



**murray river
council**

AGENDA

Ordinary Council Meeting Tuesday, 24 October 2023

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

Date: Tuesday, 24 October 2023

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 26 SEPT 2023 OF MURRAY RIVER COUNCIL

File Number: -

Author: Lindy Leyonhjelm, Executive Assistant

Authoriser: Terry Dodds, Chief Executive Officer

RECOMMENDATION

That the minutes of the Extra Ordinary Meeting of Murray River Council held on 26 September 2023 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

DISCUSSION

Murray River Council held its Ordinary Meeting of the Council on Tuesday 26 September 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 is attached for ratification by the Council at this meeting.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Unconfirmed_MINUTES_Ordinary Meeting of Council 26 Sept 2023  

MURRAY RIVER COUNCIL Ordinary Council Meeting Minutes**26 September 2023**

**MINUTES OF MURRAY RIVER COUNCIL
ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, MOAMA ADMINISTRATION OFFICE, 52 PERRICOOTA
ROAD, MOAMA
ON TUESDAY, 26 SEPTEMBER 2023 AT 1PM**

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Terry Dodds (Chief Executive Officer), Rod Croft (Director Planning & Environment), Jan Donald (Executive Admin Officer), Christian Austin (Coordinator Technology & Digital Services), Stephen Fernando (Director Corporate Services), Jack Bond (Director Infrastructure), Sarah Ryan (Director Community & Economic Development), Peter Beaumont (Acting 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 22 AUGUST 2023 OF MURRAY RIVER COUNCIL****RESOLUTION 010923**

Moved: Cr Neil Gorey
Seconded: Cr Dennis Gleeson

That the minutes of the Extra Ordinary Meeting of Murray River Council held on 22 August 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 Ann Crowe has a less than significant non-pencuniary conflict of interest for Item 9.5.6 – Section 355 Committee Report in the Director Community and Economic Development Report and Supplementary Matters section of the meeting.

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Cr Chris Bilkey has a less than significant non-pencuniary conflict of interest for Item 9.4.3 – Bridge Art Project – Car Parking Options in the Director Planning and Environment Report and Supplementary Matters section of the meeting.

6 DEPUTATIONS

Nil

7 MAYORAL MINUTE(S)

Nil

8 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Nil

At 1.03pm – Item 9.1.2 Election of Mayor and Deputy Mayor was brought forward and referred to Returning Officer Mr Stephen Fernando.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS**RESOLUTION 020923**

Moved: Cr Ann Crowe
Seconded: Cr Nikki Cohen

That the Council suspend standing orders for media opportunities following the Mayor and Deputy Mayor election.

CARRIED**RESUMPTION OF STANDING ORDERS****RESOLUTION 030923**

Moved: Cr Nikki Cohen
Seconded: Cr Geoff Wise

That the Council resume standing orders.

CARRIED**9 REPORTS TO COUNCIL****9.1 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS REPORT AND SUPPLEMENTARY MATTERS****9.1.1 UNION PICNIC DAY 6 NOVEMBER 2023****RESOLUTION 040923**

Moved: Cr Kron Nicholas
Seconded: Cr Thomas Weyrich

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That the Council notes the action of the Chief Executive Officer in granting Tuesday 6 November 2023 as Union Picnic Day to Council employees who are financial members of the union(s).

CARRIED**9.1.2 ELECTION FOR MAYOR AND DEPUTY MAYOR****RECOMMENDATION**

1. That the election by Councillors for Mayor and Deputy Mayor be conducted in accordance with Schedule 7 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021.
2. That if more than one nomination is received for the position of Mayor and/or Deputy Mayor, the method of voting be conducted by:
 - Preferential Ballot **OR**
 - Ordinary Ballot **OR**
 - Open Voting
3. That the positions of Mayor and Deputy Mayor will be for a term of one (1) year – until the Council elections to be held in September 2024.

This was not required to be made a resolution in Council as the returning officer (Mr Stephen Fernando) ran the election of both Mayor and Deputy Mayor positions.

Councillor Neil Gorey was declared and unopposed as elected Deputy Mayor for the remainder of this Council unopposed.

Councillor Frank Crawley was declared and unopposed as elected Mayor for the remainder of this Council unopposed.

9.1.3 DRAFT MINUTES OF THE AUDIT, RISK & IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE (ARIC) FOR THE MEETING HELD ON 7 AUGUST 2023**RESOLUTION 050923**

Moved: Cr Kron Nicholas

Seconded: Cr Neil Gorey

That the DRAFT Minutes of the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee (ARIC) meeting held on Monday 7 August 2023 be noted by Council.

CARRIED**9.1.4 MONTHLY OPERATIONAL REPORT****RESOLUTION 060923**

Moved: Cr Neil Gorey

Seconded: Cr Geoff Wise

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

CARRIED

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9.1.5 RESOLUTIONS OF THE COUNCIL - RESOLUTION TRACKER & INFOCOUNCIL ACTION REPORTS**RESOLUTION 070923**

Moved: Cr Geoff Wise
Seconded: Cr Nikki Cohen

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**9.1.6 RECONSIDERATION OF OPPOSING EMERGENCY SERVICES LEVY AS A SINGLE ENTITY****RESOLUTION 080923**

Moved: Cr Neil Gorey
Seconded: Cr Dennis Gleeson

That the Officer's report on Reconsideration of Opposing Emergency Services Levy as a single entity be received by the Council and assess if the best steps include engaging as a joint voice for the opposition to the Levy with LGNSW or Country Mayors Association

CARRIED**9.2 DIRECTOR CORPORATE SERVICES REPORT AND SUPPLEMENTARY MATTERS****9.2.1 FINANCIAL REPORT - UNAUDITED FY 2023/24 PERIOD ENDING 31 AUGUST 2023****RESOLUTION 090923**

Moved: Cr Dennis Gleeson
Seconded: Cr Chris Bilkey

That Council:

1. Receive the Financial Report, encompassing the Income Statement and Statement of Financial Performance for the period ended 31 August 2023.

CARRIED

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9.2.2 DRAFT COUNCILLOR AND EMPLOYEE INTERACTION POLICY V#2**RESOLUTION 100923**

Moved: Cr Neil Gorey
Seconded: Cr Nikki Cohen

That the DRAFT Councillor and Employee Interaction Policy V#2 be adopted and placed on public display.

CARRIED**9.2.3 CONTAMINATED LAND POLICY V#2 - FINAL ADOPTION****RESOLUTION 110923**

Moved: Cr Kron Nicholas
Seconded: Cr Geoff Wise

That Council resolve to:

1. adopt the Contaminated Land Policy V#2 and place it in the Policy Register, and
2. any previous version of the Policy be rescinded.

CARRIED**9.2.4 PROPOSED PUBLIC ROAD NAMES - 36 LOT SUBDIVISION - LOT 24 DP 1186290, MURRAY DOWNS DRIVE, MURRAY DOWNS NSW****RESOLUTION 120923**

Moved: Cr Nikki Cohen
Seconded: Cr Ann Crowe

That Murray River Council resolve to adopt the public road names Kingfisher Boulevard & Boobook Crescent, within the 36 Lot subdivision of Lot 24 DP 1186290, Murray Downs Drive, Murray Downs NSW.

CARRIED**9.2.5 RESCINDING OF THE PLANT POLICY****RESOLUTION 130923**

Moved: Cr Thomas Weyrich
Seconded: Cr Chris Bilkey

That Murray River Council resolve to rescind Plant Policy (POL-306) V#1 adopted on 27 November 2018 and remove it from the policy register.

CARRIED

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Moved: Cr Nikki Cohen

Seconded: Cr Geoff Wise

That the proposed ward boundary realignment be adopted by Council and the NSW Electoral Commission be notified.

CARRIED**9.2.7 DRAFT ROAD & PLACE NAME POLICY****RESOLUTION 150923**

Moved: Cr Chris Bilkey

Seconded: Cr Ann Crowe

That Murray River Council resolve to adopt the DRAFT Road and Place Name Policy V#1 and place it on public exhibition for 28 days.

CARRIED**9.2.8 INVESTMENTS AND RESERVES REPORT AS AT 31 AUGUST 2023****RESOLUTION 160923**

Moved: Cr Dennis Gleeson

Seconded: Cr Geoff Wise

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

CARRIED**9.3 DIRECTOR IINFRASTRUCTURE REPORT AND SUPPLEMENTARY MATTERS****9.3.1 ALGA LOCAL ROADS, TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE CONGRESS****RESOLUTION 170923**

Moved: Cr Thomas Weyrich

Seconded: Cr Ann Crowe

That the Officer's report on ALGA Local Roads, Transport and Infrastructure Congress be received and the information noted by the Council.

CARRIED**9.4 DIRECTOR PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT REPORT AND SUPPLEMENTARY MATTERS**

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9.4.1 WASTE, RECYCLING & FOOD AND GARDEN WASTE GUIDELINES**RESOLUTION 180923**

Moved: Cr Nikki Cohen

Seconded: Cr Neil Gorey

That Council adopt the use of the Waste, Recycling & Food and Garden Waste Guidelines.

CARRIED**9.4.2 ADOPTION OF PESTICIDE NOTIFICATION PLAN****RESOLUTION 190923**

Moved: Cr Neil Gorey

Seconded: Cr Nikki Cohen

That Council adopts and implements the 2023 Draft Pesticide Use Notification Plan into operation for a period of 3 years.

CARRIED**9.4.3 BRIDGE ART PROJECT - CAR PARKING OPTIONS****RESOLUTION 200923**

Moved: Cr Nikki Cohen

Seconded: Cr Ann Crowe

1. That Council notes the Car Parking Demand Assessment Report (Attachment 1) for the Bridge Art Project.

CARRIED**RECOMMENDATION**

2. That Council chooses one (1) option below in relation to the car parking requirements for the Bridge Art Project:

Option 1 – That Council supports the current car park design due to the site constraints and projected patron use of the facility, which would allow car parking requirements to be met offsite utilising existing car park spaces for larger evening events (estimated at 45 car park spaces), additional to the 12 dedicated car park spaces onsite (including 1 accessible car park) for regular daily operation.

Option 2 – That Council does not support the current car parking design and requires the proponent to meet the car parking requirements for daily use (12 car parks including 1 accessible car park) and the addition of 45 car park spaces for larger evening events via a shared funding agreement with Council to formalise additional car parking at appropriate location within proximity of the site.

Option 3 – That Council does not support the car park design and directs the proponent to redesign the facility to meet carparking requirements as per the Murray Development Control Plan.

RESOLUTION 210923

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Moved: Cr Ann Crowe
 Seconded: Cr Chris Bilkey

That Option 1 below be the supported option.

Option 1 – That Council supports the current car park design due to the site constraints and projected patron use of the facility, which would allow car parking requirements to be met offsite utilising existing car park spaces for larger evening events (estimated at 45 car park spaces), additional to the 12 dedicated car park spaces onsite (including 1 accessible car park) for regular daily operation.

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

Against: Nil

CARRIED 9/0

9.5 DIRECTOR COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORT AND SUPPLEMENTARY MATTERS

9.5.1 LOCAL GOVERNMENT NSW DESTINATION & VISITOR ECONOMY CONFERENCE

RESOLUTION 220923

Moved: Cr Neil Gorey
 Seconded: Cr Ann Crowe

That Council receive and note the 2023 Local Government NSW Destination & Visitor Economy Conference Report.

CARRIED

9.5.2 MURRAY RIVER COUNCIL COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM - APPOINTMENT OF ASSESSMENT PANEL, ROUND 1, 2023-24

RESOLUTION 230923

Moved: Cr Ann Crowe
 Seconded: Cr Chris Bilkey

That Council:

1. Endorse the Chief Executive Officer, or his nominee, as a member of the Murray River Council Community Grants Program Assessment Panel.
2. Appoint three (3) Councillors to the Murray River Council Community Grants Program Assessment Panel to assess applications under Round 1, 2023-24.

Councillors to be appointed to the Assessment Panel, Mayor Cr Frank Crawley, Cr Geoff Wise, Cr Neil Gorey (alternate Cr Gleeson)

.CARRIED

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Moved: Cr Ann Crowe

Seconded: Cr Geoff Wise

That Council:

1. Revoke existing members of the Kyalite Progress and Recreation Reserve Association Committee of Management; and
2. Pursuant to Section 355 of the Local Government Act 1993 appoint new committee members nominated at the June 2023 AGM.

CARRIED**9.5.4 WOMBOOTA SCHOOL OF ARTS HALL COMMITTEE AGM****RESOLUTION 250923**

Moved: Cr Geoff Wise

Seconded: Cr Neil Gorey

That Council:

1. Revoke existing members of the Womboota School of Arts Hall Committee of Management; and
2. Pursuant to Section 355 of the Local Government Act 1993 appoint new committee members nominated at the June 2023 AGM.

CARRIED**9.5.5 APPOINTMENT OF COUNCIL DELEGATES TO: COMMITTEES OR SUB-COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL; SECTION 355 COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL; GOVERNMENT OR INDUSTRY ORGNISATIONS; AND COMMUNITY COMMITTEES OR GROUPS****RESOLUTION 260923**

Moved: Cr Ann Crowe

Seconded: Cr Nikki Cohen

That the Council appoints Councillor delegates, alternate delegates and representatives to the various committees or sub-committees of Council, Section 355 Committees of Council, government or industry organisations and community committees or groups, as attached to the report, for the period 22 September 2023 to September 2024, subject to any changes to delegates/representatives made at the meeting.

CARRIED**9.5.6 SECTION 355 COMMITTEE REPORT - MEETING MINUTES AS AT AUGUST 2023****RESOLUTION 270923**

Moved: Cr Ann Crowe

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Seconded: Cr Nikki Cohen

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

CARRIED

9.5.7 AFFIXING OF COUNCIL SEAL TO LEASE DOCUMENTS WITH MURRAY PLAINS MEAT CO-OPERATIVE LIMITED

RESOLUTION 280923

Moved: Cr Dennis Gleeson

Seconded: Cr Neil Gorey

That Council:

1. Affix the Common Seal of Council to the lease documents between Murray River Council and Murray Plains Meat Co-operative Limited for land at Lot 1 in DP1267277 on Gonn Road Barham, also known as 71 Gonn Road, Barham
2. Authorise the Mayor and Chief Executive Officer to sign the lease documents.

CARRIED

9.5.8 MATHOURA RETIREMENT VILLAGE LOAN

RESOLUTION 290923

Moved: Cr Thomas Weyrich

Seconded: Cr Neil Gorey

That Council resolve to:

1. Accommodate the request made by the Mathoura Retirement Village Committee of Management to return the monies advanced by Council for the construction of additional housing units at 12 Mathoura Street Mathoura;
2. Authorise the CEO to terminate the loan and repay the balance of funds owing on the loan obtained from National Australia Bank; and
3. Retain the land known as 12 Mathoura Street Mathoura as vacant land and not undertake any disposal or development actions pending a further report to Council on how best to use this land;

CARRIED

9.5.9 MATHOURA RETIREMENT VILLAGE COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT

RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopt one of the alternative sets of resolutions:

Alternative Resolution 1

That Murray River Council resolve to continue the operation of the Mathoura Retirement Village by way of maintaining current form and structure of delegated management functions to the Mathoura Retirement Village Committee of Management established under Section 355 of the Local Government Act 1998.

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Alternative Resolution 2

That Murray River Council resolve to continue the operation of the Mathoura Retirement Village by way of:

- (a) dissolving Mathoura Retirement Village Committee of Management established under Section 355 of the Local Government Act 1998 and undertaking direct operation of the Village including operations and financial management with immediate effect;
- (b) honouring the contractual agreements with the current residents of the Village; and
- (c) engaging with the current residents or a representative committee to determine a preferred model for the continued operation of the village.

Alternative Resolution 3

That Murray River Council resolve to appoint an independent third party to undertake an evaluation on the manner in which the management of the Mathoura Retirement Village by the Mathoura Retirement Village Committee of Management established under Section 355 of the Local Government Act 1998 has been undertaken, provide an opinion on the capacity of the current Committee of Management to continue to manage the Retirement Village, and identify the risks borne by Council in continuing the current arrangements; the resulting finding and recommendations to be presented to Council.

RESOLUTION 300923

Moved: Cr Chris Bilkey
Seconded: Cr Thomas Weyrich

Alternative Resolution 3 became the recommendation of Council.

That Murray River Council resolve to appoint an independent third party to undertake an evaluation on the manner in which the management of the Mathoura Retirement Village by the Mathoura Retirement Village Committee of Management established under Section 355 of the Local Government Act 1998 has been undertaken, provide an opinion on the capacity of the current Committee of Management to continue to manage the Retirement Village, and identify the risks borne by Council in continuing the current arrangements; the resulting finding and recommendations to be presented to Council.

CARRIED**9.5.10 MOAMA LIONS COMMUNITY VILLAGE LOAN****RESOLUTION 310923**

Moved: Cr Neil Gorey
Seconded: Cr Thomas Weyrich

That Council resolve to:

1. Accommodate the request made by the Moama Lions Community Village Committee of Management to return the monies advanced by Council for the construction of additional housing units at 10 & 12 Council Street Moama
2. Authorise the CEO to terminate the loan and repay the balance of funds owing on the loan obtained from National Australia Bank; and
3. Retain the land known as 10 & 12 Council Street Moama as vacant land and not undertake any disposal or development actions pending a further report to Council on how best to use this land;

MURRAY RIVER COUNCIL Ordinary Council Meeting Minutes**26 September 2023****CARRIED****9.6 CORRESPONDENCE REPORT****9.6.1 CORRESPONDENCE REPORT****RESOLUTION 320923**

Moved: Cr Chris Bilkey

Seconded: Cr Neil Gorey

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 330923**

Moved: Cr Nikki Cohen

Seconded: Cr Dennis Gleeson

That the Sundry Delegates Report of the Mayor and Councillors for the period 22 August 2023 through to 25 September 2023 be received and the information noted by the Council; and reasonable out of pocket expenses be met by Council.

Cr Ann Crowe attended the following additional functions and meetings noted below in addition to those listed within this report:

13 September Windlab Information Afternoon Kyalite Hotel

13 September Murray Downs Riverside Park Committee of Management Murray Downs Fire Station

21 September Grants Commission Financial Assistance Grants (FAG's) online

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

Nil

11 CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS**RESOLUTION 340923**

Moved: Cr Chris Bilkey

Seconded: Cr Thomas Weyrich

That Council moves out of Open Council into Closed Council at 2.59pm.

CARRIED

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 Tender MRC 2315 - Management of Outdoor Pools in Moama & Mathoura

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.

11.2 River Country Art Trail - Tender Evaluation

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 2309 - Fire Services at Moama Landfill

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.

11.4 MRC 2303 - Meninya Street Design - Award of Contract

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 10A(2) - 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 commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it.

11.5 REVERSAL OF STORMWATER CHARGES

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).

RESOLUTION 350923

Moved: Cr Thomas Weyrich

Seconded: Cr Ann Crowe

That Council moves out of Closed Council into Open Council at 3.13pm.

CARRIED

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RESOLUTION 360923

Moved: Cr Thomas Weyrich

Seconded: Cr Ann Crowe

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

CARRIED**11.1 TENDER MRC 2315 - MANAGEMENT OF OUTDOOR POOLS IN MOAMA & MATHOURA****RESOLUTION 370923**

Moved: Cr Neil Gorey

Seconded: Cr Thomas Weyrich

That Council:

1. Notes the Tender Evaluation Report attached under Attachment 1 for an overview of the Completed Tender Process for the management of outdoor pools in Moama and Mathoura.
2. Accepts the tender from Belgravia Health & Leisure Group Pty Ltd for \$195,000 (Ex GST) for Tender Number MRC 2315 – Management of Outdoor Pools Moama & Mathoura
3. Authorise the CEO to sign the contract documents.

CARRIED**11.2 RIVER COUNTRY ART TRAIL - TENDER EVALUATION****RESOLUTION 380923**

Moved: Cr Ann Crowe

Seconded: Cr Dennis Gleeson

That Council:

1. Notes the Tender Evaluation Report attached under Attachment 1 for an overview of the Completed Tender Process;
2. Accepts the tender from Form Building a State of Creativity Pty Ltd for the lump sum price of \$1,321,172.73 (ex GST) for Tender Number MRC 2310 River Country Art Trail;
3. Authorise the CEO to sign the contract documents;
4. Authorise Director Community & Economic Development to act as Council's representative for the contract and authorise any contract variations within budget and delegation authority.

CARRIED**11.3 MRC 2309 - FIRE SERVICES AT MOAMA LANDFILL****RESOLUTION 390923**

Moved: Cr Geoff Wise

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Seconded: Cr Neil Gorey

That Council

1. Notes the Tender Evaluation Report attached under Attachment 1 for an overview of the Completed Tender Process.
2. Accepts the tender from Deni & Echuca Fire Protection Services for the lump sum price of \$479,552.63 (INC GST) for Tender Number MRC 2309 – Fire Services at Moama Landfill.
3. Authorise the CEO to sign the contract documents.
4. Authorise Brian Holmes, Manager Waste & Compliance to act as Council's Representative for the contract and authorise any contract variations within budget.

CARRIED

11.4 MRC 2303 - MENINYA STREET DESIGN - AWARD OF CONTRACT

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Notes the Tender Evaluation Report attached under Attachment 1 for an overview of the completed tender process.
2. Accepts the tender from Spiire Pty Ltd for the lump sum price of \$878,685 (ex GST) for Tender Number MRC 2303 – Meninya Street Design.
3. Increase the project budget by \$430,000 from the existing \$540,000, to a new amount of \$970,000 to cover contract costs and contingency allowance.
4. Authorise the CEO to sign the contract documents.
5. Authorise Matthew Sherman, Project Manager to act as Council's representative for the contract and authorise any contract variations within budget and delegation authority.

RESOLUTION 400923

Moved: Cr Dennis Gleeson

Seconded: Cr Ann Crowe

That Council notes, accepts and authorises the following points including the additional information at item 3:

1. Notes the Tender Evaluation Report attached under Attachment 1 for an overview of the completed tender process.
2. Accepts the tender from Spiire Pty Ltd for the lump sum price of \$878,685 (ex GST) for Tender Number MRC 2303 – Meninya Street Design.
3. Increase the project budget by \$430,000 from the existing \$540,000, to a new amount of \$970,000 to cover contract costs and contingency allowance. Increase of budget to come out of the \$679,000 that Transport for NSW gave Murray River Council for the handover of Meninya Street for future asset maintenance.
4. Authorise the CEO to sign the contract documents.
5. Authorise Matthew Sherman, Project Manager to act as Council's representative for the contract and authorise any contract variations within budget and delegation authority.

CARRIED

MURRAY RIVER COUNCIL Ordinary Council Meeting Minutes

26 September 2023

11.5 REVERSAL OF STORMWATER CHARGES**RESOLUTION 410923**

Moved: Cr Chris Bilkey

Seconded: Cr Nikki Cohen

That Murray River Council resolve to note:

1. the proposed categorisation of four properties, as identified in the report, as being outside of the town stormwater reticulation network, with effect from 1 July 2023, and
2. the reversal of the Stormwater Charges levied on the said properties for the financial year 2023-24, as detailed in the report.

CARRIED**RESOLUTION 420923**

Moved: Cr Thomas Weyrich

Seconded: Cr Ann Crowe

That Council moves out of Closed Council into Open Council at 3.13pm.

CARRIED**12 CONCLUSION OF MEETING****THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, THE MEETING CLOSED AT 3.19pm.**

The next Ordinary Meeting of Murray River Council will be held on Tuesday 24 October 2023, 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 26 SEPTEMBER 2023, IN ACCORDANCE WITH A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL ON 24 OCTOBER 2023.

.....
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 2022-26 DELIVERY PROGRAM REQUESTS FOR CHANGE OCTOBER 2023 (YEAR 2 OF PROGRAM)

File Number: -

Author: Zoe Croft, Manager Community Engagement

Authoriser: Terry Dodds, Chief Executive Officer

RECOMMENDATION

That That Council endorse the recommended changes to the 2022-2026 Delivery Program as identified in the attached table and subsequent changes in the 2022-2032 Community Strategic Plan (if required).

BACKGROUND

The 2022-2026 MRC Delivery Program came into effect on 1 July 2022. The program is the action plan that delivers the Community Strategic Plan (CSP).

In October 2022, Council's Executive and Leadership Teams were provided an opportunity to review the associated timelines within the 2022-2026 Delivery Program and determined some projects required realignment of implementation year, amendments to text, and clarification on performance measures which were duplicated in the Delivery Program.

During the review it was noted that the Employment Lands Strategy was identified as a major project but not noted within any of the Projects or Programs of works, this has now been included in the 2022-2026 Delivery Program. Relevant sections have been updated in the document to reflect the inclusion of the Employment Lands Strategy and subsequent Projects or Programs of works (as per the previously approved amendments).

In September 2023, Council's Executive and Leadership Teams were again provided an opportunity to review the associated timelines within the 2022-2026 Delivery Program. This was to allow for realignment of project and programs of works and timeline adjustments, due to the ongoing impacts of the 2022 floods (reconstruction and recovery) and realignment of projects/ programs of works to the Accountabilities Framework.

DISCUSSION

The table below outlines the requested changes and reasons for these changes to be considered by Council. The final column the table outlines the recommendation by ELT.

Delivery Program Code and title.	What is the change being requested?	Why is the change being requested?	Are there any flow on effects to other sections of the DP / CSP?	Position of staff member requesting change	Change approved (ELT) / further information requested

DP 3.7.1 – Develop a Residential Housing Strategy	Add additional tick in Year 2 of the DP	There was a delay in data collection and collation due to staff changes and consultants' availability. The final report is to be submitted in Year 2	Impacts 3.11.1	Director Planning and Environment	Approved
DP 3.11.1 – Review and develop a new Development Control Plan	Change delivery years to Year 2 and 3 of the DP	Due to delay of final Residential Housing Strategy, the development of the DCP will be delayed, additional delay due to resourcing.	Nil	Director Planning and Environment & Manager Development Services	Approved
DP 7.11.1 – Investigate and develop a framework to incorporate current and likely Biodiversity & Carbon Offset (Carbon Credits). Requirements actioned in physical planning decisions.	change of location for S, B, P, O	Currently MOR does not indicate DCS in either S, B or P. *this project was moved to DCS when Directorate Special Projects concluded. B was not updated to reflect the change		Director Corporate Services	Recommend – move to parking lot for discussion at next DP development session. Biodiversity offsets - awaiting Sust MRC outcomes to determine property options moving forward Carbon offsets - Tech1 needs to be able to track Potential to split into two projects or discuss as a framework option.

<p>DP 3.4.1 – Community Safer Spaces Plan and associated documentation developed and embedded into Councils operations</p>	<p>Change S, B, P, O</p>	<p>Unsure if S, B, P, O are correct sitting with Director of Infrastructure</p>		<p>Director Infrastructure</p>	<p>3.4.1 – split – Plan year 2 and ensure embedded into PMF, (Deliver) 3.4.2 – implement actions Year 3, & 4 (Deliver)</p>
<p>DP 2.6.5 – Upgrades to the MRC website to include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Web-based payment options - Interactive mapping of foot and cycle paths - Community directory <p>Move to more paperless documentation (online signing/portal)</p>	<p>Additional ticks in year 2 and 4</p>	<p>Web-based payments being investigated now with rollout to occur later in 2023-24 FY.</p> <p>Mapping tools likely to be pushed back due to mapping options within Website (interim option to host project specific data on YourSay page)</p>	<p>Nil</p>	<p>Manager Community Engagement</p>	<p>Approved</p>
<p>DP 2.8.1 – Review and update Councils Community Engagement Framework.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Plan to increase face to face engagement with communities - Provide updates on CSP and Delivery Program implementation - Council meetings being 	<p>Additional ticks in year 3 and 4</p>	<p>The items outlined as actions need to be carried out for all years within the DP not just the first 2 years.</p>	<p>Nil</p>	<p>Manager Community Engagement</p>	<p>Approved</p>

held in various locations across the region - Meet the Council events (staff and councillors).					
DP 2.5 – Develop and implement a Corporate Strategy	Additional item to be created as 2.5.6	Development of Corporate Strategy is missing from the deliverable actions		Manager Community Engagement	Add as 2.5.6 – Scope and begin development Year 2 & 3, Delivery Year 4. Corporate Plan to allow for business units to develop plans and strategies that align with corporate goals. Eg – HR Strategy, Customer Service Strategy, (Deliver)
DP 2.3 – Develop and implement a fully integrated Customer Relationship Management (CRM) process and system	Additional item to be created as 2.3.3	Development of Customer Relationship Management (CRM) process and System is missing from the deliverable actions	Nil	Manager Community Engagement	Approved – add additional line (phone system, knowledge management system, etc) (Deliver)
DP 3.5 – LED lighting strategy and program to be rolled out across the Council are (streetlight, parks and reserves)	Additional item to be created as 3.5.2	Development of LED Lighting Strategy is missing from the deliverable actions		Manager Community Engagement	Remove word strategy from title as this is a completed project and part of BAU and approvals process

DP 4.10.5 – Community led 'indigenous language' classes for interested local community members	Remove this item	This is not Council's role. We are yet to formalise partnerships with indigenous groups, which should take place before we decide what indigenous focused projects we run or support.	N/A	Manager Economic Development and Tourism	Move to parking lot – Advocate in future when projects are funded or supported by external bodies
DP 4.7.1 – Investigate RDA Riverina's 'Country Change' program to attract new residents. -	Move from HR to Eco Dev (B, P, O)	Beck - this closely aligns with the <i>Live Here Work Here Play Here</i> project. After discussion (Jane Harris) had with RDA, seems this project could align better with Eco Dev as RDA project is looking at a project to showcase the region and recruitment not just recruitment.		Manager Economic Development and Tourism & Acting Manger People (supported by Manager People)	Recommend further discussion (Manager People, Director Community and Economic Development, Manager Economic Development and Tourism) - project may align better with Eco Dev portfolio. Recruitment is a secondary outcome of the RDA project not the primary outcome.
DP 5.11.1 – Investigate and undertake pilot programs – cropping	Remove this item	This is not Council's role. We support WMLIG and One Basin CRC on various pilot and research projects, however it is not Council's role to undertake cropping pilot programs.	N/A	Manager Economic Development and Tourism	Not approved – we maintain as we focus on Partner and Advocate as per the DP outcomes.
DP 6.6.1 – Develop a Public Transport Strategy for our communities to become interconnected.	Move to Office of the CEO	This change of location and status from Deliver to Advocate was discussed at the ELT accountability workshop.	NA	Director Community and Economic Development	Approved as per discussion at ELT workshop Oct 2023.

DP 4.11.1 – Develop a Health and Wellbeing Strategy	Change of status	Change from Deliver to Partner and Advocate	NA	Director Community and Economic Development	Approved - Council doesn't offer any of the following services mental health, aged care special care, disability housing.
DP 4.2.1 – Develop a Youth Forum	Move to the Parking Lot	Council doesn't have resources and isn't funded to develop a youth forum.	NA	Director Community and Economic Development	Approved
DP 4.8.3 – Ongoing development and use of skilled locals within S355 committees	Change location for B, P, O	New role developed who focuses on Local Connections and Section 355 Committees	NA	Director Community and Economic Development	Commenced.
DP 2.8.3 – Further develop partnerships with local community groups to implement community driven projects	Change location for B, P, O	New role developed who focuses on Local Connections and Section 355 Committees	NA	Director Community and Economic Development	Approved, as available.
Action 3.1.11: Deliver: Review and rationalise requirements for sports and recreation facilities, based on demand for such services, usage of existing facilities and affordability of maintaining and renewing such facilities (Years 2 - 4	Create new DP outcome. B, P, O to be aligned to Strategic Property Specialist.	New role developed to focus on Working towards a Sustainable MRC outcomes.	NA Links to 3.1.1	CEO	Approved
Action 3.2.2: Deliver: Review existing public buildings for community needs, fit for purposes, and affordability of maintaining and renewing such	Create new DP outcome. B, P, O to be aligned to Strategic	New role developed to focus on Working towards a Sustainable MRC outcomes.	NA Links to 3.2.1	CEO	Approved

buildings (Years 1 - 3)	Property Specialist.				
Action 3.13.15: Deliver: Assess open spaces and vacant land to identify assets excess to requirement for servicing the local community needs and develop a program of works for their disposal (Years 1 - 3)	Create new DP outcome. B, P, O to be aligned to Strategic Property Specialist.	New role developed to focus on Working towards a Sustainable MRC outcomes.	NA	CEO	Approved

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

2. Strategic Theme 2: A Place of Progressive Leadership

2.8 - Achieve community driven results through collaboration and engagement (community and stakeholders) - Community and Council collaboration.

BUDGETARY IMPLICATIONS

There are no significant budgetary implications at this time however the impacts of the Financial Sustainability Project MRC is about to commence may have future budgetary Impacts. Once this is determined updates to the Delivery Program will be requested, if required.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Nil.

LEGISLATIVE IMPLICATIONS

RISK ANALYSIS

- **What can happen?**

Council under delivers or not delivers projects in sequence, therefore there may be budgetary implications for delivery of projects and not meeting community expectations over the life of the CSP.

- **How can it happen?**

Projects proceed as is stated in the CSP and Delivery Program

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

Council over promises and under delivers on projects and programs of works.

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

Likely

- **Adequacy of existing controls?**

Council staff do not have the ability to change the Delivery Program without Council endorsement

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

Revision through this Council resolution

CONCLUSION

When councils start their new term, under the IP&R Framework, the renewing of the CSP is required within nine (9) months of an election or the 30th of June, whatever occurs first. Council completed a huge consultation process, across seven areas (nine meetings) over a condensed period. At that stage less was known in relation to potential inflationary pressures, causing subsequent redirection, reduction, and sometimes removal altogether, of some items on the communities 'wish list.'

Since the start of the current term of council we've already lived through the third worst flood since European settlement. Between cost pressures not seen since the early 90's, and emergency recovery efforts many of the altruistic aims will need to remain that, aims.

In short, as is the case when any major upheaval occurs in any industry, especially those with direct services to the public, a redirection of finite efforts is required. This has already happened to a great extent here at Murray River Council, along with the other forty-three councils which have been declared 'flood effected' under the provisions of the Natural Disaster Funding Arrangement protocols.

This report formally acknowledging the circumstances we've been through and the subsequent rationale to alter the Projects and Programs of works identified in the Delivery Program.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

9.1.2 REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICES - 11 NOVEMBER 2023

File Number: -

Author: Lindy Leyonhjelm, Executive Assistant

Authoriser: Terry Dodds, Chief Executive Officer

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the Mayor, or a representative, attend and lay a wreath at the Remembrance Day Service in Mathoura at the War Memorial, Soldiers Memorial Gardens on Saturday 11 November 2022, commencing at 10:45am.
2. That the Mayor, or a representative, attend and lay a wreath at the Cenotaph, Kerrabee Soundshell Moama on Saturday 11 November 2022, commencing at 11 am.

BACKGROUND

Remembrance Day, which was originally called Armistice Day, is a Memorial Day observed in Australia since the end of the First World War. A minute's silence is observed for the members of the armed forces who died in the line of duty.

Remembrance Day is observed annually on November 11 to recall the end of hostilities of the Great War (World War I), the signing of the armistice, which occurred on November 11, 1918 – the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month.

DISCUSSION

Council has received the following requests for Council representation at annual Remembrance Day Services within the Council area:

1. Remembrance Day – Mathoura

The Mathoura RSL Sub Branch has extended an invitation to the Mayor, or a representative, of the Murray River Council to attend its Remembrance Day Service to be held on Saturday 11 November 2022, commencing at 10:45am at the War Memorial, Soldiers Memorial Gardens, Mathoura, with morning tea to follow. A position will be made available for Council's representative to lay a wreath on behalf of the Murray River Council community. A speech is not required.

2. Remembrance Day – Moama

The Mayor or a representative of Council is invited to lay a wreath at the Cenotaph at the Kerabee Soundshell Moama on Saturday 11 November at 11 am. A position will be made available for Council's representative to lay a wreath on behalf of the Murray River Council community. A speech is not required.

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

4. Strategic Theme 4: A place of inclusion, culture & wellbeing

4.6 - Foster and develop strategy to recognise and celebrate our rich heritage and indigenous culture (in partnership with community) - Regional History.

BUDGETARY IMPLICATIONS

Cost of wreaths for Councillors to lay at services approx. \$70 each x 2

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Nil.

LEGISLATIVE IMPLICATIONS**RISK ANALYSIS**

- **What can happen?**
Nil
- **How can it happen?**
Nil
- **What are the consequences of the event happening?**
Nil
- **What is the likelihood of the event happening?**
Nil
- **Adequacy of existing controls?**
Nil
- **Treatment options to mitigate the risk?**
Nil

CONCLUSION

Remembrance Day is observed annually on November 11 with a minute's silence for the members of the armed forces who have died in the line of duty. The Mathoura RSL Sub Branch and the Moama RSL Sub Branch hold Remembrance Day services in their respective towns, and cordially invite a representative of Council to attend and lay a wreath on behalf of the Murray River Council community.

ATTACHMENTS

1. **Mathoura Sub-Branch Remembrance Day 2023**  



Mathoura RSL Sub-Branch



President
John Petschauer

Secretary
Sue Wilson

Lindy Leyonhjelm
Murray River Council

Good morning Lindy,

As Secretary of the Mathoura RSL Sub-Branch, I formally request the presence of Council representation at our upcoming Remembrance Day Service to be held at 10.45am on Saturday 11th November.

The Councillor/s would not be required to speak but the President, John Petschauer, invites them to lay a wreath on behalf of Council.

I look forward to a positive response at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely

Sue Wilson
Secretary
E: susannewilson7@bigpond.com
M: 0413 024904

9.1.3 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

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

That the Monthly Operational Report as of September 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.

Economic Development and Tourism

- In September, we launched the spring River Country marketing campaign and celebrated the opening of the new Echuca Moama Visitor Information Centre. During this month, we also refreshed the Visit River Country website to align with the spring season and introduced the "Discover Food and Wine in River Country" marketing campaign. Additionally, we made substantial progress in our discussions with a regional event company regarding the possibility of hosting their significant music event in Moama.
- A surge in multiple projects activity and milestone deadlines aligning, has created a busy period for managing reporting and acquittals which is our financial accountability process. Milestones and acquittals involve the systematic review and reconciliation of project expenditures against budget allocations and timeframes to ensure resources are being utilised effectively and in accordance with established funding guidelines and contractual obligations.
- The team currently have the following projects underway:
 - Development of Council's Economic Development Strategy
 - Development of Council's Employment Lands Strategy
 - Development of Council's Arts and Culture Strategy
 - Development of the River Country Silo Art Trail

Human Resources

- No injuries for Sept 2023, LTI at 0 hours!!

Business Intelligence

- TechnologyOne - A decision has been made for all property-related records to reside in TechOne as at 1 July 2024 as we plan to move away from CM9 in 2025. Works underway to ensure the transition is as smooth as possible.
- JIRA Service Management implemented to assist with managing support tickets created across MRC, which will assist with identifying recurring issues, trends/patterns and resourcing requirements.
- Preparing 2023B Upgrade for Oct/Nov – test cases created and bookings locked in with external consultants supporting the upgrade.
- Busy with inflow of Property and Rates and ECR related issues along with TechOne access.
- Created T1 ECR - Eftpos terminal troubleshooting document.
- Revamp of the learning hub continues, with works underway for EAM (Asset Enterprise Management), Finance and Corporate Performance Management.

- Process mapping continues across Council, with 131 completed to date and an additional 18 identified for tasks associated with the new TechOne compliance module.

Finance

- **2022/23 Financial Statements** – Work progresses on the year-end financial statements. External audit has commenced on the 25 September and is currently on-going.
- **Technology One System** – Technology One System has gone live from 1 July 2023 for Property and Rating. The rating system still has some minor implementation that currently requires Finance to continue to dedicate staff resourcing to it, whilst managing day-to-day operations. Updates to the rating module continue to progress.
- **Quarterly budget review process** – Management Accountant has issued budget packs for the 2023/24 year 1st quarter budget review. These are due back to Finance by the 18 October. Issued earlier than usual to give Managers more time to work on their reviews.
- **Monthly reporting** – Month report to council has commenced in July 2023. This report will provide Council with a monthly progress on the Income Statement and Statement of Financial Performance. It is expected that Cashflow reporting will be added to the monthly report in the near future.
- **Policy Reviews** – New Budget and Borrowing Policies will be put to the October 2023 Ordinary Council Meeting for adoption. These policies are the result of the prior 2021/22 audit. Council's hardship and credit card policies will also be reviewed during October and be put to the November 2023 Audit Committee meeting for review.
- **Anniversary of Service:** Sharon Wescombe (Payroll Coordinator) – 12 Years with Council.
- **Overhead Review:** Congratulations to Nikki Chalmers (Management Accountant) and Hannah Wicke (Finance Officer) for the work done on the internal overhead review. This process was undertaken to review the current internal overhead allocations and assess whether reallocation could be improved between the funds (General, Water, Sewer, and Waste) and splits within the departments in the General Fund. Internal overhead allocation is the allocation of shared costs between funds and within the General Fund (by department).

Information Technology

- Mobile Library electrical upgrades completed.
- New ICT Office fit out commenced.
- New computers for roadshow arrived and will be demonstrated to staff that are due to changeover.
- Business-as-usual workload is still extremely high but the team are managing.

Strategic Assets

- Aerial Imagery Capture over Moama scheduled for February 2024. Pre-works underway.
- Working with Technology One project implementation team to develop internal and external mapping views via Intramaps. Through Technology One release 2 (property and rating) property data is linked and updated from LPI and available through the mapping systems (update and integration works continuing with Technology One & LPI). Internal documentation linkages available, and continuing to be developed, to allow access to design plans, specifications and WAE plans via hyperlinks in Intramaps. Mapping of buried assets now loaded into Before You Dig (BYD) platform for auto-generation of external service requests.
- **Leverage the GIS to improve the extent, efficiency and effectiveness of data capture:** Works underway to review current systems and processes to determine areas for efficiency gains and suitable points of integration and automation. Collaboration with other Technology One SAM sites and adjacent LGAs in progress. BYD platform now live with buried asset data. Discussions held with other LGAs on gifted asset automation, import process established.

Community Services

- In September we held a "Defensive Driver Course" which was offered to all our Staff and Volunteers. We had 20 participants, who completed this course over two days. We had some great feedback and very beneficial to all those who attended. This was funded through Transport for New South Wales.
- We have been working with Murray Haven Homes and Barham LHACC to run an 'Aging Persons Information Day' to be held in Barham on October 19th, providing information on aged care services in our Local Area. Includes a Guest Speaker from Centrelink, and 12 other Services from the Area who

will be in attendance, ranging from Health Services, Podiatry, Hearing, Murray River Council – Community Services, Legal – Glowrey's Solicitors etc.

Customer Service

- **Customer Experience Strategy:** Proto Partners have been engaged to assist with the design and development of a Customer Experience Strategy. This strategy will provide a clear roadmap that reflects the vision of delivering an improved customer experience across all areas of the business and meets the community's needs now and into the future. The strategy will review our current customer experience and provide an action plan for improvements, measures and clarity on creating a customer centric culture, and will be based on insights from research, metrics and targeted engagement with employees and customers.
- **Barham Library:** Move & Groove has once again seen the children enjoy some lovely stories read by our wonderful volunteer during September and creating some beautiful craft. We have been incorporating stories about Spring, birds and camping. Ongoing story time, games, grafts and general community activities continue to be well attended.
- **Moulamein Library:** broke a new record on Friday 22nd with 36 kids attending the Friday games day! It was great to see so many attendees and the library was full of energy and noise. All the participants were very well behaved and all had a fun afternoon.
- **Mathoura Library:** Mathoura library held a school holiday program for the first time. A Lego table was set up during the NSW School Holidays to try and encourage the local children and visiting children into the centre.
- **Mobile Library:** Mobile library only ran for one week in September due to our library assistant taking a well-deserved break. It was a particularly busy week especially in Wakool with many locals came to pay their rates resulting in the busiest day the mobile library has seen.
- **Staffing Levels:** Our three new Customer Service Officers commenced at the start of September and have been a welcome addition to the customer service team. They are currently learning all aspects of council and are rotating between offices learning about the different areas within our region.

Development Services

- Four Town Planning positions were advertised in September 2023 and at this stage we will progress to interviews for two of these positions, leaving potentially two or three Town Planning positions vacant. Council continues to struggle to attract reliable Town Planning Consultants with high technical skills however have recently commenced working with two new consultants, one of those with the ability to assist with Planning Proposals. Council will continue to engage the services of Louise Collins into 2024 to assist with Town Planning matters however with the induction of many new faces into the team who are learning and requiring a lot of resources, at this stage there are some delays with applications. This is compounded further with the entire administration team still learning the ropes with the Planning Portal, processes and getting to know software which will take time.
- Despite the short-term challenges of training and mentoring, we have been exceptionally lucky to attract such high-quality staff to Council and Development Services is extremely confident they will be better placed to speed up time frames moving into 2024 along with the support of suitable town planning consultants to assist with the workload.

Parks, Gardens, Open Space and Biosecurity

- Gazania trail sites set up on MRC roadside near Wakool to test the effects of new herbicide method, working with Chemical company ENVU.
- Staff conducted inspections in the Perricoota and Koondrook forests with Forest NSW Corp representative.
- Removal of cape broom from nature strip in residential areas.
- Parks staff inspected TNSW Echuca Moama bridge Landscape, the project was officially handed over to Council for ongoing maintenance in September.
- New plant and equipment purchased for Parks teams to reduce mowing times. Replacement tractor and mower delivered in Moama will achieve significant operational efficiencies.
- Compliment letters received thanking Parks staff for their work in Wakool and Mathoura.
- New weeds introduced during floods becoming established during the spring growing season.

- Continued rises in Murray River water levels impacting on lower river reserves restricting access and increasing maintenance requirements.
- High spring growth rates impacting service delivery and increasing customer requests for mowing.

Works

- **Flood Recovery:** Council have completed the first two phases of the recovery works, emergent works and immediate restoration works.
 - A total of 162 damages have been submitted final phase, restoration of essential public assets.
 - Works have started on Perricoota Forest Road and soon to commence on Aratula Road.
 - A works package for heavy patching has been prepared for tender.
 - There are 41,900m² of seal pavement damages, 17,300m² and 24,600m² for Regional and Local roads respectively.
 - The deadline to complete the final phase is 30 June 2025.
- Great work has been underway to review, and cleanup Reflect defect database. Schedule inspections for all roads to be formalised in Reflect to allow for an improved routine and reporting purposes.
- Various maintenance works have been underway including maintenance grading, footpath and kerb replacements, table drain and culvert cleaning and clearing, etc.
- Reseals and final seals scheduling is nearing completion, with works to occur from November 2023.
- Teams are putting in extra effort to complete works on pothole repairs across our sealed and unsealed road networks.
- Upcoming works include Perricoota Road resheeting, Bunnaloo Road, Speewa Road, Chester Street and Wakool Steet intersection, Deniliquin-Barham Road (pending external funding), Barmah Road (pending external funding), Kyalite Road (pending external funding), Thyra Road railway removal and various K&G and footpaths renewals.

Infrastructure

- Expenses this month have been higher than expected with the main culprits being Professional Membership of Council all coming at the one time and an increase of RFS contribution that have been higher than previous years.
- It is great to have our new starter Jobin fill the role of Development Engineer. A great pick up from Albury City Council.

Building and Facilities

- **Barham Hall Lighting Upgrade:** In line with our 100% Renewables Energy Plan, the fluorescent lights in the Barham Hall have been upgraded to energy efficient LED.
- **Moama Preschool Development:** Works are progressing well. All underground services have been installed, building slab has been completed, steel / timber framing has been erected, roofing in place and carpark completed. Building colour schemes have been finalised. Works to re-align the internal Recreation Reserve access track have been completed. Designs and delivery of the rear landscaping / play space have been finalised and has been being assessed for compliance. Works have commenced on delivering this play space.
- Ongoing rollout of the Salto system and the commencement of the installation of the Promaster system in the western area of the Council.

Major Projects

- The Draft Echuca-Moama Flood Study Report has been recommended to Council for placement on Public Exhibition. It will be open for public comment from 30 October 2023 to at least 27 November 2023.
- NSW Boating Now Program has approved extension of time for completion of the Murray Downs Boat Ramp Project. Work is scheduled to commence of the project during October 2023.

Plant, Fleet and Stores

- As per last month's council resolutions, we will be purchasing:
 - 1) Water Truck for Mathoura *Expected delivery in February 2024*
 - 2) Grader for Barham *Expected delivery in March 2024*
 - 3) Pneumatic Roller for Mathoura *Delivery in week ending 20 October 2023*
 - 4) Road Reclaimer for Moulamein *Expected delivery in February 2024*
 - 5) Backhoe Loader for Moama/Mathoura *Delivery in week ending 13 October 2023*

Water Services

- **Barham water pressure project:** Slab and foundations complete. Pumps have arrived and the fittings are being fabricated. Construction is ongoing with end-of-year completion target still on schedule.
- Council is seeking funding through the Safe Secure Water Program for essential upgrades to the Moama Sewer Treatment Plant following recommendations from the Integrated Water Cycle Management Plan.
- Council is in the final stages of implementing Waste ID for the regulation of Liquid Trade Waste transport and disposal. Council will be installing QR codes at various locations further information will be available by scanning the QR codes.
- Congratulations to Jamie Betts who is the acting Assistant Supervisor for September.
- Trevor Wright, Hayden Metcalfe and Chris Flett completed Fluoridation operator training.

Strategic Property Specialist

- First 19 parcels of MRC-owned vacant lots were submitted for internal consultation with representatives from all MRC Directorates and departments to determine their status as "Surplus to MRC requirements". 3 Lots have been determined as needing further investigation, 10 Lots have been identified as "Surplus to MRC requirements" and are now eligible for application to be reclassified as "Operational" and 6 Lots have been identified as "Surplus to MRC requirements" and can progress to testing for disposal.

Section 355

- Manager of Local Connections continues to meet with all Section 355 Committees.
- Evaluation of the purpose of all committees is underway in consultation with the committees.
- Draft 'instruments of delegation' have been developed awaiting advice from legal team. The instruments of delegation will provide clarity around responsibilities for committees and council. They will also provide knowledge to committees about the functions they are legally able to undertake pursuant to the Local Government Act.

Waste and Compliance

- Social media advice to landowners has continued during September reminding residents to reduce vegetation and maintain properties during spring and summer to mitigate the risk of fire.
- Cattle are currently being grazed on the Travelling Stock Route at Stoney Crossing. Owner/droivers are permitted to graze stock by Local Land Services. Council Rangers monitor for appropriate warning signage and attendance.
- Council waste staff met with Campaspe Shire at the Moama landfill to discuss disposing of street sweepings.
- Waste staff held a contract meeting with JR Richards and visited the new site JR Richards have moved into.
- The Waste team had a site visit to the Moama landfill from Run Energy to investigate the site for potential methane gas capture and flaring to satisfy the 2025 NSW EPA mandatory gas capture policy.
- The first underground petroleum storage system (UPSS) follow-up compliance inspection was completed. An educative approach has worked well to achieve compliance at the site and to build a positive professional relationship with the site operator and owner.
- Food safety assessments continued with higher risk premises scheduled as a priority.

- Health Protection NSW have once again requested MRC participate in arbovirus surveillance throughout the next mosquito season (due to commence first week of November). We have agreed to participate and set traps at the same five locations as last season. (2 x Moama, 1 x Mathoura and 2 x Barham).

ATTACHMENTS

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

9.2 DIRECTOR CORPORATE SERVICES REPORT AND SUPPLEMENTARY MATTERS

9.2.1 INVESTMENTS AND RESERVES REPORT AS AT 30 SEPTEMBER 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 30 September 2023.

BACKGROUND

Monthly report on cash and investments balances as of 30 September 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 30 September 2023.

DETAILS	JULY 2023	AUGUST 2023	SEPTEMBER 2023
Cash Book Balance B/Fwd	\$ 6,672,615	\$ 4,283,371	\$ 4,987,861
Add income for month	\$ 6,305,820	\$ 6,697,361	\$ 5,454,489
Deduct expenditure for month	\$ 10,705,841	\$ 6,035,963	\$ 7,931,377
CASH AVAILABLE	\$ 2,272,594	\$ 4,944,769	\$ 2,510,973
Redeem/(Purchase) Investments	\$ 2,010,777	\$ 43,092	-\$ 715,085
CASH BOOK BALANCE	\$ 4,283,371	\$ 4,987,861	\$ 1,795,888
Add on-call account	\$ 1,509,977	\$ 1,515,235	\$ 2,270,255
Add investments - Deposits	\$ 46,840,456	\$ 46,797,364	\$ 47,512,449
Add investments - Shares	\$ 2,010	\$ 2,010	\$ 2,010
CASH POSITION	\$ 52,635,814	\$ 53,302,470	\$ 51,580,602
As per Bank Statements	\$ 10,162,946	\$ 6,851,704	\$ 2,915,238

Reserves by Fund

Fund	General	Water	Sewer	Waste	Total
July 2023	\$23,027,149	\$9,558,576	\$15,671,386	\$4,378,703	\$52,635,814
August 2023	\$24,420,285	\$9,283,545	\$15,416,649	\$4,181,991	\$53,302,470
September 2023	\$23,633,074	\$8,536,722	\$15,322,836	\$4,087,970	\$51,580,602

Status of Reserves

Funds	General	Water	Sewer	Waste	Total
Unrestricted	\$ 1,799,623	\$ 3,200,729	\$ 5,501,678	\$ 416,240	\$ 10,918,270
Internally Restricted	\$ 5,673,104	\$ 2,403,147	\$ 6,511,519	\$ 1,307,913	\$ 15,895,683
Externally Restricted	\$ 16,160,347	\$ 2,932,846	\$ 3,309,639	\$ 2,363,817	\$ 24,766,649
Total	\$ 23,633,074	\$ 8,536,722	\$ 15,322,836	\$ 4,087,970	\$ 51,580,602

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	\$ 298,576	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 298,576
Bushfire Services	\$ 45,278	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 45,278
Caravan Parks	\$ 263,373	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 263,373
Cemeteries	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
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
Financial Assistance Grants	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Heritage Buildings	\$ 18,495	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 18,495
Infrastructure Works	\$ 188,772	\$ 2,403,147	\$ 6,511,519	\$ -	\$ 9,103,438
Land Management	\$ 134,638	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 134,638
Levee Bank	\$ 339,764	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 339,764
Moama Lights	\$ 147,663	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 147,663
Office Equipment/ IT	\$ 185,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 185,000
Parks & Recreation	\$ 202,068	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 202,068
Plant Fund	\$ 1,187,233	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,187,233
Public Halls	\$ 35,018	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 35,018
Quarries	\$ 289,500	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 289,500
Risk Management	\$ 12,500	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 12,500
S355 Committees	\$ 350,064	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 350,064
Software	\$ 14,270	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 14,270
Stormwater	\$ 101,145	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 101,145
Waste Management Int	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,307,913	\$ 1,307,913
	\$ 5,673,104	\$ 2,403,147	\$ 6,511,519	\$ 1,307,913	\$ 15,895,683

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

External Reserves	General Fund	Water Fund	Sewer Fund	Waste Fund	Total
Unspent Grants	\$ 11,595,802.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 11,595,802.00
Unspent Loan Funds	\$ 639,394.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 639,394.00
Section 64/94	\$ 3,860,864.00	\$ 2,719,165.00	\$ 3,309,639.00	\$ -	\$ 9,889,668.00
Water Purchase	\$ -	\$ 213,681.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 213,681.00
Waste Management Ext	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,363,817.00	\$ 2,363,817.00
Other	\$ 64,287.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 64,287.00
	\$ 16,160,347	\$ 2,932,846	\$ 3,309,639	\$ 2,363,817	\$ 24,766,649

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 30 September 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 30 September 2023

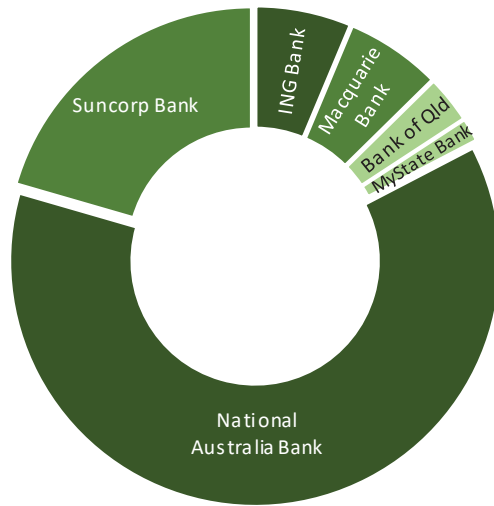
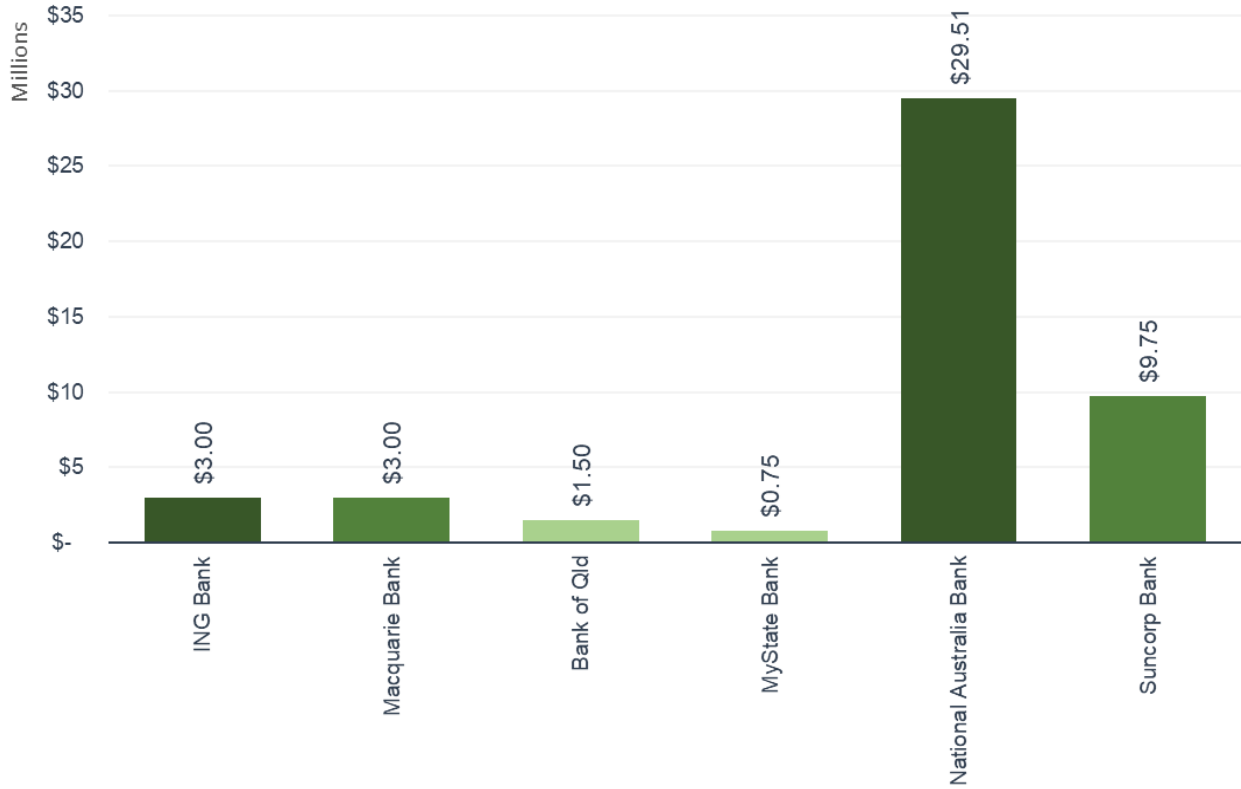
As required by Section 212 of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2021 (the Regulation) and Section 625 of the Act, a summary of Council's surplus funds invested, totalling \$47,514,459, together with an analysis thereof are detailed below, including \$47,512,449 in Term Deposits and \$2,010 in other Investments (shares). The detailed list of the investments appears in Annex A.

It needs to be noted that Council currently has 62.11%, or \$29,512,449, invested with National Australia Bank. This is above the 60% allowed under the investment policy for a single AA- or higher institution. This will be rectified over the coming months as National Australia Bank term deposits mature.

Investments by Bank / ADI

Bank / ADI	Amount	%
ING Bank	\$ 3,000,000	6.31%
Macquarie Bank	\$ 3,000,000	6.31%
Bank of Qld	\$ 1,500,000	3.16%
MyState Bank	\$ 750,000	1.58%
National Australia Bank	\$ 29,512,449	62.12%
Suncorp Bank	\$ 9,750,000	20.52%
	\$47,512,449	100.00%

Investments by Bank ADI



Legend

- AA-
- A+
- BBB+
- Unrated

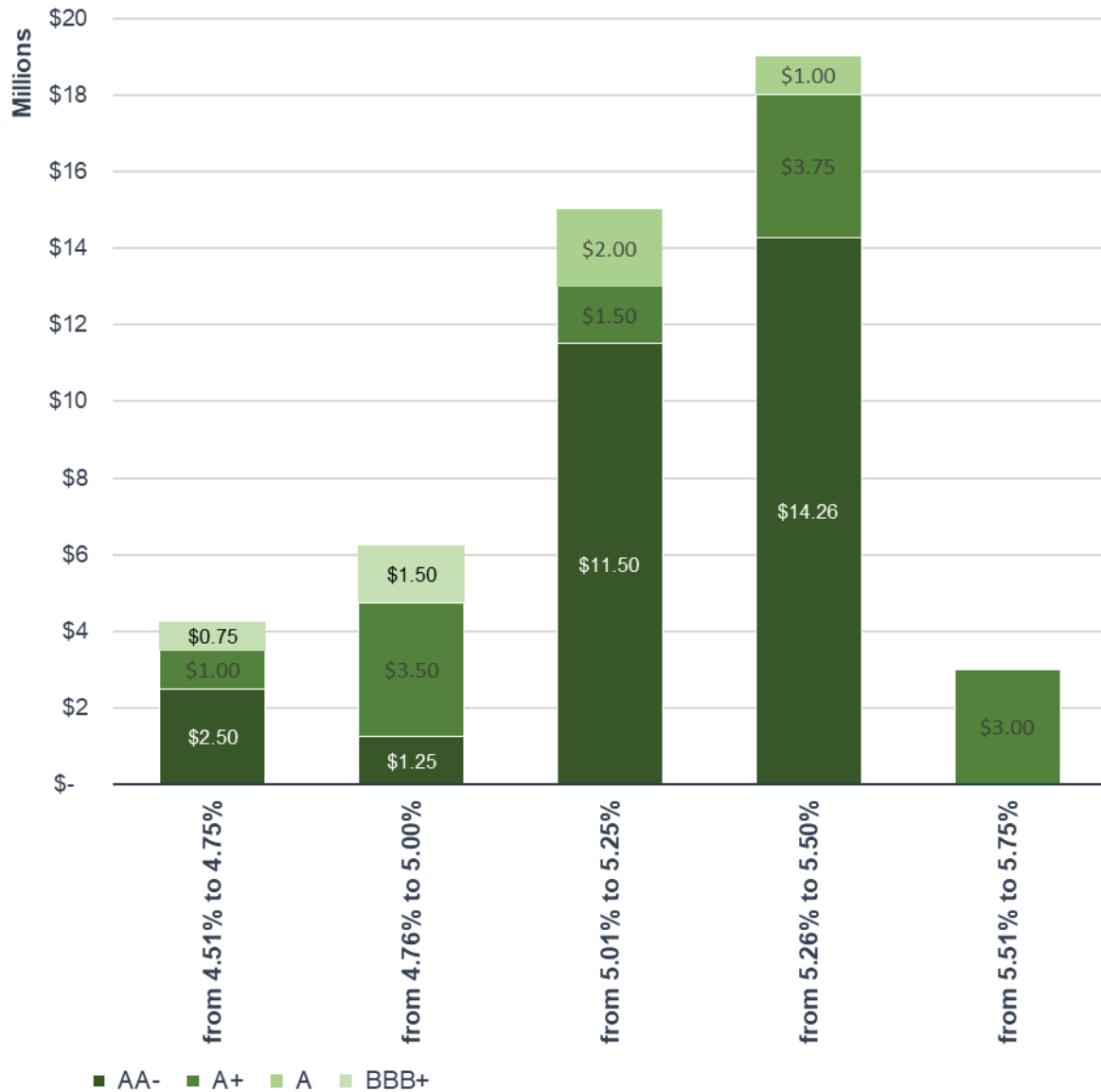
- ING Bank
- Macquarie Bank
- Bank of Qld
- MyState Bank
- National Australia Bank
- Suncorp Bank

Reference MRC Policy

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

Investments by Interest Rates / Credit Rating

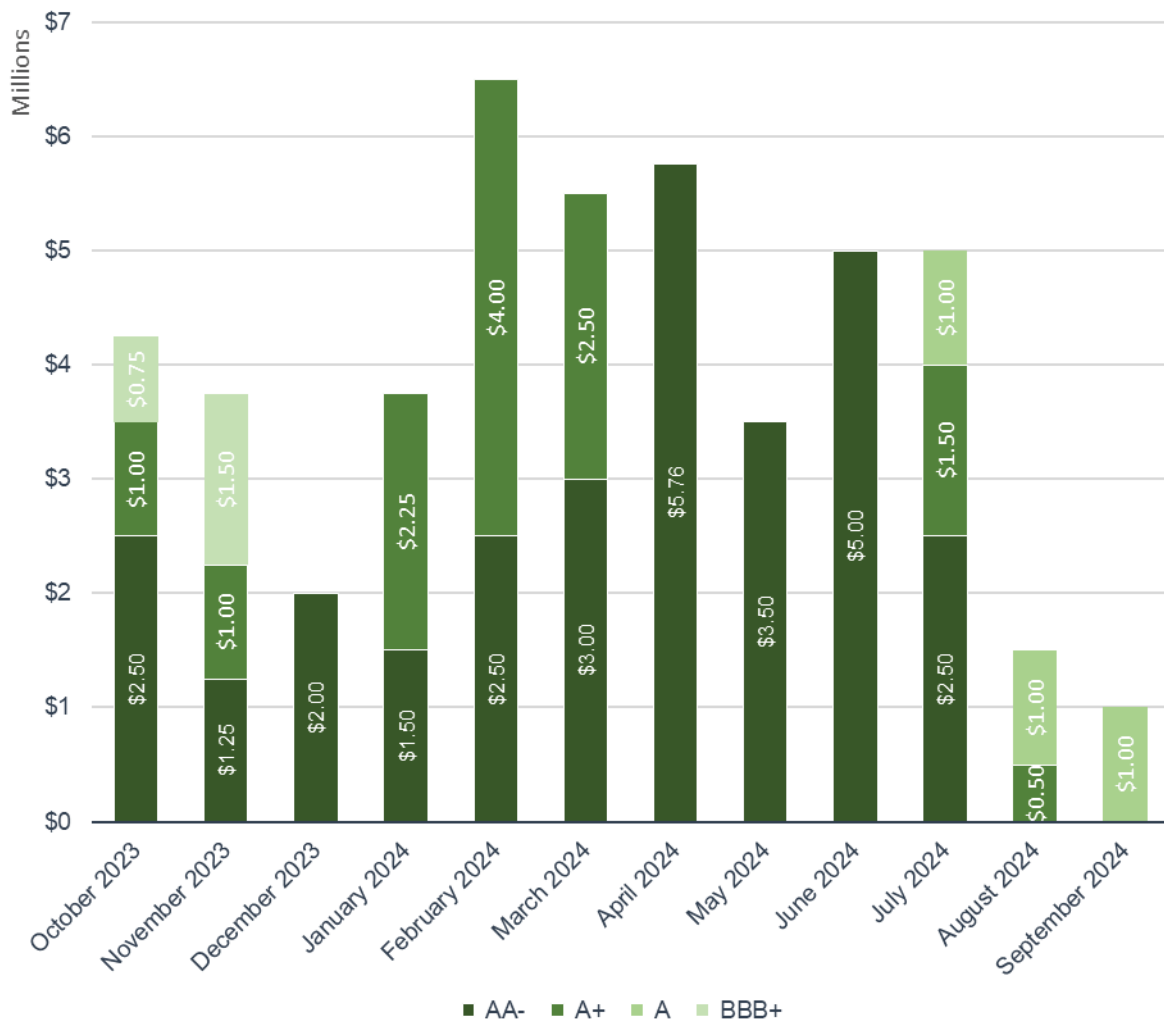
Interest Rates	AA-	A	A+	BBB+	Total
from 4.51% to 4.75%	\$2,500,000		\$1,000,000	\$750,000	\$4,250,000
from 4.76% to 5.00%	\$1,250,000		\$3,500,000	\$1,500,000	\$6,250,000
from 5.01% to 5.25%	\$11,500,000	\$2,000,000	\$1,500,000		\$15,000,000
from 5.26% to 5.50%	\$14,262,449	\$1,000,000	\$3,750,000		\$19,012,449
from 5.51% to 5.75%			\$3,000,000		\$3,000,000
	\$29,512,449	\$3,000,000	\$12,750,000	\$2,250,000	\$47,512,449



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+	BBB+	Total
October 2023	\$2,500,000		\$1,000,000	\$750,000	\$4,250,000
November 2023	\$1,250,000		\$1,000,000	\$1,500,000	\$3,750,000
December 2023	\$2,000,000				\$2,000,000
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				\$3,500,000
June 2024	\$5,000,000				\$5,000,000
July 2024	\$2,500,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,500,000		\$5,000,000
August 2024		\$1,000,000	\$500,000		\$1,500,000
September 2024		\$1,000,000			\$1,000,000
	\$29,512,449	\$3,000,000	\$12,750,000	\$2,250,000	\$47,512,449



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%	62%	\$29,512,449	60%	62.12%
A+	Macquarie Bank	90%	27%	\$3,000,000	25%	6%
A+	Suncorp Bank			\$9,750,000	25%	21%
A	ING Bank	90%	6%	\$3,000,000	25%	6%
BBB+	Bank of Qld	50%	5%	\$1,500,000	15%	3%
BBB+	MyState Bank			\$750,000	15%	2%
			100%	\$47,512,449		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 03 October 2023, is 4.10%. This has resulted in Council being able to achieve at least 5.00% or above interest rate when placing term deposits during September. 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 30 September 2023.

ATTACHMENTS

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

Murray River Council

Annex 'A'

Investment Details - September 2023

Start Date	Maturity Date	Bank / ADI	Type	Investment	Interest Rate	Term (Days)	Interest Due upon Maturity	S&P Long Term Rating
17/05/2023	3/10/2023	NAB	TD	\$ 750,000	4.700%	139	\$ 13,424	AA-
3/05/2023	10/10/2023	MyState	TD	\$ 750,000	4.700%	160	\$ 15,452	BBB+
19/04/2023	17/10/2023	NAB	TD	\$ 750,000	4.550%	181	\$ 16,937	AA-
24/05/2023	24/10/2023	Macquarie	TD	\$ 1,000,000	4.600%	153	\$ 19,282	A+
21/06/2023	31/10/2023	NAB	TD	\$ 1,000,000	5.140%	132	\$ 18,589	AA-
9/06/2023	7/11/2023	SCORP	TD	\$ 1,000,000	5.150%	151	\$ 21,305	A+
18/05/2023	14/11/2023	Bank Qld	TD	\$ 750,000	4.900%	180	\$ 18,123	BBB+
24/05/2023	21/11/2023	Bank Qld	TD	\$ 750,000	4.950%	181	\$ 18,410	BBB+
2/06/2023	28/11/2023	NAB	TD	\$ 1,250,000	4.900%	179	\$ 30,038	AA-
9/06/2023	5/12/2023	NAB	TD	\$ 1,000,000	5.150%	179	\$ 25,256	AA-
9/06/2023	12/12/2023	NAB	TD	\$ 1,000,000	5.150%	186	\$ 26,244	AA-
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	\$ 35,788	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-
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+
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+
28/09/2023	24/09/2024	ING	TD	\$ 1,000,000	5.350%	362	\$ 53,060	A
		SP	Shares	\$ 2,000				
		WAWCU	Shares	\$ 10				
Total				\$ 47,514,459			\$ 1,715,027	

9.2.2 DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST RETURN REPORTING**File Number:** -**Author:** Sandra Gordon, Manager Governance & Risk**Authoriser:** Stephen Fernando, Director Corporate Services**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council notes that the Disclosures of Interest by Councillors and Designated Persons Returns have been tabled.

DISCUSSION

Council's Code of Conduct Policy (POL-100) V#3 includes the following information:

Disclosure of Interests in written returns

- 4.21 A Councillor or Designated Person must make and lodge with the CEO a return in the form set out in Schedule 2 to this Code, disclosing the Councillor's or Designated Person's interests as specified in schedule 1 to this Code within three (3) months after:
- a) becoming a Councillor or Designated Person, and
 - b) 30 June of each year, and
 - c) the Councillor or Designated Person becoming aware of an interest they are required to disclose under schedule 1 that has not been previously disclosed in a return lodged under paragraphs (a) or (b).
- 4.22 A person need not make and lodge a return under Clause 4.21, paragraphs (a) and (b) if:
- a) they made and lodged a return under that Clause in the preceding three (3) months, or
 - b) they have ceased to be a Councillor or Designated Person in the preceding three (3) months.
- 4.23 A person must not make and lodge a return that the person knows or ought reasonably to know is false or misleading in a material particular.
- 4.24 The CEO must keep a register of returns required to be made and lodged with the CEO.
- 4.25 Returns required to be lodged with the CEO under Clause 4.21(a) and (b) must be tabled at the first meeting of Council after the last day the return is required to be lodged.
- 4.26 Returns required to be lodged with the CEO under Clause 4.21(c) must be tabled at the next Council meeting after the return is lodged.
- 4.27 Information contained in returns made and lodged under Clause 4.21 is to be made publicly available in accordance with the requirements of the Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009, the Government Information (Public Access) Regulation 2009 and any guidelines issued by the Information Commissioner.

What disclosures must be made by a Designated Person?

- 4.8 Designated Persons include:
- a) the CEO
 - b) other senior staff Council for the purposes of Section 332 of the Act
 - c) a person (other than a member of the senior staff of Council) who is a member of staff of Council or a delegate of Council and who holds a position identified by Council as the position of a Designated Person because it involves the exercise of functions (such as regulatory functions or contractual functions) that, in their exercise, could give rise to a conflict between the person's duty as a member of staff or delegate and the person's private interest
 - d) a person (other than a member of the senior staff of Council) who is a member of a committee of Council identified by Council as a committee whose members are Designated Persons because the functions of the committee involve the exercise of Council's functions (such as regulatory functions or contractual functions) that, in their exercise, could give rise to a conflict between the member's duty as a member of the committee and the member's private interest.

Chapter 14 of the Local Government Act 1993 (NSW) and Clause 4.25 of Council's Code of Conduct Policy, indicate that Council must table the Disclosures of Interest for Designated Persons returns at the first meeting of Council after the 30 September each year.

Accordingly, the Returns are being tabled at this meeting.

Council's website will be updated with redacted copies of the Disclosures of Interest Returns to allow interested members of the public can view the completed returns.

CONCLUSION

Council is compliant with the requirements of the Local Government Act 1993 (NSW) and our Code of Conduct Policy.

ATTACHMENTS

1. **Disclosure of Interest - List of Positions 2022-2023** [↓](#) 
2. **2022-2023 Disclosure of Interest Register** [↓](#) 

Positions at Council required to complete a Disclosure of Interest of Designated Person Return



- ▶ Mayor
- ▶ Councillors
- ▶ CEO
- ▶ Directors
- ▶ Managers
- ▶ Rangers
- ▶ Project Engineers
- ▶ Financial Accountant
- ▶ Management Accountant
- ▶ Town Planners
- ▶ Building Surveyors
- ▶ Subdivision Engineer
- ▶ Environmental Health Officer
- ▶ Audit & Risk Committee – Independent members



2022-2023 Disclosures of Interest Returns Register

Name	Position at Council	Date Returned	CM9 Reference
Councillors			
BILKEY, Christopher	Mayor	10/07/2023	DOC/23/28824
COHEN, Nicole	Councillor	06/07/2023	DOC/23/28735
CRAWLEY, Francis	Councillor	11/07/2023	DOC/23/28833
CROWE, Ann Louise	Councillor	07/08/2023	DOC/23/31413
GLEESON, Dennis	Councillor	11/07/2023	DOC/23/28736
GOREY, Neil	Councillor	09/07/2023	DOC/23/28741
NICHOLAS, Kronrad	Councillor	07/08/2023	DOC/23/31422
WEYRICH, Thomas	Councillor	03/10/2023	DOC/23/40446
WISE, Geoffrey	Councillor	31/07/2023	DOC/23/42439

Designated Persons			
DODDS, Terry	CEO	10/07/2023	DOC/23/28826
BOND, Jack	Director - Infrastructure	07/08/2023	DOC/23/31425
CROFT, Rod	Director – Planning & Environment	03/07/2023	DOC/23/32490
FERNANDO, Stephen	Director – Corporate Services	10/07/2023	DOC/23/28823
RYAN, Sarah	Director – Economic & Community Development	26/07/2023	DOC/23/30589
BARRY, Suzanna	ARIC Committee Member	07/08/2023	DOC/23/31421
HAM, Richard	ARIC Committee Member	29/06/2023	DOC/23/28734
SUTHERLAND, Vicki (Jean)	ARIC Committee Member	12/10/2023	DOC/23/42113
BEAUMONT, Peter	Manager – Procurement	10/07/2023	DOC/23/31423
BIRRER, Mark	Ranger	07/07/2023	DOC/23/28762
Vacant	Manager – Organisational Development		
BUCKLEY, Karen	Manager – Community Services	07/07/2023	DOC/23/28763
BULMER, Glen	Manager – Buildings and Property	10/07/2023	DOC/23/28803

CHALMERS, Nicole	Management Accountant	10/07/2023	DOC/23/28746
CROFT, Zoe	Manager - Communications	10/07/2023	DOC/23/28807
Vacant	Senior Strategic Planner		
GODFREY, Chris	Manager – Fleet, Plant & Stores	07/07/2023	DOC/23/28752
GOODSELL, Brodie	Manager – Strategic Asset	10/07/2023	DOC/23/28747
GORDON, Sandra	Manager – Governance & Risk	08/08/2023	DOC/23/31065
GREEN, Alex	Manager – Technology & Digital Services	11/07/2023	DOC/23/28808
GUNARATHNA, Gayan	Project Engineer	07/08/2023	DOC/23/31420
HAYWARD, Rebecca	Manager – Economic Development & Tourism	12/10/2023	DOC/23/41941
HOLMES, Brian	Manager – Waste & Compliance	07/07/2023	DOC/23/28753
KEOGH, Luke	Manager – Parks & Biosecurity	07/08/2023	DOC/23/31417
KERSHAW, Kristopher	Manager – Finance	07/08/2023	DOC/23/31419
LEA, Laura Amy	Cadet Town Planner	11/07/2023	DOC/23/28831
LEERSON, Shane	Ranger	11/07/2023	DOC/23/28740

LEES, Jodi	Manager – Customer Service	25/07/2023	DOC/23/31458
LEYONHJELM, Lindy	Executive Assistant	17/07/2023	DOC/23/28035
MacDONALD, Jacob	Building Surveyor	07/07/2023	DOC/23/28760
McCORMICK, Tim	Ranger		
MacFARLANE, Jess	Manager – Development Services	10/07/2023	DOC/23/28745
McKINNON, Harvey	Senior Building Surveyor	07/08/2023	DOC/23/31418
Vacant	Financial Accountant		
MUKODI, Onesimo	Manager – Projects	07/08/2023	DOC/23/31426
O'BRIEN, Christopher	Senior Town Planner (Statutory / Strategic)	07/07/2023	DOC/23/28754
PATERSON, Sandy	Manager – Business Intelligence	10/07/2023	DOC/23/28767
ROGERSON, Jack	Assistant Building Surveyor		
SMITH, Philip	Manager – Water & Wastewater	12/10/2023	DOC/23/41944
THOMPSON, Ricki	Manager - Works	10/07/2023	DOC/23/28766
WILLIAMS, Amanda	Ranger	10/07/2023	DOC/23/28805

9.2.3 BUDGET POLICY V#1 - FINAL ADOPTION**File Number:** -**Author:** Sandra Gordon, Manager Governance & Risk**Authoriser:** Stephen Fernando, Director Corporate Services**RECOMMENDATION**

That the Budget Policy V#1 be adopted and placed in the Policy Register.

DISCUSSION

At the ordinary Council meeting held on the 22nd August this year, the DRAFT Budget Policy V#1 was presented for adoption prior to being placed on public display for comment.

The objective of this Policy is to achieve a clear direction on overall budget management and reporting, namely:

- ▶ Provide more certainty about the roles, responsibilities, and process for preparing, approving, and amending the Budget.
- ▶ Ensure that Murray River Council executive team is to be informed of its financial position monthly.
- ▶ Ensure that budget variations are considered on a quarterly basis (minimum) and any variations align to current CSP and Delivery Plan objectives.
- ▶ Maintain financial sustainability by ensuring that Council is kept informed of Council's current and long-term financial outlook.
- ▶ Ensure compliance with applicable Acts and Regulations, as well as ensure Council Officers comply with approved budget allocations as resolved by Council.

The Budget Policy was developed to address, not only the external auditor recommendation, but also provides clear guidelines around the whole budget process – from setting the budget to reviewing it through the financial year. The Policy has been drafted to cover all aspects of budget setting and revision, including:

- ▶ Responsible Accounting Officer definition and responsibilities.
- ▶ Guidelines around what is expected when setting and reviewing budgets. •
- ▶ Budget coordination within Council.
- ▶ Annual budget setting.
- ▶ Monitoring of budget throughout the financial year.
- ▶ The overall quarterly budget review process and requirements.
- ▶ Capital expenditure budget setting and the need for business cases to be provided.

The Policy covers both the setting of the yearly budget, as part of the Operational Plan, as well as cover budget monitoring during the financial year

Council received no submissions from the public during the consultation period.

ATTACHMENTS

1. **Budget Policy V#1 (POL-216)**  

MURRAY RIVER COUNCIL
COUNCIL POLICY

**BUDGET
POLICY**

POL-216.V#1



1. INTRODUCTION

Budgets are a key management tool used to prioritise funding, support decision making, set financial controls on both income and expenditure, and monitor financial performance. All these requirements are communicated internally and externally under the Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) Framework.

All NSW Councils are required to deliver their operations based on the IP&R Framework. This Framework includes the Community Strategic Plan (CSP), the Delivery Plan and Operational Plan (hereafter referred to as the Budget).

One of the key criteria to measure success of the Delivery Plan is the budget, and five (5) of the ways to measure the success of the annual budget is:

1. Set Key Performance Indicators (KPI) and implement processes to measure against the KPI.
2. Ensure budgets are prepared and adopted within statutory timeframes.
3. Ensure capital projects are delivered within budget.
4. Reporting to Council through the Quarterly Budget Review process (QBR).
5. Achieve, or better, the adopted budget as set in the Operational Plan.

Section 203(1) of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2021 requires Council's Responsible Accounting Officer (RAO) to prepare and submit a quarterly budget review statement to the governing body of Council.

2. OBJECTIVES

The objective of this Policy is to achieve a clear direction on overall budget management and reporting, namely:

- ▶ Provide more certainty about the roles, responsibilities, and process for preparing, approving, and amending the Budget.
- ▶ Ensure that Murray River Council executive team is to be informed of its financial position monthly.
- ▶ Ensure that budget variations are considered on a quarterly basis (minimum) and any variations align to current CSP and Delivery Plan objectives.
- ▶ Maintain financial sustainability by ensuring that Council is kept informed of Council's current and long-term financial outlook.
- ▶ Ensure compliance with applicable Acts and Regulations, as well as ensure Council Officers comply with approved budget allocations as resolved by Council.

3. SCOPE

This policy applies to all Council Officers who are delegated responsibility to set and manage budgets.

4. LEGISLATION

- ▶ Local Government Act 1993 (NSW) (the Act).
- ▶ Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 (NSW) (the Regulation).

5. POLICY STATEMENT**5.1 DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY**

- 5.1.1 Authority for the implementation of this Policy is delegated by Council to the Chief Executive Officer (CEO).
- 5.1.2 The CEO shall ensure that Council Officers are delegated the necessary authority for them to fulfill their responsibilities and such delegations are noted in the Delegations of Authority (CEO to Employees) Policy. The CEO shall also ensure that delegated Council Officers receive and acknowledge the receipt of a copy of this Policy.
- 5.1.3 Council Officers must also act in accordance with the Statement of Business Ethics Policy and the Fraud and Corruption Policy of Council.
- 5.1.4 Any external contractors/consultants who has or may have an impact on Council's budgeting process shall be considered Council Officers under this Policy and any contractual arrangements shall obligate such contractors/consultants to abide by the requirements of this Policy.

5.2 RESPONSIBLE ACCOUNTING OFFICER

- 5.2.1 The Responsible Accounting Officer (RAO) is defined as the Council Officer responsible for managing and coordinating the preparation of the annual budget and reporting of any budget variances through the QBR.
- 5.2.2 As per Section 202 of the Regulation:

The responsible accounting officer of a council must:

- (a) establish and maintain a system of budgetary control that will enable the council's actual income and expenditure to be monitored each month and to be compared with the estimate of the council's income and expenditure, and
- (b) if any instance arises where the actual income or expenditure of the council is materially different from its estimated income or expenditure, report the instance to the next meeting of the council.

- 5.2.3 The CEO has the overall responsibility for managing the budget outcomes, and can delegate this responsibility to the Directors, Managers, and RAO, through an instrument of delegation.

5.3 GUIDELINES OF THE BUDGET POLICY

- 5.3.1 The following guidelines have been set to provide a clear framework for management and staff to follow when setting and reviewing budgets:
- a. Establishing and monitoring of a budget is the responsibility of those Council Officers delegated with management of department budgets.
 - b. A business case is required for all capital projects. Capital projects must adhere to Council's Asset Accounting Policy.
 - c. A business case is required for operational projects, regardless of the dollar value, considered as one-off high-value or high-risk projects with a risk rating of greater than 10, as defined under Council's Risk Matrix. The financial threshold for operational projects shall be set by the CEO from time to time.
 - d. All Council plans should be considered when preparing the annual budget and subsequent quarterly reviews. This includes alignment to plans such as the long-term financial plan, asset management plan and workforce management plan.
 - e. Budget preparation and review must be undertaken within the establish timeframes, as set by the RAO.
 - f. All funding sources need to be considered when setting and reviewing budgets and expenditure

budgets must be accompanied by how they are to be funded.

- g. Borrowing as a source of funding must be for capital projects only and, in keeping with Office of Local Government Guidelines, taking into consideration Council's debt servicing ratio and current loan servicing requirements. Borrowings must also comply with Council's Borrowing Policy.
- h. In the minimum, an annual review to be undertaken of all fees and charges to ensure Council achieves cost-recovery, where permitted to do so.
- i. Council Officers must follow the guidelines provided through the budget preparation process in relation to the carrying-on and carrying-forward of expenditure associated with projects included in the budget from the previous financial year.
- j. Council's intention is to have a balanced or surplus budget position or move towards such a position during the financial year if it starts with a budget deficit for the financial year. This ensures Council has the main aim of being financially sustainable over the longer term.
- k. The scope and threshold limits associated with reporting variations to Council for approval is as follows:
 - i. Reporting on budget variances to Council meetings shall clearly identify the variance threshold above which individual variances are being reported. Variances below the identified limit will be reported as a summary amount.
 - ii. Capital adjustments will be listed individually regardless of the net movement amount.
 - iii. Reserve movements will be listed individually regardless of the net movement amount.

5.4 BUDGET COORDINATION

5.4.1 This policy and overall responsibility of coordinating the annual budget and QBRs resides with the RAO.

5.4.2 Coordination is expected to include the following:

- a. Ensuring Council meets all legislative requirements.
- b. Application of this policy in all budget processes.
- c. Establishing annual and quarterly budget timelines, and communication of these timelines to all Council Officers.
- d. Ensuring Council Officers are aware of their responsibilities for budget preparation and review.
- e. Capturing of budget and budget revision information and associated budget workpapers and business case documentation.
- f. Providing assistance and advice to Council Officers as requested.

5.5 ANNUAL BUDGET SETTING

5.5.1 Council Officers are required to submit an annual budget for the future financial year to the within the prescribed timeline in keeping with budget preparation procedures and are to include all supporting workpapers associated with setting the budget.

5.5.2 The annual budget process will also include a review of all fees and charges.

5.5.4 Council is to approve the Budget by resolution after a period of 28 days public consultation, as required under Clause 4.25 of the Integrated Planning & Reporting Handbook. The final Council approval must be no later than 30 June of each financial year.

5.5.5 Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) are required to be defined and incorporated into the Operational Plan when performing the annual budget process. The KPIs established, at a minimum, will be the same ratios that Council is required to report against in its annual financial statements.

5.5.6 Budgets are prepared in keeping with applicable accounting standards and principles.

5.6 MONITORING OF BUDGET DURING THE FINANCIAL YEAR

- 5.6.1 A budget review permits a previously adopted budget to be amended. Changes to a budget may be required where new information is received, or circumstances change. Reasons may include:
- A change in service level resulting in an increase or decrease in expenditure.
 - A change in grant funding received for services or programs.
 - Projects or services delayed or stopped for reasons beyond Council's control.
 - Unanticipated increases or decreases in expenditure or revenue.
- 5.6.2 Council Officers are required to manage their budget reporting responsibility throughout the financial year via the monthly reporting process (the Monthly Operational Report).
- 5.6.3 Monitoring of budget accuracy is the responsibility of the Council Officers.
- 5.6.4 The RAO is required to report to the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee (ARIC) on the initial draft Operational Plan budget prior to the report going to Council for the twenty-eight (28) days public display.
- 5.6.5 The RAO is required to provide a report on the latest quarterly budget review to ARIC. If the budget review is reported to ARIC post-Council meeting, then the RAO, at the same meeting, will provide a current end of month update budget report.
- 5.6.6 Changes to the adopted annual budget are required to be formally adopted by Council resolution prior to change taking effect. Council resolution can be received by reporting to Council via the quarterly budget review process or by separate report to Council.
- 5.6.7 Appropriate systems, processes and reports shall be implemented to assist Council officers with the management & monitoring of budgets.
- 5.6.8 RAO will be available to aid and provide guidance on budgetary matters at any time during the financial year.

5.7 QUARTERLY REPORTING REVIEWS (QBR)

- 5.7.1 The QBR presents a summary of council's financial position at the end of each quarter. It is the mechanism whereby councillors and the community are informed of council's progress against the budget along with recommended changes and reasons for major variances. QBRs shall be undertaken for every three-month period from the commencement of the financial year. The reporting for the last three (3) month period of the financial year shall be through the annual financial reporting process. QBRs shall be prepared and presented in keeping with Section 5.7.2, 203(1) of the Regulation which states:

'Not later than 2 months after the end of each quarter, the responsible accounting officer of a council must prepare and submit to the council a budget review statement that shows, by reference to the estimate of income and expenditure set out in the management plan that the council has adopted for the relevant year, a revised estimate of the income and expenditure for that year.'

5.7.2 Reporting Review Statements

As a minimum, the QBR process should report to Council on the following:

- Income Statement showing revenue and expenses.
- Capital Statement showing revenue and expenses.
- Cash and Investments statement showing movements in Council's overall cash position, including internal and external reserve movements.
- Key Performance Indicator (KPI) Statement which should report back against KPI defined in the Operational Plan
- Contracts and Other Expenses report showing material contracts entered into by Council.

5.7.3 Other Reporting Matters

When reporting to Council on negative budget variances, the variation should stipulate how the adjustment is to be funded.

5.8 ETHICS AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

5.8.1 Council Officers must immediately upon becoming aware, disclose to the CEO any (perceived or real) conflicts of interest that could be related to Council's budget setting in accordance with Council's Code of Conduct Employees Policy.

5.9 BUDGET CLASSIFICATION

5.9.1 The budget classification and reporting will be defined by the following classification:

Budget Heading	Classifications Included in Budget Heading
Revenue	Rates and annual charges, user fees and charges, Interest and investment revenue, other revenues, other income, grants, and contributions (operational), grants and contributions (capital) and gain on sale of assets.
Operational expense	Employee benefits and oncosts, borrowing costs, materials and contracts, depreciation and amortisation, other expenses, and loss on sale of assets.
Other funding movements	Capital expense, loan borrowings, loan repayments, reserve movements, sale proceeds from sale of assets, deferred debtor advances made, deferred debtor advances repaid and depreciation contra reversal.

5.10 CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

5.10.1 All capital budgets must be accompanied with an approved Business Case. A business case ensures that the proposed capital works are aligned to the CSP, consider risks associated with the works, the reason(s) why the works are required and alternatives options that have been considered.

5.10.2 Capital budgets must meet, as a minimum, the threshold limits as defined in Council's Asset Capitalisation Policy. Project budgets under the defined thresholds should be considered operational expense.

5.10.3 Carry-On and Carry Forward BudgetsCarry-on Budget:

Where a capital project has commenced and has unexpended budget in a given financial year these funds are included in the budget of the following financial year.

Carry Forward Budget:

Where a capital project has not commenced by the end of the financial year in which it has been budgeted and is included in the next financial year.

5.10.4 Budgets for capital projects must incorporate all costs related to the project, whether such costs can be capitalise or not, in keeping with the accounting standards, including any overhead costs that are associated with the project, where applicable.

5.11 EMERGENCY EXPENDITURE

5.11.1 the CEO is authorised to approve any expenditure for an unexpected or unforeseen event that requires urgent works, within financial delegation limits. Such works would need to be critical in nature that result in restoring services to the general population or remediate public health and safety concerns.

5.11.2 A report must be prepared and submitted at the next available Council meeting requesting approval of the expenditure. The report needs to provide detail of event, works required, expenditure to date and estimated future cost.

5.12 FINANCIAL RECORD KEEPING & REPORTING

5.12.1 Council Officers are required to submit working papers with their original budget estimates to validate and confirm budget allocations and requests. If the budget relates to a capital expenditure, then it must also include the business case requirement as per 5.10.1 above.

5.12.2 Any variations to original budgets throughout the financial year must be accompanied with information supporting the variation, including funding sources.

6. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Position	Responsibility
Mayor	Lead councillors in establishing this Policy after considering its implications on the financial position of, and risks borne by, Council. Receive, where required query and adopt, reports related to the annual budget and quarterly budget reviews presented Council
Chief Executive Officer (CEO)	Provide the required delegations Council Officers to fulfill their responsibilities and obligations under this Policy.
Director Corporate Services (DCS)	To lead Council Officers in their understanding of, and compliance with, this Policy.
Manager Finance and Management Accountant	To communicate and implement this Policy. To put in place appropriate controls to ensure that this Policy is complied with by all staff and in a manner that any breaches will be identified speedily.
Council Officer	To be aware of their responsibilities and obligations under this Policy and to ensure that all budgets set for their area of responsibility are managed and reviewed in keeping with the requirements of this Policy.
Audit, Risk & Improvement Committee	Provide feedback and advise to Council on the budget process and how the financial affairs of the Council are being managed, including identifying any significant risks that Council needs to focus on.

7. EVALUATION AND REVIEW

The CEO or their delegated representative is authorised to approve variations to this Policy if the review is due to revised legislation or regulations.

All such variations to this Policy are to be submitted for adoption by Council (as a revised policy) as soon as practicable.

It is the responsibility of the Director Corporate Services in conjunction with the Finance Manager and Management Accountant to monitor the adequacy of this Policy and recommend appropriate changes.

This Policy shall be reviewed, in the minimum, every four (4) years.

8. ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS AND DEFINITIONSExternal

- ▶ AASB - Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting
- ▶ OLG - Quarterly Budget Review Statement for NSW Local Government
- ▶ OLG - Integrated Planning & Reporting Handbook

Internal

- ▶ MRC Policy – Code of Conduct Policy (POL-100)
- ▶ MRC Policy – Delegations of Authority (Mayor and CEO) Policy (POL-102)
- ▶ MRC Policy – Delegations of Authority (CEO to Staff) Policy (POL-107)
- ▶ MRC Policy – Statement of Business Ethics Policy (POL-111)
- ▶ MRC Policy – Risk Management Policy (POL-200)
- ▶ MRC Policy – Procurement Policy (POL-205)
- ▶ MRC Policy – Fraud & Corruption Policy (POL-212)
- ▶ MRC Policy – Borrowing Policy (POL-217)
- ▶ MRC Policy – Asset Capitalisation Policy (POL-309)
- ▶ MRC Plan – MRC Risk Management Framework
- ▶ MRC Plan – Operational Plan and Delivery Program and Long-Term Financial Plan

Definitions and Acronyms:

Term	Definition
Act	Local Government Act 1993 (NSW)
ARIC	Audit, Risk & Improvement Committee
CEO	Chief Executive Officer.
Community Strategic Plan or CSP	A plan that outlines the community's vision and aspirations for a period of ten of or more years.
Council or MRC	Murray River Council including its governing body, the duly elected councillors.
Council Officer	An employee of Council (including contractors) with responsibility for managing an allocated budget.
DCS	Director of Corporate Services or equivalent.
Delivery Plan	The Delivery program is a four-year plan that turns the strategic goals in the CSP into actions.
Long Term Financial Plan	The Long-Term Financial Plan contains financial forecasts of Council for at least ten years and is updated annually as part of the development of the Operational Plan.
Monthly Operational Report or MOR	Monthly report to Council that reports on progress of Council activities during the financial year, including reporting against budget versus actuals.
NSW	State of New South Wales.

Operational Plan	The Operational Plan is a one year plan that spells out the detail of the Delivery Program, identifying the individual projects and activities that will be undertaken in a specific financial year to achieve the commitments made in the four year Delivery Program.
Policy	This Policy.
Quarterly Budget Review or QBR	A regular progress report prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Act s404(5) and Regulations (s203(2)), namely that the Responsible Accounting Officer report quarterly on a budget review statement to adequately disclose the Council's overall financial position.
RAO	Responsible Accounting Officer. The role with the responsibility of managing the requirements under this Policy and the Act and Regulations.
Regulation	Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 (NSW)

9. DOCUMENT CONTROL

Version No.	Details	Dates	CM9 Reference	Resolution No.
1	Initial Policy - creation and issue	24 Oct 2023 to	VF/23/1055	TBA

Council reserves the right to review, vary or revoke this policy at any time.
This Policy is scheduled for review in before October 2027

NOTE:

This is a controlled document. If you are reading a printed copy, please check that you have the latest version by checking it on Councils Electronic Document system. Printed or downloaded versions of this document are uncontrolled.

DISCLAIMER:

This document was formulated to be consistent with Murray River Council's legislative obligations and within the scope of Council's powers. This document should be read in conjunction with relevant legislation, guidelines, and codes of practice. In the case of any discrepancies, the most recent legislation should prevail. This document does not constitute legal advice.

9.2.4 BORROWING POLICY V#1 - FINAL ADOPTION

File Number: -
Author: Sandra Gordon, Manager Governance & Risk
Authoriser: Stephen Fernando, Director Corporate Services

RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopt the Borrowing Policy V#1 and place it in the Policy Register.

DISCUSSION

At the ordinary Council meeting held on the 22nd August this year, the DRAFT Borrowing Policy V#1 was presented for adoption prior to being placed on public display for comment.

The objective of this policy is to ensure that the use and management of borrowings:

- ▶ complies with the applicable Ministerial Revised Borrowing Order(s),
- ▶ is undertaken with due regard for Council's role as a custodian of public funds,
- ▶ is undertaken with the care, diligence, and skill that a prudent person would exercise in managing the affairs of other persons; and
- ▶ complies with Council's overall risk management framework.

Council's power to borrow funds arises from Section 621 of the Local Government Act 1993 (The Act). As a custodian of public funds, Council must exercise the reasonable care and diligence that a prudent person would exercise when borrowing funds.

This policy provides a framework for Council to borrow funds while ensuring the ongoing viability of the Council by not permitting overall borrowings to extend beyond its ability to meet future repayments and budgetary obligations.

Council, in implementing this Policy, is required to also adhere to the Office of Local Government (OLG) Borrowing Order pursuant to Section 624 of The Act, notify OLG of borrowing undertaken pursuant to Section 230(1) of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 (The Regulation), and the reporting requirements around debt service ratio as part of the quarterly budget review process and year-end financial statements.

Council received no submissions from the public during the consultation period.

ATTACHMENTS

1. **Borrowing Policy V#1 (POL-217)** [↓](#) 

MURRAY RIVER COUNCIL
COUNCIL POLICY

BORROWING POLICY

POL-217.V#1



1. INTRODUCTION

Murray River Council (Council) recognises that borrowings for capital works are an important funding source for Local Government. When used prudently, it provides the opportunity to undertake projects early and maintain inter-generational equity on long life assets.

Borrowings may be an appropriate source of funding for the following reasons.

- ▶ Land acquisitions
- ▶ Asset acquisitions for strategic property holding or commercial opportunities (i.e., projects that generate an income that can be used to service the borrowing.
- ▶ New assets constructed, e.g., roads, sports/aquatic centre, sporting field, arts centre etc.
- ▶ An asset upgrade, e.g., a footpath widening.
- ▶ A specific and significant one-time asset renewal or replacement, (e.g., replacement or refurbishment of significant asset components).

Borrowings should not be used to fund general operations and maintenance projects as subsequent repayments will reduce funds otherwise available.

Wherever possible, Council will look to fund repayments from the revenue generated from the asset or the service provided using the asset. For example, servicing of borrowings to build a landfill will be, to the extent possible, be funded from waste related revenue streams.

2. OBJECTIVES

The objective of this policy is to ensure that the use and management of borrowings:

- ▶ complies with the applicable Ministerial Revised Borrowing Order(s),
- ▶ is undertaken with due regard for Council's role as a custodian of public funds,
- ▶ is undertaken with the care, diligence, and skill that a prudent person would exercise in managing the affairs of other persons; and
- ▶ complies with Council's overall risk management framework.

Council's power to borrow funds arises from Section 621 of the Local Government Act 1993 (The Act). As a custodian of public funds, Council must exercise the reasonable care and diligence that a prudent person would exercise when borrowing funds.

This policy provides a framework for Council to borrow funds while ensuring the ongoing viability of the Council by not permitting overall borrowings to extend beyond its ability to meet future repayments and budgetary obligations.

Council, in implementing this Policy, is required to also adhere to the Office of Local Government (OLG) Borrowing Order pursuant to Section 624 of The Act, notify OLG of borrowing undertaken pursuant to Section 230(1) of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 (The Regulation), and the reporting requirements around debt service ratio as part of the quarterly budget review process and year-end financial statements.

3. SCOPE

The policy applies to all Councillors and Council Officers who are delegated responsibility, or involved in, the decision making and management of Council's loan portfolio.

4. LEGISLATION

- ▶ Local Government Act 1993 (NSW)

5. LOCAL GOVERNMENT (GENERAL) REGULATION 2021 (NSW) POLICY STATEMENT**5.1 RESPONSIBLE OFFICER**

- 5.1.1 Authority for the implementation of this Policy is delegated by Council to the Chief Executive Officer (CEO).
- 5.1.2 Under Section 378 of The Act, the CEO delegates the Council Officer responsible for Council's overall loan portfolio as the Responsible Accounting Officer (RAO).

5.2 BORROWING GUIDELINES

- 5.2.1 The following guidelines have been set to provide a clear framework for management and staff to follow when considering a loan borrowing (whether external or internal):
- Establishing and monitoring of borrowings is the responsibility of the Manager Finance in conjunction with input from those Council Officers delegated with management of department budgets.
 - Evaluating the financial impact of the proposed borrowing on Council's Long-Term Financial Plan, Delivery Program and Operational Plan must be considered. This includes reviewing the impact of the loan over the life of Council's plans/ programs and the impact of the of the capital projects funded by the proposed borrowings (for example, public benefit of undertaking the project).
 - Compiling a Business Case for the project to be funded by borrowings, in keeping with Project Management Framework.
 - Ensuring the total amount of borrowings (including proposed new borrowing) is sustainable in terms of Council's ability to meet future repayments and budgetary obligations.
 - Assessing the Debt Service Ratio (DSR) impact. This ratio measures the availability of operating cash to service total debt including interest payments & principal, repayments.
 - Identifying the proposed structure of the borrowings and the how Council will procure the borrowings to achieve competitive and favourable terms.
 - Aligning to the extent possible the term of borrowings to the life of the underlying asset where possible.

5.3 BORROWING REGULATIONS

- 5.3.1 Council can borrow funds under Section 621 of the Act. Security for borrowings is provided under Section 229 of the Regulation where the repayment of principal and the payment of any interest, is a charge on the income of Council.
- 5.3.2 All borrowings must be approved by Council resolution and included in Council's annual draft Operational Plan.
- 5.3.3 Council must complete and lodge with the NSW Treasury Corporation (TCorp) a "Proposed Loan Borrowing Return" in July each year. If there is an increase in the proposed amount to be borrowed, Council must re-submit an amended Loan Borrowing Return, including the updated amounts, to TCorp.
- 5.3.4 If, during the year, Council is required to increase its proposed borrowings or change the purpose of the initial request, a Council resolution must be passed prior to drawing down of any funds.
- 5.3.5 Council must include details of proposed additional borrowings and renewal of existing borrowings within the annual Operational Plan.
- 5.3.6 The CEO, under Section 230(1) of the Regulation, must notify the Secretary within seven (7) days after entering into a contract to undertake borrowings.
- 5.3.7 Council is restricted, by the Ministerial Revised Borrowing Order, to source borrowings from Australia denominated in Australian dollars.

- 5.3.8 Borrowings must be undertaken in accordance with the Statement of Business Ethics Policy, Procurement Policy and the Fraud and Corruption Policy of Council.
- 5.3.9 Any contractual arrangements with external contractors/consultants shall obligate such contractors/consultants to abide by the requirements of this Policy.

5.4 EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EoI) PROCESS

- 5.4.2 Quotations from Authorised Deposit-Taking Institutions (ADI) and NSW Treasury Corporation (TCorp) may be obtained for borrowings outlined within the adopted annual Operational Plan.
- 5.4.4 A minimum of three (3) ADIs (including T-Corp) are to be invited to submit written quotations to meet Council's borrowing requirements.
- 5.4.5 Appropriate and acceptable documentation must be provided to Council by any prospective lender during the EoI process. Written quotations must include the:
- ▶ Interest rate and whether the rate is fixed or variable;
 - ▶ Term of the loan;
 - ▶ Repayment intervals (monthly, quarterly etc);
 - ▶ Repayment instalment amount; and
 - ▶ Any applicable fees.
- 5.4.6 To ensure that Council is informed of the most current interest rate pricing, ADIs will be requested to provide updated pricing as near as possible to the date and time of the Council Ordinary Meeting, in which the report will go to Council seeking approval to undertake the borrowing.
- 5.4.7 The outcome of the EoI process (including updated interest rate pricing) will be reported to Council with a recommendation to accept the most advantageous quotation. Where the borrowing structure differs between the quotations (e.g., a fixed rate quotation and a variable rate quotation), the report shall examine the risks and benefits of each structure, with reasons for the recommended structure.
- 5.4.8 The Council resolution approving the borrowing is to include the specific details required to ensure the proper execution of loan documentation, for example, affixing the Common Seal of Council if required.

5.5 INTERNAL BORROWINGS (BETWEEN COUNCIL FUNDS)

- 5.5.1 The Act restrains the way Council raises and uses money.

Section 409(3) of the Act states:

- a) money that has been received as a result of the levying of a special rate or charge may not be used otherwise than for the purpose for which the rate or charge was levied, and
- b) money that is subject to the provisions of this or any other Act may be used only for that purpose, and
- c) money that has been received from the Government or from a public authority by way of a specific purpose advance or grant may not, except with the consent of the Government or public authority, be used otherwise than for that specific purpose.

- 5.5.2 However, Council may use externally restricted funds by way of internal borrowing, subject to receiving Ministerial approval to do so in accordance with Sub Section 410(3) and (4) of the Act.

410 Alternative use of money raised by special rates or charges:

3. Money that is not yet required for the purpose for which it was received may be lent (by way of internal loan) for use by the Council for any other purpose if, and only if, its use for that other purpose is approved by the Minister.
4. In granting such an approval, the Minister must impose conditions as to the time within which the internal loan must be repaid and as to any additional amount, in the nature of interest, that is to be paid in connection with that loan.

- 5.5.3 Council may also use money that has been received from the Government or from a public authority by way of a specific purpose advance or grant, with approval from the Government or public authority providing the funding.
- 5.5.4 Council may also undertake internal borrowing, between the Funds (General, Water, Sewer, and Waste) of Council, subject to a Council resolution to do so.
- 5.5.5 The full impact of the borrowings must be disclosed in the Council resolution and the internal agreement must set out:
- ▶ The reason for the borrowing.
 - ▶ The basis of calculating the amount of the borrowing.
 - ▶ The permitted use/s of the borrowed funds.
 - ▶ The internal restriction that will be borrowed from.
 - ▶ Interest rate applicable for borrowing, set at the weighted interest rate return on investments unless another rate is determined and approved by Council.
 - ▶ Repayment period to repay internal borrowings drafted to ensure repayments, taking into consideration internal restrictions, can be funded.

5.6 ETHICS AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

- 5.6.1 Council Officers shall refrain from personal activities that would conflict with the proper execution and management of Council's borrowing process. This includes activities that would impair the Council Officer's ability to make impartial decisions.
- 5.6.2 Council Officers must immediately upon becoming aware, disclose to the CEO any (perceived or real) conflicts of interest in accordance with Council's Code of Conduct Policy.

5.7 FINANCIAL RECORD KEEPING & REPORTING

- 5.7.1 The Manager Finance is required to maintain a loan repayment schedule.

6. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

POSITION	RESPONSIBILITY
Mayor	Lead Councillors in establishing this Policy after considering its implications on the financial position of, and risks borne by, Council. Receive, and where required query, reports related to the borrowing process.
Chief Executive Officer (CEO)	Provide the required delegations for Council Officers to fulfill their responsibilities and obligations under this Policy.
Director Corporate Services (DCS)	To lead Council Officers, where so appropriate, in their understanding of, and compliance with, this Policy.
Manager Finance	To communicate and implement this Policy. To put in place appropriate controls to ensure that this Policy is complied with by all staff and in a manner that any breaches will be identified speedily.
Council Officers	To be aware of their responsibilities and obligations under this Policy

7. EVALUATION AND REVIEW

It is the responsibility of the Director Corporate Services in conjunction with the Manager Finance to monitor the adequacy of this Policy and recommend appropriate changes.

This Policy shall be reviewed, at a minimum of every four (4) years or sooner if needed.

8. ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS, DEFINITIONS AND ACRONYMSExternal

- ▶ Ministerial Revised Borrowing Orders
- ▶ Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting
- ▶ Australian Accounting Standards

Internal

- ▶ MRC Policy – Code of Conduct Policy (POL-100.1, POL 100.2)
- ▶ MRC Policy – Delegations of Authority (Mayor and CEO) Policy (POL-102)
- ▶ MRC Policy – Delegations of Authority (CEO to Employees) Policy (POL-107)
- ▶ MRC Policy – Risk Management Policy (POL-200)
- ▶ MRC Policy – Statement of Business Ethics Policy (POL-201)
- ▶ MRC Policy – Procurement Policy (POL-205)
- ▶ MRC Policy – Fraud & Corruption Policy (POL-212)
- ▶ MRC Policy – Budget Management and Reporting Policy (POL-216)
- ▶ MRC Policy – Asset Accounting Policy (POL-309)
- ▶ MRC Plan - MRC Risk Management Framework
- ▶ MRC Plan - Operational Plan, Delivery Program and Long Term Financial Plan

Definitions:

Term	Definition
Act	Local Government Act 1993 (NSW)
CEO	Chief Executive Officer.
Community Strategic Plan (CSP)	A plan that outlines the community's vision and aspirations for a period of ten of or more years.
Council Officer	Employees, including the CEO, and any contactors duly engaged by Council.
DCS	Director of Corporate Services
Delivery Plan	The Delivery program is a four year plan that turns the strategic goals found in the Community Strategic Plan into actions. It is the point where council makes a commitment to the Community Strategic Plan, and act upon those issues that are within its area of responsibility.
DSR	Debt Service Ratio, calculated by dividing the "Operating Result before Capital excluding Interest, Depreciation, Impairment & Amortisation, by the Principal Repayments plus Borrowing Costs.

EOI	Expression of Interest
Interest rate	The interest rate is the amount a lender charges a borrower and is a percentage of the principal—the amount loaned.
Minister	Minister for Local Government of New South Wales
OLG	Office of Local Government.
Ministerial Revised Borrowing Order(s)	The applicable Order as of adopting this Policy is the Ministerial Revised Borrowing Order(s), dated 13 May 2009
RAO	Responsible Accounting Officer, as identified in the register of delegations.
Regulation	Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 (NSW)
Secretary	Office of Local Government Secretary
TCorp	NSW Treasury Corporation, the central borrowing authority for the NSW public sector.

9. DOCUMENT CONTROL

Version No.	Details	Dates	CM9 Reference	Resolution No.
1	Initial Policy creation and issue	24 October 2023 to	VF/23/1056	TBA

Council reserves the right to review, vary or revoke this policy at any time.
This Policy is scheduled for review in or before 2027.

NOTE:

This is a controlled document. If you are reading a printed copy, please check that you have the latest version by checking it on Councils Electronic Document system. Printed or downloaded versions of this document are uncontrolled.

DISCLAIMER:

This document was formulated to be consistent with Murray River Council's legislative obligations and within the scope of Council's powers. This document should be read in conjunction with relevant legislation, guidelines, and codes of practice. In the case of any discrepancies, the most recent legislation should prevail. This document does not constitute legal advice.

9.2.5 MURRAY RIVER COUNCIL 2022/23 ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

File Number: -

Author: Kris Kershaw, Manager Finance

Authoriser: Stephen Fernando, Director Corporate Services

RECOMMENDATION

That Murray River Council resolve to:

1. receive the Unaudited General Purpose Financial Statements and Special Purpose Financial Statements for the period 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023, attached hereto as Attachment 1 and Attachment 2 respectively, and
2. subject to there being no material changes the statements identified in section 1 above, to authorise the signing of the said statements by the Mayor and Deputy Mayor, representing the elected officials and the Chief Executive Officer and Responsible Accounting Officer representing management.

BACKGROUND

Council is required (under section 413(2)(c) of the Local Government Act 1993 (the **Act**)) to provide two statements as part of the auditing of its Annual Financial Statements to confirm:

- the reports present fairly the operating results and financial positions for each of the Councils' declared Business Activities for the period, and
- the statements accord with the Councils' accounting and other records, and
- Council is not aware of any matter that would render the reports false or misleading in any way, and
- In the case of the Special Purpose Financial Statements, that the overhead reallocation charges to the water and sewerage businesses are fair and reasonable.

The Statements are required to be submitted to Council's Auditors prior to the completion of the audit process, which is currently being undertaken. The two Statements are:

1. A statement (required by Councillors and Management) advising the Annual Financial Statements of the Murray River Council have been drawn up in accordance with:
 - (a) the *Local Government Act 1993* (NSW) (as amended) and the regulations made there under,
 - (b) the Australian Accounting Standards and other professional pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board, and
 - (c) the *Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting*.
2. A statement by Councillors and Management is also required to be attached to the Special Purpose Financial Reports of the Murray River Council, advising that they have been prepared in accordance with:

- (a) the NSW Government Policy Statement *Application of National Competition Policy to Local Government*.
- (b) the Division of Local Government's Guidelines *Pricing & Costing for Council Businesses: A Guide to Competitive Neutrality*.
- (c) the Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting; and
- (d) Sections 3 and 4 of the NSW Department of Planning and Environment, *Water's Regulatory and assurance framework for local water utilities*.

DISCUSSION

At the time of compiling this report (12 October 2023), the external audit conducted by the Audit Office of NSW (AONSW) through its contractors Crowe Australia (Crowe), is in the final stages of completion. Council is required under section 416 the **Act** to have its financial accounts and procedures examined and reported by the AONSW annually, and within 4 months of end of financial year (i.e., by 31 October).

The Audit Risk & Improvement Committee (ARIC) met on 18 September 2023 to review the overall completeness and presentation, consider the draft general purpose financial statements (as it stood at that time) and provide feedback on the information contained therein.

Since then, there has been audit changes identified, which are reflected in the financial statements attached hereto.

A copy of the 2022/23 General Purpose Financial Statements (**Unaudited**) and 2022/23 Special Purpose Financial Statements (**Unaudited**) are attached as Attachments 1 and 2 respectively. It should be noted that these statements may be subject to further audit changes.

If the additional changes dictated by the AONSW are of a material nature, a revised set of financial statements will be represented to Council at a future meeting. The final audited statements will be presented to Council once the audit process has been completed.

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.

5.1.2 - Council acts in a financially responsible manner to ensure delivery of safe and sustainable services to the community

BUDGETARY IMPLICATIONS

Nil.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Nil.

LEGISLATIVE IMPLICATIONS

Local Government Act 1993.

Local Government (General) Regulations 2021.

RISK ANALYSIS

- **What can happen?**

Failure to lodge audited accounts within the requisite period would represent a breach of the **Act**.

- **How can it happen?**
Lack of access to skilled resources to complete the process.
- **What are the consequences of the event happening?**
Moderate - This would constitute a breach of the **Act** which could impact on the Council's reputation.
- **What is the likelihood of the event happening?**
Unlikely – so long as internal processes are in place and regularly reviewed for improvement.
- **Adequacy of existing controls?**
Adequate.
- **Treatment options to mitigate the risk?**
Ensure adequate resources are available and perform end of month tasks throughout the financial year..

CONCLUSION

That Council receive the General Purpose Financial Statements and Special Purpose Financial Statements for the period 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023, attached hereto and authorise the signing of the Statements by by the Mayor and Deputy Mayor, representing the elected officials and the Chief Executive Officer and Responsible Accounting Officer (Manager Finance as per current register of delegations) representing management.

ATTACHMENTS

1. **2022-23 Unaudited General Purpose Financial Statements (under separate cover)** 
2. **2022-23 Unaudited Special Purpose Financial Statements** [↓](#) 

Murray River Council

SPECIAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 30 June 2023



Murray River Council

Special Purpose Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2023

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Background

- i. These Special Purpose Financial Statements have been prepared for the use by both Council and the Office of Local Government in fulfilling their requirements under National Competition Policy.
- ii. The principle of competitive neutrality is based on the concept of a 'level playing field' between persons/entities competing in a market place, particularly between private and public sector competitors.

Essentially, the principle is that government businesses, whether Commonwealth, state or local, should operate without net competitive advantages over other businesses as a result of their public ownership.

- iii. For Council, the principle of competitive neutrality and public reporting applies only to declared business activities.

These include **(a)** those activities classified by the Australian Bureau of Statistics as business activities being water supply, sewerage services, abattoirs, gas production and reticulation, and **(b)** those activities with a turnover of more than \$2 million that Council has formally declared as a business activity (defined as Category 1 activities).

- iv. In preparing these financial statements for Council's self-classified Category 1 businesses and ABS-defined activities, councils must **(a)** adopt a corporatisation model and **(b)** apply full cost attribution including tax-equivalent regime payments and debt guarantee fees (where the business benefits from Council's borrowing position by comparison with commercial rates).

Murray River Council

Special Purpose Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2023

Statement by Councillors and Management made pursuant to the Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting

The attached special purpose financial statements have been prepared in accordance with:

- NSW Government Policy Statement, *Application of National Competition Policy to Local Government*
- Division of Local Government Guidelines, *Pricing and Costing for Council Businesses: A Guide to Competitive Neutrality*
- The Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting
- Sections 3 and 4 of the NSW Department of Planning and Environment, *Water's Regulatory and assurance framework for local water utilities*.

To the best of our knowledge and belief, these statements:

- present fairly the operating result and financial position for each of Council's declared business activities for the year,
- accord with Council's accounting and other records; and
- present overhead reallocation charges to the water and sewerage businesses as fair and reasonable.

We are not aware of any matter that would render these statements false or misleading in any way.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of Council made on 24 October 2023.

Cr Frank Crawley
Mayor
24 October 2023

Cr Neil Gorey
Councillor
24 October 2023

Mr Terry Dodds
Chief Executive Officer
24 October 2023

Mr Kristopher Kershaw
Responsible Accounting Officer
24 October 2023

Murray River Council | Income Statement of water supply business activity | for the year ended 30 June 2023

Murray River Council

Income Statement of water supply business activity

for the year ended 30 June 2023

\$ '000	2023	2022
Income from continuing operations		
Access charges	2,620	2,373
User charges	1,285	2,413
Fees	138	183
Interest and investment income	274	44
Grants and contributions provided for operating purposes	3,305	713
Other income	210	188
Total income from continuing operations	7,832	5,914
Expenses from continuing operations		
Employee benefits and on-costs	1,866	1,839
Materials and services	1,655	1,373
Depreciation, amortisation and impairment	1,418	1,252
Water purchase charges	153	160
Net loss from the disposal of assets	106	328
Calculated taxation equivalents	57	55
Total expenses from continuing operations	5,255	5,007
Surplus (deficit) from continuing operations before capital amounts	2,577	907
Grants and contributions provided for capital purposes	912	646
Surplus (deficit) from continuing operations after capital amounts	3,489	1,553
Surplus (deficit) from all operations before tax	3,489	1,553
Less: corporate taxation equivalent (25%) [based on result before capital]	(644)	(227)
Surplus (deficit) after tax	2,845	1,326
Plus accumulated surplus	53,521	51,969
Plus/less: prior period adjustments	(53)	(1)
Plus adjustments for amounts unpaid:		
– Corporate taxation equivalent	644	227
Closing accumulated surplus	56,957	53,521
Return on capital %	3.9%	1.5%
Subsidy from Council	46	1,246
Calculation of dividend payable:		
Surplus (deficit) after tax	2,845	1,326
Less: capital grants and contributions (excluding developer contributions)	(912)	(646)
Surplus for dividend calculation purposes	1,933	680
Potential dividend calculated from surplus	966	340

Murray River Council | Income Statement of sewerage business activity | for the year ended 30 June 2023

Murray River Council

Income Statement of sewerage business activity

for the year ended 30 June 2023

\$ '000	2023	2022
Income from continuing operations		
Access charges	2,795	2,454
User charges	107	51
Liquid trade waste charges	197	267
Fees	2	2
Interest and investment income	444	37
Grants and contributions provided for operating purposes	2,631	627
Other income	75	111
Total income from continuing operations	6,251	3,549
Expenses from continuing operations		
Employee benefits and on-costs	815	775
Materials and services	878	742
Depreciation, amortisation and impairment	1,191	969
Net loss from the disposal of assets	16	249
Calculated taxation equivalents	25	12
Total expenses from continuing operations	2,925	2,747
Surplus (deficit) from continuing operations before capital amounts	3,326	802
Grants and contributions provided for capital purposes	357	290
Surplus (deficit) from continuing operations after capital amounts	3,683	1,092
Surplus (deficit) from all operations before tax	3,683	1,092
Less: corporate taxation equivalent (25%) [based on result before capital]	(832)	(201)
Surplus (deficit) after tax	2,851	891
Plus accumulated surplus	41,558	40,465
Plus/less: prior period adjustments	(11)	1
Plus adjustments for amounts unpaid:		
– Corporate taxation equivalent	832	201
Closing accumulated surplus	45,230	41,558
Return on capital %	6.0%	1.7%
Subsidy from Council	–	968
Calculation of dividend payable:		
Surplus (deficit) after tax	2,852	891
Less: capital grants and contributions (excluding developer contributions)	(357)	(290)
Surplus for dividend calculation purposes	2,495	601
Potential dividend calculated from surplus	1,247	301

Murray River Council | Statement of Financial Position of water supply business activity | for the year ended 30 June 2023

Murray River Council

Statement of Financial Position of water supply business activity

as at 30 June 2023

\$ '000	2023	2022
ASSETS		
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	993	539
Investments	7,526	7,788
Receivables	1,069	2,386
Total current assets	9,588	10,713
Non-current assets		
Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment	65,245	58,818
Intangible assets	6,370	2,428
Total non-current assets	71,615	61,246
Total assets	81,203	71,959
LIABILITIES		
Current liabilities		
Payables	174	168
Income received in advance	102	82
Total current liabilities	276	250
Total liabilities	276	250
Net assets	80,927	71,709
EQUITY		
Accumulated surplus	56,957	53,521
Revaluation reserves	23,970	18,188
Total equity	80,927	71,709

Murray River Council | Statement of Financial Position of sewerage business activity | for the year ended 30 June 2023

Murray River Council

Statement of Financial Position of sewerage business activity

as at 30 June 2023

\$ '000	2023	2022
ASSETS		
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	558	1,827
Investments	15,006	12,210
Receivables	537	509
Total current assets	16,101	14,546
Non-current assets		
Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment	55,362	48,356
Total non-current assets	55,362	48,356
Total assets	71,463	62,902
LIABILITIES		
Current liabilities		
Payables	53	36
Total current liabilities	53	36
Total liabilities	53	36
Net assets	71,410	62,866
EQUITY		
Accumulated surplus	45,230	41,558
Revaluation reserves	26,180	21,308
Total equity	71,410	62,866

Note – Significant Accounting Policies

A statement summarising the supplemental accounting policies adopted in the preparation of the special purpose financial statements (SPFS) for National Competition Policy (NCP) reporting purposes follows.

These financial statements are SPFS prepared for use by Council and the Office of Local Government. For the purposes of these statements, the Council is a non-reporting not-for-profit entity.

The figures presented in these special purpose financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the recognition and measurement criteria of relevant Australian Accounting Standards, other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB) and Australian Accounting Interpretations.

The disclosures in these special purpose financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993* (Act), the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021* (Regulation) and the Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting.

The statements are prepared on an accruals basis. They are based on historic costs and do not take into account changing money values or, except where specifically stated, fair value of non-current assets. Certain taxes and other costs, appropriately described, have been imputed for the purposes of the National Competition Policy.

The Statement of Financial Position includes notional assets/liabilities receivable from/payable to Council's general fund. These balances reflect a notional intra-entity funding arrangement with the declared business activities.

National Competition Policy

Council has adopted the principle of 'competitive neutrality' in its business activities as part of the National Competition Policy which is being applied throughout Australia at all levels of government. The framework for its application is set out in the June 1996 NSW Government Policy statement titled 'Application of National Competition Policy to Local Government'. *The Pricing and Costing for Council Businesses – A Guide to Competitive Neutrality* issued by the Office of Local Government in July 1997 has also been adopted.

The pricing and costing guidelines outline the process for identifying and allocating costs to activities and provide a standard for disclosure requirements. These disclosures are reflected in Council's pricing and/or financial reporting systems and include taxation equivalents, Council subsidies, and returns on investments (rate of return and dividends paid).

Declared business activities

In accordance with Pricing and Costing for Council Businesses – A Guide to Competitive Neutrality, Council has declared that the following are to be considered as business activities:

Category 1

(where gross operating turnover is over \$2 million)

a. Water Supply

Provision and distribution of water to the towns within the boundaries of the Council.

b. Sewerage

Treatment of wastewater to the towns within the boundaries of the Council.

Category 2

(where gross operating turnover is less than \$2 million)

Council has no Category 2 Businesses.

Taxation equivalent charges

Council is liable to pay various taxes and financial duties. Where this is the case, they are disclosed as a cost of operations just like all other costs.

However, where Council does not pay some taxes which are generally paid by private sector businesses, such as income tax, these equivalent tax payments have been applied to all Council-nominated business activities and are reflected in Special Purpose Financial Statements.

For the purposes of disclosing comparative information relevant to the private sector equivalent, the following taxation equivalents have been applied to all Council-nominated business activities (this does not include Council's non-business activities):

Notional rate applied (%)

continued on next page

Page 8 of 11

Note – Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

Corporate income tax rate – 25%

Land tax – the first \$822,000 of combined land values attracts 0%. For the combined land values in excess of \$822,000 up to \$5,026,000 the rate is \$100 + 1.6%. For the remaining combined land value that exceeds \$5,026,000 a premium marginal rate of 2.0% applies.

Payroll tax – 4.85% on the value of taxable salaries and wages in excess of \$1,200,000.

In accordance with Crown Lands and Water (CLAW), a payment for the amount calculated as the annual tax equivalent charges (excluding income tax) must be paid from water supply and sewerage business activities.

The payment of taxation equivalent charges, referred to in the NSW Office of Water Guidelines to as a 'dividend for taxation equivalent', may be applied for any purpose allowed under the *Local Government Act, 1993*.

Achievement of substantial compliance to the NSW Office of Water Guidelines is not a prerequisite for the payment of the tax equivalent charges, however the payment must not exceed \$3 per assessment.

Income tax

An income tax equivalent has been applied on the profits of the business activities.

Whilst income tax is not a specific cost for the purpose of pricing a good or service, it needs to be taken into account in terms of assessing the rate of return required on capital invested.

Accordingly, the return on capital invested is set at a pre-tax level - gain/(loss) from ordinary activities before capital amounts, as would be applied by a private sector competitor. That is, it should include a provision equivalent to the corporate income tax rate, currently 25% (2021/22 25%).

Income tax is only applied where a gain/ (loss) from ordinary activities before capital amounts has been achieved.

Since the taxation equivalent is notional – that is, it is payable to Council as the 'owner' of business operations - it represents an internal payment and has no effect on the operations of the Council. Accordingly, there is no need for disclosure of internal charges in the SPFS.

The rate applied of 25% is the equivalent company tax rate prevalent at reporting date. No adjustments have been made for variations that have occurred during the year.

Local government rates and charges

A calculation of the equivalent rates and charges for all Category 1 businesses has been applied to all assets owned, or exclusively used by the business activity.

Loan and debt guarantee fees

The debt guarantee fee is designed to ensure that council business activities face 'true' commercial borrowing costs in line with private sector competitors.

In order to calculate a debt guarantee fee, Council has determined what the differential borrowing rate would have been between the commercial rate and Council's borrowing rate for its business activities.

(i) Subsidies

Government policy requires that subsidies provided to customers, and the funding of those subsidies, must be explicitly disclosed. Subsidies occur where Council provides services on a less than cost recovery basis. This option is exercised on a range of services in order for Council to meet its community service obligations. The overall effect of subsidies is contained within the Income Statements of business activities.

(ii) Return on investments (rate of return)

The NCP policy statement requires that councils with Category 1 businesses 'would be expected to generate a return on capital funds employed that is comparable to rates of return for private businesses operating in a similar field'.

Funds are subsequently available for meeting commitments or financing future investment strategies. The rate of return is disclosed for each of Council's business activities on the Income Statement.

Note – Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

The rate of return is calculated as follows:

Operating result before capital income + interest expense

Written down value of I,PP&E as at 30 June

As a minimum, business activities should generate a return equal to the Commonwealth 10 year bond rate which is 4.02% at 30/6/23.

(iii) Dividends

Council is not required to pay dividends to either itself (as owner of a range of businesses) or to any external entities.

Local government water supply and sewerage businesses are permitted to pay an annual dividend from its water supply or sewerage business surplus.

Each dividend must be calculated and approved in accordance with the Department of Industry – Water guidelines and must not exceed:

- 50% of this surplus in any one year, or
- the number of water supply or sewerage assessments at 30 June 2023 multiplied by \$30 (less the payment for tax equivalent charges, not exceeding \$3 per assessment).

In accordance with the Department of Industry – Water guidelines a Dividend Payment form, Statement of Compliance, Unqualified Independent Financial Audit Report and Compliance Audit Report are required to be submitted to the Department of Industry – Water.

Murray River Council

Special Purpose Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2023

9.2.6 FINANCIAL REPORT - UNAUDITED FY 2023/24 PERIOD ENDING 30 SEPTEMBER 2023

File Number: -

Author: Kris Kershaw, Manager Finance

Authoriser: Stephen Fernando, Director Corporate Services

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

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

BACKGROUND

The purpose of this report is to inform Council of the unaudited financial performance and position of Council as of 30 September 2023. The report is provided in addition to the Monthly Operational Report and, with the exception of Council's working capital, reports on Council consolidated performance.

DISCUSSION

The Financial Report will be provided to Council on a monthly basis to provide an update on the current financial situation. It focuses on the components of the Income Statement (income and expenditure) and Statement of Financial Performance (assets and liabilities).

This report is not required to be reported under the Local Government Act 1993 (the Act) nor the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 (the Regulation). However, it is provided to Council to compliment the MOR and quarterly budget review process (QBR).

Council adopted the 2023/24 Annual Budget, as part of the Operational Plan, on the 27 June 2023 which is reflected in the Income Statement attachment.

This report will continue to be worked on over the next few months as it is developed further to incorporate Cashflow Statement and key financial sustainability indicators (ratios). For now, the report will focus on the Income Statement and Statement of Financial Performance.

The following highlights are some of the key results for the period ending 30 September 2023:

- The end of month cash and investments balance is \$51.58 million, of which \$1.80 million is unrestricted for the General Fund. This is below the current minimum limit of \$2 million threshold defined by Council in the Operational Plan. Cash and investments are reported to Council each month under a separate report.
- Council has delivered 16.15% of the year-to-date capital budget excluding commitments for 2022/23, totalling \$5.49 million. Council has a budget allocation of \$33.99 million for the 2023/24 year.

Income StatementIncome and Expenditure

What was charged to our ratepayers/customers compared to what was spent in delivering our services.

For the period under review, Council's operating deficit sits at (\$5.30) million. This is under the overall projected 2024 budgeted net operating result of (\$1.49) million for the period ending September 2023. The reason for the variance is the need to re-align certain revenue and expenditure balances to monthly actual. This is to be actioned as part of the 1st quarter budget review.

Note that this is the Income Statement result only and not the overall net budget result (once capital expenditure, reserve movements, and other funding movements are considered).

Income Statement for 30 September 2023 is provided as an attachment.

Note that **Actual 2023** figures in the attached Income Statement are still being finalised as part of closing out the 2022/23 financial year and are subject to change and final external audit in October 2023.

A review of some of the budget vs actual differences is discussed as follows:

Income

- User charges and fees is tracking on budget now, after 30 June 2023 accrued revenue amounts have been reversed in the 2022/23 financial year.
- Other revenue is greater than budget due to Moama Lights ticket sales of \$0.2 million. Budget for this event has been spread over the 12 months for 2023/24 year rather than for the month of July 2023. Need to correct budget spread as part of the 1st quarter budget review process.
- Grants for operating purposes is tracking lower than budget expectation due to timing of grant funding being received in relation to the Financial Assistances Grant and capital projects funded by grants. Need to review how budget spread is recorded in Tech 1 system as part of the 1st quarter budget review process.

Expenditure

- Materials and contracts expenditure is tracking lower than budget expectation due to timing of expense payments. Also, need to review how budget spread is assigned in Tech 1 as part of the 1st quarter budget review process.
- Borrowing costs budget needs to be spread over the 12 months for 2023/24 year rather than for the months of December 2023 and June 2024 – end of month process is to accrue interest expense on loans. Need to correct budget spread as part of the 1st quarter budget review process.
- Depreciation actual will equal depreciation budget until all asset registers are placed into OneCouncil (Tech 1) asset registers. Assets team is currently working through this process with the aim of having all asset registers in the system during this financial year.

Statement of Financial Performance

The value of resources Council has to service our community. Net Equity at the end of the September 2023 period stood at \$1.03 billion.

Statement of Financial Performance for 30 September 2023 is provided as an attachment.

A review of some of the actual differences between the years comparison is discussed as follows:

Assets

- Cash and cash equivalents have decreased from \$7.30 to \$4.07 million due to Council expenditure for the month of September.
- Investments has decreased to \$47.51 million on account of Council recalling funds on maturity of term deposits to pay for accounts payable.
- Receivables actual of \$7.93 million is lower when compared to the 2022/23 year balance of \$12.55 million as a result of Council raising accounts receivable invoices on 30 June 2023 as part of the 2022/23 financial year preparation, which have been received by Council during July to September. It is also due to the levying of the 2023/24 rates been spread across the twelve (12) months for 2023/24 financial year instead of showing in full in July 2023. A total of \$21.40 million was levied for rates and annual charges for the 2023/24 financial year.

Liabilities

- Current payables overall balance has decreased from the 2022/23 year closing balance of \$7.14 million to \$2.23 million to September 2023 as a result of Council paying down its overall accounts payable balance, as well as reversing 30 June 2023 accrued expenses. The accounts payable balance is subject to timing variances as accounts payable is run weekly every Thursday.

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

Maintaining a balanced budget throughout the financial year and remaining financially sustainable remain key objectives. Budget risks identified throughout the year are to be mitigated as part of Council's ongoing quarterly budget reviews.

Council adopted the 2023-24 Operational Plan, including the annual budget, at the June 2023 Ordinary Council Meeting, any reports on any budget variations will be via the quarterly budget review process.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Nil.

LEGISLATIVE IMPLICATIONS

RISK ANALYSIS

- **What can happen?**

Council expends operational or capital expenditure that is not budgeted for, resulting in possible financial risks.

- **How can it happen?**

By failure to not perform regular review of budgets.

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

Minor - Council ends up with an operating deficit greater than the budget adopted, resulting in financial risks.

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

Possible.

- **Adequacy of existing controls?**

Adequate.

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

Financial risks can be managed on a project basis or through savings identified in the operational expenditure budgets. Council finance staff to maintain a budget risk register which will flag budgetary issues that require addressing in the quarterly budget review process.

CONCLUSION

The unaudited Financial Report is presented to Council to provide an overview of Council's overall financial performance as of 30 September 2023.

ATTACHMENTS

1. **Income Statement Report 30 September 2023** [↓](#) 
2. **Statement of Financial Performance Report 30 September 2023** [↓](#) 

Murray River Council

Statement of Financial Position

for the year ended 30 June 2024

from period 01 July to 30 September

\$'000	Notes	Actual 2024	Actual 2023
ASSETS			
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	C1-1	4,069	7,266
Investments	C1-2	47,514	49,944
Receivables	C1-4	7,927	12,549
Inventories	C1-5	504	520
Other	C1-11	739	254
Total current assets		60,753	70,533
Non-current assets			
Investments	C1-2	2	2
Receivables	C1-4	483	483
Inventories	C1-5	315	315
Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment	C1-8	979,392	980,865
Intangible Assets	C1-10	10,402	10,402
Investments accounted for using the equity method	D2-2		
Total non-current assets		990,594	992,067
Total assets		1,051,347	1,062,600
LIABILITIES			
Current liabilities			
Payables	C3-1	2,230	7,140
Contract liabilities	C3-2	5,269	5,269
Lease liabilities	C2-1	137	184
Borrowings	C3-3	476	476
Employee benefit provisions	C3-4	3,349	3,686
Provisions	C3-5	102	102
Total current liabilities		11,563	16,857
Non-current liabilities			
Lease liabilities	C2-1	354	354
Borrowings	C3-3	2,173	2,173
Employee benefit provisions	C3-4	512	512
Provisions	C3-5	6,612	6,612
Total non-current liabilities		9,651	9,651
Total liabilities		21,214	26,508
Net assets		1,030,133	1,036,092
EQUITY			
Current years surplus/ (deficit)		(5,959)	
Accumulated surplus		745,736	745,736
IPPE revaluation reserve		290,356	290,356
Council equity interest		1,030,133	1,036,092
Total equity		1,030,133	1,036,092

9.3 DIRECTOR INFRASTRUCTURE REPORT AND SUPPLEMENTARY MATTERS**9.3.1 MURRAY DARLING ASSOCIATION - MEMBERSHIP**

File Number: -

Author: Jan Donald, Executive Administration Officer

Authoriser: Jack Bond, Director Infrastructure

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Re-join the Murray Darling Association.

OR

2. Review membership again during 2024 budget process

BACKGROUND

Murray River Council resolved at a meeting in August 2018 to withdraw their membership from the Murray Darling Association (MDA). In May 2021, the recommendation was again put to Council to consider re-joining MDA and the motion was lost due to lack of a mover.

The Murray Darling Association is a membership-based peak representative organisation representing local government and communities across the Murray Darling Basin. Their purpose is to provide effective representation of local government and communities at State and Federal level in the management of Basin resources by:

- Providing accurate, relevant and timely information
- Facilitating informed debate
- Seeking to influence government policy

DISCUSSION

Attached is the Murray Darling Association Vision 2025 document which outlines the associations strategic direction, goals and its purpose and mission together with a fact sheet outlining membership benefits.

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

1. Strategic Theme 1: A Place of Environmental Sensitivity

1.3 - Protect, enhance and sustain the natural environment - Integrated Water Cycle Management.

BUDGETARY IMPLICATIONS

Subscription costs are \$0.305 per head of population, capped at \$6,681.82 (ex GST). This cost has not been included in Council's 2023/2024 budget.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Nil.

LEGISLATIVE IMPLICATIONS

RISK ANALYSIS

- **What can happen?**
No risk. Continue on business as usual.
- **How can it happen?**
Nil.
- **What are the consequences of the event happening?**
Low.
- **What is the likelihood of the event happening?**
Low.
- **Adequacy of existing controls?**
Nil. Not required
- **Treatment options to mitigate the risk?**
Nil.

CONCLUSION

The Murray Darling Association advocates on behalf of all Basin communities and uses local knowledge and expertise to fully understand regional issues. Murray River Council should consider re-joining MDA to support and understand irrigators and communities within our LGA.

ATTACHMENTS

1. **MDA Vision 2025 (under separate cover)** 
2. **MDA Membership Fact Sheet (under separate cover)** 

9.3.2 RECOMMENDATION FOR PUTTING THE DRAFT ECHUCA-MOAMA FLOOD STUDY ON PUBLIC EXHIBITION

File Number: -

Author: Onisimo Mukodi, Manager Infrastructure Projects

Authoriser: Jack Bond, Director Infrastructure

RECOMMENDATION

That the Draft Echuca-Moama Flood Study Report be placed on Public Exhibition for public comment from 30 October 2023 to at least 27 November 2023.

BACKGROUND

Murray River Council (MRC) jointly with Campaspe Shire Council (CSC) are delivering the Echuca Moama Torrumbarry Flood Plain Management Project (the Project) with the financial assistance from the NSW and Victorian Governments and the support of the NSW Department of Planning and Environment (DPIE), the Victorian Department of Environment Land Water and Planning (DELWP), and the Victorian North Central Catchment Management Authority (NCCMA). The Project investigates riverine flooding along the Murray River between Barmah and downstream of Torrumbarry including the lower reaches of the Goulburn and Campaspe Rivers and its impact on the floodplain including the townships of Echuca and Moama and adjoining developing areas. The Project commenced in 2018.

The Flood Study identifies the extent and depths of flooding and associated risks for 'design' events for floods with a 20%, 10%, 5%, 2%, 1%, 0.5% probability of exceedance in any one year (AEP) and the Probable Maximum Flood event (PMF - the largest flood that could conceivably be expected to occur at a particular location).

The hydraulic model extends from Shepparton, Barmah and Rochester down to below Torrumbarry and is very complex. It takes about one week for it to run one iteration.

Campaspe Shire Council is managing the Echuca Moama Torrumbarry Flood Plain Management Project. The Project Control Group (PCG) comprising of staff from MRC and CSC, representatives of DPIE, DELWP, and NCCMA is overseeing the project.

The Community Reference Committee (RC) comprises of Councillors from MRC, CSC and Gannawarra Shire Council, NSW and Victorian State Emergency Services, Indigenous Heritage Representative, Goulburn Murray Water, Bureau of Meteorology Representative, MRC and CSC urban and rural community representatives. Varying level of interest has been shown by the nominated Community Reference Committee Members cited above. Any other members of the community who have shown interest have been welcome to attend the Community Reference Committee meetings.

DISCUSSION

Back in September 2022 both PCG and RC recommended that the Draft Flood Study Report be presented to MRC and CSC October Meetings and consent by both Councils be sought to place it on public exhibition.

The October 2022 flood event resulted in both Councils referring the Draft Study for review incorporate data from this event. Subsequently calibration checks were done using the data from the 2022 flood event. The outputs have been considered by the PCG and RC and the updated report is now being presented to Council for approval to be put on public exhibition.

Community consultation will include production and distribution of 'flyers' providing a condensed overview of the study, press releases, advertisements, on-line presentation of the mapping and report together with 'have your say' pages, several one-on-one drop-in sessions and availability of

hard copies including summaries and response boxes at strategic accessible locations. The consultation phase is also an important community education opportunity to explain the flood risks.

Work on the Flood Plain Risk Management Plan (FPRMP), which follows up on the EMFS, will investigate various mitigation options for flood risk for Echuca-Moama including physical works, development controls and flood warning systems and provide important intelligence for state agencies responding to flood emergencies. At this stage the FPRMP is projected to be completed by end of November 2024.

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

1. Strategic Theme 1: A Place of Environmental Sensitivity

1.3 - Protect, enhance and sustain the natural environment - Integrated Water Cycle Management.

BUDGETARY IMPLICATIONS

Nil.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Nil.

LEGISLATIVE IMPLICATIONS

RISK ANALYSIS

- **What can happen?**

The EMFS not developed in terms of the NSW Floodplain Development Manual (2023) which incorporates the NSW Government's Flood Prone Land Policy failure for which will result in MRC not being protected from liability in respect of development of flood liable land for the purposes of section 733 of the Local Government Act 1993.

- **How can it happen?**

Not delivering the EMFS in accordance with the NSW Floodplain Development Manual (2023) which incorporates the NSW Government's Flood Prone Land Policy.

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

- High to Extreme

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

Low, if the EMFS is delivered per the NSW Floodplain Development Manual (2023)

- **Adequacy of existing controls?**

EMFS has been developed by appropriately qualified consultants with the oversight of the PCG which received advice from flood experts at DPIE, DELWP and NCCMA, and has been deemed fit for purpose.

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

As noted above. Development of the EMFS in accordance with the NSW Floodplain Development Manual (2005) in line with NSW Government's Flood Prone Land Policy the purpose of section 733 of the Local Government Act 1993.

CONCLUSION

It is appropriate that Council approve that the Draft Echuca-Moama Flood Study Report be placed on Public Exhibition for public comment from 30 October 2023 to at least 27 November 2023.

ATTACHMENTS

1. EMT Flood Study Report 13 October 2023 (under separate cover) 
2. Appendix E - Flood map (under separate cover) 

9.3.3 MURRAY RIVER COUNCIL LOCAL TRAFFIC COMMITTEE

File Number: -

Author: Jan Donald, Executive Administration Officer

Authoriser: Jack Bond, Director Infrastructure

RECOMMENDATION

That Council note the DRAFT minutes of the Murray River Council Local Traffic Committee meeting held on Wednesday 4 October 2023.

BACKGROUND

The Murray River Council Local Traffic Committee is a technical review committee that is required to advise Council on traffic related matters.

DISCUSSION

At the meeting of the Murray River Council Local Traffic Committee held on Wednesday 4 October 2023, the following actions were noted:

1. MRC to provide photos to TfNSW of location for pedestrian crossing signs on the Cobb Highway Mathoura.
2. Formal notification to be prepared advising Moama Anglican Grammar School on the request for a crossing on Perricoota Road not meeting the TfNSW requirements.
3. Deni Ute Muster signage directing traffic off Cobb Highway to Barmah Road as a detour to Shepparton no longer required. MRC will discuss with the Ute Muster Committee.
4. MRC to review speed limit guidelines for Bunnaloo Road.
5. MRC to request TMP from the Southern 80 Committee ASAP (as requested by NSW Police) and recommend the Jack Eddy Oval for the "Breakfast with the stars".

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

6. Strategic Theme 6: Connected Communities

6.2 - Develop strategies to deliver road and shared pathway infrastructure that is accessible to all - Improved and consistent road signage across the region.

BUDGETARY IMPLICATIONS

Nil

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Nil.

LEGISLATIVE IMPLICATIONS**RISK ANALYSIS**

- **What can happen?**
Speeding and road safety concerns

- **How can it happen?**
Speeding motorists
- **What are the consequences of the event happening?**
Injury
- **What is the likelihood of the event happening?**
Moderate
- **Adequacy of existing controls?**
Moderate
- **Treatment options to mitigate the risk?**
Increased NSW Police patrols

CONCLUSION

The Murray River Council Local Traffic Committee supports the actions as outlined above and notes these for Council information.

ATTACHMENTS

1. **MRC Local Traffic Committee - minutes of 4 October 2023** [!\[\]\(750841ae7100dc832cb0a4b3af4492f3_img.jpg\) !\[\]\(78e449f8a1164b81ecbd00cd97498e27_img.jpg\)](#)



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Minutes

Meeting title	Local Traffic Committee		
Date	Wednesday 4 October 2023	Time	10am – 11.30am
Location	Microsoft Teams / Moama Council Chambers		
Invitees	Jack Bond – MRC Director Infrastructure (JB) <i>Chair</i> Cr Tom Weyrich – Council Delegate (TW) Denise Crouch – TfNSW (DC) Frank Schofield – Local Representative (FS) Ken Spence – Murray River Council (KS) Rob Mayo – NSW Police (RM) Trisha Suckling – TfNSW (TS) Ricki Thompson – Murray River Council (RT) Jan Donald (minute taker) (JD)		
Apologies	Cr Geoff Wise – Alternate Council Delegate Greg Minehan – TfNSW		

No. Description

1. Minutes of previous meeting of 5 April 2023 for confirmation

The minutes of the previous meeting of 5 April 2023 were confirmed as an accurate record.

2. Review of action sheet / business arising:

- 2.1 Cobb Highway / Barmah Road intersection review – Safety review and road designs are being considered for further options. This item will require review if the coffee van resumes trading from the intersection, until then, this item can now be *closed*.
- 2.2 Suitable crossing to be identified at Mathoura (Cobb Highway) – there is a crossing (medium strip) further south of the proposed location, no need for a duplicate crossing at this stage. Pedestrian crossing signs to be installed at the current crossing. If the Mathoura redevelopment goes ahead will then consider other options. *Closed*.
Action: Provide photos to TfNSW on location of signage and install sign (MRC)
- 2.3 Extension of no truck parking area Cobb Highway Mathoura – *closed*.
- 2.4 Echuca Street Moama consideration to “no stopping” signs – MRC to investigate this matter further. *Open*.



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- 2.5 Review of speed zone North Barham Road – MRC to provide details to NSWPOL – *Closed*.
 - 2.6 Review of speed zone Maude Road Moulamein – MRC to provide details to NSWPOL – *Closed*.
 - 2.7 Provide work zone site details to NSWPOL for speed monitoring – *Closed*.
 - 2.8 Moama Anglican Grammar safety – status update – some works required on current crossing to improve safety of pedestrians. MRC to provide formal response to MAGs advising Perricoota Road does not meet the requirements for a crossing and crossing supervisor.
Action: Prepare formal notification to MAGs (MRC)
 - 2.9 Barmah Road works – NSW Police advised that as a TMP was not provided for these works that speeding fines were not able to be enforced. MRC to ensure that all TMP are in place and circulated.
- 3. Parking issues / Special events:**
- 3.1 Echuca Moama Sprint Triathlon 20 January 2024 - approved
 - 3.2 Echuca Moama Triathlon Club – Junior Duathlon Event 20 January 2024 – approved
 - 3.3 Deni Ute Muster – Cobb Highway signage directing traffic to Shepparton down Barmah Road. MRC to discuss this further with the Deni Ute Muster committee as do not believe that this diversion is still required.
Action: Discuss signage with Deni Ute Muster Committee (KS)
- 4. Traffic Control Plans / Safety Issues:**
- 4.1 Aberdeen Way Bus Stop update – request to remove bus stop is currently in the hands of Public Transport Victoria. Noted.
- 5. General Business (Informal items):**
- 5.1 Bunnaloo Road speed limit review request – KS will review the guidelines with the new developments in the area to determine if a change to the speed limit meets the requirements. JB suggested a change to the give way signage direction at Livingstone Street, this was not supported.
Action: Review speed limit guidelines for Bunnaloo Road (KS)
 - 5.2 Stop sign at Bunnaloo Road railway crossing Mathoura - ongoing
 - 5.3 Barnes Railway crossing, Cobb Highway – TfNSW still under review
 - 5.4 Deni Ute Muster – NSWPOL provided stats on speeding fines issued over the Ute muster weekend; other fines issued for use of mobile phones, drug testing and alcohol testing undertaken.



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- 5.5 Southern 80 – request from NSWPOL for the TMP to be submitted as soon as possible. Recommendation for the “breakfast with the stars” be held at Jack Eddy Oval which provides more space and parking for boats.

Action: Discuss TMP with the Southern 80 Committee and recommend the Jack Eddy Oval for the “breakfast with the stars” (KS)

6. Meeting dates proposed for 2024:

Wednesday 3 April 2024 @ 10am - agreed
Wednesday 2 October 2024 @ 10am - agreed

7. Meeting closed:

10.53am.

9.4 DIRECTOR PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT REPORT AND SUPPLEMENTARY MATTERS

9.4.1 TRANSFER STATION OPENING DAYS AND HOURS REVIEW

File Number: -

Author: Brian Holmes, Manager Waste & Compliance

Authoriser: Rod Croft, Director Planning & Environment

RECOMMENDATION

That:

1. The Barham Waste and Resource Recovery Facility opening hours be extended by 4 hours on Sunday. Barham will be open two full-days being 9am-5pm Wednesday and Sunday.
2. The Mathoura Waste and Resource Recovery Facility opening hours be reduced from three 8-hour shifts per week to two 8-hour shifts per week. Mathoura will be open two full days being 9am-5pm Tuesday and Sunday.
3. The Wakool landfill facility be permanently closed. As per recommendation 1 Barham's opening hours be extended on Sunday to match the Wednesday opening hours to better service the community including Wakool.
4. The unmanned bins be removed from both Bunnaloo and Womboota and these sites be permanently closed.

BACKGROUND

It's important that the true cost, environmental and financial sustainability of operating waste and resource recovery facilities can be calculated and reviewed. This helps protect Council from liability related to environmental impacts and ensures the community are provided a fit for purpose and affordable waste and resource recovery service that can be sustained into the future.

Since the establishment of the waste department in 2019 waste facility data capture has significantly improved allowing utilisation, revenue and operational costs to be measured and assessed.

Councils waste team recently completed a review of Murray River Council waste and resource recovery facilities (excluding Moama) taking into consideration cost (operational and resourcing), community use, environmental impacts, Waste Management Strategy recommendations and other options available to users.

Officers have also audited and reviewed each facility identifying the need for some form of rehabilitation or upgrade work at every site to provide a fit for purpose service that is compliant with current legislation. To inform this, a Landfill Risk Assessment project and a Waste and Resource Recovery Facility Upgrade project were undertaken to provide facts and data in relation to the environmental risks and costs associated with facility capital improvements and rehabilitations.

Results of the review highlight unsustainable operation of some smaller sites and the need to implement a more balanced service to achieve compliance and improve the financial sustainability of providing this essential service.

Council implemented a FOGO (green) bin service across all major townships in 2022 which has increased the service level to residents and likely reduced the use of Waste and Resource Recovery Facilities.

The current opening days and hours of operation for MRC small Waste and Resource Recovery Facility are displayed in table 1 below.

Table 1 – Murray River Council small Waste and Resource Recovery Facility current opening days and hours

Site	Days open	Opening hours	Hrs open
Mathoura	Tuesday	8am-4pm	8
	Thursday	8am-4pm	8
	Sunday	8am-4pm	8
		Total/wk	24
Barham	Wednesday	9am-5pm	8
	Sunday	1pm-5pm	4
		Total/wk	12
Wakool	Wednesday	9am-12pm	3
	Sunday	9am-12pm	3
		Total/wk	6
Moulamein	Wednesday	1pm-5pm	4
	Sunday	9am-1pm	4
		Total/wk	8
Koraleigh	Wednesday	9:30am-12:30pm	3
	Sunday	1pm-5pm	4
		Total/wk	7

DISCUSSION

1. Opening hours review – Mathoura and Barham

Mathoura

The following table depicts averaged data from the 2022 and 2023 financial years for various items at the Mathoura Waste and Resource Recovery Facility.

Table 2. Mathoura Waste and Resource Recovery Facility data

2022 & 2023 data	Ave
Visits/yr	1,174
Visits/day	7.53
Materials	
Recyclables (m3)	61
Tyres (ea)	11
Scrap metal (m3)	246
Green waste (m3)	376
Commercial waste (m3)	0
Domestic waste (m3)	495
Mattresses (ea)	45
Oil (ea)	83
E-waste (ea)	149
Batteries (ea)	29
Fridges (ea)	42
Drummuster (ea)	1,596
Total m3/yr	1,177
Total m3/day	8
Total items/yr	1,955
Total items/day	13
Income	
Income	16,533
Income/day	106
Costs	
Costs	75,344
Other	2,550
Total	77,894
Cost to ratepayers per year	-61,362
Cost to ratepayers per day	-590

Note: no costs have been included to improve roads, fences etc or to cover future improvement costs.

The data from Mathoura demonstrates that 7.5 users attend the site each opening (less than 1 customer per hour), income is \$16,533 per annum and costs are \$75,433 per annum. Therefore, the site costs Council \$61,362 to operate excluding any capital costs to improve the site or any major maintenance.

Mathoura has a population of approximately 1,000 residents (less than half the population of Barham/Koondrook). Mathoura is 32km from the Moama Waste Management Facility (WMF) which operates 7 days a week and is accessible to the residents of Mathoura.

Mathoura is identified in the 10 Year Waste Capital Expenditure Plan to receive a facility upgrade in 2027/28 at an estimated cost of \$551,000. This will need to be reviewed closer to the time to ensure that the use of the facility warrants the investment, or whether Council considers closing the Mathoura site due to the close proximity to Moama (within 25 mins), similar to other locations around the Council area.

Barham

The following table depicts averaged data from the 2022 and 2023 financial years for various items at the Barham Waste and Resource Recovery Facility.

Table 2. Barham Waste and Resource Recovery Facility data

2022 & 2023 data	Ave
Visits/yr	1,972
Visits/day	18.96
Materials	
Recyclables (m3)	217
Tyres (ea)	10
Scrap metal (m3)	290
Green waste (m3)	498
Commercial waste (m3)	0
Domestic waste (m3)	600
Mattresses (ea)	43
Oil (ea)	3
E-waste (ea)	41
Batteries (ea)	2
Fridges (ea)	18
Drummuster (ea)	275
Total m3/yr	1,604
Total m3/day	15
Total items/yr	391
Total items/day	4
Income	
Income (users)	45,615
Income (Gannawarra Shire)	84,958
Income/day	1,256
Costs	
Costs	166,969
Other	2,550
Total	169,519
Cost to ratepayers per year	-38,946
Cost to ratepayers per day	-374

Note: no costs have been included to improve roads, fences etc or to cover future rehabilitation or improvement costs.

The data for Barham demonstrates that it has the most traffic and use in comparison to all other small facilities in MRC. The site averages 19 visits per day and receives \$45,615 income per annum. Barham costs Council on average \$38,946 per annum including total operational costs and minor upgrades recently conducted on the site. Gannawarra Shire also provides 50% of the operational costs to Council as Koondrook does not have a facility on the Victorian side, this has been included in the calculation above.

56% of transactions at Barham occur on Sunday compressing the average transactions into 4 hours compared to 8 hours on Wednesday. This makes it difficult for the attendant to perform all the required tasks to the standard expected.

Barham currently opens for one half day and one full day and has a population of over 1,500 people and is a popular tourist destination which is experiencing growth with new subdivisions developed recently. Barham also provides the main infrastructure and supplies for the residents of Koondrook on the Victorian side which has a population of almost 1,000 residents along with surrounding rural areas. Therefore, the site is servicing a population of more than 2,500 residents.

The following table compares data from Mathoura and Barham Waste and Resource Recovery Facility's. Barham has more than double the visits per day, almost double the volume of materials and more than double the population. Individual items are greater at Mathoura, due to Drummuster drums which skews the data. If Drummuster drums are removed 13 items per day becomes 2.

Table 3. Mathoura and Barham Waste and Resource Recovery Facility data comparison

Comparison of Barham and Mathoura		
	Mathoura	Barham
Population	1,000	2,500
Visits per day	7.53	18.96
Total m3/day	8	15
Total items/day	13	4
Income/day	106	1,256
Cost to rate payer per day	-590	-374

Based on the data, Officers recommend a change to opening hours at both sites to provide an efficient fit-for-purpose service to the community that better suits needs as reflected by the data. The proposal includes extending hours at Barham by 4 hours on Sunday and reducing hours at Mathoura by 8 hours, by closing Thursdays. Operating costs are not predicted to change, the 4-hours Sunday at Barham at double time will be accounted for by reducing Mathoura by 8 hours at normal time.

Table 4. Current Mathoura and Barham Waste and Resource Recovery Facility opening days and hours

Site	Days open	Opening hours	Hrs open
Mathoura	Tuesday	8am-4pm	8
	Thursday	8am-4pm	8
	Sunday	8am-4pm	8
		Total/wk	24
Barham	Wednesday	9am-5pm	8
	Sunday	1pm-5pm	4
		Total/wk	12

Table 5. Proposed Mathoura and Barham Waste and Resource Recovery Facility opening days and hours

Site	Days open	Opening hours	Hrs open
Mathoura	Tuesday	8am-4pm	8
	Sunday	8am-4pm	8
		Total/wk	16
Barham	Wednesday	9am-5pm	8
	Sunday	9am-5pm	8
		Total/wk	16

Table 4 and 5 show how the opening hours and days would change at both sites under the proposal, effectively aligning them to be two 8-hour days each (16 hours per week each).

Please note the next topic discussed in this document is likely to increase the use of the Barham Waste and Resource Recovery Facility further supporting the need to extend hours.

Recommendations:

Barham Waste and Resource Recovery Facility opening hours be extended by 4 hours on Sunday. Barham will be open two full days, 9am-5pm Wednesday and Sunday.

Mathoura Waste and Resource Recovery Facility opening hours be reduced from three 8-hour shifts per week to two 8 hour shifts per week, that is remain open Tuesday and Sunday and close on Thursday.

2. Wakool Waste and Resource Recovery Facility Review

The following table depicts averaged data from the 2022 and 2023 financial years for various items at the Wakool Waste and Resource Recovery Facility.

Table 6. Wakool Waste and Resource Recovery Facility data

2022 & 2023 data	Ave
Visits/yr	197
Visits/day	1.89
Materials	
Recyclables (m3)	22
Tyres (ea)	4
Scrap metal (m3)	42
Green waste (m3)	37
Commercial waste (m3)	5
Domestic waste (m3)	56
Mattresses (ea)	9
Oil (ea)	0
E-waste (ea)	18
Batteries (ea)	2
Fridges (ea)	4
Drummuster (ea)	459
Total m3/yr	160
Total m3/day	2
Total items/yr	494
Total items/day	5
Income	
Income	2,887
Income/day	28
Costs	
Costs	27,873
Other	2,550
Total	30,423
Cost to ratepayers per year	-27,536
Cost to ratepayers per day	-265

Note: no costs have been included to improve roads, fences etc or to cover future rehabilitation costs.

The data for Wakool demonstrates the site has very little use and a high cost. On average in the previous two years the site has serviced 1.89 visits per opening day, an average of 5 items dropped off, and total income of \$2,900 per annum. It costs \$30,500 per annum to operate (excluding any capital costs or major maintenance).

The Wakool landfill will require rehabilitation and upgrading to a Waste and Resource Recovery Facility if it is to continue operating. The findings of the Landfill Risk Assessment project undertaken in 2022 determined that it will cost Council approximately \$1,018,319 to undertake landfill capping and rehabilitation works and \$462,000 to upgrade the facility to a compliant Waste and Resource Recovery Facility.

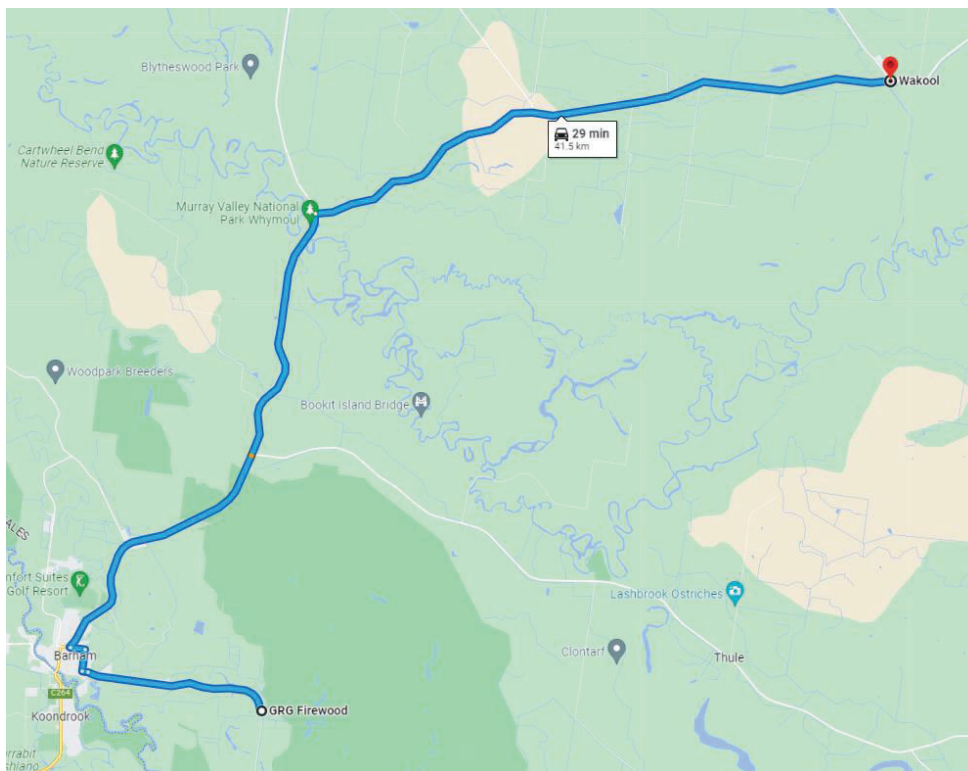
The Wakool landfill is currently operational as a trench and fill landfill. The longer Council landfills at the site, the more expensive rehabilitation costs will be as the landfilled area (land requiring rehabilitation) increases. The risk of environmental damage also increases the longer landfilling occurs at the site.

The minimal use of the facility and lack of revenue generated means an upgrade of the facility would provide minimal value for money to ratepayers. The funds saved by not upgrading Wakool could be used to upgrade the Barham facility and provide a higher level of service for both towns and surrounding areas.

Wakool and the majority of the surrounding residents have kerbside services available and alternative Waste and Resource Recovery Facility options within a reasonable distance. They would also regularly visit larger centres such as Barham and Deniliquin for food, supplies and services providing a regular opportunity to dispose of unwanted materials at an alternative facility.

The proposed extension of hours at the Barham Waste and Resource Recovery Facility discussed prior would provide Wakool residents more opportunity to access the Barham facility.

Skip bin contractor services are also available from Moama, Cohuna and Deniliquin, providing an additional alternative option for residents.



The distance from Wakool to Barham Waste and Resource Recovery Facility is 41.5 kms

Recommendation:

Close the Wakool landfill facility and extend Barham's opening hours on Sunday to match the Wednesday to better service the community including Wakool.

Please note: if this recommendation is accepted Officers will change Murray River Council's Waste Management Strategy which currently identifies Wakool Waste and Resource Recovery Facility for an upgrade.

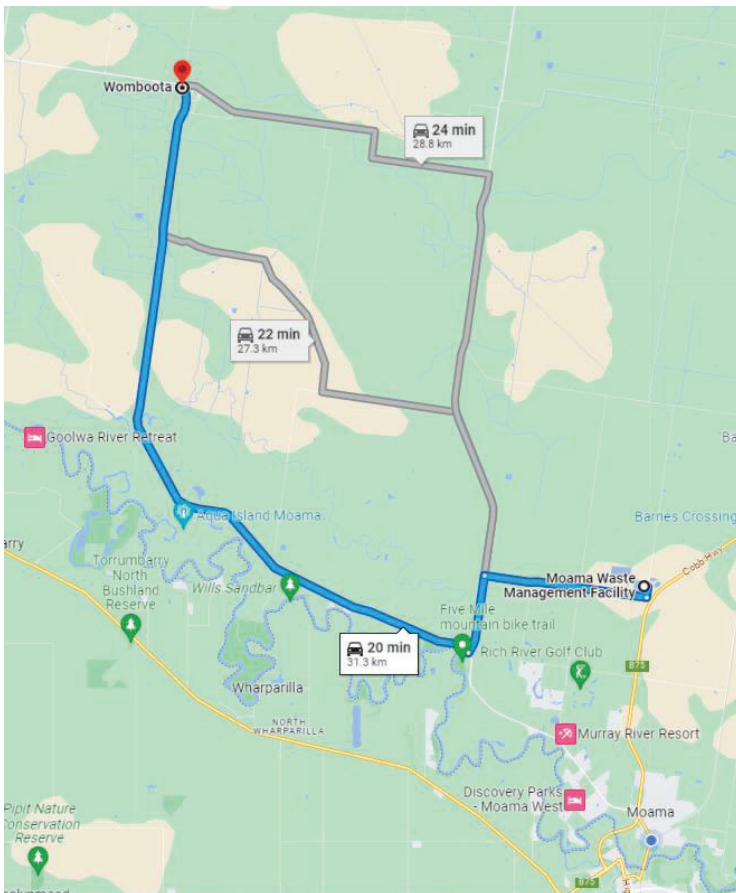
3. Bunnaloo and Womboota drop off sites:

Womboota and Bunnaloo are small, unmanned bin stations that were established by Council 15-20 years ago to provide a waste solution for the residents in the area prior to kerbside collections being provided. A kerbside service now exists in the area consisting of a fortnightly waste and recycle collection with a larger red bin (240 litres) provided. Residents of Womboota and Bunnaloo still have these larger red bins. JR Richards commenced kerbside operations in 2021 and now provide residents a normal rural waste service, that is a weekly waste collection and fortnightly recycle collection.

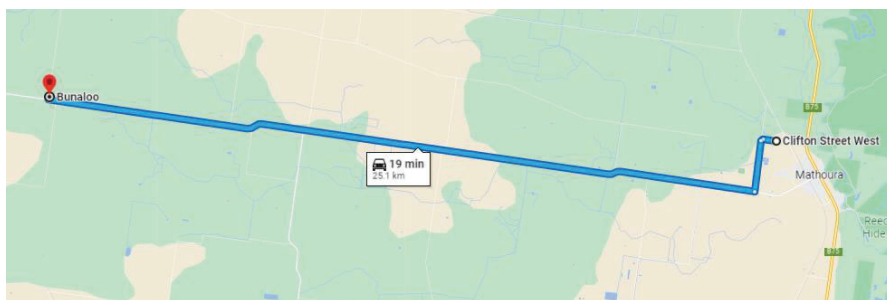
Womboota and Bunnaloo are small villages with approximately 90 residents and 106 residents respectively, all of which would frequent Moama or Mathoura for supplies and services.

Residents receive a suitable kerbside service and as such it is inequitable that they also receive a free unmanned drop off point. Both sites are not utilised appropriately and cost Council \$5-10,000 a year in clean-up costs due to illegal dumping along with \$20-25,000 to pay for skip bin empties and bin rental.

Bunnaloo is 28 kms from Mathoura and 44 kms from the Moama WMF. Womboota is 50 kms from Mathoura and 31 kms from the Moama WMF.



The distance from Womboota to the Moama Waste Management Facility is 31.3kms.



The distance from Bunnaloo to the Mathoura Waste and Resource Recovery Facility is 25.1 kms.

Recommendations:

- Close and remove bins from both Bunnaloo and Womboota.
- Place cameras on site to deter illegal dumping that may initially occur.
- Residents of Bunnaloo and Womboota visit a user pay waste facility like other resident or hire a skip bin from a private service provider.

Please note: if the recommendation to close Bunnaloo is accepted Officers will review and change Murray River Council's Waste Management Strategy which currently identifies Bunnaloo drop off site for an upgrade to a Waste and Resource Recovery Facility. The estimated cost of building a Waste and Resource Recovery Facility (excluding costs associated with identifying and securing appropriate land) is \$461,000.

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

3. Strategic Theme 3: A place of Liveable Communities

3.9 - Delivery best practice and compliant waste and recycling service and infrastructure that meets community needs - Kerbside, landfill and waste collection services and facilities.

BUDGETARY IMPLICATIONS

The costs associated with increasing the hours at the Barham Waste and Resource Recovery Facility (recommendation 1) will be offset by reducing the hours at Mathoura (recommendation 2). Therefore there will be no impact on the budget.

In relation to recommendations 3 and 4 operational savings of \$62,000 per year are expected to be realised. This is an operational saving associated with resourcing Wakool and eliminating the collection, management and disposal of materials at Wakool, Bunnaloo and Womboota.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Waste Management Strategy – Towards a Sustainable Waste Management System.

Adoption of recommendation 3 will require the Waste Management Strategy to be changed to reflect the closure of Wakool Landfill/Transfer Station

Adoption of recommendation 4 in relation to removal of bins at Bunnaloo will require a change to the Waste Management Strategy to reflect this change. Removal of bins from Womboota is currently listed as an action in the Waste Management Strategy.

LEGISLATIVE IMPLICATIONS

RISK ANALYSIS

- **What can happen?**
 1. Community are upset by site closures and changes to opening hours.
 2. Dumping occurs at the closed sites.

- **How can it happen?**
 1. Community members don't accept Councils decision and lobby other community members and Councilors to reconsider the decision and potentially engage with the media.
 2. Community members attend the closed sites with waste materials and dump materials at the location.

- **What are the consequences of the event happening?**
 1. Reputational damage due to residents not accepting the decision.
 2. Environmental damage due to litter and cost implications resulting from the cleanup of dumped waste materials.

- **What is the likelihood of the event happening?**
 1. The changes at Barham and Mathoura are unlikely to generate a lot of interest because they do not result in closures and the data strongly supports the recommendations.
 1. The closures at Wakool, Bunnaloo and Womboota are likely to generate interest from the community and therefore result in a level of displeasure with the recommendations.
 2. Dumping occurs now at Bunnaloo and Womboota and is likely to continue in the short term until residents understand the sites are closed.

- **Adequacy of existing controls?**
 1. Existing controls relate to the data which justify the closures.
 2. There are no controls in relation to dumping at sites recommended for closure.

- **Treatment options to mitigate the risk?**
 1. Well thought out Media and Communications actions that articulate the reasons for the changes and promotes the other options available to residents such as kerbside services, other transfer stations and commercial options.
 2. Cameras will be installed at sites that are proposed to be closed to identify people that dump rubbish so they can be pursued. Signage and various media will be utilised to inform and educate the community and direct users to other options.

CONCLUSION

The following summarises the Officers conclusions:

Barham Waste and Resource Recovery Facility opening hours be extended by 4 hours on Sunday. Barham will be open two full days being 9am-5pm Wednesday and Sunday.

Mathoura Waste and Resource Recovery Facility opening hours be reduced from three 8 hour shifts per week to two 8 hour shifts per week, that is remain open Tuesday and Sunday and close on Thursday.

Close the Wakool landfill facility and extend Barham's opening hours on Sunday to match the Wednesday to better service the community including Wakool residents.

Please note: if this recommendation is accepted Officers will change Murray River Council's Waste Management Strategy which currently identifies Wakool Waste and Resource Recovery Facility for an upgrade.

Close and remove bins from both Bunnaloo and Womboota and place cameras on site to deter illegal dumping that may initially occur. Residents of Bunnaloo and Womboota be encouraged to visit a user pay waste facility or hire a skip bin from a private service provider, this aligns with what other residents are required to consider.

Please note: if the recommendation to close Bunnaloo is accepted Officers will change Murray River Council's Waste Management Strategy which currently identifies Bunnaloo for an upgrade.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

9.4.2 BUDGET VARIATION REQUEST - DEVELOPMENT SERVICES**File Number:** -**Author:** Jessica McFarlane, Manager Building Services**Authoriser:** Rod Croft, Director Planning & Environment**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council:

1. Considers the information outlined in the officer's report.
2. Approves the Budget variation request of \$30,000 (deficit) additional to the reallocation of \$180,000 of employee to contractor costs in Councils financial system, which will fund external contractors to cover the shortfall of resourcing in the Planning Services section for the remainder of the current financial year (2023/2024).
3. Council authorises the Chief Executive Officer or his delegate to investigate the option of appointing planning consultant(s) for a period of up to 5-years to complete the higher-level planning work (Senior Town Planner level), should no recruitment of senior planning staff eventuate after the current advertising campaign. A further report will be provided to Council.

BACKGROUND

Over the past 5 years, the building and planning teams have been expanded and reconfigured in terms of structure and resource to meet developers and community needs. It is well-known that the attraction and retention of skilled planners and building surveyors has been difficult for not only Murray River Council, but for the majority of the NSW Councils and even nationally. Thanks to the recent restructure of Development Services, nine new staff have been introduced into Development Services positions. However, despite this, Council continues to struggle to attract skilled and experienced Town Planners and our Senior Town Planning positions remain vacant.

Murray River Council continues to be a high growth area in particular the Moama area, and therefore resourcing the team adequately is required immediately to ensure that Council are not holding back expedited growth. For growth and timely approval turn-around filling key roles are required to process the work relating to rezoning residential land, processing and approving subdivisions and individual dwellings within the residential areas.

DISCUSSION

Council has advertised these roles recently, with the most recent advertised in September 2023 with minimal quality applications received, even on well above award salary and conditions. Council's planning department cannot sustain the workload without these resources being filled given the rate of growth in our local government area. Note that this is not a new problem, as these roles have been consistently hard to fill over the past 4-5 years.

This issue is not isolated to MRC with dozens of Town Planning positions currently vacant across not only NSW, but hundreds across Australia. This creates a super competitive environment for Council, especially those in regional and rural areas to attract staff to our area in an already, small pool of potential candidates.

It is estimated that employing contractors would cost up to \$180,000 (\$150,000 reallocation of from vacant positions) which would mean a budget variation (deficit) of \$30,000. This will still will leave \$150,000 of employee costs available for any vacant positions being filled in 2023/24 financial year.

Council staff is looking at options to further extend contracts with suitable consultants to act as Senior Staff for an extended period of time to deal with the workload and current industry shortage and to provide stability to the team and the community.

The procurement process and contract with planning or building consultants will include clauses in the contract to allow for ceasing the contract if Council was able to fill the following three positions throughout the year:

- Senior Strategic Planner
- Senior Town Planner
- Strategic/Statutory Town Planner

Council will be seeking to consider alternative options to ensure continued high-level service to the community on an on-going basis.

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

2. Strategic Theme 2: A Place of Progressive Leadership

2.4 - Deliver Exceptional and consistent service to our internal and external community - Statutory Planning & Building.

BUDGETARY IMPLICATIONS

Contractor costs up to \$180,000, funded by 50% of the existing budget for current vacant positions over the balance of the current financial year of approximately \$150,000 extending the overall Murray River Council deficit of \$30,000.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Nil.

LEGISLATIVE IMPLICATIONS

Council will risk not meeting Statutory legislative timeframes for process development applications and post-consent certificates if roles are not filled.

RISK ANALYSIS

- **What can happen?**
- Failing to fill these positions with contract staff in the short-term will create a backlog for developers posing a significant reputation risk to Council for longer turn-around times on applications and Council not meeting statutory timeframes. Existing staff are also exposed to burn-out and Council creates an environment which may result in further resignations.
- **How can it happen?**
- Positions remaining vacant and not being filled by either recruitment of permanent staff or filled in the short-term by contract staff.
- **What are the consequences of the event happening?**
- Planning and Building Approval backlogs being created and therefore Council going over legislated Statutory timeframes and risk losing more staff.
- **What is the likelihood of the event happening?**
- Certain.
- **Adequacy of existing controls?**
- Communication with developers regarding delays is the only real option. Continuing to mentor and train new staff to support technical staff.
- **Treatment options to mitigate the risk?**

- Realignment of some staff in the short-term, however this is not sustainable and would mean Strategic planning and other planning projects would be delayed.

CONCLUSION

With the restructure of the Development Services well into implementation, we have introduced nine new staff which all require training (junior level staff). These staff are a welcome and vital addition to the team and in-time, will create fast-track processing for most residential and domestic development applications. Council however remains exposed as we struggle to attract qualified and skilled senior staff to manage the technical applications, provide team leadership and deal with complex projects.

As the Manager, I understand Councils financial position and potential deficit this creates, I am also working with State government in raising the critical shortage of resources in planning and building more broadly, where extreme measures of international recruitment is also being considered. It is important to note, that this is not unique to Murray River Council and is occurring on a national basis.

Both myself and the Director Planning & Environment will now look at alternative options to staff the Development Services Sections longer term to provide stability to the team and also the community, with longer-term contracts of contractors being a starting point.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

9.4.3 FINAL MURRAY RIVER COUNCIL LOCAL HOUSING STRATEGY

File Number: -

Author: Rod Croft, Director Planning & Environment

Authoriser: Terry Dodds, Chief Executive Officer

RECOMMENDATION

That;

1. Council notes that information outlined in the council report in relation to the Final Murray River Council Local Housing Strategy.
2. Council adopts the Final version of the Murray River Council Local Housing Strategy (both part 1 and 2) and forwards the document to the Department of Planning and Environment for endorsement.
3. Council authorises the Chief Executive Officer or his delegate to make edits to the final document where required to publish the document. Noting that any major changes to the document will come back to Council for re-endorsement.

BACKGROUND

In 2020, Council adopted the Murray Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS) to set the 20-year vision for land use planning in the Murray River Council area. In response to the development growth experienced in several of our townships, Planning Priority 4 of the LSPS adopted an action to develop a Local Housing Strategy to specifically cater for our future housing needs. Furthermore, Council's Community Strategic Plan (CSP) 2032 also supports the preparation of the Housing Strategy as part of its commitment to developing sustainable liveable communities under the Strategic Theme 3: A place of Liveable Communities.

The Murray River Local Housing Strategy (the Strategy) consists of two parts:

- 1. Part A Background issues and discussion report (Attachment 1).**
- 2. Part B Implementation Plan 2023-2041 (Attachment 2)**

The project commenced with the initial appointment of Zenith Town Planning Pty Ltd and more recently Wakefield Planning to prepare a Council wide Local Housing Strategy to:

- Establish clear demographic evidence base.
- Identify housing demand/supply trends and diversity.
- Provide the projected residential land and dwelling requirements on a town-by-town basis.
- Assess the supply and capacity of our existing planning controls to cater for future demand in the short term (immediately to short term 0-10 years) and long term (10-20 years).
- Set triggers for residential land release based on tangible thresholds to ensure that we are monitoring and releasing land to strategically cater for growth.

Council invited the public to provide feedback about the issues effecting housing in our communities. There were multiple ways for the community to share ideas via Council's dedicated Your Say project page, which included:

- Taking a 20-question survey
- Using a 'Map Pin' tool to show where different forms of housing could be suitable,
- Providing a written submission
- Asking staff.

Consultation opened on 15 October 2021 and resulted in:

- 362 visits to the Your Say page.
- 42 survey submissions
- 89 'Pins' being placed
- 13 written submissions

During this time, staff also sent targeted requests for feedback to NSW and Victorian based real estate agents and developers servicing our communities. Following the completion of Phase 1 of consultation in late November 2021, drafting of the Strategy commenced. To ensure the evidence base and projections forming part of the Strategy were using the most up to date demographic data, we elected to delay the finalisation of the draft to allow incorporation of the 2021 census data, which became available on 28 June 2022. Subsequently, Council has adopted the revised forecasts prepared by REMPLAN (November 2022) for changes to population, households, and dwellings for the purpose of this strategy.

The Strategy has been completed in consultation with the Department of Planning (DPE) and aims to facilitate streamlined processing of Planning Proposals to implement the changes within the final Strategy. This involved a half day workshop with DPE representatives from the local regional office in Moama on the 7th June, 2023. At this workshop a range of matters were discussed including a presentation from the Department on their feedback to the draft Strategy. The Department encouraged Council to clarify when and how new housing required to 2041 will be delivered over the life of the strategy, specifically an indication of the type of housing in certain areas, and the mechanism for delivering it. Council's consultant has taken onboard this feedback to inform the final Strategy for adoption by Council.

All future Planning Proposals pursuing residential rezoning or intensification of housing density will require consistency with the outcomes of the Strategy. If strategic alignment with the Strategy cannot be established, the proposal will not be supported by Council and ultimately approved by DPE. Noting that Council is not the ultimate decision maker currently for residential land rezonings.

[A summary of the submissions received is located on page 177 Section 8.1 of the Murray River Council Local Housing Strategy Part 1 Background report \(attachment 1\).](#)

Final Murray River Council Local Housing Strategy 2021-2041

The Strategy will also be referenced within future precinct plans for our settlements and will be closely affected by the outcomes of other Council strategies including the incoming Developer Contributions Plan and Infrastructure Delivery Plans. This Strategy has been drafted in consideration with existing strategies and factors in outcomes from following local plans as relevant:

- Murray River Council Community Strategic Plan 2022-2032
- Murray River Council Local Strategic Planning Statement
- Murray River Economic, Community, and Population, Households and Dwellings Forecasts to 2041es – REMPLAN, November 2022
- Murray River Council Local Profile (data updated)
- Murray and Wakool Development Control Plans
- Murray Shire Strategic Land Use Plan 2010-2030
- Wakool Shire LEP Review – Land Use Strategy Report April 2009

- Murray LEP 2011 and Wakool LEP 2013
- Moama North-West Master Plan
- Moama Mid-West Drainage Strategy Report
- Moama & District Rural Residential Strategy

The recommendations are informed by baseline statistics and data provided by:

- 2021 ABS census (base data)
- Local Government Performance Monitoring
- REMPLAN population, household and dwelling forecasts (as of November 2022)
- Evidence provided by Local real estate agents.
- Data released by CoreLogic, Domain, Allhomes and the Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute

DISCUSSION

The final Strategy identifies that there has been rapid growth throughout various areas of our LGA, in particular the Moama area, with string growth potential in Mathoura and Murray Downs. As a result, we have seen land/housing prices rise, an increase in housing/land sales, and our existing land supply diminish far quicker than experienced in previous economic cycles. While this sharp growth rate is predicted to stabilise because of factors outside the control of planning (such as interest rates, easing of the pandemic etc), significant growth is nonetheless predicted to continue over the coming 20-year period, with the continuation of people migrating to country areas from the capital and major cities nationally.

Key factors impacting the outcomes of the Strategy are forecasted population, household composition changes and dwelling projections for 2041 based on REMPLAN (November 2022) and the two dwelling approval methodologies, further details of which are set out below. This report has been completed to provide a summary of key outcomes and should be read in conjunction with the Murray River Local Housing Strategy Part 1 Background paper.

The Strategy uses two methods to forecast estimated future housing demand:

- the 'dwelling approvals method' and
- the 'population growth' method.

The 'dwelling approval' method presents low and high growth scenarios. Please refer directly to the strategy for details of both models. These figures are compared with the updated REMPLAN forecasted dwelling changes as shown in the table below.

The REMPLAN forecasts 2,045 total new dwellings required for the Murray LGA, of which 1,696 new dwellings will be required by 2041 for **Moama**. This figure compares favourably to the dwelling needs (dwelling approvals method – high scenario) projected under the dwelling approvals methods - in the Housing Strategy as shown below.

Population Growth and Dwelling Requirement Estimates – MOAMA					
	2021-2026	2026-2031	2031-2036	2036-2041	Total
Numbers of persons	797	869	860	851	3,377
5-year period % growth	11.5%	11.25%	10.0%	9.0%	48.7%

Dwelling needs (population growth method)	332	362	358	355	1,407
Dwelling needs (dwelling approvals method – low scenario)	460	460	460	460	1,840
Dwelling needs (dwelling approvals method – high scenario)	587	587	587	587	2,349
REMPAN Forecast 2041 (November 2022)	589	496	479	481	2,045

Dwelling Changes – REMPLAN Forecast 2041 (November 2022)

	Increase Change 2021-2041	Total 2041
Murray LGA Dwelling Changes 2021-2041	2,045	8,445
Moama of LGA Total Dwelling Changes 2021-2041	1,696	4,862
<i>Moama - East</i> <i>Dwelling Changes 2021-2041</i>	258	2,258
<i>Moama - West</i> <i>Dwelling Changes 2021-2041</i>	1,438	2,604

Moama Dwelling Changes – REMPLAN Forecast 2041 (November 2022)

	2016	2021	2026	2031	2036	2041	Total Change 2021-2041
Moama Total Dwellings	2,762	3,166	3,660	4,072	4,467	4,862	1,696
<i>Moama East Dwellings</i>	1,940	2,000	2,076	2,138	2,198	2,258	258
<i>Moama West Dwellings</i>	822	1,166	1,584	1,934	2,269	2,604	1,438

	2016	2021	2026	2031	2036	2041	Total Change
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							2021-2041
Moama East	1,940	2,000	2,076	2,138	2,198	2,258	258
<i>Total change</i>		60	76	62	60	60	
<i>Annualised growth rate</i>		0.61 %	0.75 %	0.59 %	0.56 %	0.54 %	
Moama West	822	1,166	1,584	1,934	2,269	2,604	1,438
<i>Total change</i>		344	418	350	335	335	
<i>Annualised growth rate</i>		7.24 %	6.32 %	4.07 %	3.25 %	2.79 %	

Moama REPLAN (November 2022) Forecasted Dwelling Changes – 5-year period	
2021- 2026	589
2026 - 2031	496
2031 - 2036	479
2036 - 2041	481
TOTAL	2,045

SUMMARY OF FINAL MURRAY RIVER COUNCIL LOCAL HOUSING STRATEGY 2021-2041

The Strategy identifies that there is sufficient land supply to cater for growth over the next twenty years in all settlements, however Moama needs to have sufficient land available to the market delivered in a timely manner that is fully serviced with essential infrastructure. Moama requires appropriately serviced land released to the market to ensure sufficient lot yields are constructed to ensure land is provided for the required dwellings needed to match the population growth demand and housing needs. All identified “short-term” release residential land has trunk infrastructure servicing to the boundaries, or the ability to be serviced and connected via developer investment.

In Moama, it is also recommended that certain rural land be rezoned to immediately generate an additional range of lot sizes, in particular large lot Residential 5 and further Residential 1 as priority. This land is located to the north-west of the centre of Moama and can be efficiently provided with water and sewerage services. It is also recommended that an area of land close to the town centre be zoned for medium density development and an area to the north of the golf course be zoned for rural residential development to provide a range of housing products. Areas are also identified to be set aside for future residential expansion and future investigations include balance of land north and west of Perricoota Road to Thyra Road and Murray Downs via precinct/master planning processes.

Murray LGA Outside of Moama

Elsewhere across Murray River LGA, it is recommended that alternative housing types such as villas and townhouses be encouraged to be built to cater for the ageing population, enabling residents to age-in-place within their community. Additional to these conversations, with small communities to activate already zoned but vacant land, is required, as vacant undeveloped land (people choosing to reside on double blocks but build in a single block) in this area is counted as a supply of residential land, even though the owner may have no intention of developing the land further. Issues raised in the document around activation of land banked developments, and other tools at Council’s disposal, will need to be considered carefully in each township and will be picked up in Implementation Plan.

HISTORICAL TIMELINE OF RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT – MOAMA 2006-ONWARDS

Key Residential Changes 2006-2021 – Moama

At the time of the release of the Murray SLUP (2010-2030) residential development and housing changes largely peaked in 2005-2006 and dropped again until another peak in 2009-2010. This was followed by another fall in 2011-2013, with an uptake again in 2013-14, which has been maintained to present day. Most of this residential growth has been occurring in Moama, across the east and west of the town.

1. Murray Shire LEP and DPC.

Murray Shire undertook a strategic background and issues paper for a new local environmental plan (LEP) in May 2006 by Habitat Planning. Early urban intensification of rural lands occurred north and south of Perricoota Road as village residential 2 (v1); small rural residential style 1(c) land holdings (Kilkerrin Lakes, River Park Drive, Grimson Road – north western side of Perricoota Road and Maiden Smith Drive). Limited Future Urban land zoned 1 (d) at the time other than land in Moama East and a large land holding designated, with the balance of lands zoned rural 1(a) – as shown below.



Figure 1 Moama Zoning 2006

In 2010 a Strategic Land Use Plan (SLUP) was prepared for a time horizon between 2010-2030. The SLUP had had a structure plan and an urban release plan. The Murray Local Environmental Plan - LEP (2011) and its Development Control Plan – DCP (2012) supports the adopted SLUP. The SLUP was prepared to support the strategic planning basis of the LEP for a 15–20-year time horizon.

2. Strategic Land Use Plan (SLUP) 2010-2030

The SLUP has specific reference for Moama, which includes a Structure Plan and an Urban Release Areas. Whilst both the Structure Plan and Urban Release Areas are largely at the end of their lifetime as strategic planning documents they both broadly envisaged the town of Moama growing west of

the Cobb Highway, with residential development occurring on land historically used for rural residential and rural land uses – namely vineyards.

Structure Plan

The structure plan indicated that the proposed site would be future residential within a 15 years’ timeframe of the plan, around 2025. As such the planning proposal is a timely exercise to ensure the residential land comes to the market to ensure housing needs are met within Moama West. This proposal includes the land designated in the structure plan along with an adjoining parcel of Rural zoned land to Myall Way.

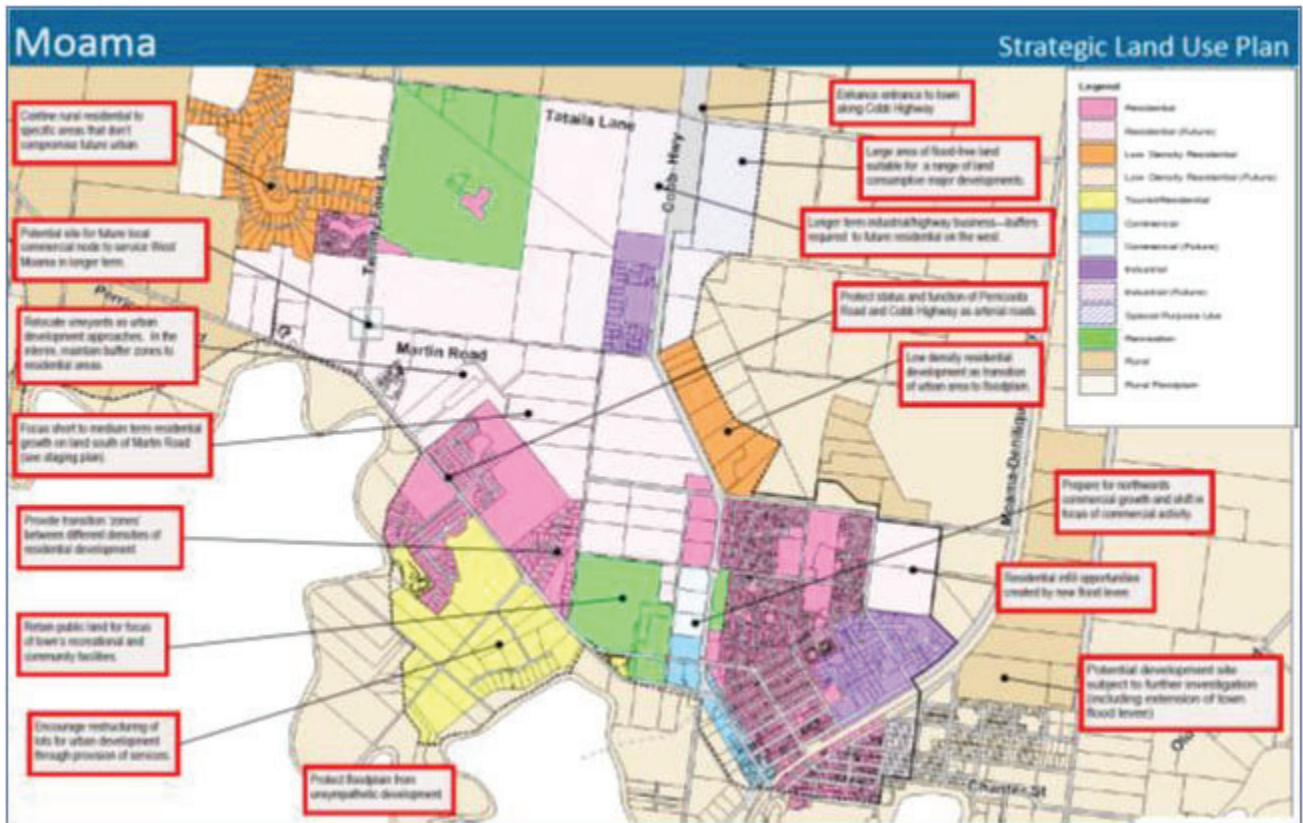


Figure 2 SLUP – Structure Plan Urban Release Areas

The SLUP identified the area west of Twenty-four Lane as suitable for rural residential development and an extension of like development in this location. The area between Perricoota Road and Cobb Highway is preferred exclusively in the SLUP for residential development whereas land to the west of Perricoota Road can co-exist with tourist development. The residential market has become more sophisticated in recent times with the demand for larger residential lots being met more by lots in the range 1,000m² to 3,000m² rather than the ‘traditional’ 4,000m² rural residential allotment.

The SLUP suggested that as land east of Cobb Highway is fully developed land to the west of the Cobb Highway will be essentially ‘greenfields’ development. Within 15 years of the release of the SLUP (2025) it is envisaged land further to the north and either side of Martin Road should be made available (i.e. appropriately zoned) for residential development. This area will require some ‘pre-planning’ before rezoning to address such things as drainage and road network. In the longer-term land between the golf course and industrial estate as well as that west of Twenty-Four Lane along Perricoota Road is suitable for residential development. This will ensure residential development options are kept open for the long-term future of the town and avoid the potential for ‘land locking’ by non-residential land uses.

The strategic response to this issue is to firstly identify land preferred for residential development in the SLUP followed by the allocation and maintenance of around 15 years supply of zoned land in an LEP. As the lifespan of the SLUP comes to an end, the strategic planning directions it foreshadowed

have been of an immediate need to update the Urban Release Areas for Moama to reflect the Housing Strategy 2041.

The SLUP was prepared as the 'strategy planning' basis for the Murray LEP 2011 and as the LEP was adopted with DPE approval the logical inference is that this strategic planning work has legitimacy for future decision making. As the SLUP has come to the end of its lifetime, the work provided by the draft Housing Strategy (2021-2041), brings forwards land previously shown as stage 2 and 3 (as shown below), needed for the immediate short-term provision of land for housing. Lands in stage 2 and 3 are now subject to a Planning Proposal to largely reflect what was envisaged for released to the market from 2025 onwards by the SLUP.

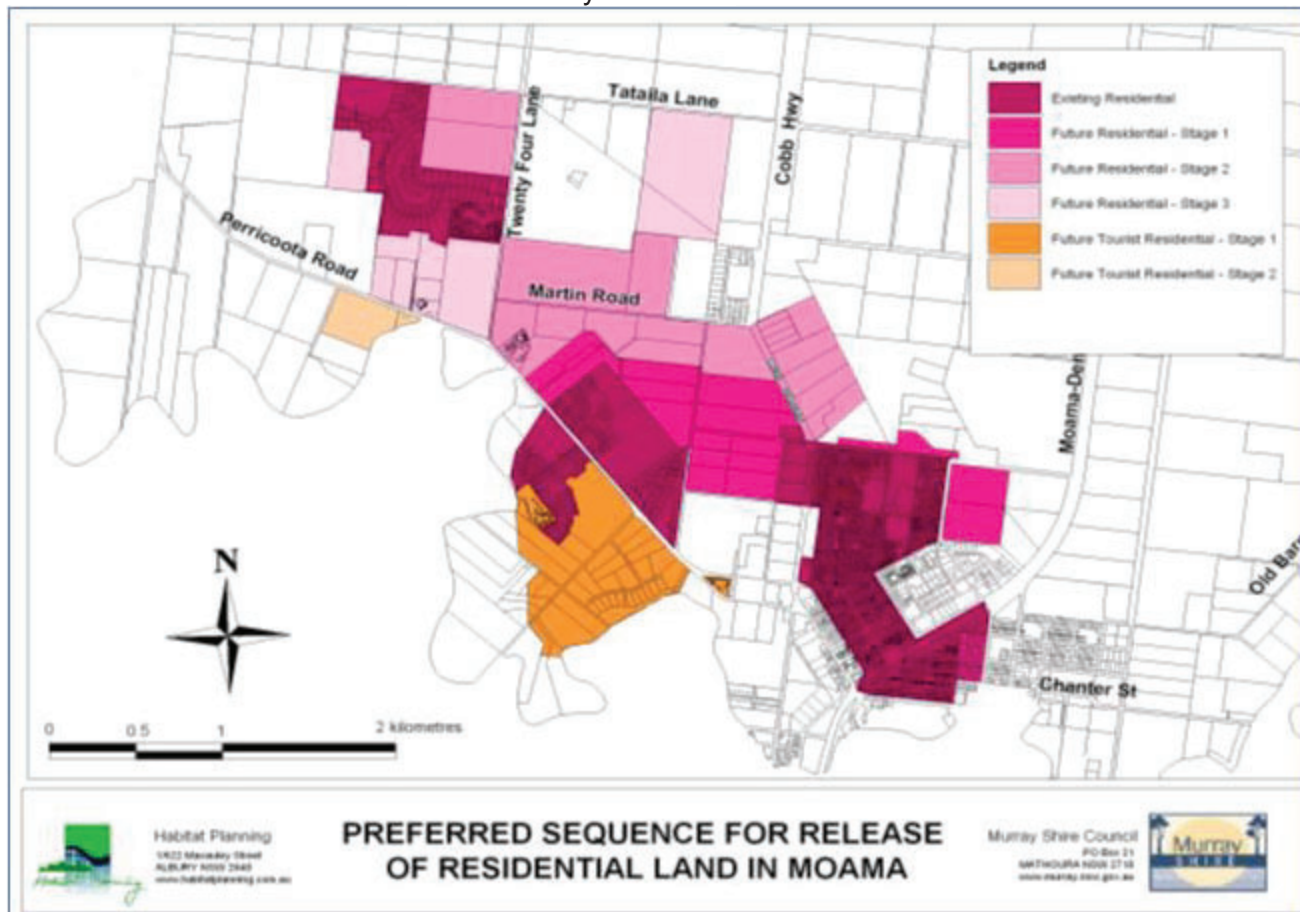


Figure 3 SLUP - Preferred sequence for release of residential land

Moama North West Master Plan (2009)

In 2008 the Moama North West Master Plan commenced and finalised in 2009. The Moama West Master Plan is acknowledged in the DCP (2012). The Murray DCP (2012) recommends subdivisions within Moama need to be consistent with the Master Plan to ensure appropriate neighbourhood character, design, and a mixture of housing densities for general residential and low density residential zoned lands.

Moama North West Master Plan Staging of Release Areas (Sequencing)

The DCP 2011 seeks to ensure the land is released in sequences to reflect the staging plan of the Moama North-West Master Plan (2009).

Immediate-short term

Land originally staged for immediate and short-term release has largely been approved and developed for residential development today.

This includes land north of Moama Showgrounds and Council Administration and adjoining the Anglican Church School for a 255-lot staged subdivision and new Catholic Church School referred to as Botanic Views.

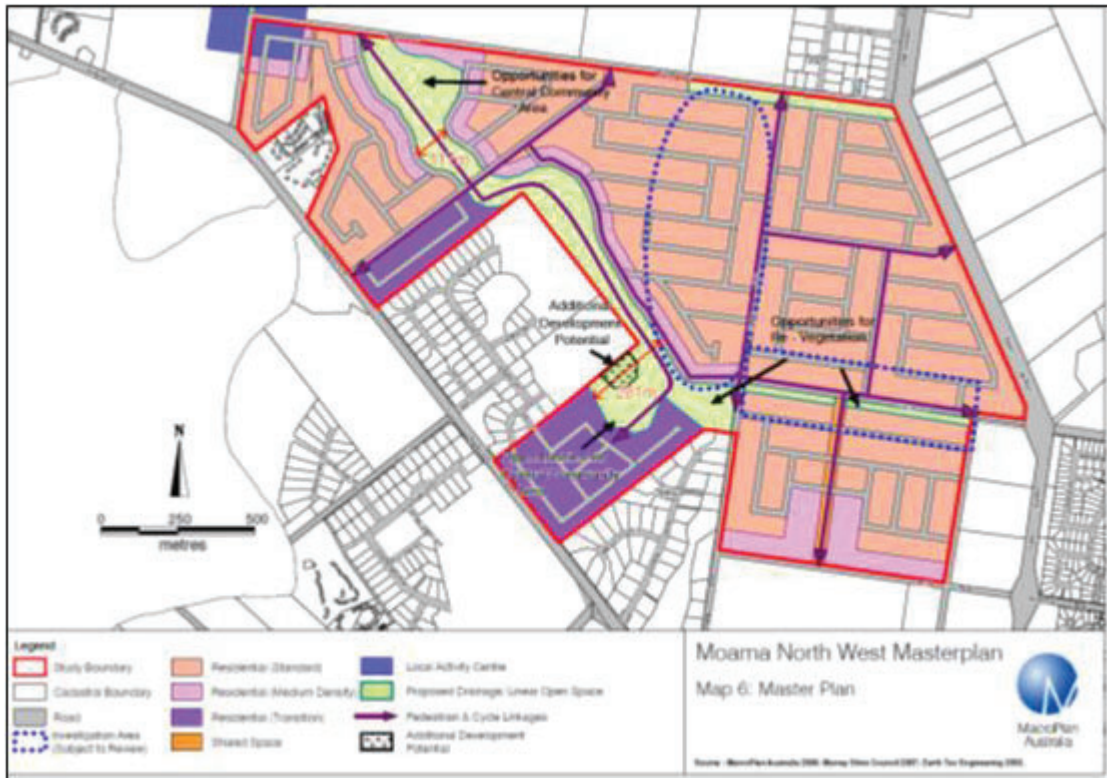


Figure 4 Moama North West Master Plan 2009

Medium term

Land designated medium term has no active planning proposals for rezoning as such forms a land bank.

Long Term

Land designated long term south of Beer Road is subject to a current planning proposal to rezone land from rural to general residential.

Long term land designated in the Master Plan is now considered immediate – short-term as part of the Housing Strategy.



Figure 5 Staging Plan

Moama West – Immediate-short term release lands are largely approved and being constructed; medium release land is largely dormant as a land bank (with no active development plans) and is being investigated through the employment lands strategy for potential commercial use. The longer-term release areas need to release to the market by 2025.

Future of Rural Lands – namely Viticulture in Moama (SLUP)

The vineyards in and around the confines of Moama and to the extent that the area is now formally recognised as a wine region has diminished over time. At the time of their establishment, it is unlikely that the rapid growth Moama has experienced this century was envisaged. Looking forward 20 years the SLUP identifies the land currently occupied by vines as preferred for residential and/or tourist use. This means that to implement the SLUP it will require sooner or later the relocation of the vines.

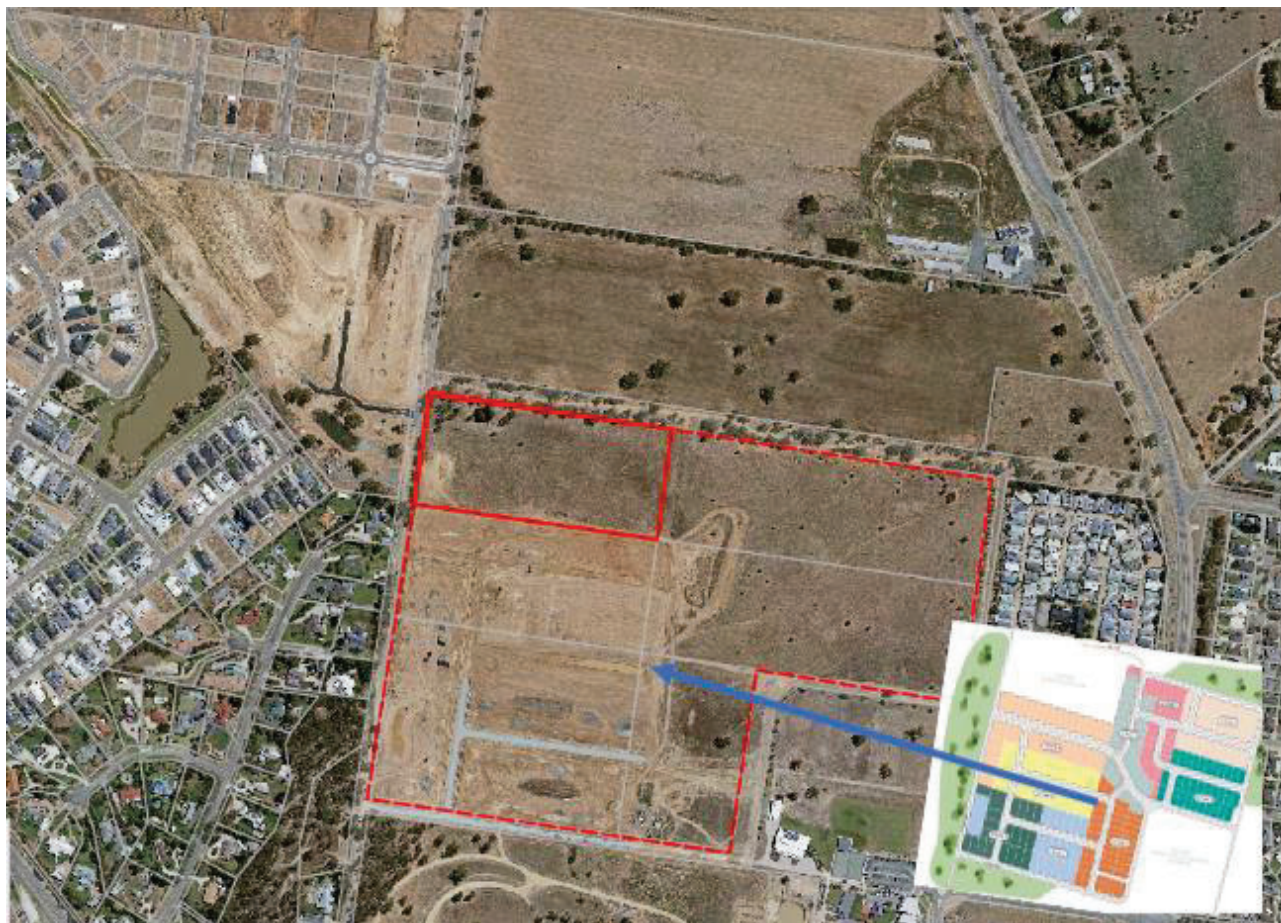


Figure 6 Current residential developments – including the Master Plan - Botanic Views (222 lots and new Catholic School): <https://botanicviews.com.au/master-plan/>

FUTURE HOUSING AND RESIDENTIAL SUPPLY

The future housing and residential needs (dwelling supply) of the LGA must match the existing and changing demographics of future populations and the different household compositions. This surge in residential growth in the last several years (2016-2021), has been the result of several socio-economic factors, and predominantly driven by a response to the COVID-19 pandemic event. The typical housing occupant of this residential growth are the working age people in the age cohorts of those working aged between 35-59 and 50-64 years and retired age cohorts of above 65 years.

These occupants are mostly living in a detached dwellings (4 or more bedrooms) on allotments ranging from 750m²-3,000m² – representing the typical most recent residential subdivisions seen in the LGA, predominantly occurring in Moama West. Both new land sales and housing prices are reflective of this residential growth has been increasing exponentially in this time. These two cohorts are distinguished by a growing number of persons of working age and retirement age in the LGA.

This surged in population and residential growth is a unique phenomenon in response to the pandemic event, and it not expected to last whilst we move into the second half of this strategy's

lifetime, for several reasons – as discussed in section 4.1 of the Housing Strategy – Part 1 Background Report. The period of largest growth is expected to occur between 2021 and 2026, when the population is forecast to increase by 1,171 people. (Source: REMPLAN, Forecasts, November 2022).

Population, Households and Dwellings 2021-2041 Overview

Between 2012 and 2022 the estimated resident population increased by 1,625 people, which reflects a compound annual growth rate increase of 1.3%. The 2021 Community Profile shows the population at the time of 12,850. The percentage of the community 60 years or older was 36.6%. For NSW this was 23.5%. The latest estimated resident population for 2022 in Murray River is 13,007 people, an increase of 157 people. In 2021, the **median age** of people living in Murray River was 49 years, no change from 2016. Of the 12,850 residents in Murray River in 2021:

- 8.2% were aged 60-64 years.
- 8.0% were aged 65-69 years.
- 7.8% were aged 70-74 years.

The population of Murray River is forecast to increase by 4,960 people, from 11,872 in 2016 to 16,832 in 2041, which represents an increase of 1.41% each year.

Murray River LGA	2016	2021	2026	2031	2036	2041
Population	11,872	12,780	13,951	14,933	15,873	16,832
Total change		908	1,171	982	940	959
Annualised growth rate		1.48%	1.77%	1.37%	1.23%	1.18%
Households	5,090	5,422	5,907	6,360	6,781	7,192
Total change		332	485	453	421	411
Annualised growth rate		1.27%	1.73%	1.49%	1.29%	1.18%
Dwellings	6,059	6,400	6,989	7,485	7,964	8,445
Total change		341	589	496	479	481
Annualised growth rate		1.10%	1.78%	1.38%	1.25%	1.18%

Affordable, Diverse and Social Housing

Over the 20 years between 2021-2041 that being the lifespan of the Housing Strategy there are shifts in the demographics. Several patterns can be observed from the REMPLAN forecasts. The forecast has multiple dwellings remaining at 10% of all dwellings, which reflects today's figures across the LGA, and provision for planning support can help guarantee provision is made for a shift to a higher target over the 20 years. There is little no provision for social housing in the LGA or envisaged, which appears to be an anomaly, particularly as private rental accommodation is very limited, and little or no new investment into social housing is occurring other than for homeowner occupants (with or without a mortgage). However, especially in Victorian bordering townships there is quite a lot of social housing, therefore the need for this product isn't as high as the figures suggest.

It is likely that future Social Housing will be provided through initiatives between the Council, State Government, the private and public sector housing providers.

Changing Housing Needs 2031-2041

In the second half of this strategy there will be considerable housing shift to address the current housing crisis. The housing crisis has seen an increase in housing pricing, reducing the amount of affordable housing stock, which culminates in an increase rental housing demand, compounded by both an increase in rents (up some 20% across Australia on average) and a decrease in the availability (less than 1.5% on average across regional Australia – Source: CoreLogic) of rental housing stock, and increases in the cost of living in across Australia generally in the last two years. This problem is not likely to be resolved soon with the housing supply pipeline decreasing due to slower housing (building) approvals forecasted (yet to be experienced) and increase in housing

construction timeframes (from anywhere between 6 to 12 months or longer), and the impacts of current higher inflation and interest rates.

Working Population

Furthermore, in this second half life of the strategy there will be a growing demand for housing from an increase in the population of retirement ages 65-79 and those age over 80, along with increase of workers aged 35-49 and 50-64. These changes will also correspond with a change in household compositions with more couples without children and single – lone people. It is expected these population cohorts will demand different housing that is currently being provided, requiring a greater diversity of housing options in the second half of this strategy.

Ageing Population

Furthermore, as the population of the LGA ages, with more people in retirement ages 65-79 and those age over 80, it is likely these older populations that currently live in large single dwellings, may need alternative accommodation, such as smaller dwellings or senior living housing. Whilst efforts are made to 'age in place' with supported care, there will a need for more suitable housing for the older age cohorts in the LGA. With this aged population vacating their homes for alternative and more appropriate aged and senior living arrangements, will potentially free up existing detached housing dwellings for new arrivals to the LGA looking to purchase and/or rent.

Summary – Key Observations

In the first half – ten-year period of the Housing Strategy (2021-31) sees the highest growth rates in population and dwelling numbers, over this time there is an increase aging in place. In the second half – ten-year period of the HS (2031-41) sees dramatic shift in the population profile with largest growth change in the age cohorts of 65-79 and 80+. During these two 10-year periods (2021-31 and 2031-41) the following can be observed:

- decrease in number of children and younger people to 24 years of age.
- decrease in young workers to 34 years of age.
- increase in workers 35-49 and 50-64.
- increase in those in retirement age 65-70 and over 80 years of age.

These demographic shifts will have implications for senior housing for the aged, and perhaps smaller working age households with couples with fewer and/or no children and lone households. Dwellings forecasted by REMPLAN are comparable to the low Dwelling needs (dwelling approvals method – low scenario) used in the HS, though forecasts are lower in the second half of the HS (2031-41).

Moama

The town of Moama is forecasted to growth to a residential population of around 3,578 or 88.3% of total growth by 2041, estimated to need around 1,840 lots (Housing Strategy - low scenario) and between 1,407-1,696 new dwellings. The total land supply is around 2,219 lots, around 379 in surplus has been calculated at the low scenario, which seems realistic with REMPLAN forecasts (November 2022) as population growth slows in 2031-2041. The balance of population for the Murray LGA is 474 to 2041 or 11.7%.

The housing strategy provides the directions and implementation actions to 2041 based on forecasted population and demographic changes. The proposed amendment forms one of a few critical future urban release areas to meet the future housing needs over the next ten years, the first phase of the 20-year lifetime of the draft housing strategy between 2021-2031 and the second 2031-2041. The first phase of this housing strategy provides land to cater for a recent housing demand that reflects a market with a propensity for lifestyle large lot residential development. This current market has been propelled my demands in the last decade from people retiring and moving to region parts of Australia.

Moama has become an attractive location for this migration patten, particularly those retiring from the workforce. More recently this pattern and associated residential development has increased exponentially due to the Covid pandemic driven by a large cohort of people from the baby boomer generation [people born between 1946-1964] retiring or moving to semi-retirement lifestyle.

Many people in this demographic can benefit from selling property in Melbourne to secure a new built home that is low maintenance and modern sited on larger lots than their former city homes. This

shift in population is a social phenomenon that largely corresponds to this lifestyle and stage in life.

It is likely this unique housing market has another 5-10 years, before the market normalises.

The second demographic pattern driving current housing demand are younger working age groups that are coupled with children. Similarly, these people are looking for a good value new home on a larger allotment than they would ordinarily find in a metropolitan urban location. This residential development has reflected allotment sizes from 900m² to 1,500m². Again, the housing for this demographic has a 5-10 window of high demand and growth.

In the second half of the housing strategy (2031-2041) housing demand will shift to residential development for the aged/ageing population (senior living – 80yrs and above), couples with fewer or no children and lone-single households. These three household cohorts will be the largest representatives in the LGA's population profile. The current housing market largely does not provide for these households, and it is expected the current housing crisis that largely impacts the younger and older generations will need major State and Federal Government intervention to ensure the housing market provides the dwelling types needed to 2041. Local government only really has an advocacy role in this space.

POPULATION, HOUSEHOLDS AND DWELLING FORECASTS 2041

Population Changes – Forecasts (Comparison between DPE- 2021 and REMPLAN – 2022)

One thing to be observed about population forecasts is that they are a snapshot in time of preparation, especially the DPE forecasts. When examining the historical forecasts to current forecasts for the LGA they have generally underestimated the growth, including both the NSW Department of Planning and Environment. The Murray River Local Profile (2018) included forecasts from NSW Department of Planning and Environment (2016).

NSW Department of Planning and Environment 2016 Forecasts

When compared to the current forecasts there is a significant difference of an upward growth trend – particularly for Moama, and a fairly optimistic trend for other parts of the LGA. It is generally considered the DPE projections to be conservative and have historically under forecasted population growth. For example, the Department had a forecast for 2021 of 11,900 in 2016 which is currently revised to 12,426, although the Census figure for 2021 is 12,850.

	2016	2021	2026	2031	2036	Change 2016-2036
Population	11,550	11,900	12,100	12,300	12,400	850
Households	5,200	5,450	5,650	5,800	5,900	700

	2016	2021	2026	2031	2036	Change 2016-2036
Barham	1,502	1,547	1,573	1,599	1,612	110
Koraleigh	347	357	363	369	372	25
Mathoura	936	964	980	996	1,004	68
Moama	6,122	6,307	6,413	6,519	6,572	450
Moulamein	439	452	460	467	471	32
Murray Downs	266	274	278	283	285	19
Tooleybuc	277	286	290	295	298	21
Wakool	300	309	315	320	322	22

(Source: Murray River Local Profile, Zenith Pty Ltd, 2018)

The DPE population forecasts to 2036 produced after the 2016 census projected the LGA population as 12,400 in 2036, which compares to current revised forecasts by the Department for the same

year of 14,174 and REMPLAN (November 2022) of 15,873. The Department's forecast for the LGA in 2041 is 15,456 compared to REMPLAN's figure of 16,832.

Murray LGA in 2041 is forecasted to have a population of 16,832, consisting of 7,192 households and 8,445 dwellings. The period of largest growth is expected to occur between 2021 and 2026, when the population is forecast to increase by 1,171 people. The area within Murray River which is forecast to experience the largest increase is Moama West, which is expected to change by 3,947 people from 1,760 in 2016 to 5,707 people by 2041, this represents 79.6% of Murray River population growth.

Net migration contributes more to population growth than natural change (births minus deaths). Over the 25-year forecast period, net migration is forecast to increase the population by 5,357 residents and natural change is forecast to decrease the population by 280 residents. In recent years, migration has been occurring more and more from people moving out of Melbourne to regional areas.

Household Composition

The most striking change forecasted is the change of household composition, which has implications for provision of suitable housing. Over this period 'Couple family with no children' and 'Lone person household' are forecast to increase, while the remaining household types will remain at roughly the same level. By 2041, the largest household type is forecast to be 'Couple family with no children', followed by single / lone persons households.

Dwellings

Over the 20-year period the number of dwellings in the Murray River region is forecast to increase from 6,400 in 2021 to 8,445 in 2041. This represents a change of 2,045 dwellings or an annualised growth rate of 1.3%. It is forecast that in 2041 there will be 7,388 'Separate house' dwellings representing the largest proportion of dwellings in the region at 87.48%. It is forecast that in 2041 there will be 7,210 'Occupied private dwellings' representing the largest proportion of dwellings in the region at 85.38. There is expected to be 266 additional 'Unoccupied private dwellings' by 2041. These REMPLAN forecasted dwelling changes reflects the dwelling needs projected under the dwelling approvals methods.

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

3. Strategic Theme 3: A place of Liveable Communities

3.11 - Strategic planning which produces consistent, strategic, transparent outcomes - Town Planning / Land Use Strategies

BUDGETARY IMPLICATIONS

[Type here](#)

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Nil.

LEGISLATIVE IMPLICATIONS

RISK ANALYSIS

- **What can happen?**

Murray River Council is further delayed in having suitable strategy to plan for housing growth throughout the LGA in a sequential way.

- **How can it happen?**

Council does not endorse the Strategy to move to exhibition and public consultation.

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

Towns requiring new residential land release to sustain anticipated population growth will not have suitable strategic justification to support rezoning for land supply. This outcome will likely push population to areas outside the LGA, including Victoria, if suitable land is not available for housing development when and where required. There could also be a lack of endorsement of planning proposals from DPE due to poor strategic justification without the housing strategy.

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

If the Housing Strategy is not progressed, this consequence is of high probability [Type here](#)

- **Adequacy of existing controls?**

The existing controls are inadequate and do not provide suitable strategic justification for land release.

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



Approve the Housing Strategy to progress to public consultation, as recommended.

CONCLUSION

The Murray River Local Housing Strategy be accepted by Council as part of the ongoing strategic planning work to ensure the key factors effecting housing supply and demand with our LGA are managed to provide a 20-year plan for strategic housing delivery on a town-by-town basis. As part of this strategy a series of actions are required to be further investigated and implemented to ensure the strategy serves its purpose.

The Murray River Council Local Housing Strategy is required to be endorsed by the NSW Department of Planning, if any significant changes are required a further report will come back to Council. Given that DPE has commented on the draft and understand the area, and risks associated with the logical expansion of some of townships, in particular Moama, I don't foresee any major changes being required.

ATTACHMENTS

1. **Murray River Local Housing Strategy Part 1 Background Report Final Version October 2023 (under separate cover)** 
2. **Murray River Local Housing Strategy - Part 2 Implementation Plan Final October 23 (under separate cover)** 

9.5 DIRECTOR COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORT AND SUPPLEMENTARY MATTERS

9.5.1 MURRAY RIVER COUNCIL COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM, 2023-24 - ROUND 1 ALLOCATION OF FUNDS

File Number: -

Author: Tiana Cronin, Grant Officer

Authoriser: Sarah Ryan, Director Community and Economic Development

RECOMMENDATION

That:

1. Council funds the below projects under Round 1 of the 2023-24 Community Grants Program.
2. Council allocates the additional \$376 needed, from the 2023-24 Quick Response Grant Funding

Group	Project Title	Total Amount Requested	Total Project Cost	Amount Recommended
Golden Rivers Theatre Group Incorporated	Replacement of stage props and curtain	\$ 2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00
Wakool Memorial Hall Committee	Wakool Hall Fridge / Freezer replacement	\$ 2,048.00	\$2,048.00	\$ 2,048.00
Goodnight Recreation Reserve and Hall Committee	Celebrating community	\$ 3,000.00	\$14,539.00	\$ 3,000.00
Local Health Medical Trust	LHMT - Channel Walk Community Celebration - 26th November 2023	\$ 2,750.00	\$2,750.00	\$ 2,750.00
South West Music Limited	Childrens Concert - Mathoura	\$ 3,000.00	\$4,960.00	\$ 3,000.00
Friends of Old Moama	Filing cabinets	\$ 598.00	\$598.00	\$ 598.00
Echuca Moama Family History Group inc.	Restoration and replacement of flood damaged equipment	\$ 2,740.00	\$3,040.00	\$ 2,740.00
THE APEX Club of ECHUCA MOAMA	BBQ Trailer upgrade and rebuild	\$ 2,840.00	\$5,340.00	\$ 2,840.00
Murray Downs Park Reserve Committee	Murray Downs Community Garden - Stage 2	\$ 3,000.00	\$3,625.00	\$ 3,000.00
Moulamein Men's Shed and Rice Museum Inc.	Acquisition of Jointer/Planer machine	\$ 3,000.00	\$2,989.00	\$ 3,000.00
Murray Haven Homes	Signage	\$ 1,900.00	\$1,900.00	\$ 1,900.00
Koraleigh Recreation Reserve	Kitchen Bench upgrade	\$ 3,000.00	\$3,800.00	\$ 3,000.00
TOTAL		\$30,376	\$30,376	\$30,376

BACKGROUND

Every year, Council runs two rounds of the Murray River Council Community Grants Program offering \$30,000 in grants per round.

Round 1 of the 2023-24 Murray River Council Community Grants Program details are as follows:

Date opened	1 July 2023
Date closed	15 September 2023
Applications received	31 applications
Total funding requested	\$84,404

The assessment panel, comprising Councillors Crawley, Gorey, Gleeson, Council's Director Community and Economic Development, Sarah Ryan (delegate for Terry Dodds, General Manager) and Grant's Officer Tiana Cronin, assessed the applications individually and then met on 6 October 2023 to discuss which projects to recommend for funding.

DISCUSSION

The total amount of funding requested was \$84,404. There is \$30,000 available to grant in this round of the program.

There were many worthy projects submitted for consideration, however with less funding available than the amount requested, the assessment committee had to closely consider the benefits of each project for which funding was sought, other funding streams that might be available to them and in if there were other ways Council could show support for their project.

After consideration of the projects and assessment against the criteria, the panel has agreed on a list of projects recommended for funding.

The total value of the projects recommended for funding is \$30,376.

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

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

5.11 - Partner with industry, community, and government organisations to promote and nurture innovation - Innovation.

BUDGETARY IMPLICATIONS

Council has \$30,000 available per round for each of the two community grant rounds per year, (as per 27 November 2018 resolution of Council). The amount of funding recommended is slightly above the available \$30,000. The minimal surplus of \$376 could be funded using Council's Quick Response Grant, should Council agree.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Murray River Council Community Financial Assistance Policy (POL109)..

LEGISLATIVE IMPLICATIONS

Council can financially assist others under s356 of the Local Government Act 1993 (LGA), for the purpose of exercising its functions. Also, under s377 (1A) of the LGA, Council may delegate its functions relating to the granting of financial assistance if the financial assistance is part of a specified program, and included in Council's draft operational plan, and does not exceed 5 per cent of Council's proposed income from the ordinary rates levied for that year.

RISK ANALYSIS

- What can happen?

1. There is a slight risk that projects funded under the Community Grants Fund will not be delivered due to resource or financial constraints experienced by a grant recipient.
 2. There is a risk that there may be some negative reactions from the unsuccessful applicants.
- **How can it happen?**
 1. Change of circumstance for the applicant.
 2. Frustrated applicants.
 - **What are the consequences of the event happening?**
 1. Additional work and potential changes to the scope of a project.
 2. Relationships diminished
 - **What is the likelihood of the event happening?**
 1. Low likelihood
 2. Low likelihood
 - **Adequacy of existing controls?**
 1. Adequate
 2. Adequate
 - **Treatment options to mitigate the risk?**
 1. Council will seek to mitigate this risk by working with community groups to support the delivery of their project.
 2. Council will seek to mitigate this risk by communicating the high level of requests made and the Economic Development team will work with these applicants to seek funding opportunities elsewhere where possible.

CONCLUSION

The projects recommended cover a broad geographic area of the Council and also a variety of sectors within the community.

It would be both beneficial and judicious for Council to allocate funds towards the projects as recommended.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

9.5.2 GRANTS AND AWARDS - SEPTEMBER 2023**File Number:** -**Author:** Tiana Cronin, Grant Officer**Authoriser:** Sarah Ryan, Director Community and Economic Development**RECOMMENDATION**

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

BACKGROUND

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on current funding and award applications submitted by Council.

DISCUSSION**GRANT OUTCOMES announced in the month September**

Small Business Month (Oct)	MRC submitted an application to run a Small Business Seminar on Oct 13 th at Rich River Golf Club, with keynote speak Michael Licenblat who is a resilience expert and teaches people how to achieve more in high-pressure environments by bouncing back from pressures, setbacks, and rejections.	Successful Outcome \$2,500
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Murray River Council's - Community Grants Program

2023-24 Round 1 – Panel met 6 October – report provided, Community Grants Program.

SUBMITTED Grant applications for September

Regional Housing Strategy	Moama Township Place Plan The Moama Township Place Plan is a proactive project poised to direct future planning efforts in response to identified regional challenges and opportunities. This initiative is designed to strategically guide population and employment growth while coordinating the implementation of vital strategies including: - MRC Economic, Development and Tourism Strategy - MRC Local Housing Strategy - MRC Employment Lands Strategy - and resources to attract and manage higher-than-anticipated levels of both employment and population growth in Moama. This plan will identify linkages to provide more housing opportunities to match the investment that is envisaged over the next 50 years.	Requesting \$250,000 Council contribution \$22,800
Australia Day 2024 (NADC)	Funding requested through this program is to support our communities to hold Australia Day events designed to encourage their community to reflect, respect and celebrate things we share in common and our journey as Australians. It will provide support to our 7 townships with next year seeing a combined event of Moama/Mathoura (6 events).	Requesting \$10,000
TOTAL Funds requested		\$260,000

AWARD applications

1.	2023 National Economic Development Awards for Excellence	Economic Development Initiatives - Regions Under 15,000 Residents - (Darts Australia 2022) The Award Gala evening was held at the National Economic Development Conference 2023 in Karratha, WA on 23 August 2023.	WINNER
2.	NSW Australian Tourism Awards	Festivals and Events - (Moama Lights 2022) Winners will be announced at the Gala Dinner to be held in Sydney on 8 November 2023.	Finalist

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

3. Strategic Theme 3: A place of Liveable Communities

3.4 - Create and maintain safe and accessible community spaces that enhance healthy living and promote active lifestyles - Community Safer Spaces.

BUDGETARY IMPLICATIONS

NIL

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

NIL

LEGISLATIVE IMPLICATIONS

MIL

RISK ANALYSIS

- **What can happen?**
Projects not funded
- **How can it happen?**
Grants applications unsuccessful
- **What are the consequences of the event happening?**
Funding to be sought elsewhere or projects may not proceed
- **What is the likelihood of the event happening?**
Medium
- **Adequacy of existing controls?**
Adequate
- **Treatment options to mitigate the risk?**
Applications put forward for funding are scoped and prepared with all information available at the time of submitting.

CONCLUSION

Council continues to seek funding to deliver various projects that align to the Community Strategic Plan and provide benefit within the Murray River Council Community.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

9.5.3 KORALEIGH HALL & RECREATION RESERVE COMMITTEE AGM

File Number: -

Author: Karen Buckley, Manager of Local Connections

Authoriser: Sarah Ryan, Director Community and Economic Development

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Revoke existing members of the Koraleigh Hall & Recreation Reserve Committee of Management; and
2. Pursuant to Section 355 of the Local Government Act 1993 appoint new committee members nominated at the August 2023 AGM.

BACKGROUND

At its Section 355 Annual General Meeting held on 30 August 2023, Elections were held to elect all committee positions and office bearers to the Koraleigh Hall & Recreation Reserve Committee.

DISCUSSION

Present at the meeting were: Brian Hoare, Cass Andrews, Sandra Andrews, Vernon Andrews, Mary Hoare, Liam Hoare, Susan Russell, Beverly Thompson, Gina Bailey, Cr Ann Crowe, Jim Crowe and Karen Buckley (MRC)

A motion was carried for the following election:

President: Brian Hoare

Vice President: Liam Hoare

Secretary: Mary Hoare

Treasurer: Cass Andrews

General Committee: Laura Pearce, Travis Andrews, Sandra Andrews, Gina Bailey, Beverly Thompson, Peter Thompson, Susan Russell.

Advice of committee members has been received and should be endorsed by Council.

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

3. Strategic Theme 3: A place of Liveable Communities

3.1 - Create and maintain safe and accessible community spaces that enhance healthy living and promote active lifestyles - Sports and recreation facilities and spaces.

BUDGETARY IMPLICATIONS

Scope of committee financial transactions is low.

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 fail to meet 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.

- **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.

A new interim role of Manager Local Connections has been created and Karen Buckley has been seconded from the Community Services team 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 and risk mitigation.

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

Advice of committee members has been received and Council should endorse new committee members of nominated at the August 2023 AGM.

ATTACHMENTS

1. **Koraleigh Hall & Recreation Reserve Committee AGM Minutes**  
2. **Koraleigh Hall & Recreation Committee Membership Details - Confidential**



Koraleigh Hall and Rec. Reserve Committee Annual General Meeting

Date/time of meeting	30/8/23 @ 1905hrs
Location of meeting	Koraleigh Rec. Reserve
Attendees	Brian Hoare Cass Andrews Sandra Andrews Vernon Andrews Mary Hoare Liam Hoare Susan Russell Beverly Thompson Gina Bailey Ann Crowe Jim Crowe
Apologies	Manager Parks & Open Spaces at MRC Luke Keogh Peter Thompson Greater Wakool Ward Cr Neil Gorey Travis Andrews
Guests	Greater Wakool Ward Cr Ann Crow Karen Buckley MRC Manager of Local Connections
Conflicts of interest	Nil identified

Move and Carry

Approval of Previous Minutes	Moved: Mary Hoare Seconded: Ann Crowe
Business arising from previous minutes	Nil business arising from previous minutes

Email Correspondence	<p>Sun, Aug 27, 3:54 PM Secretary To members: Subject: Reminder: AGM Announcement</p> <p>Aug 27, 2023, 4:12 PM Ann Crow to Secretary Subject: RSVP</p> <p>Aug 28, 2023, 9:34 AM Melinda Barrett (MRC Business Unit Support Officer) To Secretary Subject: Office Bearers Form</p>
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Moved: Laura Pearce

Seconded: Mary Hoare

Treasurers Report	<p>Separate account balance sheets tabled for review by members. Closing balance Rec. Reserve: \$10, 706.51 Closing balance Hall: \$10, 253</p> <p>Secretary questioned expense paid to Len McPherson. Treasurer advised that this was for installation of powerpoints in the Hall Kitchen.</p> <p>Moved: Cass Andrews Seconded: Beverley Thompson</p>
General Business	<p>Election of Office Bears President: Brian Hoare Nominated by: Laura Pearce Seconded by: Sandra Andrews</p> <p>Vice President: Liam Hoare Nominated by: Cass Andrews Seconded by: Laura Pearce</p> <p>Treasurer: Cass Andrews Nominated by: Ann Crowe Seconded by: Mary Hoare</p> <p>Secretary: Mary Hoare Nominated by: Laura Pearce Seconded by: Sandra Andrews</p>
Time meeting closed	1924hrs

Next meeting	Year 2024 Date/ time/ venue TBC closer to the time.

9.5.4 MALLAN RECREATION RESERVE & HALL COMMITTEE AGM

File Number: -

Author: Karen Buckley, Manager of Local Connections

Authoriser: Sarah Ryan, Director Community and Economic Development

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Revoke existing members of the Mallan Recreation Reserve & Hall Committee of Management; and
2. Pursuant to Section 355 of the Local Government Act 1993 appoint new committee members nominated at the July 2023 AGM.

BACKGROUND

At its Section 355 Annual General Meeting held on 18th July 2023, Elections were held to elect all committee positions and office bearers of the Mallan Recreation Reserve & Hall Committee.

DISCUSSION

Present at the meeting were M. Pearse, B Pearse, N Hall, M Nalder, BJ Pearse, D Willox, S Brown, C Oswin, S Collins, A Hall.

A motion was carried for the following block reelection of all office bearers:

President: N Hall

Secretary: M Pearse

Treasurer: B Pearse

General Committee: M Nalder, BJ Pearse, D Willox, S Brown, C Oswin, S Collins, A Hall.

Advice of committee members has been received and should be endorsed by Council.

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

3. Strategic Theme 3: A place of Liveable Communities

3.1 - Create and maintain safe and accessible community spaces that enhance healthy living and promote active lifestyles - Sports and recreation facilities and spaces.

BUDGETARY IMPLICATIONS

Scope of committee financial transaction low

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 fail to meet 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.

- **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.

A new interim role of Manager Local Connections has been created and Karen Buckley has been seconded from the Community Services team 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 and risk mitigation.

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

Advice of committee members has been received and Council should endorse new committee members nominated at the July 2023 AGM

ATTACHMENTS

1. **Mallan Recreation Reserve & Hall Committee AGM**  
2. **Mallan Recreation Reserve Committee Details - Confidential**

Mallan Recreation Reserve and Hall**AGM**

Tuesday 18th July 2023

Opened at 6:30pm

Present: M.Pearse, B.Pearse, N.Hall, M.Nalder, B.J.Pearse, D.Willox, S.Brown, C.Oswin, S.Collins, A.Hall

Apologies: N.Maddy, D.Uebergang, P.Kaylock, P.Glenn, L.Kaylock, D.Martin, P.Fitzpatrick

Consent given to voice record meeting.

Minutes of previous meeting: Minutes read by Nathan Hall

Minutes be accepted: Moved D.Willox - 2nd S.Brown

Business Arising:

Billy Charnock has not yet been out to check powerboard at the tennis courts & toilet lights. Has been paid for the work in advance by a fire brigade grant 3 years ago pre-covid. To be chased up by M.Nalder.

Since previous meeting, all toilets have been replaced by Beasy Plumbing.

Talk of the 'Gazebo' was raised again, we agreed to put it on the back burner for now and discuss again next year.

Treasurers report:

Tabled by Matt Pearse, two x \$200 payments were received for hire of the hall for Laura & Dale's engagement party and Brooke & Matt's Wedding. See attached treasurers report. Be accepted: Moved M. Nalder - 2nd S.Collins.

Election:

All positions declared vacant by M.Pearse.

Committee agreed that the new regime held the forte and agreed to lock in all positions with no changes. Moved B.J.Pearse - 2nd C.Oswin.

General Business:

- Hire fee of the hall was discussed as Harry had friends camp at the hall for a few nights that have not yet paid. M.Nalder to chase up payment for use of facilities. \$50 per night?

- Use Gazebo money for something else, save for future repairs/damages or

requote for go-ahead with gazebo or extension to the back of the hall? Discuss next year.

- Matt Pearse pledged to spray around the hall again
- Christmas Party this year will be a goer, with efforts made to make it a big one as deserved after some tough years of covid and flood. Agreed that the Christmas party should be in December on a weekday to make it easier for most to attend. Also agreed on catering as the best way forward for the Christmas party to take the stress out of providing tea. To look into pizzas again whether it be with O'Brien's or Mallee Woodfire Pizzas.
- Working bee prior to the Christmas party with enforcement to make sure everyone attends is important. More hands make easier work.
- To remove old water tank & stand and connect to fire shed tank. Modify air con run off.
- Chase up Billy Charnock

Meeting closed by Nathan Hall 6:32pm

President: Nathan Hall

Secretary & treasurer: Matt & Brooke Pearse

9.5.5 SECTION 355 COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES AS AT SEPTEMBER 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 September 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

3.1 - Create and maintain safe and accessible community spaces that enhance healthy living and promote active lifestyles - Sports and recreation facilities and spaces.

BUDGETARY IMPLICATIONS

Scope of committee 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 and Karen Buckley has been seconded from the Community Services team 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:

Barham School of Arts Hall Committee

No current actions noted.

Koraleigh Hall & Recreation Reserve Committee

Request for Koraleigh recreation reserve pavilion to be included in council's fees and charges.

Lock box has been attached to external wall of hall to house hall keys.

Mallan Recreation Reserve & Hall Committee

Toilets have been replaced.

District Christmas party to be held in December.

Mathoura Recreation Reserve Management Committee

Query – resurfacing of tennis netball courts – require fixing.

MRC to follow up query concerning electricity charges.

Moama Recreation reserve Meeting

Request for update on Heaters.

Moulamein South Recreation Reserve

New seating has been placed around the oval.

Disappointment expressed on feedback that the public toilets at the reserve would be closed.

Oval will require top dressing before next football season.

Murray Downs Riverside Park Management Committee

Ongoing issue of saplings not being removed from Riverside Park

90 hours community garden volunteer hours recorded.

Wakool Recreation Reserve Committee









Plaque to recognise long-time volunteer has been ordered.

Part of the football pavilion to be decommissioned due to lack of use and ongoing maintenance.

Upgrade of internal switchboard to replace old porcelain fuses.

Repairs to sliding door after vandalism

ATTACHMENTS

1. **Barham School of Arts minutes** [↓](#) 
2. **Koraleigh Hall & Recreation Reserve Committee Minutes** [↓](#) 
3. **Mallan Recreation Reserve & Hall Committee** [↓](#) 
4. **Mathoura Recreation Reserve Minutes** [↓](#) 
5. **Moama Recreation Reserve Meeting Minutes** [↓](#) 
6. **Moulamein South Recreation Reserve Meeting Minutes** [↓](#) 
7. **Murray Downs Riverside Park Committee Meeting Minutes** [↓](#) 
8. **Wakool Recreation Reserve Meeting Minutes** [↓](#) 

SECTION 355 LGA BARHAM SCHOOL OF ARTS HALL REPORT:**MEETING OF 14th August 2023****Meeting commenced about 8.10 pm.****PRESENT:** *CHAIR:* T Barker.

G Barker, J Boyd, B Campbell, J Griffin, R Millar, A Millar, R Daws, L Sheldrick, B Rash, G Cook, A Mathers, R Salter, D Griffiths, G Minnis, J Whelan.

John Boyd* Welcomed Karen Buckley (Murray River Council) to the meeting.

John then proceeded to talk about the history of the SOA Hall and the Lions Clubs involvement for the Hall being in its current position.

Karen Buckley* Explained that she is the Manager of Local Connections, they are looking at all Section 355 Committees within the Local Government Area. She gave an extensive rundown on Committee requirements and obligations. Suggested that we keep a tally of hours put into the SOA Hall. She is very confident that the Hall and Reception Rooms won't be sold or leased out to another party.**Alan Millar*** Offered to take Karen on a tour of the Hall which she has accepted at a time during daylight hours.**Meeting Finished 8-41pm.****Note:****FINANCIAL REPORT: Not available as at date of preparation of Lions Club monthly report.**



Koraleigh Hall and Rec. Reserve Committee Meeting Minutes

Date/time of meeting	30/8/23 @ 1925hrs
Location of meeting	Koraleigh Rec. Reserve
Attendees	Brian Hoare Cass Andrews Sandra Andrews Vernon Andrews Mary Hoare Liam Hoare Susan Russell Beverly Thompson Gina Bailey Ann Crowe Jim Crowe
Apologies	Manager Parks & Open Spaces at MRC Luke Keogh Peter Thompson Greater Wakool Ward Cr Neil Gorey Travis Andrews
Guests	Greater Wakool Ward Cr Ann Crowe MRC Manager Local Connections Karen Buckley
Conflicts of interest	Nil identified

Move and Carry

Approval of Previous Minutes	Moved: Laura Pearce Seconded: Liam Hoare
Business arising from previous minutes	<p>Fixed Schedule of Hall Fees received:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Still awaiting payment of hire fee for the Rec. Reserve from Amanda Hansford. Followed up by Secretary via email, however, no response to date. - Treasurer is to send an invoice to Laura Pearce for the use of the Hall over 24-26th March 2023. <p>Local Land Services event had 9 attendees at Rec. Reserve.</p> <p>Vice-President to fix lockbox to the wall (completed).</p> <p>Outstanding tasks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purchase of new kitchen. • New lighting for the tennis court- Karen Buckley to obtain progress report from MRC.

Email Correspondence	<p>Thu, Jun 1, 6:15 PM Secretary to Members Subject: Meeting Minutes 31/5/23</p>
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Moved: Laura Pearce

Seconded: Mary Hoare

Treasurers Report	<p>Separate treasury reports tabled for Rec. and Hall. Additionally, separate account balance sheets have been tabled for review by members. The closing balance for the Recreation Reserve is \$10,706.51, while the closing balance for the Hall is \$10,253.</p> <p>The secretary raised a question regarding an expense paid to Len McPherson. The treasurer clarified that this expense was for the installation of powerpoints in the Hall Kitchen.</p> <p>Moved: Cass Andrews Seconded: Beverley Thompson</p>
General Business	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Removal of treated pine posts around oval- in progress b. Koraleigh Rec. Reserve to be added to MRC Fee Schedule

	c. Treasurer to bring the books to the next meeting so that Karen Buckley can complete audit.
Time meeting closed	2030hrs
Next meeting	Annual General Meeting Date: Wednesday 27 th September 2023 Time: 1900hrs Venue: Koraleigh Rec. Reserve

Mallan Recreation Reserve and Hall**AGM**

Tuesday 18th July 2023

Opened at 6:30pm

Present: M.Pearse, B.Pearse, N.Hall, M.Nalder, B.J.Pearse, D.Willox, S.Brown, C.Oswin, S.Collins, A.Hall

Apologies: N.Maddy, D.Uebergang, P.Kaylock, P.Glenn, L.Kaylock, D.Martin, P.Fitzpatrick

Consent given to voice record meeting.

Minutes of previous meeting: Minutes read by Nathan Hall

Minutes be accepted: Moved D.Willox - 2nd S.Brown

Business Arising:

Billy Charnock has not yet been out to check powerboard at the tennis courts & toilet lights. Has been paid for the work in advance by a fire brigade grant 3 years ago pre-covid. To be chased up by M.Nalder.

Since previous meeting, all toilets have been replaced by Beasy Plumbing.

Talk of the 'Gazebo' was raised again, we agreed to put it on the back burner for now and discuss again next year.

Treasurers report:

Tabled by Matt Pearse, two x \$200 payments were received for hire of the hall for Laura & Dale's engagement party and Brooke & Matt's Wedding. See attached treasurers report. Be accepted: Moved M. Nalder - 2nd S.Collins.

Election:

All positions declared vacant by M.Pearse.

Committee agreed that the new regime held the forte and agreed to lock in all positions with no changes. Moved B.J.Pearse - 2nd C.Oswin.

General Business:

- Hire fee of the hall was discussed as Harry had friends camp at the hall for a few nights that have not yet paid. M.Nalder to chase up payment for use of facilities. \$50 per night?

- Use Gazebo money for something else, save for future repairs/damages or

requote for go-ahead with gazebo or extension to the back of the hall? Discuss next year.

- Matt Pearse pledged to spray around the hall again
- Christmas Party this year will be a goer, with efforts made to make it a big one as deserved after some tough years of covid and flood. Agreed that the Christmas party should be in December on a weekday to make it easier for most to attend. Also agreed on catering as the best way forward for the Christmas party to take the stress out of providing tea. To look into pizzas again whether it be with O'Brien's or Mallee Woodfire Pizzas.
- Working bee prior to the Christmas party with enforcement to make sure everyone attends is important. More hands make easier work.
- To remove old water tank & stand and connect to fire shed tank. Modify air con run off.
- Chase up Billy Charnock

Meeting closed by Nathan Hall 6:32pm

President: Nathan Hall

Secretary & treasurer: Matt & Brooke Pearse

Minutes of the Mathoura Recreation Reserve
Management Committee Meeting held on Wednesday
7th June 2023

Meeting Opened: 5.42pm

Present: Mathew Sherman, Heidi Glenn, Melyssa Banks,
Sandy Davies.

Apologies: Luke Keogh

Minutes: from previous meeting were tabled and confirmed

Moved: Heidi Glenn Seconded: Melyssa Banks

Matters Arising from Minutes:

Netball Poles need to be approved by Netball Victoria.

Dishwasher connected but not performing well. Dishes are not clean.

Change room roof is done.

New gate has been closed until shed at entrance is finished.

Cracks on tennis court have been repaired.

Electricity – MFNC sent February.

Footy club \$3500

Tennis Club \$284

Matt to follow up with Moama question and electricity usage fees etc.

Correspondence Out: Nil

Correspondence In: Nil.

Reports:

Cricket Club:

No report.

Tennis Club:

Not playing over the Winter period

Football/Netball Club:

Fobs are not working on a regular basis. As is evidenced by our late meeting start today.

Lights are deteriorating. (Advised of hold up and supposed to be installed Mid-July)

Bird spikes will be installed after revised design.

The round at Easter was a massive day. They had 5000+ people and the club has won 1 game so far this season.

MRC:

Light install has been delayed and they are scheduled for mid-July but hopefully earlier.

Hallway lock has been replaced.

Baiting done and the program will be ongoing.

Dogs are using the oval as an off-lead dog park, but owners are not disposing of poo.

Discussion re: signage? Or other forms of communication.

Rubbish is loose also.

Query about the roller door.

General Business:

Cr Weyrich – same historic issues. Council will follow up.

What happened with the full resurfacing of the tennis/netball courts? They need to be fixed properly.

Football club. Discussion held as to new netball court which would be separate from the tennis court? Due to viewing issues. They are looking for grants etc.

Power lead on pole and tennis court.

Question regarding sprinklers. (They are on timers.)

Everyone agreed that the oval is in excellent condition and thanked the Council for that.

Next meeting will be Wednesday 9th August 2023 at 5.30 PM.

Meeting closed at 6.24pm

MINUTES
Tuesday 11TH JULY 2023
@ SPORTS PAVILION. 5.45PM

CHAIR: Cr. Nikki Cohen

PRESENT: Leah Smith, Brian Harland, Jono Keele, Matt Lake, Fran Galvin, Nancye Smith, Kate Kemp, Judy Teasdale.

APOLOGIES Pauline Sleeman, Matt Dobeli, Mel Micalizzi. Kirk Teasdale, MRC Luke Keogh.

IN ATTENDANCE: Matt Sherman MRC

Move Minutes of MAY- & REPORTS 2023 meeting. Moved- Fran Seconded - Nancye

MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES;

CORRESPONDENCE IN:

Club Reports

MRC re 355 committee Audit.

CORRESPONDENCE OUT:

Minutes, Agendas, Treasurers Reports Rooms

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Treasurer's report be received and accounts ratified. Moved Fran Seconded by Brian

GENERAL BUSINESS;

1. Vandalism – SECURITY CAMERA'S, any reports. No. No update of Needles left on Reserve.
2. Ground Lighting Repairs.
3. Management Plan UPDATE – Next month
4. MFNC – Heaters still organising.
5. Main Oval – Defibrillators? Are there many who know how to use them? With the rise on heart attacks recently this is much needed work shop to have.
Discussion re MFNC to do a work shop on showing members and players how to use incase needed.
Matt Lake to ask Clint from Pharmacy to come do a workshop.. Matt to let us know when.
6. EDDY OVAL – Female Change Rooms. To be finished hopefully by end of August.
Also signs around fence line facing outward?
7. WATER STORAGE – Full
8. MRC URGENT NEEDS TO BE: Land for our future projects & developments? Report is needed.
The land across the road, with motel was sold recently.
9. BOOKINGS....
Reminder – before outsiders book – There needs to be a check with user groups first. All Clubs to do their bookings for Ovals in the Calendar on-line. Also for group usage and Events.
Clubs are now getting used to booking system and working well..
10. Next Meeting September 12TH 2023

USER GROUP REPORTS:

A) MFNC

Matt Lake Pres

All Murray League teams Football/Netball going well with 5 games left prior to finals.

Over the last 3-4 weeks we have had quite a few of our juniors participating at interleague level in both football & netball.

This Sunday 16th July we are holding our annual \$100 Reverse Raffle fundraiser. 1pm – 5pm in the club rooms.
Saturday 22nd July we are holding our first "Indigenous Round" at Moama v Deniliquin. All Moama Football & Netball teams will be wearing indigenous jumpers & dresses designed by local aboriginal artist Neva Atkinson with the designs depicting local aboriginal history. (Riv Herald next week).

Works completed re ground lighting. Thanks to Luke Keogh & MRC for completing project.

Heating works for exterior of club rooms still in planning stage.

Dale Norman from Murray League finalising details for MFL Grand Final to be at Moama again this year.

MFL GRAND FINAL 16TH SEPTEMBER

B) MCricket C: **Kirk Teasdale Pres & Brian Harland**

AGM was held 2weeks ago. I'm still president along with another 8 committee members helping out.

We had 6 kids aged 12-15 participate in last week Southern Riverina academy.

Charlie Connors, James Mason, Jackson Groves, Landyn Maher, Geordie Teasdale & Hamish Teasdale

Another 12 are participating in the GMC academy starting in 3weeks time.

Few projects we're working on hopefully with council ASAP:

Major pitch reno's – cost estimate \$30k. Happening late September 2023.

2 * extra training nets.

Open air roof over the nets for multipurpose use. See attached. Future proposed project.

C) TOUCH: **Pauleen Sleeman**

Please note Touch footy are not currently active however previous committee organising a general meeting in next couple of weeks.

D) ADV PlayPark: **Judy Teasdale**

Little to report. A few parties over school holidays, but been rather wet & cold.

repairs need to be organised.

Working with work for the dole organisation to get them back working on to the Rec Reserve.

E) LITTLE Athletic: **Leah Smith**

Echuca Moama Little Athletics is in its final weeks of their Cross Country season.

Our centre is holding the Regional Cross Country event this year after Covid cancelled it previously. This will be run on July 30th at Moama Rec Reserve. It will start at Brick Alley oval and around the tracks near the velodrome. The council has already been informed and they are supporting us with some minor road closures and signage for the event. We will be in contact with the Touch Footy crew to see if we can have access to the rooms and canteen etc for a few hours on that Sunday so that we have power and run a BBQ etc.

We have our AGM coming up on August 2nd and have booked the Moama Pavilion for this night. We are moving a motion to expand our club to include a seniors club which will hopefully be passed at our AGM. We feel it is the right time to expand as we have many adults who run and enjoy athletics but we have no local option for them, as well as marketing to other areas such as pre-season fitness for our local footy and netball clubs etc. Those looking for a higher level of athletics can still travel to Bendigo and compete on a Saturday however they would be competing for Echuca Moama instead of having to join a Bendigo club. Letter of intent will be sent out this week to our members.

School athletics has started and we have three schools booked in over the next couple of months. We would like to look at having a key to our shed made and to left with the council for school to pick up on the day. Currently we have to lend the schools our own keys which is not ideal when we need to get into our shed etc.

As everyone is aware we were successful in our Long Jump grant and this has been completed. All we need to do now is finalise the line painting on the runway.

We were also successful in receiving a grant for a new high jump shed. 90% of this money has been received and works will start soon.

Exciting times ahead for the club

F) BOT Gardens: **Nancye Smith**

Everyone disappointed with the vandalism, would it be possible to have more cameras installed.

We are still trying to beat the rabbits with more tree guards and blood and bone.

Council are replacing some lost plants in stage 5, this will happen in next few months.

We had 2 lemon scented gums planted in entrance garden today donated by Julie & Ian rooksby in memory of their son Darren. The trees replaced 2 trees that were lost from the original plantings.

G) SOCCER: **Jonathan Keele**

This week sees the restart on Saturday morning of **Miniroos** after the school holidays.

There are 2 school competitions on the 14th and 20th July, which will see an end to the school competitions for this year.

Lights at Jack Eddy are better after Luke had the electricians look at the circuit breakers in the poles.

New women's change facilities will be completed in August for the last round of the season.

Competitions:

All 5 BASL junior sides are doing well and will play finals in late August/September

Senior women are equal top of the women's competition.

Senior Men are in 5th position and look likely to play finals.

H) CYCLING

Matthew Dobeli

Winter race season is in full swing with road races in VIC

We're struggling under the financial strain of now requiring paid traffic control at all races at a cost of \$5,000-7,000 for the season - Moama Bowling club have been our knight in shining armour.

I've already had some early email discussions with Murray River Council about shifting races to this side of the river for 2024.

Our Come and Try sessions over 3 weekends has been well received, we'll aim to do the same over summer with our Crit Season it may not directly lead to new riders racing as it's quite a jump from riding to racing but we're keen to look for new members

We're hoping to have a working bee in late winter/spring - we might need Luke's help with the Parks and Gardens

A recent water leak was promptly dealt with by MRC which was very much appreciated

I) GRAM School:

Kathleen Kemp

[Recreation Reserve Report from MAG \(May/June\)](#)

MAG continues to be very grateful for the use of facilities that are the Moama Recreational Reserve.

On May 5, we held our annual Foundation Day celebration that included our Foundation Day games and Foundation Day Cup running race on Brick Alley and Moama Football ovals. This was once again a great day for our students and families who attending.





On the same morning, some of our Year 5 and Year 6 students competed in the Campaspe Primary School Soccer Competition, held at Jack Eddy oval. The two Year 5 teams both played in the grand final with one team coming in first and the other coming second. The two Year 6 teams both played in the semi - final and won; both teams came in third overall. A great day of soccer for MAG!



Our Primary Athletics Sports were held on Jack Eddy Oval on May 11 and we were very lucky with the weather. Perricoota House took away the honours but a great day was had by all Houses.





In June we had a number of teams practising for interschool AFL Football matches and even with wet weather were able to get in a number of sessions on the Brick Alley Oval which was great for the teams competing.
Kathleen Kemp Deputy-Principal

J) Cr Nikki.. Moama Lights cancelled because of floods.

K) MRC: Luke Keogh: General Works: Grounds: Buildings/Assets: Projects General:

Vandalism – No Reports

Matt Sherman

Ground Lighting Repairs - Council received final batch of repaired lights on Tuesday 11th July.

Lights to be installed once contractors and required equipment is available.

Management Plan Update – To be followed up and reported back at next meeting.

Heaters – No Update from MRC

Main Oval – General Maintenance and Mowing continued. Fertiliser was spread on all ovals.

Jack Eddy Oval – Female Change Facility installed onsite at Jack Eddy Oval with service connections for Water, Sewer and Power Completed. Building is on track to be completed towards the end of August. Final works include internal fitout, external concreting works, ramp and stair construction.

Water Storage – No update. Due to the wet weather in the previous months it is assumed that water levels are close to full.

Bookings – No major bookings.

NEXT meeting **SEPTEMBER 12TH** 2023. 5.45pm **AGM NOV.14th**.

Please don't hesitate to contact myself or Nikki for any issues to pass on. Meeting concluded Secretary; Judy Teasdale Sec 0419 817 371 Cr Nikki Cohen 0419 573 258



Pic of Nets cricket would like.



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 4th September 2023

The meeting opened at 5:38 pm

Present: Rossy Main, Ron Doran, Debbie Polkinghorne, Simone Treloar, Karen Buckley (Council)

Apologies: Luke Keogh, Kirsty Harris, Amy Lolicato

Minutes from the previous meeting – Read and accepted.

Business arising from the last meeting:

- The secretary was asked to write a thank-you letter to the hall committee for providing the near new stove in the complex. - **Completed**
- Matt Sherman has stated that he will also talk to Tiarna Cronin about the requirements/grants – **ongoing, no response yet.**
- The Moulamein South Rec Reserve (355) provided new seating around the ground as an improvement and was well received during the final series held recently.
- The secretary will also ask Tiarna Cronin at the same time about the process for a grant to replace the carpet in the football club rooms and the visitors' rooms.
- The two split systems have been installed, and thanks to the council assisting with a \$3000 grant to offset some of the cost.
- Lights have been installed, providing the Moulamein Football Netball Club (MFNC) with lights that bring the reserve up to the required lighting standards.
- The new lights cast a shadow along the eastern side of the oval and will require the council to trim the trees along the eastern side to remove the shadows. We have been informed that the MFNC is seeking approval for night games, so the trees must be trimmed before the start of the next season.

Moved: Simone Prentice

Seconded: Deb Polkinghorne

Correspondence In:

- Email from Melinda Barrett informing the 355 committee members that Karen Buckley will be the new representative from the Murray River Council for 355 committees. Existing contacts remain.

Correspondence Out:

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

Moved: Ron Doran

Seconded: Deb Polkinghorne



Moulamein South Recreation Reserve

PO Box 17 Moulamein 2733 NSW

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 \$11,346.17 in the account after funding the new ground seating and the split systems in the main complex rooms. The Moulamein 355 committee also funded 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

GENERAL BUSINESS:

- 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. Letter to be raised by the MFNC to the 355 committee.
- Oval needs to be top dressed; the secretary has spoken to Bill Wilson, who will make it happen before the next season.
- The 355 committee will write to the Moulamein Tennis Club seeking their current certificate of currency for public liability insurance and a membership list.
- It was suggested that the lights/power costs go under the council as they have the bulk buying ability and the savings. passed onto the MFNC.
- The council was adamant that the reserve public toilets would be closed sooner rather than later. Why not close the ones at the Heritage Village? If there were a survey on the use, the village would be last on the list. The toilets at the reserve are the only disabled toilets around.
- A walkway between the existing netball courts and the sheds currently in situ needs to be provided. I have attached a copy of the proposal.

The next general meeting is on the 4th of December, 2023, at 5:30 p.m.

The meeting Closed at 6:30 p.m.



Moulamein South
Recreation Reserve I



MINUTES

13th of September 2023

Venue

Murray Downs Community Centre/Fire Shed

6.00 PM

Opening and welcome: Brenten Hogan – Chairperson

PRESENT: Brenten Hogan – Chair, Haydn Downes - Secretary, Jo Hulland, Ken & Glenys Smith, Brendan Yu, Karen Buckley MRC, Jo Hulland, ,

APPOLOGIES:

Nil

MINUTES OF THE PAST MEETING:

Resolved that the Minutes of the previous committee meeting held on Wednesday 16th of August at the Murray Downs Community Centre/Fire Shed be approved.

Moved: Brendan Yu

Seconded: Jo Hulland

CORRESPONDENCE:

Outwards:

Inwards: Ken Smith – Volunteer Hours & Produce Money

Moved: Brenten Hogan

Seconded: Brendan Yu

TREASURERS REPORT:

Monthly Treasurer Report – Nil

INCOME:

13/09/2023 – Produce – \$64.50

EXPENDITURE

Garden Supplies



Sept Accounts.msg Sept Accounts 2.msg

TOTAL

13/09/2023 - EXPENSES – \$136.78 to be refunded to Ken Smith – Receipts produced

Moved: Brenten Hogan Seconded: Jo Hulland

BUSINESS ARISING/TASK TO BE DONE FROM PREVEIUOS MEETING:

1	Removal of sapling trees from the Murray Downs Riverside Park Reserve/Boat Ramp	<p>17/03/2021: Ongoing Rod and Brenten walked through this area before the meeting to discuss. The committee is to prioritise the demands of each project and to seek approvals for us to assist within the Murray Downs Reserve. Within the next committee meeting we will discuss submitting requests to the Murray River Council for funding to assist with the removing process of the saplings and undersized trees in the reserve.</p> <p>15/4/2021: Rod Croft and Brenten have discussed that this will be one of the priorities for the new Operational Plan. Footts have quoted approximately \$13,000 to remove saplings and clean up. Saplings would be put in pile then chipped. John Harvie pointed out that because the quote is over \$5000 in value, we would need to get two more quotes.</p> <p>19/05/2021 Rod Croft will be sending a planning permit form to be complete for submission to Council. Within the Plan of Management, the committee needs to decide on a list of priorities. If the saplings are the priority this will go the planning department and this task will be considered first for the area to go forward. Within the application it is essential to include all valid reasons for the permit application, such as to gain access for the removal of the debris, thorns, dead wood and to eliminate snakes in the area. The council will enlist an arborist to attend the site to decide and mark which trees are to remain. The trees are classed at 200mm at 1 Metre high.</p>
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	<p>Being that there will be a lot of the trees in area that will remain depending on size and location.</p> <p>The Committee members are considering the planting of screening plants along the neighbouring boundary fence be the first task the committee attend too.</p> <p>16/06/2021:</p> <p>Brenten spoke to Luke Keogh and he is planning to attend the reserve area to access the sapling trees. Luke will have a gentleman with him that will be accessing the native grasses. After the area is approved the sapling trees that will remain can then be marked. They will also consider the schedules within our Operational Plan such as the screening trees on the neighbouring fences and the locations of the path so these areas will fit within the stages of the planned for the reserve.</p> <p>Luke has spoken to Rod Croft and Luke Hartshorn about the box thorn problem in the reserve and have given the committee permission to proceed with their removal. Ann Crowe mentioned that she had read an article in the local land services newsletter about the removal of box thorns in the district and that the Murray River Council did own a box thorn puller.</p> <p>Anne will provide the committee with additional information about the procedures and equipment necessary.</p> <p>Brenten will be contacting Rick Harding to have a lock put on the access gate so we can gain access to the reserve.</p> <p>21/07/2021: Ongoing</p> <p>Brenten and Luke spoke about how best approach the removal of the saplings. The marking of the tree that are to remain, when this will be done and the method of removal and disposal.</p> <p>The committee is hoping that this matter be finalised before the fire season and the hot weather starts.</p> <p>18/08/2021: Brenten Hogan has contacted Luke Keogh to inform him about the quotes he has received from Anthony Foote for approximately \$11,500 to remove the saplings trees and level the land off. Daniel Crowe has been assisting Brenten with suggestions to how best successfully remove the trees. Brenten can get a quote for \$4,900 for a tractor come in</p>
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	<p>and cut off the trees but this may be a struggle with the skinner trees. The members of the community are wanting to assist to save costs, but we will still need to do further works to get this sorted. Ideally a dozer would be the best bet.</p> <p>The committee have planned that after the bulk of the clearing has been done and piled members of the Murray Downs CFA will assist us with burning them. We are hoping that we can have this project completed before the fire restrictions come in October.</p> <p>The council’s assistance would be appreciated in this matter. Neil mentioned that there is currently a change of staff positions within council soon so to be patient.</p> <p>15/09/2021: Brenten spoke to Luke Keogh to arrange a time for him to come to the reserve and mark the trees to remain on site. Mark Robinson, Tony Frankel, Chris Hullah and Jim Crowe have offered to give us some assistance with the removal of the sapling trees.</p> <p>An excavator will give us the best result. We will need at least two to complete the project.</p> <p>Christian Devlin has offered his.</p> <p>27/10/2021: Brenten has been informed by Onisimo that the council will need to conduct a REF (Review of Environmental Factors) of the reserve area before any work can commence. Onisimo also informed Brenten that the scheduled time for Stage 1, the boat ramp was intended to commence construction in November will most likely be postponed as they have not yet secured a contractor to take on the project. Onisimo will update Brenten in the following months with further news on the project.</p> <p>17/11/2021: Brenten Hogan has contacted Onisimo for an update on the progress of the REF and has not yet received a response.</p> <p>15/12/2021: Onisimo provided Brenten with an update on the progress of the REF. The REF should be completed by the end of January.</p> <p>19/01/2022:</p>
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		<p>Brenten has discussed the progress of the REF, the removal of the saplings and the boat ramp with John Harvie and Jack Bond.</p> <p>Brenten has been informed that the boat ramp is scheduled to be completed by June 30th 2022.</p> <p>Brenten will continue to contact all for the progress on these matters and keep the committee updated.</p> <p>We discussed the signage displayed to the entrances of the reserve. Naming the reserve Murray Downs Park.</p> <p>16/02/2022: Luke Keogh has informed Brenten that the REF studies will be completed soon.</p> <p>23/03/2022: Ongoing.</p> <p>Luke Keogh informed Brenten that the preliminary REF Studies have been completed and he will continue to inform Brenten on the progress.</p> <p>20/04/2022: Ongoing 25/05/2022: Ongoing 16/05/2022: Brenten Hogan has spoken to Luke Keogh about the progress of the REF completion at the Murray Downs Reserve area and Luke Keogh will follow this up with Onesimo Mukodi.</p> <p>31/05/2023:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As per briefing provided by Trev Willis removal will be part of phase 1 which is due to commence about 03/06/2023. <p>19/07/2023: Ongoing 16/08/2023: Ongoing 13/09/2023: Ongoing – No progress so far this month – Karen Buckley will make the relevant enquiries in relation to this.</p>
3	Possible Treasurer for the MD Riverside Park Committee	<p>15/04/2021: The transfer of funds from Murray Downs Advancement Group will be happening very soon. Ann asked if we could have a Secretary/ Treasurer as she felt there would not be many transactions in the coming months. Ann will be happy to do Treasurer when there are regular transaction's to be managed.</p> <p>19/05/2021: A treasurer will be decided once a decision are made on the final naming of the Murray Downs Riverside Park.</p> <p>16/06/2021: Ongoing</p>

	<p>21/07/2021: Ongoing 18/08/2021: Ongoing 05/09/2021: Ongoing 27/10/2021: Ongoing 17/11/2021: Ongoing 31/05/2023: Ongoing</p> <p>Anne can access through her internet banking the bank knew bank account. There are funds from a previous committee (Murray Downs Advancement Group) that will need to be transferred over into the new bank account. The committee will make contact with the previous members to organise change over and finalise any unresolved matters. Outstanding Funds will need to be transferred to the new Section 355 Committees bank account. Anne will look into this for on the new committee’s behalf.</p> <p>15/12/2021: Anne volunteered to become the committee’s treasures. The previous members on the Murray Downs Advancement Group have been publicly notified and a meeting has been scheduled in January to finalise any outstanding matters. Funds from this group will be transferred into the Murray Downs Riverside Park Management Committee bank account. Proceeds from the Monster garage Sale recently held by the member of the Community Garden will also be deposited.</p> <p>19/01/2022: Anne Crowe will provide a transaction listing for the Murray Downs Riverside Park bank account including the Community Garden Takings and will provide the committee with a treasurers report each meeting. The Community Garden has set up an account at Swan Hill Chemicals for future purchases.</p> <p>16/02/2022: Ongoing. Once we resolve the Murray Downs Advancement Group additional funds will be deposited into the Murray Downs Riverside Park bank account.</p> <p>23/03/2022: Anne Crowe has completed and submitted an application to Consumer Affairs NSW to resolve the Murray Downs Advancement Group. Council notified Anne that they had received this information.</p>
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AGENDA ITEMS:**Boat Ramp Update:****Park Update:****13/09/2023:****RMS Agency at the Mobile Library and Service Centre:**

Pauline Dorigo emailed Sarah Ryan and John Harvie requesting information on the progress of an RMS Agency and a council representative attend site when the Mobile Library and Service Centre attend to our area to assist the Murray Downs and surrounding residents with Murray River Council matters.

15/06/2022: Has not yet received a response.

31/05/2023: Ongoing

13/09/2023:

16/08/2023: From Onisimo – no further works will be undertaken until the river subsides

Community Grants

16/08/2023: Brendan Yu – Brendan will submit a grant application as soon as possible and will pass the details of same to the Committee

13/09/2023: Ongoing

The overgrowth in the Murray Downs Reserve area close to neighbouring homes.

Several locals have shared their concerns to the committee with the state of the overgrown grass, weeds, prickles, and tumble weeds in the reserve area.

They are concerned the area poses a risk for fire, security, snake, and other vermin.

Attempts have been made to contact council employees responsible for this area, but there has been no response. Requests for service on the Murray River Council website have also been made, and there has been no response received.

15/06/2022: Luke Keogh: After receiving Requests for Service via Council's website, Council officers have visited the site (week beginning 6th June) to visually inspect the area in question to enable an appropriate response. Based on this inspection a response has been given to both residents.

At the time of inspection multiple infestations of Priority weeds (Horehound & Boxthorns) were identified and treated with appropriate chemical. Further to this Council has scheduled mowing of the buffers (only) in the coming weeks after other works are completed in Murray Downs. As this is not fire season the works are considered low priority/risk, but will be completed in coming weeks and scheduled for mowing in accordance with Councils current service delivery plan for this type of area, Bi-monthly on going.

31/05/2023: Ongoing:

19/07/2023: Ongoing

16/08/2023: Ongoing

Ken Smith: Money left over from the Swan Hill House and land Package, some 30 years ago.

Ken Smith will contact Neville Brady to find out more information.

31/05/2023: Ongoing –

- Brenten to follow up with Neville Brady

19/07/2023: Brenten spoke to Neville Brady in relation to this and further enquiries are being made in relation to the location of the funds and the process to gain access to same.

Ongoing

16/08/2023: Ongoing

13/09/2023: Ongoing – to be removed from agenda

Moved: Brendan Yu.

Seconded: Brenten Hogan

Community Garden

Account application from Swan Hill Chemicals for products and equipment.

Ken Smith will draw up a business plan and provide the committee with a budget for the Community Garden. Fencing will be a priority as there are several rabbits in the area.

31/05/2023: Ongoing –

- discussion took place in relation to charges provided by Swan Hill Chemicals and how savings could be made.
- Any purchasing needs to following MR Council rules.
- All monies coming in and out must be declared.
- Purchases must have a detailed receipt identify items purchased and the cost of each item.

19/07/2023: Discussion took place in relation to allocating a budget, Brenten and new treasurer to follow up.

16/08/2023: Raised that a budget of \$700.00 PA be allocated – Jo to arrange

Moved: Jo Hulland

Seconded: Glenys Smith

13/09/2023: Ongoing – Allocated budget to be \$1262.00 with \$700.00 of that be allocated to spring - nJo Hulland to arrange withdrawl from bank.

Expression of Interest:

Nil

GENERAL BUSINESS:

Nil

New Agenda Items:

16/08/2023 – Murray Downs Facebook Page – Ken Smith – further enquiries to be mades

13/09/2023 – Brendan Yu to look at this with Anne Crowe

16/08/2023 – From Rob Croft MRC - Can I please suggest that the committee refine the invitees from an MRC perspective to staff that a relevant to either the issues or what is occurring at the site? There is currently 8-9 staff and 2 Councillors from MRC on the invite list.

I suggest 1-2 MRC reps max. (Karen and one other) and information can be disseminated back to other staff within MRC for any issues that require addressing.

16/08/2023: It was suggested that Karen Buckley & Mel Barrett be the nominated MRC contacts.

Moved: Jo Hulland Seconded Brenten Hogans

Karen Buckley:

Karen introduced herself and advised that she is the Murray River Council for all Section 355 committee of which there a quite a few is the Council area. All requests, queries, agendas, minutes etc should be sent to herself and Mel Barrett and they will chase up the required responses.

Karen also gave information on but not limited to:

- Auditing of accounts
- 355 Committees
- Council Assets
- Code of Conduct, (Karen will forward of couple of documentation to the Secretary)
- Composition of the committee,
- Conflict of interest
- Structure of Agenda and minutes (she is happy to assist the secretary with this)
- Community Garden and produce
- Working with Children checks
- Volunteer members

NEXT MEETING:

Wednesday 11th of October 2023 at the Murray Down Community Centre at 1800 hrs

MEETING CLOSED: 1937 hours

Minutes of S355 Wakool Recreation Reserve Committee Held on 28th September 2023 commencing at 7.38pm, at WDSM Club.

Meeting Opened:7.38

Acknowledgement of Country-The traditional custodians of the Wamba Wamba Barapa Barapa people of the land on which we meet today and pay our respects to the elders past and present.

Present: Genny Oggian, Robert Grant, Michelle Till, Graham Rowland, Jean Fairchild, Ian Main, Michael Cattnach, Karen Buckley (MRC)

Apologies: Denis Gleeson (Counciller), Annette Dow, Maree Whelan

Conflict of Interest Declarations; Nil

Minutes of previous meeting; Minutes from the 10th September 2023 Read

Moved; Graham Rowland Seconded; Michael Cattnach Carried

Matters Arising:

- Rob is to get onto the changing of banking, it is felt that John Whelan may have been one of the last signatures. This will move to Deniliquin.
- The donation box at the camp showers has been upgraded to except donations, and the Men's Shed Group have been requested to upgrade their sign to stated "Men's Shed Donations", this is to stop the confusion between the campers wanting to donate to thank for the camping facilities.
- The cleaning of the toilets near the Men's Shed will now be cleaned along with the camping toilets. All in favour.
- Men's shed is now meeting on a Monday 12-4pm as the morning time was not as popular as hoped. They will promote this time.
- Karen and Michelle explained that Council was not in favour of building any more structures, they would prefer the buildings within the Rec Reserve be upgraded or utilised. It was also explained that the Rec reserve as a 355 committee is unable to fund projects or donate money, the 355-committee function is to pay the power, water and minor maintenance. Due to the purchase made by Men's Shed, Rob Grant moved we reimburse the Men's Shed the cost of the materials purchased on receipt of the invoices, then the Rec Reserve will deal with these purchases. Seconded Graham Rowland, 6 for 1 against.
- The power for the Tennis Courts and Men's shed has been taken to Luke Keogh, Karen will get back to us.
- Netball comp will need to fill in some forms to use the courts as per the advice from Council. Karen will get back to us with a cost.
- Committee feels if we put a tennis net on the netball court which has been marked for Tennis, we then need to erect a fence around that court.
- Rob Grant has used the spare space in old footy complex to store our records.
- Council is going to deal with David Landini and the Tennis club.

Treasures Report: Robert Grant reported a balance on the 28/09/2023 of \$10100.46.
Moved; Robert Grant Seconded; Jean Fairchild Carried.

Bowling Club Report: The competition to be on the 7th October 2023

Progress Report: They will have a meeting on Thursday the 5th October 2023.

Men's Shed Report: They will be meeting on Monday's from 12noon to 4 pm.

- Then asked if Council may provide internet at the Rec Reserve to assist Campers?
Karen explained this is not something that Council would do, and that in her experience in travelling most travellers have their own internet.

General Business:

- Karen is going to follow up on a way to inform the rubbish tip workers when we are taking rubbish from the rec reserve.
- The Plaque for George Rathbone is being made and Karen will inform us when it is ready, the cost of this is \$440.00. Once it arrives and is installed, we will have an unveiling for George and the community. The plaque will be placed on the stone that has the Ken Moore memorial plaque.
- We have had a request to allow agistment for 4 horses on the old polo cross ground. to help in keeping the grass down.
- Karen went through the outcome of the meeting at the Rec reserve on Thursday 21/09/23. * this included decommission of parts of the old footy sheds, what would need removing from those areas.
Removal of the Ladder to old timekeepers' box and sealing that area off
Repair exhaust fan in complex, renew old carpet with lino floor panels.
Repair sliding door.
Upgrading internal power sub board for compliance to remove old porcelain fuses.
Repair leaking tap outside.
Email attached.
- Karen explained the importance of looking at the risk of what we do as a Rec Reserve Committee.

We will await updates on these items from Council.

Could Council Please respond to these questions.

Genny Thanked Karen for attending our meeting and for the valuable information regarding 355 committees that she was able to brief us with.

Next Meeting: TBA once we know when the G Rathbone plaque arrives.

Meeting Closed at 8.49 pm

9.5.6 MOAMA RIVERSIDE CARAVAN PARK - FURTHER REQUEST FOR RENTAL WAIVER

File Number: -

Author: Sarah Ryan, Director Community and Economic Development

Authoriser: Terry Dodds, Chief Executive Officer

RECOMMENDATION

That Council not approve a further abatement of rent under the Crown Lease and Council Lease for Moama Riverside Caravan Park.

BACKGROUND

On 24 January 2023 Council resolved (*Resolution 240123*) to extend a 50% rent waiver under the Council Lease to the three commercial caravan parks for the period 1 October 2022 through to 31 December 2022. Post Resolution, it was identified that Council had an obligation to extend a rent waiver under Clause 11 of the Crown Lease to the three commercial caravan parks.

Council officers sought legal advice regarding the Crown and Council Leases with respect to rent abatement.

Crown and Council Leases

The terms of the Crown lease are set out in two annexures ("Annexure A" and "Annexure B"). The terms of the Council Lease are set out in a single Annexure ("Annexure A"). Annexure A to the Council Lease is substantively identical to Annexure B to the Crown Lease (**Common Provisions**). The provisions of Annexure A to the Crown Lease, however, are unique to the Crown Lease (**Crown Provisions**) and are in the form of the standard Crown Land Lease.

Clause 8 of the Common provisions provides that the Council and Crown Leases are interdependent, meaning that a breach of either lease is a breach of the other lease. Notwithstanding that cause, rent payable under each lease is a separate obligation, and subject to the provisions of each lease.

Rent Abatement Clause

Clause 11 of the Crown Provisions provides, in part, that if the Lessee is unable to "use the Premises in a reasonable manner" as a consequence of "some natural disaster or other serious event beyond the reasonable control of the Lessee" then "the Lessee's obligation to pay rent will abate to the extent proportional to the effect on the Lessee's ability to occupy and use the Premises until the Premises are restored" (**Abatement Clause**).

For the purpose of the above clause, the Crown Lease defines 'Premises' as 'the land and/or buildings described in Part 2 of Schedule 2' to the Crown Lease. In turn, the Part 2 of Schedule 2 to the Crown Lease describes the whole of lot 1 in DP1179797.

As Part 2 of Schedule 2 does not describe the fixtures on the Crown Land (for example, the cabins), Council is advised that the Abatement Clause does not apply to the fixtures.

As the Abatement Clause is found within the Crown Provisions, the Abatement Clause is only effective over the Crown Land, and effective upon the Crown Rent.

As:

(a) the Lessee is responsible for the maintenance and repair of the Lessee's Fixtures; and

(b) the Lessee has not been prevented from accessing or using the Premises since the conclusion of the Closure Period;

the Abatement Clause is only effective for the duration of the Closure Period.

Summary of advice

Council has no obligation under the Council Lease to abate rent due to natural disaster and is under no obligation to provide any abatement for the Council Rent.

Council is obliged to abate rent under the Crown Lease for the period that the Lessee was unable to reasonably use the Crown Land and must therefore disregard all Crown Rent due during the Closure Period.

Council has no ongoing obligation to abate rent after the Closure Period.

Notwithstanding the above, Council should consider rent abatement further than what is legally required to ensure the long-term viability of the Leases and premises.

Outcome

At its March meeting, Council resolved (Resolution ##) to abate rent under the Crown Lease to the three Commercial Caravan Parks and extend a 50% rent waiver under the Council Lease for the period 1 October 2022 through to 31 December 2022.

Moama Riverside Caravan Park ("Riverside") have written to Council noting that they are still operating at a reduced capacity for reasons outside of their control. As such, they have formally requested a reconsideration of Council's decision and specifically requested a further adjustment in rent from December 2022.

DISCUSSION

The Lessee acknowledges that the support received by Council has been excellent and appreciated.

Having said that, The Lessee note that they are still operating at a reduced capacity and will be for some time for reasons completely outside of their control.

The Lessee are in the process of removing damaged cabins from the park, awaiting repairs to the retaining wall and removal of unsafe trees. Whilst doing their best to bring the park back to full operation, most suppliers are struggling to meet delivery timeframes due to the sudden increase in cabin demand industry wise. Riverside do not envisage the park fully operational before the end of 2023.

The request for further rent abatement is The Lessee's reliance upon Clause 11 of the Crown Provisions and the challenges such as supplier delivery time frames, retaining wall and unsafe trees rendering part of the premises unusable for carrying out business as usual.

The Lessee requests a further rent abatement for the period the park could not be occupied and a further rent reduction for the period until the park is fully operational as follows:

- 100% rent abatement while the premises could not be occupied following the evacuation order, from October to December 2022;
- 50% rent waiver from January to April 2023;
- 30% rent waiver until the Council has fixed the trees and retaining wall issues starting Dec 2022.

Council officers sought further legal advice pertaining to this request:

Request 1: The closure period

The difference between the Council's Decision and Request 1 is Council failing to waive 50% of the rent under the Council Lease for the Closure Period.

There is no force majeure clause or applicable rent abatement clause in the Council Lease. Otherwise, with respect to the Council's obligation to provide quiet enjoyment, Council is not likely in breach of Clause 32 because the interruption during the Closure Period was not caused by the Council or other persons lawfully claiming through or under the Council.

Council has no obligation to further waive rent under the Council Lease for the Closure Period.

Request 2 and Request 3: After the Closure Period

If Council has restricted access to the Crown Land or part thereof, then:

- (a) the abatement provisions under clause 11 of the Crown Lease apply; and
- (b) Council has interfered with the Lessee's quiet enjoyment in breach of Clause 32.

It is arguable that if Council has restricted access to the Council Land or part thereof, then Council has interfered with the Lessee's quiet enjoyment in breach of clause 32.

Council officers have been working continuously with The Lessee to restore the park to pre-flood condition. Post flood in 2022 staff arranged the safe removal of 7 identified high risk trees to ensure the safe opening of the Park pre-Christmas. In March 2023 when contractors could safely access the site another tree was removed, these works were submitted to the CAT D flood recovery funding. A detailed Arborist report undertaken by The Lessee identified three high risk/failure possible/extreme consequence trees that present an unacceptable risk to Council and the Lessee. Council will remove these trees. An additional eight trees have been rated as medium risk and will require removal at some point in the future. It is intended that Council will carry out these works based on risk priority in accordance with operational budgets for maintenance.

The Lessee undertook trenching works without the knowledge of Council in the area of the park intended to replace flood damaged cabins. These trenching works have resulted in additional trees now being rated by the Arborist as high risk. These trees were not previously identified as high risk, they were directly impacted as a result of the trenching works.

Council officers have carried out temporary works to support the failing retaining wall alongside cabin 23. These works include an earth bank to help retain the current structure. The timber retaining wall eroded after the 2022 flood event. The cabin footings are exposed, and the wall requires full renewal of approximately 20m. This replacement work will be included in the Category D Flood Recovery Funding. As above, submissions closed in October and Officers are awaiting approval of funding.

Below are images of the Riverside Caravan Park Moama during the peak of the flood.





Summary of advice

Council is under no obligation under the Council Lease to abate rent during the Closure Period.

Council may be exposed to a claim that it is in breach of the Crown Lease and/or the Council Lease. A breach of either lease may give risk to a claim for damages or compensation, which can be set-off against rent if Council is determined liable.

It is possible, but not likely, Council is exposed to an argument that the Council Lease and/or the Crown Lease is frustrated. If the leases are frustrated at law, they would be at an end and the Lessee would be released of its further obligations.

An observer may deem the claim for dispensation somewhat disingenuous when taking into consideration two facts. Firstly, the trench dug by The Lessee has thwarted their own timing of regaining capacity, and secondly the cabins weren't replaced by The Lessee within the timeframe that the lessee claims that council caused a delay in reinstalment of capacity. If this was the case the new cabins would have been in situ, but not able to be rented.

The one area, that is debatable, would be the cabin directly behind the retaining wall. Council may consider this on a pro-rata basis.

Council should consider that whilst the request has come from the Riverside Caravan Park, any decision on further abatement may set a precedent for Council's other commercial parks in Barham and Picnic Point.

Council may consider whether it is commercially expedient for further rent concessions than what it is legally required.

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

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

5.10 - Promote and grow tourism across the region - Growing Tourism across the LGA.

BUDGETARY IMPLICATIONS

An estimate of the financial implications of a further rent waiver under the Crown Lease and Council Lease is broken down as follows:

Moama Riverside Caravan Park	
Monthly rent payable Council Lease	\$6,987.75
Monthly rent payable Crown Lease	\$14,187.25
*Total Monthly Payments to Council (inc GST)	\$21,175.00

Total Cost to Council of further rental waiver

	March Resolution	Further request for rental waiver
Crown Lease Oct-Dec (100%)	\$42,561.75	
Council Lease Oct-Dec (50%)	\$10,481.62	
Council Lease Oct-Dec (100%)		\$10,481.62
Crown Lease Jan-Apr (50%)		\$28,374.50
Council Lease Jan-Apr (50%)		\$13,975.50
Crown Lease May-Dec (30%)		\$34,049.40
Council Lease May-Dec (30%)		\$16,770.60
Total loss of income	\$53,043.37	\$103,651.62

Council should note that The Lessee has paid full rent in advance until May 2024. Any rental waiver would be applied as a future waiver. The estimate of 30% for both the Crown and Council Lease is from May through to December 2023. At the time of writing this report it is unknown when the funding for Cat D will be approved and therefore it is unclear when the rectification works will commence.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Nil.

LEGISLATIVE IMPLICATIONS**RISK ANALYSIS**

- What can happen?**

No funding support available to Council to offset the financial implications of rental waivers to commercial caravan parks

- How can it happen?**

Traditionally, funding programs are not offered for loss of income

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

Loss of revenue to Council at a time when Council is absorbing enormous costs due to the flood event

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

Likely

- **Adequacy of existing controls?**

Council is legally obligated to provide a rental abatement on Crown Lease due to natural disaster. Council is not obligated to provide a rental abatement on the Council Lease.

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

Council has no obligation under the Council Lease to abate rent due to natural disaster and is under no obligation to provide any abatement for the Council Rent.

Council is obliged to abate rent under the Crown Lease for the period that the Lessee was unable to reasonably use the Crown Land and must therefore disregard all Crown Rent due during the Closure Period.

Council has no ongoing obligation to abate rent after the Closure Period.

CONCLUSION

Council has no control over the characteristics of the river nor the number of the times that the river will impact the park. The success of the park is largely due to its location, situated directly on the banks of the Murray River. With the advantages of being next to the river comes the disadvantages.

Council has no obligation under the Council Lease to abate rent due to natural disaster and is under no obligation to provide any further abatement for the Council Rent.

Council is obliged to abate rent under the Crown Lease for the period that the Lessee was unable to reasonably use the Crown Land and must therefore disregard all Crown Rent due during the Closure Period. Council has no ongoing obligation to abate rent after the Closure Period.

Notwithstanding the above, Council may consider rent abatement further than what is legally required to ensure the long-term viability of the Leases and premises.

The total cost to Council, by way of loss of rental income, for a further abatement as requested by The Lessee is estimated to be \$103,651,62.

ATTACHMENTS

1. **Letter of Advice - March 2023 - Confidential**
2. **Letter of Advice - August 2023 - Confidential**
3. **Letter of Request - Moama Riverside Caravan Park - Confidential**

9.5.7 UPDATE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM STRATEGY

File Number: -

Author: Sarah Ryan, Director Community and Economic Development

Authoriser: Terry Dodds, Chief Executive Officer

RECOMMENDATION

That the Officer's report on providing an Update on Economic Development and Tourism Strategy as of 16 October 2023 be received and the information noted by the Council.

DISCUSSION

The Economic Development and Tourism Strategy (EDTS) provides the framework for Murray River Council to affect change and promote economic development through the implementation of workable, practical actions. It articulates and promotes a partnership approach between Council and other stakeholders in government and non-government sectors, the community and industry.

Council is creating a new EDTS for our region. The strategy will identify opportunities and potential projects that will support continued economic growth, foster local employment opportunities and position Murray River Council as a leader in tourism.

We will also look to identify barriers to business growth and capture ideas around industry retention and attraction, production and manufacturing, agriculture, hospitality and events and a skilled workforce.

The final EDTS will include an action plan that will drive Council's economic development and tourism activities over the coming years.

A draft EDTS is in its final stages. We recently asked local businesses to provide their input on the current business conditions, competitiveness of the region and the role that Council should play in promoting economic development and tourism. The survey closed during May with 58 responses received.

There is a very strong link to the Community Strategic Plan (CSP) which was informed by a series of business and community workshops. The workshops were attended by over 200 attendees and 1017 ideas. Council's CSP was adopted during 2022.

Officers facilitated two workshops with Councillors to identify opportunities and challenges for the Murray River Council area.

The survey data and intel gathered will be used to inform the draft strategy and action plan. It is anticipated that the draft strategy and action plan will be presented to Council at its November meeting for adoption then put on display for public comment for a period of 28 days. The main reason for this delay is to allow the development of a detailed summary of our background analysis report to be incorporated in the main strategy document as per feedback from the Executive team.

Revised timeline for deliverables:

	9/10/2023	16/10/2023	23/10/2023	30/10/2023	6/11/2023	13/11/2023	20/11/2023
Strategy Review							
Review							
Updated Profile							
Action Plan		1			2		
Modified Strategy		1			2		
Policy Review				3			
Business Survey							
Investment Prospectus				4			5

- Revised Draft EDTS and Action Plan
- Final EDTS and Action Plan
- Finalised policy and associated documents
- Graphically designed proof (assumes sign off on content and concept 23 October (latest))
- Final prospectus (in low- and high-resolution PDF)

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

9.5.8 WAKOOL RECREATION RESERVE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE AGM

File Number: -

Author: Karen Buckley, Manager of Local Connections

Authoriser: Sarah Ryan, Director Community and Economic Development

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Revoke existing members of the Wakool Recreation Reserve Committee of Management; and
2. Pursuant to Section 355 of the Local Government Act 1993 appoint new committee members nominated at the September 2023 AGM.

BACKGROUND

At its Section 355 Annual General Meeting held on 22 June 2023, Elections were held to elect all committee positions and office bearers.

DISCUSSION

Present at the meeting were Genny Oggian, Michael Cattanach, Robert Grant, Graham Rowland, Ian Main, Michelle Till, Karen Buckley (MRC)

A motion was carried for the following election:

President: Genny Oggian

Secretary: Michelle Till

Treasurer: Robert Grant

General Committee: Rick Ainsworth, Graham Rawlings, Ian Main, Maree Whelan, Jean Fairchild, Annette Dow, Taila Briggs.

Advice of committee members has been received and should be endorsed by Council.

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

3. Strategic Theme 3: A place of Liveable Communities

3.1 - Create and maintain safe and accessible community spaces that enhance healthy living and promote active lifestyles - Sports and recreation facilities and spaces.

BUDGETARY IMPLICATIONS

Scope of committee financial transactions low.

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 fail to meet 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

- **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.




A new interim role of Manager Local Connections has been created and Karen Buckley has been seconded from the Community Services team 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 and risk mitigation.

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

Advice of committee members has been received and Council should endorse new committee members nominated at the September 2023 AGM.

ATTACHMENTS

1. **Wakool Recreation Reserve Committee - Section 355 Membership Details 2023 - Confidential**
2. **Wakool S355 Recreation Reserve AGM 28.9.2023**  
3. **Wakool S355 Recreation Reserve Meeting 28.09.2023**  

Minutes of S355 AGM Wakool Recreation Reserve Committee Held on 28th September 2, commencing at 7pm, at WDSM Club.

Acknowledgement of Country; The traditional custodians of the Wamba Wamba Barapa Barapa people of the land on which we meet today and pay our respects to the elders past and present.

Present: Genny Oggian, Michael Cattanach, Robert Grant, Graham Rowland, Ian Main, Michelle Till, Karen Buckley (MRC)

Apologies: Annette Dow, Maree Whelan, Denis Gleeson(Counsellor)

Conflict of Interest Declarations; Karen explained what a conflict of interest would be.

Minutes of previous meeting;

Moved; Robert Grant Seconded; Genny Oggian Carried

Matters Arising: Nil

Treasures Report: Robert Grant reported a balance on the 30/06/2023 of \$11,959.02.

As approved by audit from Council.

Moved; Robert Grant Seconded; Ian Main

All positions were declared vacant. Karen Buckley took the chair for the nominations.

Nominations called for Chairperson.

- Genny Oggian, moved Michelle Till, seconded Rob Grant, excepted, and carried.

Nominations called for Secretary.

- Michelle Till moved Rob Grant, seconded Genny Oggian, excepted, and carried.

Nominations called for Treasurer.

- Robert Grant, moved Michelle Till, seconded Jean Fairchild, excepted, and carried.
Rob explained this would be his last year.

General Committee:

- **Bowels:** Robert Grant and Rick Ainsworth
- **Men's Shed:** Graham Rawlings and Ian Main
- **WCPA (Wakool Community Progress Association):** Maree Whelan and Jean Fairchild
- Annette Dow, Taila Briggs

Meeting Closed at 7.37pm

Minutes of S355 Wakool Recreation Reserve Committee Held on 28th September 2023 commencing at 7.38pm, at WDSM Club.

Meeting Opened:7.38

Acknowledgement of Country-The traditional custodians of the Wamba Wamba Barapa Barapa people of the land on which we meet today and pay our respects to the elders past and present.

Present: Genny Oggian, Robert Grant, Michelle Till, Graham Rowland, Jean Fairchild, Ian Main, Michael Cattanach, Karen Buckley (MRC)

Apologies: Denis Gleeson (Counciller), Annette Dow, Maree Whelan

Conflict of Interest Declarations; Nil

Minutes of previous meeting; Minutes from the 10th September 2023 Read

Moved; Graham Rowland Seconded; Michael Cattanach Carried

Matters Arising:

- Rob is to get onto the changing of banking, it is felt that John Whelan may have been one of the last signatures. This will move to Deniliquin.
- The donation box at the camp showers has been upgraded to except donations, and the Men's Shed Group have been requested to upgrade their sign to stated "Men's Shed Donations", this is to stop the confusion between the campers wanting to donate to thank for the camping facilities.
- The cleaning of the toilets near the Men's Shed will now be cleaned along with the camping toilets. All in favour.
- Men's shed is now meeting on a Monday 12-4pm as the morning time was not as popular as hoped. They will promote this time.
- Karen and Michelle explained that Council was not in favour of building any more structures, they would prefer the buildings within the Rec Reserve be upgraded or utilised. It was also explained that the Rec reserve as a 355 committee is unable to fund projects or donate money, the 355-committee function is to pay the power, water and minor maintenance. Due to the purchase made by Men's Shed, Rob Grant moved we reimburse the Men's Shed the cost of the materials purchased on receipt of the invoices, then the Rec Reserve will deal with these purchases. Seconded Graham Rowland, 6 for 1 against.
- The power for the Tennis Courts and Men's shed has been taken to Luke Keogh, Karen will get back to us.
- Netball comp will need to fill in some forms to use the courts as per the advice from Council. Karen will get back to us with a cost.
- Committee feels if we put a tennis net on the netball court which has been marked for Tennis, we then need to erect a fence around that court.
- Rob Grant has used the spare space in old footy complex to store our records.
- Council is going to deal with David Landini and the Tennis club.

Treasures Report: Robert Grant reported a balance on the 28/09/2023 of \$10100.46.
Moved; Robert Grant Seconded; Jean Fairchild Carried.

Bowling Club Report: The competition to be on the 7th October 2023

Progress Report: They will have a meeting on Thursday the 5th October 2023.

Men's Shed Report: They will be meeting on Monday's from 12noon to 4 pm.

- Then asked if Council may provide internet at the Rec Reserve to assist Campers?
Karen explained this is not something that Council would do, and that in her experience in travelling most travellers have their own internet.

General Business:

- Karen is going to follow up on a way to inform the rubbish tip workers when we are taking rubbish from the rec reserve.
- The Plaque for George Rathbone is being made and Karen will inform us when it is ready, the cost of this is \$440.00. Once it arrives and is installed, we will have an unveiling for George and the community. The plaque will be placed on the stone that has the Ken Moore memorial plaque.
- We have had a request to allow agistment for 4 horses on the old polo cross ground. to help in keeping the grass down.
- Karen went through the outcome of the meeting at the Rec reserve on Thursday 21/09/23. * this included decommission of parts of the old footy sheds, what would need removing from those areas.
Removal of the Ladder to old timekeepers' box and sealing that area off
Repair exhaust fan in complex, renew old carpet with lino floor panels.
Repair sliding door.
Upgrading internal power sub board for compliance to remove old porcelain fuses.
Repair leaking tap outside.
Email attached.
- Karen explained the importance of looking at the risk of what we do as a Rec Reserve Committee.

We will await updates on these items from Council.

Could Council Please respond to these questions.

Genny Thanked Karen for attending our meeting and for the valuable information regarding 355 committees that she was able to brief us with.

Next Meeting: TBA once we know when the G Rathbone plaque arrives.

Meeting Closed at 8.49 pm

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.

OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE:

- Email to Steve Block - Sussan Ley MP office 13 Sept 2023
- Mayor Cr Frank Crawley letter from Mayor Peta Betts ERC – 11 Oct 2023
- Support of Private Members Bill to State Parliament amending the Rural Fires Act 1997 - Adam Marshal MP
- Support of Private Members Bill to State Parliament amending the Rural Fires Act 1997 - RAMJO
- Support of Private Members Bill to State Parliament amending the Rural Fires Act 1997 - Premier NSW Chris Minns MP
- Support of Private Members Bill to State Parliament amending the Rural Fires Act 1997 - Helen Dalton MP
- 10-10-23 - Letter to OLG - Mathoura Retirement Village TD
- Letter of response to Mr G Nalder regarding Moulamein wharf_Redacted - 13 Oct 2023

INCOMING CORRESPONDENCE:

- DOC 23 37959 Response from Helen Dalton - Nuclear Power Generation – 4 Oct 2023
- Mathoura Sub-Branch Remembrance Day 2023 request
- Critical Communications Enhancement Program in Murray River Council Local Government Area

ATTACHMENTS

1. Email to Steve Block - Sussan Ley MP office [↓](#) 
2. Letter to Mayor Peta Betts Edward River Council [↓](#) 
3. Support of Private Members Bill to State Parliament amending the Rural Fires Act 1997 -Adam Marshal MP [↓](#) 
4. Support of Private Members Bill to State Parliament amending the Rural Fires Act 1997 -Helen Dalton MP [↓](#) 
5. Support of Private Members Bill to State Parliament amending the Rural Fires Act 1997 -Premier NSW Chris Minns MP [↓](#) 

6. Support of Private Members Bill to State Parliament amending the Rural Fires Act 1997 -RAMJO [↓](#) 
7. Letter to OLG - Mathoura Retirement Village [↓](#) 
8. DOC 23 37959 Response from Helen Dalton - Nuclear Power Generation [↓](#) 
9. Mathoura Sub-Branch Remembrance Day 2023 [↓](#) 
10. Letter of response to Mr G Nalder regarding Moulamein wharf_Redacted [↓](#) 
11. Critical Communications Enhancement Program in Murray River Council Local Government Area [↓](#) 

From: Terry Dodds PSM
Sent: Wednesday, September 13, 2023 7:39 AM
To: Block, Steve (S. Ley, MP) <Stephen.Block@aph.gov.au>
Subject: Maidens punt - erosion

Hi Steve

With the amount of water being pushed down the Murray, all in the name of sustainability (both env and econ), the locals have long mentioned that with the constantly higher water levels the slumping is increasing.

Perhaps the best way to observe the slow speed catastrophe in the making is to observe where foot valves, previously at the base of the bank, are no longer where the bank ends.

The exposed tree roots are another tell-tale sign.

If you could help guide MRC through the correct person, or channel/s, to advocate that would be appreciated.

Take care and thankyou for the efforts in helping us in advance.

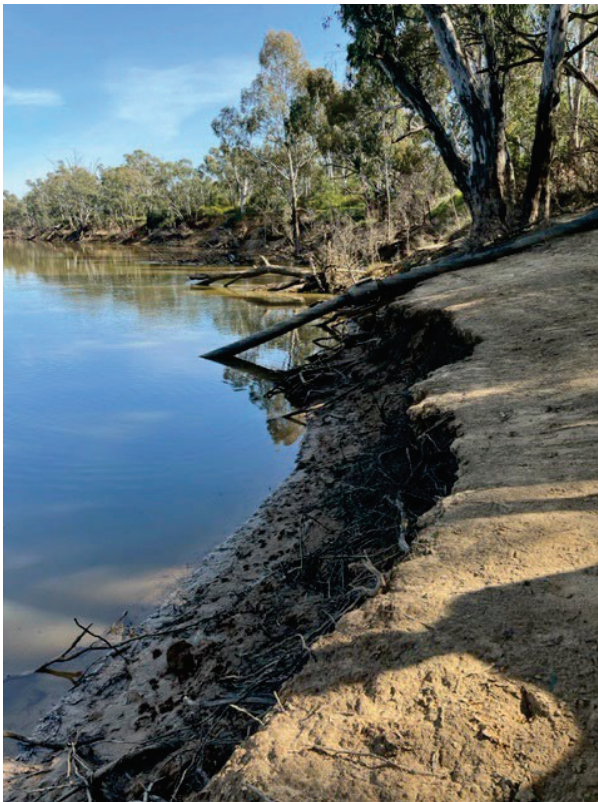
Cheers

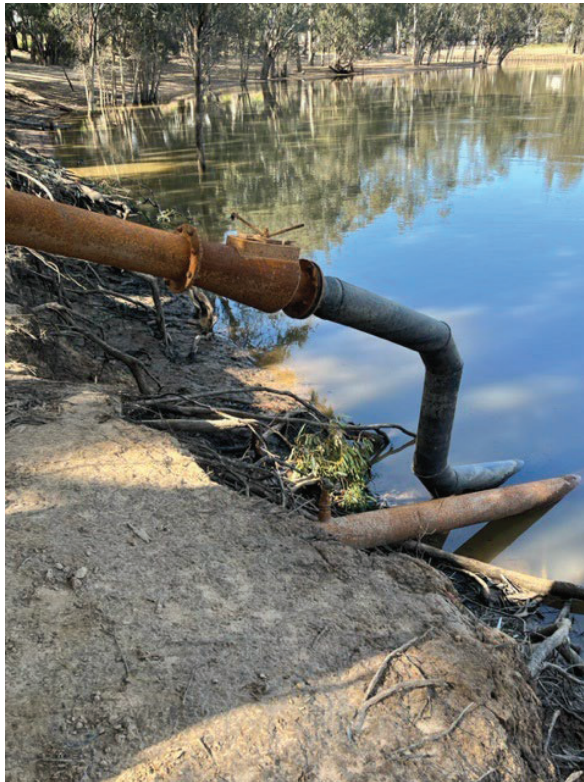
Terry

See below:









“If you want to build a ship, don’t drum up people to collect wood and don’t assign them tasks and work, but rather teach them to long for the endless immensity of the sea.”
 Antoine de Saint-Exupery



Terry Dodds PSM | Chief Executive Officer
 Murray River Council
 Moama, NSW 2731
 PO Box 906, Moama, NSW 2731
 m 0417 425 948
 1300 087 004 | www.murrayriver.nsw.gov.au



HIGHLY COMMENDED 2023
 LGNSW Planning Awards
 Development Services
 Restructure

HIGHLY COMMENDED 2023
 Innovation in Special Events
 Moama Lights

WINNER 2022
 Innovation in Special Events
 Moama Lights

WINNER 2022
 Reporting to your Community
 Cemetery Digitisation Project

HIGHLY COMMENDED 2022
 Excellence in Communication
 'Turn the Border Green' campaign







Murray River Council
PO Box 906
Moama NSW 2731
p 1300 087 004
e admin@murrayriver.nsw.gov.au
w www.murrayriver.nsw.gov.au

11 October 2023

Councillor Peta Betts
Mayor
Edward River Council
180 Cressy Street
Deniliquin NSW 2710

Email: council@edwardriver.nsw.gov.au

Dear Peta

RE: In response to your letter dated 4 October 2023

Thank you for your congratulations on my new role at Mayor of Murray River Council.

We indeed are fronting similar issues of ongoing flood recovery, threat of bushfires and being neighbouring LGA's allows for the possibility to work together, sharing each of our strengths during uncertain times. Discussing and learning from each other will definitely assist both our communities.

I note that you're going to contact me so we can arrange a time to meet. If you could as you Executive assistant to make direct contact with Lindy Leyonhjelm on 0428990592 they will be able to arrange a suitable time for us to meet.

I look forward to meeting you and forming a strong working relationship moving forward.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Frank", is written over the "Kind regards" text.

Frank Crawley
Mayor

Document ID:



Murray River Council
PO Box 906
Moama NSW 2731
p 1300 087 004
e admin@murrayriver.nsw.gov.au
w www.murrayriver.nsw.gov.au

11 October 2023

The Hon. Adam Marshall
Member of Parliament
Northern Tablelands

Email: northerntablelands@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Dear Adam

RE: BILL TO TRANSFER RFS 'RED FLEET' OWNERSHIP TO STATE GOVERNMENT

I personally would like to thank you for the introduction of your Private Member's Bill into State Parliament, amending the Rural Fires Act 1997, to transfer the ownership of NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) vehicles, fire trucks and buildings from local councils back to the State Government. We believe this private member's bill, would, if supported appropriately recognise that Rural Fire Service (RFS) assets are vested with the NSW RFS for accounting recognition purposes.

Striving for financial sustainability is proving to be never ending and a continually moving target, as transferring of responsibilities from Commonwealth and State government to Local Government makes it increasingly difficult to balance the needs of our communities and provision of essential services. Logical corrections like this private members Bill will go a long way in supporting Local Government in Regional, Rural and Remote NSW

Murray River Council is carrying a value of \$3,364,519 for the RFS Buildings and Lands, with an annual depreciation of \$51,481. It is a bitter pill to swallow when we have no control over the assets, how they are used, maintained or what is purchased.

Murray River Council fully support this bill, it is necessary for longevity and financial surety for the future of all NSW Local Government areas. We have sent letters to our local Member of Parliament, Helen Dalton and the Premier of NSW, Chris Minns, MP to request their full support to pass the Bill.

Once again, thank you for seeing the way forward in bringing this Bill to Parliament. It is refreshing to see logic coming to fruition and the support of NSW Local Government Areas.

Yours sincerely

Cr Frank Crawley
Mayor

Document ID:



Murray River Council
PO Box 906
Moama NSW 2731
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e admin@murrayriver.nsw.gov.au
w www.murrayriver.nsw.gov.au

11 October 2023

Helen Dalton MP
Member for Murray
228 Cressey Street
Deniliquin NSW 2710

Email: murray@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Dear Helen

RE: BILL TO TRANSFER RFS 'RED FLEET' OWNERSHIP TO STATE GOVERNMENT

Member for Northern Tablelands the Hon Adam Marshall has introduced a Private Member's Bill into State Parliament, amending the Rural Fires Act 1997, to transfer the ownership of NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) vehicles, fire trucks and buildings from local councils back to the State Government, we believe this private member's bill, would, if supported appropriately recognise that Rural Fire Service (RFS) assets are vested with the NSW RFS for accounting recognition purposes.

Financial sustainability ranked as the number one issue in the annual survey this year, and logical corrections like this private members Bill will go a long way in supporting Local Government in Regional, Rural and Remote NSW

All NSW Local Government areas are expected to carry the assets currently controlled by RFS, while other functionality is controlled by the RFS and yet the Councils are responsible for paying for the maintenance and depreciation of the assets. Murray River Council is carrying a value of \$3,364,519 for the RFS Buildings and Lands and incur an annual depreciation charge of \$51,481.

For this bill to pass through parliament your help is needed, for longevity and financial surety for the future of all NSW Local Government areas, the passing of this bill is extremely important.

It is expected that the vote on the Bill will be Thursday 12 October, I would encourage you to support the Member for Northern Tablelands –The Hon Adam Marshall when he presents the Bill for voting.

Yours sincerely

Cr Frank Crawley
Mayor

Document ID:



Murray River Council
PO Box 906
Moama NSW 2731
p 1300 087 004
e admin@murrayriver.nsw.gov.au
w www.murrayriver.nsw.gov.au

11 October 2023

The Hon Chris Minns MP
Premier NSW
GPO Box 5341
Sydney NSW 2001

Email: kogarah@parliament.nsw.gov.au

The Hon Chris Minns MP

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11 October 2023

Yvonne Lingua
Executive Officer
RAMJO
Email: Yvonne.Lingua@alburycity.nsw.gov.au

Dear Yvonne

RE: BILL TO TRANSFER RFS 'RED FLEET' OWNERSHIP TO STATE GOVERNMENT

Member for Northern Tablelands the Hon Adam Marshall has introduced a Private Member's Bill into State Parliament, amending the Rural Fires Act 1997, to transfer the ownership of NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) vehicles, fire trucks and buildings from local councils back to the State Government, we believe this private member's bill, would, if supported appropriately recognise that Rural Fire Service (RFS) assets are vested with the NSW RFS for accounting recognition purposes.

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For this bill to pass through parliament your help is needed, for longevity and financial surety for the future of all NSW Local Government areas, the passing of this bill is extremely important. Could you please encourage all member of RAMJO to send through their support of this bill and contact their State MP and let them know how important it is that they support the Private Members Bill.

It is expected that the vote on the Bill will be Thursday 12 October, I would encourage all RAMJO members to support the Member for Northern Tablelands –The Hon Adam Marshall when he presents the Bill for voting.

Yours sincerely

Cr Frank Crawley
Mayor

Document ID:



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11 October 2023

Mr. Brett Whitworth
Deputy Secretary
Office of Local Government
Locked Bag 3015
NOWRA NSW 2541

Email: olg@olg.nsw.gov.au

Dear Sir,

I refer to your correspondence dated 1 September 2023.

Nature of the Committee

There appears to be some confusion in your correspondence regarding the nature of the Village and the reasons for imposing rates upon the Committee.

Firstly, Council is not aware of how an entity came to be registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (**ACNC**) known as the 'Mathoura Retirement Village, however, Council understands that it is common ground of the existing Committee members and the Council that the Committee is not a charity and ought not to have been registered with the ACNC.

Publicly available reports filed with ACNC by the purported charity are taken from publicly available reports of Council and should never have been filed. Council intends to work with the Committee and ACNC to resolve this matter and cause the Charity to be wound up.

Secondly, Council has always understood, and continues to understand, that the Committee is a committee of Council under section 355 of the *Local Government Act 1993 (Act)* and that all assets of the Committee are Council's assets, dealt with on Council's behalf by the Committee.

Council is currently engaged in reviewing its section 355 committees of Council to determine whether the various committees in place should continue, and, for those committees that will continue, put in place codes of conduct, terms of reference and guidelines to ensure better performance and clearer delineation of responsibilities moving forward. This work is ongoing and quite substantial.

Purported invalidity of rates

As the Committee is not a not a public benevolent institution or public charity Council does not agree that the exemption under section 556(1)(h) of the Act applies. Further regarding your concern that the Council has imposed rates on the residents, Council seeks to clarify that all rates paid by the Committee have been paid from Council money held by the committee as a committee of Council under section 355 of the *Local*

Document ID:

Government Act 1993 (Act), such that if any rates were invalidly made, and were to be rescinded, Council would be returning those rates to itself.

Loan Repayments

I refer to your concern that the Committee and/or residents *"were, and are, being called on to the meet loan repayments."*

Council wants to make it clear that the Committee, as previously constituted, requested the loan for the purpose of the works that were to be undertaken. This loan was to be serviced by the future income received by the Committee from new and existing tenants. The newly constituted Committee has since represented to Council that it does not have the expertise to undertake the works or manage the loan, and Council has resolved to return the loan to Council and has engaged a third party to review the Committees management of the facility.

Given the review of Council's section 355 committees more broadly, and representations by the Committee regarding its ability to undertake its current responsibilities in circumstances where its members are volunteers, it is likely that the scope of responsibilities of the Committee will be substantially reduced pursuant to the aforementioned review. However, Council is keenly aware of the need to ensure that the continuity of the services to the community provided by the Village, and Council does not wish to pre-empt the outcome of the external review and consultation with the Committee by confirming the structure of the arrangement moving forward.

In reflection, it has become clear that most, if not all, of Council's 355 Committees, that there has been a dilution of knowledge over time as membership changes, which has occurred in parallel with aging demographics, a reduction in volunteers, changes of staff, fiscal constraints (Council), and in many instances, raised expectations. Council has not placed the effort required into ensuring terms of reference, communication channels, and the required level of diligence has been part of our business discipline. Council recognised this, especially in relation to our two Villages, and has employed a manager to oversee the review and renewal of all 355 Committees.

As council progresses, we will keep the OLG informed on progress.

Yours sincerely,

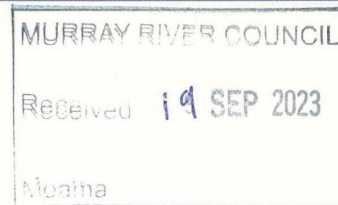


Terry Dodds
Chief Executive Officer

sr



Mr Terry Dodds
Chief Executive Officer
Murray River Council
PO Box 906, Moama, NSW 2731



Dear Terry,

thank you for your letter. Putting the issue of nuclear power generation on the energy agenda in Australia is something I also support and I am in support of the motion on the issue that you have sent me.

With the continuing shut downs of coal fired power, and the delay in replacement from renewable energy sources, partly due to community opposition to a massive network of transmission lines traversing our rural and regional areas; discussing the option of nuclear energy is something I believe should be occurring at all levels of government.

I note the comments of the head of the Australian Energy Market Operator, Daniel Westerman, who has warned the level of investment in renewable energy may not be enough to meet future targets. Similarly, the head of the Clean Energy Finance Corporation, Ian Learmonth, has also said investment in renewable energy is falling behind what will be needed.

With this in mind, at the very least, discussing the option of nuclear energy is something that I believe is necessary.

Rather than governments deciding, lets put the option of nuclear energy on the table and let the market decide the feasibility of nuclear energy generation in this country.

David Alexander, chief of policy at the Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, has recently written:

“The availability of nuclear energy may end up being the difference between Australia meeting its emission reduction targets in an affordable way or failing those aims.”

Paul Farrow, recently appointed as leader of the Australian Workers Union, said last month that nuclear energy needs to be on the agenda for discussion when considering our future energy needs.

As I am sure you would agree, affordability of energy is an issue affecting many people in your local government area and beyond. So all options need to be looked at and that includes nuclear energy, in particular small modular reactors.

I thank you for your letter and please stay in touch on this important issue.

Yours sincerely

Helen Dalton



Mathoura RSL Sub-Branch



President
John Petschauer

Secretary
Sue Wilson

Lindy Leyonhjelm
Murray River Council

Good morning Lindy,

As Secretary of the Mathoura RSL Sub-Branch, I formally request the presence of Council representation at our upcoming Remembrance Day Service to be held at 10.45am on Saturday 11th November.

The Councillor/s would not be required to speak but the President, John Petschauer, invites them to lay a wreath on behalf of Council.

I look forward to a positive response at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely

Sue Wilson
Secretary
E: susannewilson7@bigpond.com
M: 0413 024904



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PO Box 906
Moama NSW 2731
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13 October 2023

Mr Graeme Nalder
Moulamein

Email: [REDACTED]

Dear Graeme,

Thank you for the email you have sent to our administration email on Tuesday 3 October regarding the Moulamein Wharf and request for a meeting.

There has been some discussion at Executive level regarding the current dangerous state of the Moulamein wharf following the flooding event last year. Currently it is closed to public as it could topple over at any time, given the pictures that have been taken of the wharf and the damage to the under-deck, we are unable to see that repairs will be sufficient to ensure public safety.

We are bringing a discussion of Moulamein wharf to a Councillor workshop and reviewing grant application opportunities that may assist in ensuring the wharf can be repaired/rebuilt and keep to its heritage as an attraction for Moulamein.

We will be in touch after internal deliberations have been completed, assessing the damage and funds that are required to rebuild the wharf.

Thank you for taking the time to contact Murray River Council.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Terry Dodds".

Terry Dodds
Chief Executive Officer

Document ID:

Telco Authority



Our reference: BN-06327-2023

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

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

Critical Communications Enhancement Program in Murray River Council Local Government Area

Dear Mr Dodds

This is an update on the NSW Government's Critical Communications Enhancement Program (CCEP) within the Murray River Council Local Government Area (LGA).

Under the CCEP, NSW Telco Authority (NSWTA) is expanding and enhancing the Public Safety Network (PSN) for emergency services organisations. This network provides critical, secure and reliable radio communications to frontline responders.

PSN sites have been pivotal in protecting communities and supporting the emergency response to the 2019/2020 Black Summer bushfires and the widespread floods of 2021 and 2022 across NSW.

This Information Pack has been prepared to update you on the progress and the status of PSN sites within your LGA.

If any member of your community requires more information, please direct them to our website, nsw.gov.au/telco-authority, call **1800 794 862** or email ccepinfo@customerservice.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D Marrant".

David Marrant
Director Stakeholder Engagement
NSW Telco Authority

16 October 2023

Telco Authority



**CRITICAL COMMUNICATIONS ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM
Murray River Council Local Government Area (LGA)**

Development permitted without consent

NSWTA is the determining authority for the proposals under Part 5 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* and works associated with the CCEP will be categorised as **Development permitted without consent** under the *State Environmental Planning Policy (Transport and Infrastructure) 2021* Clause 2.141(1) (TISEPP).

Council will be consulted regarding potential impacts on council-related infrastructure or services, heritage or flood liable land and where the proposal involves a new tower or mast, NSWTA will notify Council and owners/occupiers of land adjoining the proposal site.

Responses received within 21 days of the TISEPP notification will be examined and considered, along with all matters affecting or likely to affect the environment. This will be documented in a Minor Works or Review of Environmental Factors.

Where Council is an infrastructure and/or landowner, NSWTA design partners Catalyst ONE Pty Ltd and Ventia Pty Ltd will continue to liaise with Council regarding property and planning activity for these assets.

Telco Authority



Critical Communications Enhancement Program

Details of sites and associated works planned or underway in the Murray River Council LGA

ACMA ID	Site Name	Street Address	Lot / DP	Landowner	Site Proposal	Vendor partner	Status
10026563	Bunnaloo	Road reserve adjacent to Blaxland Street Bunnaloo NSW 2731	Road Reserve, directly north of Lot 1 / DP520525, off Blaxland Street Bunnaloo NSW 2731 (no title)	The Council of the Shire of Wakool (Murray River Council)	Greenfield: installing new radio communications infrastructure on a site where there is no such infrastructure	Visionstream (Ventia)	Site design currently undergoing assessment (SAED*)
35607	Mathoura	67 Golf Club Road Mathoura NSW 2710	Lot 12 / DP756303	Private landowner	Greenfield: installing new radio communications infrastructure on a site where there is no such infrastructure	Catalyst ONE	Site design currently undergoing assessment (SAED*)
201494	Moulamein	Baldon Road Moulamein NSW 2733	Lot 2 / DP1038073	Private Landowner	Greenfield: installing new radio communications infrastructure on a site where there is no such infrastructure	Visionstream (Ventia)	Site design currently undergoing assessment (SAED*)

Telco Authority



ACMA ID	Site Name	Street Address	Lot / DP	Landowner	Site Proposal	Vendor partner	Status
9009000822	Tooleybuc	432 Coomaroop Road Tooleybuc NSW 2736	Lot 1 / DP1130632	Private landowner	Greenfield: installing new radio communications infrastructure on a site where there is no such infrastructure	Catalyst ONE	Site design currently undergoing assessment (SAED*)
204310	Keri Keri	35812 Sturt Highway Keri Keri NSW 2711	Lot 100 / DP1155525	Private landowner	Colocation: upgrading and/or installing equipment on existing communications infrastructure	ServiceStream	Construction to start end of October 2023
10029578	Barham	6749 Moulamein Road Barham NSW 2732	Lot 149 / DP722016	Department of Planning Industry and Environment - Crown Lands	Greenfield: installing new radio communications infrastructure on a site where there is no such infrastructure	Downer EDI	Construction underway
10026384	Calimo	2520 Calimo Road Calimo NSW 2710	Lot 51 / DP756267	Private landowner	Greenfield: installing new radio communications infrastructure on a site where there is no such infrastructure	Downer EDI	Construction underway
9021127	Noorong	3759 Noorong Road Noorong NSW 2732	Lot 48 / DP756569	Department of Planning Industry and Environment - Crown Lands	Colocation: upgrading and/or installing equipment on existing communications infrastructure	Downer EDI	Construction underway

Telco Authority



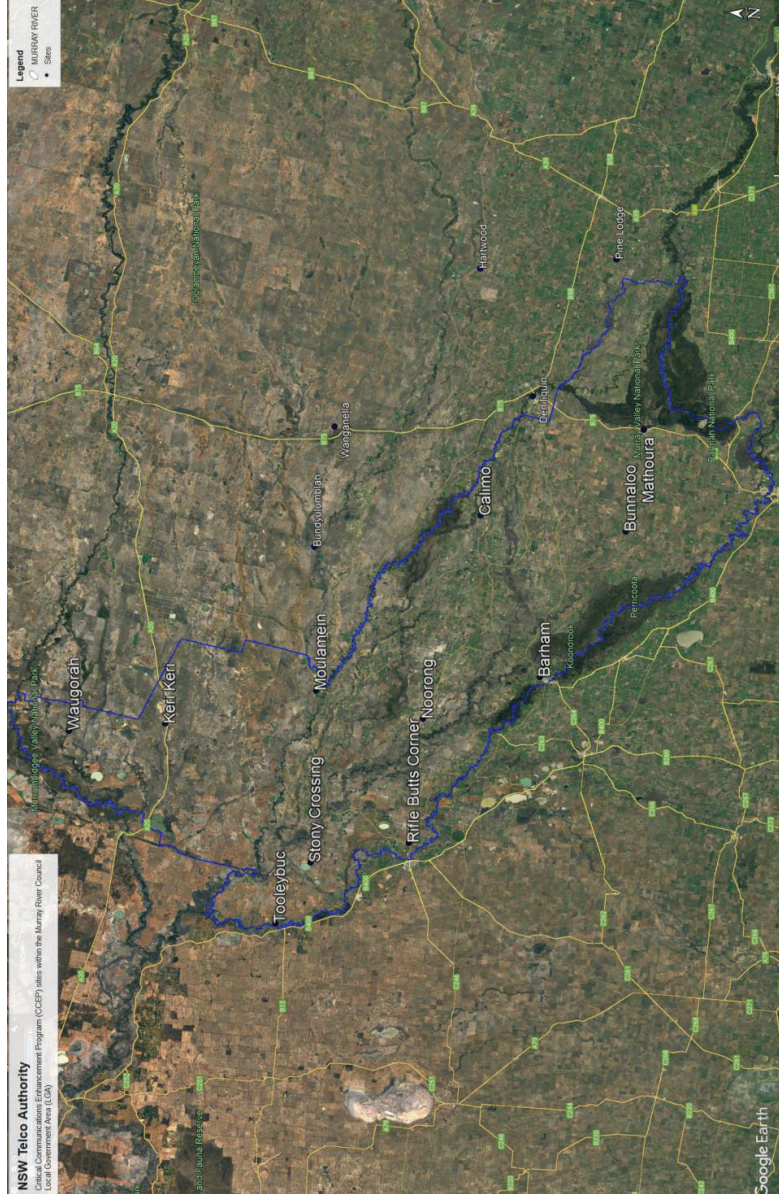
ACMA ID	Site Name	Street Address	Lot / DP	Landowner	Site Proposal	Vendor partner	Status
10031513	Waugorah	Waugorah Road Waugorah NSW 2711	Lot 23/ DP751241	Nari Nari Tribal Council Ltd	Greenfield: installing new radio communications infrastructure on a site where there is no such infrastructure	ServiceStream	Construction underway
10026381	Rifle Butts Corner (formerly Swan Hill)	Noorong Road Murray Downs NSW 2734	Lot 2 / DP867626	Private landowner	Greenfield: installing new radio communications infrastructure on a site where there is no such infrastructure	ServiceStream	Construction completed. Awaiting Operational Acceptance
9971	Stony Crossing	1681 Lake Poomah Road Stony Crossing NSW 2734	Lot 21/ DP756538	Private landowner	Colocation: upgrading and/or installing equipment on existing communications infrastructure	Downer EDI	Construction completed. Awaiting Operational Acceptance

* Site Acquisition, Environment and Design (SAED). While a site is in SAED, the site details are not determined.

Telco Authority



Map of sites in Murray River Council LGA



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 26 September 2023 through to 23 October 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:

- 26 Sept: Councillor Pre-briefing and Council meeting
- 28 Sept: Interview with Swan Hill Guardian newspaper RE Mayoral 12-month plan
- 29 Sept: Meeting with MRC CEO
- 4 Oct: Meeting with MRC CEO
- 5 Oct: ABC Mildura Phone interview RE Mayoral 12-month plan
- 6 Oct: Community Grants Assessment meeting
- 9 Oct: Meeting with MRC CEO & Meeting with Bridge Art Dev Appl
- 10 Oct: Monthly Councillor Workshop & Western Regional Planning Panel
- 10 Oct: Moama Lions Community Village meeting
- 11 Oct: Attendance to Wakool Southern Riverina DRP Community session
- 12 Oct: Attendance to Barham Southern Riverina DRP Community Session
- 13 Oct: Small Business Month Event – RRG
- 13 Oct: Attendance to Moulamein Southern Riverina DRP Community Session
- 16 Oct: Virtual meeting with COO Southern Cross Care (NSW & ACT)
- 16 Oct: Southern Riverina DRP Stakeholder reference group meeting #1
- 16 Oct: Meeting with MRC CEO
- 17 Oct: Housing Strategy Final adoption discussion & interview Riverine Herald
- 18 Oct: Meeting with MRC CEO
- 20 Oct: Southern Riverina DRP Stakeholder reference group meeting #2
- 23 Oct: Meeting with MRC CEO

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

- 26 Sept: Councillor Pre-briefing and Council meeting
- 6 Oct: Community Grants Assessment meeting

- 10 Oct: Monthly Councillor Workshop
- 12 Oct: Attendance to Barham Southern Riverina DRP Community Session
- 13 Oct: Attendance to Moulamein Southern Riverina DRP Community Session
- 16 Oct: ABC interview regarding Swan Hill/Murray Downs Bridge
- 17 Oct: Housing Strategy Final adoption discussion

Councillor Nikki Cohen reported on her attendance at the following meetings and functions:

- 26 Sept: Councillor Pre-briefing and Council meeting
- 3 Oct: Friends of Old Moama Meeting
- 10 Oct: Monthly Councillor Workshop
- 17 Oct: Housing Strategy Final adoption discussion

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

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

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

Nil

11 CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council moves out of Open Council into Closed Council at [Enter time](#).

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 Lot 1, DP 793207 - Cobb Highway, Moama - Interim Report

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.

11.2 WATER BILLING - CORRECTION OF ERROR

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).

RECOMMENDATION

That Council moves out of Closed Council into Open Council at [Enter time](#).

RECOMMENDATION

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

12 CONCLUSION OF MEETING