock, it outlines a variety of ways in which Council may facilitate and promote the provision of Affordable Housing through diverse agents,

encouraging knowledge sharing, economical usage of existing resources, and collaboration between housing providers, government, developers, landowners, landlords and investors.

The Affordable Housing Strategy aims to promote increased stock across the spectrum of affordable models, including crisis accommodation and social housing to address acute housing needs, 'alternative' options like cohousing, which may address the needs of identified 'at risk' cohorts, and broader diversity in size and configuration in the market-based supply to mitigate potential future shortfalls.

Council also subsequently resolved to form the Greater Shepparton Affordable Housing Reference Group to provide expert advice on ways that Council can realise Affordable Housing outcomes and on the implementation of the Affordable Housing Strategy.

Kids Under Cover is a not-for-profit organisation focused on delivering the unique combination of studio accommodation and education scholarships as a practical and proven strategy in preventing youth homelessness. Kids Under Cover recently launched the Village 21 Model, an innovative model seeking to assist at-risk young people to successfully transition to independent living from out of home care.

Council officers proposed a number of potential site options and lots that may be suitable given the requirements described by Kids Under Cover: 4 Deane Court, Shepparton was the preferred lot. On 24 February 2022, Kids Under Cover confirmed it required assistance from Council and stated that its preference was 4 Deane Court, Shepparton.

The proposal would enable the construction of accommodation and implementation of a support program for six young people between the ages of 18-21 who have recently exited foster care. The Village 21 Model provides a communal building containing a kitchen, living room and laundry, three two-bedroom studios with a bathroom and two one-bedroom studios for live-in mentors, and a communal BBQ area. Kids Under Cover would be responsible for the maintenance of the buildings on site and their eventual removal at a future date.

After re-evaluating the suitability of the site and community consultation, Kids Under Cover has formally withdrawn its request to lease the land at 4 Deane Court, Shepparton and instead requested support to lease 20-22 Perrivale Drive, Shepparton.

Kids Under Cover and Council officers have explored alternative sites that may be more suitable for the Village 21 Program. Council officers have recommended 20-22 Perrivale Drive, Shepparton as a more suitable location. Council officers consider this to be an effective way of realising Affordable Housing outcomes (see Figure One below). The site's size and ideal location within Shepparton will ensure excellent amenity for future residents, enabling them to be securely and appropriately housed. The land is identified as a 'reserve' for open space purposes. Given the size of the site and its unembellished nature, it is considered capable of accommodating the proposal and formalised open space as envisaged in the *Urban Forest Strategy 2017*.





Figure One: Location of 20-22 Perrivale Drive, Shepparton (the location is outlined and shaded in blue).

### Consultation

At the Council Meeting held on 20 September 2022, Council resolved, amongst other things, to provide in-principle support for the preparation of any funding applications by Kids Under Cover to realise three two-bedroom studios for Affordable Housing purposes on 20-22 Perrivale Drive, Shepparton and to commence a community engagement process in accordance with *Section 115 of the Local Government Act 2020* and the *Greater Shepparton City Council Community Engagement Policy 2021*.

Community consultation commenced on Monday, 3 October 2022 and was subsequently extended until Monday, 28 November 2022. Council received one early submission, 19 submissions and three verbal presentations during the consultation period.

Submissions were invited via an online submission form, by email and by post and verbal briefings were delivered via online.

Council used multiple methods to engage with key stakeholders and the broader Greater Shepparton community during the additional community consultation phase, including:

- a letter to adjoining landowners and occupiers of land;
- a letter to relevant stakeholders and referral agencies;
- a media release, which attracted media attention from the Shepparton News;
- public notice in the Shepparton News on Friday, 4 November 2022; and
- an online submission portal on the 'Shaping Greater Shepp' website.

A range of common themes were identified in submissions, these were, in no particular order:

- crime and safety concerns;
- Greater Shepparton needs more housing for at risk youths;
- the site should be turned into a park/play space;
- proposed development is too dense;
- increased traffic congestion as a result of the development;
- impact on the value of surrounding properties;
- inappropriate location;
- impacts on surrounding residential properties; and
- nowhere to put bins for weekly collection.

A Conversation Report was prepared to summarise the submissions received and heard, and Council officers' responses to the themes raised is included as Attachment One: *Conversation Report – Proposed lease of land at 20-22 Perrivale Drive, Shepparton December 2022.*

Council is now required to consider the outcome of the consultation process relating to Council's intention to lease Council-owned land to Kids Under Cover for a term of 10 years at a peppercorn rental to realise a Village 21 with a single option to renew.

After considering all submissions, Council officers recommend that Council resolve to lease the land at 20-22 Perrivale Drive, Shepparton to Kids Under Cover.

### Council Plan/Key Strategic Activity

#### **SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY and WELLBEING**

We will support the mental and physical health and wellbeing of all in our community, ensuring universal access to information, services, housing, healthcare and learning opportunities.

2.4 Leave no one behind.

2.7 Address issues contributing to homelessness.

2.8 Support for families and children at all stages of their learning and development.

2.9 Community members are supported to achieve and sustain physical, emotional and creative wellbeing.

### Risk Management

The recommendation will not result in any extreme risk to Council. However, failure to lease the land will bring high risk to Council in addressing the growing Affordable Housing crisis, undermine the implementation of the actions in the *Greater Shepparton Affordable Housing Strategy: Houses for People 2020* and *Greater Shepparton City Council: Council Plan 2021-2025*, and Victorian government funding. As a result, there are high reputational risks to Council.

### Policy Considerations

There are no conflicts with Council policies. The project follows the objectives and goals of the *Greater Shepparton Affordable Housing Strategy: Houses for People 2020* to increase Affordable Housing.

### Financial Implications

The various transactional documents contemplated by the arrangements under the MoU will safeguard the Council's interests. The proposed Section 173 agreement will ensure that the obligation to use the newly constructed dwellings for the purposes of Affordable Housing will continue in perpetuity.



By partnering with Kids Under Cover, Council officers are also satisfied with Kids Under Cover Ltd.'s track record of community involvement, are well-positioned to deliver the project requirements and outcomes that are sought. The proposed Section 173 Agreement will ensure that the obligation to use the newly constructed dwellings for the purposes of Affordable Housing will continue in perpetuity.

### **Legal/Statutory Implications**

The *Local Government Act 2020* requires at section 115 that Council, where it proposes to lease land for 10 years or more that is not in its budget, to undertake a community engagement process in accordance with the Council's community engagement policy in respect of the proposal before entering into the lease. A community engagement process was undertaken from 3 October 2022 to 28 November 2022 in accordance with Section 115 of the *Local Government Act 2020* and the *Greater Shepparton City Council Community Engagement Policy 2021*.

### **Environmental/Sustainability Impacts**

The development of the reserve at 20-22 Perrivale Drive, Shepparton will have minimal impacts on the environment. The land is identified as a 'reserve' for open space purposes. Given the size of the site and its unembellished nature, it is considered capable of accommodating the proposal and formalised open space as envisaged in the *Urban Forest Strategy 2017*.

### **Social Implications**

The project has the potential to deliver significant social benefits to the community of Greater Shepparton. The proposal will provide accommodation for some of Greater Shepparton's most at-risk individuals and households through the realisation of much needed Affordable Housing.

### **Economic Impacts**

The project has the potential to deliver significant economic benefits to the region and in particular to the local youth at risk of homelessness.

The leasing of land to Kids Under Cover will create two full-time employment positions for approximately ten years for the live-in mentors and assist youth to enter the employment market.

### **Consultation**

Council undertook community consultation for a period in excess of eight weeks between 3 October 2022 to 28 November 2022.

Methods of engagement included letterbox drops to surrounding land owners and occupiers to the proposed site, a consultation webpage on Council's Shaping Greater Shepparton website with an online submission form, a public notice and a media release.

A total of one early submission, 19 submissions and three verbal presentations during the consultation period were received during the consultation process. The results of the community consultation and Council officers' response to the key themes raised are contained within Attachment One: *Conversation Report - Proposed lease of the land at 20-22 Perrivale Drive, Shepparton December 2022*.

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

## Strategic Links

- *Greater Shepparton 2030 Strategy 2006;*
- *Shepparton CBD Strategy 2008;*
- *Commercial Activity Centres Strategy 2015;*
- *Greater Shepparton Affordable Housing Strategy: Houses for People 2020;* and
- *Shepparton & Mooroopna 2050: Regional City Growth Plan 2021.*

## Conclusion

On 1 August 2022, Council received a request from Kids Under Cover to lease Council-owned land at 20-22 Perrivale Drive, Shepparton to construct Affordable Housing. The land is currently zoned General Residential Zone and suitable for this type of development. Kids Under Cover is a Registered Housing Association. The proposal seeks to realise three two-bedroom studios to cater for vulnerable youth in need of Affordable Housing and two one-bedroom studios for live-in-mentors. Council officers consider this to be an effective way of realising Affordable Housing outcomes.

The site's ideal location within Shepparton will ensure excellent amenity for future residents, enabling them to be securely and appropriately housed.

The use of Council land is an important way in which Council can support and achieve real action in addressing the affordable housing crisis.

At the Council Meeting held on 20 September 2022, Council resolved, amongst other things, to provide in-principle support to lease land at 20-22 Perrivale Drive, Shepparton to Kids Under Cover and to undertake a community engagement process to understand the community's views on the proposal.

A community engagement process was undertaken from 3 October 2022 to 28 November 2022 in accordance with Section 115 of the *Local Government Act 2020* and the *Greater Shepparton City Council Community Engagement Policy 2021*.

After considering all submissions received or heard, Council officers recommend that Council resolve to lease the land at 20-22 Perrivale Drive, Shepparton to Kids Under Cover to realise a Village 21.

Not supporting this recommendation will result in a significant policy failure of Council in achieving its adopted and publicly stated objectives in addressing the critical Affordable Housing need evident across Greater Shepparton.

## Attachments

1. Conversation Report - proposed lease of land to Kids Under Cover - December 2022 [12.6.1 - 12 pages]

## 12.7 RiverConnect Strategic Plan 2023-2028 for Council Endorsement

Author RiverConnect Project Officer  
 Approved by Director Sustainable Development  
 Purpose For Decision at a Council Meeting

### 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:**

- 1. acknowledge the feedback from public consultation; and**
- 2. adopt the RiverConnect Strategic Plan 2023-2028, as attached.**

RiverConnect commenced in 2005 and has grown to become a celebrated community and government partnership program of eighteen members. The project is co-funded by Council and the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority (GBCMA), resourcing two staff under the auspice of Council.

The current RiverConnect Strategic Plan 2017-2022 has been reviewed and the Draft Strategic Plan 2023-2028 has been developed in consultation with all partners.

To ensure community support, the ultimate success of the RiverConnect program, and in line with best practice, the Draft Strategic Plan underwent broad community input through an extensive community consultation process.

Officers recommend that Council endorse the Strategic Plan.

### Report Detail

Commencing in 2005, RiverConnect is a wide-reaching community government partnership program under the auspice of Council. The program has enabled partners from local government, land management agencies, Traditional Owners, educational organisations, stakeholders and community members to come together to identify and action shared priorities.

The RiverConnect program is staffed by a Project Officer and an Education Officer, who implement the Strategic Plan under the direction of the Implementation Advisory Committee (IAC). Officers' work is also informed and supported by specialised working groups including the Communications Working Group and the Land Management Working Group.

The previous 2017-2022 Strategic Plan aimed to nurture the community's respect for, use and love of the rivers and wetlands by increasing access to, awareness of, participation in, and care of the river environment and its cultural heritage. It enabled a co-ordinated approach to enhancing the environmental, cultural, recreational and economic value of the rivers, ensuring that the available funds achieved the greatest possible benefit.

### Community Consultation

To ensure the RiverConnect Strategic Plan 2023-2028 represented the broader community aspirations for the RiverConnect program, RiverConnect undertook extensive consultation with the community for six weeks between 22 August and 30 September 2022. The methods of engagement included:

- a media release, which attracted media attention from the Shepparton News
- radio interview with OneFM;
- a promotional billboard at the corner of Knight Street and Wyndham Street;
- a consultation webpage on Council's Shaping Greater Shepparton website with four options for online submissions;
- a PowerPoint presentation to provide information on the plan;
- one-on-one discussions at RiverConnect events;
- notification of public consultation in relevant newsletters;
- promotions on social media including both images and videos.

Submissions were invited via an online form. This could be completed as an individual, on behalf of a group, agency or organisation, or as an associate of a school. There was also an option to submit for consultation in the form of an art activity for young people.

A total of 41 submissions were received. This was comprised of 34 individual, 6 group or agency, and 1 youth art submission. Two community group endorsements were also received.

As part of the consultation, RiverConnect asked the community questions about the activities they enjoy in the river environment, the spaces they often frequent and which topics they are interested in learning about or participating in. The online survey asked individuals and groups to prioritise each strategic priority as well as the example activities and projects that had been identified. In the review of the RiverConnect Strategic Plan, a number of example actions and projects were identified and categorised depending on the scale of resourcing required to implement (i.e., time, funding, staffing, etc.). Respondents were asked to prioritise these depending on what they thought was most important for RiverConnect to focus on.

There was also an opportunity for the community to provide ideas and suggestions for actions beyond what the survey listed. It is worth noting that the RiverConnect Strategic Plan is not a blueprint with every future action fully detailed, however it offers direction and examples of actions. Given the nature of this structure, it has inbuilt flexibility to enable ideas to slot within the strategic priorities and strategic actions.

An example of community engagement includes young people being given the opportunity to 'Share the River Love' via an art activity, where RiverConnect received an artistic submission via attendees from GOTAFE's YouthFest. Their ideas and thoughts aligned with a number of RiverConnect's Strategic Priorities. RiverConnect also received two community group endorsements from Goulburn Valley Environment Group (GVEG) and Shepparton Mooroopna Urban Landcare Group (SMULG). Their comments speak to their strong support of the program and commitment to the implementation of the strategy.

Considerable stakeholder consultation and extensive public consultation found that no major changes were warranted between the draft and the final plan - all of the suggestions offered during public consultation align with the new Strategic Plan. The 6 week public consultation reinforced that RiverConnect's future plans reflected the community's priorities strongly. Many felt the strategy had been well considered and continued the collaborative model that RiverConnect is well-known for. Overall, the feedback indicates that the community are supportive of the way RiverConnect works with community and the way the strategy 'incorporates action and values for all ages, cultures and interest groups'. An example of feedback includes, signage being mentioned in almost 50% of submissions either in relation to directional wayfinding signage or informative interpretive signage. All feedback and considerations can be found in the attached Conversation Report.

RiverConnect has come a long way to addressing barriers in an environment with evolving complexities, and together, its partners have an ongoing commitment to further enhancing the value of our rivers. This new plan has been developed to reflect the holistic nature of river systems, and the interconnected nature of the community's relationship with the waterways. From public consultation feedback, partner strategic priorities and available funding opportunities, the RiverConnect IAC will develop annual action plans and corresponding targets.

Officers believe that the RiverConnect Strategic Plan 2023-2028 is now ready for endorsement by Council.

## Council Plan/Key Strategic Activity

### COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

We will prioritise leadership in the community to celebrate our cultures, people and places that makes Greater Shepparton a unique, vibrant, diverse and liveable region.

1.1 Council to take an active leadership role for access and inclusion in our community.

1.2 Council to work with stakeholders to support leadership within our multicultural communities.

1.3 Council services will be realistic and delivered in an efficient and effective manner with the aim of continuously looking for delivery that matches our ever changing environment.

1.6 Council provides customer service that meets the needs of the community.

1.7 Youth leadership is fostered, encouraged and embraced.

1.8 Good governance and sustainable financial management.

1.9 Provide a high profile collaborative advocacy role.

### SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY and WELLBEING

We will support the mental and physical health and wellbeing of all in our community, ensuring universal access to information, services, housing, healthcare and learning opportunities.

2.4 Leave no one behind.

2.5 Recognise First Nations history and advance reconciliation.

2.6 Welcome and embrace multicultural communities and their cultures.

2.9 Community members are supported to achieve and sustain physical, emotional and creative wellbeing.

### VIBRANT and DIVERSE ECONOMY

We will drive the visitor economy by growing visitor experiences and major events that provide employment and other opportunities to the community. Our economic development will focus on establishing a strong, adaptive, sustainable and thriving region supported by agriculture and a diverse range of industries.

3.5 Encourage and facilitate investment and expansion.

3.7 Expanded educational opportunities.

3.8 Maximise utilisation and investment return on Council assets.

- 3.9 Expand Greater Shepparton's visitor economy.
- 3.11 Enhancing water security in our region.

### **INFRASTRUCTURE and TECHNOLOGY**

We will focus on the planning of our region's requirements to enable delivery of technology and infrastructure to meet the current and future needs of the community.

- 4.6 Engage with historical societies and museums to develop a plan that ensures their sustainability.
- 4.9 Reliable, efficient, affordable and accessible transport.
- 4.11 Develop and improve Community and recreation facilities.

### **ENVIRONMENT and CLIMATE EMERGENCY**

We will prioritise our environment and take urgent action to reduce emissions and waste in order to protect public health and create a region that mitigates and adapts to climate change.

- 5.1 Council endeavours to make the natural environment accessible to all, regardless of age and abilities.
- 5.4 Council commits to improving biodiversity and the natural environment within Greater Shepparton.
- 5.5 Council commits to working with our community to deliver climate safe future.
- 5.6 Reduce carbon emissions in our community.
- 5.7 Conserve and improve biodiversity and our natural environment, and protect and improve river health.

### **Risk Management**

There is a low-risk rating for the Council not endorsing the RiverConnect Strategic Plan 2023-2028 as adherence to extensive best-practice public consultation has been ensured throughout this process.

### **Policy Considerations**

There are no conflicts with existing Council policies.

### **Financial Implications**

There are no financial implications as a result of the recommendation.

### **Legal/Statutory Implications**

The Draft RiverConnect Strategic Plan 2023 - 2028 conforms with the Local Government Act 2020 and other relevant information.

### **Environmental/Sustainability Impacts**

Actions within the plan may have environmental impacts, for example, improving access points or implementing the Shared Paths Masterplan stages, and these will be assessed appropriately on a case-by-case basis. It is anticipated that through engaging the community in the Strategic Plan and river environs more broadly environmental/sustainability outcomes will be positively impacted, rather than negatively.

### **Social Implications**

Active and engaged communities are healthy communities. Many of the actions contained within the plan encourage community connectedness; this is anticipated to have positive social outcomes. This plan also draws on recent learnings from COVID related lockdowns, of the benefits of spending time in nature for mental health, the importance of maintaining natural spaces, and the need to create spaces and opportunities for people to spend time in these spaces.



## Economic Impacts

The RiverConnect Strategic Plan actions are anticipated to have positive economic impacts including attracting funding regionally, improving tourism outcomes, improving health outcomes, and improving river quality for a range of economic benefits related to environmental services.

## Consultation

Public consultation occurred from 26 August 2022 until 30 September 2022 and feedback can be found in the attached Conversation Report.

Level of public participation	Promises to the public/stakeholders	Examples of techniques to use
Inform	We will keep you informed, listen to and acknowledge your feedback on how public feedback influenced the decision.	Social Media, RiverConnect website, collate and share the Conversation Report from public consultation feedback.

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

## Strategic Links

### a) Greater Shepparton 2030 Strategy

- Community Life – recreation and open space, safe and accessible environments.
- “Enhance social connectedness, physical and mental health and well-being, education and participatory opportunities in order to improve liveability and provide a greater range of community services.”
- Environment – Natural Resources, Culture and Heritage
- “Conservation and enhancement of significant natural environments and cultural heritage”.
- Economic Development – Tourism, promote the natural features of Greater Shepparton, support new tourist-based enterprises to achieve an increase in bed stays and visits to the municipality.
- Infrastructure – Integrated transport strategy, pedestrian amenity

### b) Other strategic links

- Greater Shepparton City Council Community Engagement Policy
- Shepparton and Mooroopna 2050 – Regional City Growth Plan
- Our Climate Safe Future – Climate Emergency Action Plan 2030
- 2030 Net Zero Emission Plan
- Greater Shepparton Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2014-2030
- Urban Forest Strategy 2017-2027
- Waste and Resource Management Strategy 2013-2023
- Greater Shepparton Cycling Strategy 2013-2017 (review planned for 2023)
- Youth Strategy 2019-2023
- Universal Access and Inclusion Plan 2022-2026
- Heritage Strategy 2019
- Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2018-2028
- Small town and neighbourhood Community Plans (such as the Mooroopna Community Plan)



## Conclusion

RiverConnect has achieved positive results since its inception, with considerable outcomes achieved from the 2017-2022 Strategic Plan.

The 2023-2028 Strategic Plan has been developed by involving and collaborating with agencies and targeted community stakeholder groups with direct involvement with RiverConnect and/or the river environment.

As an agency and community partnership program, it is important to ensure the Strategic Plan also accurately represents broader community aspirations for the RiverConnect program. Public consultation has enabled the community to provide their feedback on the plan, its priorities, and its example actions and projects. This process has encouraged strong community support for the RiverConnect Strategic Plan 2023-2028 and the RiverConnect program more broadly.

Officers believe that sufficient public consultation has taken place and the RiverConnect Strategic Plan 2023-2028 is now ready for endorsement by Council.

## Attachments

1. River Connect Strategic Plan 23-28 - FINAL [12.7.1 - 48 pages]
2. River Connect Strategic Plan 23-28 Conversation Report FINAL [12.7.2 - 16 pages]

## 12.8 RiverConnect Implementation Advisory Committee - Community Representatives for Appointment

Author RiverConnect Project Officer  
 Approved by Director Sustainable Development  
 Purpose For Decision at a Council Meeting

### 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:**

- 1. Appoint the following community representatives to the RiverConnect Implementation Advisory Committee:**
  - Kimberley Chu
  - Bruce Cumming
  - Paul Hockett
  - Rod McLennan
  - Jay Whittaker
- 2. Note that the period is three years, commencing 21 December 2022 and concluding 20 December 2025.**

RiverConnect has been operating for the past 15 years and has achieved a number of substantial environmental, social and economic outcomes for the community.

The success of the program is embedded in the governance structure and partnerships between land management agencies, education providers, environmental advocates and the community.

The RiverConnect Implementation Advisory Committee provides that guidance and governance structure. The current Terms of Reference sets aside 18 representatives, including five community representatives that provides strong legitimacy for the program.

Officers recommend that Kimberley Chu, Bruce Cumming, Paul Hockett, Rod McLennan and Jay Whittaker be appointed as the community representatives on the RiverConnect Implementation Advisory Committee for a period of three years.

## Report Detail

Rivers and waterways are the arteries of our landscape. They bring life to our regions, nourishing ecosystems that in turn provide communities with everything required to sustain themselves.

In the past, the Shepparton - Mooroopna communities' appreciation of, and engagement with, the Goulburn and Broken Rivers has varied, famously *turning our back to the river*. The river systems were largely managed by agencies in isolation, with little connection between these managers or with the community.

Since its inception in 2005, RiverConnect has been pivotal in building the appreciation for the significance of our river environment. The success of the program is attributed wholeheartedly to the strength of its partnerships and their dedication to achieving its aspirations.

The RiverConnect Implementation Advisory Committee (IAC) advises and supports the implementation of the RiverConnect Strategic Plan and associated actions of the RiverConnect project. This process incorporates community involvement and participation, and includes overseeing the activities and functions of several RiverConnect Working Groups. The IAC has both agency (13) and community representatives (five) with a total of 18 representatives.

The Terms of Reference were reviewed recently and altered to note that applications for community representatives will be reviewed by a panel, consisting of one of each of the program funders (Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority and Greater Shepparton City Council) and RiverConnect Officers.

Applications for appointment were advertised via a public notice in the Shepparton News on Friday 23 September and closed on Friday 14 October 2022. The applications were also advertised on RiverConnect social media platforms and Council's website.

The panel received five applications to the RiverConnect IAC, as follows:

1. Kimberley Chu
2. Bruce Cumming
3. Paul Hockett
4. Rod McLennan
5. Jay Whittaker

Three applicants were IAC representatives during the previous term (Bruce Cumming, Rod McLennan and Jay Whittaker), with two new applicants (Kimberly Chu and Paul Hockett) having not previously served on the IAC.

Each of the applicants were asked to provide any relevant qualifications, skills and experience they could contribute to the management and development of the RiverConnect IAC as well as any other details in support of their application. The panel reviewed these applications carefully and recommend that all five applicants are appointed to the RiverConnect IAC.

## Council Plan/Key Strategic Activity

### **COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP**

We will prioritise leadership in the community to celebrate our cultures, people and places that makes Greater Shepparton a unique, vibrant, diverse and liveable region.

1.8 Good governance and sustainable financial management.

### **ENVIRONMENT and CLIMATE EMERGENCY**

We will prioritise our environment and take urgent action to reduce emissions and waste in order to protect public health and create a region that mitigates and adapts to climate change.

5.7 Conserve and improve biodiversity and our natural environment, and protect and improve river health.

## Risk Management

No risks have been identified in relation to this matter.

## Policy Considerations

The above recommendation does not conflict with any Council Policy.

## Financial Implications

The above recommendation does not have any direct financial implications.

## Legal/Statutory Implications

The above recommendations comply with the Local Government Act 2020.

## Environmental/Sustainability Impacts

The above recommendation does not have any negative Environmental or Sustainability impacts. The RiverConnect Implementation Advisory Committee consists of environmentally aware members with the aim of providing positive environmental outcomes such as reducing litter, increasing water quality, connecting the community to environment and culture.

## Social Implications

The above recommendation does not have any negative social implications.

## Economic Impacts

The above recommendation does not have any direct economic impacts.

## Consultation

The applications were reviewed by a panel consisting of each of the RiverConnect program funders (Greater Shepparton City Council and Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority) and RiverConnect Officers.

## Strategic Links

### a) Greater Shepparton 2030 Strategy

The proposal is consistent with the Community Life and the Environment topics within the strategy, specifically Outcomes:

- 4.3.3 A Balance of Urban Settlements and a Beautiful Rural Environment
- 4.3.4 The Municipality is More Attractive
- 4.3.7 The Municipality is Greener
- 4.3.13 The Municipality is More Active

### b) Other strategic links

- RiverConnect Strategic Plan
- Greater Shepparton City Council Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2014 – 2030
- Objective 1.1 - Action 1.1.1
- Objective 1.3 – Action 1.3.1 and 1.3.2
- Objective 1.4 – Action 1.4.1
- Objective 2.5 – Action 2.5.2, 2.5.3 and 2.5.4
- Objective 4.6 – Action 4.6.1 and 4.6.2
- Objective 6.7 - Action 6.7.1
- Objective 6.8 – Action 6.8.1
- Objective 6.10 – Action 6.10.1

## Conclusion

The success of the program is embedded in the governance structure and partnerships between land management agencies, education providers, environmental advocates and the community. The RiverConnect Implementation Advisory Committee provides that guidance and governance structure.

Officers recommend that Kimberley Chu, Bruce Cumming, Paul Hockett, Rod McLennan and Jay Whittaker be appointed as the community representatives on the RiverConnect Implementation Advisory Committee for a period of three years.

## Attachments

Nil

### **13 Infrastructure Directorate**

Nil Received.

### **14 Documents for Signing and Sealing**

Nil Received.

## 15 Councillor Reports

### 15.1 Councillor Activities

#### 15.1.1 Councillor Activities - November 2022

Author	Team Leader Governance
Approved by	Director Corporate Services
Purpose	For Noting

#### 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 interests regarding the matter under construction.

#### RECOMMENDATION

**That the Council receive and note the summary of the Councillor's Community Interactions and Informal Meetings of Councillors.**

#### Councillor's Community Interaction and Briefing Program

From 1 November 2022 to 30 November 2022, some or all of the Councillors have been involved in the following activities:

Flood Recovery - Community Information Update | Toolamba  
 Flood Event - Fundraiser Campaign | Nepalese Community  
 Greater Shepparton - Flood Relief Fundraiser  
 Fryers Street Food Festival  
 Heritage Advisory Committee Meeting  
 Flood Recovery - Community Information Update | Bunbartha  
 Local Government Show 2022 | Conference  
 The Door Bells Migrant Women's Network | Demystify Politics and Politicians - 2022 State Government Candidates  
 Remembrance Day 2022 | Mayor – Shepparton, Mooroopna, Tatura, Murchison  
 Out in the Open Festival 2022 | Sequins at SAM  
 Out in the Open Festival 2022 | Carnival Day Weekend  
 Annual National Pilgrimage | Italian Military Shrine  
 The Honorary Consul-General Federal Republic of Germany Volkstraertag German National Day  
 Committee for Greater Shepparton | Victorian State Election 2022 - Candidates Forum  
 St Luke's Primary School | Opening & Blessing of the New General Learning Areas  
 Pollies in the Pub | Leader of The Nationals - the Hon David Littleproud & State Government Nationals Candidate  
 GV Hospice | Official Opening of Building



The Shepparton Festival | Annual General Meeting 2022  
Tatura Community House | 40th Year Reunion  
Local Government - Canberra Delegation  
Parking Reference Group Meeting  
2022 Fairley Leadership Program - Graduation Dinner  
Launch | 16 Days of Activism 2022  
Bowls Victoria | Victorian Open 2022  
SAM Foundation | Anniversary Dinner  
Shepparton SpringNats 2022  
Albanian Independence Celebration  
Cricket Shepparton | Team of the Century Celebrations  
Destination Goulburn Valley | Tourism Brand Identity  
Councillors | Christmas Video Message  
Committee for Greater Shepparton | Chairman's Dinner with Telstra CEO & Executives  
VLGA | Diversity & Inclusion Training

In accordance with section 106 of Council's Governance Rules a summary of the matters discussed at the Informal Meetings of Councillors, are attached.

### Attachments

1. CEO and Councillors Catch Up - 15 November 2022 [15.1.1.1 - 1 page]
2. CEO and Councillors Catch Up - 29 November 2022 [15.1.1.2 - 2 pages]

## 15.2 Council Committee Reports

### 15.2.1 Murray Darling Association Region 2 Annual Report 2022

Author                      Team Leader - Governance  
 Approved by              Chief Executive Officer  
 Purpose                     For Noting

#### Enter Name of Committee

Murray Darling Association

#### RECOMMENDATION

**That the report from Cr Geoff Dobson be noted.**

#### Report Details

Firstly, I acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the lands within the Region 2 network.

Since our last AGM, the landscape throughout the Murray Darling Basin has certainly changed.

Unprecedented flooding has been a feature throughout the Basin and continues to this day.

Greater Shepparton City Council will be inviting the management of Goulburn Murray Water to present to council on the potential of improved management of water storage systems under an increasingly variable climate and a higher likelihood of more extreme flood events due to climate change and I will report to Region 2 on that presentation.

In Region 2, The Murray and Goulburn systems have certainly affected our Municipalities which has lead all Local Government Agencies with social and economic distress.

Notwithstanding these events, your national MDA Board has continued to operate and I set out hereunder my calendar of events for the past year.

Board meetings via zoom were held on;  
 31<sup>st</sup> January 2022, 16<sup>th</sup> May 2022, 18<sup>th</sup> July 2022, 5<sup>th</sup> September 2022, and 5<sup>th</sup> December 2022.

The Latter half of the year's meetings were altered due to the flood crisis in various LGAs.

Our annual Strategic Workshop was held in Canberra from 23<sup>rd</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> February 2022.

Our Annual Conference was held in Albury from 19<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> September.

Region 2 has met on 16<sup>th</sup> February 2022 and 27<sup>th</sup> July 2022.

In addition, I attended a meeting with Mark and the CEO of Greater Shepparton to discuss the role of the CSIRO and the Circular Economy on the Murray Darling Basin and in particular the effects on the Goulburn System.

In addition, I attended the Murray Darling Basin Authority Operations Update in Mildura from 31 May to 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2022.

I was able to have dinner with the Chair of the Authority, Sir Angus Houston where I discussed our opposition to further release of 450 GL from the consumptive pool of irrigation water for environmental purposes.

I also attended Berrigan Shire meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2022.

I note that an earlier meeting of Region 2 was postponed this year due to flooding.

The Annual Conference included a study tour of the Dartmouth Dam, a few days prior to it spilling and to the Hume Reservoir, which was increasing its output in readiness for the forthcoming water intakes from the Mitta Miita River and various tributaries.

The conference was very well attended and included presentations from Minister Plibersek, Mr. Sam Birrell Federal Member for Nicholls and various other presenters.

A summary of the event was presented at the recent National Board meeting, which showed wide acceptance by attendees and a financial gain for the Association.

Next year's event will be held in Murray Bridge.

At the AGM held on 7<sup>th</sup> December, our guest speaker was Andrew Reynolds, Chief Operations Manager of MDBA.

I am seeking reelection as Chair for the ensuing year.

## Attachments

Nil

### **15.3 Notice of Motion, Amendment or Rescission**

Nil Received.

### **16 Urgent Business not Included on the Agenda**

Nil Received.

### **17 Close of Meeting**