

AGENDA

Greater Shepparton City Council

COUNCIL MEETING

3:00PM, Tuesday 19 December 2023

In the Council Boardroom, Welsford Street

COUNCILLORS

Cr Shane Sali (Mayor)

Cr Anthony Brophy (Deputy Mayor)

Cr Seema Abdullah

Cr Dinny Adem

Cr Geoffrey Dobson

Cr Greg James

Cr Ben Ladson

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 19 DECEMBER 2023 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.

Risk Matrix			Consequence				
			Negligible	Minor	Moderate	Major	Catastrophic
			1	2	3	4	5
Likelihood	Rare	1	LOW 1	LOW 2	LOW 3	LOW 4	MEDIUM 5
	Unlikely	2	LOW 2	LOW 4	MEDIUM 6	MEDIUM 8	HIGH 10
	Possible	3	LOW 3	MEDIUM 6	MEDIUM 9	HIGH 12	HIGH 15
	Likely	4	LOW 4	MEDIUM 8	HIGH 12	HIGH 16	EXTREME 20
	Almost Certain	5	MEDIUM 5	HIGH 10	HIGH 15	EXTREME 20	EXTREME 25

Low	1-4
Medium	5-9
High	10-16
Extreme	17-25

- 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 21 November 2023 Council Meeting and 28 November 2023 Additional Council Meeting as circulated, be confirmed.

8 Public Question Time

Nil Received.

9 Deputations and Petitions

Nil Received.

10 Community Directorate

10.1 Greater Shepparton Recovery and Resilience Plan - October 2022 Flood Event

Author	Manager Flood Recovery
Approved by	Director Community
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 Greater Shepparton Recovery and Resilience Plan, as attached.

Executive Summary

The Greater Shepparton Municipal Recovery and Resilience Plan ('the Plan') has been coordinated by Greater Shepparton City Council to guide the recovery of the local community following the October 2022 flood event.

Municipal recovery activities commenced October 2022 and are ongoing. The Plan is a living document and will continue to be updated as required for the duration of the recovery program. As community-led priorities are further developed under the governance structure presented, they will be reflected in further versions of the Plan.

The Plan:

- defines recovery governance arrangements and priorities for the municipality
- will assist the people and communities affected by the October 2022 flood event to return to an effective level of functioning
- recognises recovery requires short, medium, and long-term actions and outcomes
- aligns with the Victorian Preparedness Framework, State Emergency Management Plan, National Principles of Disaster Recovery, and other relevant recovery and resilience frameworks.

Guidance is provided on the major considerations for recovery across the built, economic, natural environment and social environments. It will also consider Aboriginal culture and healing within each of the recovery environments.

The Plan has been socialised and iterated with the Municipal Recovery Committee and a number of working groups under the recovery governance structure.

Report Detail

The October 2022 flood event was the most significant flood event in many decades and impacted Greater Shepparton in numerous ways, with the communities of Bunbartha, Kialla, Mooroopna, Murchison, Shepparton, Old Toolamba and Undera all directly impacted.

Many residents' daily lives were affected directly and indirectly through property damage and/or isolation, and their health and wellbeing impacted, compounding many existing vulnerabilities.

Residential properties, businesses and farms were impacted. Culturally significant sites were flooded.

Local properties, businesses, waterways, parks, and roadways suffered considerable damage as did numerous major Council assets. Isolation and damage to community and sporting facilities disrupted the familiar rhythms of life and industry for people of all ages.

Under the State Emergency Management Plan (SEMP), municipal councils are the coordinating agency for relief and recovery at the municipal level. Emergency Recovery Victoria is responsible for recovery at the regional and State level.

The Plan is aligned to the Victorian Preparedness Framework, State Emergency Management Plan, National Disaster Recovery Principals, and the National Monitoring and Evaluation Framework for Disaster Recovery Programs.

The Plan recognises that recovery is both an outcome and a process for individuals, households, neighbourhoods and specific communities, and Greater Shepparton as a whole.

Funding has been received from the Victorian Government (Emergency Recovery Victoria and the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing) to support the recruitment of community recovery officers, to deliver community-based activities associated with the Recovery Hubs Program, and to deliver activities to support social recovery.

Some of the key flood recovery activities coordinated by Council to date have included:

- removal of flood affected waste
- remediation of civic assets where possible
- remediation of parklands, one tree per child sites, and inspection of trees in and around public open space and assets
- remediation of Council roads
- establishment of the 'Resilience in Recovery' program
- upgrades of pump infrastructure to reduce flash flooding impacts, and commencement of drainage upgrade investigation and design
- implementation of Secondary Impact Assessments program (6000+) to assess residential and business property damage
- establishment of community recovery committees to ensure flood impacted communities lead local recovery activities
- coordination of provision of some psychosocial supports to the community and support workers
- establishment of a Flood Recovery Hub at the Shepparton Senior Citizens centre.

The Plan addresses:

- recovery governance arrangements, including the role of the Municipal Recovery Committee and local Community Recovery Committees
- the significance of community-led approaches to recovery
- local action plans for the environments of recovery (built, natural, social, economic – all with consideration for Aboriginal and culture and healing)
- advocacy priorities for long term flood resilience and mitigation
- the communications and engagement approach to recovery
- alignment to relevant state and national emergency management, preparedness, recovery, and resilience arrangements.

Council continues its advocacy efforts on transformational projects for the region including a flood resilient second river crossing, improved river crossings in the region more broadly, and the introduction of the buyback scheme into Victoria.

The Plan will be iterated over time as further priorities and actions are articulated by the communities of Greater Shepparton.

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.

1.4 Communities have resources and abilities to self-advocate.

1.8 Good governance and sustainable financial management.

Risk Management

There are low risks associated with the noting of this report.

Policy Considerations

The Plan aligns with the Victorian Preparedness Framework, State Emergency Management Plan, National Principles of Disaster Recovery, and other relevant recovery and resilience frameworks.

Under the State Emergency Management Plan, municipal councils are the agency for relief and recovery at the municipal level. Emergency Recovery Victoria is responsible for recovery at the state and regional levels.

There are no conflicts with existing Council policies.

Financial Implications

Funding has been received from the Victorian Government (Emergency Recovery Victoria and the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing) to support the recruitment of community recovery officers, to deliver community-based activities associated with the Recovery Hubs Program, and to deliver activities to support social recovery.

Other funding sources related to recovery, such as the Local Government Council Flood Support Fund, and Disaster Relief Fund Arrangements Funding, are not addressed here. Flood recovery funds will increasingly expended by Council as short term programs funded by partner agencies (for example the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing) conclude.

	Approved Budget Estimate for this proposal ¹ \$	This Proposal GST Exclusive \$	Variance to Approved Budget Estimate \$
Revenue	1,545,000	1,545,000	0
Expense	195,270	195,270	0
Net Total	1,349,730	1,349,730	0

Legal/Statutory Implications

There are no legal implications associated with the noting of this report. However, Council has statutory obligations under the *Emergency Management Act 2013*, *Emergency Management Act 1986* and State Emergency Management Plan. The *Emergency Management Act 2013* (the Act) operates concurrently with the *Emergency Management Act 1986* with the intention that the 1986 Act will ultimately be repealed.

Environmental/Sustainability Impacts

The natural environment is one of the environments of recovery addressed in the Plan. In addition, the advocacy priorities identified in the Plan address the long-term resilience of the community to the impacts of flood (for example, by retiring vulnerable properties and achieving a flood-resilient second river crossing).

The recovery process and associated community engagement can be leveraged within the emergency management system to support a community that is more prepared for future emergencies.

Social Implications

The social environment is one of the environments of recovery identified in the Plan, with a focus on housing and accommodation, psychosocial support, individual and household financial assistance, and health and medical assistance (noting respective lead responsibilities in this area for the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing, and the Department of Health).

Research suggests that post-disaster interventions should aim to strengthen family and community ties, thus increasing available social support and community connectedness.

The priorities and actions outlined in the Plan will support these outcomes.

Economic Impacts

The economic environment is one of the environments of recovery addressed in the Plan. Significant economic impacts were experienced as a result of the flood event, particularly in relation to primary production. In addition, the advocacy priorities identified in the Plan address the long-term resilience and prosperity of the community to the impacts of flood (for example, by retiring vulnerable properties and achieving a flood-resilient second river crossing).

Gender Impact Assessment

A Gender Impact Assessment was not conducted at this time. Future versions of the plan will have a Gender Impact Assessment completed.

Consultation

The document has been shaped by informal consultation with flood-impacted communities, and the Municipal Recovery Committee since late 2022. The action plans addressing the environments of recovery have been informed by the Environment, Social, Building and Economic working groups lead by Council officers.

The plan was provided to the Municipal Recovery Committee for two rounds of formal feedback were provided, with changes implemented into this version.

There have been Community Recovery Committees established for Mooroopna, Murchison/Toolamba, Undera, Bunbartha and Shepparton/Kialla, these committees provide insight, feedback and initiatives on recovery for their associated townships.

Strategic Links

a) Greater Shepparton 2030 Strategy

- There are no links to the Greater Shepparton 2030 Strategy.

b) Other strategic links

- Victorian Preparedness Framework
- State Emergency Management Plan
- National Monitoring and Evaluation Disaster Recovery Framework

Conclusion

The Greater Shepparton Municipal Recovery and Resilience Plan (“the Plan”) has been prepared by Greater Shepparton City Council as a community-led, government assisted tool to the Municipal Emergency Management Plan and Hume Region Emergency Plan to coordinate the recovery program following the October 2022 flood event.

The Plan provides guidance on the major considerations for recovery across the built, economic, natural environment and social environments. The recovery program considers Aboriginal culture and healing within each of the recovery environments.

Attachments

1. Greater Shepparton Recovery and Resilience Plan [10.1.1 - 44 pages]

10.2 Greater Shepparton Women's Charter Advisory Committee Appointment

Author Team Leader - Diversity
 Approved by Director Community
 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 Greater Shepparton Women's Charter Advisory Committee for a period of two years commencing on 19 December 2023 and concluding on 18 December 2025:**
 - Brittany Attard
 - Heidi Beech
 - Caroline Clarke
 - Ginette Cook
 - Ane Fotu
 - Karamjit Kaur-Gill
 - Nur Nabila Md Saidi
 - Geraldine Williams

2. **Appoint the following business representatives to the Greater Shepparton Women's Charter Advisory Committee for a period of two years commencing on 19 December 2023 and concluding on 18 December 2025:**
 - Dianne Daws – Caroline Chisholm Society, GV Pregnancy Support Service
 - Archana Deo – Shepparton Amcal Pharmacy & Chemist Discount Centre
 - Rachel Williams – Vincent Care – Marian Community Specialist Violence Service

3. **Formally acknowledge Neha Samar and Renae Marshall for their contribution as they conclude their term serving on the Greater Shepparton Women's Charter Advisory Committee.**

Executive Summary

Greater Shepparton City Council (Council) officially endorsed its commitment to the Women's Participation in Local Government Coalition Women's Charter in 2010. At this time, Council became a signatory to the Victorian Local Government Women's Charter. The inaugural Greater Shepparton Women's Charter Advisory Committee (the Charter) was endorsed by Council in February 2012 with the purpose to support and promote women in leadership roles and all levels of decision-making, including business or workplace positions, community groups or boards of management. The Charter provides advice to Council on matters relating to the participation, leadership, recognition, rights, safety and wellbeing of people that identify as women in Greater Shepparton.

Council adopted updated Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Charter on 15 August 2023 and noted Officers intention to proceed with a membership recruitment process with a view to appoint Charter members at a future Council meeting, in accordance with the ToR.

A recruitment campaign was conducted over a three week period from 17 August 2023 to 8 September 2023. A total of eleven applications were received to fill a maximum of twelve places on the Charter. These applications have been assessed by an internal review panel and are now ready for Council endorsement.

Report Detail

Since its commencement in 2012, the Greater Shepparton Women's Charter Advisory Committee (the Charter) purpose has been to support and promote women in leadership roles and all levels of decision-making, including business or workplace positions, community groups or boards of management.

In accordance with the Charter Terms of Reference (ToR), the Charter will consist of between ten and twelve members comprising of, but not limited to:

1. one Councillor, appointed as the Chairperson by resolution of Council
2. a minimum of six and a maximum of ten community members chosen to represent the interests of people who identify as women in Greater Shepparton. Community representatives should, as far as possible, be balanced in regard to age, disability, ethnicity, and geographical location
3. a maximum of six representative of non-profit organisations, groups or networks that work to improve the participation, representation, recognition, safety and wellbeing of people who identify as women Greater Shepparton
4. a maximum of three representatives of businesses who are committed to the representation, recognition, safety and wellbeing of people who identify as women Greater Shepparton.

A recruitment campaign was conducted over a three week period from 17 August 2023 to 8 September 2023. A total of eleven applications were received to fill a maximum of twelve places on the Charter. These applications have been assessed by an internal review panel and are now ready for Council endorsement.

Council Officers recommend the appointment of the following community representatives to the Committee for a period of two years commencing 19 December 2023 and concluding 18 December 2025:

Membership Category	Recommended Appointee
Representative of non-profit organisations, groups or networks that work to improve the participation, representation, recognition, safety and wellbeing of people who identify as women Greater Shepparton.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dianne Daws – Caroline Chisholm Society, GV Pregnancy Support Service 2. Rachel Williams – Vincent Care – Marian Community Specialist Violence Service
Community members chosen to represent the interests of people who identify as women in Greater Shepparton. Community representatives should, as far as possible, be balanced in regard to age, disability, ethnicity, and geographical location.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Karamjit Kaur-Gill 4. Geraldine Williams 5. Brittany Attard 6. Ane Fotu 7. Caroline Clarke 8. Ginette Cook 9. Nur Nabila Md Saidi 10. Heidi Beech
Representatives of businesses who are committed to the representation, recognition, safety and wellbeing of people who identify as women Greater Shepparton.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 11. Archana Deo – Shepparton Amcal Pharmacy & Chemist Discount Centre

It is noted Cr Adem will remain the Councillor appointed representative, Charter Champion and Chairperson until the expiry of Cr Adem's Council tenure in 2024.

The Committee will be supported by at least one Council Officer. Council Officers who attend the meetings of the Committee do so to provide advice and support to the Committee, are not considered Committee members and do not have voting rights.

Officers also recommend Council formally thank Neha Samar and Renae Marshall for their contribution to the Charter as they conclude their term.

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.
- 1.4 Communities have resources and abilities to self-advocate.
- 1.6 Council provides customer service that meets the needs of the community.
- 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.
- 2.9 Community members are supported to achieve and sustain physical, emotional and creative wellbeing.

Risk Management

Risks associated with this advisory committee are low and are managed through operational decision making and recommendations to Council as required.

Policy Considerations

The Greater Shepparton Women's Charter Advisory Committee links to a number of internal and external strategic documents including the Victorian Local Government Women's Charter, Council Plan, Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan, Gender Equality Action Plan 2021-2025 and the State Government's Gender Equality Strategy and Action Plan 2021.

Financial Implications

The work of the Women's Charter Advisory Committee is supported by an existing operational budget.

Legal/Statutory Implications

Officers did not identify any legal or statutory implications associated with this report.

Environmental/Sustainability Impacts

Officers did not identify any environmental or sustainability impacts arising from this report.

Social Implications

The Women's Charter Advisory Committee provides an avenue for greater engagement between Council and the people that identify as women, strengthening Council's commitment in creating an inclusive environment for marginalised members of our community where their voice is valued and heard.

Economic Impacts

Officers did not identify any economic impacts associated with this report.

Consultation

A recruitment campaign was conducted over a three week period from 17 August 2023 to 8 September 2023. The campaign included:

- social media posts across various Council platforms
- media releases, articles, and interviews
- distribution across a wide section of Council database, including Council Advisory Committees, community wellbeing, economic development, and sustainable development.

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
- Economic Development

b) Other strategic links

- Victorian Local Government Women's Charter
- Greater Shepparton Youth Strategy and Action Plan 2019 – 2023
- Greater Shepparton Gender Equality Strategy 2021-2025
- Greater Shepparton Public Health Implementation Plan 2017 – 2021
- Greater Shepparton Women's Charter 3x3 Action Plan

Conclusion

The appointment of new members to the Greater Shepparton Women's Charter Advisory Committee will continue to provide a voice to Council on issues relating to people that identify as women in the municipality.

Attachments

Nil

10.3 Greater Shepparton LGBTIQA+ Advisory Committee Appointment

Author	Team Leader - Diversity
Approved by	Director Community
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:

- Appoint the following community representatives to the Greater Shepparton LGBTIQA+ Advisory Committee for a period of two years commencing on 19 December 2023 and concluding on 18 December 2025:**

 - Naynika Bagrecha
 - Ash Beks
 - Paige Heibach
 - Tone Jessup
 - Grace Jackson-Knightly
 - Jacqui Kiss
 - Suzanne Muntz
 - Georgie Poort
 - Lorene Slade
 - Al Trethowan
 - Goulburn Valley Pride – President or Proxy
- Formally acknowledge Leigh Bamford, Deb Chumbley, Daniel Gardener, Damien Stevens-Todd and Dianne Baglin for their contribution as they conclude their term serving on the Greater Shepparton LGBTIQA+ Advisory Committee.**

Executive Summary

The LGBTIQA+ Advisory Committee (the Committee) was established by Council resolution in March 2021. The Committee provide a platform for advocacy and representation from the LGBTIQA+ community to support and inform future Greater Shepparton City Council (Council) directions relating to representation, decision making and inclusive practices across all areas of Council.

Council adopted updated Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Committee on 15 August 2023 and noted Officers intention to proceed with a membership recruitment process with a view to appoint Advisory Committee members at a future Council meeting, in accordance with the new ToR.

A recruitment campaign was conducted over a three week period from 17 August 2023 to 8 September 2023. A total of sixteen applications were received to fill eleven places on the Committee. These applications have been assessed by an internal review panel and are now ready for Council endorsement.

Report Detail

The LGBTIQ+ Advisory Committee (the Committee) was established in 2021 to provide a platform for advocacy and representation from the LGBTIQ+ community.

Since its commencement, the Committee has:

- developed and led the implementation of the inaugural Greater Shepparton LGBTIQ+ Action Plan, endorsed by Council in August 2022
- provided direct feedback on various Council strategies, action plans and development plans including the Greater Shepparton Positive Ageing Strategy, Multicultural Action Plan, and the Shepparton Sports Stadium Master Plan
- facilitated a meeting with Councillors and the Victorian Commissioner for LGBTIQ+ Communities, Todd Fernando and Daniel Witthaus, Founder and CEO of Rural Pride Australia regarding the Rainbow Ready Roadmap
- led and partnered on local Pride events including IDAHOBIT Day, Wear It Purple Day and Pride Month activities
- reviewed and made recommendations to the Greater Shepparton Women's Charter Advisory Committee International Women's Day Event and Awards Criteria and Nomination process
- presented to Council on the activities of the Committee over its tenure.

In accordance with the Committee Terms of Reference the Committee will consist of between ten and twelve members comprising of, but not limited to:

1. at least two representatives from local LGBTIQ+ Associations, Groups and Community Committees, who have been nominated by their respective group
2. up to four representatives from local organisations that work directly with the LGBTIQ+ community
3. at least four individuals identifying as LGBTIQ+ with strong community links and the specific skills necessary to support the purpose and role of the Committee
4. up to two representatives from the local business community
5. up to two community members that identify as LGBTIQ+ allies
6. one Councillor, appointed as the Chairperson by resolution of Council.

A recruitment campaign was conducted over a three week period from 17 August 2023 to 8 September 2023. A total of sixteen applications were received to fill eleven places on the Committee. These applications have been assessed by an internal review panel and are now ready for Council endorsement.

Council Officers recommend the appointment of the following community representatives to the Committee for a period of two years commencing on 19 December 2023 and concluding 18 December 2025:

Membership category	Recommended appointee
Representative from local LGBTIQ+ Associations, Groups and Community Committees, who have been nominated by their respective group	1. Goulburn Valley Pride – President or Proxy
Individuals identifying as LGBTIQ+ with strong community links and the specific skills necessary to support the purpose and role of the Committee	2. Lorene Slade 3. Jacqui Kiss 4. Tone Jessup 5. Ash Beks 6. Paige Heibach 7. Naynika Bagrecha 8. Grace Jackson-Knightly 9. Georgie Poort 10. Suzanne Muntz 11. Al Trethowan

It is noted Cr Spinks will remain the Councillor appointed representative and Committee Chair until the expiry of Cr Spinks Council tenure in 2024.

The Committee is supported by at least one Council Officer. Council Officers who attend the meetings of the Committee do so to provide advice and support to the Committee, are not considered Committee members.

Officers also recommend Council formally thank Leigh Bamford, Deb Chumbley, Daniel Gardener, Damien Stevens-Todd and Dianne Baglin for their contribution to the Committee as they conclude their term.

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.

1.3 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.

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

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.

2.9 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.

3.6 Attract people to live, work, study and remain in our region.

3.9 Expand Greater Shepparton's visitor economy.

Risk Management

Risks associated with this advisory committee are low and are managed through operational decision making and recommendations to Council as required.

Policy Considerations

The LGBTIQA+ Advisory Committee supports several internal and external strategic documents including the LGBTIQA+ Action Plan, Council Plan, Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan, Gender Equality Action Plan and the State Government's Gender Equality Strategy and Action Plan.

Financial Implications

The implementation of the LGBTIQA+ Advisory Committee Action Plan has an operational budget to support the implementation of the Action Plan.

Legal/Statutory Implications

Officers did not identify any legal or statutory implications associated with this report.

Environmental/Sustainability Impacts

Officers did not identify any environmental or sustainability impacts arising from this report.

Social Implications

The LGBTIQA+ Advisory Committee has a positive impact on the inclusion, connection, and safety of the LGBTIQA+ community of Greater Shepparton. The Committee strengthens and demonstrates Council's commitment to inclusion for all as identified in a range of Council and State policies, actions plans and strategies.

Economic Impacts

The increase in visibility of and connection with the LGBTIQA+ community will lead to a greater engagement and visitation of members of the LGBTIQA+ community, leading to positive economic impacts for the region.

Consultation

A recruitment campaign was conducted over a three week period from 17 August 2023 to 8 September 2023. The campaign included:

- social media posts across various Council platforms
- media releases, articles, and interviews
- distribution across a wide section of Council databases, including Council Advisory Committees, community wellbeing, economic development, sustainability.

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
- Economic Development

b) Other strategic links

- Greater Shepparton LGBTIQA+ Action Plan 2022-2025
- Greater Shepparton Council Plan 2021-2025
- Greater Shepparton Gender Equality Strategy 2021-2025
- Greater Shepparton Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2018-2028
- Greater Shepparton Women's Charter Advisory Committee Action Plan 2022-2025
- State Government's Gender Equality Strategy and Action Plan

Conclusion

The appointment of new members to the Greater Shepparton LGBTIQA+ Advisory Committee will continue to provide a platform for advocacy for LGBTIQA+ communities across Council activities, programs, services, and policies.

Attachments

Nil

11 Corporate Services Directorate

11.1 Audit and Risk Management Committee Independent Member Remuneration

Author Team Leader – Risk & Assurance
 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. approve an annual increment to the remuneration of Council’s Audit and Risk Management Committee Independent Members, in accordance with the applicable Rate Cap or Consumer Price Index (whichever is the lesser amount), to be applied from 1 July of each year;**
- 2. authorise an hourly rate of \$100 (subject to same increment outlined in point 1) which may be payable to an Independent Member of the Audit and Risk Management Committee for any additional services requested by Council, which are undertaken outside the scope of meeting preparation and attendance, as identified within the Audit and Risk Management Committee Charter.**

Executive Summary

The remuneration for Councils Audit and Risk Management Committee (ARMC) Independent Members is reviewed periodically, with any recommended increase being presented to Council for approval.

A benchmarking exercise has recently been conducted against other neighbouring councils to compare the current rates and frequency of ARMC independent member remuneration. The results varied between each Council.

Officers have identified Councils annual rate cap and consumer price index (CPI) as two relevant mechanisms by which remuneration increments can be measured. As there can be substantial variance between the two, it is recommended that both be considered, with the lesser amount being applied.

It has also been identified that the expertise on the Committee can provide benefit to other aspects of Council business more broadly, and on occasion, an Independent Member may be requested to provide advice to Council on matters outside the scope of ARMC meetings. It is recommended that an hourly rate be approved for such instances, where the advice sought presents a significant time commitment to ensure appropriate compensation can be provided.

Report Detail

The remuneration for Independent Members of the ARMC was last reviewed by Council in 2018.

A benchmarking process has recently been undertaken to compare Councils current rates and approach to remuneration reviews against other Councils, and while results varied, the following themes were identified:

- Some Council's review audit committee remuneration annually; while others review every four years, (some of which align with Council elections);
- Remuneration is commonly aligned with either CPI or rate capping.

Rate Capping

The below table presents the Rate caps which have been applied, since its inception in 2015:

Financial year	Rate cap
2023-24	3.50%
2022-23	1.75%
2021-22	1.50%
2020-21	2.00%
2019-20	2.50%
2018-19	2.25%
2017-18	2.00%
2016-17	2.50%

Prior to 31 December each year, the Minister for Local Government sets the local council rate cap for the next financial year. The rate cap limits the maximum amount a council can increase general rates and municipal charges. The Minister can set a rate cap that applies to all councils, a group of councils or a single council.

Consumer Price Index (CPI)

The consumer price index (CPI) is a quarterly measure of inflation published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS).

The CPI for the past five years is as follows:

12 Months Ending:	CPI
Jun-19	1.3%
Jun-20	0.3%
Jun-21	2.9%
Jun-22	6.1%
Jun-23	5.6%

Given the historical variation between the two mechanisms, Council will consider both at the beginning of each financial year and apply the lower percentage as the incremental rate to the Independent Members' remuneration annually.

It is also proposed that an hourly rate be introduced to allow payment for services provided by Independent Members which fall outside the scope of their standard duties relating to meeting attendance. This hourly rate will be subject to the same incremental increase which will be applied from 1 July annually.

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.

1.3 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.

1.8 Good governance and sustainable financial management.

Risk Management

The introduction of a periodical review and incremental increase to the ARMC Independent Member remuneration will ensure that Council can continue to attract and retain suitably qualified candidates to the Committee, who are able to provide valuable advice to Council on its approach towards Risk Management.

Policy Considerations

This report is consistent with the Audit and Risk Management Committee Charter, which states under section 3, Membership (3.2.4) that:

- Independent Audit and Risk Management Committee members may receive remuneration pursuant to section 53(6) of the Local Government Act 2020; and
- The remuneration fee is determined through a resolution of the Council.

Financial Implications

Council incorporates provision for ARMC Independent Member remuneration as part of the annual budget process. Estimates will be drawn based on historical CPI and Rate Cap increases to ensure the budget is as accurate as possible.

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

There are no social implications associated with this report.

Economic Impacts

There are no economic impacts associated with this report.

Gender Impact Assessment

A Gender Impact Assessment was not required under the Gender Equality Act 2020.

Consultation

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

Strategic Links

Greater Shepparton 2030 Strategy

There are no links to the Greater Shepparton 2030 Strategy

Conclusion

Council has undertaken a review of its current approach towards ARMC Independent Member remuneration, which incorporated a benchmarking exercise against other Councils.

It has been recommended that an annual increment be applied in line with either CPI or the Rate Cap, in addition to the introduction of an hourly rate for any additional services requested by Council which are rendered by Independent Members outside the scope of their standard duties on the Committee.

Attachments

Nil

11.2 Appointment of Independent Member - Audit & Risk Management Committee

Author	Team Leader Risk & Assurance
Approved by	Director Corporate Services
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 appoint Andrew Johnson to the position of Independent Member on the Audit and Risk Management Committee for a period of three years, commencing on 14 February 2024 and concluding on 14 February 2027.

Executive Summary

Independent Member of the Audit and Risk Management Committee (ARMC), Mr David Kortum, formally resigned from his position in August 2023, creating a vacancy on the Committee.

Council worked closely with the Committee Chair to conduct an Expression of Interest (EOI) process to source a suitably qualified applicant to fill this vacancy.

Three applications were received in response to the publicly advertised EOI., all of which were short-listed and interviewed by the Mayor, Cr Shane Sali and ARMC Chair, Goran Mitrevski.

Following the evaluation of interview scores and completion of reference checks, Andrew Johnson was identified as the preferred candidate for this position.

Report Detail

Greater Shepparton City Council’s Audit and Risk Management Committee is comprised of four independent members and two Councillors.

The purpose of the ARMC is to assist Council in fulfilling its governance responsibilities and provide oversight in areas including financial and performance statements, internal and external auditing and reporting, risk management, internal control management and compliance.

Following the resignation of David Kortum in August 2023, Council commenced an EOI process to fill this vacancy.

The position was advertised in The Age and on Councils Facebook page in September for a period of three weeks, with three applications being received.

Interviews were conducted by Greater Shepparton City Council Mayor, Cr Shane Sali and ARMC Chair, Goran Mitrevski. At the completion of the interview process, and further supported by reference checks, Andrew Johnson was identified as the preferred candidate for appointment to the position of Independent Member of the ARMC.

Andrew has extensive experience in the fields of risk management and frameworks, internal and external audit, internal controls and frameworks, local government, financial, business continuity and OH&S, in addition to holding positions on boards and audit and risk committees.

Council is confident that Andrew will be a great asset to the Committee and therefore recommends his appointment for a three-year term, in accordance with the ARMC Charter.

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

There have been no risks identified in relation to the appointment of an Independent Member to the Audit and Risk Management Committee.

Policy Considerations

The EOI process for the appointment of the Independent Member has been undertaken in accordance with the Audit and Risk Management Committee Charter.

Financial Implications

Allowances paid to Independent Members have been considered and approved as part of the 2023/24 budget process. Minor additional expenses were incurred for the advertising of the vacancy.

Environmental/Sustainability Impacts

There are no environmental / sustainability impacts associated with the appointment of the Independent Member to the Audit and Risk Management Committee.

Social Implications

There are no social implications associated with the appointment of the Independent Member to the Audit and Risk Management Committee.

Economic Impacts

There are no economic impacts associated with the appointment of the Independent Member to the Audit and Risk Management Committee.

Consultation

Consultation occurred with the applicable Council Officers, ARMC Committee members and Councillor representatives throughout the EOI process.

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 links to the Greater Shepparton 2030 Strategy.

Conclusion

Following the completion of an EOI process in accordance with the Committee charter, it is recommended that Council approve the appointment of Andrew Johnson to the position of independent member of the Audit and Risk Management Committee for a period of three years.

Attachments

Nil

11.3 S11A Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation (Planning and Environment Act 1987)

Author	Team Leader Governance
Approved by	Director Corporate Services
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 in the exercise of the provisions conferred by Section 147 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and other legislation referred to in the attached Instruments of Appointment and Authorisation (*Planning and Environment Act 1987*) (S11A) resolves that:

- 1. Ally Cook be appointed as Authorised Officer as set out in the Instrument of Authorisation (*Planning and Environment Act 1987*) (S11A);**
- 2. The Instrument comes into force immediately the signature of Chief Executive Officer is affixed to the Instrument and remain in force until Council resolves to vary or revoke the Instrument, or until the officer ceases employment with Council.**

Executive Summary

The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) has delegated authority to appoint Council Officers as Authorised Officers under various pieces of legislation. This authority ensures that appropriate appointments can be made efficiently and without significant delay. However, the Council cannot delegate the provision to authorise officers for the purposes of enforcing the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* to the CEO. This can only be done by Council.

A staff member that has commenced employment in the Planning Department and/or within a relevant position at Council may be required to be an Authorised Officer for the purposes of applying the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and the regulations made under that Act.

This report seeks to authorise the officer who has commenced work with the organisation.

Report Detail

Council subscribes to a delegations and authorisations service provided by Maddocks Lawyers. The attached Instrument has been prepared in accordance with the templates provided by Maddocks Lawyers.

Staff members working within the Planning Department or within a specified role, require an Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation (*Planning and Environment Act 1987*) (S11A) in order to undertake their respective roles.

This instrument is updated in accordance with changes to legislation and the introduction of new and existing staff changes within the Planning Department. This instrument is now presented to Council for endorsement.

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

Reviewing Councils Instruments of Appointment and Authorisation ensures that the Instruments remain valid and officers have the appropriate authority to act in accordance with their respective roles.

Policy Considerations

There are no policy considerations associated with this report.

Financial Implications

The Council subscribes to the Delegations and Authorisations Service by Maddocks Lawyers. The budgeted annual subscription to the Maddocks service ensures that legislative changes that affect Council's delegations and authorisations are identified and implemented accordingly.

Legal/Statutory Implications

The adoption of these Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation ensures that decisions made by Council officers are legally compliant and enforceable.

Environmental/Sustainability Impacts

There are no environmental or sustainability impacts associated with the adoption of these Instruments of Appointment and Authorisation.

Social Implications

There are no social implications arising from the adoption of these Instruments of Appointment and Authorisation.

Economic Impacts

There are no economic impacts arising from the adoption of these Instruments of Appointment and Authorisation.

Consultation

The review of the Instruments of Appointment and Authorisation was completed in consultation with Council's Planning Department, in line with the templates provided by Maddocks Lawyers.

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

Strategic Links

There are no direct links to the Greater Shepparton 2030 Strategy

Conclusion

To maintain the efficient delivery Council's legal and statutory requirements under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, it is recommended that the appointment of the new officer be endorsed.

Attachments

1. S11A Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation - Ally Cook [11.3.1 - 2 pages]

11.4 Contracts Awarded Under Delegation - November 2023

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 no contracts were 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 Detail

To inform the Council of the status of request for tenders that have been awarded under delegation during the period 1 November 2023 to 30 November 2023, and those that have been publicly advertised but are yet to be awarded as at 4 December 2023. The report does not include all purchasing activities, only procurement which requires a formal quotation or tender process.

Contracts Awarded under Delegated Authority

Nil.

Requests for Tenders advertised but not yet awarded

Contract No.	Contract Name	Contract detail, including terms and provisions for extensions	Status
2328	Goulburn River Bank Stabilisation - Tom Collins Drive (Aquamoves), Shepparton	Lump Sum Contract for Goulburn River Bank Stabilisation - Tom Collins Drive (Aquamoves), Shepparton	Tender scheduled to close on 20 December 2023
2351	Nappy and Incontinence Aid Waste Processing Services	Schedule of Rates Contract for Nappy and Incontinence Aid Waste Processing Services	Tender closed on 13 December 2023
2352	Tatura Park Outdoor Sand Arena Fence	Lump Sum contract for the construction of Tatura Park Outdoor Sand Arena Fence	Tender closed on 13 December 2023
2343	Kerbside Waste Services Contract	Kerbside Waste Services Contract	Tender closed on 11 December 2023
2350	Ganges Shared Path Construction - Seven Creeks Reserve, Kialla	Lump Sum contract for the construction of Ganges Shared Path - Seven Creeks Reserve, Kialla	Tender closed on 6 December 2023
2319	Tatura Structure Plan Intersections Functional Design	Tatura Structure Plan Intersections Functional Design - Lump Sum Contract	Tender currently under evaluation
2317	Animal Management After Hours Emergency Service	Schedule of Rates Contract for the provision of Animal Management After Hours Emergency Service – two years with a further option of one year	Tender currently under evaluation
2326	Management Services for Victoria Park Lake Caravan Park	Lump Sum Contract for Management Services for Victoria Park Lake Caravan Park – 1 year with a one-year option	Tender currently under evaluation
2342	GV Link Freight Logistics Centre – Works Package 2 and 3 – Stage 1 Design	Lump Sum Contract for the design of GV Link Freight Logistics Centre – Works Package 2 and 3 – Stage 1 Design	Tender currently under evaluation
2344	Ardmona Resource Recovery Centre Upgrade	Lump Sum Contract for the construction of the Ardmona Resource Recovery Centre Upgrade	Tender currently under evaluation

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 \$750,000 for goods and services and works are included in the S7 Instrument of Sub-Delegation by Chief Executive Officer.

Collaborative / Third Party Purchasing Arrangements

In accordance with Clause 5.2.11 of the Procurement Policy, Council has the option to utilise third party collaborative purchasing arrangements for various procurement activities.

These collaborative arrangements are established to be an effective and efficient way of sourcing goods and services. Benefits include pre-approved supplier lists, cost savings through economies of scale and dedicated contract administration.

The following collaborative arrangement has recently been opted into:

Contract No.	Entity	Contract Details
2359	MAV	Records Storage & Imaging Services RM7813-2023

Legal/Statutory Implications

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 2023 to 30 November 2023.

Attachments

Nil

11.5 Appointment of an Acting Chief Executive Officer for the Interim Period

Author Senior Governance Officer
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 appoint Geraldine Christou as Acting Chief Executive Officer for the interim period commencing 5 January 2024 and concluding on 14 January 2024.

Executive Summary

This report seeks to appoint an acting Chief Executive Officer for the period 5 January 2024 to 14 January 2024.

This interim vacancy has occurred following the recent appointment of the incoming Chief Executive Officer, who is scheduled to commence in the role on 15 January 2024.

Report Detail

In accordance with section 44(4) of the *Local Government Act 2020*, Council seeks to appoint an acting Chief Executive Officer to cover the interim period, prior to the incoming Chief Executive Officer's commencement which is scheduled to take place on 15 January 2024.

The position of Chief Executive Officer is responsible for the day-to-day operations of Council and as such, any vacancy that arises within the role requires the appointment an Acting Chief Executive Officer. A vacancy has arisen from 5 January 2024 to 14 January 2024.

Council seeks to appoint a suitably qualified Officer to fill this vacancy, in accordance with the Appointment of Acting Chief Executive Officer Policy.

Council Plan / Key Strategic Activity

There are no strategic implications relevant to this matter.

Risk Management

There have been no risks identified in relation to the appointment of an Acting Chief Executive Officer, as all delegated powers are appointed to the Chief Executive Officer or any person acting in that position. All functions can be carried out by the Acting Chief Executive Officer as it ordinarily would by the appointed Chief Executive Officer.

Policy Considerations

This appointment is consistent with the Appointment of Acting Chief Executive Officer Policy.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications in respect to appointment of Acting Chief Executive Officer.

Legal / Statutory Implications

Section 44(4) of the Local Government Act 2020 authorises Council to appoint an Acting Chief Executive Officer for any vacancy that may arise.

Environmental / Sustainability Impacts

There are no environmental/sustainability impacts relevant to this matter

Social Implications

There are no social implications relevant to this matter.

Gender Impact Assessment

A Gender Impact Assessment was not required to be conducted in relation to this report.

Economic Impacts

There are no economic impacts relevant to this matter.

Consultation

Consultation has been conducted with the Mayor and the Executive Leadership Team.

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

Strategic Links

Greater Shepparton 2030 Strategy

There are no strategic links to Greater Shepparton 2030 Strategy.

Conclusion

It is recommended that the Council appoint Geraldine Christou as the Acting Chief Executive Officer for the period commencing 5 January 2024 and concluding on 14 January 2024 in accordance with the requirements prescribed by the regulations in relation to the employment of an Acting Chief Executive Officer.

Attachments

Nil

11.6 November 2023 Monthly Finance Report

Author	Team Leader - Financial Analysis
Approved by	Director Corporate Services
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 November 2023 Monthly Finance Report.

Executive Summary

This report presents the Council's actual financial performance compared to the 2023/2024 Adopted Budget and the 2023/2024 Q1 Adopted Forecast Review, as at 30 November 2023.

Report Detail

Council's actual financial performance compared to the budget is presented to Council monthly.

The November 2023 Monthly Financial Report incorporates the following sections which are presented for Council's consideration:

- Dashboard
- Income Statement
- Balance Sheet
- Cash Flow Statement
- Statement of Capital Works
- Operating Statement

Operating Position

Council's year-to-date (YTD) budget performance and projected full year underlying position are reflected in the income statement within the attachment.

The YTD actual underlying result is a surplus of \$43.6 million, due to annual rates being generated at the start of the year. As the financial year progresses and expenditure is incurred, Council is projecting a full year deficit of \$22.7 million.

This result is impacted by the Federal Financial Assistance Grants that relate to the current financial year but were received as income in 2022/2023. When the impact of this early receipt is removed, the projected full year deficit is \$6.4 million (refer to the "Operating Result" as shown within the attachment).

Since the Q1 forecast review, there has been an increase to the projected full year deficit, mostly due to increases in materials and services expenditure. This has been partially offset by favourable increases to income, including in operating contributions and operating grants.

Part of the net increase to the projected full year deficit, is due to increased costs related to the Benalla Road Upgrade project which were not yet accounted for in the budget, and an increase in the cost of organic waste processing, due to contamination rates in kerbside organic bins.

Capital Works

YTD expenditure is \$17.4 million, including \$8.5 million on delivery of works to repair Council roads that were impacted by the October 2022 Flood.

This is \$2.3 million behind the YTD Adopted Forecast Q1, due to the Road Sealing Program commencing later than planned due to prioritisation of the October 2022 Flood related works, and due to timing of the Stadium and Munarra Upgrade works.

Council's projected full year capital expenditure has reduced by \$7 million compared to the Q1 Forecast Review.

Most of this reduction is due to:

- Less budget required for the purchase of purple bins (as part of the kerbside transition).
- The Shepparton Resource Recovery Centre Upgrade project has been removed while the scope of the project is reviewed.
- The construction of Cormorant Park in Seven Creeks Estate has been delayed and therefore moved into future financial years.
- The Margaret Street Pump Station Upgrade project budget has reduced, as the project will now be delivered across the current financial year and 2024/2025.
- The Mooroopna Local Area Traffic Management project has been moved to future financial years in line with funding availability.

Balance Sheet

Council has adopted the liquidity ratio (current assets as a percentage of current liabilities) as a further measure of financial sustainability.

The 2023/2024 Adopted Q1 Forecast Review liquidity was budgeted to be 138% which is within the desired range. This ratio will be reforecast at the end of December, taking into account changes in the income statement and capital works expenditure.

The 2023/2024 Adopted Q1 Forecast Review and 2021-2031 Financial Plan continue to indicate future challenges in maintaining liquidity at the required level, and Council's continued focus on financial sustainability through the review of services, reduction in operating expenditure, increases in revenue and prioritisation of renewal ahead of new assets is required.

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 and the 2021-2031 Financial Plan.

Financial Implications

The financial implications associated with this report are detailed within the November 2023 – GSCC Monthly Financial Statement 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 report.

Social Implications

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

Economic Impacts

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

Consultation

External consultation has not occurred regarding the contents of this report. Consultation, however, has and will take place on certain specific items within the budget as and when appropriate.

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 links to the Greater Shepparton 2030 Strategy

b) Other strategic links

- 2021-2031 Financial Plan

Conclusion

This report presents the Council's actual financial performance compared to the 2023/2024 Adopted Budget and the 2023/2024 Q1 Adopted Forecast Review, as at 30 November 2023.

Attachments

1. November 2023 - GSCC Monthly Financial Statement [11.6.1 - 11 pages]

12 Sustainable Development Directorate

12.1 Heritage Conservation Grants Program 2023/2024

Author Team Leader- Strategic Planning
 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 2023/24 Heritage Conservation Grant Round as follows:

Place	Project	Grant Amount Awarded (GST Inclusive)
658 Wyndham Street Shepparton	Reface Chimney exterior cladding	\$6,000
Mooroopna Mechanics Hall Inc.	Paint the front of the Hall	\$3,030
Gowangardie Homestead	Undertake substantial repairs to verandah	\$10,000
40 Orr Street Shepparton	Replace rotten/weathered cladding	\$1,458
St Germain's Homestead	Cladding for restored verandah	\$9,900
Butcher Est 1886 Tallygaroopna	Repairs to verandah's and guttering	\$8,400
Former Harston Church	Repair leaking roof/box gutter	\$858
Total		\$39,646

Executive Summary

In July 2023, Council launched the Greater Shepparton Heritage Conservation Grants Program (the Program) for the 2023/24 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 six 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 \$40,000 (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 19 applications during the six-week application period extending from 21 July to 8 September 2023. In accordance with the Guidelines, a Judging Panel was formed to assess the applications and provide recommendations. This year there was a wide range of requests for conservation works reflective of the heritage building diversity within Greater Shepparton.

It is recommended that Council note the awarding of 7 grants under the Program, to the total value of \$39,646.00 (including GST).

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 2018/19 financial year, \$65,000 in the 2019/20 financial year and \$80,000 in the 2020/21, 2021/22 and 2022/23 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 21 July 2023 to 8 September 2023. All owners of eligible properties were notified of the application period by mail on 18 July 2023. Numerous enquiries were received, and 19 applications were lodged during this time. Of these, 13 applications were deemed eligible. In accordance with the Guidelines, a Judging Panel was formed to assess the eligible applications. The Judging Panel comprised one member of the Committee, the Heritage Adviser and Team Leader Strategic Planning.

Applications were assessed against the following assessment criteria:

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

The top seven applications which can be funded within the budget amount are listed below.

Place	Project	Grant Amount Awarded (GST Inclusive)
658 Wyndham Street Shepparton	Reface Chimney exterior cladding	\$6,000
Mooroopna Mechanics Hall Inc.	Paint the front of the Hall	\$3,030
Gowangardie Homestead	Undertake substantial repairs to verandah	\$10,000
40 Orr Street Shepparton	Replace rotten/weathered cladding	\$1,458
St Germain's Homestead	Cladding for restored verandah	\$9,900
Butcher Est 1886 Tallygaroopna	Repairs to verandah's and guttering	\$8,400
Former Harston Church	Repair leaking roof/box gutter	\$858
Total		\$39,646

The six other eligible applications which were not able to be funded received lower assessment grading and are listed below:

Place	Project
Dookie Gladstone Hotel	Strip repair external windows
7 Sutherland Ave Shepparton	Painting of the roof southern side
37 Corio St Shepparton	Replace aluminium windows with double hung double glazed windows
162 Knight Street Shepparton	Fence replacement and gate realignment
24 Camp Street Mooroopna	Reroof the dwelling
72-74 Corio Street Shepparton	Restore verandahs to original condition

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.

3.6 Attract people to live, work, study and remain in our region.

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

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.

4.10 Progress housing and business development opportunities.

Risk Management

There are no anticipated risks associated with awarding 7 grants in accordance with the Guidelines. The 2023/2024 budget includes an allocation of \$40,000 (excl. GST) for the 2022/2023 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 2022/2023 Budget includes an allocation of \$40,000 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 21 July 2023 until 8 September 2023. During this time, numerous enquiries were received, and Council officers and the Heritage Adviser undertook various site visits with landowners. 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 21 July 2023 until 8 September 2023.

Council received 19 applications were received during this time, 13 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, with a wide range of requests for conservation works reflective of the heritage building diversity within Greater Shepparton.

It is recommended that Council note the award of 7 grants as part of the program.

Attachments

Nil

12.2 1225 Union Road, Kialla East - Dwelling - Adoption - Lifting report from the Table

Author	Team Leader – Statutory Planning
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.

At the Scheduled Council Meeting on Tuesday 21 November 2023 a resolution of Council laid this matter on the table.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Council resolves to lift the matter from the table.

12.3 1225 Union Road, Kialla East - Dwelling - Adoption

Author	Team Leader – Statutory Planning
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 in relation to Planning Permit Application 2022-244, on the basis of the information before the Council and having considered all relevant matters as required by the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, resolves to Refuse a Planning Permit for the use and development of the land for a dwelling for the following reasons:

1. **The proposal is contrary to Clause 14.01-1S as it will lead to the loss or fragmentation of productive agricultural land.**
2. **The proposal is contrary to the decision guidelines of Clause 14.01-1L and Clause 35.07-6 as it fails to demonstrate a nexus between the dwelling and the agricultural use of the land.**
3. **The proposal is incompatible with the surrounding land uses contrary to the decision guidelines of Clause 35.07-6.**
4. **The proposal fails to consolidate existing lots to support the ongoing agricultural use of the land through a process of property restructure.**

Executive Summary

The application is for the construction of a dwelling on the land at 1225 Union Road (CA 1A Parish of Kialla), Kialla East (the land).

A planning permit is required for the use and development of the land for a dwelling on a lot less than 60 hectares in the Farming Zone 1.

The land is also affected by the Land Subject to Inundation Overlay (LSIO) and Floodway Overlay (FO), however the dwelling will be located outside of these overlays. Access to the dwelling is partially constructed within the LSIO.

The dwelling is proposed to support the operation of a fat lambing enterprise on the family farming land.

The application was advertised, and seven objections were received.

The main grounds of objection were impact of the proposal on the ongoing use of the Karamomus Rifle Club, which currently utilises a portion of the land under a previous agreement for their target shooting; the development on land within an area susceptible to flooding and the development of land for a use other than agriculture.

Officers consider that there is a strong policy basis in the Greater Shepparton Planning Scheme to protect viable agricultural land from non-agricultural uses, including dwellings.

The proposal does not demonstrate an adequate nexus for the dwelling on the land.

The proposal does not seek to consolidate existing land titles to allow for the use to be as of right.

The proposal is contrary to the agricultural policy and objectives of the Greater Shepparton Planning Scheme.

Officers recommend refusal of the application.

Property and Application Details

Responsible Officer:	Tracey Mercuri
Application Number:	2022-244
Applicant Name:	Regional Planning Services
Owner Name:	Susanne M Thrum
Cost of works:	\$450 000
Correct application fee paid?	Yes
Land/Address:	1225 Union Road (CA 1A Parish of Kialla) KIALLA VIC 3631
Date Received:	6 July 2022
Zoning?	Farming Zone 1
Overlay(s)	Floodway Overlay Land Subject to Inundation Overlay
What is proposed?	Dwelling in the Farming Zone
Why is a permit required?	Use and development of land in the Farming Zone for a dwelling under Clause 35.07-1 and 35.07-4.
Date referred/notified:	3 August 2022
Further Information?	No
Notice/Referral?	Yes, to GBCMA. GBCMA consented to the application.
Title details – any: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Restrictive Covenant? o Section 173 agreement? o Caveat? o Easement? o Building Envelope? o Access restrictions? 	No No Yes – two caveats No No No
Is a CHMP required?	No – exempt activity
Is the site in a BMO or BPA?	Yes - BPA
Is Cl. 13.01-2 Bushfire applicable:	No
Conflicts of interest in relation to advice provided in this report	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.
Key Planning Considerations:	Protection of agricultural land
Recommendation:	Refusal

Proposal in Detail

The land at 1225 Union Road, Kialla East has a total area of 53 hectares. 1225 Union Road comprises two titles bisected east to west by Honeysuckle Creek. The proposed subject site is the southern lot, abutting Honeysuckle Creek to the north, Violet Town Boundary Road to the east, Union Road to the south and farming land to the west.

The lot is irregular in shape currently appears to be used as grazing land, with sheep visible in the paddock. There is limited vegetation spotted throughout the site, with more vegetation along the boundary with Honeysuckle Creek.

The surrounding land comprises open farmland, with native vegetation concentrated along waterways and the road reserves. Most sites comprise a few land parcels, however individual lots tend to be larger than the minimum lot size in the Farming Zone (60 hectares). There are some dwellings in the vicinity, however they are not the dominant land use. Agricultural buildings are visible throughout.



SITE PLAN - 1225 UNION ROAD KIALLA EAST 3631



The application proposes a four-bedroom dwelling to be built in the southwest portion of the site. The proposal will include:

1. Single storey dwelling with entry, kitchen, butler's pantry, dining room, living room, study, four bedrooms, ensuite bathroom, bathroom, laundry, and outdoor living area (with cooking area)
2. Constructed from face brickwork, weatherboard, colorbond roof
3. Setback 251m from the southern boundary (Union Road) and 95m from the western boundary

The applicant states the dwelling will be built to allow the occupant to take over the fat lambing enterprise currently being run on the property and grow this agricultural business.

Summary of Key Issues

The proposal is for the use and development of the land for a dwelling.

The subject site is less than the minimum lot size required for a dwelling to be an as of right use in the Farming Zone (60 hectares). While it could be considered the difference is marginal, it is noted that the subject site is part of a larger land holding in the same ownership and consolidation of the titles would enable the proposed use without a planning permit. This has not been proposed as part of this application.

The applicant states the dwelling is required to support the fat lamb operation currently being run by a family member. The dwelling will allow for a son to take over the operation of the business. There is limited detail provided regarding the current operation, including overall land size and any existing farming infrastructure.

The subject land has an existing informal relationship with the Karramomus Rifle Club. Members of the Club have advised that the subject site is within the potential line of fire for the rifle range, and they believe there is a long-standing formal agreement that the land is maintained as such.

The Rifle Club is located approximately 1.5km northwest of the proposed dwelling.

The current landowners dispute the existence of an agreement as described above. Regardless, Council sought a legal opinion as to the validity of the argument put forth from the Rifle Club.

The legal advice noted that it is not likely existing use rights could be established for the use of the land as a buffer for the rifle land, nor is it likely legal that a Rifle Club could operate on the basis that they could shoot over private land without the consent of the landowner (at a minimum).

Assessment under the Planning and Environment Act

Zoning

The Land is located within the Farming Zone 1.

The purpose of the Farming Zone is to:

- To implement the State Planning Policy Framework and the Local Planning Policy Framework, including the Municipal Strategic Statement and local planning policies.
- To provide for the use of land for agriculture.
- To encourage the retention of productive agricultural land.
- To ensure that non-agricultural uses, including dwellings, do not adversely affect the use of land for agriculture.

- To encourage the retention of employment and population to support rural communities.
- To encourage use and development of land based on comprehensive and sustainable land management practices and infrastructure provision.

A planning permit is required for the use of the land for a dwelling on a lot that is at least the area specified in a schedule to this zone. The lot is in a Farming Zone Schedule 1 and must be 60 hectares.

Given that the lot is 53 hectares, a planning permit is required for the use of land for a dwelling.

A planning permit is required for buildings and works associated with a Section 2 Use. Clause 35.07-2 details the requirements that must be met by a lot used as a dwelling.

These are:

- Access to the dwelling must be provided via an all-weather road with dimensions adequate to accommodate emergency vehicles.
- Each dwelling must be connected to reticulated sewerage, if available. If reticulated sewerage is not available, all wastewater from each dwelling must be treated and retained within the lot in accordance with the requirements of the Environment Protection Regulations under the *Environment Protection Act 2017* for an on-site wastewater management system.
- The dwelling must be connected to a reticulated potable water supply or have an alternative potable water supply with adequate storage for domestic use as well as for firefighting purposes.
- The dwelling must be connected to a reticulated electricity supply or have an alternative energy source.

While the application was not accompanied by a Land Capability Assessment, it is considered likely it can support an on-site wastewater management system. This can be ensured via a condition on any planning permit issued.

Relevant decision guidelines are provided at Clause 35.07-6. These include:

General issues

- The Municipal Planning Strategy and the Planning Policy Framework.
- Any Regional Catchment Strategy and associated plan applying to the land.
- The capability of the land to accommodate the proposed use or development, including the disposal of effluent.
- How the use or development relates to sustainable land management.
- Whether the site is suitable for the use or development and whether the proposal is compatible with adjoining and nearby land uses.
- How the use and development makes use of existing infrastructure and services.

Agricultural issues and the impacts from non-agricultural uses

- Whether the use or development will support and enhance agricultural production.
- Whether the use or development will adversely affect soil quality or permanently remove land from agricultural production.
- The potential for the use or development to limit the operation and expansion of adjoining and nearby agricultural uses.
- The capacity of the site to sustain the agricultural use.
- The agricultural qualities of the land, such as soil quality, access to water and access to rural infrastructure.
- Any integrated land management plan prepared for the site.

- Whether Rural worker accommodation is necessary having regard to:
 - The nature and scale of the agricultural use.
 - The accessibility to residential areas and existing accommodation, and the remoteness of the location.
- The duration of the use of the land for Rural worker accommodation.

Accommodation issues

- Whether the dwelling will result in the loss or fragmentation of productive agricultural land.
- Whether the dwelling will be adversely affected by agricultural activities on adjacent and nearby land due to dust, noise, odour, use of chemicals and farm machinery, traffic and hours of operation.
- Whether the dwelling will adversely affect the operation and expansion of adjoining and nearby agricultural uses.
- The potential for the proposal to lead to a concentration or proliferation of dwellings in the area and the impact of this on the use of the land for agriculture.
- The potential for accommodation to be adversely affected by noise and shadow flicker impacts if it is located within one kilometre from the nearest title boundary of land subject to:
 - A permit for a wind energy facility; or
 - An application for a permit for a wind energy facility; or
 - An incorporated document approving a wind energy facility; or
 - A proposed wind energy facility for which an action has been taken under section 8(1), 8(2), 8(3) or 8(4) of the *Environment Effects Act 1978*.
- The potential for accommodation to be adversely affected by vehicular traffic, noise, blasting, dust and vibration from an existing or proposed extractive industry operation if it is located within 500 metres from the nearest title boundary of land on which a work authority has been applied for or granted under the *Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Act 1990*.

Environmental issues

- The impact of the proposal on the natural physical features and resources of the area, in particular on soil and water quality.
- The impact of the use or development on the flora and fauna on the site and its surrounds.
- The need to protect and enhance the biodiversity of the area, including the retention of vegetation and faunal habitat and the need to revegetate land including riparian buffers along waterways, gullies, ridgelines, property boundaries and saline discharge and recharge area.
- The location of on-site effluent disposal areas to minimise the impact of nutrient loads on waterways and native vegetation.

Design and siting issues

- The need to locate buildings in one area to avoid any adverse impacts on surrounding agricultural uses and to minimise the loss of productive agricultural land.
- The impact of the siting, design, height, bulk, colours and materials to be used, on the natural environment, major roads, vistas and water features and the measures to be undertaken to minimise any adverse impacts.
- The impact on the character and appearance of the area or features of architectural, historic or scientific significance or of natural scenic beauty or importance.
- The location and design of existing and proposed infrastructure including roads, gas, water, drainage, telecommunications and sewerage facilities.
- Whether the use and development will require traffic management measures.

- The need to locate and design buildings used for accommodation to avoid or reduce noise and shadow flicker impacts from the operation of a wind energy facility if it is located within one kilometre from the nearest title boundary of land subject to:
 - A permit for a wind energy facility; or
 - An application for a permit for a wind energy facility; or
 - An incorporated document approving a wind energy facility; or
 - A proposed wind energy facility for which an action has been taken under section 8(1), 8(2), 8(3) or 8(4) of the *Environment Effects Act 1978*.
- The need to locate and design buildings used for accommodation to avoid or reduce the impact from vehicular traffic, noise, blasting, dust and vibration from an existing or proposed extractive industry operation if it is located within 500 metres from the nearest title boundary of land on which a work authority has been applied for or granted under the *Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Act 1990*.

While the application was not accompanied by a Land Capability Assessment, it is the Council officer's opinion the proposal can be located outside of the mapped flood area with sufficient area for any effluent system to be sited to mitigate impact on waterways, the flow of water on site and the surrounding property. This can be managed via a condition on any planning permit issued.

The application was accompanied by limited information in relation to the nexus with the proposed lambing operation. The application stated that it would allow for the proposed occupant to take over the fat lamb farming operation from their mother, who was currently breeding up to 500 lambs, and grow this to up to 1000 lambs.

It is unclear how the use and development of a dwelling will allow the business to grow in this manner. There is no detail on the existing operation, including whether this is contained to this land (and therefore already operating without the oversight of a dwelling) or whether it relates to a broader property.

The operation runs over a broader land area, as the family owns another farm in the locality.

As such, there is no justification for the use and development of this 53ha lot.

The proposal leaves the lot north of Honeysuckle Creek undeveloped. This lot is greater than 60 hectares (64ha) and therefore the use of the land on this site does not require planning permission.

Development on the lot to the south allows an additional dwelling in the landscape and could lead to the fragmentation of productive agricultural land.

There is no support for the proposed expansion of the business and operation on 1225 Union Road.

The application suggests the land is currently being utilised for sheep farming, with the current farmer (his mother) living elsewhere. It is unclear why this particularly lot needs to be developed to support the takeover of the business by the applicant, nor how it will have a nexus with the lamb farming.

At present, the dwelling will be in an established farming area. It will be setback from adjacent farming properties such that it is likely any impact from existing farming operations could be mitigated appropriately.

Relevant Overlay Provisions

Clause 44.03 Flood Overlay (FO)

The land is partially covered by a Floodway Overlay. The land is a small area along the north boundary with Honeysuckle creek and will not be impacted by this proposal.

Clause 44.04 Land Subject to Inundation Overlay (LSIO)

The land is in the LSIO.

The applicant states the proposal is outside of the LSIO, except for driveway access.

A planning permit is not required for an access way constructed a natural ground surface level. The applicant proposed to construct a driveway in accordance with this condition and a planning permit is therefore not required for the proposal.

While it is noted that the proposal is likely located outside of the LSIO, the application was referred to the relevant flood authority (Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority), who informed they had no objections to the proposal subject to standard conditions to be placed on any planning permit issued. This included a requirement that the dwelling be located outside of the LSIO, required finish floor levels and requirements for any septic system on the site.

The proposal can be adequately sited outside of the LSIO, as can any proposed effluent area.

Municipal Planning Strategy (MPS)

Clause 02.03-4 Natural resource management states the level of agricultural production is nationally imported and groups the farming areas of the municipality into three categories:

- **Farming ‘Growth’ areas**, being areas for the growth and expansion of existing farm businesses and for new investment. These areas comprise/include larger properties and provide opportunity for large scale, standalone agricultural development as well as consolidation of existing farm properties wishing to grow.
- **Farming ‘Consolidation’ areas**, being areas that support existing farm businesses to operate and expand. These areas provide opportunities for development of growing agricultural enterprises that can, over time, expand and consolidate through a process of property restructure.
- **Farming ‘Niche’ areas**, being those areas with opportunities for smaller scale and specialised agriculture. These areas include locations of productive potential due to soil type, property size or water access that are not rural living areas. The opportunity for properties within these areas to expand in response to general market trends is limited due to land value and existing development as most lots are smaller, with dwellings.

The subject site is in Schedule 1 of the Farming Zone, advocating larger minimum lot sizes better suited to the Growth or Consolidation areas described above.

Planning and Local Policy Framework

Clause 13.02-1S seeks to strengthen the resilience of settlements and communities to bushfire through risk-based planning that prioritises the protection of human life.

The subject land is also within a bushfire prone area designated in accordance with regulations made under the Building Act 1993 (Vic). The development will be required to adhere to Australian Standard AS3959-2018 Construction of Buildings in Bushfire-prone Areas.

Clause 13.07-1S Land use compatibility seeks to protect community amenity, human health and safety while facilitating appropriate commercial, industrial, infrastructure or other uses with potential adverse off-site impacts.

The proposal is located within close proximity to the Karramomus Rifle Club. Club members have objected to the proposal based on the impact of the development on the ability of the club to operate effectively.

As discussed above in the Summary of Key Issues section of this Report, the Rifle Club has not established a legal basis to use the subject site as a 'buffer area' without the consent of the landowner. In any event, such a use would require permissions outside of the planning process that cannot be considered as part of this application.

It is likely that the development of a dwelling on the land in this location would experience some adverse amenity from the operation of the Rifle Club, likely noise impacts. In the event any planning permit is granted on the land, acoustic conditions should be placed on any planning permit issued to ameliorate the impact of the Rifle Club, or the applicant encouraged to locate further from the Rifle Club on the land.

Clause 14.01-1S Protection of agricultural land seeks to protect the state's agricultural base by preserving productive farmland.

The related strategies include:

Avoid permanent removal of productive agricultural land from the state's agricultural base without consideration of the economic importance of the land for the agricultural production and processing sectors.

- Protect productive agricultural land from unplanned loss due to permanent changes in land use.
- Prevent inappropriately dispersed urban activities in rural areas.
- Limit new housing development in rural areas by:
 - Directing housing growth into existing settlements.
 - Discouraging development of isolated small lots in the rural zones from use for dwellings or other incompatible uses.
 - Encouraging consolidation of existing isolated small lots in rural zones.
- In considering a proposal to use, subdivide or develop agricultural land, consider the:
 - Desirability and impacts of removing the land from primary production, given its agricultural productivity.
 - Impacts on the continuation of primary production on adjacent land, with particular regard to land values and the viability of infrastructure for such production.
 - Compatibility between the proposed or likely development and the existing use of the surrounding land.
 - The potential impacts of land use and development on the spread of plant and animal pests from areas of known infestation into agricultural areas.
 - Land capability.

Local policy for agricultural land is found at Clause 14.01-1L.

The local policy expands on the above with the following relevant strategies:

General

- Encourage farm earthworks that minimise the impact on drainage and flooding through Whole Farm Plans.
- Discourage land use and development in the Farming Zone (Schedule 1) that would compromise the future agricultural use of the land, including farm related tourism.

Dwellings

- Discourage new dwellings unless it is associated with or required for the agricultural use of the land.
- Discourage dwellings on old and inappropriate lots where amenity may be negatively impacted by farming activities or where dwellings may inhibit rural activities.
- Ensure new dwellings support rural activities and production.
- Discourage dwellings that are constructed for 'rural lifestyle' purposes.
- Discourage the clustering of new dwellings unless they support the productive use and development of surrounding land.
- Discourage the construction of new dwellings over land with a water table within one metre of the surface when wastewater is to be treated and retained on site.

In considering whether the proposal is appropriate, Council should consider the following policy guidelines:

- Whether a new dwelling in the Farming Zone, Schedule 1 (FZ1) and Farming Zone, Schedule 2 (FZ2) responds to the above strategies:
 - Through an Integrated Land Management Plan under Clause 35.07-6.
 - By being located on a lot of at least 2 hectares in area.
 - By being located on a lot created after 1st January 1960.
- Whether an agreement under section 173 of the Act is required to:
 - Ensure that the dwelling is used in conjunction with agricultural production.
 - Prevent the subdivision of the lot containing the dwelling.
 - Acknowledge that any nearby agricultural activities take precedence over the protection of the residents' amenity.

The proposal introduces a four-bedroom dwelling on the smaller of two lots that make up 1225 Union Road. The larger lot, to the north of Honeysuckle Creek, is approximately 64 hectares and does not need a planning permit for the use of the land for a dwelling. Should the southern lot be developed, the opportunity arises for additional development on the lot to the north, with no need to establish a nexus with agricultural use.

No information has been provided in relation to the existing water table on site, however the application was referred internally to Council's Environmental Health Officer and externally to GBCMA, both who raised no objections to the capacity of the land for wastewater treatment.

The application has not satisfied Council officers that the dwelling is required to support the future agricultural use of the land.

There is no information as to why the dwelling should be in this location. The applicant could consider the consolidation of the two parcels that make up 1225 Union Road, which would ensure the land is maintained of a size to support continued agricultural use and would limit future development of viable agricultural land to the north that will lead to a proliferation of dwellings in an established broad hectare farming area.

The application did not include an integrated land management plan. While the applicant noted one could be provided if required, it is clear in the provisions of the Farming Zone and the state and local policy in relation to agricultural land that any proposed dwelling on a lot smaller than the minimum lot size should be accompanied by sufficient information to determine a nexus between the development and any agricultural use. This has not been sufficiently determined, by the application material, contrary to local and state policy.

Clause 14.02-1S Catchment planning and management seeks to assist the protection and restoration of catchments, waterways, estuaries, bays, water bodies, groundwater, and the marine environment.

The proposal locates the development in an area outside of mapped areas of flooding can be constructed to mitigate any impact on the passage of water over the land. The proposal is well setback from existing waterways and Honeysuckle Creek and sufficient land can be provided to setback any associated effluent system.

Clause 16.01-3S Rural residential development seeks to identify land suitable for rural residential development.

Strategies include:

- Manage development in rural areas to protect agriculture and avoid inappropriate rural residential development.
- Encourage the consolidation of new housing in existing settlements where investment in physical and community infrastructure and services has already been made.
- Discourage development of small lots in rural zones for residential use or other incompatible uses.
- Encourage consolidation of existing isolated small lots in rural zones.

The proposal locates residential development in an established broad hectare farming area. The application does not include relevant support to sufficiently establish a nexus between residential development in this location and the agricultural use of the land and will take productive agricultural land out of use.

General Provisions

The decision guidelines of Clause 65

Because a permit can be granted does not imply that a permit should or will be granted. The responsible authority must decide whether the proposal will produce acceptable outcomes in terms of the decision guidelines of this clause.

The use is inconsistent with the orderly planning of the area as it allows for the development of productive agricultural land for a dwelling, with limited demonstration of the nexus to the agricultural use of the land.

The proposal is contrary to the purpose of the Farming Zone as it allows for the fragmentation of agricultural land.

No supporting information has been provided to determine the impact of the proposal on the land and how it will impact on the amenity of the area.

The application has considered the available flood mapping and located and design the proposal in response. Any dwelling constructed on the land will be required to meet Australian standards in relation to bushfire regulations.

The proposal does not require the removal of any native vegetation.

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.

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

Risk Management

The planning application leads to no significant risks to the Council.

Policy Considerations

The application has been considered against the relevant policies of the Greater Shepparton Planning Scheme and is found that the dwelling achieves unacceptable planning outcomes. No permit should issue.

Financial Implications

There are no major financial implications associated with this planning permit application.

Legal / Statutory Implications

Should the applicant or objectors be dissatisfied with Council's decision an application for review can be lodged with the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT).

Cultural Heritage

The proposed use and development for a dwelling is not considered a 'high impact activity' and does not trigger the need for a Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP).

Environmental / Sustainability Impacts

The application leads to no significant environmental or sustainability impacts.

Social Implications

This planning application has limited social implications.

Economic Impacts

This planning permit has no significant economic impacts for Council.

Gender Impact Assessment

Officers have undertaken a Gender Impact Assessment (GIA) as part of the development of this policy and it has been prepared in accordance with Council's obligations as outlined in the Gender Equality Act 2020.

No recommendations were made.

Referrals/Public Notice

The application was referred internally to Council's Environmental Health Officer who had no objections to the proposal subject to conditions.

The application was advertised pursuant to Section 52 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* with the following description 'Use and development of the land for a dwelling by:

- a. Sending notices to the owners and occupiers of adjoining land.
- b. Placing a sign on site.

Notice was given to GBCMA as the relevant catchment management authority given the proximity of the proposal to the floodplain. GBCMA had no objections subject to standard conditions to be placed on any planning permit issued.

The Council has received seven objections to date.

The key issues that were raised in the objections are:

- a. Impact of development within proximity of the dwelling to the Rifle Club
- b. Whether the land is reserved for the use of a 'buffer' for the Rifle Club
- c. Development within a flood area, including the installation of a septic system
- d. Proposal is not compatible with surrounding land uses
- e. Nexus with agricultural production
- f. Impact on biodiversity in the area
- g. Response to bushfire risk

An assessment of the grounds of objection is shown below:

Grounds for Objection	Officer's Response
Impact of development within proximity of the dwelling to the Rifle Club	<p>The proposal has already impacted the operation of the Karramomus Rifle Club, as the owner does not support the use of the land for the 'buffer' for the Rifle range, regardless of the planning outcome.</p> <p>Should the Rifle Club continue to operate in a revised capacity, it is likely the proposed location of the dwelling will cause conflict with the existing use, via noise impacts. Council officers consider any development should be located further from the north western corner of the site, to mitigate any amenity impacts from the existing use.</p>
Whether the land is reserved for the use of a 'buffer' for the Rifle Club	The land cannot be reserved for this use within the planning system. Any further use of the land in this manner would be established outside of planning.
Development within a flood area, including the installation of a septic system	The proposal will have sufficient space outside of the known flood area to locate the development and any effluent treatment system. The application was provided to the relevant floodplain authority (GBCMA) and Council's Environmental Health Officer, both of which had no objections to the proposal subject to standard conditions to be placed on any planning permit granted.
Proposal is not compatible with surrounding land uses	It is likely the dwelling could be sited on the land to limit impact on surrounding land uses, including the Karramomus Rifle Club.
Nexus with agricultural production	Council officers agree limited information has been provided in support of the connection with the proposed agricultural use.
Impact on biodiversity in the area	The proposed development is in an already cleared area of the site, well setback from Honeysuckle Creek and any established vegetation and the dwelling is likely to have limited impact on the biodiversity of the area.
Response to bushfire risk	The proposal is not located within a Bushfire Management Overlay. It is in a Bushfire prone area and any development will be built in accordance with Australian Standards as per building requirements.

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

Strategic Links

a) Greater Shepparton 2030 Strategy (GS2030)

GS2030 includes the following relevant strategic directions:

Discourage housing on old and inappropriate lots and where amenity may be negatively impacted by farming and related activities, or where housing may inhibit rural activities.

Conclusion

Officers having undertaken an assessment of the application, have determined that on balance the proposal fails to satisfy the objectives and strategies of the Farming Zone.

The proposal will allow the fragmentation of productive agricultural land and fails to demonstrate a nexus between the agricultural use of the land and the use and development of the small lot.

It is recommended that no permit issue.

Officers continue to observe that if the two separate lots were consolidated by the applicant, the single lot would exceed 60ha and no use permission would be required for the dwelling.

Attachments

Nil

12.4 Minor and Major Event Grants - Round 1 - 2023-2024

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 Round One of the 2023/2024 Minor and Major Event Grants Program as follows:

Organisation	Grant Amount Awarded
Soroptimist International of Shepparton	\$500
Shepparton Heritage Centre	\$800
Lions Club of Tatura	\$1,000
Disability Sports Australia	\$800
Know your Roots (KYR)	\$2,500
Goulburn Valley Seniors Association Incorporated	\$800
Tallygaroopna Soldiers Memorial Hall Committee	\$800
Victorian All Welsh Show	\$1,000
Rotary Club of Shepparton	\$800
Shepparton Access	\$800
Segmento Foundation	\$2,500
Shepparton Gift Inc.	\$2,000

Organisation	Grant Amount Awarded
Goulburn Valley Branch of the Avicultural Society of Australia Inc.	\$800
HussIn Auto Detailing	\$2,000
Shepparton Cycling Club Inc	\$2,500
Dookie and District Development Forum Inc.	\$720
The Lions Club of Toolamba Inc	\$776
Singh Sports Club Inc.	\$2,000
Albanian Moslem Society Shepparton Inc.	\$2,500
Devenish Dookie and District Good Friday Appeal	\$800
Total	\$26,396

Executive Summary

Each financial year Council provides two rounds of the Minor and Major Event Grants Program. This grant program aims to support and enable events that contribute economically, socially, and culturally to our community and improve the liveability of Greater Shepparton. There are two streams of funding available under this program for Minor Events to receive funding up to \$2,000, and Major Events to receive funding up to \$5,000. The total amount of funding allocated for the 2023/24 financial year to this program was \$45,000 which has been split across two rounds.

Round one of this program opened on 24 July and closed on 1 September 2023. The Grant Assessment Panel received a total of 25 applications for this round and the results of the assessments are contained in the attached Assessment Report Summary. Five applications were deemed ineligible based on the Program Guidelines and the Grant Distribution Policy. The remaining 20 applications were assessed by the Grant Assessment Panel and have been awarded funding under delegated authority.

To further enhance each event and ensure its success, the Major Events team will assist applicants with any event enquiries. Officers will also assist with booking forms, risk assessments and any other enquiries they have if required to ensure a successful and safe event.

Report Detail

The Minor and Major Events Grant Program accepts applications from not-for-profit community groups to support and facilitate events that contribute positively to the wellbeing of the community and the stimulation of the local economy.

This program provides two rounds per financial year under two funding streams of Minor and Major Event Grants as outlined above. Applications are assessed by a panel of Council officers and moderated by the Grants Coordinator.

Consideration is given to the following factors in the process:

- That the event aligns with Council's plans and strategies.
- That the event meets the Program Funding Guidelines and objectives.
- Number of visitors and locals likely to be attracted to the event.
- Number of overnight stays the event will generate.
- When the event will be held and how this aligns with Council's events calendar.
- There is evidence of community support for the event and that the event is accessible and inclusive for the community.
- The event provides value for money and is feasible.

Round One of the 2023/2024 program received a total of 25 applications, with five applications deemed ineligible against the funding criteria. Details of the 20 applicants who have been successfully awarded funding under delegated authority are contained in the attached Assessment Report Summary.

The Minor and Major Event Grants Program has an acquittal process which must be completed by successful applicants at the finalisation of the project. The acquittal requires the applicants to provide a report on the outcome of the event, lessons learned and supporting documents including invoices and photographs of the events. Applicants that fail to complete the acquittal to a satisfactory standard are unable to apply for Council's future grants program.

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.

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.

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

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

Risks	Likelihood	Consequence	Rating	Mitigation Action
Event cancellation/postponed due to a natural disaster	Possible	Minor	Low	Funds to either be returned to Council or event to be held on a mutually agreed alternative date.
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 Minor and Major Event Grants Program have been assessed and awarded funding under delegated authority in accordance with Council's Grant Distribution Policy.

Financial Implications

The Minor and Major Events Grants Program for 2023/2024 has budget allocation of \$45,000, which is split across two rounds in the financial year. Round One allocation is \$26,396, with \$18,604 remaining for Round Two.

Legal/Statutory Implications

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

Council's Visitor Economy and Major Events team will provide assistance and advice to successful applicants in this regard. Council officers will also assist applicants in the process of gaining permits or approvals, where required.

Council officers will also assist applicants in the process of gaining permits or approvals, where required.

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 Grant Program Guidelines and State Government legislation.

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.

Gender Impact Assessment

Officers reviewed the Gender Impact Assessment (GIA) which was undertaken during the development of this procedure / policy to ensure it remains compliant with Councils obligations outlined in the Gender Equality Act 2020.

No recommendations were made.

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 and families spending more time in Greater Shepparton region over the course of the events. Retail stores, local speciality stores, accommodation as well as cafes and restaurants have also reported a positive economic impact during these events, along with the contractors engaged to assist in delivering the events with infrastructure and services facilitating jobs in the region.

Consultation

Council officers have promoted this grant program online through social media, Council's website, and the local print media. Council officers have also hosted information sessions online for potential applicants to seek advice and support in relation to the grant application process.

Council's Major Events Team and Grants Coordinator have also liaised with potential applicants to discuss future applications and events. Officers believe that appropriate consultation has occurred, and the matter is now ready for approval.

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

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

Conclusion

Round One of the 2023/2024 Minor and Major Event Grants Program received a total of 25 applications, with five applications deemed ineligible against the assessment criteria. The remaining 20 applications as contained in the attached Assessment Report Summary have been awarded funding under delegated authority in accordance with Council's Grant Distribution Policy.

Attachments

1. Minor & Major Event Grants Round 1 - Final Report - 2023/2024 [12.4.1 - 4 pages]

12.5 Community Celebration Grants Program 2024

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

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 Community Celebrations Grants Program 2024 as follows:

Organisation Name	Grant Amount Awarded
Kiwanis Club of Mooroopna Inc.	\$1,500.00
Dookie & District Development Forum	\$750.00
Murchison Community Acknowledgement Ceremony	\$3,000.00
Total	\$5,250.00

Executive Summary

Greater Shepparton City Council recognises that Australia Day, held on 26 January remains Australia’s national day, however it is not a day of celebration for all, particularly Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People.

In recognition of this, Council resolved on 19 September 2023 to replace the Australia Day Small Town Grants Program with a Community Celebration Grants Program that provides funding for the Greater Shepparton community to hold their own celebrations on 23 – 25 January or 27 – 29 January.

The Community Celebration Grants Program opened to the community on 8 November 2023 and closed on 20 November 2023. Council received a total of five applications to this program. Of these five applications, one has been deemed ineligible for funding and one has been deemed unsuccessful due to celebration activities not aligning with program objectives. Three applications have been deemed successful and awarded funding as noted in the table above.

Report Detail

Greater Shepparton City Council recognises that Australia Day, held on 26 January remains Australia’s national day, however it is not a day of celebration for all, particularly Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People.

In recognition of this, Council resolved on 19 September 2023 to replace the Australia Day Small Town Grants Program with a Community Celebration Grants Program that provides funding for the Greater Shepparton community to hold their own celebrations on 23 – 25 January or 27 – 29 January.

This grant program aims to support and strengthen the community by providing funding for an event that has the capacity to attract the whole community to come together and celebrate what is great about our community.

Financial support will be provided through this grant program to the successful applicants noted in the table below following an assessment of the applications in accordance with the grant program guidelines and Council's Grants Distribution Policy. Of the five applications received, three applications have been deemed successful. One application has been deemed ineligible due to the event being held on 26 January. The fifth application has scored low as it did not adequately meet the program objectives.

Organisation	Event Location	Amount requested	Amount awarded
Kiwanis Club of Mooroopna Inc.	Mooroopna	\$1,500	\$1,500
Dookie & District Development Forum	Dookie	\$750	\$750
Murchison Community Acknowledgement Ceremony	Murchison	\$3,500	\$3,000
	Total	\$5,250	\$5,250

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.

Risk Management

Risks	Likelihood	Consequence	Rating	Mitigation Action
Applicant breaching grant agreement	Possible	Moderate	Medium	Ensure grant agreements clearly outline funding requirements, and acquittals are completed in a timely manner.
Ineligible applicants disconcerted about criteria preventing events occurring on 26 January	Possible	Minor	Medium	Reinforce Council resolution in relation to Australia Day events.

Policy Considerations

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

Financial Implications

The recommendation is unlikely to result in any unforeseen financial implications. The 2023/2024 Budget includes an allocation of \$9,000 for this Program. All grants are GST exclusive. The grants to be awarded do not exceed the budget allocation.

Legal/Statutory Implications

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

Environmental/Sustainability Impacts

The recommendation will not result in any environmental/sustainability impacts. Successful applicants must ensure that their event adheres to sustainable event management practices as contained within the Community Celebration Grant Program Guidelines and State Government legislation.

Social Implications

The recommendation will result in a positive social outcome for the community. There are no social implications arising from this report, as the objective of the grant program is to increase social connection and wellbeing for our community to come together as a whole, celebrate and foster community pride and esteem.

Economic Impacts

The recommendation will result in positive economic impacts. The completion of a celebration funded under this program provides an opportunity for community members to attend a local event in their community. There are no negative economic impacts associated with this program.

Gender Impact Assessment

Officers reviewed the Gender Impact Assessment (GIA) which was undertaken during the development of this procedure / policy to ensure it remains compliant with Councils obligations outlined in the Gender Equality Act 2020.

No recommendations were made.

Consultation

Council Officers have promoted this funding program through Council's website and direct contact with previous applicants to the Australia Day Events Program.

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

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

Conclusion

The Community Celebration Grants Program 2024 received a total of five applications. Of these applications, one application did not meet the funding criteria therefore deemed ineligible for assessment.

One of the applications scored low and will be referred to the Coordinator of Grants to provide advice and feedback to the applicant to consider for future funding opportunities. The three remaining applications listed above have met the program guidelines therefore have been awarded funding under delegated authority for this program.

Attachments

1. Community Celebrant Grant - Outcome Report [12.5.1 - 1 page]

12.6 Goulburn Region Tourism - Visitor Economy Partnership

Author Team Leader - Visitor Economy
 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. **Approve membership to the Goulburn Region Tourism Inc as the new Visitor Economy Partnership for the region.**
2. **Following legal incorporation, join Goulburn Region Tourism Inc, the official Visitor Economy Partnership for the region.**
3. **Contributes the required funds to be part of the Visitor Economy Partnership subject to Council budgetary processes:**
 - a. **Agree to an annual contribution of \$121,000 for financial year 2024/2025 to ensure a sustainable partnership model.**
 - b. **Acknowledge that ongoing funding to the Visitor Economy Partnership will be required, and that this amount will be negotiated through a Memorandum of Understanding with the future entity, noting that it is expected at a minimum of \$121,000 per year.**
4. **Notes the Goulburn Region Destination Management Plan as the key strategic document for the Visitor Economy Partnership to implement.**

Executive Summary

The Victorian Government have released the Visitor Economy Partnership Framework, a new approach to regional tourism in the state of Victoria. This Framework details that Visitor Economy Partnerships will become the peak bodies for all visitor economy related matters within regions of Victoria.

This report details the proposed establishment of a Visitor Economy Partnership, named the Goulburn Region Tourism Inc for the Local Government Areas of Greater Shepparton City Council, Strathbogie Shire Council and Mitchell Shire Council.

The report details the co-design process that the Victorian Government, partner Councils and industry have participated in to create the proposed entity and legal structures.

It seeks support for Greater Shepparton City Council to join Goulburn Region Tourism Inc and support the associated ongoing financial commitment of the partnership. Goulburn Region Tourism Inc will strengthen and grow the visitor economy of the region and provide an increase in opportunities to our region ensuring it has an official voice into the Victoria tourism framework.

Report Detail

Historically, the Regional Tourism Network has been supported by the Victorian Government through the funding of Regional Tourism Boards. These existing structures do not support Greater Shepparton City Council and the Goulburn Region as the current network includes large gaps in geographical coverage of the current Regional Tourism Boards. This has created an inequity of delivery of regional tourism services and has disadvantaged the region in relation to advocacy, funding and growth.

Previously, Greater Shepparton had worked as part of a regional body known as Goulburn River Valley Tourism, which was never formally acknowledged or financially supported by the Victorian Government and has been nominally labelled as 'Murray' for administrative purposes, allowing businesses to list on Visit Victoria and nominate for State Tourism Awards. This in name only link with Murray Regional Tourism and has excluded both Greater Shepparton City Council and the region's businesses from accessing the significant benefits of being a paid-up member of this Regional Tourism Board.

In 2019 the Victorian Government conducted the Regional Tourism Review. It was an extensive review to understand how to improve the management of regional tourism in Victoria. Unfortunately, the findings of the review were not fully realised due to the 2019-2020 bushfires, and then the COVID-19 pandemic. The Victorian Government did commit to support enhancing the sector with the Experience Victoria 2033 Plan and changes to the Regional Tourism Network.

In 2022 the Victorian Government provided Greater Shepparton City Council, Mitchell Shire Council and Strathbogie Shire Council with \$300,000 to form the Goulburn Region Tourism Partnership. This was an interim arrangement, acknowledging that the region was disadvantaged without a Regional Tourism Board (non-networked) and to support the region until outcomes of the Regional Tourism Review were finalised. This Partnership was fully funded by State Government and delivered a range of outcomes to support the visitor economy of the region. This, including the creation of the Goulburn Region Destination Management Plan, which will be the key strategic document to support and manage the visitor economy of the region for the next five years. This Partnership also supported the co-design process and transition to a permanent structure to support regional tourism in the Goulburn Region. This interim arrangement will end in April 2024.

In 2023 the Victorian Government released the Visitor Economy Partnership (VEP) Framework, which changes how regional tourism is supported in the state of Victoria. The ambition of the Visitor Economy Partnership Framework is to transition Regional Tourism Boards to new entities called Visitor Economy Partnerships and to ensure that all regions have equitable access to these entities. Visitor Economy Partnerships will be the official peak tourism bodies for regions. They will deliver supply and demand activities, such as advocacy, policy development and marketing to support growth of the visitor economy. Without a Visitor Economy Partnership, the visitor economy of Greater Shepparton City Council will continue to not be officially represented at a state level.

Visitor Economy Partnerships will have improved governance and create clarity of roles and responsibilities within the visitor economy. The Goulburn Region, including Greater Shepparton City Council, Strathbogie Shire Council and Mitchell Shire Council were prioritised to transition to a Visitor Economy Partnership, due to the lack of current representation by a Regional Tourism Board.

In order to facilitate the transition to a Visitor Economy Partnership, a co-design process has taken place and followed these the key decision-making principles:

- Demonstrating collaboration
- Delivering maximum benefit to the region
- Ensuring the model is sustainable
- Industry focussed
- Making strategic evidence-based decisions

The Visitor Economy Partnership Framework details that entities with three or more regional councils, including a regional city will be eligible for \$350,000 of funding per year from the Victorian Government.

To be eligible for the Victorian Government funding all three Local Government Areas must financially contribute to the partnership. Council contributions are not prescribed due to the different nature of structures with each Visitor Economy Partnership. Amounts paid to the Visitor Economy Partnership were identified as part of the co-design process. The process suggested that initial contribution would be modelled on the visitation numbers to each Local Government Area. This was identified as the fairest model to allow for different Council size and capacity. Greater Shepparton City Council visitation is 52% of the regions visitation and proposes an initial contribution of \$121,000 per annum. It is expected that a contribution for financial year 2023/2024 will be a nominal contribution, with a full contribution of \$121,000 for financial year 2024/2025, with Strathbogie Shire council contributing \$39,000 and Mitchell Shire Council contributing \$75,000. The 2024/2025 contribution from Greater Shepparton City Council equates to approximately 20.6% of the overall baseline funding available for the Goulburn Region Tourism Inc. Ongoing contributions would be established with Goulburn Region Tourism Inc via a Memorandum of Understanding with Council.

Visitor Economy Partnerships are required to be an independent entity to satisfy Victorian Government funding requirements. Through the co-design process an Incorporated Association has been selected as the preferred entity type, due to its relatively inexpensive costs. This entity type designates a board structure for its governance model. Feedback from industry and partners was that to build success this entity was to be industry led and have strong industry representation at a board level. This feedback has been implemented into the proposed board model, being:

- 1 Independent Chair
- 3 Local Government Area Representatives (CEO or delegate)
- 6 Industry Representations (aiming for equal geographical spread)
- 1 State Government Observer (non-voting)
- 3 Traditional Owner Positions (Recognised Aboriginal Parties of the region)

To progress the creation of the entity, Association Model Rules, referred to as Rules for Goulburn Region Tourism Inc has been created to establish strong governance for the organisation. Transition to the entity will begin in early 2024 with announcement and appointment of a chair to be finalised in Q1 2024. From here a board will be appointed and then organisational staff appointed.

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.

1.3 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.

1.9 Provide a high-profile collaborative advocacy role.

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.

3.8 Maximise utilisation and investment return on Council assets.

3.9 Expand Greater Shepparton's visitor economy.

Risk Management

Risks	Likelihood	Consequence	Rating	Mitigation Action
If one council does not proceed, the Visitor Economy Partnership cannot proceed as it does not meet the minimum requirements set by State Government.	Unlikely	Major	Medium	Ongoing engagement with Councils through the project working group.
State Government tourism funding will be directed to Visitor Economy Partnership in the future. If the region does not proceed with a partnership, then there is the potential to be ineligible for funding.	Unlikely	Moderate	Medium	Proceed with the partnership.
The initial funding agreement from State Government will be for a one-year period. The intention is to then operate on four-year agreements ongoing. This is to be confirmed by the State Government budget process.	Unlikely	Moderate	Medium	State Government have been committed in the process and are confident that the state budget bid will be accepted an ongoing funding agreement of four year terms.
Visitor Economy Partnerships will be the peak tourism advocacy body for regions. Without this support the regions visitor economy will not have a voice at State level.	Unlikely	Major	Medium	Proceed with partnership.
Council financial contributions are integral to the stability of the Partnership. If Councils change their funding levels in future years, financial sustainability may be impacted.	Possible	Moderate	Medium	Ongoing engagement with Councils through the board.

Risks	Likelihood	Consequence	Rating	Mitigation Action
Loss of Agency for Council within a Visitor Economy Partnership	Unlikely	Minor	Low	Visitor Economy Partnership structures has Council representation on the board, and the board will determine the strategic direction for the organisation.
Lack of trust and buy-in from industry impacting success	Unlikely	Minor	Low	Mitigated with ongoing engagement with industry and peak industry groups. With the future Visitor Economy Partnership having strong industry presentation on the board.

Policy Considerations

There are no conflicts with current Council policy in relation to this report.

Financial Implications

The Victorian Government will be contributing \$350,000 per annum to Goulburn Region Tourism Inc. To be eligible for this state funding all three Local Government Areas must financially contribute to the partnership. Council contributions were not prescribed due to the different nature of structures with each Visitor Economy Partnership, however suggested contributions were identified as are part of the co-design process with Councils.

The process suggested that initial contribution would be modelled on the visitation numbers to each Local Government Area. This was identified as the fairest model to allow for different Council size and capacity. Greater Shepparton City Council visitation is 52% of the region's visitation and proposes an initial contribution of \$121,000 per annum. It is expected that a contribution for financial year 2023/2024 will be a pro rata amount with an estimate of \$30,250, with a full contribution of \$121,000 for financial year 2024/2025. Strathbogie Shire Council will be contributing \$39,000 and Mitchell Shire Council \$75,000. The 2024/2025 contribution from Greater Shepparton City Council equates to approximately 20.6% of the overall baseline funding available for the Goulburn Region Tourism Inc. Ongoing contributions would be established with Goulburn Region Tourism Inc via a Memorandum of Understanding with Council. However, to assure ongoing financial sustainability the contribution is unlikely to be less than the initial proposed contribution. These funds have been allocated from the existing Visitor Economy budget.

The following table reflects the required budget contribution to support this project proposal from the existing 23/24 budget.

	Approved Budget Estimate for this proposal ¹ \$	This Proposal GST Exclusive \$	Variance to Approved Budget Estimate \$	This Proposal GST Inclusive ² \$
Revenue				
Expense	Current budget is \$35,000 less existing \$5,340 commitment	\$30,250	\$590	\$590
Net Total	\$29,660	\$30,250	\$590	\$590

¹ Budgets are GST exclusive

² For Contract Award reports the GST inclusive expense shall match the amount reported in the recommendation

Legal/Statutory Implications

Goulburn Region Tourism Inc will be an incorporated association. This legal structure was identified as the most appropriate for the entity due to its relatively inexpensive costs which will allow for the entity's finances to best support the visitor economy. This registration is only at State level and may hinder the organisations' ability to carry its affairs at a federal level. The Goulburn Region Tourism Inc Model Rules have been formally reviewed by an external legal team.

Environmental/Sustainability Impacts

Goulburn Region Tourism Inc will be implementing the Goulburn Region Destination Management Plan as the key strategic document for the entity. This document was holistically planned and strongly acknowledges the importance of growing visitation in a sustainable manner as to not negatively impact the regions environment. Once established, Goulburn Region Tourism Inc will create appropriate policies to abide to and ensure environmental and sustainable impacts are managed appropriately.

Social Implications

Goulburn Region Tourism Inc will be a recognised peak body to support this visitor economy of the region. This body will be advocating for investment into the visitor economy which will likely create a broader range of activities available for both local and visitors to experience. The entity will also be involved in regional marketing which may increase local pride for the region and increase connection to an individual's community and the greater region.

Economic Impacts

Visitor economy businesses, organisations and events will benefit from the support from Goulburn Region Tourism Inc as a recognised peak body for tourism in the region. This entity will have strong connections with the Victorian Government and regional network to unlock the potential of our region as a destination. This will likely unlock additional funding streams and opportunities that have previously been accessed by Regional Tourism Boards, additional to the identified core funding.

Goulburn Region Tourism Inc will be responsible for the implementation of the Goulburn Region Destination Management Plan. This Plan highlights key economic measures of success to be achieved by 2030. Including increasing visitation to the region from 2 million visitors (2.6 million pre covid) to 3 million visitors, increasing overnight visitors from 700,000 to 1 million and gross revenue from \$337 million to \$500 million.

Once established Goulburn Region Tourism Inc will deliver marketing that will provide greater promotion of businesses and attractions. There will also be an increase in awareness of the regions attractions which will likely increase the length of stay and visitor spend in the region.

Gender Impact Assessment

A Gender Impact Assessment was not conducted. This program does not have a direct significant impact on the public.

Consultation

Engagement of the future Visitor Economy Partnership began during the six-week community engagement period for the Destination Management Page in May and June 2023, this demonstrated strong support to working together as a region. Further consultation has included stage 2 engagement of the destination management plan, industry roundtables within the region and one on one meetings with key stakeholder groups.

Industry sentiment is extremely positive and optimistic for the benefits that a Visitor Economy Partnership will deliver. The industry roundtable attendees showed strong support for the proposed governance model and were confident that the proposal mitigates historical governance issues with previous models.

Destination Goulburn Valley, as local tourism association have been continually engaged on the project and have participated in co-design process.

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

Strategic Links

a) Greater Shepparton 2030 Strategy

- The Strategy provides a vision for the future development and investment of the municipality. The strategic alignment of Greater Shepparton City Council with Mitchell Shire Council and Strathbogie Shire Council to create this State Government supported partnership reaffirms Council's commitment to community and industry as it continues to support the sustainable development of the regions Visitor Economy.

b) Other strategic links

- Greater Shepparton Economic Development, Tourism & Major Events Strategy 2017-2021
- Goulburn Regional Economic Development Strategy

Conclusion

The establishment of a Visitor Economy Partnership for the region, Goulburn Region Tourism Inc will increase collaboration, support industry, and unlock the potential of the regions visitor economy. This entity will be co funded by the Victorian Government and be the official peak body to support tourism in the region.

The establishment, transition and support of this entity will create opportunities that the region has historically not been able to access.

This report recommends Council joins Goulburn Region Tourism Inc, the official Visitor Economy Partnership for the region and contributes the required funds. Transition to Goulburn Region Tourism Inc will begin in quarter one 2024.

Attachments

1. Goulburn Region Tourism Board Structure [12.6.1 - 1 page]
2. Goulburn Region Destination Management Plan [12.6.2 - 77 pages]
3. Goulburn Region Tourism - Incorporation Rules [12.6.3 - 28 pages]

12.7 Asia Fruit Logistica 2023 / 2024

Author	Economic Development 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. Note the outcomes from Greater Shepparton City Council's attendance at Asia Fruit Logistica 2023.**
- 2. Approve the hosting of a trade stand at Asia Fruit Logistica in Hong Kong in September 2024 in partnership with Fruit Growers Victoria.**
- 3. Approve the Mayor and the Chief Executive Officer to be included in the delegation that attends Asia Fruit Logistica 2024.**

Executive Summary

The total value of agricultural output in Greater Shepparton is estimated to be more than \$729M. The largest commodity produced was fruit, which accounted for 47.2 per cent of Greater Shepparton's total agricultural output in value term highlighting the importance of the industry to the region.

On 4 September 2023 Greater Shepparton City Council, in partnership with Fruit Growers Victoria (FGV), led a delegation to Hong Kong to attend Asia Fruit Logistica. The delegation consisted of the Mayor, Cr Shane Sali, Council's Chief Executive Officer, Peter Harriott and Manager Economic Development, Anthony Nicolaci. Also in attendance was Fruit Growers Victoria's Michael Crisera and 19 local growers and representatives from the Greater Shepparton region.

Council and FGV hosted in partnership a trade stand at the expo. This expo provides Council with an opportunity to support the region's horticultural industry, partner with the local growers, establish a presence at the event to demonstrate local government support and to market the region as the Fruit Capital of Australia and a place to invest and do business.

Local fruit growers and the horticulture industry are supportive of Council's ongoing attendance at the expo and believe that having a dedicated stand at the 2024 event is a very worthwhile exercise to continue to grow and promote our economy. It is the view of growers that Council's attendance in addition to providing a trade stand will continue to allow them to hold their meetings at a site which will give them an enhanced level of credibility amongst their competition. Various local growers utilised the stand for trade negotiations at this year's expo.

Report Detail

In September 2023 Council in partnership with Fruit Growers Victoria (FGV) hosted a trade stand at Asia Fruit Logistica 2023 in Hong Kong. Council's presence at the expo increased the awareness of the region's horticultural offering and built on the opportunity for agreements to be negotiated between overseas buyers and Greater Shepparton growers, leading to increased prosperity within the region. Similarly, in 2017, 2018 and 2019 Council's presence at Asia Fruit Logistica in 2023 was a success with approximately 200 visitors to the trade stand across the two days of the expo. Unfortunately, the last day of the expo was cancelled due to extreme weather conditions.

Outcomes and opportunities that have resulted from the 2023 delegation include the following:

- Attendance at Asia Fruit Logistica allowed Council to learn more about the changing world of fresh produce, to establish new business contacts and to work towards growing the local agricultural sector, promoting Greater Shepparton as the Fruit Capital of Australia.
- Asia Fruit Logistica also presented the opportunity for Council to support the local growers and representatives who attended by providing growers with a trade stand to utilise for trade negotiations. Contracts were signed between buyers and locals as a result of the Asia Fruit Logistica opportunity.
- Council has been recognised and commended for our progressive approach in relation to international engagement by Global Victoria's Deputy Commissioner Greater China, Nick Henderson. Council representatives met with Nick at Asia Fruit Logistica, allowing Nick to obtain a deeper understanding of our region and to discuss future potential international collaborations. Nick also met with local growers at the stand to assist with matching potential international buyers.
- Whilst at Asia Fruit Logistica, it was identified that there was a number of new export market opportunities for our region. Particularly, it was identified that India presents itself as a tremendous opportunity for our region's pears. As a result of the networks and trade negotiations formed by the growers whilst at the expo, the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) data indicates a significant positive correlation and increase in the export of pears from Australia to India from September to October 2023, post Asia Fruit Logistica. This growth would not have been possible without a physical presence at Asia Fruit Logistica.
- Council officers and FGV have identified a number of areas for improvement and expansion to greater improve our presence and outcomes for Asia Fruit Logistica 2024.

As a result of the continued success of the trade stand at Asia Fruit Logistica, officers are proposing that a Greater Shepparton delegation reattend Asia Fruit Logistica in Hong Kong in September 2024. The Delegation would include the Mayor, Chief Executive Officer and a Council officer.

Hosting a stand at the event in 2024 would provide the following benefits:

- The Asia Fruit Logistica is the premier trade event for the international trade of fresh produce in Asia and is an ideal opportunity for Council to continue support the local exporters and for associated businesses to promote their products and services.

- As an exhibitor during 2023 and given the last day of the expo was cancelled due to extreme weather, Greater Shepparton City Council and Fruit Growers Victoria were supplied with 100 complimentary day passes to Asia Fruit Logistica 2024, valued at an estimated \$1,800. These vouchers allow local growers and associated businesses from Greater Shepparton to attend the expo free of charge.
- Assist growers to facilitate investment opportunities by having a physical presence to market themselves and to display their fruit. It will also provide opportunities to be involved in business matching sessions and market insight tours. The stand will be strategically placed with industry bodies from Australia, further attracting visitors to the stand and potential trade opportunities.

Council would again enter into a partnership agreement to co-exhibit at Asia Fruit Logistica 2024 with Fruit Growers Victoria. The partnership agreement includes shared costs for the trade stand, marketing collateral and a uniformed strategic marketing plan to maximise the opportunity. Fruit Growers Victoria also recognise the value and importance of having local growers and businesses be part of the delegation and will work with Council to promote and encourage further participation.

The proposed draft itinerary is as follows:

- 2 September – Depart Melbourne Airport | Arrive Hong Kong Airport
- 3 September - Asia Fruit Logistica | Set up
- 4 September – Asia Fruit Logistica
- 5 September – Asia Fruit Logistica
- 6 September – Asia Fruit Logistica | Depart Hong Kong for Melbourne Airport

Local fruit growers are once again supportive of this initiative and believe that having a dedicated stand will allow them to hold their meetings at a site which will give them an enhanced level of credibility amongst their competition.

The Asian market highly values government relations and growers advocate that having Council partake in discussions with potential and existing clients is of significant benefit to their negotiations and reaching agreements with buyers.

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.

Risk Management

Risks	Likelihood	Consequence	Rating	Mitigation Action
Public Criticism	3	3	Medium	Effectively communicate the purpose of the trade stand and delegation in supporting Greater Shepparton's economy and trade, as well as the outcomes achieved following the delegation.

Policy Considerations

Council's delegation and involvement in Asia Fruit Logistica aligns with the International Engagement Strategy and the International Engagement Policy.

Financial Implications

The costs associated with sending a Council delegation to Asia Fruit Logistica (AFL) 2023 were as follows (and are inclusive of GST):

Travel and Accommodation Expenses

Flights:	\$5,885.96*
Food and transport:	\$2,008.49
Accommodation:	\$4,240.37
Total cost to Council for delegation only	\$12,134.82
Total cost for AFL Trade Stand Partnership:	\$15,050.21
TOTAL Expenditure	\$27,185.03

Flight costs include Council's contribution to half the expense of the return flight for a representative from Fruit Growers Victoria.

It is estimated that to attend Asia Fruit Logistica 2024, it will cost Council \$29,903.53 including GST. These costs are estimated based on the above 2023 figures with a 10% contingency to allow for cost increases.

Legal/Statutory Implications

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

Environmental/Sustainability Impacts

There are no adverse environmental impacts associated with the international visit. The visit will create positive investment opportunities for Greater Shepparton and these opportunities will continue to be facilitated by the Economic Development department.

Social Implications

In the past at Asia Fruit Logistica, Council has developed a closer working relationship with our largest growers. Council has since been able to assist local growers with various developments including the extension of their facilities, grant assistance and lobbying efforts.

The proposed stand at the Asia Fruit Logistica 2024 will allow Council to further enhance the growth of Greater Shepparton's agricultural sector whilst also supporting local businesses and building international relationships.

Economic Impacts

Attending the Asia Fruit Logistica Expo and hosting a stand creates an opportunity to increase the awareness in relation to Greater Shepparton's interests in becoming widely known as a region that is receptive to international investment inquiries and opportunities.

The stand also provides an opportunity for growers in the region to organise and hold business meetings and trade negotiations at the stand.

Gender Impact Assessment

A review of both the International Engagement Strategy and the International Engagement policy will occur in due course and will be subjected to a Gender Impact Assessment.

Consultation

Council's Economic Development department consulted local fruit growers and horticultural industry body, Fruit Growers Victoria.

Local operators and growers who were consulted recommended that Council have a presence at Asia Fruit Logistica 2024 and felt that Council's presence will support their negotiations and business dealings.

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

Strategic Links

a) Greater Shepparton 2030 Strategy

Topic: Economic Development

- Theme: Agriculture and Rural Land – Objective 3 - To develop and promote the municipality as a regional centre for food and primary industry research and development.
- Economic Development, Tourism and Major Events Strategy 2017 to 2021
- International Engagement Strategy 2022

Conclusion

Council's presence at Asia Fruit Logistica 2023 in Hong Kong has enabled Council, Fruit Growers Victoria, local fruit growers and businesses with an opportunity to further develop our export economy, form international relationships, increase trade negotiations, and expand knowledge in international business, all whilst promoting our region on an international platform.

After consideration and consultation with local businesses and organisations within the horticultural industry, Council officers have determined that because of the success of Asia Fruit Logistica 2023, hosting a stand in 2024 and sending a delegation would be a productive exercise and further increase the potential for exports and investment attraction.

This exhibition aligns with Council's ongoing commitment relating to enhancing investment opportunities, building relationships with overseas investors and also aligns with Council's International Engagement Strategy.

Attachments

1. Letter of Support - Valley Pack [12.7.1 - 1 page]
2. Letter of Support - Seeka Australia [12.7.2 - 1 page]
3. Letter of Support - Fruit Growers Victoria [12.7.3 - 1 page]

13 Infrastructure Directorate

13.1 MAV Large Natural Gas Site Collaborative Contract Agreement

Author	Manager Engineering and Assets
Approved by	Director Infrastructure
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 Approve Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) Natural Gas Large Sites Collaborative Contract for Aquamoves at an estimated cumulative value of \$1.8 million including GST over a 3-year term.

Executive Summary

MAV lead a collaborative tender with 12 other councils for Natural Gas provision for Large Sites, which for Shepparton refers to the Aquamoves site. There were two tenders; Origin Energy and Shell Energy, with Shell Energy being the proposed provider due to significantly lower rates for a 3-year term.

Contract Details

MAV lead the tender process for the Natural Gas large sites and Shell Energy are the recommended gas provider due to lower rates and charges.

In considering the contract length, MAV analysed the current state of the Australian natural gas market and particularly the VIC natural gas market in terms of both price and supply of natural gas. The results speak to the shortest term being the most price competitive. However, Shell energy's raw commodity charges of \$16, \$16.839 and \$16.844/GJ have also provided the opportunity to secure a 36-month offer for an increase of less than 0.5% per annum. For the reasons stated in the "Market Highlights" section above, MAV suggest it is in the best interests of all participants secure their future energy supply for 36 months.

It is recognised that our Council have a strategy to reduce gas supply as part of the Zero Emissions targets, however, the planning and investigation underway for the Aquamoves site to switch to an alternative energy source is currently planned to happen in approximately 3 years. Therefore, the 3-year contract is not expected to delay plans to switch Aquamoves to an alternative green energy supply.

There is an option to terminate the contract which would result in break fees that would be calculated at the time by Shell Energy based on the remaining term of the contract.

The commencement date for the contract is 1 Jan 2024 for 3 years and expires 31 December 2026.

Tenders

Tenders were received from:

Tenderers
Shell Energy
Origin Energy

Tender Evaluation

The Collaborative Tender Process was evaluated by Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) on Councils behalf. The MAV Tender Evaluation Report is attached.

Evaluation Criteria

Tenders were evaluated on the following criteria:

Evaluation Criteria	Evaluation Metric
Annual Rates and Charges	\$ Comparison

Council Plan/Key Strategic Activity

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.

4.8 Plan, prioritise and communicate asset maintenance and new asset delivery.

Risk Management

Risks	Likelihood	Consequence	Rating	Mitigation Action
Aquamoves site to switch to alternative Green Energy provider in next 3 years	Possible	Minor	Low	Cancel contract with Shell Energy. Resulting in Cancellation Fees calculated at the time by Shell Energy.

Policy Considerations

The collaborative tender through MAV aligns with our Council Procurement Policy.

Financial Implications

	Approved Budget Estimate for this proposal – inc GST \$	Variance to Approved Budget Estimate \$	This Proposal GST Inclusive ¹ \$
Revenue	0	0	0
Expense	1,800,000	0	1,800,000
Net Total	1,800,000	0	1,800,000

1 - For Contract Award reports the GST inclusive expense shall match the amount reported in the recommendation.

Legal/Statutory Implications

There are no significant legal implications with this contract engagement.

Environmental/Sustainability Impacts

Council Zero Emissions Strategy has a focus to move away from Natural Gas. However, for the Aquamoves site this 3-year natural gas contract will be the stop gap for Council in the interim, while a plan is developed for an alternative green energy provider. The Sustainability and Aquamoves teams are leading an investigation project for the alternative green energy supply for Aquamoves in 23/24 FY.

Social Implications

The public perception that Council would be committing to a 3-year natural gas provider contract, may be viewed as not progressing towards our zero emissions goals. However, it is a necessary interim step to provide time for the alternative plan to be developed.

Economic Impacts

Over the course of the 3-year contract the estimated annual cost is around 20% cheaper than our current natural gas contract, which is a saving on our operational budget.

If Council propose to terminate the contract earlier than 31 December 2026, there is a cancellation fee to be paid as compensation to Shell Energy. The cancellation fee will consider all charge types outlined in this agreement, it will be calculated by Shell Energy and be an aggregate value related to the actual usage to the termination date and the market values.

Gender Impact Assessment

A Gender Impact Assessment was not conducted.

Consultation

Level of public participation	Promises to the public/stakeholders	Examples of techniques to use
Consult	Sharon Terry – Manager Environment Steven Wilson – Aquamoves Centre Manager Claire Barnes – Manager Finance and Rates	Contract review, meetings, emails, and phone call discussions
Empower	Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV)	Leading the Collaborative Tender

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

Strategic Links

a) Greater Shepparton 2030 Strategy

- Greater Shepparton 2030 – Process and Outcomes – exploring different energy sources. This is an interim gas provider contract, while Council develop plan for alternative green energy for Aquamoves.

Conclusion

It is recommended that Council approve MAV Natural Gas Large Sites Collaborative Contract for Aquamoves for estimate of \$1.8 million over 3-year contract term.

Attachments

1. CONFIDENTIAL ATTACHMENTS.

14 Confidential Management Reports

Nil Received.

15 Documents for Signing and Sealing

Nil Received.

16 Councillor Reports

16.1 Councillor Activities

16.1.1 Councillor Activities - November 2023

Author	Executive Assistant to the Mayor and Councillors
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 Councillors' Community Interactions and Informal Meetings of Councillors.

Councillors' Community Interaction and Briefing Program

From 1 November 2023 to 30 November 2023, some or all of the Councillors have been involved in the following activities:

- 2023 Auscycling BMX Racing Nationals Championships | Opening Ceremony
- 2023 Auscycling BMX Racing Nationals Championships | Presentations and VIP Dinner with Mayor
- La Trobe University & Kaiela Institute | Sali Shepparton Scholarships
- 2023 Auscycling BMX Racing Nationals Championships | Presentations
- Shepparton Stand for Gaza
- Audit Risk Management Committee Meeting
- Oshu City Council - Delegation visit to Greater Shepparton
- Oshu City Council Delegation – Dinner with Mayor and Councillors
- Oshu City Japan Delegation visit to Greater Shepparton Secondary College - Student Exchange program
- Shepparton Art Museum (SAM) Foundation | Annual General Meeting
- OUTintheOPEN Festival - Opening Night | Masquerade at the Museum
- Remembrance Day 2023 – Shepparton, Murchison, Tatura and Mooroopna
- Fryers Street Food Festival | Gather and Share
- National Pilgrimage - Italian Remembrance Day | Murchison
- Heritage Advisory Committee Meeting
- Greater Shepparton City Council - Visitor Centre | Volunteers - Annual Dinner
- Meeting - Air Chief Marshal Sir Angus Houston - Chair Murray Darling Basin Authority
- Triple H: Humanity Helping Homelessness Event

- Campaign 'Food Needs Water'
- Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) | Research Project for Circular Economy
- Ken Muston Automotive - Grand Opening (Showroom Refurbishment)
- Victorian Local Governance Association (VLGA) | Councillor Leadership Development Program - FastTrack - "Civility in Local Government"
- Positive Ageing Advisory Committee (PAAC) Meeting at Shepparton Men's Shed
- OUTintheOPEN Festival 2023 - Carnival Day
- NEFFY's WALK - Let's Talk | Suicide Prevention Awareness Walk
- Shepparton Art Museum (SAM) | 2023 Gala Dinner
- Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany | Memorial Service
- Segmento Tarantella Festival | Official Opening
- Shepparton Riding for the Disabled
- National Australia Bank | Lunch with NAB - Chief Executive Officer Ross McEwan
- Goulburn Valley Water | Guest Speaker - Les Mieziš, Chief Executive, EPAV - Luncheon
- Berry Street | Savers Plus - 20 Year Celebration
- Greater Shepparton Business Network | Christmas Celebration 2023
- Goulburn Valley Libraries Board Meeting
- Goulburn Murray Climate Alliance - 2023 Annual General Meeting
- Committee for Greater Shepparton | 10 Year Anniversary
- Watters Electrical Celebration | An Evening At SAM
- Calder Woodburn Memorial Avenue Advisory Committee Meeting
- Goulburn Valley Grammar School | Story Writing Competition
- Citizenship Ceremony
- SpringNats 2023 - Celebrating 30 Years | Official Opening
- Celebrating 150 Years of Furphy in Shepparton
- "Save our Water" – Rally
- Showgrounds Advisory Committee Meeting
- Talking Straight | Men's Health Group - Dale Wright
- Shepparton Saleyards Advisory Committee
- Councillors Christmas 2023 | Group Video & Group Photo
- Goulburn Murray Community Leadership | 2023 Fairley Leadership Program Graduation

Attachments

1. Informal Meetings of Council - CEO Councillor Catch Up - 14 November 2023 [16.1.1.1 - 1 page]
2. Informal Meetings of Council - Councillor Briefing - 14 November 2023 [16.1.1.2 - 3 pages]
3. Informal Meetings of Council - Councillor Briefing - 28 November 2023 [16.1.1.3 - 2 pages]

17 Notice of Motion, Amendment or Rescission

Nil Received.

18 Urgent Business not Included on the Agenda

Nil Received.

19 Close of Meeting