



**murray river
council**

AGENDA

Ordinary Council Meeting Tuesday, 23 January 2024

**I hereby give notice that an Ordinary Meeting of Murray River Council
will be held on:**

Date: Tuesday, 23 January 2024

Time: 1:00 PM

**Location: Council Chambers
Moama Administration Office
52 Perricoota Road, Moama**

**Terry Dodds
Chief Executive Officer**

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1 OPENING MEETING

2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

I acknowledge and respect the Traditional Custodians of the Lands where we stand today,
I acknowledge Elders past and present, the pioneers whose toil inspires us still;
And those who gave their lives, that we many now,
On this proud past, a vibrant future build.

3 APOLOGIES & APPLICATIONS FOR A LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Questions without notice arising from minutes of previous meeting:

4 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

4.1 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES - ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON 12 DEC 2023 OF MURRAY RIVER COUNCIL

File Number: -

Author: Lindy Leyonhjelm, Executive Assistant

Authoriser: Terry Dodds, Chief Executive Officer

RECOMMENDATION

That the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Murray River Council held on 12 December 2023 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

DISCUSSION

Murray River Council held its Ordinary Meeting of the Council on Tuesday 12 December 2023, commencing at 1:00pm at the Council Chambers (Lower Level), Moama Administration Office, 52 Perricoota Road, Moama.

A copy of the draft minutes for the meeting are attached for ratification by the Council at this meeting.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Unconfirmed Minute of Ordinary Council Meeting - Tuesday 12 December 2023  

MURRAY RIVER COUNCIL Ordinary Council Meeting Minutes**12 December 2023**

**MINUTES OF MURRAY RIVER COUNCIL
ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, MOAMA ADMINISTRATION OFFICE, 52 PERRICOOTA
ROAD, MOAMA
ON TUESDAY, 12 DECEMBER 2023 AT 1:00 PM**

PRESENT: Cr Frank Crawley (Mayor), Cr Neil Gorey (Deputy Mayor), Cr Nikki Cohen (Councillor), Cr Ann Crowe (Councillor), Cr Dennis Gleeson (Councillor), Cr Kron Nicholas (Councillor), Cr Thomas Weyrich (Councillor), Cr Geoff Wise (Councillor)

IN ATTENDANCE: Terry Dodds (Chief Executive Officer), Lindy Leyonhjelm (Executive Assistant), Rod Croft (Director Planning & Environment), Stephen Fernando (Director Corporate Services), Jack Bond (Director Infrastructure), Sarah Ryan (Director Community & Economic Development), Sandra Gordon (Manager Governance & Risk)

1 OPENING MEETING

The Mayor held a short appropriate prayer.

2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Mayor opened the meeting with an Acknowledgement of Country.

3 APOLOGIES & APPLICATIONS FOR A LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Nil

4 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**4.1 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES - ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON 28 NOV 2023 OF MURRAY RIVER COUNCIL****RESOLUTION 011223**

Moved: Cr Geoff Wise
Seconded: Cr Kron Nicholas

That the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Murray River Council held on 28 November 2023 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

CARRIED

Questions without notice arising from minutes of previous meeting/s

5 DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS

Cr Kron Nicholas declared a Significant Non-Pecuniary Conflict of Interest in 'Item 9.4.4 Murray Local Environmental Plan 2011 – Planning Proposal to change Zoning from RU1 Primary Production to R2 Low Density Residential and E1 Local Centre for Lots 1-2 in DP1283567, Lot 1 in DP1231552 and Lot 1-3 in DP854487 located at 420-508 Perricoota Road, Moama NSW 2731', in the Director of Planning and Environment Report and Supplementary Matters.

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6 DEPUTATIONS

At this stage of the meeting, being 1:02pm, Mr Hugh Melville made a deputation to the Council regarding Item 9.4.3 Development Application 16.2022.318.1 - 9 lot (torrens title) subdivision - 13 Maidensmith Drive, Moama in the Director Planning and Environment Report and Supplementary Matters.

RESOLUTION 021223

Moved: Cr Thomas Weyrich
Seconded: Cr Nikki Cohen

That Council change the order of business and bring forward item 9.4.3 Development Application 16.2022.318.1 – lot (Torrens title) subdivision – 13 Maidensmith Drive, Moama in the the Director Planning and Environment Report and Supplementary Matters.

CARRIED**7 MAYORAL MINUTE(S)**

Nil

8 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Nil

9 REPORTS TO COUNCIL**9.1 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS REPORT AND SUPPLEMENTARY MATTERS****9.1.1 2022-2026 DELIVERY PROGRAM REQUEST FOR CHANGE (YEAR 2 OF PROGRAM)****RESOLUTION 031223**

Moved: Cr Neil Gorey
Seconded: Cr Ann Crowe

That the Officer's report on 2022-2026 Delivery Program request for Change (Year 2 of program) as at 12 December 2023 be received and the information noted by the Council.

CARRIED**9.1.2 SETTING THE FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY PATH GRADIENT****RESOLUTION 041223**

Moved: Cr Thomas Weyrich
Seconded: Cr Neil Gorey

That Council:

1. Set a long-term financial sustainability target of eliminating its current Operating Deficit (before Capital Items) of approximately Twelve Million Dollars (\$12,000,000), excluding one off impacts from the sale of capital items, over a period of ten financial years.

MURRAY RIVER COUNCIL Ordinary Council Meeting Minutes**12 December 2023**

2. That the Chief Executive Officer presents a budget for the financial year 2024-25, with an Operating Deficit aligned to the 10-Year break-even gradient (circa \$10,000,000 deficit for 24/25), excluding one off impacts from the sale of capital items.

CARRIED**9.1.3 RESOLUTIONS OF THE COUNCIL - RESOLUTION TRACKER & INFOCOUNCIL ACTION REPORTS****RESOLUTION 051223**

Moved: Cr Neil Gorey
Seconded: Cr Dennis Gleeson

That the Council resolve to receive and note the status of previous resolutions of Council (in open and closed Council) contained in the Monthly Operation Report including the Resolution Tracker Reports.

CARRIED**9.1.4 MONTHLY OPERATIONAL REPORT****RESOLUTION 061223**

Moved: Cr Geoff Wise
Seconded: Cr Nikki Cohen

That the Monthly Operational Report as of November 2023 be received and the information noted by the Council.

CARRIED**9.2 DIRECTOR CORPORATE SERVICES REPORT AND SUPPLEMENTARY MATTERS****9.2.1 AUDIT, RISK & IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE (ARIC) DRAFT MINUTES FOR THE MEETING HELD ON THE 9TH NOVEMBER 2023****RESOLUTION 071223**

Moved: Cr Neil Gorey
Seconded: Cr Kron Nicholas

That the DRAFT Minutes of the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee (ARIC) held on the 9th November 2023 be noted by Council.

CARRIED**9.2.2 INVESTMENTS AND RESERVES REPORT AS AT 30 NOVEMBER 2023****RESOLUTION 081223**

Moved: Cr Kron Nicholas
Seconded: Cr Neil Gorey

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That Council resolve to receive the Investments & Reserves Report, as of 30 November 2023.

CARRIED**9.2.3 FINANCIAL REPORT - UNAUDITED FY 2023/24 PERIOD ENDING 30 NOVEMBER 2023****RESOLUTION 091223**

Moved: Cr Geoff Wise
Seconded: Cr Dennis Gleeson

That Council:

1. Receive the Financial Report, encompassing the Income Statement and Statement of Financial Performance for the period ended 30 November 2023.

CARRIED**9.3 DIRECTOR IINFRASTRUCTURE REPORT AND SUPPLEMENTARY MATTERS**

Nil

9.4 DIRECTOR PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT REPORT AND SUPPLEMENTARY MATTERS**9.4.1 BARTLETT STREET - FOOTPATH CONNECTIVITY - BUDGET VARIATION****RESOLUTION 101223**

Moved: Cr Thomas Weyrich
Seconded: Cr Nikki Cohen

That Council approves the reallocation of \$20,000.00 of unspent funds from the Horseshoe Lagoon Lightning Reinstatement project (approx. \$43,000 under budget) to cover the cost of Bartlett Street footpath investigation and design.

CARRIED**9.4.2 AMENDMENT TO FEES AND CHARGES****RESOLUTION 111223**

Moved: Cr Neil Gorey
Seconded: Cr Ann Crowe

1. That Council agree to an amendment to the Council 2022/23 fees and charges in relation to Caravan Parks, Camping Grounds & Manufactured Home Estates – Initial Application Fee for Approval to Operate (ATO)".
2. That Council, as per Section 610F of the *Local Government Act 1993*, place the amended fee on public exhibition for a period of 28 days.

CARRIED

**9.4.3 DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION 16.2022.318.1 - 9 LOT (TORRENS TITLE)
SUBDIVISION - 13 MAIDENSMITH DRIVE, MOAMA**

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council note that this is a review of determination, as the original Development Application was refused on 6 June 2023.
 2. That Council refuse Development Application 10.2022.318.1 for the subdivision of land comprising nine (9) lots, road construction and associated infrastructure on Lot 13 DP 258661, 13 Maidensmith Drive, Moama, due to the following reasons:
 - a) Pursuant to section 4.15 (1)(c) of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979, the site is not considered suitable for the proposed development given the flood prone nature of the land and increased risk to life from people trying to access the site during periods of flood events.
 - b) Pursuant to section 4.15 (1)(a)(i) of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979, the proposed development is inconsistent with Section 5.8 of State Environmental Planning Policy (Biodiversity and Conservation) in relation to flooding.
 - c) Pursuant to section 4.15 (1)(a)(i) of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979, the proposed development is inconsistent with Clause 5.21 of Murray Local Environmental Plan 2010 in relation to flood planning.
 - d) Pursuant to section 4.15 (1)(a)(iii) of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979, the proposed development is inconsistent with Chapter 11 of Murray Development Control Plan 2012 in relation to development on flood prone land.
 - e) Pursuant to section 4.15 (1)(c) of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 the site is not suitable for the development.
 - f) Pursuant to section 4.15 (1)(e) of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 the development is not in the public interest.
- Or**
3. That Council approves Development Application 10.2022.318.1 for the subdivision of land comprising nine (9) lots, road construction and associated infrastructure on Lot 13 DP 258661, 13 Maidensmith Drive, Moama.
 4. In the event that the Council approves the Development Application 10.2022.318.1, that the Council give the CEO (and his delegate) authorisation to amend and finalise the DRAFT Conditions for approval referenced in this report as appropriate.

Cr Weyrich moved Item 2 and Cr Gorey seconded item 2.

RESOLUTION 121223

Moved: Cr Thomas Weyrich

Seconded: Cr Neil Gorey

Item 2 was moved & seconded as per below:

2. That Council refuse Development Application 10.2022.318.1 for the subdivision of land comprising nine (9) lots, road construction and associated infrastructure on Lot 13 DP 258661, 13 Maidensmith Drive, Moama, due to the following reasons:
 - a) Pursuant to section 4.15 (1)(c) of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979, the site is not considered suitable for the proposed development given the flood prone nature of the land and increased risk to life from people trying to access the site during periods of flood events.
 - b) Pursuant to section 4.15 (1)(a)(i) of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979, the proposed development is inconsistent with Section 5.8 of State

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Environmental Planning Policy (Biodiversity and Conservation) in relation to flooding.	
c) Pursuant to section 4.15 (1)(a)(i) of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979, the proposed development is inconsistent with Clause 5.21 of Murray Local Environmental Plan 2010 in relation to flood planning.	
d) Pursuant to section 4.15 (1)(a)(iii) of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979, the proposed development is inconsistent with Chapter 11 of Murray Development Control Plan 2012 in relation to development on flood prone land.	
e) Pursuant to section 4.15 (1)(c) of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 the site is not suitable for the development.	
f) Pursuant to section 4.15 (1)(e) of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 the development is not in the public interest.	
<u>In Favour:</u>	Crs Frank Crawley, Ann Crowe, Dennis Gleeson and Thomas Weyrich
<u>Against:</u>	Crs Neil Gorey, Nikki Cohen, Kron Nicholas and Geoff Wise
	EQUAL
There being an equality of votes the Mayor used his casting vote in the positive.	
	CARRIED

At 1:56 pm, Cr Kron Nicholas left the meeting.

9.4.4 MURRAY LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL PLAN 2011 - PLANNING PROPOSAL TO CHANGE ZONING FROM RU1 PRIMARY PRODUCTION TO R2 LOW DENSITY RESIDENTIAL AND E1 LOCAL CENTRE FOR LOTS 1-2 IN DP1283567, LOT 1 IN DP1231552 AND LOT 1-3 IN DP854487 LOCATED AT 420-508 PERRICOOTA ROAD, MOAMA NSW 2731.

RESOLUTION 131223

Moved: Cr Geoff Wise

Seconded: Cr Dennis Gleeson

That:

1. Council endorse the Planning Proposal prepared by Habitat Planning Pty to amend the Murray Local Environmental Plan 2011 (LEP) to vary the zoning of the site on Lot 1 in DP1283567 and Lots 1-3 in DP854487 from RU1 Primary Production Zone to R2 Low Density Residential Zone. Lot 1 in DP1283567 from RU1 Primary Production Zone to E1 Local Centre Zone. Subsequently, reductions in minimum lot sizes proposed for Lots 1 in DP1283567 and Lots 1-3 in DP854487, from a minimum lot size of 100 hectares to a minimum lot size of 2,000m². Further, the minimum lot size for the E1 Local Centre Zone is proposed to be abolished.
2. The Planning Proposal be sent to NSW Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) for a 'Gateway Determination' in accordance with Section 3.34 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979.
3. Council staff complete all actions, as outlined in the Gateway Determination and send the Planning Proposal to the NSW Parliamentary Counsel's Office (PCO) requesting Parliamentary Counsel's Opinion and drafting of a new/amended Murray Local Environmental Plan (LEP).
4. Council notes if valid objections are received via the public exhibition process, a further report will come back to council for consideration.

In Favour: Crs Frank Crawley, Neil Gorey, Nikki Cohen, Ann Crowe, Dennis Gleeson, Thomas Weyrich and Geoff Wise

Against: Nil

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CARRIED 7/0

CARRIED

At 1:59 pm, Cr Kron Nicholas returned to the meeting.

9.5 DIRECTOR COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORT AND SUPPLEMENTARY MATTERS

9.5.1 BARHAM RECREATION RESERVE COMMITTEE AGM

RESOLUTION 141223

Moved: Cr Neil Gorey
Seconded: Cr Ann Crowe

That Council

1. Revoke existing members of the Barham Recreation Reserve Committee of Management and
 - (a) Pursuant to Section 355 of the Local Government Act 1993 appoint new committee members nominated at the November 2023 AGM.

CARRIED

9.5.2 SECTION 355 COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES AS AT NOVEMBER 2023

RESOLUTION 151223

Moved: Cr Neil Gorey
Seconded: Cr Geoff Wise

That Council receive and note the November 2023 Section 355 Committee Report.

CARRIED

9.5.3 COUNCILLOR ATTENDANCE AT 2024 AUSTRALIA DAY EVENTS

RESOLUTION 161223

Moved: Cr Ann Crowe
Seconded: Cr Nikki Cohen

That at least one Councillor is nominated to attend one of the six (6) Australia Day events across the Murray River Council area.

CARRIED

The following Councillors will attend the events as listed below:

Koraleigh – Cr Ann Crowe
Tooleybuc – Cr Kron Nicholas
Barham – Cr Neil Gorey
Moulamein – Cr Dennis Gleeson
Wakool – Cr Dennis Gleeson
Mathoura – Cr Tom Weyrich & Cr Nikki Cohen

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9.5.4 2023 AUSTRALIAN REGIONAL TOURISM CONVENTION REPORT**RESOLUTION 171223**

Moved: Cr Thomas Weyrich

Seconded: Cr Dennis Gleeson

That Council receive and note the 2023 Australian Regional Tourism Convention (ARTC) report.

CARRIED**9.5.5 UPDATE - REPLENISHMENT OF INDUSTRIAL LAND IN MOAMA****RESOLUTION 181223**

Moved: Cr Dennis Gleeson

Seconded: Cr Nikki Cohen

That the Officer's update on replenishment of industrial land in Moama be received and noted by Council.

CARRIED**9.5.6 SOUTHERN CROSS CARE - SOCIAL PURPOSE PROPOSAL****RESOLUTION 191223**

Moved: Cr Nikki Cohen

Seconded: Cr Neil Gorey

That Council:

1. Receive and note the Social Purpose Proposal by Southern Cross Care NSW and ACT; and
2. Delegate authority to the CEO to obtain a valuation on the land at 82 Regent Street Moama pending a further report to Council with options for disposal of the land.

CARRIED**9.5.7 GRANTS AND AWARDS - DECEMBER 2023****RESOLUTION 201223**

Moved: Cr Neil Gorey

Seconded: Cr Nikki Cohen

That Council receive and note the Grant and Awards Report for November 2023.

CARRIED**9.6 CORRESPONDENCE REPORT**

MURRAY RIVER COUNCIL Ordinary Council Meeting Minutes**12 December 2023****9.6.1 CORRESPONDENCE REPORT****RESOLUTION 211223**

Moved: Cr Dennis Gleeson

Seconded: Cr Kron Nicholas

That the Correspondence Report be received and the information noted by the Council.

CARRIED**9.7 SUNDRY DELEGATES REPORT****9.7.1 SUNDRY DELEGATES REPORT****RESOLUTION 221223**

Moved: Cr Neil Gorey

Seconded: Cr Ann Crowe

That the Sundry Delegates Report of the Mayor and Councillors for the period 1 November 2023 through to 30 November 2023 be received and the information noted by the Council; and reasonable out of pocket expenses be met by Council.

CARRIED**10 NOTICE OF MOTIONS/QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE**

Nil

11 CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS**RESOLUTION 231223**

Moved: Cr Neil Gorey

Seconded: Cr Geoff Wise

That Council moves out of Open Council into Closed Council at 2:31pm.

CARRIED

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RECOMMENDATION

That Council considers the confidential report(s) listed below in a meeting closed to the public in accordance with Section 10A(2) of the Local Government Act 1993:

11.1 Recommendation for the sale of 31 Gwynne Street, Moulamein.

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 10A(2) - d(ii) of the Local Government Act, and the Council is satisfied that discussion of this matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest as it deals with information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a competitor of the council.

11.2 Meninya Street South Car Park - Project Update

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 10A(2) - c of the Local Government Act, and the Council is satisfied that discussion of this matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest as it deals with information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business.

11.3 MRC BBQ Trailer for Donation

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 10A(2) - a of the Local Government Act, and the Council is satisfied that discussion of this matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest as it deals with personnel matters concerning particular individuals (other than councillors).

11.4 Sale of Lot 70 in DP1286642 (Formerly Lot 1, DP 793207) - Cobb Highway, Moama

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 10A(2) - c and d(i) of the Local Government Act, and the Council is satisfied that discussion of this matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest as it deals with information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business and commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it.

RESOLUTION 281223

Moved: Cr Ann Crowe
Seconded: Cr Thomas Weyrich

That Council moves out of Closed Council into Open Council at 3:29pm.

CARRIED**RESOLUTION 241223**

Moved: Cr Geoff Wise
Seconded: Cr Neil Gorey

That Council brings forward the resolutions from Closed Council into Open Council and these be read aloud.

CARRIED

11.1 RECOMMENDATION FOR THE SALE OF 31 GWYNNE STREET, MOULAMEIN.**RESOLUTION 251223**

MOVED: CR NEIL GOREY

SECONDED: CR DENNIS GLEESON

- A. THAT MURRAY RIVER COUNCIL (COUNCIL) RESOLVE TO AUTHORISE THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER (CEO) TO UNDERTAKE THE NECESSARY ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING THE ENTERING INTO AND SIGNING THE REQUIRED CONTRACTUAL ARRANGEMENTS AND IF REQUIRED, AFFIXING THE COUNCIL SEAL, TO SELL THE LAND IDENTIFIED AS LOT 11 DP 815203 AND ATTACHED RESIDENTIAL BUILDING (THE PROPERTY), THROUGH AN OPEN MARKET APPROACH OF AUCTION OR COMPETITIVE DIRECT SALE, AS SUGGESTED IN ATTACHED VALUATION REPORT.
- B. THAT THE NET PROCEEDS BE PUT IN A RESTRICTED RESERVE CALLED LAND DISPOSAL AND PURCHASE RESERVE.

CARRIED

NOTE: IT IS COUNCILS INTENT TO COMPLETE A MOULAMEIN MASTER PLANNING PROJECT WHICH WILL UNDERPIN THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF MOULAMEIN.

11.2 MENINYA STREET SOUTH CAR PARK - PROJECT UPDATE**RECOMMENDATION**

1. THAT COUNCIL NOTE THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS REPORT WHERE THE ESTIMATED CONSTRUCTION COSTS ARE SIGNIFICANTLY ABOVE THE 2023/24 BUDGET ALLOCATION (PARTLY GRANT FUNDED) FOR THE MENINYA STREET SOUTH CAR PARK PROJECT.
2. THAT COUNCIL APPROVES ONE (1) OF THE OPTIONS LISTED BELOW:
 - (I) COUNCIL PLACES THE PROJECT ON HOLD AND REALLOCATE THE REMAINING INTERNAL BUDGET OF \$380,000.00 TO THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW TOILET FACILITY IN MENINYA STREET.
 - (II) PLACE THE PROJECT ON HOLD FOLLOWING THE COMPLETION OF THE DESIGN AND CONSIDER CONSTRUCTION IN FUTURE BUDGETS WHEN FUNDING IS AVAILABLE TO COVER TOTAL CONSTRUCTION COST.
 - (III) COUNCIL OFFICERS PREPARES A SUBMISSION TO BE CONSIDERED AS PART OF THE 2024/25 FINANCIAL BUDGET PROCESS FOR THE ADDITIONAL \$250,000.00 TO COMPLETE THE TOTAL SCOPE OF WORKS AS DESIGNED.
 - (IV) COUNCIL APPROVES THE OFFICER TO DESCOPE THE PROJECT TO WHAT IS ACHIEVABLE WITHIN THE REMAINING BUDGET OF \$380,000.00.

CARRIED

CR WEYRICH MOVED ITEM 2 (II) AND CR WISE SECONDED ITEM 2 (II) FOR DEBATE AND RESOLUTION.

RESOLUTION 261223

MOVED: CR THOMAS WEYRICH

SECONDED: CR GEOFF WISE

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2. THAT COUNCIL APPROVES ONE (1) OF THE OPTIONS LISTED BELOW:
- (II) PLACE THE PROJECT ON HOLD FOLLOWING THE COMPLETION OF THE DESIGN AND CONSIDER CONSTRUCTION IN FUTURE BUDGETS WHEN FUNDING IS AVAILABLE TO COVER TOTAL CONSTRUCTION COST.
- CARRIED**

11.3 MRC BBQ TRAILER FOR DONATION

<p>RECOMMENDATION</p> <p>THAT COUNCIL:</p> <p>1. DONATE BARBEQUE TRAILER TO A COMMUNITY GROUP BY:</p> <p>(A) REVIEWING EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST RECEIVED; AND</p> <p>(I) SELECTING PREFERRED APPLICANT.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p>2. RETAIN BARBEQUE TRAILER AND;</p> <p>(A) PROVIDE THE USE TO VARIOUS COMMUNITY GROUPS.</p> <p>ITEM 1 (A) (I) WAS MOVED BY CR WEYRICH AND SECONDED BY CR COHEN FOR DISCUSSION AND RESOLUTION.</p>
<p>RESOLUTION 271223</p> <p>MOVED: CR THOMAS WEYRICH SECONDED: CR NIKKI COHEN</p> <p>THAT COUNCIL:</p> <p>1. DONATE BARBEQUE TRAILER TO A COMMUNITY GROUP BY:</p> <p>(A) REVIEWING EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST RECEIVED; AND</p> <p>(I) SELECTING PREFERRED APPLICANT.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED</p>
<p>IT WAS RESOLVED AFTER REVIEWING THE EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST SUBMITTED, IT WOULD BE AWARDED TO 'MATHOURA ON THE MAP INC', WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT THEY WOULD MAINTAIN THE TRAILER AND RENT IT OUT TO OTHER COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS THAT REQUIRE TO UTILISE THE BBQ.</p>

11.4 SALE OF LOT 70 IN DP1286642 (FORMERLY LOT 1, DP 793207) - COBB HIGHWAY, MOAMA

<p>RESOLUTION 281223</p> <p>MOVED: CR KRON NICHOLAS SECONDED: CR ANN CROWE</p> <p>THAT MURRAY RIVER COUNCIL (COUNCIL) RESOLVE TO AUTHORISE THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER (GENERAL MANAGER), SUBJECT TO OBTAINING NECESSARY LEGAL ADVICE, TO ENTER INTO AND SIGN THE CONTRACT OF SALE AND OTHER RELATED DOCUMENTS, AND TO AFFIX THE COUNCIL SEAL AS REQUIRED, TO GIVE EFFECT TO THE SALE OF LOT 70 IN DEPOSITED PLAN1286642 (THE LAND) LOCATED ON COBB HIGHWAY MOAMA:</p>

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- A) FOR A PRICE OF NO LESS THAN DOLLARS FOUR MILLION THREE HUNDRED THOUSAND (\$4,300,000),
- B) WITH OTHER CONDITIONS OF SALE BEING SUBSTANTIALLY IN LINE WITH THE TERMS CONTAINED IN THE HEADS OF AGREEMENT (HOA),
- C) TO THE PARTY IDENTIFIED IN THE SAID HOA, WHOSE IDENTITY IS BEING MAINTAINED AS CONFIDENTIAL FOR THE TIME BEING DUE TO COMMERCIAL AND COMPETITIVE REASONS AS PER S10A(2) C & D(I) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1993 (NSW).

CARRIED

12 CONCLUSION OF MEETING

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, THE MEETING CLOSED AT 3:31pm.

The next Ordinary Meeting of Murray River Council will be held on Tuesday 23 January 2024, commencing at 1:00 PM, in Council Chambers, Moama Administration Office, 52 Perricoota Road, Moama.

THESE MINUTES ARE SIGNED AS A TRUE AND ACCURATE RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE MURRAY RIVER COUNCIL HELD ON 12 DECEMBER 2023, IN ACCORDANCE WITH A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL ON 23 JANUARY 2024.

.....
MAYOR

.....
CEO

5 DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS

6 DEPUTATIONS

7 MAYORAL MINUTE(S)

Nil

8 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Nil

9 REPORTS TO COUNCIL

9.1 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS REPORT AND SUPPLEMENTARY MATTERS

9.1.1 RESOLUTIONS OF THE COUNCIL - RESOLUTION TRACKER & INFOCOUNCIL ACTION REPORTS

File Number: -

Author: Lindy Leyonhjelm, Executive Assistant

Authoriser: Terry Dodds, Chief Executive Officer

RECOMMENDATION

That the Council resolve to receive and note the status of previous resolutions of Council (in open and closed Council) contained in the Monthly Operation Report including the Resolution Tracker Reports.

BACKGROUND

All resolutions of Council in Open and Closed council, including completed actions within the previous 6 weeks, are now shown in the Monthly Operation Report under their relevant section and responsible person.

In November 2018, Council introduced a software program called InfoCouncil. Resolutions of the Council that require action/s after each Council Meeting are automatically generated in InfoCouncil to the relevant Council officer for their action and comment.

DISCUSSION

The **Resolution Tracker Open Report** and the **Resolution Tracker Closed Action Report** contain 'active' resolutions respectively from open and closed meetings of the Council held since November 2018 that require action by Council's officers. The **Resolution Tracker Completed Actions Report** shows all actions that have been completed in the previous 6 weeks.

Comments for the action are shown in the Monthly Operations Report under each division and allocated responsible person. Resolutions that are reported by Council's officers as complete will drop off the 'active' list.

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

2. Strategic Theme 2: A Place of Progressive Leadership

2.6 - Provide clear, concise and consistent information that is easily accessible to our customers - Improve externally provided information and communication.

BUDGETARY IMPLICATIONS

Nil.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Nil.

LEGISLATIVE IMPLICATIONS

Nil.

RISK ANALYSIS

- **What can happen?**
Council's officers do not action the resolutions of the Council.
- **How can it happen?**
Resolutions from Council Meetings not being recorded in a systematic fashion.
- **What are the consequences of the event happening?**
Actions, because of the resolutions of the Council, not being completed in a timely manner or at all.
- **What is the likelihood of the event happening?**
Low.
- **Adequacy of existing controls?**
Use of the report and minute system, InfoCouncil, which automatically forwards actions (as a result of the resolutions of the Council) from Council Meetings to the relevant Council officer (report writer) after the completion of the minutes of a Council Meeting. A report can then be generated on the status of incomplete/outstanding actions.
- **Treatment options to mitigate the risk?**
Due diligence undertaken by Council's officers (administration and report writers).

CONCLUSION

The Resolution Tracker and Action Reports are presented to Councillors for information in the Monthly Operation Report.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

9.1.2 SUBMISSIONS TO LGNSW ANNUAL CONFERENCE & ALGA NATIONAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

File Number: -
Author: Lindy Leyonhjelm, Executive Assistant
Authoriser: Terry Dodds, Chief Executive Officer

RECOMMENDATION

That Council consider motions for submission to the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) conference being held in Canberra from 2 – 4 July 2024.

DISCUSSION

ALGA is holding their National General Assembly (NGA) in Canberra on 2 – 4 July 2024 at the National Convention Centre.

The theme for the 2024 NGA is to be “**Building Community Trust**”. ALGA are seeking motions that align with this theme and identify opportunities for new federal programs and policies that will support councils to build trust, both in our communities and as a local delivery partner for the Australian Government.

Submission for motions to be included in the papers for discussion at the LGNSW Annual Conference close on 29 March 2024. **The National motions will be used for both the LGNSW AGM and the ALGA NGA.**

A report will be included in the February papers requesting finalisation of motions to be submitted, along with the request for Councillors to attend for registration purposes. Murray River Council did not submit motions to the 2023 NGA and there was not representation from Murray River Council present. However there were 7 (seven) submissions made to the 2022 NGA with some success.

It is requested that Councillors provide topics that are in alignment with the theme “Building Community Trust” for further background detail to be added to any submission of motions. A report will be brought back to Council for approval once each submission has been drafted for final comment.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

9.1.3 MONTHLY OPERATIONAL REPORT**File Number:** -**Author:** Courtney Dean, Coordinator Communications**Authoriser:** Terry Dodds, Chief Executive Officer**RECOMMENDATION**

That the Monthly Operational Report as of November 2023 be received and the information noted by the Council.

Below are summary points from several Business Unit reports. Please refer to the Monthly Operational Report for full details.

People, WHS and Wellbeing

- **Staff turnover in Critical Roles:** There is a notable risk associated with the turnover of staff in critical positions, necessitating the development of a succession plan and workforce plan.
- **Difficulty in attracting and retaining skilled staff:** The challenge of retaining skilled staff is across many organisations within the Murray River / Campaspe region. Addressing this requires cultivating an 'Employer of Choice' environment and implementing the VOICE Project to improve staff culture.
- **High-Risk Construction and WHS Audits:** The program identifies risks in construction, planning, chemical management, and worker risks, emphasising the need for procedures and risk controls in these areas. A lot of good work has already commenced in this space- and this will continue to be a key focus for 2024.
- **Leadership and Values Enhancement:** The integration of MRC values and behaviours into the staff performance appraisal process, completed in June 2023, focuses on task performance and values.
- **Attracting Quality Staff and Leadership Development:** Efforts include the investigation of RDA Riverina's 'Country Change' program and active recruitment for specific roles. The development of future leaders is highlighted by partnerships for apprenticeships and traineeships, and the initiation of an Emerging Leaders Program.
- **Risk Management Initiatives:** Effective risk management strategies have been implemented, focusing on staff turnover, skilled workforce challenges, and WHS audits, with specific actions outlined for each risk.
- **Recognition and Improvement Initiatives:** Notable achievements include CEO Awards recognising staff excellence in various areas, demonstrating a commitment to recognising and nurturing talent within the organisation.
- **CEO Awards 2023: Extracts**

Best Under Pressure – Glenn Patterson. Glen works in an environment where if something can go wrong, it will. You need a cool head and a thick skin to look after water and sewer infrastructure, particularly when water is squirting up into the air, sewerage is bubbling up from a manhole, or when turbidity is high in the raw water.

Council has thousands of armchair critics to satisfy too, as everyone that uses water is an expert in taste, odour, and colour.

Glenn has an easy to get along with manner, and is always upbeat, which endears him to his crew and those who he comes into contact with.

And speaking of his crew, they're a close-knit bunch who are always taking the Mickey out of each other and making their workday more enjoyable. They're a great team with wonderful senses of humour.



Most Consistent Performance – Harvey McKinnon. This was a very tough one to pick, as MRC has a great many consistent performers.

Harvey delivers in spades. He concentrates so hard that I wonder if the fire alarm in the office went off whether he'd notice people running for their lives past his desk or hear the alarm.

He is a walking encyclopaedia on anything related to his profession, which means he must have a fantastic memory. When I've asked him some very tricky technical questions, without taking a pause, or a breath, he answers straight away. He's very well respected by our external customers too.



But in picking the Most Consistent Performance winner it was hard to look past **Mick O'Toole and Glen Bulmer.** They're also two people that when you think about consistency and reliability their faces pop into view. For that reason, we're giving out a Highly Commended to both Mick and Glen in the Most Constant Performance category.



Safety Champion – Geoff Guest. I hope I don't put the mockers on Geoff by awarding him the safety trophy. Geoff is a plant operator, which requires having a sense about what is going on around you constantly. Although Geoff hasn't been with us for too long, he has already shown us he possesses what we require and is a great attribute to MRC. It was tough to choose who was our most deserving safety champion.



Change Management – Georgia Lowe. Georgia has led the software training program over the last twelve months. Being able to train people as bereft of any IT knowledge and skills as I am means she must have absolutely mastered change management. For that reason, she has been awarded the Change Management Trophy this year.

She was also considered for the Quiet Achiever Award, as she is as quiet as a church mouse, yet achieves so much. She has some wonderful personal attributes too. Her smile is contagious, and she gets on with everyone. Lastly, she learns exceedingly fast, soaking up information like a sponge. Not only does Georgia learn fast at work, but she also completes courses very quickly outside of work too. Georgia has a great future in whatever her endeavours are. I hope we can keep up the challenges so she stays.

Quiet Achiever – Dave Dundee. Dave’s like the Phantom because just like ‘The Ghost Who Walks’ he’s always turning up out of nowhere to save the day. Then, as quietly as he appears, he melts into the background again, not to be seen until the next emergency. We didn’t expect Dave to swear an oath on the skull of his father’s murderer to fight evil or live in the ancient skull cave like his forebearers did before him, and he doesn’t wear the skull ring. He just completes miracles at MRC with little budget.



This was a hotly contested trophy though. We thought Trevor Wright, Barbara Stritch, and Melissa Best were so worthy too, that they each receive a Highly Commended as Quiet Achievers.

Resourcefulness and Adaptability – Jyle Balsillie. The floods gave us a huge challenge and many headaches. They also threw a bit of a spanner into the works and stopped a lot of soil testing happening – and just about everything else for that matter. Jyle was asked to help with the administration of the inspections and just about everything to do with the flood damage claim. Jyle’s resourcefulness, and especially his adaptability, shone brightly. He’s now learning what it’s like to deal with the state government. Jyle is a very handy person to have around.



This category was difficult to judge too. It was so tricky that we awarded **Beck Haywood with a Highly Commended**, as Beck proved how resourceful and adaptable she is also. Anyone that deals with the community directly knows how important it is to be able to quickly assess situations and dilute conflict and drama. Beck’s resourcefulness and adaptability makes her so good in her role.

Most Respected – Joint Winners: Luke Keogh and Courtney Dean. This is the only category with joint winners, as we simply couldn’t distinguish between Luke and Courts. The point of difference, over the many other worthy contenders for the Most Respected Award, was their effort during the floods. They were well very respected members of staff before the floods, but there was absolutely no doubt that their respect amongst their



peers, the wider community, and councillors went up many notches during that time.



There is someone else though, who has earned respect from myself and Rod Schubert in particular. Someone that wouldn't be expecting that he gets noticed, especially by the CEO. But he was. This person was also considered for the Quiet Achiever Award. He always has something nice to say about council, his work mates, and is constantly smiling. When you get to know him, you'll find out he has a sense of humour too and is a deeply personable fellow. The person I'm talking about is **Peter Atkinson**.

Section Leadership – Jess McFarlane. Jess has taken her section to a new level, in what can only be described as the most tumultuous period the planning and building industry has ever seen. Especially here at MRC. She never seems to get flustered, has shown her leadership prowess to all, and is a well-liked manager inside council, by the councillors, and most importantly with our customers. Jess has a serious side, which she hides so well because she is always smiling. She is very deserving of this award and in was a unanimous decision.



Strategic Thinker – Phil Smith. Phil hasn't been in his current role for that long. When Phil started describing the relationships between development, the provision of infrastructure, both with the exact technical details and the timing required, I was blown away by his memory, understanding, and overall engineering knowledge. It is a privilege to have someone so strategic looking after our future water and sewer requirements.

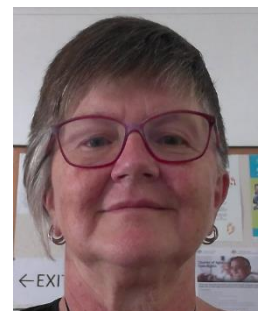


If Phil was a Melbourne Cup Jockey, his horse would have been in the middle of the pack at the last turn, starting at 100 to 1 odds, he'd have come onto the main straight and overtaken the field to win by a full length.

But there's two others who are also strategic thinkers. Karen Buckley and Trevor Willis both receive a Highly Commended in this category. Karen has the difficult task of getting the 355 Committees in some sort of order. It's like herding cats, and most 355 Committees have 1000 ways to ask council to pay for something that is not budgeted. Karen has patience that we should all be envious of.



Trevor is the calmest project engineer I've ever met. He's meticulous, understands contracts, isn't abrasive, and is very strategic how he executes his work. Trevor is a living and breathing personification of, "Still waters run deep."



Master of Complexity – Nikki Chalmers. Nikki has mastered the black art of making sense of reams of financial data. In addition to the mastering of financial metrics, she was given the responsibility of the budget development process.



Again, this is very complex, even for people in finance. To work in finance requires you to be fluent in Swahili, as accountants quite obviously speak in a different language to the rest of us. Not only has she mastered speaking Swahili, but she can also decipher the cryptic hieroglyphics finance people read - with more finesse than an Egyptian anthropologist. Joan Clarke was the only woman on the team that broke the German Enigma Code during WWII. I have it on good authority that Joan is on Nikki's ancestral tree. Or this may in fact be untrue.

Most Improved – Warren Lolicato. A tough one to pick as well, as there are so many people learning, so fast, and getting so good at their jobs. Warren has certainly shown us that he's improved to the point where he's been recognised by winning this award. He is also the driving force behind MaRCo. He never looks flustered and knows his way around our systems.



Someone else came very close and has been awarded a **Highly Commended** for the category. That person is **Ben Mason**. Ben has gone from strength to strength.



Multitasker – Ricki-Lee Ring. Ricki-Lee does so many different things for MRC, as well her community



outside of council, that she was a natural to be awarded the trophy. Everyone who knows all the different things Ricki-Lee does would agree that her award fits so well.

Ricki-Lee would need a fold-out business card, as all the occupations she does wouldn't fit under her name otherwise.



But there was another person who is a multitasker that was worth a mention and has been awarded a

Highly Commended, and that is Dale Campbell. Dale is the Inspector Gadget of mobile plant operation, and whatever task he is given he just goes and does it with ease.

That leaves the most prestigious award of 2023. Last year, you may remember it was awarded to Jacko. This year, it was even harder to decide as so many people have excelled. But in the end, after much deliberation, it was unanimous.

The Best Performer Overall Award for 2023 goes to Matt Sherman. Matt never fails to impress, has a terrific manner and approach about how he goes about his business, and he screams 'professional' whenever he speaks.

He's one of those staff members, that as a supervisor, you simply ask Matt to do something without the need to check up on how it is going because you have total confidence in his ability. He thinks ahead, is always open to new ideas – if he hasn't already thought of them anyway – and inspires those around him. His energy levels are like the Eveready Bunny too, he just keeps going and going.

When Matt looks back in years to come at 2023, he'll remember he became a father and was awarded the Best Performer Overall from a highly competitive field. Matt has a big future at MRC, I just hope we can all keep up with him!



Corporate Services

- The Financial Sustainability of the Council remains the most significant risk for Council. Restoring current deficit to a break-even position purely through cost saving measures will require significant service level adjustments that may not be palatable to the community.
- Cyber Security needs to be improved. A contract to undertake a comprehensive review will be issued shortly.
- Manager Procurement and Property resigned. Recruitment completed for a resigned position of a Chief Legal Counsel.
- Heads of Agreement (HoA) for the Sale of Cobb Highway land has been completed. Detailed agreement based on HoA being negotiated.
- Sale of Mathoura Line Road Land did not materialize with the selected buyer failing to come up with the deposit. Sales agent pursuing other potential options.
- Restructure of Finance and IT departments will require additional recruitment. A period of relative instability will ensue, until permanent recruitment can be put in place.
- Council continues its automation journey through the implementation of the TechOne System.
- Financial Statements delivered by Council within OLG timelines.
- Review of Depreciation practices on Transport Assets has indicated a possibility to reduce the depreciation cost. Will not come into full effect until financial statements for 23/24 are prepared.

Business Intelligence

- Records captured into Content Manager (CM9) (Councils Electronic Document Management System) Year 2023: 60,288 documents.
- SharePoint and Teams Cloud Governance tool is now in use, to prevent information sprawl which in turn reduces costs on storage, minimises risk of a data breach and ensures staff can find the information they need to do their job.
- TechnologyOne – MRCs first Water Billing is due to be issued from TechnologyOne but continues to have issues, which is now causing some concerns. Several cases raised with TechOne support and looking to issue notices in mid-January.
- Staff across MRC are working on the data migration of Development Applications, Food Businesses, Permits and Approvals and various other aspects. Rates staff working through some additional clean up in the property section to ensure we can manage the requirements for the Compliance module- particularly certificate management.

Finance

- **2024/25 Financial Statements** – Preparation to now commence on the 2023/24 year financial statements with the aim of having a shell set of statements by end of April 2024.
- **Quarterly budget review process** – 2nd quarter budget review is currently underway, and Managers will be issued with their budget packs shortly. The 2nd quarter budget review update is due to the Council February 2024 meeting.
- **2024/25 budget process** – Budget preparation for 2024/25 financial year has commenced, with the first series of workshops with Councillors to commence in January 2024.
- **Overdue Amounts as of 09 January 2024**
Rates Outstanding – \$3,432,088, or 13.54% (Previous month \$2,677,042 or 10.91%). This result is above the Office of Local Government ratio requirement of 10% for rural councils. Note that 2nd instalment of rates was payable by 30 November 2023.
Water Outstanding - \$269,883, or 10.98% (Previous month \$276,320 or 11.22%).

Customer Service

- **Customer Experience Strategy:** Final Customer and Stakeholder engagement took place in December. All information shared will be collated and will assist in the development of the strategy. The draft strategy will be completed and sent to Council for review at the end of the month.
- Service Requests: 355. Finalised: 311

Information Technology

- Team have moved into new ICT Office, still relocating everything from old office.
- New computers for roadshow setup and due to be demonstrated to staff that are due to changeover. Now waiting on SWIT to complete device review to offer a multitude of options in Computers and

Mobile phones - need to assess the risks here in relation to keeping spare computers and phones when we have multiple models.

- BAU Workload is still extremely high, but team have had a good break over Christmas / New Year.

Strategic Assets

- The TechOne build of asset details and asset books continues to progress in conjunction with BAU. Developer contributed infrastructure and Swimming Pool assets are now both fully completed with 2022/2023 valuations now fully loaded.

Community Services

There is always laughter, good food, amusing stories and entertaining activities at Moulamein's Cuppa and Chat. Clients from Tooleybuc travel across once a month to join in the fun.

- On December 11th a group of Moama/Mathoura clients travelled to Coonamoo to visit the Big Strawberry. Another excursion was held on 18th Dec to Cobram to explore the town and enjoy a lovely lunch outing.
- A Christmas Luncheon was arranged for all Moama/Mathoura clients and volunteers at the Mathoura Bowling Club on December 19th.
- Community Services staff celebrated the end of another wonderful year working together as a team. Many of our Community Services team rarely have the opportunity to overlap with one another due to location, staff rosters, etc so it is great to meet up and enjoy face-to-face connectedness, to celebrate another happy and successful year of supporting the older members of our communities. What a wonderful group of dedicated and committed ladies we have in our Community Services team. A big THANKYOU to all of them.

Economic Development and Tourism

- We are currently reviewing Council's Events Policy and procedures, looking to implement many improvements, including the information provided to event organisers, streamlining application forms and internal process for approval.
- We are developing a new signage style guide, covering all types of tourism signage, to ensure efficiency and uniformity across Council.
- Further consultation and strategy development has continued in December on the Arts and Culture Strategy, with the draft Strategy on a page actively seeking community and Councillor feedback.
- The River Country Silo Art Trail project is underway with site visits and a steering committee meeting.
- Planning is underway for the 2024 Moama Lights and the 2024 Campaspe Murray Business Awards.
- The paid social media campaign promoting visitation to River Country in summer is well underway with good effect to date.

Parks, Gardens, Open Space and Biosecurity

- Ongoing control of Silverleaf nightshade infestations. Staff proactively inspecting and controlling.
- Commencement of new Moama Preschool landscaping.
- Moulamein Lake upgrades commenced and 75% percent complete prior to Christmas for community to enjoy.
- Increased poor social behaviours and vandalism at Moama Wharf.
- Increased expectations from community for servicing/service levels across the council.

Waste and Compliance

- The Moama landfill received its record year of incoming waste tonnage (2023) with 27,500 tonnes of waste received and over 4000 tonnes of NSW flood waste.
- The Automated Depot project has seen some progress with the sub-base for the shed slab completed and ready for boxing and concrete.
- Moulamein Landfill received a cleanup and roadways were improved to provide better all-weather access.
- Many templates, forms and checklists have been developed for the TechOne team to ensure the system is set up in a way that aids conducting inspections, enforcement and reporting correctly and efficiently.
- Work has continued on the draft policy and guidelines for Mobile and Temporary food businesses.

- There was a big emphasis on continual mosquito surveillance as it is predicted to be another dangerous season. Trapping is vital to be able to identify what viruses may pose a risk to the community and to alert them so that measures can be taken.
- Numerous requests from community groups and food businesses have been received for more food handler training sessions. An additional two sessions have been scheduled for 2024 – one in Barham and one in Moulamein.

Infrastructure Directorate

- Further advocacy has been made to continue the push for additional Federal and State support for the Swan Hill Bridge upgrade.
- Water Licences are being cleaned up to be more efficient across the Council and better utilised. This will lead into upcoming work with DPI Water for drought preparedness funding for Moama and Barham.
- The transport team are well into many construction projects. In the background it is great to see the work that is happening in already preparing for future year projects and budgets.
- Water and Sewer are coming into their busiest period as we see the weather warm up and in influx of tourism into our Caravan Parks.
- The projects team have recently lost our Project Manager. Once the role is replaced it will help to realign the team back into the business operations.

Buildings and Facilities

- **Moama Preschool Development:** Construction works have been completed except for electrical switchboard fit off, minor landscaping works, temporary driveway installation, defects rectification, detailed clean and electrical grid connection (connection scheduled for 12/02/2024).
- **Yanga RFS Shed:** Tender has been awarded to Tony Campbell Steel Fabrication. Works to commence in February 2024.

Works

- Moulamein Road flood restoration works completed.
- Cobb Highway capex heavy patching completed 3 days ahead of schedule, great work for all involved.
- Perricoota Road resheeting and Speewa Road reconstruction progressing well.
- Funding source finalised for Kyalite Road widening. Planning to commence this FY with construction following in 24/25FY.
- Upcoming works include urban street reseals, Chester Street and Wakool Steet intersection, Deniliquin-Barham Road, Barmah Road, Vallance Court, Cobb Highway opex heavy patching for TfNSW, Thyra Road railway removal and various kerb, gutter and footpath maintenance and renewals.
- A big thank you to everyone for their efforts during 2023, particularly in response to the flood recovery works.

Water

- Thanks to all who attended the Moama water treatment plant tours and Glen and the team for taking the time to demonstrate how the water is treated and delivered to the town.
- Well done to Steve Noonan who was the acting Assistant Supervisor for December.
- **Project update: Barham Booster pump for filtered town water:** Essential valves and fittings installed to network for connection of pump. Contractor engaged for construction of building required onsite. Slab and foundations complete. Pumps have arrived and the fittings are being fabricated. Awaiting power meter installation for commissioning. The project will result in a significant increase in water pressure for Barham residents.

Strategic Property

- Real Estate agents have been engaged for the Moulamein Aerodrome site and the ex-CEO house in Moulamein.
- Closing date for Expression of Interest for Moulamein Aerodrome site is mid-January and expressions will be assessed and decision made by February.
- Remaining valuations for 13 operational land/building parcels have been received and each parcel will be assessed for disposal or retention and priority of action.

Development Services

- We are excited to welcome our new Cadet Town Planners, Josh McKay and Ash Pidgeon at the end of January 2024. Josh and Ash have been selected from a strong field of candidates and will be primarily located in Moama within Council's Planning Team.
- Council's Development Services staff enjoyed a well-earned break over the Christmas and New Years period and look forward to 2024.

ATTACHMENTS

1. **Monthly Operational Report - December 2023 (under separate cover)** 

9.2 DIRECTOR CORPORATE SERVICES REPORT AND SUPPLEMENTARY MATTERS

9.2.1 2022-2023 CODE OF CONDUCT STATISTICS REPORT

File Number: -

Author: Sandra Gordon, Manager Governance & Risk

Authoriser: Stephen Fernando, Director Corporate Services

RECOMMENDATION

That the 2022-2023 Code of Conduct Statistics Report be received and the information noted by Council.

DISCUSSION

This report provides Council with the statutory annual report on the Code of Conduct complaints received by Council for the period 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023.

Council received four (4) Code of Conduct complaints during the period, however only one (1) was in relation to the CEO or a Councillor (as required by the return – attached/following)

Under the Code of Conduct Procedures, the Complaints Coordinator must, within three months of the end of September each year, report on a range of complaints statistics to the Office of Local Government.

Council is now reporting these statistics to Council.

This information provides an important accountability mechanism to local communities and provides the Office of Local Government the means to evaluate Council's implementation of the Model Code framework and whether the framework is achieving its policy objectives.

The Office of Local Government publishes this data.

Part 11 of Murray River Council's Code of Conduct Procedure reads:

PART 11 REPORTING STATISTICS ON CODE OF CONDUCT COMPLAINTS ABOUT COUNCILLORS AND THE CEO

11.1 The Complaints Coordinator must arrange for the following statistics to be reported to Council within 3 months of the end of September of each year:

- a) the total number of Code of Conduct complaints made about Councillors and the CEO under the Code of Conduct in the year to September (the reporting period)
- b) the number of Code of Conduct complaints referred to a Conduct Reviewer during the reporting period
- c) the number of Code of Conduct complaints finalised by a Conduct Reviewer at the preliminary assessment stage during the reporting period and the outcome of those complaints
- d) the number of Code of Conduct complaints investigated by a Conduct Reviewer during the reporting period
- e) without identifying particular matters, the outcome of investigations completed under these procedures during the reporting period
- f) the number of matters reviewed by the Office during the reporting period and, without identifying particular matters, the outcome of the reviews, and
- g) the total cost of dealing with Code of Conduct complaints made about Councillors and the CEO during the reporting period, including staff costs.

11.2 Council is to provide the office with a report containing the statistics referred to in clause 11.1 within 3 months of the end of September of each year.

Information about Code of Conduct complaints and the management/investigation of these complaints is treated as strictly confidential and is not to be publicly disclosed except as may be otherwise specified or permitted under the adopted Code of Conduct Procedures.

ATTACHMENTS

1. **2022-2023 Code of Conduct Statistics Report** [↓](#) 

Model Code of Conduct Complaints Statistics 2022-23 Murray River Council		
Number of Complaints		
1	The total number of complaints received in the reporting period about councillors and the General Manager (GM) under the code of conduct from the following sources:	
i	Community	0
ii	Other Councillors	1
iii	General Manager	0
iv	Other Council Staff	0
2	The total number of complaints finalised about councillors and the GM under the code of conduct in the following periods:	
i	3 Months	1
ii	6 Months	0
iii	9 Months	0
iv	12 Months	0
v	Over 12 months	0
Overview of Complaints and Cost		
3	a The number of complaints finalised at the outset by alternative means by the GM or Mayor	1
	b The number of complaints referred to the Office of Local Government (OLG) under a special complaints management arrangement	0
	c The number of code of conduct complaints referred to a conduct reviewer	0
	d The number of code of conduct complaints finalised at preliminary assessment by conduct reviewer	0
	e The number of code of conduct complaints referred back to GM or Mayor for resolution after preliminary assessment by conduct reviewer	0
	f The number of finalised code of conduct complaints investigated by a conduct reviewer	0
	g Cost of dealing with code of conduct complaints via preliminary assesment	0
	h Progressed to full investigation by a conduct reviewer	0
	i The number of finalised complaints investigated where there was found to be no breach	0
	j The number of finalised complaints investigated where there was found to be a breach	0
	k The number of complaints referred by the GM or Mayor to another agency or body such as the ICAC, the NSW Ombudsman, OLG or the Police	
	i ICAC	0
	ii NSW Ombudsman	0
	iii OLG	0
	iv Police	0
	v Other Agency (please specify)	0
	<input style="width: 500px; height: 20px;" type="text"/>	
	l The number of complaints being investigated that are not yet finalised	0
	m The total cost of dealing with code of conduct complaints within the period made about councillors and the GM including staff costs	0

Preliminary Assessment Statistics		
4	The number of complaints determined by the conduct reviewer at the preliminary assessment stage by each of the following actions:	
a	To take no action (clause 6.13(a) of the 2020 Procedures)	<input type="text" value="0"/>
b	To resolve the complaint by alternative and appropriate strategies (clause 6.13(b) of the 2020 Procedures)	<input type="text" value="0"/>
c	To refer the matter back to the GM or the Mayor, for resolution by alternative and appropriate strategies (clause 6.13(c) of the 2020 Procedures)	<input type="text" value="0"/>
d	To refer the matter to another agency or body such as the ICAC, the NSW Ombudsman, OLG or the Police (clause 6.13(d) of the 2020 Procedures)	<input type="text" value="0"/>
e	To investigate the matter (clause 6.13(e) of the 2020 Procedures)	<input type="text" value="0"/>
f	Other action (please specify)	<input type="text" value="0"/>
	<input type="text"/>	
Investigation Statistics		
5	The number of investigated complaints resulting in a determination that there was no breach , in which the following recommendations were made:	
a	That the council revise its policies or procedures	<input type="text" value="0"/>
b	That a person or persons undertake training or other education (clause 7.40 of the 2020 Procedures)	<input type="text" value="0"/>
6	The number of investigated complaints resulting in a determination that there was a breach in which the following recommendations were made:	
a	That the council revise any of its policies or procedures (clause 7.39 of the 2020 Procedures)	<input type="text" value="0"/>
b	In the case of a breach by the GM, that action be taken under the GM's contract for the breach (clause 7.37(a) of the 2020 Procedures)	<input type="text" value="0"/>
c	In the case of a breach by a councillor, that the councillor be formally censured for the breach under section 440G of the Local Government Act 1993 (clause 7.37(b) of the 2020 Procedures)	<input type="text" value="0"/>
d	In the case of a breach by a councillor, that the councillor be formally censured for the breach under section 440G of the Local Government Act 1993 and that the matter be referred to OLG for further action (clause 7.37(c) of the 2020 Procedures)	<input type="text" value="0"/>
7	Matter referred or resolved after commencement of an investigation (clause 7.20 of the 2020 Procedures)	<input type="text" value="0"/>

Categories of misconduct		
8	The number of investigated complaints resulting in a determination that there was a breach with respect to each of the following categories of conduct:	
a	General conduct (Part 3)	<input type="text" value="0"/>
b	Non-pecuniary conflict of interest (Part 5)	<input type="text" value="0"/>
c	Personal benefit (Part 6)	<input type="text" value="0"/>
d	Relationship between council officials (Part 7)	<input type="text" value="0"/>
e	Access to information and resources (Part 8)	<input type="text" value="0"/>
Outcome of determinations		
9	The number of investigated complaints resulting in a determination that there was a breach in which the council:	
a	Adopted the independent conduct reviewers recommendation	<input type="text" value="0"/>
b	Failed to adopt the independent conduct reviewers recommendation	<input type="text" value="0"/>
10	The number of investigated complaints resulting in a determination where:	
a	The external conduct reviewers decision was overturned by OLG	<input type="text" value="0"/>
b	Council's response to the external conduct reviewers recommendation was overturned by OLG	<input type="text" value="0"/>
11	Date Code of Conduct data was presented to council	<input type="text" value="23-Jan-24"/>

9.2.2 PAYMENT OF THE MAYORAL ALLOWANCE WHEN ASSUMING THE POSITION OF ACTING MAYOR

File Number: -

Author: Sandra Gordon, Manager Governance & Risk

Authoriser: Stephen Fernando, Director Corporate Services

RECOMMENDATION

That:

1. The Mayoral Allowance is paid to the Councillor that is acting in the role of Mayor during any period of leave of absence granted to the Mayor by Council.
2. The Mayoral Allowance will be paid on a pro-rata basis calculated on the number of days of leave approved by Council.
3. During the period of approved leave, the Mayor will not be paid the Mayoral Allowance.

DISCUSSION

At the June 2023 ordinary meeting of Council, Resolution 9.2.1 Setting of the 2023-2024 Annual Fees for Councillors and the Mayor was adopted.

This resolution set the fees payable by Council to the Councillors and the additional payment to the Mayor, referred to as the Mayoral Allowance

This recommendation is to clarify the payment of the Mayoral Allowance in the event that the Mayor has been granted a leave of absence or for unforeseen circumstances where the Mayor cannot attend to his Mayoral duties between Council meetings in excess of a week in duration.

Such unexpected leave should be ratified by Council retrospectively.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

9.2.3 INVESTMENTS AND RESERVES REPORT AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023

File Number: -

Author: Kris Kershaw, Manager Finance

Authoriser: Stephen Fernando, Director Corporate Services

RECOMMENDATION

That Council resolve to receive the Investments & Reserves Report, as of 31 December 2023.

BACKGROUND

Monthly report on cash and investments balances as of 31 December 2023, incorporating allocation by Fund and by Reserve classification.

As per the *Local Government Act 1993 (s625(1)) (the Act)*, Council may invest money that is not, for the time being, required by the council for any other purpose.

DISCUSSION

Shown below are the Liquid Asset Balances and Investments for the period ending 31 December 2023.

DETAILS	OCTOBER 2023	NOVEMBER 2023	DECEMBER 2023
Cash Book Balance B/Fwd	\$ 1,795,888	\$ 2,520,346	\$ 11,379,425
Add income for month	\$ 7,617,294	\$ 14,855,706	\$ 9,442,570
Deduct expenditure for month	\$ 7,392,836	\$ 7,746,627	\$ 10,061,856
CASH AVAILABLE	\$ 2,020,346	\$ 9,629,425	\$ 10,760,138
Redeem/(Purchase) Investments	\$ 500,000	\$ 1,750,000	-\$ 4,000,000
CASH BOOK BALANCE	\$ 2,520,346	\$ 11,379,425	\$ 6,760,138
Add on-call account	\$ 2,278,415	\$ 3,786,973	\$ 3,803,219
Add investments - Deposits	\$ 45,012,449	\$ 43,262,449	\$ 47,262,449
Add investments - Shares	\$ 2,010	\$ 2,010	\$ 2,010
CASH POSITION	\$ 49,813,220	\$ 58,430,857	\$ 57,827,817
As per Bank Statements	\$ 3,874,097	\$ 10,516,903	\$ 4,223,771

Reserves by Fund

Fund	General	Water	Sewer	Waste	Total
October 2023	\$ 22,322,411	\$ 8,311,865	\$ 15,297,960	\$ 3,880,984	\$ 49,813,220
November 2023	\$ 31,052,052	\$ 7,967,695	\$ 15,385,857	\$ 4,025,253	\$ 58,430,857
December 2023	\$ 31,526,975	\$ 7,542,006	\$ 15,208,781	\$ 3,550,055	\$ 57,827,817

Status of Reserves

Funds	General	Water	Sewer	Waste	Total
Unrestricted	\$ 5,448,940	\$ 1,958,952	\$ 4,722,517	\$ 286,238	\$ 12,416,647
Internally Restricted	\$ 7,838,911	\$ 2,650,208	\$ 7,176,625	\$ 900,000	\$ 18,565,744
Externally Restricted	\$ 18,239,124	\$ 2,932,846	\$ 3,309,639	\$ 2,363,817	\$ 26,845,426
Total	\$ 31,526,975	\$ 7,542,006	\$ 15,208,781	\$ 3,550,055	\$ 57,827,817

Details of Restricted Reserves

The following schedule provides details of the **Internally Restricted Reserves** categorised by Fund.

Internal Reserves	General Fund	Water Fund	Sewer Fund	Waste Fund	Total
Buildings	\$ 387,698	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 387,698
Bushfire Services	\$ 45,278	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 45,278
Caravan Parks	\$ 263,373	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 263,373
Community Services	\$ 499,878	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 499,878
Council Contribution - Co Funding	\$ 207,527	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 207,527
Economic Development	\$ 42,780	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 42,780
Employee Leave Entitlements	\$ 1,109,562	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,109,562
Heritage Buildings	\$ 18,495	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 18,495
Infrastructure Works	\$ 1,247,972	\$ 2,650,208	\$ 7,176,625	\$ -	\$ 11,074,805
Land Management	\$ 134,638	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 134,638
Levee Bank	\$ 339,764	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 339,764
Office Equipment/ IT	\$ 185,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 185,000
Parks & Recreation	\$ 115,768	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 115,768
Plant Fund	\$ 2,130,466	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,130,466
Public Halls	\$ 35,018	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 35,018
Quarries	\$ 289,500	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 289,500
Risk Management	\$ 12,500	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 12,500
S355 Committees	\$ 350,064	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 350,064
Software	\$ 322,485	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 322,485
Stormwater	\$ 101,145	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 101,145
Waste Management Int	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 900,000	\$ 900,000
	\$ 7,838,911	\$ 2,650,208	\$ 7,176,625	\$ 900,000	\$ 18,565,744

The next schedule details **Externally Restricted Reserves** categorised by Fund.

External Reserves	General Fund	Water Fund	Sewer Fund	Waste Fund	Total
Unspent Grants	\$ 14,313,973	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 14,313,973
Unspent Loan Funds	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Section 64/94	\$ 3,860,864	\$ 2,719,165	\$ 3,309,639	\$ -	\$ 9,889,668
Water Purchase	\$ -	\$ 213,681	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 213,681
Waste Management Ext	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,363,817	\$ 2,363,817
Other	\$ 64,287	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 64,287
	\$ 18,239,124	\$ 2,932,846	\$ 3,309,639	\$ 2,363,817	\$ 26,845,426

Overdraft Limits

The Council's Bank Overdraft limit is \$650,000.

I hereby certify that the balances of the various funds of Council have been reconciled with the bank statements and investment register as on 31 December 2023. As per the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 – Reg212(1)(b)*, all investments have been made in accordance with the Act, applicable Regulations, and council's investment policy.



Kris Kershaw

Manager Finance

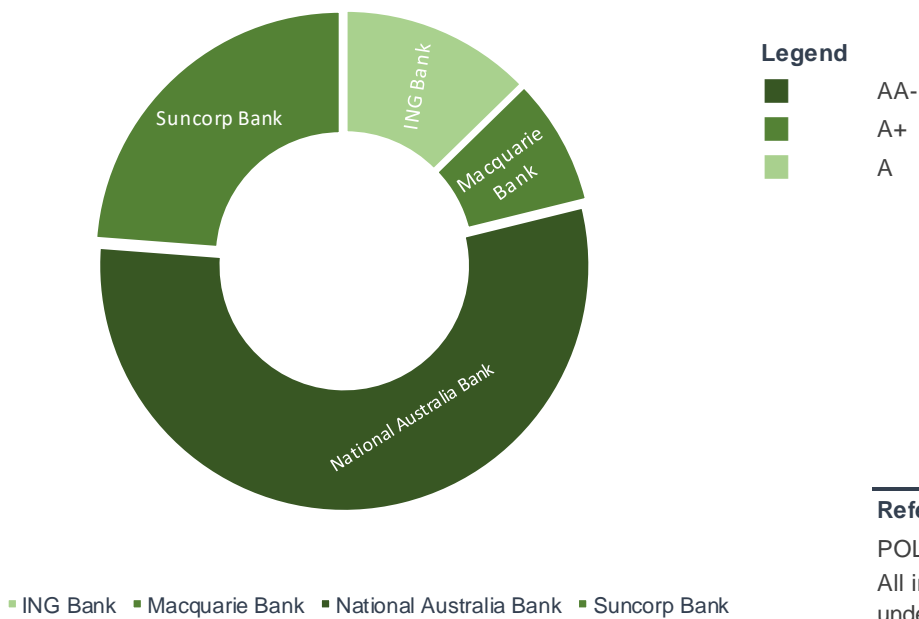
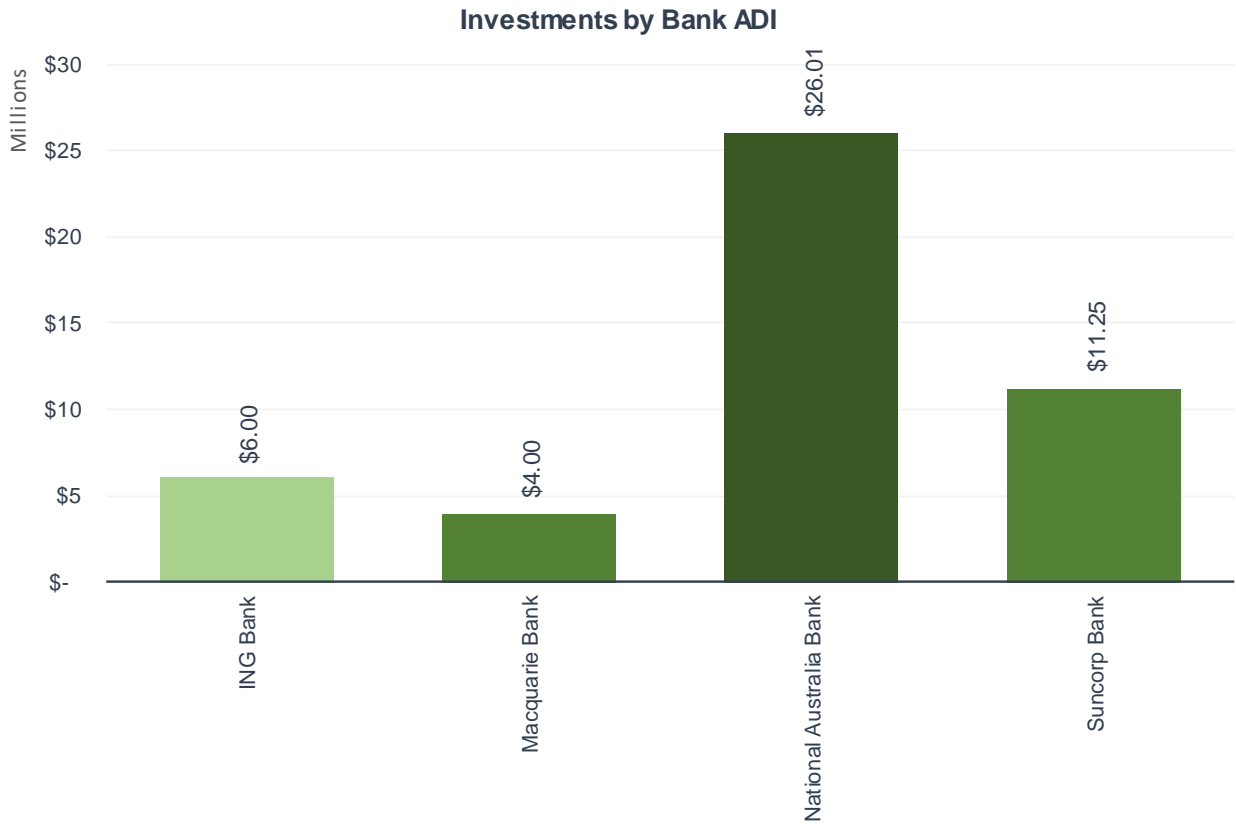
INVESTMENT REPORT AS ON 31 December 2023

As required by Section 212 of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2021 (the Regulation) and Section 625 of the Act, a summary of Council's surplus funds invested, totalling \$47,264,459, together with an analysis thereof are detailed below, including \$47,262,449 in Term Deposits and \$2,010 in other Investments (shares). The detailed list of the investments appears in Annex A.

It needs to be noted that Council currently has 55.04%, or \$26,012,449, invested with National Australia Bank. This is now below the 60% allowed under the investment policy for a single AA- or higher institution. This issue of being over the 60% allowed in previous months has now been rectified.

Investments by Bank / ADI

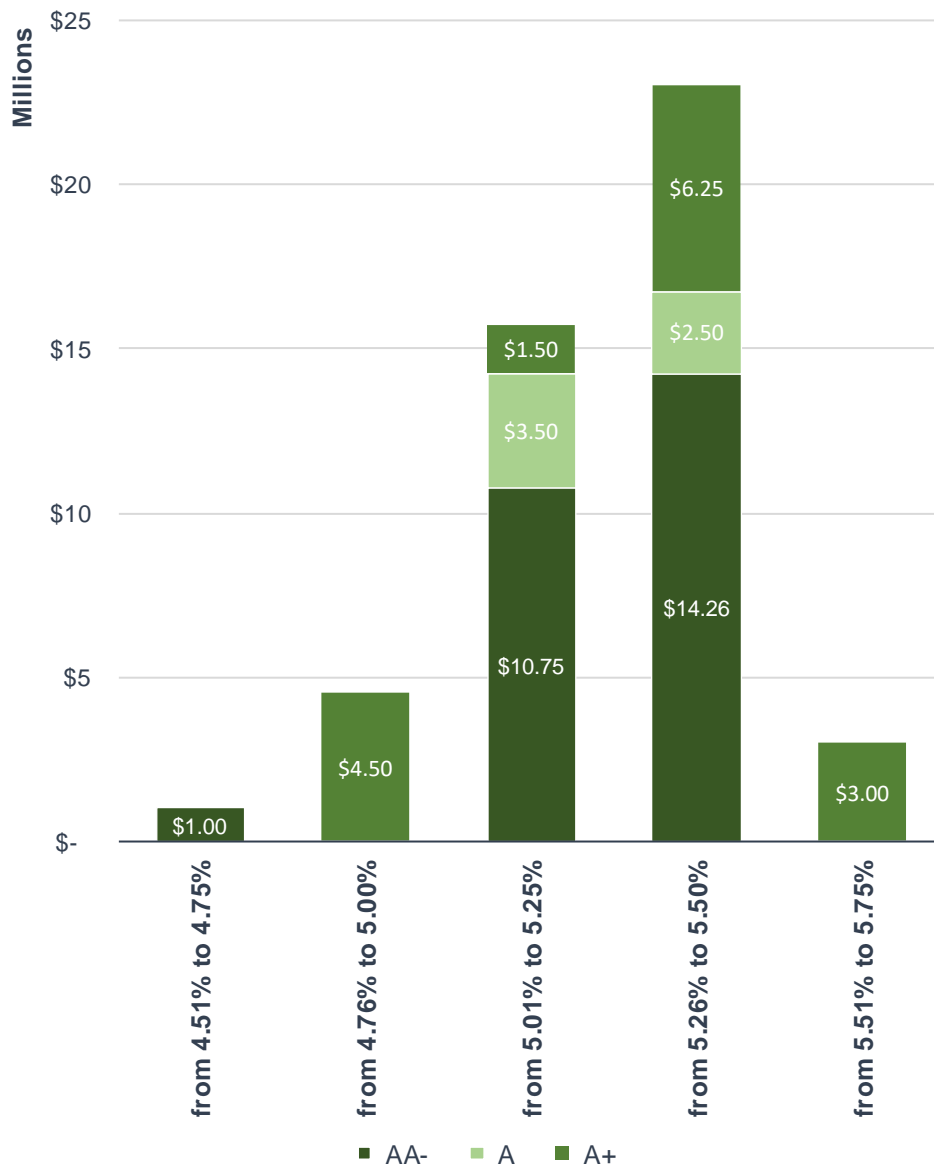
Bank / ADI	Amount	%
ING Bank	\$ 6,000,000	12.70%
Macquarie Bank	\$ 4,000,000	8.46%
National Australia Bank	\$ 26,012,449	55.04%
Suncorp Bank	\$ 11,250,000	23.80%
	\$47,262,449	100.00%



Reference MRC Policy
 POL 203 Investment Policy
 All investments are governed under MRC POL 203 - Investment Policy

Investments by Interest Rates / Credit Rating

Interest Rates	AA-	A+	A	Total
from 4.51% to 4.75%	\$1,000,000			\$1,000,000
from 4.76% to 5.00%		\$4,500,000		\$4,500,000
from 5.01% to 5.25%	\$10,750,000	\$1,500,000	\$3,500,000	\$15,750,000
from 5.26% to 5.50%	\$14,262,449	\$6,250,000	\$2,500,000	\$23,012,449
from 5.51% to 5.75%		\$3,000,000		\$3,000,000
	\$26,012,449	\$15,250,000	\$6,000,000	\$47,262,449



The portfolio is now well invested in reasonable interest rates and the terms of these invested amounts vary according to planned cash flow of the Council. The objective is to optimize the cash flow needs and maximize the return on investments while ensuring compliance with the Local Government rules and Council's Investment Policy. This month, we have further reduced our exposure to unrated investments with portfolio reflecting a well secured diversification.

Investments by Maturity / Credit Rating

Interest Rates	AA-	A+	A	Total
January 2024	\$1,500,000	\$2,250,000		\$3,750,000
February 2024	\$2,500,000	\$4,000,000		\$6,500,000
March 2024	\$3,000,000	\$2,500,000		\$5,500,000
April 2024	\$5,762,449			\$5,762,449
May 2024	\$3,500,000	\$1,000,000		\$4,500,000
June 2024	\$5,000,000			\$5,000,000
July 2024	\$3,250,000	\$1,500,000	\$1,000,000	\$5,750,000
August 2024		\$2,500,000	\$1,000,000	\$3,500,000
September 2024	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000	\$2,500,000	\$5,500,000
October 2024			\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000
	\$26,012,449	\$15,250,000	\$6,000,000	\$47,262,449



Investments in Term Deposits are primarily based on projected interest rate movements as well as our planned cash flow requirements. During recent months, the interest rate has shown a momentum and strategy of investing for a shorter term has been adopted to redeem higher returns which may be available at shorter maturity. There have been instances where stronger 'A' rated banks / ADIs show lesser interest in taking new investments. We have been able to negotiate a good return for our investments with BBB+ banks in those instances, while limiting our exposure to this credit rating class within the provisions of MRC Investment Policy.

Investments by Credit Rating / Banks

S&P Rating	Bank / ADI	Policy Limit by Credit Rating	Current Portfolio Concentration	Current Investment Total	Institutional Policy Limit	Institutional Holding
AA-	National Australia Bank	100%	55%	\$26,012,449	60%	55%
A+	Macquarie Bank	90%	32%	\$4,000,000	25%	8%
A+	Suncorp Bank			\$11,250,000	25%	24%
A	ING Bank	90%	13%	\$6,000,000	25%	13%
			100%	\$47,262,449		100%



MRC Term Deposit portfolio reflects a very well balanced spread across allowable credit ratings and evenly split across individual banks and ADIs. The portfolio spread is in compliance with MRC Investment Policy which provides guidelines to balance higher returns and optimizing risk to the lowest levels.

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

5. Strategic Theme 5: A place of Prosperity and Resilience

5.2 - Encourage and support economic development across the region - Commercial Investment Strategy.

BUDGETARY IMPLICATIONS

The cash rate, as of 12 January 2024, is 4.35%. This has resulted in Council being able to achieve at least 5.00% or above interest rate when placing term deposits during December. Interest revenue will be reviewed as part of the quarterly budget review process to ensure that original budget set for

interest revenue is in line with expected returns. Investments are placed with cash flow requirements as the main priority.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Murray River Council Investment Policy (POL203).

LEGISLATIVE IMPLICATIONS

Section 625 of the Local Government Act 1993

Regulation 212 of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2021

Section 14 of the Trustee Act 1925

RISK ANALYSIS

- **What can happen?**

Imprudent use of Council's Financial Assets

- **How can it happen?**

Non-Compliance of Investment Rules, Policies, and mandates

- **What are the consequences of the event happening?**

Potential loss of financial assets

- **What is the likelihood of the event happening?**

Very Low

- **Adequacy of existing controls?**

Very Good

- **Treatment options to mitigate the risk?**

Responsible management of financial resources invested in accordance with the Council's Investment Policy and mandates.

CONCLUSION

Murray River Council's liquidity position is satisfactory as on 31 December 2023.

ATTACHMENTS

1. **Investment Report December 2023** [↓](#) 

Murray River Council

Annex 'A'

Investment Details - December 2023

Start Date	Maturity Date	Bank / ADI	Type	Investment	Interest Rate	Term (Days)	Interest Due upon Maturity	S&P Long Term Rating
29/06/2023	16/01/2024	NAB	TD	\$ 1,500,000	5.400%	201	\$ 44,605	AA-
11/07/2023	23/01/2024	SCORP	TD	\$ 750,000	5.440%	196	\$ 21,909	A+
29/06/2023	30/01/2024	SCORP	TD	\$ 1,500,000	5.470%	215	\$ 48,331	A+
3/05/2023	2/02/2024	NAB	TD	\$ 1,000,000	4.750%	275	\$ 35,807	AA-
11/07/2023	6/02/2024	SCORP	TD	\$ 750,000	5.560%	210	\$ 23,992	A+
29/06/2023	13/02/2024	NAB	TD	\$ 1,500,000	5.400%	229	\$ 50,819	AA-
11/07/2023	20/02/2024	SCORP	TD	\$ 750,000	5.560%	224	\$ 25,591	A+
31/07/2023	20/02/2024	Macquarie	TD	\$ 1,000,000	5.000%	204	\$ 27,945	A+
29/06/2023	27/02/2024	SCORP	TD	\$ 1,500,000	5.470%	243	\$ 54,625	A+
11/07/2023	5/03/2024	SCORP	TD	\$ 750,000	5.560%	238	\$ 27,191	A+
31/07/2023	5/03/2024	Macquarie	TD	\$ 1,000,000	5.000%	218	\$ 29,863	A+
30/06/2023	12/03/2024	NAB	TD	\$ 1,500,000	5.450%	256	\$ 57,337	AA-
11/07/2023	19/03/2024	SCORP	TD	\$ 750,000	5.560%	252	\$ 28,790	A+
30/06/2023	26/03/2024	NAB	TD	\$ 1,500,000	5.450%	270	\$ 60,473	AA-
11/07/2023	2/04/2024	NAB	TD	\$ 1,000,000	5.410%	266	\$ 39,426	AA-
30/06/2023	9/04/2024	NAB	TD	\$ 1,500,000	5.470%	284	\$ 63,842	AA-
17/07/2023	16/04/2024	NAB	TD	\$ 1,012,449	5.350%	274	\$ 40,662	AA-
30/06/2023	23/04/2024	NAB	TD	\$ 1,500,000	5.490%	298	\$ 67,234	AA-
18/07/2023	30/04/2024	NAB	TD	\$ 750,000	5.350%	287	\$ 31,550	AA-
31/07/2023	7/05/2024	NAB	TD	\$ 1,250,000	5.300%	281	\$ 51,003	AA-
24/10/2023	14/05/2024	Macquarie	TD	\$ 1,000,000	4.780%	203	\$ 26,585	A+
31/07/2023	21/05/2024	NAB	TD	\$ 1,250,000	5.310%	295	\$ 53,646	AA-
3/08/2023	28/05/2024	NAB	TD	\$ 1,000,000	5.200%	299	\$ 42,597	AA-
3/08/2023	4/06/2024	NAB	TD	\$ 750,000	5.200%	306	\$ 32,696	AA-
9/08/2023	11/06/2024	NAB	TD	\$ 1,000,000	5.200%	307	\$ 43,740	AA-
9/08/2023	18/06/2024	NAB	TD	\$ 1,500,000	5.200%	314	\$ 67,101	AA-
10/08/2023	25/06/2024	NAB	TD	\$ 750,000	5.200%	320	\$ 34,192	AA-
16/08/2023	25/06/2024	NAB	TD	\$ 1,000,000	5.150%	314	\$ 44,304	AA-
23/08/2023	2/07/2024	NAB	TD	\$ 750,000	5.150%	314	\$ 33,232	AA-
23/08/2023	2/07/2024	NAB	TD	\$ 750,000	5.150%	314	\$ 33,232	AA-
30/08/2023	9/07/2024	NAB	TD	\$ 1,000,000	5.150%	314	\$ 44,304	AA-
4/09/2023	16/07/2024	SCORP	TD	\$ 750,000	4.850%	316	\$ 31,492	A+
4/09/2023	16/07/2024	SCORP	TD	\$ 750,000	4.850%	316	\$ 31,492	A+
3/10/2023	23/07/2024	NAB	TD	\$ 750,000	5.200%	294	\$ 31,419	AA-
5/09/2023	30/07/2024	ING	TD	\$ 1,000,000	5.100%	329	\$ 45,970	A
5/09/2023	6/08/2024	ING	TD	\$ 1,000,000	5.100%	336	\$ 46,948	A
19/09/2023	13/08/2024	SCORP	TD	\$ 500,000	5.100%	329	\$ 22,985	A+
7/11/2023	20/08/2024	SCORP	TD	\$ 1,000,000	5.470%	287	\$ 43,011	A+
29/11/2023	27/08/2024	Macquarie	TD	\$ 1,000,000	5.210%	272	\$ 38,825	A+
5/12/2023	3/09/2024	SCORP	TD	\$ 1,500,000	5.350%	273	\$ 60,023	A+
6/12/2023	10/09/2024	NAB	TD	\$ 1,500,000	5.150%	279	\$ 59,054	AA-
7/12/2023	17/09/2024	ING	TD	\$ 1,500,000	5.150%	285	\$ 60,318	A
28/09/2023	24/09/2024	ING	TD	\$ 1,000,000	5.350%	362	\$ 53,060	A
7/12/2023	1/10/2024	ING	TD	\$ 1,500,000	5.230%	299	\$ 64,265	A
		SP	Shares	\$ 2,000				
		WAWCU	Shares	\$ 10				
Total				\$ 47,264,459			\$ 1,875,485	

9.3 DIRECTOR INFRASTRUCTURE REPORT AND SUPPLEMENTARY MATTERS**9.3.1 HORSESHOE LAGOON MASTER PLAN - DECISION REQUIRED****File Number:** -**Author:** Matthew Sherman, Project Manager Meninya Street Precinct Project**Authoriser:** Rod Croft, Director Planning & Environment**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council:

- (a) Support (in principle) the notion of Council investigating and attracting commercial investment opportunities within the Horseshoe Lagoon Precinct, Moama NSW via a detailed master planning process (subject to the allocation of funds via the 2024/25 budget process).

Or

- (b) Do not support the notion of any further commercialisation at the Horseshoe Lagoon Precinct, Moama, NSW.

BACKGROUND

Horseshoe Lagoon Reserve is a crown land public reserve that is managed by Murray River Council as the delegated land manager, consisting of natural waterways, footpath networks, elevated walkways and a public wharf that acts as a key point of interest for residents and tourists.

Located at the southern end of Moama, the precinct is accessible by all modes of transport including walking, cycling, driving and as a destination point for all forms of boating. Situated on the Murray River, the Horseshoe Lagoon reserve has access to approx. 1500m of river frontage with existing infrastructure such as the Moama public wharf and locations suitable for vessel mooring and potential other forms of small-scale commercialisation.

Horseshoe Lagoon and the surrounding points of interest have the potential to become commercially activated due to high levels of visitation, accessibility, and linkages to Meninya Street and upcoming development opportunities, albeit with limitations.

Council has recently received interest from multiple commercial operators in the area seeking locations to establish vessel mooring or floating pontoons for houseboat and paddle steamer mooring (both short and long-term). Relevant departments have identified the need to further explore potential use (in greater detail) that could be approved for the precinct than what is currently contained in the existing Draft Plan of Management and 2019 Meninya Street South Precinct Plan.

The intent of this report is to receive a decision on whether commercial activation of the Horseshoe Lagoon precinct is supported by the Council in principle, prior to determining the need for a more detailed master plan for the precinct.

DISCUSSION

Horseshoe Lagoon is a semi-natural haven for wildlife located within walking distance from the CBD of Moama, NSW. Consisting of established walking tracks, wharfs and built infrastructure, the location receives high visitation year-round and is perfectly located as a key attraction and destination point. As the land is crown land, the precinct is managed by Council under a (Draft) Plan of Management (POM) and is further supported by the Meninya Street South Precinct Master Plan 2019. These strategies help identify at a high level, permitted usage and potential development opportunities to further enhance the area to support continued visitation and improved amenities. Th

Draft Plan of Management is planned to formally adopt in the 2024 year following the native title review, Council adoption and public display.

In recent years, Council has received several enquiries and expressions of interest from commercial operators in our area seeking locations for paddle steamers and houseboat mooring (temporary and permanent). Operators are seeking locations to install riverboat infrastructure such as floating pontoons as well as services (water and power) to provide servicing locations for their operations.

Dinky-Di Houseboats is one operator who utilises the area under a historical agreement that allows a floating pontoon to be installed and houseboats to be serviced from the Precinct. To undertake further commercial activation of the area, extensive infrastructure is required including upgrades to Moama Wharf (If used for mooring), retaining walls, docking platforms and/or floating pontoons and services. As highlighted below, several factors must be considered around supporting commercial activation of the area including regulatory planning, financial, environmental and impacts to the existing amenity. Currently enjoyed by residents and tourists due to the access to semi-natural habitat it provides, any change in use must consider all factors.

Consideration of Commercial Activation of Horseshoe Lagoon:

The Officers recommendation seeks Councils decision on commercial activation of Horseshoe Lagoon precinct in response to received interest from commercial operators. Horseshoe Lagoon presents a unique opportunity to act as a gateway for operators on the river to drop off and collect customers in a natural habitat located within walking distance of the heart of Moama. The establishment of commercial activities in the precinct will not only create jobs during construction but support employment as part of the luxury on water experience through collection/drop off, cleaning and maintenance services. In addition, the demographic attracted are more likely to spend additional time and money in the local area/region resulting in flow on benefits for the surrounding economy across hospitality, tourism, and leisure.

Although commercial activation can provide several benefits, Council is also recommended to consider the disbenefits of activating this area. Financial burdens associated with the construction of riverside infrastructure will be high due to the geographical location and environmental constraints and due the flood prone environment. Structures will need to be engineered to respond to rising and falling water levels, floods as well as the harsh water environments. Considerations must be made for the environment including flora and fauna, waterways, and pollution as well as public amenity impacts with increased utilisation and development. Maintenance and upkeep of infrastructure will require annual fees and charges to cover depreciation, maintenance, and renewal costs as well as power and water charges. Some of which could be negotiated as part of any commercial lease agreement.

Master Plan:

In this instance, targeted commercial activation is supported by Council for Horseshoe Lagoon, however a detailed master plan will be required to take place to consider several factors and provide the opportunity for the community to have their say on this reserve.

The detailed master plan once developed will assist Council by outlining limitations on targeted commercialisation and development opportunities in relation to environmental, social, and planning limitations. It will also assist in providing a process in responding to expressions of interest and support clear and consistent decision making by understanding costs, approvals potential benefits the activation may provide. In this instance recommendation (a) is supported, Council administrative staff will commence the project scoping process including obtaining cost estimates for potential inclusion into the Council 2024/25FY Budget.

The Horseshoe Lagoon Detailed Master Plan once developed, would include the following in the scope and deliverables:

- Issues and Opportunities within the Precinct.
- Current and future land use considerations
- Site by Site Analysis and identified potential development footprints for commercial operation.

- Preliminary planning assessment of development concepts identifying any site and legislative constraints.
- Cost estimation for construction including service requirements and/or upgrades for the area to support commercial activities identified.
- Fees and charges to offset capital depreciation, maintenance, and renewal (Lease Agreement).
- Estimate economic and tourism benefits associated with identified opportunities.
- Preliminary designs of infrastructure upgrades or enhancements to the area
- Permit and approval requirements from regulatory bodies

To assist Council in understanding the drivers of this report and recommendation, the officer has provided summary information below across several key topics and themes, **these include:**

Commercial Demand: Recent demand has been driven by Campaspe Shire Council's review of fees and charges for use of the Riverboat Dock. The officers understanding is that Fees and Charges have been revised as well as more regulation on mooring locations in the riverboat dock resulting in current operators wishing to explore other potential opportunities. If council is to support commercial activation in this area, it will also be required to implement fees and charges (at market rate or by valuation) for the use to cover infrastructure upgrades, maintenance and future renewal and must ensure that costs can be recouped while providing competitive rates.

Land Use Limitations: Use of the land is greatly restricted due to crown land ownership, flood overlays, environmental restrictions, areas of significance and proximity to a water way risking impacts to aquatic ecosystems. Due to crown ownership, any commercial activation will also need to be an approved use and subject to public procurement requirements including expressions of interest and evaluation. Council must also consider any negative impacts to the public amenity in the instance that the area becomes commercial activated with higher levels of visitation, noise, and environmental impacts/disturbance.

Flood Infrastructure Requirements: Due to the Horseshoe Lagoon being subject to flooding, any infrastructure must be designed and constructed in a way that it is either removable or resilient to high water levels. This results in infrastructure being higher in cost, more challenging to construct and may require additional permits and approvals. As the area is completely submerged during a 1% flood event, all commercial infrastructure must be temporary in nature and readily removable in high water events.

Australian Star Paddle steamer: The Australian Star Paddle steamer is multi-million-dollar vessel that will provide a high-end experience for passengers with onboard accommodation for overnight experiences. Travelling up and down the Murray from Moama to Torrumbarry the vessel is under construction and is due to be on the water in early 2025 and will require a location to be moored. The operators have identified the Moama Public Wharf as a possible location, although early discussions have identified structural upgrade requirements to allow boarding and disembarking at varying river heights to achieve accessibility for passengers.

Moama Wharf Utilisation: The Moama Wharf is classified as a public structure and therefore in its current form cannot be used by one operator on a permanent basis (exclusive use). Any use would be subject to crown approval and a public expression of interest process prior to any formal Council approval being provided.

Alternative Locations: Council may consider investigating other locations on the Murray River surrounding the Moama Township for commercial activation. This could include locations that have less impacts or risks whilst still achieving the same benefits or economic outcomes. Locations could be up or down stream of Horseshoe Lagoon. However, it is noted that there are limited locations within proximity to the Moama township that provides the linkages and easy access to Meninya Street.

Draft Plan of Management – Horseshoe Lagoon:

Council has prepared a Draft Plan of Management for the Horseshoe Lagoon Precinct scheduled for endorsement in 2024 following native title review, council endorsement and public consultation. The POM highlights that the location supports commercial activation although does not provide the underpinning detail of exact activities and locations. To assist Council in better controlling commercial activation if supported, a more detailed Master Plan is required.

Meninya Street South Precinct Master Plan:

The Meninya Street South Precinct Master Plan was endorsed in 2019 aiming to outline possibilities for development and enhancement in the Kerrabee Soundshell, Moama Beach, and Horseshoe Lagoon Precinct. The Master Plan identifies, at a high-level, points of interest and potential enhancements for exploration, although does not meet Council's needs to outlining costs, deliverables, designs, and constraints for identified projects.

Meninya Street Planning Project:

Over the past two years, Council has been actively planning for large-scale activation of the main street of Moama (Meninya street) complete with CGI fly through technology and visual marketing tools to encourage investment (on-street dining, boutique accommodation commercial food and beverage premises).

Commercialisation of the horseshoe lagoon in a sensitive way is consistent with this Plan and would enhance the overall experience and activation of Meninya street.

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

3. Strategic Theme 3: A place of Liveable Communities

3.10 - Strategic planning which produces consistent, strategic, transparent outcomes - Streetscaping / Master Planning / Placemaking.

BUDGETARY IMPLICATIONS

No budgetary implications are directly associated with the approval of this report. If recommendation (a) is approved, this will require Council staff to investigate and acquire quotations for the development of a detailed Master Plan for Horseshoe Lagoon Precinct for inclusion into the 2024/25FY budget bid process.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Nil.

LEGISLATIVE IMPLICATIONS

RISK ANALYSIS

- **What can happen?**

Environmental Impacts: Development of Horseshoe Lagoon may result in negative impacts to the environment and wildlife. Before any development can take place, detailed investigation must be undertaken to understand the impacts to the area to they can be mitigated appropriately.

Public Amenity Impacts: Development and activation of the area could impact the amenity of the precinct. Currently this area is a major attraction due to the undisturbed natural environment and increased development in the area will result in more traffic, noise, and disturbance.

Fees and Charges: To cover costs of construction, maintenance and renewal, Council will be required to charge for use (likely via a formal Lease agreement). It's possible that interested parties may choose to stay operating at their existing locations due to similar fees and charges for services resulting in a waste of time and resources.

Value for Money: Upon the completion of master planning, Murray River Council may identify that the cost of completing the required infrastructure upgrades does not represent value for money.

Resource Utilisation: Following the development of detailed planning documentation and expenditure, Council may find that commercial operators are not interested in relocating to Horseshoe Lagoon because of the costs and on-going fees and charges associated with usage.

- **How can it happen?**

Commercial Activation will trigger the risks identified above.

- **What are the consequences of the event happening?**

Negative environmental impacts. Negative financial impacts.

- **What is the likelihood of the event happening?**

Likely.

- **Adequacy of existing controls?**

Adequate.

- **Treatment options to mitigate the risk?**

Council has the option to reject commercial activation of the Horseshoe Lagoon Precinct, with the option to investigate other areas on the Murray River that could be suitable for commercial activation that may have less impact on the surrounding environment.

CONCLUSION

Murray River Council is in a great position to have a public point of interest suitable for commercial activation positioned closely to Moama's CBD. Horseshoe Lagoon provides several opportunities that would improve tourism and economic development opportunities within the region subject to limitations and risks. The opportunity to activate the precinct must be carefully assessed with the risks identified to ensure any development does not impact the environment in a negative way. The development of a detailed master plan will greatly assist the management of this process if supported.

ATTACHMENTS

1. **Meninya Street South Master Plan** 

9.4 DIRECTOR PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT REPORT AND SUPPLEMENTARY MATTERS

Nil

9.5 DIRECTOR COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORT AND SUPPLEMENTARY MATTERS

9.5.1 SECTION 355 COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES AS AT DECEMBER 2023

File Number: -

Author: Karen Buckley, Manager of Local Connections

Authoriser: Sarah Ryan, Director Community and Economic Development

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and note the December 2023 Section 355 Committee Report.

BACKGROUND

Council Section 355 Committees are to provide minutes of each committee meeting to keep Council informed of the committee's activities.

DISCUSSION

Council has 25 x Section 355 committees. These committees are made up of community volunteers who oversee the day-to-day management of facilities owned by council and/or provide advice to Council about such facilities.

The death of a Section 355 Committee Volunteer in NSW has exacerbated the need for Council to review the operating model of all our community committees to ensure that volunteers are well supported and managed from recruitment right through to execution of delegated responsibilities.

Karen Buckley has joined the Economic Development team on a secondment from the Community Services team. Karen's new role as Manager Local Connections, will be responsible for working collaboratively with committees to assist them to meet their obligations as required by S355 of the Local Government Act 1993 and to improve governance and risk mitigation.

Minutes are attached to this report for Council's information.

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

3. Strategic Theme 3: A place of Liveable Communities

3.2 - Create and maintain safe and accessible community spaces that enhance healthy living and promote active lifestyles - Public buildings.

BUDGETARY IMPLICATIONS

Scope of Committees financial transactions vary.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Murray River Council Asset Management Policy (POL305).

Murray River Council Section 355 Committee Policy (POL119)

LEGISLATIVE IMPLICATIONS

Local Government Act 1993.

RISK ANALYSIS

- What can happen?

Committees and Council fail to meet their obligations.

- **How can it happen?**

Committees are generally unaware of the full extent of their roles and responsibilities, particularly in relation to WH&S, operational procedures and systems, procurement, and financial reporting.

There have not been the resources within council to provide requisite support and guidance to committees to ensure they understand their responsibilities and have necessary skills and capacity to fulfill obligations. This is not a reflection on the committee and expertise of Council staff, it is about the need to appropriately and adequately resource and support committees.

- **What are the consequences of the event happening?**

A number of Section 355 committees are very fragile and their medium to longer-term viability is questionable.

Council is under considerable pressure to comply with onerous obligations relating to the support and management of section 355 committees under the Local Government Act (and other Acts).

- **What is the likelihood of the event happening?**

Likely

- **Adequacy of existing controls?**

Moderate

- **Treatment options to mitigate the risk?**

Council needs to carefully consider the structure required to best support committees whilst managing all legal obligations.

A new interim role of Manager Local Connections has been created to work collaboratively with committees of Council to assist them to meet their obligations as required by S355 of the Local Government Act 1993 and to improve governance, risk mitigation, and long-term sustainability.

Steps will be taken to optimise the viability of committees where appropriate; consider the scope of support council will provide to support committees; determine the criteria that will trigger council's intervention in the operations of Section 355 committees, and what the intervention will be; plan for contingency management options, **and fully recognise the cost of this in council's long term financial plans.**

CONCLUSION

The following actions have been raised at recent committee meetings.

Koraleigh Hall & Recreation Reserve Committee

Christmas Tree at Rec Reserve Friday December 15, Tennis Club organising.
Australia Day breakfast at Rec Reserve, MRC to provide new flagpole.
Lisa Howieson to gain more information from MRC for ongoing costs of Koraleigh Hall, including insurance, maintenance. Will be a community decision if allowed to go ahead.

Moulamein South Recreation Reserve Committee

No current motions raised.

ATTACHMENTS

1. **Koraleigh Hall & Recreation Reserve Committee Meeting Nov. 2023**  
2. **Moulamein South Recreation Reserve Committee Meeting Nov. 2023**  



Koraleigh Hall and Rec. Reserve Committee Meeting Minutes

Date/time of meeting	22/11/2023
Location of meeting	Koraleigh Rec. Reserve
Attendees	Brian Hoare Cassie Andrews Mary Hoare Sue Russell Sandra Andrews Laura Pearce Lisa Howieson Gina Bailey
Apologies	Vern Andrews Liam Hoare Bev Thompson Peter Thompson Travis Andrews MRC Manager Local Connections Karen Buckley
Guests	Greater Wakool Ward Cr Ann Crowe Jim Crowe
Conflicts of interest	Nil identified
Approval of Previous Minutes	Moved: Mary Hoare Seconded: Sandra Andrews

<p>Business arising from previous minutes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Key Register: Hall: Sandra Andrews, Gina Bailey, Bev Thompson, Brian Hoare. Rec Reserve: Cassie Andrews, Brian Hoare Key Boxes at Hall and Rec Reserve have keys and codes. * Quote for Rec Reserve kitchen \$3,800. MRC Community Grant of \$3,000 plus Rec Reserve contributing \$800. Waiting on construction timeframe from Swan Hill. Tiana Cronin will be informed when kitchen completed. * Luke Keogh is undertaking review of electricity accounts and will report when completed. for Hall/Rec Reserve. Moved: Mary Hoare Seconded: Ann Crowe
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<p>Treasurers Report</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * The closing balance for the Recreation Reserve is \$10,408.77. Interest +\$0.06. * The closing balance for the Hall is \$10,628.62. AEC + \$300. A.Wells + \$60. Interest +\$0.07. Moved: Cassie Andrews Seconded: Lisa Howieson
<p>Email Correspondence</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Karen Buckley email 31/10/23: Invoicing requirements. * Karen Buckley email 2/11/23: BBQ Trailer * Karen Buckley email 22/11/23: update on Luke Keogh (electricity a/c), Masterplan discussion with council, no update on tennis lighting. Moved: Mary Hoare Seconded Laura Pearce

General Business

- * Schedule of Fees:
Hall: \$50/day—hall and supper room
\$30/ half day
\$12.50 supper room only
- * Mary Hoare to contact Karen Buckley stating that community needs direction from MRC to go forward with Community Masterplan.
- * Christmas Tree at Rec Reserve Friday December 15, Tennis Club organising.
Donations: CWA \$50,
Rec Reserve \$100,
Tennis \$150,
Sandra Andrews Coleslaw,
RFS icy poles,
R&M Hoare lolly bags.
- * Australia Day breakfast at Rec Reserve, MRC to provide new flagpole.
- * Lisa Howieson to gain more information from MRC for ongoing costs of Koraleigh Hall, including insurance, maintenance. Will be a community decision if allowed to go ahead.
- * Lisa explained pipework in Koraleigh for raw water and the outlets that are included.

Meeting Closed 8.27 pm

Next Meeting Date: Wednesday January 24, 2024
 Time: 7pm
 Venue: Koraleigh Rec Reserve



Moulamein South Recreation Reserve

PO Box 17 Moulamein 2733 NSW

Minutes of the GENERAL MEETING of the Moulamein South Recreation Reserve at the complex on 4 December 2023

The meeting opened at 5:33 pm

Present: Rossy Main, Ron Doran, Debbie Polkinghorne, Simone Treloar, Karen Buckley (Council) Cr Neil Gorey, Amy Lolicato

Apologies: Tiana Christie

Minutes from the previous meeting – Read and accepted.

Business arising from the last meeting:

- The new lights cast a shadow along the eastern side of the oval and will require the Council to trim the trees along the east side to remove the shadows. We have been informed that the MFNC is seeking approval for night games, so the Council or contractors must trim the trees before the start of the next season. – Still ongoing. Deb and Rossy will check the shadows along the eastern side of the oval.
- There needs to be raised with the Council that the MFNC has exclusive access to the Reserve and Facilities during the football season and any finals allocations. This will be in the form of a tenancy agreement between the MFNC and the Council. The letter is to be raised by the MFNC to the 355 committee. This is not required as the Council will provide agreements to all 355 committees.
- Oval needs to be top dressed; the secretary has spoken to Bill Wilson, who will make it happen before the following season. – Hooker and Ernie Booth have looked at the oval and said it is Okay as is. The sprinkler heads need lifting to align with the correct levels.
- The 355 committee will write to the Moulamein Tennis Club seeking their current certificate of currency for public liability insurance and a membership list. Completed
- A suggestion is that the lights/power costs go under the Council as they have the bulk buying ability and the savings. They will be passed onto the MFNC. Ongoing: Luke Keogh is investigating the requirement.



Moulamein South Recreation Reserve

PO Box 17 Moulamein 2733 NSW

- The Council was adamant that the reserve public toilets would be closed (from a previous meeting) sooner rather than later. Why not shut the ones at the Heritage Village (privately owned)? If there were a survey on the use, the village would be last on the list. The toilets at the reserve are the only accessible toilets around the facility. **Council have stated that the toilets will not be closed.**
- A walkway between the existing netball courts and the sheds currently in situ is required. **Deferred**
-

Moved: Simone Prentice

Seconded: Amy Lolicato

Correspondence In:

- Email from Murray River Council to 355 Committees to join a focus group to assist with developing an application for a special rates variation.
- Email from Karen Buckley outlining reporting requirements.

Correspondence Out:

- Email to Simone Prentice with Bakker and Glenn invoices
- Reply to Melinda Barrett on the new appointment.

Moved: Ron Doran

Seconded: Simone Prentice

Treasurers Report:

The treasurer's report was presented to the meeting, highlighting the current financial situation of the Moulamein Recreation Reserve WAW account. There is \$12,239.13 in the account.

It provided funds for the new ground seating and the split systems in the main complex rooms. The Moulamein 355 committee also financed the purchase of a cool room for the complex. It proves that the committee is very prudent with the allocations that they receive.

The treasurer's report was read and accepted, and the information is only presented at the general and annual general meetings and not included in these reports.

Moved: Simone Prentice

Seconded: Ron Doran



Moulamein South Recreation Reserve

PO Box 17 Moulamein 2733 NSW

GENERAL BUSINESS:

- ❖ The letter will be rescinded on ground agreements as the Council will outline the requirements.
- ❖ The doors at the tennis courts require fixing, and as this is an ongoing issue, the Council may need to step in and resolve it.
- ❖ SRV (Special Rate Variation) is not going ahead.
- ❖ It has arisen that Moulamein needs a master plan, and the Council is working on it.
- ❖ Amy raised a pertinent point: if the 355 committee wishes to purchase anything outside a meeting, then a group chat or phone hookup will be arranged to discuss before making any decisions.
- ❖ The expenditure report will be sent to all executive/committee members.
- ❖ Cool Room requires a roof and a lockable cage and will be available to all people who use the complex outside football season.
- ❖ The 355 structure was discussed, and usually, they have a minimum of four and a maximum of **12 members**. It includes a Chairperson/President, Secretary (Can also be the Treasurer), treasurer, and committee members. A quorum is half the committee plus 1.

The following general meeting is on 4 March 2024 at 5:30 pm.

The meeting Closed at 6:40 pm.

Merry Christmas to all



9.6 CORRESPONDENCE REPORT

9.6.1 CORRESPONDENCE REPORT

File Number: -
Author: Lindy Leyonhjelm, Executive Assistant
Authoriser: Terry Dodds, Chief Executive Officer

RECOMMENDATION

That the Correspondence Report be received and the information noted by the Council.

DISCUSSION

Due to the volume of correspondence that Council receives from Government Agencies, each Councillor has been forwarded the emails directly. As per resolution 290921 at the September 28, 2021, Council meeting, incoming emails from Government Agencies will not be included in this report unless by exception, only outgoing correspondence to Government agencies and general correspondence is recorded in the report.






INCOMING CORRESPONDENCE:

- Mobile Library Customer Service Centre - Service NSW Proposal – 13 Dec 2023
- VNI West Community Consultative Group Meeting 2 - Draft Minutes 13 Dec 2023
- LGNSW response to Murray River - Rate peg review - Jan 2024 – 10 Jan 2024
- Response from OLG NSW approving non requirement of bi-election for Council vacancy – 11 Jan 2023

OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE:

- Letter to LGNSW - Rate Peg Review Difference 02 Jan 2024.pdf

ATTACHMENTS

1. Mobile Library Customer Service Centre - Service NSW Proposal [↓](#) 
2. VNI West Community Consultative Group Meeting 2 - Draft Minutes 13 Dec 2023 [↓](#) 
3. Letter to LGNSW - Rate Peg Review Difference 02 Jan 2024 [↓](#) 
4. LGNSW response to Murray River - Rate peg review - Jan 2024 [↓](#) 
5. Response from OLG NSW approving non requirement of bi-election for Council vacancy [↓](#) 



1st December, 2023

Dear Murray River Council,

Mobile Library Customer Service Centre - Service NSW Proposal

Thank you for your submission regarding the use of your Mobile Library Customer Service Centre to provide Service NSW services. The matter has received careful consideration, at this time we are not looking at expanding services into an arrangement as suggested. Our mobile technology is currently limited to our Mobile Service Centre fleet, some of which regularly visit Council townships including Tooleybuc and Mathoura.

It is also noted that Council currently operates 3 Council Agencies in partnership with Service NSW at Barham, Moama and Moulamein. Together with regular Mobile Service Centre visits to other Council townships, access to our services is considered adequate for the majority of Council residents. Should the Mobile Service Centre fleet be expanded in the future, further consideration could be given to a greater presence within outlying communities of Murray River Council.

I would like to thank you for your suggestion, we are constantly reviewing the effectiveness of our Service Delivery model and we may reconsider your suggestion/our position should circumstances change in the future.

Should you have any further enquiries in relation to this matter please contact Blake Reeson, Regional Manager Far West, Remote & Regional Communities at Blake.Reeson@service.nsw.gov.au

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Vic Maiorana".

Vic Maiorana
Director Regional Service Centres
Service NSW

Meeting Minutes

Victoria NSW Interconnector West



Meeting title:	VNI West Community Consultative Group Meeting 2	Date:	13 December 2023
Location:	Deniliquin RSL Club, End St Deniliquin	Time:	10:00am – 12:00pm
Chairperson:	Brendan Blakeley		
Attendees:			
VNI West Project Team			
Colin Mayer	Project Director, VNI West		
Geoff Hudson	Environment Manager		
Joel Annett	Community and Stakeholder Manager		
Nathan Menser	Community and Stakeholder Lead		
Reem Nasr	Community and Stakeholder Advisor		
Jarryd Barton	Principal Environmental Planner, WSP		
Adam Hoare	Asset Standards and Compliance Manager		
VNI West Community Consultative Group			
Donald Bull	Landholder		
Neil Bull	Ricegrowers' Association		
Trevor Clark	Yanco Creek and Tributaries Advisory Council		
Bob Crawford	Yanco Creek and Tributaries Advisory Council		
Gary Stoll	Murrumbidgee Council		
Observer			
Michael Lynch	Public Interest Advocacy Centre		
Apologies			
Leon Atkinson	Cummaragunja Local Aboriginal Land Council		
Jack Bond and Julia Druitt	Murray River Council		
Michael Chalmers	Ricegrowers' Association		
David Crew	Yarkuwa Indigenous Knowledge Centre		
Mark Dalzell	Edward River Council		
Ben Doran	Land and Property Manager, Transgrid		
Rose Dunn	Deniliquin Local Aboriginal Land Council		
Farid Faiz	Engineering Manager, Transgrid		
Alison Glenn	Bunnaloo branch, NSW Farmers		
Nikki Hansell	Place Manager, Transgrid		
Michael Johnson	Program Director, Stakeholder Relations, Major Projects, Transgrid		
John Kerr	Moama Local Aboriginal Land Council		



Mick Lalor	NSW NPWS
Paul McFadyen	Community Engagement Lead, Place Management, Transgrid
Bruce Rollinson	Landholder
Shannon Sampson	Community member
Scott Sheather	Murray Local Land Services

Acknowledgment of Country

On behalf of the group, Brendan Blakeley acknowledged the Wamba Wamba and Barappa Barappa/Perepa Perepa, Traditional Owners of Deniliquin and its surrounding areas.

Meeting proceedings

Agenda item	Summary notes
1. Welcome, introductions and housekeeping and review of previous minutes	<p>Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and attendees introduced themselves.</p> <p>Chair reviewed action items from previous meeting.</p> <p>Request for release of submissions from Draft Corridor Report</p> <p>Joel Annett advised the summary of submissions is available in the Preferred Corridor Report. Unfortunately full submissions can't be provided due to potential breach of privacy as we had not requested permission to publish submission when they were sought.</p> <p>However, all key themes and topics raised are outlined in the report and Transgrid is happy to provide additional analysis on specific themes or topics.</p> <p>Geoff Hudson advised that cultural heritage studies will be made publicly available in line with the EIS process.</p>
2. Route selection methodology	<p>Jarryd Barton outlined the route selection methodology.</p> <p>Jarryd noted that the constraints have been reviewed and updated from the corridor phase.</p> <p>A number of preliminary route options have been identified, taking into account the additional we've gathered since the corridor phase.</p> <p>From this a short list of 3-4 route options will then be taken through the Multi Criteria assessment (MCA) process.</p> <p>Each route will be scored based on the criteria for comparison against one another. The scoring will then be tallied up with the results showing a preferred route.</p> <p>All the information received from the previous consultation has been taken into account and carried forward into the new route level analysis.</p> <p>Additional flood information has come in from the Murray Darling Basin Authority, and the Moulamein Airport has been removed as a constraint based on advice from council.</p> <p>Bob Crawford: Would like to table more information on remnant vegetation that may not be captured on mapping to date.</p> <p>ACTION: Bob to mark-up maps</p> <p>Don Bull: When does the EIS phase come into the process?</p>



Agenda item	Summary notes
	<p>Jarryd Barton discussed the process from Slide 7. Once the 1km route has been identified, we move to EIS phase starting with the initial scoping report application.</p> <p>Don Bull: If you come into issues on the 1km route do you have to go back to the drawing board?</p> <p>Jarryd Barton: We will investigate and adapt the project within that 1km if possible. We would need to understand the specific issue to determine what, if any, changes may need to be made.</p> <p>Joel Annett: provided a high level time line for the route options stage. Publish Draft Route Report late January 2023. Consultation throughout February 2024. Publish Final Route Report at the end of March 2024. There will continue to be dialogue and discussion throughout, and feedback is welcome.</p> <p>Don Bull: commented on the engineering aspect – you don't want too many bends.</p> <p>Colin Mayer: Yes, generally straighter is better.</p> <p>Trevor Clark: Asked about the Victorian side?</p> <p>Colin Mayer: They are working through their EES process. Transgrid meets routinely with Transmission Company Victoria to ensure that cross-border issues are addressed.</p> <p>Joel Annett: At the boarder our draft route options will show 1km corridors that balloons out at the border.</p> <p>Chair: Advised that the earlier feedback is provided to the project the more opportunity the project has to take that feedback into account</p> <p>Trevor Clark: Is undergrounding gone completely?</p> <p>Colin Mayer: Happy to talk to undergrounding at a future meeting. At this stage, we are proceeding with planning an overhead solution, and will continue in this process – unless there is some new position that comes out of the Government Inquiry. Underground examples overseas are using DC technology. VNIW is working on AC technology.</p> <p>Trevor Clark: I was told that because it was 500kV there is no way that renewable projects along the route can hook into the above ground line, as the cost of substations to enable connection is very high.</p> <p>Bob Crawford: What does WSP stand for?</p> <p>Jarryd Barton: Williams Sales Partnership though now the company is just referred to as WSP.</p> <p>Bob Crawford: Advised he was concerned about the value for the community more broadly and impact on future generations. Advised he can't see value in the double J-Curve.</p> <p>ACTION: Joel Annett to arrange meeting with Bob Crawford</p> <p>Colin Mayer: Advised VNI West is identified as part of AEMO's Integrated System Plan. By the time Project Energy Connect, Humelink and VNI West are finished we'll be able to power a third of the state.</p> <p>Trevor Clark: Asked if undergrounding is off the table for VNI West</p> <p>Colin Mayer: Confirmed undergrounding is off the table for VNI West.</p> <p>Adam Hoare: Commented that a lot of the information coming out of the underground inquiry is about lower voltage lines – distribution not transmission.</p>



Agenda item	Summary notes
3. Transmission 101 – Q & A	<p>Joel Annett outlined the National Energy Market and regulatory environment and described where Transgrid fits into that system.</p> <p>Neil Bull: Can you tell me more about Australian Energy Market Commission's role? (AEMC)</p> <p>Joel Annett: They do have a Complaints Commissioner that works with Transgrid on managing escalated complaints. (Correction: AEMC do not manage complaints – The Office of the Australian Energy Infrastructure Commissioner helps community members address their concerns about wind farms, large-scale solar farms, energy storage facilities and new major transmission projects.)</p> <p>Adam Hoare: They also have a role to run consultations with industry and advocates on how electricity process is managed (AEMC).</p> <p>Trevor Clark: As far as economic analysis how broad does it go?</p> <p>Colin Mayer: AER monitors Transgrid to ensure it is providing value for money for consumers, market need & energy transfers.</p> <p>Trevor Clark: What's the economic impact and how is that quantified?</p> <p>Colin Mayer: The ISP has three different models under which the RIT-T is tested. Runs under a complex modelling process, with the outputs brought back into Net Present Value (NPV).</p> <p>Adam Hoare: Also the process costs out reliability issues.</p> <p>Trevor: Renewable Energy transition is a massive undertaking, and how we move forward will impact Australia as a nation and moving on in time (future generations).</p> <p>Reem Nasr: AEMO's mantra is "prudent and efficient" – focusing on the end cost for customers which we pay for as part of our electricity bills</p> <p>Neil Bull: How long will the powerline be in place?</p> <p>Colin Mayer: Assets have a 50-year life span. This can be extended to up to 70 years with maintenance.</p> <p>Joel Annett (Slide 16): CPA1: funding for planning phase; CPA2: funding for construction process. Orange points on chart show times when formal consultation processes take place.</p> <p>Colin Mayer: Theoretically at either CPA stage the AER can say stop and halt the project.</p>
4. The Environmental Assessment process	<p>Geoff Hudson outlined the Environmental Assessment process and noted that initial engagement has already commenced with Department of Climate Change, Energy, Environment and Water (DCCEEW) (Federal), Department of Planning and Environment NSW (DPE), Biodiversity and Conservation Directorate (BCD) (NSW).</p> <p>Ecology surveys are already in progress. More work to complete throughout 2024 as we need to undertake seasonal surveys. Work completed to date will be provided in the Draft Route Report.</p> <p>Neil Bull: I'm aware of some instances where the commonwealth takes over or determines next steps? (in reference to EPBC Referrals)</p> <p>Geoff Hudson: EIS studies will be undertaken throughout 2024</p> <p>Don Bull: How does it work when we run into a drought or other seasonal issue?</p> <p>Jarryd Barton: We assume presence for the assessment, and if we get another opportunity, we get out into the field to validate this.</p>



Agenda item	Summary notes
	<p>Trevor Clark: SDLAM doing quite a bit of work of cultural heritage through the area</p> <p>Geoff Hudson/Jarryd Barton: We would appreciate any non-confidential information that can be shared between project teams.</p> <p>ACTION: Transgrid to follow up with SDLAM to seek access to all publicly available information.</p> <p>Geoff Hudson: We will be working with our cross-border partner TCV to ensure consistency of information on environmental assessments, as species are not limited by the border.</p> <p>Don Bull: What is the EIS display period?</p> <p>Joel Annett: This is set by Department of Planning. There is a minimum legislated requirement of four weeks, but some projects have seen longer exhibition periods.</p> <p>Don Bull: What is the Biodiversity Stewardship process?</p> <p>Geoff Hudson: There is a formal process to manage biodiversity to establish offsets required for the project where the project is not able to avoid or mitigate its impact.</p> <p>This would be a voluntary process for landowners that would require them to set up stewardship agreements with Govt in perpetuity.</p> <p>Main approach from Transgrid is to work with the ecologists and the farmer to first avoid and to mitigate impacts.</p> <p>Jarryd Barton: In the EIS, there will be a strategy that outlines how biodiversity is intended to be managed.</p> <p>CCG Member: What is the approval process in Victoria?</p> <p>Geoff Hudson: There will be separate assessments on each side of the border.</p> <p>Don Bull: Will the Draft Route report display period be long enough?</p> <p>Joel Annett: Transgrid have developed an engagement program in line with the extended corridor engagement program. We are also providing more notice of the upcoming engagement.</p> <p>Chair: Whilst there will be a defined route we'll be looking at, the EIS will then look at refining and validating the project.</p> <p>Don Bull: When you get through that report, then you have to determine the off sets?</p> <p>Geoff Hudson: The offsets will be determined through the course of the EIS assessment process.</p> <p>Don Bull: When you look at the map, you're coming through a large area of habitat</p> <p>Geoff Hudson: If we offset, we're looking at appropriate arrangements. It's a multistage process. The EIS will identify a strategy to move forward.</p> <p>Don Bull: "Stewardship" is not a popular word. It implies you're going to be told what to do with your land.</p> <p>Trevor Clark: The lines are forced on us, but that habitat can't be shifted</p> <p>Chair: It might be useful to have another session just on biodiversity agreements</p> <p>ACTION: Transgrid to presentation on Biodiversity at future CCG.</p>



Agenda item	Summary notes
<p>5. How Transgrid manages bushfire risk and its assets</p>	<p>Adam Hoare presented on asset management and Transgrid’s bushfire management system.</p> <p>The risk approach runs on the basis of ALARP (As Low As Reasonably Practical). Bowtie diagram: inputs test on what could ignite a fire; outputs on risk mitigation. Bushfire Risk Management Plan – puts all of Transgrid on the same path to synchronise activity to mitigate risk; and also the activities Transgrid would take in the event of a fire.</p> <p>Adam Hoare: Explained the difference between transmission and distribution – Transmission has clearly defined corridors, prescribed maintenance; With Distribution network the easements may not be as clearly defined, items such as trees may encroach into a safety envelope.</p> <p>Trevor Clark: Are those transmission easements cleared?</p> <p>Adam Hoare: Not completely. Trees and flora can exist within the easements, but safety clearances are applied as required.</p> <p>Geoff Hudson: We do not want to apply a ‘scorched earth’ policy along the full alignment due to potential biodiversity impacts.</p> <p>Trevor Clark: Grass fires throughout the region move fast. Does fire rising onto the powerline cause an issue?</p> <p>Adam Hoare: Our infrastructure are steel towers and aluminium lines which have high resilience.</p> <p>Trevor Clark: In most of our area it’s pastoral country – we’ve had massive fires out there - 7000 hectares burnt out in a night</p> <p>Don Bull: Asked about the use of aerial firefighting if line is de-energised?</p> <p>Adam Hoare: During a fire event, transmission lines can be shut down on the direction of RFS. If the line is de-energised, then all restrictions would not apply however some restrictions may remain.</p> <p>Slide 22 - Vegetation management and aerial inspections. Bushfire maintenance is approximately 50% of the annual maintenance budget within Transgrid. This is done as Transgrid is committed to ensuring the easements are maintained.</p> <p>Don Bull: I’ve got a 132kV line running through our property at the moment. A number of birds nest on these lines. We haven’t seen any helicopters or inspections for a couple of years. Also insurance, how are we protected? I have been told the power can be turned off.</p> <p>Adam Hoare: Aerial inspections are undertaken annually. Ground inspections are prioritised based on level of risk. It depends on the type of issue.</p> <p>Question on notice: Is there insurance coverage for host landholders?</p> <p>Trevor Clark: We face ignition risk from lightning strikes. A lot of area you’re going through is quite isolated and we don’t have a lot of resources. Maybe you should consider having someone on the ground to coordinate with the RFS. It’s a massive area.</p> <p>Don Bull: Would a group Captain have the authority to request de-energisation? There are time pressures and remote area management to be considered.</p> <p>Jarryd Barton: This would depend on the delegations provided under Rural Fires Act 1997. If a fire is being managed under S44, there would be an Incident Management team stood up to manage the fire.</p> <p>Adam Hoare: We do have Transgrid staff embedded at local level on Local Emergency Management Committees</p>



Agenda item	Summary notes
	<p>Gary Stoll: We have upgraded our bushfire DA consent</p> <p>Colin Mayer: We will be briefing RFS and firefighting stakeholders on the transmission lines as the project is developed.</p>
6. Community Benefits – Framework and engagement	<p>Joel Annett: A portion of our budget is set aside for community investment. We want to identify opportunities that are meaningful (not just “the loudest voice”), to deliver a long-term outcome for the community.</p> <p>The themes that came out the of RRG were healthcare, telecommunications, education and research. Today we’ll add emergency preparedness/resilience. At our next meeting we would like to discuss these areas of focus. And look at how do we go from these streams to deliverable projects.</p>
7. VNI West Consultation and engagement	<p>Nathan Menser presented the proposed schedule for community engagement activity in February. A placeholder advertisement will be published next week in local newspapers.</p> <p>Trevor Clark: Drop in sessions always concern me. It’s better to say it’s 10am turn up or they don’t turn up. It’s better for everyone to hear the same thing at the same time.</p> <p>Don Bull: You need to add a Town Hall to Jerilderie. What if a landholder wants to have a more confidential meeting?</p> <p>Nathan Menser: They can request it via their land access managers.</p> <p>Joel Annett: What about online meetings?</p> <p>CCG Members: Commented they have not had positive experiences with online meetings in the past.</p>
8. Wrap up and close	<p>Chair: Please pencil in 31 January 2024 for our next meeting, and think about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community benefits: Areas of interest and themes • What you’d like to hear more about <p>Geoff Hudson: noted that there had been a meeting with Aboriginal stakeholders informally and further meetings scheduled for the new year.</p> <p>ACTION: Please come to the next meeting with thoughts for Community benefits</p>

Action items

Agenda item	Description	Person responsible	Status
2. Route selection methodology	Book meeting with Bob Crawford	Joel Annett	TBC
4. The Environmental Assessment process	Presentation on Biodiversity at future CCG.	Secretary	TBC
	Follow up with SDLAM on cultural heritage studies	Secretary	ASAP
	Question on notice: Insurance coverage for host landholders	Secretary	ASAP



Agenda item	Description	Person responsible	Status
5. How Transgrid manages bushfire risk and its assets	Follow up: Inspections on 132 Kv Line on Mr D Bull's property.	Secretary	ASAP
7. VNI West Consultation and engagement	Please come to the next meeting with thoughts for Community benefits	CCG Members	31 Jan 2024
Provide CCG with a copy of the latest ISP	Provide CCG with a copy of the latest ISP https://aemo.com.au/en/energy-systems/major-publications/integrated-system-plan-isp/2024-integrated-system-plan-isp	Secretary	With the minutes

Resources

Item	Link
Draft Corridor Report	https://www.transgrid.com.au/media/af5d3pry/ps13576-1-env-rep-001-reva_corridor_rpt_v2-2.pdf (PDF 39.34 MB)
Preferred Corridor Report	https://www.transgrid.com.au/media/0wue2k4h/vniwest-preferred-corridor-report-october-2023.pdf (PDF 3.66 MB)
Regulatory Investment Test for Transmission Documents	https://www.transgrid.com.au/projects-innovation/vniwest#Regulatory-Investment-Test-for-Transmission--RIT-T
State Significant Infrastructure	https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/assess-andregulate/development-assessment/planning-approvalpathways/state-significant-infrastructure
State Significant Infrastructure Guide	https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/2023-02/declaration-of-ssi-and-cssi-state-significantinfrastructure-guide.pdf (PDF 136KB)

Attachments

Attachment	Format
A1 Corridor maps for mark up	PDF – Sharefile link
Glossary	PDF
Transgrid Slides	PDF



Next meeting

Date:	Wednesday, 31 January 2024	Time:	[Insert time]
Location:	TBC	Chairperson:	Brendan Blakeley

DRAFT



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02 January 2024

Mr. David Reynolds
Chief Executive Officer
Local Government NSW

Email: david.reynolds@lgnsw.org.au

Dear Mr. Reynolds,

REVISED RATE PEG METHODOLOGY

As you are aware, the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) of NSW released the final report on the review of its rate peg methodology for local government in August 23, and in November 23 issued the rate peg for 2024/25, in keeping with the revised methodology identified in its review.

Unfortunately, it seems that IPART has used the review to eliminate the two years with the highest inflation since the turn of the century, from the rate peg calculation, furthering the undermining of the financial sustainability of the local government sector by the state government and its agencies.

As stated by IPART the previous Rate peg methodology used data two years in arrears, meaning that the peg for 2022/23 was based on price changes in 2020/21. As per its revised methodology, the peg for 2024/25 is based on price changes projected for 2024/25. This means that price changes for 2021/22 and 2022/23 will never get factored into the rate peg. The general inflation for these two years as per ABS statistics was in excess of 6%, while the forecast for 2024/25 and 2025/26 by the RBA in the region of around 3.75%.

In section 8.4 of the draft report on the review of the rate peg methodology, issued by IPART in June 2023, it floated the possibility of a "true-up" (see page 107) to account for the differences between the previous methodology and the revised methodology, but in its final report, **IPART has very conveniently dropped that concept altogether.**

In the heading of section 8.4 of the final report, IPART blatantly states that "We will not adjust for recent inflationary impacts in the 2024/25 rate peg". It has identified the difference for 2024/25 as 1.6% and one reason it has proffered for not accounting for the difference is that the Minister for LG allowed Councils to make an adjustment to its 2022/23 rate peg of 0.7%. While factually correct, the adjustment differed among Councils depending on the LTFP of each Council, and in most cases would not cover the full difference stated by IPART. **Further, what has been stated by IPART is only the difference in 2024/25. There will be a similar difference in 2025/26, with no adjustment whatsoever.**

IPART also indicates that if Councils wish to make an adjustment to account for the difference, they should apply for a Special Rates Variation (SRV). As you are aware the usual process for an SRV is a time consuming and quite an expensive process, requiring significant public consultation. Any additional revenue gained from an adjustment for the



difference will be eaten up by the costs of the process. Given that the differences will be in two separate years and the rate peg for the second year will not be known when an SRV for the first year needs to be submitted, the process will need to be repeated for a second time. **It is indeed absurd that such a suggestion can be made by an agency that is seeking to ensure that local governments operate in a cost-efficient manner.**

We are writing to suggest that LGNSW, on behalf of its members, engages with IPART and OLG to either.

- a) Have the rate peg for 2024/25 and 2025/26 revised to include the true-up factor, as suggested in its interim report on the review of the rate peg methodology, or
- b) Have a simplified process, similar to the process adopted when the Minister permitted an SRV in 2022/23, for Councils to apply for the difference, as an SRV, based on a Council resolution, without having to undertake the full process of a usual SRV.

Your support of the member councils in this matter will be much appreciated.

Should you require further information, please contact our Chief Executive Officer, Terry Dodds, on 0417 425 948.

Thank You.
Yours sincerely,

Terry Dodds PSM
Chief Executive Officer

Copy: Cr. Darriea Turley, President, LGNSW



Level 8
28 Margaret Street
Sydney, NSW 2000

02 9242 4000
lgnsw@lgnsw.org.au
lgnsw.org.au

Our ref: R24/0002

10 January 2024

**Mr Terry Dodds PSM
Chief Executive Officer
Murray River Council**

By email: tdodds@murrayriver.nsw.gov.au

Dear Mr Dodds

Thank you for your letter regarding the new rate peg methodology and the impact of higher levels of inflation in recent years on council finances.

I agree that while there are certainly some improvements in the new methodology (and in particular the individual council adjustments for increases in the Emergency Services Levy), it is concerning that the higher rates of inflation over the past two years will not be directly captured by the new methodology.

While Special Variations may be available where deemed necessary to account for any shortfall, I certainly appreciate that this is not an acceptable solution for many councils owing to the costly and burdensome nature of the application process and the community unrest often associated with those processes.

I have written to the Chair of IPART, Ms Carmel Donnelly PSM to raise these concerns and note the suggested remedies your letter has identified and will also raise this matter later this month in our first liaison meeting of the year with the Office of Local Government.

This is also a matter that should be considered by the forthcoming review of the financial model for local government which will also be conducted by IPART.

Thank you again for raising this matter with us. Local Government NSW will keep all councils updated on developments that go to the financial sustainability of councils.

For further information, you are welcome to contact LGNSW Director Advocacy on 02 9242 4063 or at damian.thomas@lgnsw.org.au.

**ONE VOICE
FOR COUNCILS**



Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Reynolds'.

Mr David Reynolds
Chief Executive

**Office of
Local Government**

5 O'Keefe Avenue NOWRA NSW 2541
Locked Bag 3015 NOWRA NSW 2541

Our Reference: A885484
Contact: Performance Team
Phone: 02 4428 4100

Mr Terry Dodds
General Manager
Murray River Council
PO Box 906
MOAMA NSW 2731

Via email: admin@murrayriver.nsw.gov.au


Dear Mr Dodds

Thank you for your letter to the Minister for Local Government, the Hon. Ron Hoenig MP, about the resignation of former councillor Mr Chris Bilkey, effective from 27 October 2023, which has created a vacancy on the Murray River Council (Council) civic office.

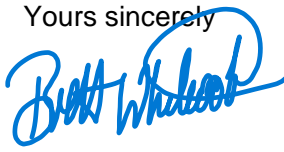
I note your advice that at its meeting of 28 November 2023, Council resolved to seek from the Minister an order under section 294 of the *Local Government Act 1993* (the Act) that the casual vacancy created by Mr Bilkey's resignation not be filled.

Under delegation from the Minister, and pursuant to section 294(2)(a) of the Act, I have determined to order that this casual vacancy in civic office not be filled.

This means Council may dispense with the need to conduct a by-election to fill this casual vacancy. I will notify the NSW Electoral Commissioner of my decision.

I trust my decision is of assistance to Council.

Yours sincerely

 11 January 2024

Brett Whitworth
Deputy Secretary, Office of Local Government

T 02 4428 4100 F 02 4428 4199 TTY 02 4428 4209
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9.7 SUNDRY DELEGATES REPORT

9.7.1 SUNDRY DELEGATES REPORT

File Number: -
Author: Lindy Leyonhjelm, Executive Assistant
Authoriser: Terry Dodds, Chief Executive Officer

RECOMMENDATION

That the Sundry Delegates Report of the Mayor and Councillors for the period 1 December 2023 through to 31 December 2023 be received and the information noted by the Council; and reasonable out of pocket expenses be met by Council.

DISCUSSION

The **Mayor, Councillor Frank Crawley** reported on his attendance at the following meetings and functions:

- 1 Dec: Official opening of Spoonbill St Open Doors project
- 1 Dec: NSW Fire & Rescue formal presentation 50-year Service to Graeme Teasdale
- 4 Dec: Budget workshop date discussion & meeting with CEO
- 7 Dec: Western Regional Planning Panel online meeting
- 7 Dec: School presentation evening St Michael's Parish PS Deniliquin
- 8 Dec: EMFM Radio interview
- 10 Dec: Lions Club of Moama Carols by Candlelight
- 11 Dec: Meeting with George Santos Moama Bowling Club
- 12 Dec: Council Pre-Briefing & Council meeting followed by Councillors function
- 13 Dec: Meeting with Helen Dalton MP
- 18 Dec: Meeting with CEO
- 20 Dec: Customer Experience Strategy Interview – online
- 21 Dec: Attendance to Murray River Council Staff Christmas party

The **Deputy Mayor, Councillor Neil Gorey** reported on his attendance at the following meetings and functions:

- 4 Dec: Moulamein Rec Reserve Committee meeting
- 11 Dec: Barham Rec Reserve Committee meeting
- 12 Dec: Council Pre-Briefing & Council meeting followed by Councillors function
- 14 Dec: Barham Public School Presentation
- 14 Dec: Barham High School Presentation

Councillor Nikki Cohen did not supply a report on her attendance to meetings and functions for this time period.

Councillor Ann Crowe reported on his attendance at the following meetings and functions:

- 1 Dec: Photos/Media Swan Hill/Murray Downs Bridge
- 11 Dec: Tooleybuc School presentation evening
- 12 Dec: Council Pre-Briefing & Council meeting followed by Councillors function
- 13 Dec: Meeting with Helen Dalton MP - Moama

Councillor Kron Nicholas did not supply a report on his attendance to meetings and functions for this time period.

Councillor Thomas Weyrich did not supply a report on his attendance to meetings and functions for this time period.

Councillor Geoff Wise did not supply a report on his attendance to meetings and functions for this time period.

Councillor Dennis Gleeson did not supply a report on his attendance to meetings and functions for this time period.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

10 NOTICE OF MOTIONS/QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE**10.1 NOTICE OF MOTION - DISCUSSION TO SPLIT LGNSW TO SHIRES ASSOCIATION OF NSW & LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION OF NSW**

File Number: -

I, Councillor Thomas Weyrich, give notice that at the next Ordinary Meeting of Council to be held on 23 January 2024, I intend to move the following motion:

MOTION

That Council advocate through RAMJO, NSW Country Mayors, and other local government entities, to demerge from the Local Government NSW association reverting to the Shires Association of NSW and Local Government Association of NSW to allow rural issues to be represented to government more robustly.

RATIONALE**BACKGROUND INFORMATION BY ADMINISTRATION**

The Shire's Association of NSW represented rural Councils from 1908 through to 1 March 2013, when the Shire's Association amalgamated with the Local Government Association of NSW to become LGNSW, incorporating all Local Government Areas with the State of NSW.

The reasoning behind the amalgamation was due to the history of dealing with common issues amongst all councils and had highlighted some advantages of a single unified voice for councils in NSW, as differing voices from the two associations would allow for reasoning behind the inaction of State Government.

Whilst this has worked well on many of the issues since the merger, the last two years at the Annual Conference of LGNSW has shown that there are vast differences in the importance of motions between rural and metropolitan government areas. There are too many motions to be addressed within the time allocated and some motions had very little to do with rural council areas.

It is suggested that by demerging, advocacy will be more in tune with regional and rural constituents.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

10.2 NOTICE OF MOTION - MASTERPLAN MURRAY DOWNS AND MOULAMEIN

File Number: -

I, Councillor Ann Crowe, give notice that at the next Ordinary Meeting of Council to be held on 23 January 2024, I intend to move the following motion:

MOTION

That Murray River Council allocate a budget for the purposes of constructing a Masterplan for Murray Downs and Moulamein in this year's coming budget 2024/25.

RATIONALE

In response to the adoption of the Murray River Council Housing Strategy at the October 2023 council meeting I would like to move a motion that we allocate a budget for the purposes of constructing a Masterplan for Murray Downs and Moulamein in this year's coming budget 2024/25.

Since amalgamation Moulamein has been through much change with the loss of the main office from what was Wakool Shire. We have carried out extensive work with CT Management reviewing our assets right across the LGA and in conjunction with our revenue taskforce group to identify assets which are no longer required. Currently Moulamein has a large head office which would no longer be adequately utilised, a Business Centre and the Library/ Community services facility in the main street. The Library/ Community Services facility is in front of the old hall which is longer fit for purpose and will be decommissioned. Library and business centre are both in the main street which no doubt enhances the area. Identification of the most desirable location into the future is very important for residents. Also, a documented plan could give ratepayers confidence what changes will be made and when dependent on budget and hopefully to the best advantage of the community.

Some of the opportunities from Murray River Local Housing Strategy part 1 – Table 2.18 – Place based initiative for Murray Downs – confirm the townships centre and the direction where future residential areas are released. Develop cross border planning with Swan Hill including an integrated land production system monitor. Work to overcome land banking. The activation of pockets of Rural (RU1) zoned land (which has a 500ha minimum lot size) enhancing the connectivity and provision of contiguous settlement with Swan Hill along the Swan Hill Road area that could be activated for a larger lot residential product (R5). Updating the flood study.

I would encourage, given our financial situation that this Masterplan be conducted “in house’ and not given to a consultant.

“In June 2021, Murray River Council initiated the preparation of the Murray River Local Housing Strategy to investigate and address housing supply in Murray River over the next 20 years. The Strategy reviews our demographics, local trends and issues affecting the LGA and produce a tailored, transparent, and proactive plan for housing supply in the right locations, at the right rime. It is paramount that the framework is measurable, responsive to tangible triggers, and is fundamentally integrated with delivery of associated servicing infrastructure.”

Murray River Local Housing Strategy – Part 1 Background report April 2023
<https://yoursay.murrayriver.nsw.gov.au/housing-strategy>

Murray River Local Housing Strategy Part 2 – Implementation Plan

I commend this Notice of Motion to Council.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

11 CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS

Nil

12 CONCLUSION OF MEETING