

## **AGENDA**

# Ordinary Council Meeting Tuesday, 10 December 2024

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

Date: Tuesday, 10 December 2024

Time: 2:00 PM

**Location: Council Chambers** 

Moama Administration Office 52 Perricoota Road, Moama

Sarah Ryan Acting Chief Executive Officer

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	<b>MURRAY RIVER</b>	COUNCIL	<b>Ordinary</b>	Council	Meeting	Agenda
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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 NOVEMBER 2024

File Number: -

Author: Lindy Leyonhjelm, Executive Assistant

Authoriser: Sarah Ryan, Acting Chief Executive Officer

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

That the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Murray River Council held on 26 November 2024 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

#### **DISCUSSION**

Murray River Council held its Ordinary Meeting of the Council on Tuesday 26 November 2024, commencing at 1:00pm at the Tooleybuc Sporting Club, Lot 1. Lockhart Road, Tooleybuc.

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

#### **ATTACHMENTS**

1. Unconfirmed minutes Ordinary Meeting of Council Tuesday 26 November 2024 🗓 🖺

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# MINUTES OF MURRAY RIVER COUNCIL ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

HELD AT THE TOOLEYBUC SPORTING CLUB, LOT 1 LOCKHART ROAD, TOOLEYBUC NSW 2736

ON TUESDAY, 26 NOVEMBER 2024 AT 1:00 PM

PRESENT: Cr John Harvie (Mayor), Cr Neil Gorey (Deputy Mayor), Cr Joy Allan, Cr Dennis

Gleeson, Cr Gary Pappin, Cr Geoff Wise

ONLINE: Cr Kylie Berryman, Cr Gen Campbell, Cr Bianca Hurn

IN ATTENDANCE: Sarah Ryan (Acting Chief Executive Officer), Lindy Leyonhjelm (Executive

Assistant), Jessica Mc Farlane (Acting Director Planning & Environment), Stephen Fernando (Director Corporate Services), Jack Bond (Director Infrastructure), Beck Hayward (Acting Director Economic Development &

Community Services)

ONLINE: Sandra Gordon (Manager Governance & Risk)

#### 1 OPENING MEETING

The Mayor held a short appropriate prayer.

#### 2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Mayor opened the meeting with an Acknowledgement of Country.

#### 3 APOLOGIES & APPLICATIONS FOR A LEAVE OF ABSENCE

#### **3 ATTENDANCE TO COUNCIL MEETING VIRTUALLY**

#### **RESOLUTION 111124**

Moved: Cr Gary Pappin Seconded: Cr Joy Allan

That Councillors Campbell, Berryman & Hurn attend the meeting through vitual attendance to the

meeting be granted.

**CARRIED** 

#### 4 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

#### 4.1 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES - ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON 22 OCTOBER 2024 & EXTRA ORDINARY MEETING HELD 12 NOVEMBER 2024

#### **RESOLUTION 121124**

Moved: Cr Dennis Gleeson Seconded: Cr Neil Gorey

That the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Murray River Council held on 22 October 2024 & Extra Ordinary Meeting held on 12 November 2024 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

**CARRIED** 

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#### SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

#### **RESOLUTION 131124**

Moved: Cr Dennis Gleeson Seconded: Cr Geoff Wise

That the Council suspend standing orders for presentation of a certificate to retiring Councillor Ann

Crowe.

**CARRIED** 

#### **RESUMPTION OF STANDING ORDERS**

#### **RESOLUTION 141124**

Moved: Cr Gary Pappin Seconded: Cr Kylie Berryman

That the Council resume standing orders.

**CARRIED** 

Questions without notice arising from minutes of previous meeting/s

#### 5 DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS

Cr John Harvie declared a Pecuniary Conflict of Interest in Item 9.3.1 Temporary Levee – Tindarra under the Director Infrastructure Reports and Supplementary Matters.

Cr Gen Campbell declared a Significant Non-Pecuniary Conflict on Interest in Item 11.2 Recommended Award of Tender – MRC2425 Moama Soundshell Playground Construction Stages 2 & 3 in Confidential Matters.

Cr Bianca Hurn declared a Significant Non-Pecuniary Conflict on Interest in Item 11.2 Recommended Award of Tender – MRC2425 Moama Soundshell Playground Construction Stages 2 & 3 in Confidential Matters.

#### 6 DEPUTATIONS

#### 7 MAYORAL MINUTE(S)

#### **MOVE INTO CLOSED COUNCIL**

#### **RESOLUTION 151124**

Moved: Cr Dennis Gleeson Seconded: Cr Geoff Wise

That the Council moves out of Open Council into Closed Council at 1:13pm.

**CARRIED** 

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Item 11.3 Mayoral Minute - Chief Executive Officer Recruitment Panel recommendation to appoint recruitment agency was brought forward for discussion in closed session.

#### **MOVE INTO OPEN COUNCIL**

#### **RESOLUTION 161124**

Moved: Cr Dennis Gleeson Seconded: Cr Geoff Wise

That the Council moves out of Closed Council into Open Council at 1:25pm

CARRIED

#### 8 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Nil

#### 9 REPORTS TO COUNCIL

#### 9.1 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS REPORT AND SUPPLEMENTARY MATTERS

#### 9.1.1 2024 SCHOOL PRESENTATION FUNCTIONS

#### **RESOLUTION 171124**

Moved: Cr Geoff Wise Seconded: Cr Neil Gorey

That Councillors determine their attendance at each of the annual presentation functions of the district schools who have requested Councillor attendance (and in some cases to present the Council sponsored award), as detailed in the report.

**CARRIED** 

Barham High School - Cr Pappin

Barham Public School - Cr Gorey

Bunnaloo Public School - Cr Wise

Deniliquin High School - Cr Allan

Deniliquin South Public School - Mr Jack Bond

Mathoura Public School - Cr Berryman

Moama Grammar Secondary - TBC (Council officer to be confirmed)

Moama Grammar Primary - Cr Hurn

Moama Public School - Cr Campbell

Moulamein Public School - TBC (Council officer to be confirmed)

St Michaels Primary School - Cr Allan

Tooleybuc Central School - Cr Pappin

Wakool/Burraboi School - Cr Gleeson

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#### 9.1.2 COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN (CSP) 2025-2035

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

That the Officer's report on Community Strategic Plan (CSP) 2025-2035 as at 13-11-2024 be received and Councillors endorse the plan to go to public consultation.

#### **RESOLUTION 181124**

Moved: Cr Kylie Berryman Seconded: Cr Gen Campbell

That Council hold over this report until after there has been a presentation to Council prior to Council approval to endorse the plan to go to public consultation.

CARRIED

### 9.1.3 RESOLUTIONS OF THE COUNCIL - RESOLUTION TRACKER & INFOCOUNCIL ACTION REPORTS

#### **RESOLUTION 191124**

Moved: Cr Kylie Berryman Seconded: Cr Geoff Wise

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

**CARRIED** 

#### 9.1.4 MONTHLY OPERATIONAL REPORT

#### **RESOLUTION 201124**

Moved: Cr Geoff Wise Seconded: Cr Neil Gorey

That the Monthly Operational Report as of October 2024 be received and the information noted

by the Council.

**CARRIED** 

#### 9.2 DIRECTOR CORPORATE SERVICES REPORT AND SUPPLEMENTARY MATTERS

#### 9.2.1 QUALITY MANAGEMENT POLICY - FINAL ADOPTION

#### **RESOLUTION 211124**

Moved: Cr Neil Gorey Seconded: Cr Dennis Gleeson

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

**CARRIED** 

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#### 9.2.2 PUBLIC ART POLICY - FINAL ADOPTION

#### **RESOLUTION 221124**

Moved: Cr Neil Gorey Seconded: Cr Joy Allan

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

**CARRIED** 

#### 9.2.3 2023-2024 MRC ANNUAL REPORT

#### **RESOLUTION 231124**

Moved: Cr Dennis Gleeson Seconded: Cr Geoff Wise

That the 2023-2024 Murray River Council Annual Report be received and the information noted

by the Council.

**CARRIED** 

#### 9.2.4 FINANCIAL REPORT - UNAUDITED FY 24/25 PERIOD ENDING 31 OCTOBER 2024

#### **RESOLUTION 241124**

Moved: Cr Dennis Gleeson Seconded: Cr Geoff Wise

That Murray River Council (Council) resolve to receive the Monthly Financial Report for the period to October 2024 (FY 2024/25) and note its contents.

CARRIED

#### 9.2.5 QUARTERLY BUDGET REVIEW - PERIOD ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2024

#### **RESOLUTION 251124**

Moved: Cr Neil Gorey Seconded: Cr Dennis Gleeson

That Council resolve to:

- Adopt the budget variations as detailed within the report and any subsequent changes made to those votes, in Council's estimates of income and expenditure for 2024/2025 financial year, which includes changes to the 2024/2025 Capital Listing as updated per Attachment 3 and the following Reserve movements:
  - a. to fund Capital activities:
    - i. \$894,242 from General reserve
    - ii. \$1,133,615 from Water reserve
    - iii. \$957,019 from Sewer reserve

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- iv. \$544,198 from Waste reserve; and
- b. from Operational activities:
  - i. \$108,070 from the General reserve
  - ii. \$278,511 to the Water reserve
  - iii. \$715,792 to the Sewer reserve
  - iv. \$276,255 to the Waste reserve.

**CARRIED** 

#### 9.3 DIRECTOR INFRASTRUCTURE REPORT AND SUPPLEMENTARY MATTERS

At 1:55 pm, Cr John Harvie left the meeting.

#### 9.3.1 TEMPORARY LEVEE INSTALLATION - TINDARRA RESORT

#### **RESOLUTION 261124**

Moved: Cr Geoff Wise Seconded: Cr Kylie Berryman

That Council give approval to update the Moama Levee Owner's Manual to include the temporary construction of an earthen levee at Tindarra Resort to remove flood impact on lower land in Lignum Road area.

That upon inclusion into the Moama Levee Owner's Manual, Council no longer considers the affected land as 'flood prone land' for Planning purposes.

CARRIED

At 2:00 pm, Cr John Harvie returned to the meeting.

#### 9.3.2 MENINYA STREET PRECINCT PROJECT - NOVEMBER PROGRESS UPDATE

#### **RESOLUTION 271124**

Moved: Cr Neil Gorey Seconded: Cr Joy Allan

That Council:

- 1. Notes the Meninya Street Precinct Project Council adopted motions to date on the Project (attachment 1).
- 2. Note the Meninya Street Precinct Project November Progress Update

**CARRIED** 

#### 9.3.3 MENINYA STREET - DECISION ON ECHUCA STREET INTERSECTION

#### **MOTION**

Moved: Cr Kylie Berryman

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Seconded: Cr Neil Gorey

#### That Council:

- 1. receive the information contained in this report regarding the Meninya Street Precinct Project Functional Layout Plans; and
- 2. endorse one of the following options for the Meninya Street Precinct Project:

Option A) Council adopt functional layout plan option 1 to prioritise parking provision Option B) Council adopt functional layout plan option 2 to priories turning movements

#### **RESOLUTION 281124**

Moved: Cr Kylie Berryman Seconded: Cr Gen Campbell

That Council holds a workshop to have the new Council be updated on the Meninya St Project and hold over the decision until after that occurs.

That the Acting CEO obtains information from the Office of Local Government NSW on the ability for all Councillors to vote on the decisions in relation to Meninya St project due to the significance of the project to the community.

**CARRIED** 

### 9.3.4 MID MURRAY LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (INCORPORTING EDWARD RIVER COUNCIL & MURRAY RIVER COUNCIL)

#### **RESOLUTION 291124**

Moved: Cr Geoff Wise Seconded: Cr Gen Campbell

That the DRAFT minutes of the Mid Murray Local Emergency Management Committee (incorporating Edward River Council & Murray River Council) together with the Mid Muray Local Rescue Committee held on 17 October 2024 be received and the information noted by the Council.

**CARRIED** 

### 9.4 DIRECTOR PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT REPORT AND SUPPLEMENTARY MATTERS

Nil

### 9.5 DIRECTOR COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORT AND SUPPLEMENTARY MATTERS

### 9.5.1 MURRAY RIVER COUNCIL COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM, ROUND 1 FY25 ALLOCATION OF FUNDS

#### **RESOLUTION 301124**

Moved: Cr Gen Campbell Seconded: Cr Geoff Wise

That:

1. Council funds the below projects under Round 1 of the 2024-25 Community Grants Program.

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2. An additional \$4,997 be allocated, with the funding source to be determined upon completion of Round 2 of the Community Grants Program. This additional funding may be drawn from either the 2024-25 Quick Response Grant Program or Round 2 of the Community Grants Program, subject to the number of applications received.

Group	Project Title	Total Amount Requested	Total Project Cost	Amount Recommended
Moulamein Preschool Inc	Moulamein Day Care	\$3,000	\$15,000	\$3,000
Bunnaloo Hall Committee	Defibrillator	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000
Mathoura Preschool	Picnic Table	\$ 445	\$445	\$ 455
Border Flywheelers Club Inc.	Standard Boiler and Reciprocating Steam Engine Training for Regional Volunteers.	\$3,000	\$8,930	\$ 3,000
Tooleybuc Cricket Club affiliated with the Tooleybuc Sporting Club	New Fridge	\$ 2,650	\$ 2,650	\$ 2,650
Noorong Community Centre	Basketball and seating	\$3,000	\$3,961	\$ 3,000
Murray Haven Homes Ltd	Photography project with High School – print and frame	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000
Caldwell Hall Management Committee	New Sound System – speakers, mix amplifier and microphone	\$3,000	\$ 4,250	\$3,000
Moulamein Community Development Inc	Automated drip irrigation system and concrete path	\$ 2,998	\$ 5,597	\$ 2,998
Moulamein Lawn Tennis Club	Furnish and shade structure	\$3,000	\$4,000	\$ 3,000
Echuca Moama Triathlon Club Inc.	Triclub trolley and road signage	\$ 1,059	\$1,059	\$1,059
Wakool Soldier Settlers Memorial Walk Action Group	Honouring local servicemen from Wakool and the surrounding district	\$ 2,829	\$ 3,389	\$ 2,829
Barham Koondrook Cricket Club Incorporated	Barham Recreation Reserve Cricket Net Improvements	\$ 2,900	\$ 3,400	\$ 2,900
Moama Echuca Touch Football Association	PA System for Announcements	\$1,116	\$1,116	\$1,116
	TOTALS	\$ 34,997	\$ 59,797	\$ 34,997

Cr Berryman left the meeting at 2:15pm

#### 9.5.2 AGM MINUTES - GOODNIGHT HALL & RECREATION RESERVE S355 COMMITTEE

#### **RESOLUTION 311124**

Moved: Cr Neil Gorey Seconded: Cr Geoff Wise

That Council

 Revoke existing members of the Goodnight Hall & Recreation Reserve Committee of Management and

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(a) Pursuant to Section 355 of the Local Government Act 1993 appoint new committee members nominated at the October 2024 AGM.

**CARRIED** 

Cr Berryman returned to the meeting at 2:16pm

#### 9.5.3 AGM MINUTES - KORALEIGH RECREATION RESERVE & HALL \$355 COMMITTEE

#### **RESOLUTION 321124**

Moved: Cr Neil Gorey Seconded: Cr Dennis Gleeson

That Council

- Revoke existing members of the Koraleigh Recreation Reserve & Hall Committee of Management and
  - (a) Pursuant to Section 355 of the Local Government Act 1993 appoint new committee members nominated at the October 2024 AGM.

**CARRIED** 

#### 9.5.4 AGM MINUTES - MOULAMEIN LAKE S355 COMMITTEE

#### **RESOLUTION 331124**

Moved: Cr Dennis Gleeson Seconded: Cr Geoff Wise

That Council:

- 1. revoke existing members of the Moulamein Lake Committee of Management; and
- Pursuant to Section 355 of the Local Government Act 1993 appoint new committee members nominated at the September 2024 AGM.

**CARRIED** 

#### 9.5.5 SECTION 355 COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES AS AT OCTOBER 2024

#### **RESOLUTION 341124**

Moved: Cr Bianca Hurn Seconded: Cr Neil Gorey

That Council receive and note the October Section 355 Committee report.

**CARRIED** 

#### 9.5.6 AGM MINUTES - MOAMA LIONS COMMUNITY VILLAGE S355 COMMITTEE

#### **RESOLUTION 351124**

Moved: Cr Joy Allan

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Seconded: Cr Neil Gorey

That Council

- Revoke existing members of the Moama Lions Community Village Committee of Management and
  - (a) Pursuant to Section 355 of the Local Government Act 1993 appoint new committee members nominated at the August 2024 AGM.

**CARRIED** 

#### 9.5.7 MATHOURA RETIREMENT VILLAGE - UNIT 1 TENANT ENDORSEMENT

#### **RESOLUTION 361124**

Moved: Cr Joy Allan Seconded: Cr Dennis Gleeson

That Council endorse the Mathoura Retirement Village Committee of Management's recommendation for unit one (1) ingoing tenant.

CARRIED

Cr Gleeson left the meeting at 2:32pm

### 9.5.8 DISSOLVE SECTION 355 COMMITTEE - BARHAM RECREATION RESERVE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE.

#### **RESOLUTION 371124**

Moved: Cr Neil Gorey Seconded: Cr Gary Pappin

That Council

- 1. Dissolve the Barham Recreation Reserve Committee of Management pursuant to Section 355 of the Local Government Act 1993.
- 2. Hold any balance of funds in a reserve to be used at the Barham Recreation Reserve.

**CARRIED** 

Cr Gleeson returned to the meeting at 2:34pm

### 9.5.9 DISSOLVE SECTION 355 COMMITTEE - MOAMA RECREATION RESERVE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE.

#### **RESOLUTION 381124**

Moved: Cr Neil Gorey Seconded: Cr Geoff Wise

That Council

- 1. Dissolve the Moama Recreation Reserve Committee of Management pursuant to Section 355 of the Local Government Act 1993.
  - (a) Hold any balance of funds in a reserve to be used at the Moama Recreation Reserve.

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Endorse the current Moama Recreation Reserve Committee as an Advisory Committee of Council.

**CARRIED** 

### 9.5.10 DISSOLVE SECTION 355 COMMITTEE - KYALITE HALL & RECREATION RESERVE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE.

#### **RESOLUTION 391124**

Moved: Cr Geoff Wise Seconded: Cr Gary Pappin

That Council

- Dissolve the Kyalite Hall & Recreation Reserve Committee of Management pursuant to Section 355 of the Local Government Act 1993; and
- 2. Allow the balance of funds in the Section 355 Committee Account to remain with the committee for their intended use.

**CARRIED** 

#### 9.6 CORRESPONDENCE REPORT

#### 9.6.1 CORRESPONDENCE REPORT

#### **RESOLUTION 401124**

Moved: Cr Neil Gorey Seconded: Cr Kylie Berryman

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 411124**

Moved: Cr Dennis Gleeson Seconded: Cr Joy Allan

That the Sundry Delegates Report of the Mayor and Councillors for the period 8 October 2024 through to 31 October 2024 be received and the information noted by the Council; and reasonable out of pocket expenses be met by Council.

**CARRIED** 

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#### 10 NOTICE OF MOTIONS/QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE

10.1 NOTICE OF MOTION - THAT MURRAY RIVER COUNCIL MAKE A SUBMISSION INTO THE "INQUIRY INTO MODERN DAY SLAVERY RISKS FACED BY TEMPORARY MIGRANT WORKERS IN RURAL AND REGIONAL NEW SOUTH WALES

#### **RESOLUTION 421124**

Moved: Cr Neil Gorey Seconded: Cr Joy Allan

That Murray River Council submits a submission into the "Inquiry into modern day slavery risks faced by temporary migrant workers in rural and regional New South Wales".

That the Mayor and staff contribute to the report and it is shared with both Cross Border Commissioners and that Federal and State members on both sides of the river receiving a copy of the submission.

**CARRIED** 

At 2:53 pm, Cr Gen Campbell left the meeting.

#### 11 CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS

#### **RESOLUTION 431124**

Moved: Cr Kylie Berryman Seconded: Cr Geoff Wise

That Council moves out of Open Council into Closed Council at 3:02pm.

**CARRIED** 

At 3:03 pm, Cr Gen Campbell returned to the meeting.

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#### RECOMMENDATION

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

#### 11.1 2025 Australia Day Awards

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

### 11.2 Recommended Award of Tender - MRC2425 Moama Soundshell Playground Construction Stages 2 & 3

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

### 11.3 Mayoral Minute - Chief Executive Officer Recruitment Panel recommendation to appoint recruitment agency

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.

#### **RESOLUTION 481124**

Moved: Cr Dennis Gleeson Seconded: Cr Kylie Berryman

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

**CARRIED** 

#### 11.1 2025 AUSTRALIA DAY AWARDS

#### **RESOLUTION 441124**

Moved: Cr Kylie Berryman Seconded: Cr Bianca Hurn

That

- 1. Council determine the recipients of the following awards to be conferred on Australia Day:
  - Citizen of the Year;
  - Young Citizen of the Year;
  - Young Sportsperson of the Year;

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- Sportsperson of the Year;
- Community Group of the Year;
- Arts/Culture Award (group or individual);
- · Community Event of the Year.
- 2. Councillors nominate which Australia Day event they will attend on 26 January 2025.
- 3. Council continue the usual practice of announcing winners prior to Australia Day.

**CARRIED** 

At 3:35 pm, Cr Bianca Hurn left the meeting.

At 3:35 pm, Cr Gen Campbell left the meeting.

### 11.2 RECOMMENDED AWARD OF TENDER - MRC2425 MOAMA SOUNDSHELL PLAYGROUND CONSTRUCTION STAGES 2 & 3

#### **RESOLUTION 451124**

Moved: Cr Kylie Berryman Seconded: Cr Geoff Wise

- 1. Considers the Tender Evaluation Report attached as Attachment 1 as evidence that a robust tender process has been undertaken.
- 2. Accepts the tender from the A.V. Builders Pty Ltd for Contract MRC-2425 Moama Soundshell Playground Construction for the lump sum of \$369,097.57 (including GST).
- Authorises the Acting Chief Executive Officer sign any documents which may be necessary to give effect to the contract.
- 4. Authorises the Acting Chief Executive Officer to approve a Purchase Order in the amount of \$369,097.57 (including GST).
- 5. Authorises Matthew Sherman, Project Manager, to act as Contract Superintendent and exercise all functions of Superintendent including the approval of variations which, when viewed on a cumulative basis, are within the overall project budget.

In Favour: Crs John Harvie, Neil Gorey, Joy Allan, Kylie Berryman, Dennis Gleeson, Gary Pappin and Geoff Wise

Against: Nil

CARRIED 7/0
CARRIED

### 11.3 MAYORAL MINUTE - CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECRUITMENT PANEL RECOMMENDATION TO APPOINT RECRUITMENT AGENCY

#### **RESOLUTION 461124**

Moved: Cr Kylie Berryman Seconded: Cr Neil Gorey

The panel members recommend that,

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- Council appoints recommended recruitment services for the position of Chief Executive
  Officer at a cost quoted in the body of this report, plus GST for complete recruitment,
  including psychometric testing and
- 2. Authorise the Mayor to negotiate costs, to a maximum of \$7000 + GST, for advertising and travel

In Favour: Crs John Harvie, Neil Gorey, Joy Allan, Kylie Berryman, Gen Campbell, Dennis

Gleeson, Bianca Hurn, Gary Pappin and Geoff Wise

Against: Nil

CARRIED 9/0 CARRIED

At 3:43 pm, Cr Gen Campbell returned to the meeting.

At 3:43 pm, Cr Bianca Hurn returned to the meeting.

#### **RESOLUTION 471124**

Moved: Cr Geoff Wise Seconded: Cr Gary Pappin

That Council moves out of Closed Council into Open Council at 3:44pm.

**CARRIED** 

#### 12 CONCLUSION OF MEETING

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, THE MEETING CLOSED AT 3:49pm.

The next Ordinary Meeting of Murray River Council will be held on Tuesday 10 December 2024, commencing at 1:00 PM, in Council Chambers, Moama Administration Office, 52 Perricoota Road, Moama.

THESE MINUTES ARE SIGNED AS A TRUE AND ACCURATE RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE MURRAY RIVER COUNCIL HELD ON 26 NOVEMBER 2024, IN ACCORDANCE WITH A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL ON 10 DECEMBER 2024.

MAYOR	CEO

- 5 DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS
- 6 DEPUTATIONS
- 7 MAYORAL MINUTE(S)

Nil

8 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Nil

#### 9 REPORTS TO COUNCIL

#### 9.1 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS REPORT AND SUPPLEMENTARY MATTERS

#### 9.1.1 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY REVIEW 2024

File Number: -

Author: Zoe Croft, Manager Community Engagement
Authoriser: Sarah Ryan, Acting Chief Executive Officer

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

That the Officer's report on Community Engagement Strategy Review 2024 as at 26-11-2024 be received by the Council and the strategy placed on public display for public comment for 28 days.

#### DISCUSSION

As part of the Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) Framework, Council is required to develop and implement a Community Engagement Strategy, and within 3 months of the election review the Community Engagement Strategy.

The Community Engagement Strategy is designed to provide a framework for Council to provide information and receive feedback from the community to assist with the delivery of services and plan for the future.

Council is also required to develop a Community Participation Plan, under the *Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act), which outlines how and when Council will engage with the community across its planning-related functions. The Plan must set out mandatory and nonmandatory requirements for community participation in planning, including minimum exhibition periods.

The Community Engagement Strategy and Community Participation Plan are interlinked and as such Council has joined these documents together, allowing for a coordinated approach to Community Engagement.

The Strategy has been reviewed within minimal updates. The Actions within the Strategy remain current.

#### **ATTACHMENTS**

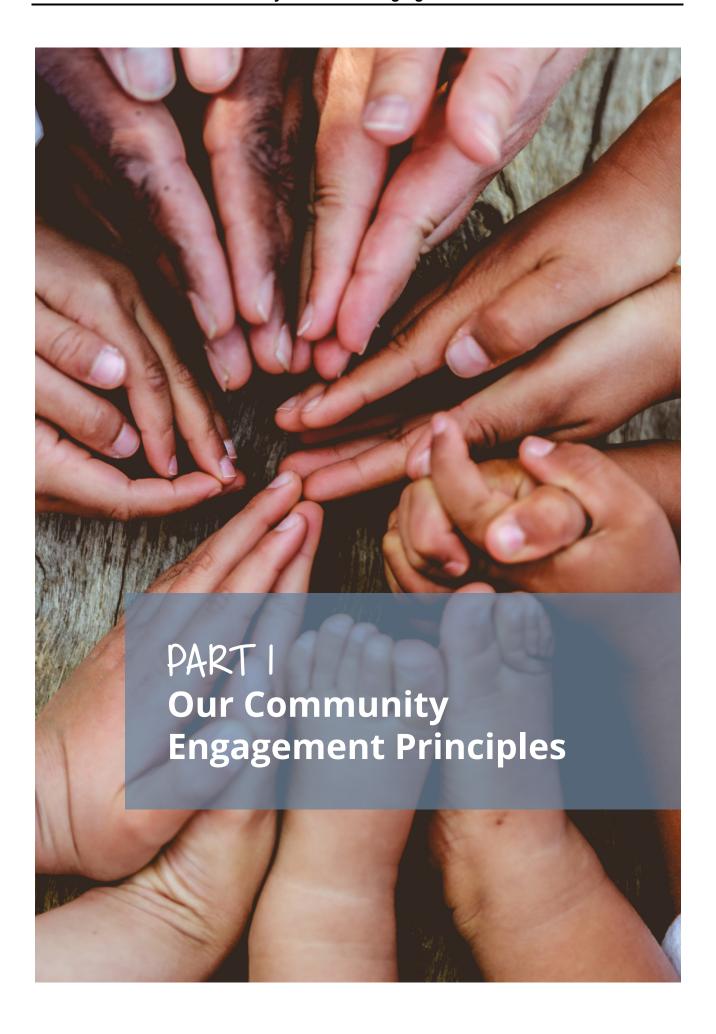
1. Community Engagement Strategy 2024 4 🖫





# Contents

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Our Vision and Values





Here at Murray River Council, we believe that conversations and interactions with our community will enhance customer services and transform and strengthen the relationship between Council and its residents.

This Community Engagement Strategy has been prepared as a framework to support the delivery of Council's Community Strategic Plan (CSP) and general operational activities, and has been prepared to satisfy the requirements of a Community Participation Plan being prepared under the provisions of the EP&A Act, which is detailed in Part 4 of this document.

Council needs to provide information to, and receive information back from the community to deliver its services and plan for our future. This means creating an environment where our daily interactions with community members are heard, captured in a measurable way and used to inform decision making.

We believe the key to this approach is the ability to actively listen and develop processes which consider community views and allow the knowledge, experiences and aspirations of our customers to be at the forefront of Council operations.

As such, this strategy looks to lay the foundation work needed to achieve this and to encourage open, transparent and active relationships between Council and the Community.

Implementing this Strategy is the shared responsibility of the entire Murray River Council organisation and applies to Councillors, staff, contractors and consultants. The Strategy recognises that the key to successful community engagement is a productive and collaborative partnership between all stakeholders.

# Why we engage

Murray River Council is a business that delivers a range of services and maintains approximately \$1.4 billion worth of assets. Our 13,326 residents value the quality of their towns, facilities and lifestyle and want to be well informed and involved in council's delivery of items that affect the things that are important to them.

Not every decision or project of council requires the same level of engagement, but if we continue to strengthen relationships with communities, engagement activities will become ongoing dialogues rather than isolated actions.

This strategy is therefore based on two key strategic aims:

We want to liaise with the community on relevant projects to ensure all stakeholders are informed, and where appropriate, build meaningful engagement opportunities where community feedback is invited and considered.

We want to increase public awareness of Council's objectives, activities and services and develop an environment of trust, transparency, mutual respect and confidence between the community, stakeholders and Council.

# Who we engage with

Broadly, our community includes people who live, work, and access services, participate or contribute to community life in Murray River Council.

Therefore our principle stakeholders in regards to this strategy would include:

- residents and ratepayers;
- · local businesses, industry groups and potential investors;
- developers and future residents;
- · service providers;
- community groups, sports, clubs and local organisations;
- those who work and volunteer in our LGA;
- users of particular facilities;
- · other levels of government or organisations, including emergency services
- Council staff, councillors and contractors.





# How we'll engage

Council's overall approach to community engagement has been informed by the International Association of Public Participation (IAP2) spectrum. The IAP2 spectrum is an internationally recognised platform used to provide guidance to the public service, not for profit sector, private industry and communities.

The spectrum identifies that there are different levels of engagement from "Informing" through to "Empowering". No single approach to engagement will serve every project or every stakeholder. The spectrum requires that the level of engagement must be determined by considering the issue, problem or opportunity requiring engagement, the objectives to be achieved by engaging and the extent that stakeholders can assist Council to make decisions. \*(International Association of Public Participation (IAP2) www.iap2.org.au)

	Increasing level of public impact					
	Inform	Consult	Involve	Collaborate	Empower	
Public participation goal	To provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problem, alternatives, opportunities and/or solutions	To obtain public feedback on analysis, alternatives and/ or decisions	To work directly with the public throughout the process to ensure public concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered	To partner with the public in each aspect of the decision, including the development of alternatives and identification of the preferred solution	To place final decision-making in the hands of the public	
Promise to the public	We will keep you informed	We will keep you informed, listen to and acknowledge concerns and aspirations, and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision	We will work with you to ensure your concerns and aspirations are directly reflected in the alternatives developed and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision	We will look to you for advice and innovation in formulating solutions and incorporate your advice and recommendations into the decisions to the maximum extent possible	We will implement what you decide	
Example	Community updates on maintenance or renewal works	Asking for community views on policies	Developing Council's Strategic Plans	Working with the community to develop plans and ideas for a new community space	Council delegates decision making to a particular group or sector – like Youth Committee for example	

# The right tools

Community engagement methods will vary depending on the goal of the participation, the impact of the decision, and the audience being engaged and their level of trust in Council, the level of public participation desired, complexity of the issue and the time frames and resources required.

Therefore, a mix of engagement methods is generally required to cater for different stakeholder needs, preferences and the level of participation Council is seeking to achieve. It should be noted that these are often not mutually exclusive and in most cases Council will use a combination of techniques to ensure the engagement process is successful.

Some examples include:

Inform	Consult	Involve	Collaborate	Empower
-Fact sheets -Website -Newsletters -Social media -Adverts -Letters -Emails -Media Releases -Presentations	-Surveys -Information sessions -Pop-up stalls -Focus groups -Meetings -Email submissions	-Focus groups -Workshops -Polling -Social media - YourSay online platform	-Stakeholder committees -Participatory decision making	-Citizen jury -Ballots -Delegated decisions

# When we engage

In broad terms, and in relation to this strategy, our community engagement will cover the following:

- Council policies, programs and projects that will have significant impacts on local people, community life, sense of place, the environment, business and the economy
- Strategic and corporate plans including the Community Strategic Plan and long-term Resourcing Strategy, 4-year Delivery Program, and annual Operational Plan (including the budget)
- Land-use and development plans, including the Local Strategic Planning Statement, Local Environmental Plan, Development Control Plans and Locality Plans
- All other matters where legislation requires community notification or consultation.

The delivery

The actual delivery of our engagement has been informed by five key elements to ensure we clearly define the scope of the public participation exercise, understand who is affected and how they should be included, and identify the resources, skills and time required for effective public participation. This process is linked to our Project Management Framework.

#### DEFINE

At this stage we will:

- · Assess the level of community impact and interest to determine when/if to engage
- Determine if we are informing the community or asking them to contribute to a decision
- Clearly define the project and the purpose of the engagement.

#### PLAN

At this stage we will:

- Prepare an engagement plan with clear objectives and stakeholder analysis
- Plan how to raise awareness and encourage participation.

#### IMPLEMENT

At this stage we will:

- Inform, consult, involve or collaborate with the community/stakeholders, or empower where relevant
- · Ensure internal stakeholders are aware of the engagement activities
- Measure quantifiable information including reach, feedback and participation levels.

### REPORT BACK

At this stage we will:

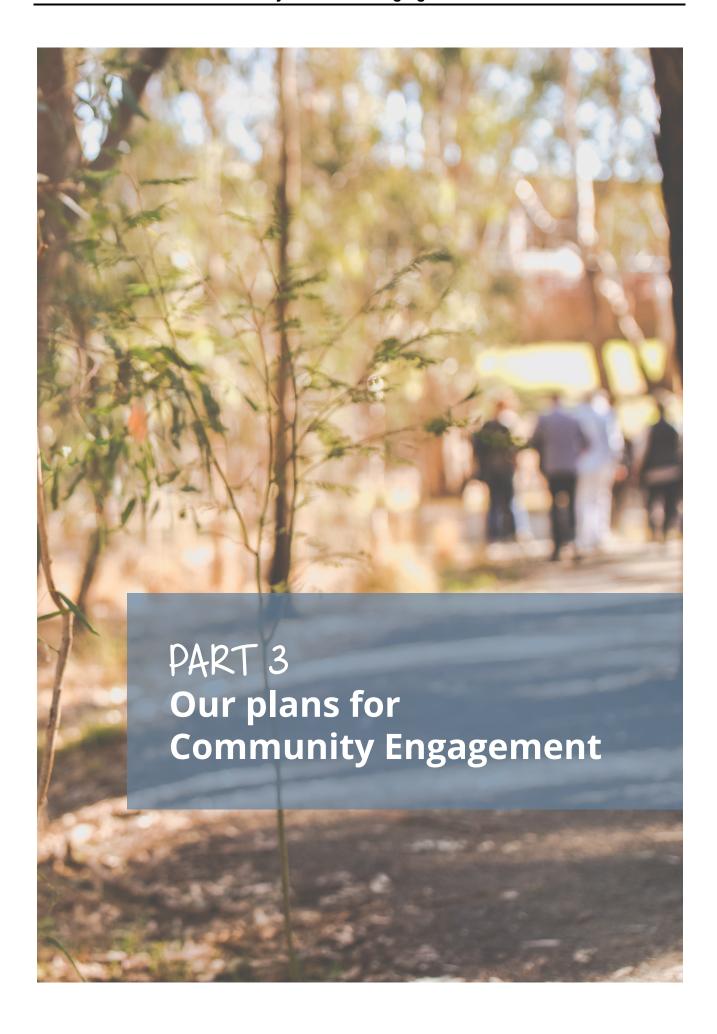
- · Give consideration to all feedback received unless the activity is for information only
- At agreed points, Council will report back to the community the results and outcomes of engagement and how decisions were influenced.

#### REVIEW

• In this stage Council will review the engagement process and what has been learnt during the implementation of the Community Engagement Plan.

This engagement process will be further unpacked in our internal toolkit.

We need to understand who is affected and how they should be included.



### The action plan

This updated Community Engagement Strategy builds on the principles initially adopted in the Community Engagement Strategy when Council was first formed in 2016. It provides greater clarity of our principles and opens up a space for a number of new actions to further develop Council's approach to genuine engagement with our community.

Successful implementation of the Strategy may require professional development opportunities for staff and Councillors to fully understand their role in community engagement. This development will work alongside the implementation of key, top level actions to meet our strategic aims, as listed below.

We want to liaise with the community on relevant projects to ensure all stakeholders are informed, and where appropriate, build meaningful engagement opportunities where community feedback is invited and considered.

What we have	What we'll do	Where we want to be
Whilst Council does engage, the organisation lacks any formalised Community Engagement Framework.	Develop a Community Engagement Framework- including Strategy (adoption of this document), and investigate the potential for an internal community engagement network to drive our engagement culture.	Council has a revised community Engagement Framework in place that assists Council to execute best practice community engagement whereby staff can identify the best method of engagement for each campaign and project
Council has an interactive online platform that brings all community engagement activities in to one place for the community to review and respond.	Further develop the online platform providing community members with an online location where they can review, consider and respond to community engagement related projects.  Ensure the activities in the online platform are able to be replicated in hard copy for additional participation to occur (we note our region still has issues with connectivity).	Council has in place an interactive online platform that provides the community with a clear line of sight to Council's projects. The online platform will be a place where community members can easily review project progress and understand how and when they can participate in the process. Not all Council projects will be noted, only those which require consultation or statutory obligation will be published.
Council's approach to Community Engagement is not consistently embedded in the early stages of project planning.	Develop and roll out a community engagement program that assists staff in understanding how to appropriately determine community engagement requirements on a project by project basis.	Council has embedded a consistent culture of community engagement whereby staff are considering engagement as early as possible in the project's development.

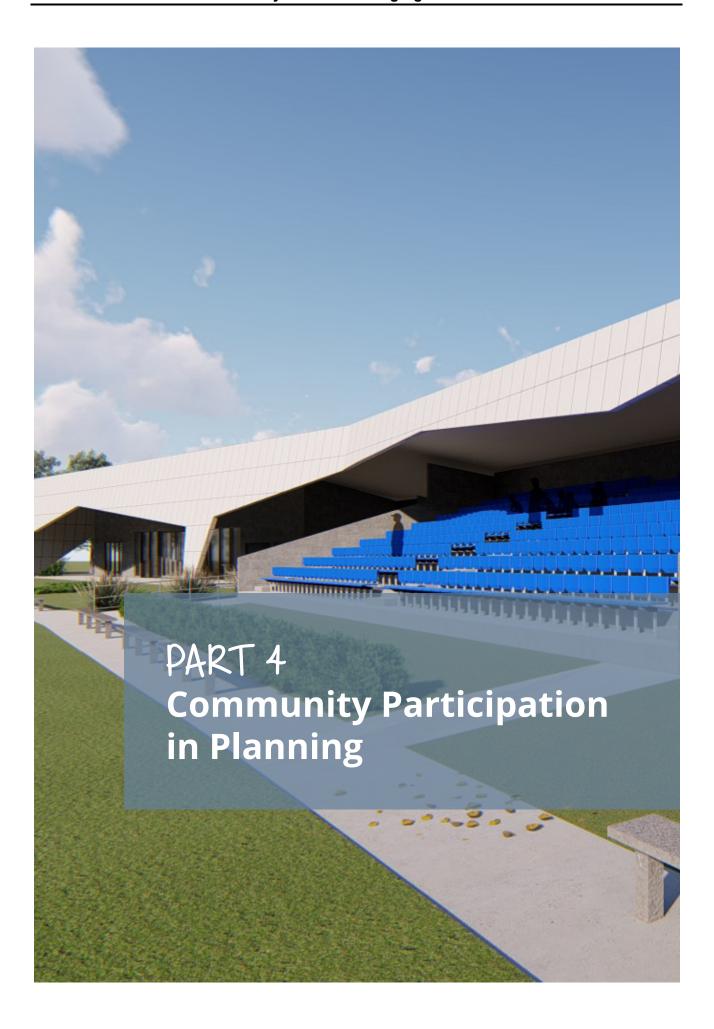
We want to increase public awareness of Council's objectives, activities and services and develop an environment of trust and confidence between the community, stakeholders and Council.

What we have	What we'll do	Where we want to be
Community has limited knowledge and understanding of Council services.	Implement a marketing campaign to build awareness and exposure to Council services and projects.	Increased community awareness and understanding of Council services.
Council does not currently have an internal process to assist portfolios to effectively promote their projects.	Develop an internal process that facilitates a co-ordinated and proactive approach to informing the community of Council's role.	Council has an embedded PR process that ensures all relevant projects are effectively communicated to the wider community.
Some organisational issues are currently impacting negatively on Community's trust of Council, via disengagement of staff.	Developing internal culture strategies to further strengthen community and Council relationships that seek to increase council and community interaction where appropriate.	Strengthened relationship between council and community whereby community feels a sense of trust in Council through their interactions with staff.
Community and internal stakeholders have limited exposure to our council values.	Continually promote our council values, vision and mission.	Council values are actively put into practice and community is confident that we display them.

### What does success look like?

The overall effectiveness of our Community Engagement Strategy is measured by Council decisions and actions that acknowledge and reflect quantifiable and evidence-based community input. This also includes stakeholder understanding of those decisions and actions, even if there is not always a shared agreement regarding the outcome. In top-level terms, success will mean:

- There is a commitment by Councillors and staff and common understanding of when to engage with the community in a meaningful and appropriate way about decisions that affect them
- We have consistently reached the participation targets in our engagement processes (number of participants/captured views etc)
- Council decisions and advocacy activities are evidenced by community engagement findings
- We have utilised online communication and engagement techniques, complementing traditional engagement methods
- We have provided a consistent and easy-to-understand process to guide staff through the engagement process for services, activities, projects or decisions
- We have met, and in some cases exceeded legislated engagement requirements.



This section – our Community Participation Plan (CPP) – has been developed to make participation in planning clearer for our community, detailing how and when you can participate in the planning system and the different types of proposals you may come across.

Murray River Council has a responsibility to deliver the objectives of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (EP&A Act), including the promotion of orderly and economic use of land, facilitating ecologically sustainable development and promoting social and economic wellbeing. Community participation is an overarching term covering how we engage the community in our work under the EP&A Act, including strategy development, plan making and making decisions on proposed development.

The level and extent of community participation will vary depending on the community, the scope of the proposal under consideration and the potential impact of the decision. We will however consistently make efforts to define the scope of the public participation exercise and understand who is affected and how they should be included.

As such, this section connects back to Part 2 of our Community Engagement Strategy which outlines our overall engagement approach.

# Community Participation Principles

As a planning authority striving for best-practice community participation, Council will have regard to the following, as guided by Section 2.23 (2) of the EP&A Act:

- (a) The community has a right to be informed about planning matters that affect it.
- (b) Planning authorities should encourage effective and on-going partnerships with the community to provide meaningful opportunities for community participation in planning.
- (c) Planning information should be in plain language, easily accessible and in a form that facilitates community participation in planning.
- (d) The community should be given opportunities to participate in strategic planning as early as possible to enable community views to be genuinely considered.
- (e) Community participation should be inclusive and planning authorities should actively seek views that are representative of the community.
- (f) Members of the community who are affected by proposed major development should be consulted by the proponent before an application for planning approval is made.
- (g) Planning decisions should be made in an open and transparent way and the community should be provided with reasons for those decisions (including how community views have been taken into account).
- (h) Community participation methods (and the reasons given for planning decisions) should be appropriate having regard to the significance and likely impact of the proposed development.

# Minimum requirements for Community Participation

Schedule 1 of the EP&A Act outlines the minimum requirements for the public exhibition of planning and policy documents and applications submitted to Council for determination. These minimum requirements are listed below:

Mandatory community participation requirements (as per Schedule 1, Part 1, Division 1 of the EP&A Act)	Minimum public exhibition requirement
Draft community participation plans (part four of this Strategy)	28 days
Draft Regional plans	45 days
Draft local strategic planning statements	28 days
Planning proposals for local environmental plans subject to a gateway determination	28 days or: (a) if a different period of public exhibition is specified in the gateway determination for the proposal—the period so specified, or (b) if the gateway determination specifies that no public exhibition is required because of the minor nature of the proposal—no public exhibition
Draft development control plans	28 days
Draft contribution plans	28 days
Application for development consent (other than for complying development certificate, for designated development or for State significant development)	14 days or: (a) if a different period of public exhibition is specified for the application in the relevant community participation plan—the period so specified, or (b) if the relevant community participation plan specifies that no public exhibition is required for the application—no public exhibition
Application for development consent for designated development	28 days
Nominated Integrated Development	28 days
Application for modification of development consent that is required to be publicly exhibited by the regulations	14 days or; The period (if any) determined by the consent authority in accordance with the relevant community participation plan
Environmental impact statement obtained under Division 5.1	28 days
	Exhibition timeframes are in calendar days, include weekends and begin when the information is placed on public exhibition (not directly after a Council meeting).

Non Mandatory exhibition timeframes	
Planning and general strategies	28 days
Masterplan and precinct plans	28 days
Environmental/Park space plans	28 days
	Exhibition timeframes are in calendar days, include weekends and begin when the information is placed on public exhibition (not directly after a Council meeting).

**Exclusion of Christmas/New Year period** - The period between 20 December and 10 January (inclusive) is excluded from the calculation of a period of public exhibition, therefore if practicable Council will delay Public Exhibition until after this period or extended the timeframes to include this period.

Consultation on DAs is carried out in accordance with Council's relevant Development Control Plan, and varies according to the nature, scale and likely impact of the proposal or project being considered or assessed. Not all proposals will be on public exhibition.

Typically though, DAs are advertised for at least 14 days and submissions then considered before decisions are made on balance – usually by a senior member of staff acting under delegated authority.

However, for a small percentage of applications the elected Council may require further public consultation and/or call up the matter to a Council meeting in order to make the decision itself, where there are a number of objections or conflicts with planning instruments.

## Encouraging engagement

A regular and valuable way for the communities to participate in the planning system is by making a submission on our strategic planning documents during an exhibition. You can also provide us with feedback at any time.

A key technique we use to encourage community participation is formal, public exhibitions. During an exhibition we make available relevant documents that may include a draft of the policy, plan or proposed development that we are seeking community input on.

The public exhibition process includes:

- giving notice to individual landowners/occupiers
- advertising the exhibition notice, including how submissions can be made
- making documents publicly available.

Council will not make any decision relating to a proposal until the submission period has ended.



Residents can provide us with feedback at any time.

## The exceptions

In the case of land use planning and development, Council's discretion over types and levels of engagement is sometimes limited:

- Some Development Applications (DAs) or Complying Development Certificates (CDCs) are classified as 'Exempt' or 'Complying' Development, and may be assessed by private Certifiers rather than Council staff. In these cases there can be little or no consultation.
- Proposals for very large and/or costly developments are determined by the State Government. Consultation on these proposals is normally guided by the statutory minimum requirements. In some cases the consultation provisions of Council's Development Control Plan may be applied, but Council still has no authority to make the final decision.

# Making a submission

Submissions relating to applications and other exhibited documents must be made in writing and be lodged with Council within the exhibition period specified in the public notice.

A submission must:

- Be in writing via council's Your Say platform
- · Clearly explain your view or opinion
- Be submitted by 4pm on the specified closing date
- Clearly reference the application, policy or plan on public exhibition
- · Include the author's name, address and daytime telephone number

## The submission process

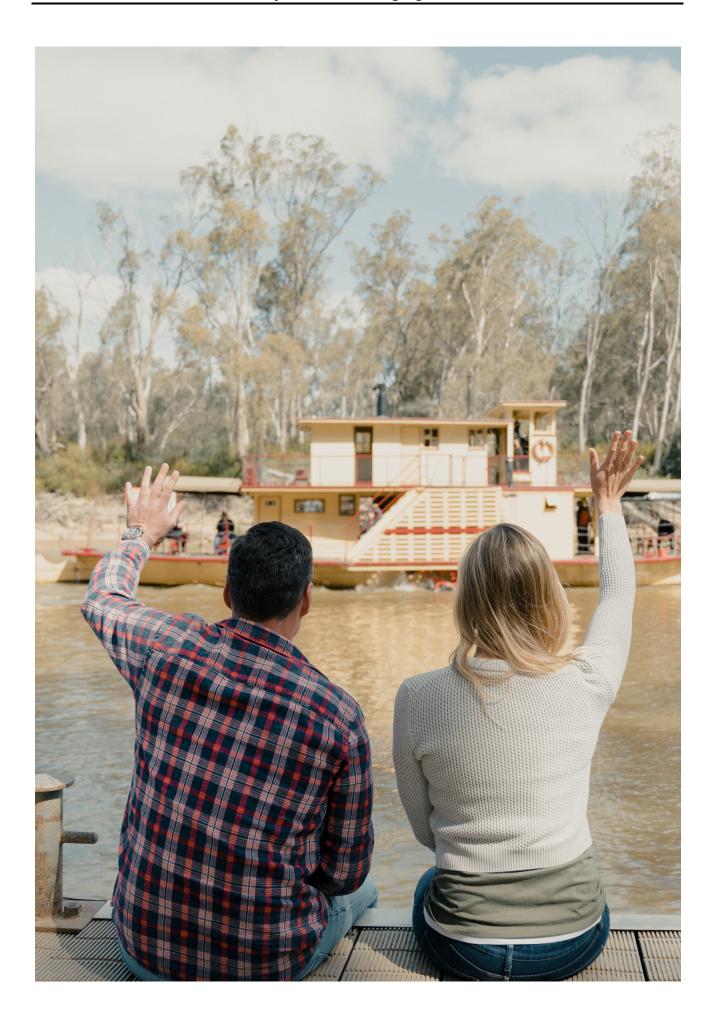
- Submission is made and assigned to the corresponding DA
- · Submission author details are recorded and submission is acknowledged
- Submission is considered in assessing the DA
- · Author is notified of outcome

We will provide the community with feedback on how we are responding to its input as part of our engagement activities.

We will provide reports to Council on the matter at hand which will include the community's feedback to demonstrate how we have given genuine and proper consideration to their input. In particular, a summary of the input is provided along with a description of how community views were considered in reaching a determination.

## Our commitment

We believe all levels of Government have a role in actively involving the community in planning for their home, towns and community. Council will therefore engage communities in relevant planning processes at the earliest possible opportunity to leverage local knowledge, ideas and expertise to ensure the best planning outcomes are reached.



## Our vision

Murray River Council has vibrant, diverse and cohesive communities. We are supported by strong local business and primary industries. We value our beautiful waterways and natural surrounds.

## Our values

Murray River Council has four core values that drive us in our dealings with the people we serve, our stakeholders and the community. We live these values every day:

#### Respect

Building trust to foster positive relationships that create an inclusive and supportive workplace and community.

#### **Accountability**

Taking responsibility for decisions and actions and being transparent about processes and outcomes.

#### **Integrity**

Acting honestly and ethically in all council activities.

#### Sustainability

We promote sustainability by committing to practices that support the long-term health of the environment, economy and society.

#### **Excellence**

We demonstrate excellence by committing to high standards in the delivery of all our services.

## Supporting Resources

MRC Community Engagement Framework (internal resource to be developed).

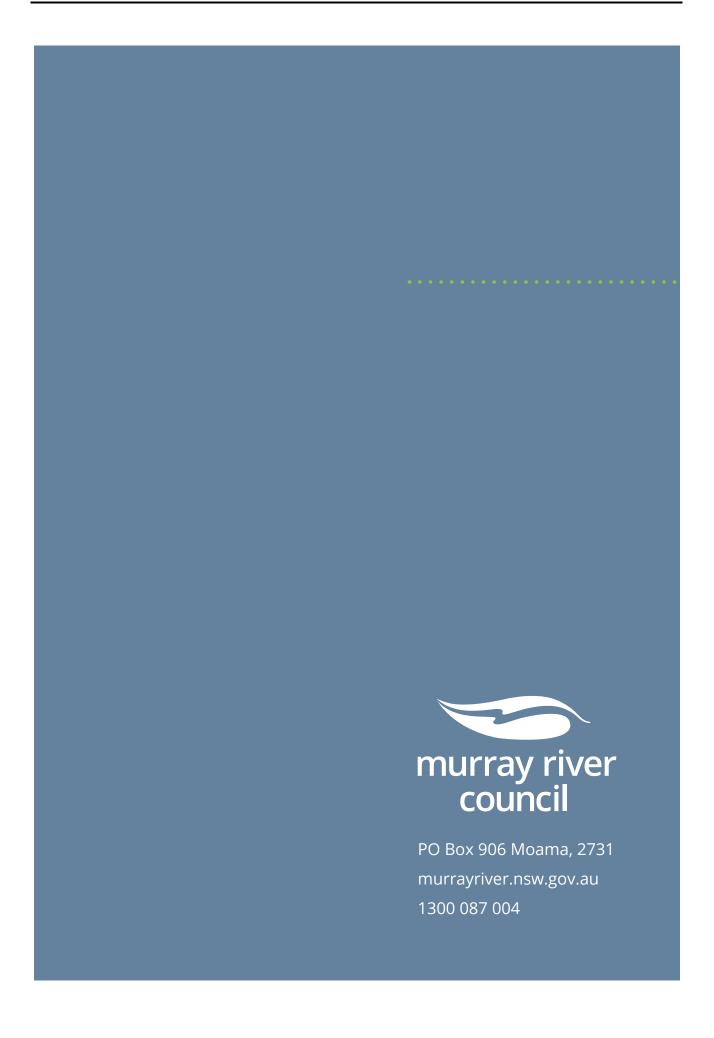
### Review

Within 3 months of the local government elections as part of a broader review of the Community Strategic Plan.

## References

International Association of Public Participation (IAP2): www.iap2.org.au www.communitybuilders.nsw.gov.au

NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment "Community Participation Plans - Guidance material to councils"



#### 9.1.2 RECOMMENDATION FOR THE SALE OF PART 21 MORAGO STREET, MOULAMEIN

File Number: -

Author: Chris Godfrey, Manager - Commercial, Plant & Property

Authoriser: Sarah Ryan, Acting Chief Executive Officer

#### RECOMMENDATION

#### Alternate Resolution 1

That Murray River Council (Council) resolve to:

- A undertake the sale of the land currently identified as Lot 1 DP 525866 (Northern Section only) and the residential building situated on that part of the land (the Property), through an open market approach of Competitive Direct Sale, such sale to be at a price no less than the higher of the two valuations (excluding GST) obtained for the said Property, and
- B authorise the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to undertake the necessary activities, including the appointment of a suitable independent real estate agent to undertake the sale and entering into & signing of the required contractual and other documents as necessary to give effect to the said sale.

#### Alternate Resolution 2

That Murray River Council (Council) resolve to:

- A undertake the sale of the land currently identified as Lot 1 DP 525866 (Northern Section only) and the residential building situated on that part of the land (the Property), using an Alternative Method of Disposal as identified in Council Policy No. POL-602 V#1 (the Policy), to achieve a specific policy objective of Council, namely, to promote the availability of adequate affordable retirement housing within Council's footprint, and
- B in keeping with the requirements of the Policy, direct the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to appoint an independent probity officer to review the process and provide a report for final consideration by Council, and
- C based on the request made by Edward River Gardens, invite Edward River Gardens to make an offer for the Property, and
  - 1) if the final offer is at or above the valuation as identified in the valuation (excluding GST) conducted by Preston Rowe Paterson, authorise the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to proceed to undertake the public display as required by the Policy for a period of 21 days, and on completion of the public display period, submit a report to council containing the feedback (if any) obtained through the public display, for a final determination by Council on the sale of the Property as a non-competitive direct sale to ERG, or
  - 2) if ERG is not willing to meet the valuation as identified by PRP, authorise the CEO to undertake the sale of the Property through an open market approach of Competitive Direct Sale, such sale to be at a price no less than the higher of the two valuations (excluding GST) obtained for the said Property, and undertake the necessary activities, including the appointment of a suitable independent real estate agent to undertake the sale and entering into & signing of the required contractual and other documents as necessary to give effect to the said sale.

#### **BACKGROUND**

In response to the recommendations of the Revenue Task Force, Murray River Council has undertaken to identify land and building assets that are surplus to current and expected future

requirements. In addition to a one-off revenue generation, such rationalisation reduces ongoing operating, maintenance and renewal expenditure. It will also generate some additional rates revenue.

#### **DISCUSSION**

This residential building on the Property was included in the internal consultation process with Council directorates and departments completed in November 2023 and determined as surplus. It has previously been used as a rental property and is currently vacant.

The Lot is currently being subdivided to separate the northern section, approx. 560m<sup>2</sup> currently identified as "Single Storey Dwelling" and the southern section, approx. 452m<sup>2</sup> currently identified as "Moulamein Business Centre".

The single storey dwelling (northern section) is what is to be disposed through this resolution. Diagrams provided on Pages 29 to 31 on the attached valuation document.

The land and buildings are classified as Operational and a valuation in accordance with Council's Land Acquisition and Disposal Policy has been obtained. A copy of the valuation report is attached for reference.

#### **Process for Disposal**

Council has in place a Land Acquisition and Disposal Policy - Policy No. POL-602 V#1 (Policy) to ensure that all land transactions are carried out in a consistent and transparent manner in keeping with applicable regulations.

The full Policy can be found at:

https://www.murrayriver.nsw.gov.au/files/assets/public/v/1/documents/policies/land-acquisition-and-disposal-policy-v1-28-03-2023.pdf

As per the Policy, the disposal of land can occur through the following means:

- Auction
- Expression of Interest
- Tender
- Competitive Direct Sale

The above means are designed to ensure that all interest parties have a fair opportunity to participate in the sale process and Council can obtain the best price for the land being disposed, as determined by the market at the time of sale.

Based on the circumstances of the Property, the most appropriate means of disposal would be a Competitive Direct Sale. This would involve the appointment of a real estate agent in keeping with the usual procurement processes, who would undertake a professional advertising campaign, and present Council with the offers received, with a recommendation on the most beneficial offer.

The Policy also recognises that there could be circumstances that require an alternative means of disposal, which serves a wider social, community or economic objective. Such methods are non-competitive. The policy identifies the following alternative methods, with the descriptions briefly indicating the reasoning for use of each method.

- Costs Exceed Value: Where the total costs of undertaking an open market method exceeds the value of the Disposal. This may occur where the disposal is of very low value.
- One (or Limited Number of) Buyers: For example, where a site is not large enough for development in its own right or where a site adjoins two owners such as laneways, and each owner is offered the option of buying the whole or a portion of the disposal.
- ➤ <u>Contractual Obligation</u>: Such as with a tenant with a first right of refusal, where that tenancy has been entered into as a result of a competitive open market process.

- ➤ <u>Disposal to Government or Utility</u>: Where the disposal is to a state or federal governmental entity or to a utility (such as water, sewer, electricity, gas, telecommunications) for the purpose of infrastructure provision.
- Extenuating Circumstances: Where, because of extenuating circumstances, remoteness of locality or the unavailability of competitive or reliable tenderers, Council decides by resolution (which states the reasons for the decision) that a satisfactory result would not be achieved by inviting tenders.
- Achieve Specific Policy Objectives: Where the primary and overwhelming purpose of the proposed disposal is to achieve one or more specified significant policy objectives of Council. This provides the Council with the required flexibility to negotiate an identified set of objectives.

Council has received a request from Edward River Gardens (EG), attached as Attachment 1, requesting special consideration to purchase this property when it becomes available for sale. The reasons for the request, as determined by the author(s) are contained in the said request.

Based on the request, and the alternative methods of disposal identified in the Policy, a direct non-competitive sale could be considered for purposes of "Achieving a Specific Policy Objective". In this instance, the policy objective would be to further the social objective of ensuring adequate affordable housing for the retired and aged segments of the population. It is a known fact that affordable retirement housing options are limited, especially in more regional locations such as Moulamein.

Such an objective would fall within theme 3 of Council's Community Strategic Plan – A place of Liveable Communities, and more specifically within objective 3.7 – Enable development of sustainable liveable communities - housing strategy.

ERG is a not-for-profit organisation and as a result any benefits (if any) accruing to the organisation as a result of the direct sale would accrue to the benefit of the community of Moulamein and the surrounds.

If such an off-market direct sale is to be considered, the Policy identifies a few conditions that needs to be adhered to:

- Proposed activity to be undertaken at the Property: As identified in the letter from ERG, the property is to be used for housing the Care Manager and a Registered Nurse who would be in the full-time employment of ERG.
- ➤ How such activities will contribute to the policy objective: Residential housing is in short supply in Moulamein, and as detailed in the letter from ERC is having difficulty providing housing for the two identified staff members. These are essential position for the retirement village to operate within regulations.
- Have appended two valuations: Two valuations for the Property are appended as confidential documents. The reason for maintaining confidentiality is as per s10(A)(c) of the Act information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business. Please note the Property is located in the corner of Morago and Carne streets and though the reference to the property is 20-21 Carne Street, the two valuations reports are for the same property.

While the valuation by Eishold is somewhat dated (November 2023), given the narrow range of the two valuations (bet 2-5%), the older valuation can still be considered valid. Given the Preston Rowe Paterson (PRP) Valuation is more recent (November 2024), that is considered the more relevant for the purpose of this report.

For a sale using an Alternate Method of Disposal, the Policy requires several public disclosure requirements to ensure transparency of the process as follows:

- o details of the land proposed for Disposal (location, extent etc.)
- o the fact that the Disposal will be through a direct, non-competitive process,
- o basic description of the activities to be undertaken at the identified location
- how such activities will contribute to the policy objectives of Council

- the proposed buyer,
- the proposed disposal price, and
- the valuation of the land as identified by the valuers,

with such information to be displayed for a period of 21 days, inviting public comment including any objections to the proposed sale. Any feedback and objections received to be considered by Council before a final resolution is adopted for the sale.

To ensure due process, in keeping with regulatory recommendations, the Policy requires the appointment of an independent probity officer for all sales using an Alternative Method of Disposal.

#### STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

- 3. Strategic Theme 3: A place of Liveable Communities
- 3.7 Enable development of sustainable liveable communities Housing Strategy.

#### **BUDGETARY IMPLICATIONS**

Proceeds from the sale of the land and buildings will have a positive impact on the cash position of Council.

If a sale to ERG is adopted at the market valuation, in addition to generating an additional cash flow, a social objective in keeping with Council's CSP will also be achived.

#### **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

Murray River Council Land Acquisition and Disposal Policy (POL602).

Murray River Council Asset Management Policy (POL305).

#### LEGISLATIVE IMPLICATIONS

Local Government Act 1993. (The Act)

Local Government (General) Regulations 2021.

Conveyancing Act 1919.

#### **RISK ANALYSIS**

- What can happen?
  - 1. Minimal or no demand for the property.
  - 2. Significant objections are received to the sale to ERG.

#### How can it happen?

- Fluctuating economic conditions
- 2. Community discontent or other NFP entities wanting the Property.

#### What are the consequences of the event happening?

- Sales income will not be generated immediately, and Council will continue to hold and manage the property.
- 2. Council would need to decide on whether to proceed using an Alternative Method of Disposal.

#### What is the likelihood of the event happening?

- 1. Unlikely based on agent advice and valuer's assessment.
- 2. Possible.
- Adequacy of existing controls?

- 1. A minimum reserve price will be set.
- 2. No controls possible.
- Treatment options to mitigate the risk?
  - 1. Select a reputable real estate agent and conduct a decent marketing campaign.
  - 2. No treatment options possible, inform Council of any objections received.

#### **CONCLUSION**

Council will need to make a determination on whether it wants to undertake a transparent open market process for the disposal of the Property or whether it is comfortable using an Alternate Method of Disposal, as permitted in the Policy and undertake a direct sale to ERG, noting that if such a sale is undertaken at or above the valuation, Council would not be incurring a financial loss in furthering its social objectives.

#### **ATTACHMENTS**

- 1. Edward River Gardens Request for Special Consideration 4 Table 2
- 2. Preston Rowe Paterson Valuation 21 Morago Street, Moulamein (Residential Section) Confidential (under separate cover)
- 3. Eishold Valuation 20-21 Carne Street, Moulamein (Residential & Commercial) Confidential (under separate cover)



# EDWARD RIVER GARDENS

8 November, 2024

To: Ms Sarah Ryan, Acting CEO, Murray River Council

CC. The Hon Mayor, Councillor John Harvie

RE: Need for accommodation in Moulamein.

Edward River Gardens ( Moulamein Retirement Village Inc) is the biggest employer in the town of Moulamein, with 35 staff.

We have recently secured a Fulltime Care Manager; an experienced and qualified registered nurse, who commenced work at ERG on 21 October, 2024.

Gigi's family is keen to settle in Moulamein for the long term, as they prefer living in a remote location. Gigi's husband is working as a personal carer at the facility, while her young son has commenced at Moulamein Preschool. They are currently living in a small one bedroom holiday cottage on the banks of the Billabong Creek at Moulamein. (Paid for by ERG).

This is a short term arrangement , while we look for a long term rental property for the family to live in

Moulamein currently has a severe shortage of rental properties available.

The Board of ERG has investigated all available opportunities , and have resolved that the only way to secure suitable long term accommodation for our Care Manager at ERG , is to purchase a house in town.

We are aware that Murray River Council has plans to sell the house behind the Moulamein Business Centre, that has recently been subdivided off the Business Centre block, in readiness for sale.

The Board of Edward River Gardens respectfully request that Murray River Council give Edward River Gardens (Moulamein Retirement Village Inc) special consideration to purchase the house at 20 Carne Street, Moulamein, when it becomes available for sale.

We are in a position to negotiate a purchase price with Council.

We respectfully request that you take into consideration the significant contribution to Moulamein's economy that ERG makes.

Moulamein Retirement Village Inc. 38 Tallow Street, Moulamein, NSW 2733

Hon. President: Mr. Neville Willox Hon. Secretary: Ms. Deidre Howard Phone: 03 5888 9555



## EDWARD RIVER

In our Annual Report for 2024 , some key points include:

- Revenue for 23-24 was 2.038 million dollars
- Our operational costs were \$2.358 million dollars, all of which goes into the local economy, including employee expenses of \$1,352,562.
- We have 17 licensed beds, and cater for the needs of the local and neighbouring regions.
- Edward River Gardens history is a tale of true care
- In the 1970's Moulamein district and town determined to care for the district's elderly in a more compassionate manner, than having them pack up and send them off to far flung centres.
- ERG is now a universal facility ,with low, medium, and high care rooms
- Len Flottman of Moulamein, made a very generous donation, establishing a gift fund, the proceeds of which set up the facility.
- Now, in 2024, ERG is asking Council to enable us to keep our Fulltime Care Manager in Moulamein, by allowing us to purchase a house for her family to live in, and be able to contribute to the survival of ERG, and the Moulamein Community for the future.

Yours sincerely

Deidre Howard

Secretary

Governing Board of Edward River Gardens

Moulamein Retirement Village Inc. 38 Tallow Street, Moulamein, NSW 2733

Hon. President: Mr. Neville Willox Hon. Secretary: Ms. Deidre Howard Phone: 03 5888 9555

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## 9.1.3 RESOLUTIONS OF THE COUNCIL - RESOLUTION TRACKER & INFOCOUNCIL ACTION REPORTS

File Number: -

Author: Lindy Leyonhjelm, Executive Assistant

Authoriser: Sarah Ryan, Acting 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 COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN (CSP) 2025-2035

File Number: -

Author: Zoe Croft, Manager Community Engagement
Authoriser: Sarah Ryan, Acting Chief Executive Officer

#### RECOMMENDATION

That the Officer's report on Community Strategic Plan (CSP) 2025-2035 be received and Councillors endorse the plan to go to public consultation.

#### DISCUSSION

The Community Strategic Plan (CSP) is our 10-year plan. It outlines the community's aspirations and long-term vision and goals for Murray River Council and sets out the key strategies required to achieve these.

The CSP provides a framework to link our operational functions and services to the overall direction of council and is a requirement under the Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) Framework.

In 2022, Council developed and initiated a new CSP. The new CSP was designed with the intent of aligning our strategic focus with Councils services and provided an opportunity for business units to develop their strategies and actions plans, which in turn, allows for community growth and sustainability into the future. There was also an opportunity for investigation of the more than 1650 community requested projects to determine their viability and whether they were within or outside of Council scope.

Over the past 3 years we have worked to develop the strategies and action plans that align with Councils services and considered many of the ideas submitted during the 2022 CSP consultation process. We have tested ideas along the way and have done our best to incorporate as many as we can into our Delivery Plan and now our 'Business-as-Usual' processes.

The State of the Region Report – provided to Councillors at the October 2024 meeting, outlines the progress of the 2022-32 CSP, what strategic objectives have been embedded to Business as Usual, what strategic objectives have been completed or are outside of Councils current scope and what strategic objectives will continue into the 2025-35 CSP. This is an important bridging document between the 2022-2032 and 2025-2035 Community Strategic Plans.

The Community Strategic Plan 2025-2035 will see us further build on the strategies, action plans and projects which our communities have previously requested, and officers have identified to assist in the management of Council's services, and it is built based on current affordability. We have reviewed the 2022-32 themes and strategic objectives and determined they remain current and have streamlined the strategic objectives to allow for the 2025-2029 Delivery Program outcomes to be aligned and simpler to implement against the themes.

#### **ATTACHMENTS**

1. Community Strategic Plan 2024 November (under separate cover)

## 9.2 DIRECTOR CORPORATE SERVICES REPORT AND SUPPLEMENTARY MATTERS

9.2.1 PROPOSED ROAD NAMES, MURRINDAAL PARK STAGED SUBDIVISION, LOT 1 DP 1283567, LOTS 1-3 DP 854487, 420 – 508 PERRICOOTA ROAD, MOAMA NSW 2731

File Number: -

Author: Rebecca Ward, Assets Officer

Authoriser: Stephen Fernando, Director Corporate Services

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

Murray River Council (Council) resolve to adopt the road names; Watsonia Way and Thalia Avenue within the staged subdivision of Lot 1 DP 1283567, Lots 1-3 DP 854487, 420-508 Perricoota Road, Moama NSW 2731, as spatially depicted in Attachment 2 to this report.

#### **BACKGROUND**

Through resolution number 281024, Council resolved to request the developer of "Murrindaal Park Pty Ltd" to replace two road names "Waratah" and "Grevillia" due to such or similar names currently existing in Echuca. Susbequently, Council has received a request from the said developer to re-name the roads within the staged subdivision of Lot 1 DP 1283567, Lots 1-3 DP 854487, 420-508 Perricoota Road, Moama NSW 2731.

#### DISCUSSION

For the purposes of the Geographical Names Board NSW Address Policy Council are responsible for endorsing the authoritative road name of public roads and ensuring they are approved by the Geographical Names Board and gazetted.

The suggested names are based around Botanical Names and comply with the requirements of the Geographical Names Board. The names have been checked against the Victorian Geographical Names Board within our border community. The suggested names are as follows. Their location is shown in Attachment 1 & 2.

- Watsonia Way a botanical name (extents Lilly Pilly Lane to end of stage)
- Thalia Avenue a botanical name (extents Murrindaal Drive to end of stage)

#### STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

3. Strategic Theme 3: A place of Liveable Communities

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

#### **BUDGETARY IMPLICATIONS**

Nil

#### **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

Nil.

#### **LEGISLATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

Roads Act 1993.

#### **RISK ANALYSIS**

What can happen?

The road remains unnamed.

How can it happen?

Road not approved and gazetted.

What are the consequences of the event happening?

Difficulty identifying property, no spatial reference.

What is the likelihood of the event happening?

Medium to high

Adequacy of existing controls?

Good in that Council staff are available to carry out the formality of naming and gazetting the public road.

• Treatment options to mitigate the risk?

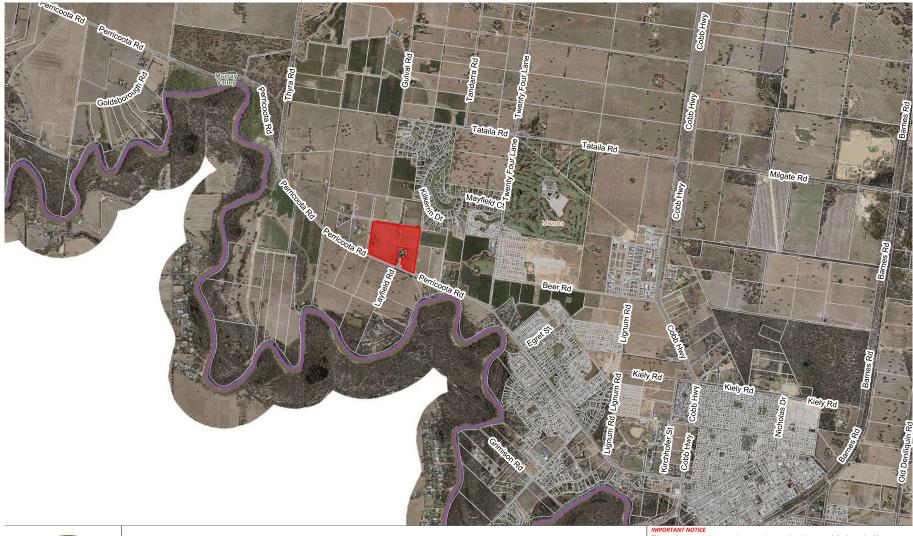
Council to pass a resolution to name the public road.

#### **CONCLUSION**

The proposed public road names comply with the Geographical Names Board guidelines for the naming of roads and are therefore supported.

#### **ATTACHMENTS**

- 1. Location Map Proposed Road Names Staged Subdivision Murrindaal Park Ltd Pty.pdf 🗓 🖫
- 2. Amendment Proposed Road Names Murrindaal Pty Ltd Staged Subdivision.pdf 🗓 🖺





Murray River Council Mapping Proposed Road Names - Staged Subdivision Murrindaal Park Pty Ltd

Printed 14/10/2024

Scale 1:36112



nade about the accuracy or suitability of the information for us for any purpose (whether the purpose has been otified to Council or not). While every care is taken to ensure the accuracy of this data, neither the Murray River ouncil nor the Department of Lands makes any representations or warranties about its accuracy, reliability, without limitations, liability in negligence) for all expenses, losses, damages (including indirect or consequential damage) and costs which you might incur as a result of the dato being inaccurate or incomplete in any way and for any reason © The State of New South Wales (Department of Lands) 2009, © Murray River Council 2016.



## 9.2.2 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRPERSON/S OF THE AUDIT, RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE FOR THE COUNCIL TERM

File Number: -

Author: Sandra Gordon, Manager Governance & Risk

Authoriser: Stephen Fernando, Director Corporate Services

#### RECOMMENDATION

That Murray River Council (Council) resolve to appoint:

- A. the Chairperson/s of the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee (ARIC) as follows:
  - 1. David Kortum for the period November 2024 to October 2026 and
  - 2. Jarrah O'Shea for the period November 2026 to October 2028;

and

- B. Committee Members of the ARIC as follows:
  - 1. Jarrah O'Shea for the period November 2024 to October 2026 and
  - 2. David Kortum for the period November 2026 to October 2028.

#### DISCUSSION

The Local Government Act 1993 ('LG Act'), the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 ('LG Regulation') require each Council in NSW to have:

- ▶ an Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee (ARIC) that continuously reviews and provides independent advice to Council on how it is functioning and managing risk;
- a robust risk management framework that accurately identifies and mitigates the risks facing the council and its operations; and
- an effective internal audit function that provides independent advice as to whether the council is functioning effectively and the council's internal controls to manage risk are working.

These three mandatory governance mechanisms are key to ensuring that Councils are doing things the best way they can for their communities and are on track to delivering their community's goals and objectives.

If implemented effectively, ARIC's risk management and internal audit will lead to Councils:

- achieving their strategic objectives in the most efficient, effective and economical manner;
- having better and more efficient levels of service delivery;
- having increased accountability and transparency;
- achieving better decision-making and having the confidence to make difficult decisions;
- having increased financial stability;
- achieving and maintaining compliance with all laws, regulations, internal policies and procedures; and
- better safeguarding their public assets.

In light of these recent changes to the LG Act and Regulations, Council adopted a new Audit, Risk and Improvement Framework, a Terms of Reference and an Internal Auditor Charter at its March 2024 meeting that encapsulated all the required changes.

Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee's run for the same term as Council's governing body. Council has recently undertaken a recruitment process initially for the position of Chairperson of the

ARIC.

Council advertised the role of ARIC Chairperson between 2<sup>nd</sup> September and 3<sup>rd</sup> October this year.

Interviews for the role of MRC's Chair of the ARIC of were held on Monday the 4th of November.

The interview Panel consisted of the following:

- Sarah Ryan, Acting CEO
- Stephen Fernando, Director Corporate Services
- Sandra Gordon, Manager Governance and Risk

Nine applications were received and five were selected for the first round of interviews.

The interviews consisted of six formal questions and follow up discussion as required.

The panel was unanimous in its pick for the shortlist of two persons for a second interview with the Mayor. The selected candidates scored 10 out of 15, while the others scored 9, 7, and 6.5.

While the primary purpose of the second interview was for the Mayor meet the candidates, the Acting CEO and the Director of Corporate Services was also present at the interviews.

The assessment of the Mayor was that he would be happy with either one of the candidates for the role. It was also noted that the two candidates brought a different and complementary set of technical expertise, and it was decided it would be good to have both candidates in the ARIC.

Based on the above, queries were made to both candidates on their willingness to take up the role of the chair for two years each and to be a committee member for the balance 2 years. Both candidates were willing to come on board under such an arrangement.

The final proposal is as follows:

Name:	Chair:	Committee Member:
David Kortum	Nov 2024 - Oct 2026	Nov 2026 - Oct 2028
Jarrah O'Shea	Nov 2026 - Oct 2028	Nov 2026 - Oct 2028

The proposed candidates' LinkedIn profiles are at the links below:

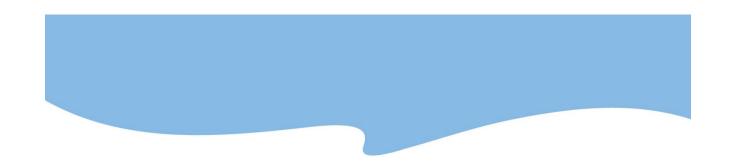
https://www.linkedin.com/in/jarrahoshea/

https://www.linkedin.com/in/david-kortum-b15180202/

Subsequent to the appointment of the Chair(s), Council will undertake a recruitment process to fill the second role of a committee member for ARIC. The Chairs will be involved in this recruitment process.

#### **ATTACHMENTS**

1. ARIC Terms of Reference. U



## Audit, Risk & Improvement Committee

# Terms of Reference

Version #5

Guidelines for Risk Management and Internal Audit for Local Government in NSW - November 2023



Associated with the ARIC Framework

#### 1 INTRODUCTION

Murray River Council has established an Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee (ARIC or the Committee) in compliance with Section 428A of the <u>Local Government Act 1993</u> (the Act), the <u>Local Government</u> (General) Regulation 2021 (the Regulation) and the <u>Guidelines for Risk Management and Internal Audit for Local Government in NSW</u> (the Guidelines).

These <u>Terms of Reference</u> set out the Committee's objectives, authority, composition and tenure, roles and responsibilities, reporting and administrative arrangements.

#### 2. OBJECTIVE

The objective of Council's ARIC is to provide independent assurance to Council by monitoring, reviewing and providing advice about Council governance processes, compliance, risk management and control frameworks, external accountability obligations and overall performance.

#### 3. INDEPENDENCE

The ARIC:

- Is to be independent to ensure it has no real or perceived bias or conflicts of interest that may interfere with its ability to act independently and provide Council with robust, objective and unbiased advice and assurance.
- ▶ Is to have an advisory and assurance role only and is to exercise no administrative functions, delegated financial responsibilities or any management functions of Council.
- Will provide independent advice to Council that is informed by the Council's internal audit and risk management activities and information and advice provided by Council employees, relevant external bodies and subject matter experts.
- Must always ensure it maintains a direct reporting line to and from Council internal audit function and act as a mechanism for internal audit to report to Council and CEO on matters affecting the performance of the internal audit function.

#### 4. AUTHORITY

Council authorises the ARIC, for the purposes of exercising its responsibilities, to:

- Access any information it needs from Council;
- Use any Council resources it needs;
- Have direct and unrestricted access to the CEO and senior management of Council;
- Seek the CEO's permission to meet with any other Council employee or contractor;
- Discuss any matters with the external auditor or other external parties;
- Request the attendance of any employee at committee meetings, and
- To obtain external legal or other professional advice in line with Council's procurement policies. The CEO's permission is required to expend funds in excess of the budgetary allocation.

Information and documents pertaining to the ARIC are confidential and are not to be made publicly available. ARIC may only release Council information to external parties that are assisting the ARIC to fulfil its responsibilities with the approval of the CEO, except where it is being provided to an external investigative or oversight agency for the purpose of informing that agency of a matter that may warrant its attention.

#### 5. COMPOSITION AND TENURE

- The Committee will consist of an Independent Chair and two (2) Independent Members who have voting rights and one (1) non-voting Councillor, which is an optional appointment, as required under the Framework.
- The elected Council, by resolution, is to appoint the Chair and Independent Members of the Committee.

ARIC Terms of Reference V#3

Adopted: 26 March 2024

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Associated with the ARIC Framework

- All Committee members must meet the independence and eligibility criteria prescribed in <u>the</u>
   Framework.
- Members will be appointed for up to a four (4) year term. Which will ideally run in parallel with the term of the Council.
- Members can be reappointed for one (1) further term, but the total period of continuous membership cannot exceed eight (8) years. This includes any term as Chair of the Committee.
- Members who have served an eight (8) year term (either as a Member or as Chair) must have a two (2) year break from serving on the Committee before being appointed again.
- To preserve the Committee's knowledge of Council, ideally, no more than one member should retire from the Committee because of rotation in any one (1) year.
- The terms and conditions of each member's appointment to the Committee are to be set out in a letter of appointment.
- New members will be thoroughly inducted to their role and receive relevant information and briefings on their appointment to assist them to meet their responsibilities.
- Prior to approving the reappointment or extension of the Chair's or an Independent Member's term, the Council is to undertake an assessment of the Chair's or Committee Member's performance. Reappointment of the Chair or a Committee Member is also to be subject to that person still meeting the independence and eligibility requirements.
- Members of the Committee must possess and maintain a broad range of skills, knowledge and experience relevant to the operations, governance and financial management of Council, the environment in which Council operates and the contribution that the Committee makes to Council.
- At least one (1) member of the Committee must have accounting or related financial management experience with an understanding of accounting and auditing standards in a local government environment.
- All members should have sufficient understanding of Council's financial reporting responsibilities to be able to contribute to the Committee's consideration of Council's <u>Annual Financial Statements</u>.

#### 6. ROLE

As required under Section 428A of <u>the Act</u>, the role of the Committee is to review and provide independent advice to Council regarding the following aspects of the Council's operations:

- Compliance;
- Risk management;
- Fraud control;
- Financial management;
- Governance:
- Implementation of the strategic plan, delivery program and strategies;
- Service reviews;
- ▶ Collection of performance measurement data by Council; and
- Internal audit.

The Committee must also provide information to Council for the purpose of improving Council's performance of its functions.

The ARIC will act as a forum for consideration of Council's internal audit function and oversee its planning, monitoring and reporting to ensure it operates effectively and independently.

The Committee has no power to direct external audit or the way it is planned and undertaken but will act as a forum for the consideration of external audit findings.

The Committee is directly responsible and accountable to Council for the exercise of its responsibilities. In carrying out its responsibilities, the Committee must at all times recognise that primary responsibility for management of Murray River Council rests with the elected Council and the CEO.

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The responsibilities of the Committee may be revised or expanded in consultation with, or as requested by, Council from time to time.

#### 7. RESPONSIBILITIES OF MEMBERS

#### 7.1 INDEPENDENT MEMBERS

The Chair and Independent Members of the Committee are expected to understand and observe the requirements of the Framework.

Members are also expected to:

- Make themselves available as required to attend and participate in meetings;
- Contribute the time needed to review and understand information provided to it;
- Apply good analytical skills, objectivity and judgement;
- Act in the best interests of Council:
- ► Have the personal courage to raise and deal with tough issues, express opinions frankly, ask questions that go to the fundamental core of the issue and pursue independent lines of inquiry;
- Maintain effective working relationships with Council;
- Have strong leadership qualities (Chair);
- Lead effective committee meetings (Chair); and
- Oversee Council's internal audit function (Chair).

#### 7.2 COUNCILLOR MEMBER

To preserve the independence of the Committee, the Councillor Member of the committee is a non-voting member. Their role is to:

- Relay to the Committee any concerns Council may have regarding Council and issues being considered by the Committee;
- Provide insights into local issues and the strategic priorities of Council that would add value to the Committee's consideration of agenda items;
- Advise Council (as necessary) of the work of the Committee and any issues arising from it; and
- Assist Council to review the performance of the Committee.

Issues or information the Councillor Member raises with or provides to the Committee must relate to the matters (listed in Clause 6 – Roles of this document) and issues being considered by the Committee.

The Councillor Member must conduct themselves in a non-partisan and professional manner. The Councillor Member must not engage in any conduct that seeks to politicise the activities of the Committee or the internal audit function or that could be seen to do so.

If the Councillor Member engages in such conduct or in any other conduct that may bring the Committee and its work into disrepute, the Chair of the Committee may recommend to Council, that Councillor Member be removed from membership of the Committee. Where Council does not agree to the Committee Chair's recommendation, Council must give reasons for its decision in writing to the Chair.

#### 7.3 CONDUCT

Independent Committee Members are required to comply with Council's <u>Code of Conduct (Committees)</u> <u>Policy</u> (Code of Conduct).

Complaints alleging breaches of Council's <u>Code of Conduct</u> by an Independent Member are to be dealt with in accordance with Council's <u>Code of Conduct Procedures</u>. The CEO must consult with Council before taking any disciplinary action against an Independent Member in response to a breach of Council's <u>Code of Conduct</u>.

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#### 7.4 CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Once a year, Committee Members must provide written declarations to Council stating that they do not have any conflicts of interest that would preclude them from being members of the Committee.

The Chair and the Independent Members are 'designated persons' for the purposes of Council's <u>Code of</u> Conduct and must also complete and submit returns of their interests.

Committee Members and observers must declare any pecuniary or non-pecuniary conflicts of interest they may have in a matter being considered at the meeting at the start of each meeting or as soon as they become aware of the conflict of interest. Where a Committee Member or observer declares a pecuniary or a significant non-pecuniary conflict of interest, they must remove themselves from Committee deliberations on the issue.

Details of conflicts of interest declared at meetings must be appropriately minuted.

#### 7.5 STANDARDS

Committee members are to conduct their work in accordance with the <u>International Standards for the Professional Practice of Internal Auditing</u> (the Standards) issued by the Institute of Internal Auditors and <u>Australian Standard 4360: Risk Management</u>, where applicable.

#### 8. WORK PLANS

The work of the Committee is to be thoroughly planned and executed. The Committee must develop a <u>Strategic Workplan</u> every four (4) years to ensure that the matters listed in Section 6 - Roles are reviewed by the Committee and considered by the Internal Auditor/s when developing their risk-based program of internal audits. The <u>Strategic Workplan</u> must be reviewed at least annually to ensure it remains appropriate.

The Committee may, in consultation with Council, vary the <u>Strategic Workplan</u> at any time to address new or emerging risks. Council may also, by resolution, request the Committee to approve a variation to the <u>Strategic Workplan</u>. Any decision to vary the <u>Strategic Workplan</u> must be made by the Committee.

The Committee must also develop an <u>Annual Workplan</u> to guide its work, and the work of the Internal Auditor/s over the forward year.

The Committee may, in consultation with Council, vary the <u>Annual Workplan</u> to address new or emerging risks. The elected Council may also, by resolution, request the Committee to approve a variation to the <u>Annual Workplan</u>. Any decision to vary the <u>Annual Workplan</u> must be made by the Committee.

When considering whether to vary the <u>Strategic or Annual Workplans</u>, the Committee must consider the impact of the variation on the Internal Auditor's existing workload and the completion of pre-existing priorities and activities identified under the work plan.

#### 9. ASSURANCE REPORTING

The Committee must regularly report to the elected Council to ensure that it is kept informed of matters considered by the Committee and any emerging issues that may influence the strategic direction of Council or the achievement of Council's goals and objectives.

The Committee will provide an update to the elected Council and the CEO of its activities and opinions after every Committee meeting.

The Committee will provide an annual assessment to Council and the CEO on the Committee's work and its opinion on how Council is performing.

The Committee will provide a comprehensive assessment every Council term of the matters listed in Section 6 - Roles to the elected Council and the CEO.

The Committee may at any time report to the elected Council or the CEO on any other matter it deems of sufficient importance to warrant their attention. The Mayor and the Chair of the Committee may also meet at any time to discuss issues relating to the work of the Committee.

Should the elected Council require additional information, a request for the information may be made to the Chair by resolution. The Chair is only required to provide the information requested by the elected Council

ARIC Terms of Reference V#3

Adopted: 26 March 2024

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where the Chair is satisfied that it is reasonably necessary for Council to receive the information for the purposes of performing its functions under the Act.

Individual Councillors are not entitled to request or receive information from the Committee.

#### 10. ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS

#### 10.1 MEETINGS

- The Committee will meet a minimum of four (4) times per year, including a special meeting to review Council's Financial Statements.
- ► The Committee can hold additional meetings when significant unexpected issues arise, or if the Chair is asked to hold an additional meeting by a Committee Member, the CEO or the elected Council.
- The Committee may meet up to a total of six (6) times per financial year without the need to seek permission from the Mayor to hold additional meetings.
- Committee meetings can be held in person, by telephone or videoconference. Proxies are not permitted to attend meetings if a Committee Member cannot attend.
- A quorum will consist of a majority of independent voting members.
- Where the vote is tied, the Chair has the casting vote.
- ▶ The Chair of the Committee will decide the Agenda for each Committee meeting.
- Minutes are to be maintained of each Committee meeting to preserve a record of the issues considered and the actions and decisions taken by the Committee.
- The CEO or his delegate and the Internal Audit Coordinator (IA Coordinator) should attend Committee meetings as non-voting observers.
- The External Auditor (or their representative) is to be invited to each Committee meeting as an independent observer.
- The Chair can request the Council's Responsible Accounting Officer/ Manager Finance, Manager Governance & Risk, Directors, Councillors and any employee/contractor of Council and any subject matter expert to attend Committee meetings. Where requested to attend a meeting, persons must attend the meeting where possible and provide any information requested.
- Council employees, that are not Managers or Directors, requested to attend the meeting must have the approval of the Director to attend.
- Observers have no voting rights and can be excluded from a meeting by the Chair at any time.
- The Committee can hold closed meetings whenever it needs to discuss confidential or sensitive issues with only voting members of the Committee present.
- ▶ The Committee may, on the decision of the Chair, meet separately with the IA Coordinator and Council's External Auditor.

#### 10.2 DISPUTE RESOLUTION

Members of the Committee and Council's management should maintain an effective working relationship and seek to resolve any differences they may have in an amicable and professional way by discussion and negotiation.

In the event of a disagreement between the Committee and the CEO or other senior managers, the dispute is to be resolved by the elected Council.

Unresolved disputes regarding compliance with statutory or other requirements are to be referred to the Departmental Chief Executive in writing.

#### 10.3 SECRETARIAT

The CEO will nominate a Council employee to provide secretariat support to the Committee. The secretariat will ensure the agenda for each meeting and supporting papers are circulated after approval from the chair

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Adopted: 26 March 2024

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Associated with the ARIC Framework

at least one (1) week before the meeting and ensure that minutes of meetings are prepared and

Minutes must be approved by the Chair and circulated within two (2) weeks of the meeting to each member.

#### 10.4 RESIGNATION AND DISMISSAL OF MEMBERS

Where the Chair or a Committee Member is unable to complete their term or does not intend to seek reappointment after the expiry of their term, they should give two (2) months notice to the Chair and Council (wherever possible) prior to their resignation to allow Council to ensure a smooth transition to a new Chair or Committee Member.

Council can, by resolution, terminate the appointment of the Chair or an Independent Committee Member before the expiry of their term where that person has:

- Breached Council's Code of Conduct (Committees) Policy;
- Performed unsatisfactorily or not to expectations;
- Declared, or is found to be in, a position of a conflict of interest which is unresolvable;
- Been declared bankrupt or found to be insolvent;
- Experienced an adverse change in business status;
- Been charged with a serious criminal offence;
- ▶ Been proven to be in serious breach of their obligations under any legislation; or
- Experienced an adverse change in capacity or capability.

The position of a Councillor member on the Committee can be terminated at any time by Council resolution.

#### 10.5 LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Committee members that are aware, in advance, that they cannot attend a scheduled meeting, either in person or by video link, they should apply for a leave of absence.

If a Committee member fails to attend two (2) consecutive meetings without a leave of absence or submitting an apology for a meeting, the elected Council can, by resolution, dismiss the Committee member.

A meeting between the Chair and the Committee member should be held to discuss the non-compliance with the Framework, prior to any action taken.

#### 10.6 REVIEW ARRANGEMENTS

At least once every Council term, Council must review or arrange for an external review of the effectiveness of the Committee.

These Terms of Reference must be reviewed annually by the Committee and once each Council term by the elected Council. Any substantive changes are to be approved by resolution of a Council meeting.

#### 11. ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS, DEFINITIONS & ACRONYMS

#### External:

- Local Government Act 1993
- Local Government (General) Regulation 2021
- Guidelines for risk management and internal audit for local government in NSW.
- International Standards for the Professional Practice of Internal Auditing
- Australian Standard 4360: Risk Management

#### Internal:

- MRC Policy Code of Conduct (Committees) Policy
- MRC Procedure Code of Conduct Procedures.

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- MRC Framework Audit, Risk and Improvement Framework Including:
  - Internal Auditor/s Charter
  - ARIC Roles and Responsibilities

#### **Definitions and Acronyms:**

Term	Definition	
ARIC or the Committee	Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee	
CEO	Chief Executive Officer	
Chair	The Chair of the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee	
IA Coordinator	Internal Audit Coordinator – An employer of Council that is suitably experienced in the working of Council and an ARIC.	
Senior Management	CEO and Directors	

#### 12. DOCUMENT CONTROL

V#	Details	Dates	CM9 Reference	Resolution No.
1	Initial Issue	17 Oct 2017 to 21 Aug 2018	VF/24/1931	
2	Amendment to Section 3.3 to include representatives of the internal auditor as "invitees for specific Agenda items (non-voting)"	21 Aug 2018 to 26 Mar 2019	VF/24/1931	
3	Amendments to Section 4.3 added point 5 – include review of financial reports required to be produced under legislation and 4.5 2nd sentence and point 4 – clarify oversight of internal audit activities & communication with int & external auditors	26 Mar 2019 to 8 Feb 2021	VF/24/1931	
4	Clause 2 add "the Committee", 4.1 add point 2, 4.5 added point 5 & 7, Clause 5 added 2 points, 6.3 added sentence re agendas	8 Feb 2021 to 26 Mar 2024	VF/24/1931	
5	Based on the OLG - Model Terms of Reference for Local Government ARICs Nov 2023	26 Mar 2024 to today	VF/24/1931	100324

Council reserves the right to review, vary or revoke this policy at any time This document is scheduled for review in before 2028.

#### 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 Council's Electronic Document system. Printed or downloaded versions of this document are uncontrolled.

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Associated with the ARIC Framework

#### **DISCLAIMER:**

This document was formulated to be consistent with Murray River Council's legislative obligations and with 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. Legal advice should be sought in relation to particular circumstances and liability will not be accepted for losses incurred as a result of reliance on this document.

It is recognised that, from time to time, circumstances may change leading to the need for minor administrative changes to this document. Where an update does not materially alter this, such a change may be made administratively. Examples include a change to the name of a Business Unit, position title or a change to the name of a Federal or State Government department, and a minor update to legislation which does not have a material impact. When such changes are made the version number will be amended and an extension added (eg V#1.1)

ARIC Terms of Reference V#3

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#### 9.2.3 FINANCIAL REPORT - UNAUDITED FY 24/25 PERIOD ENDING 25 NOVEMBER 2024

File Number: -

Author: Nikki Chalmers, Financial Controller

Authoriser: Stephen Fernando, Director Corporate Services

#### RECOMMENDATION

That Murray River Council (Council) resolve to receive the Unaudited Financial Statements for the period to 25 November 2024 (FY2024/25) and noting that reporting of monthly financial statements is not a regulatory requirement but nonetheless is being provided in furtherance of financial transparency and in keeping with financial reporting best practice.

#### DISCUSSION

This report provides the unaudited estimated financial performance and position of Murray River Council for the relevant period in the current financial year against the budget for the corresponding period.

This report is not a requirement under the Local Government Act 1993 (the Act) nor the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 (the Regulation). However, it is provided to as an additional report to complement the existing financial reporting such as the quarterly budget reviews and the investments report.

The Monthly Financial Report (in community reporting format) appears as Attachment 1

The Monthly Financial Statements (in formal reporting format) appears as Attachment 2.

#### **ATTACHMENTS**

- 1. Monthly Report November 2024 🗓 🖫
- 2. Financial Statements (Unaudited) for period to 25 November 2024 1 🖺

# **Monthly Financial Report**

Financial Year: 2024-25

Period Ending: 25 November 2024



#### **BACKGROUND**

This report provides the unaudited financial performance and position of Murray River Council for the period as at 25 November 2024 against the corresponding Budget for the full financial year.

#### **INCOME & EXPENDITURE**

Details what was charged to our ratepayers and customers compared to what was spent in delivering our services.

For the period under review, Council's operating deficit stood at \$4.9M after charging depreciation (What We Set-aside for Asset Renewals) of \$8.4M.

Net earnings are \$(3.0)M when Capital Revenue is added to the operating deficit.

Table 1: Income & Expenditure Statement:

	2023/24	2024/25	2024/25	% of Budget
	Unaudited	Budget	YTD Actual	Achieved
What We Levied Our Ratepayers	21,554	24,528	10,239	42%
What We Invoiced our Customers	12,940	12,015	3,883	32%
What We Rcvd. as Grants & Subsidies	20,155	19,149	4,795	25%
What We Rcvd. as Interest from Investment	3,026	1,639	1,058	65%
Our Other Revenue	1,965	2,252	1,086	48%
Our Total Recurrent Earnings	59,640	59,584	21,059	35%
What We Spent on Our Staff	21,181	21,055	8,923	42%
What We Spent on Our Suppliers	21,493	27,570	8,594	31%
Our Total Direct Spend	42,674	48,625	17,516	36%
What We Paid Our Bankers	348	34	15	44%
What We Set-aside for Asset Renewals	20,884	20,344	8,477	42%
Our Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	(4,265)	(9,420)	(4,948)	53%
Our Capital Revenue	54,202	11,808	1,872	16%
Our Capital Expenses	9,203	(3,016)	(76)	-
Our Capital Surplus/(Deficit)	44,999	14,824	1,948	13%
Our Net Earnings	40,733	5,404	(3,000)	-56%

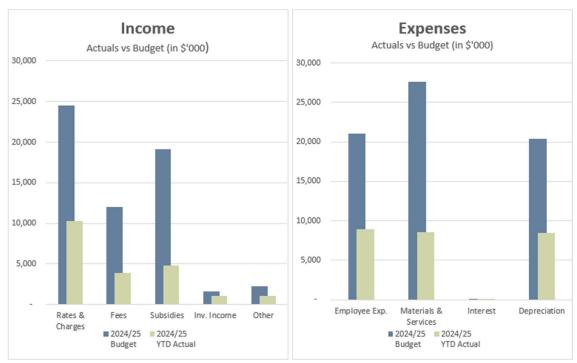


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#### **Income & Expenditure**

- With the Financial Assistance Grant (being the primary source of operational grant revenue) received in late June, the actual v budget is below target.
- Water billing invoices have been issued in early November 2024 which has improved the actual to 32% of budget achieved (for November it should be at approx. 40%) previous month this was 18%.
- Majority of the other revenue items have tracked on target or above.
- · Expenses are tracking as expected.
- The unfavourable position of the Operating Deficit of \$3M in comparison to the budget is
  predominately due to the lower operating grants received at the date of the report being
  compiled.

Details of Revenue and Expenses, compared to the budget are graphically depicted in the two charts below.





#### **COMMUNITY WEALTH**

Details the value of resources Council has, to service our community. Net Community wealth at the end of the period stood at \$1.147B.

Table 2: Statement of Financial Position

	2023/24	2024/25	2024/25
	Unaudited	Budget	YTD Actual
What We Own	1,102,004	999,553	1,101,058
Inventory We Hold	3,600	537	3,621
What We are Owed	14,995	12,800	9,562
What We Have in Bank	59,611	54,422	59,082
Our Total Assests	1,180,210	1,067,312	1,173,323
What We Owe Our Suppliers	10,168	7,104	5,268
What We Owe Our Lenders	5,753	1,789	6,441
Other Liabilities	14,648	11,589	14,974
Our Total Liabilities	30,569	20,482	26,682
Our Community Wealth	1,149,641	1,046,829	1,146,641

- The increase of approx. \$4.5m between Budget and Actual for What We Owe our Lenders predominately relates to Contract Liabilities not being budgeted for. Contract Liabilities relates to Grant revenue received yet not able to be recognised as revenue until corresponding works to which the Grant revenue relates is completed.
- Cash balances (what we have in bank) has increased due to the Financial Assistance Grant being received in late June 2024. The cash balances remain at satisfactory levels, noting that a sizeable portion of the investments are restricted for specific purposes. (see investments report).

#### **CAPITAL DELIVERY**

Council's approved budgeted capital allocation is \$31,838m for 2024/25. As at 25 November 2024, Council has delivered around 24% of the annual capital budget excluding commitments for 2024/25, totalling \$7.7M.



#### **LIQUID ASSETS & RESERVES**

Shown below are the movements in liquid asset balances and investments for the period ending 25 November 2024.

Table 3: Movement of Liquid Assets

DETAILS	SEPTEMBER 2024	OCTOBER 2024	OCTOBER 2024
Cash Book Balance B/Fwd	\$10,035,592	\$380,590	\$565,262
Add income for month	\$5,038,501	\$3,760,547	\$4,944,991
Deduct expenditure for month	\$10,193,503	\$7,825,874	\$3,545,069
CASH AVAILABLE	\$4,880,590	(\$3,684,738)	\$1,965,185
Redeem/(Purchase) Investments	(\$4,500,000)	\$4,250,000	\$750,000
CASH BOOK BALANCE	\$380,590	\$565,262	\$2,715,185
Add on-call account	\$1,470,561	\$2,406,709	\$1,406,709
Add investments - Deposits	\$56,750,000	\$52,500,000	\$51,750,000
Add investments - Shares	\$2,010	\$2,010	\$2,010
CASH POSITION	\$58,603,161	\$55,473,981	\$55,873,904
As per Bank Statements	\$1,786,526	\$2,971,971	\$4,121,894

The breakdown of the reserves by restriction and fund are as below:

Table 4: Breakdown of Reserves

#### Breakdown of Cash & Restricted Assets (Reserves) by Fund

Funds	General	Water	Sewer	Waste	Total
Unrestricted	(\$1,989,803)	\$1,730,385	\$6,007,236	\$691,270	\$6,439,088
Internally Restricted	\$8,925,847	\$1,228,521	\$9,762,285	\$891,805	\$20,808,458
Externally Restriced	\$18,834,398	\$3,695,553	\$3,750,566	\$2,345,841	\$28,626,358
Total	\$25,770,442	\$6,654,459	\$19,520,087	\$3,928,916	\$55,873,904

Additional details of internally restricted and externally restricted reserves are provided in the following tables.



Table 5: Details of Internally Restricted Reserves

Internal Restricted Assets	General Fund	Water Fund	Sewer Fund	Waste Fund	Total
Buildings	\$237,040	-	-	-	\$237,040
Bushfire Services	\$45,278	-	-	-	\$45,278
Caravan Parks	\$242,473	-	-	-	\$242,473
Carryover Works	\$2,156,587	-	-	-	\$2,156,587
Cemeteries	\$80,676	-	-		\$80,676
Community Services	\$290,218	-	-	-	\$290,218
Council Contribution - Co Funding Grants	\$200,000	-	-	-	\$200,000
Economic Development	-	-	-	-	-
Employee Leave Entitlements	\$1,637,111	-	-	-	\$1,637,111
Financial Assistance Grants	-		-	-	-
Heritage Buildings	\$18,495		-	-	\$18,495
Infrastructure Works	\$1,067,972	\$1,228,521	\$9,762,285	-	\$12,058,778
Internal Other	-		-	-	
Levee Bank	\$339,764	-	-	-	\$339,764
Moama Lights	-		-	-	-
Office Equipment/ IT	\$178,727		-	-	\$178,727
Parks & Recreation	\$172,836	-	-	-	\$172,836
Plant Fund	\$1,646,849		-	-	\$1,646,849
Public Halls	\$91,554	-	-	-	\$91,554
Quarries	\$368,866	-	-	-	\$368,866
Risk Management	\$12,500	-	-	-	\$12,500
S355 Committees	\$23,486	-	-	-	\$23,486
Software	\$14,270	-		-	\$14,270
Staff Housing	-		-	-	-
Stormwater	\$101,145	-	-	-	\$101,145
Waste Management Int		-	-	\$891,805	\$891,805
	\$8,925,847	\$1,228,521	\$9,762,285	\$891,805	\$20,808,458

Table 6: Details of Externally Restricted Reserves

External Reserves	General Fund	Water Fund	Sewer Fund	Waste Fund	Total
Unspent Grants	\$14,150,975	\$75,000	\$27,333	\$90,356	\$14,343,664
Unspent Loan Funds	-	-	-	-	-
Section 64/94	\$4,407,849	\$3,392,697	\$3,723,233	\$200,136	\$11,723,915
Community Services Ext	\$76,649	-	-	-	\$76,649
Land Management	\$134,638	-	-	-	\$134,638
Water Purchase	-	\$227,856	-	-	\$227,856
Waste Management Ext	-	-	-	\$2,055,349	\$2,055,349
Other	\$64,287	-	-	-	\$64,287
	\$18,834,398	\$3,695,553	\$3,750,566	\$2,345,841	\$28,626,358

The Council's Bank Overdraft limit is \$400,000 which remains unutilised.

#### Certification

I hereby certify that the balances of the various funds of Council have been reconciled with the bank statements and investment register as at the end of the reporting period.

Stephen Fernando Director of Corporate Services



#### **INVESTMENTS**

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, together with an analysis thereof are detailed below.

#### Certification

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.

#### Stephen Fernando

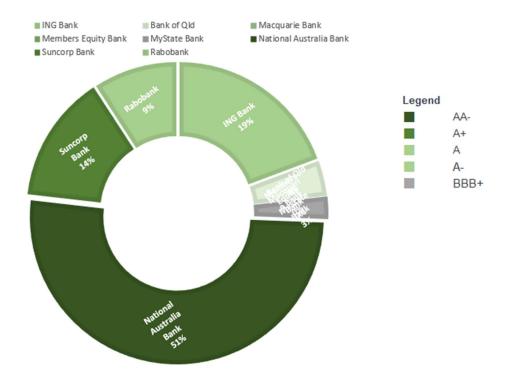
**Director of Corporate Services** 

Council's investments are spread across several Australian Deposit Taking Institutions (ADIs) as detailed below.

Table 7: Investments by Deposit Taking Institution

Bank / ADI	Amount	%
ING Bank	\$ 10,000,000	19.32%
Bank of Qld	\$ 2,000,000	3.86%
MyState Bank	\$ 1,250,000	2.42%
National Australia Bank	\$ 26,500,000	51.21%
Suncorp Bank	\$ 7,250,000	14.01%
Rabobank	\$ 4,750,000	9.18%
	\$51,750,000	100.00%



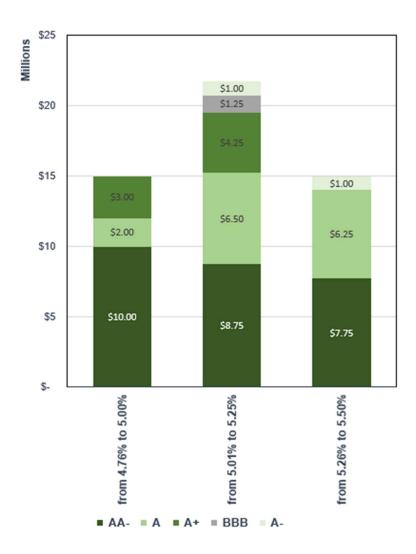


The investment ratings of the investments and the returns thereon are detailed below.

Table 8: Analysis of Risk Ratings and Returns

Interest Rates	AA-	A+	Α	A-	ВВВ	Total
from 4.76% to 5.00%	\$10,000,000	\$3,000,000	\$2,000,000	-		\$15,000,000
from 5.01% to 5.25%	\$8,750,000	\$4,250,000	\$6,500,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,250,000	\$21,750,000
from 5.26% to 5.50%	\$7,750,000	-	\$6,250,000	\$1,000,000		\$15,000,000
	\$26,500,000	\$7,250,000	\$14,750,000	\$2,000,000	\$1,250,000	\$51,500,000





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The maturity profile of the investments are as follows.

Table 9: Maturity Profile

Maturity Dates	AA-	A+	Α	A-	ввв	Total
November 2024	\$1,000,000	-	-	-	-	\$1,000,000
December 2024	\$3,000,000	-	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	-	\$5,000,000
January 2025	-	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000	-	-	\$3,000,000
February 2025	\$1,500,000	-	\$2,750,000	\$1,000,000	-	\$5,250,000
March 2025	\$2,250,000	\$2,500,000	-	-	-	\$4,750,000
April 2025	\$3,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	-	-	\$5,000,000
May 2025	\$1,250,000	\$2,000,000	-	-	\$1,250,000	\$4,500,000
June 2025	\$3,000,000	\$3,750,000	-	-	-	\$6,750,000
July 2025	\$3,500,000	\$2,000,000	\$1,000,000	-	-	\$6,500,000
August 2025	\$4,000,000	-	-	-	-	\$4,000,000
September 2025	\$3,000,000	\$1,000,000	-	-	-	\$4,000,000
October 2025	-	-	-	-	-	\$0
November 2025	-	\$1,000,000	-	-	-	\$1,000,000
December 2025	\$1,000,000	-	-	-	-	\$1,000,000
	\$26,500,000	\$14,750,000	\$7,250,000	\$2,000,000	\$1,250,000	\$51,750,000

The portfolio is well invested in reasonable interest rates and the maturity profile varies 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 regulations and Council's Investment Policy.

The current position is to only invest in ADI's that are rated AA- or better as per S&P's long term credit ratings, even though the Investment Policy permits some investments in ADIs with lower ratings.

#### **Murray River Council**

#### **Income Statement**

for the year ended 30 June 2025

from period 01 July to 25 November 2024



	Approved unaudited				
CY Budget	budget 2025	\$'000	Notes	CY Actual YTD	PY Actual Aud
		Income from continuing operations			
24,528	24,527,721	Rates and annual charges	B2-1	10,239	21,
12,015	12,015,133	User charges and fees	B2-2	3,883	12
1,182	1,182,306	Other revenue	B2-3	816	1
19,149	19,148,959	Grants and contributions provided for operating purposes	B2-4	4,795	20
11,808	11,807,723	Grants and contributions provided for capital purposes	B2-4	1,872	54
1,639	1,639,413	Interest and investment income	B2-5	1,058	3
1,070	1,069,987	Other income	B2-6	270	
71,391	71,391,242	Total income from continuing operations	-	22,932	113
		Expenses from continuing operations			
21,055	21,054,961	Employee benefits and on-costs	B3-1	8,923	21
26,470	26,470,474	Materials and services	<b>B3</b> -2	8,325	20
34	34,018	Borrowing costs	<b>B3</b> -3	15	
			<b>B3</b> -4		
20,344	20,344,178	Depreciation, amortisation and impairment for non-financial assets		8,477	20
1,100	1,099,842	Other expenses	<b>B3</b> -5	269	1
(3,016)	(3,015,798)	Net losses from the disposal of assets	B4-1	(76)	g
65,988	65,987,676	Total expenses from continuing operations		25,932	73
5,404	5,403,567	Operating result from continuing operations		(3,000)	40
5,404	5,403,567	Net operating result for the year attributable to Council		(3,000)	40
		Net operating result for the year before grants and contributions			
(6,404)	(6,404,156)	provided for capital pruposes		(4,872)	(13

### **Murray River Council**

#### **Statement of Financial Position**

for the year ended 30 June 2025

from period 01 July to 25 November



CY Budget	čiana		CY Actual YTD	PY Actua Audite
Ci buuget	\$'000	Notes	110	Audite
	ASSETS			
	Current assets			
4,489	Cash and cash equivalents	C1-1	4,351	14,86
49,644	Investments	C1-2	52,955	43,20
12,800	Receivables	C1-4	9,562	14,99
537	Inventories	C1-5	518	49
-	Current assets classified as held for sale	C1-7	3,103	3,10
289	Other	C1-11	1,776	1,54
67,759	Total current assets	_	72,265	78,20
			,	
	Non-current assets			
2	Investments	C1-2	2	
493	Receivables	C1-4	17	2
325	Inventories	C1-5		
988,122	Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment	C1-8	1,088,950	1,089,88
10,610	Intangible Assets	C1-10	12,089	12,08
	Investments accounted for using the equity method	D2-2		
999,553	Total non-current assets	_	1,101,058	1,102,00
1,067,312	Total assets	_	1,173,323	1,180,21
	LIABILITIES			
	Current liabilities			
7,104	Payables	C3-1	5,268	10,16
.,	Contract liabilities	C3-2	4,528	3,69
184	Lease liabilities	C2-1	102	18
272	Borrowings	C3-3	268	26
3,808	Employee benefit provisions	C3-4	4,788	4,24
1,394	Provisions	C3-5		
12,762	Total current liabilities	_	14,954	18,56
	Non-current liabilities			
184	Lease liabilities	C2-1	188	18
1,150	Borrowings	C3-3	1,354	1,42
398	Employee benefit provisions	C3-4	158	37
5,989	Provisions	C3-5	10,027	10,02
7,720	Total non-current liabilities		11,728	12,00
20,482	Total liabilities	_	26,682	30,56

### **Murray River Council**

#### **Statement of Financial Position**

for the year ended 30 June 2025

from period 01 July to 25 November



			CY Actual		
CY Budget	\$'000	Notes	YTD	Audited	
	EQUITY				
5,404	Current years surplus		(3,000)	40,733	
745,736	Accumulated surplus		786,468	745,735	
295,690	IPPE revalaution reserve		363,173	363,173	
1,046,829	Council equity interest	_	1,146,641	1,149,641	
1,046,829	Total equity		1,146,641	1,149,641	

#### 9.2.4 2023-2024 CODE OF CONDUCT STATISTICS REPORT

File Number: -

Author: Sandra Gordon, Manager Governance & Risk

Authoriser: Stephen Fernando, Director Corporate Services

#### RECOMMENDATION

That the 2023-2024 Code of Conduct Statistics Report be received and the information noted by Council.

#### **DISCUSSION**

This report provides Council with the statutory annual report on the Code of Conduct complaints received by Council for the period 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024.

Council received five (5) Code of Conduct complaints during the period, however only three (3) were in relation to the CEO or a Councillor (as required by the return – attached/following)

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

Council is now reporting these statistics to Council.

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

The Office of Local Government publishes this data.

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

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

- 11.1 The Complaints Coordinator must arrange for the following statistics to be reported to Council within 3 months of the end of September of each year:
  - a) the total number of Code of Conduct complaints made about Councillors and the CEO under the Code of Conduct in the year to September (the reporting period)
  - b) the number of Code of Conduct complaints referred to a Conduct Reviewer during the reporting period
  - c) the number of Code of Conduct complaints finalised by a Conduct Reviewer at the preliminary assessment stage during the reporting period and the outcome of those complaints
  - d) the number of Code of Conduct complaints investigated by a Conduct Reviewer during the reporting period
  - e) without identifying particular matters, the outcome of investigations completed under these procedures during the reporting period
  - f) the number of matters reviewed by the Office during the reporting period and, without identifying particular matters, the outcome of the reviews, and
  - g) the total cost of dealing with Code of Conduct complaints made about Councillors and the CEO during the reporting period, including staff costs.
- 11.2 Council is to provide the office with a report containing the statistics referred to in clause 11.1 within 3 months of the end of September of each year.

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

#### **ATTACHMENTS**

1. 2023-2024 Code of Conduct Statistics Report 🗓 🖺

			Model Code of Conduct Complaints Statistics 2023-24  Murray River Council	
Νι	ım	ber	of Complaints	
1	i ii iii		The total number of complaints <b>received</b> in the reporting period about councillors and the General Manager (GM) under the code of conduct from the following sources:  Community  Other Councillors  General Manager  Other Council Staff	0 2 0 0 1
2	i ii iv v		The total number of complaints <b>finalised</b> about councillors and the GM under the code of conduct in the following periods:  3 Months  6 Months  9 Months  12 Months  Over 12 months	2 0 0 0 0
٥١	/er	vie	w of Complaints and Cost	
3	a b c d e		The number of complaints <b>finalised at the outset</b> by alternative means by the GM or Mayor  The number of complaints <b>referred to the Office of Local Government (OLG)</b> under a special complaints management arrangement  The number of code of conduct complaints <b>referred to a conduct reviewer</b> The number of code of conduct complaints <b>finalised at preliminary assessment</b> by conduct reviewer  The number of code of conduct complaints <b>referred back to GM or Mayor</b> for resolution after preliminary assessment by conduct reviewer  The number of finalised code of conduct complaints <b>investigated by a conduct reviewer</b>	1 0 2 1 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
	g		Cost of dealing with code of conduct complaints via preliminary assesment	6,957
	h i j k		Progressed to <b>full investigation by a conduct reviewer</b> The number of finalised complaints investigated where there was found to be <b>no breach</b> The number of finalised complaints investigated where there was found to be <b>a breach</b> The number of complaints referred by the GM or Mayor <b>to another agency</b> or body such as the ICAC, the NSW Ombudsman, OLG or the Police	0 0
		i	ICAC	0
		ii iii iv v	NSW Ombudsman  OLG  Police  Other Agency (please specify)	0 0 0 0
	ı		The number of complaints being investigated that are <b>not yet finalised</b>	1
	m		The <b>total cost</b> of dealing with code of conduct complaints within the period made about councillors and the GM including staff costs	25,996

Pr	elimin	ary Assessment Statistics	
4		umber of complaints determined by the conduct reviewer at the preliminary assessment stage by each of llowing actions:	
	a	To take no action (clause 6.13(a) of the 2020 Procedures)	1
	b	To resolve the complaint by alternative and appropriate strategies (clause 6.13(b) of the 2020 Procedures)	0
	С	To refer the matter back to the GM or the Mayor, for resolution by alternative and appropriate strategies (clause 6.13(c) of the 2020 Procedures)	0
	d	To refer the matter to another agency or body such as the ICAC, the NSW Ombudsman, OLG or the Police (clause 6.13(d) of the 2020 Procedures)	0
	е	To investigate the matter (clause 6.13(e) of the 2020 Procedures)	0
	f	Other action (please specify)	0
In	vestig	ation Statistics	
5		umber of investigated complaints resulting in a determination that there was <b>no breach</b> , in which the ing recommendations were made:	
	a	That the council revise its policies or procedures	0
	b	That a person or persons undertake training or other education (clause 7.40 of the 2020 Procedures)	0
6		umber of investigated complaints resulting in a determination that there was a breach in which the ing recommendations were made:	
	а	That the council revise any of its policies or procedures (clause 7.39 of the 2020 Procedures)	0
	b	In the case of a breach by the GM, that action be taken under the GM's contract for the breach (clause 7.37(a) of the 2020 Procedures)	0
	С	In the case of a breach by a councillor, that the councillor be formally censured for the breach under section 440G of the Local Government Act 1993 (clause 7.37(b) of the 2020 Procedures)	0
	d	In the case of a breach by a councillor, that the councillor be formally censured for the breach under section 440G of the Local Government Act 1993 and that the matter be referred to OLG for further action (clause 7.37(c) of the 2020 Procedures)	0
7		Matter referred or resolved after commencement of an investigation (clause 7.20 of the 2020 Procedures)	0

Ca	Categories of misconduct		
8		umber of investigated complaints resulting in a determination that there was a breach with respect to each following categories of conduct:	
	a	General conduct (Part 3)	0
	b	Non-pecuniary conflict of interest (Part 5)	0
	С	Personal benefit (Part 6)	0
	d	Relationship between council officials (Part 7)	0
	e	Access to information and resources (Part 8)	0
0	utcon	ne of determinations	
9	The n	umber of investigated complaints resulting in a determination that there was a breach in which the council:	
	а	Adopted the independent conduct reviewers recommendation	0
	b	Failed to adopt the independent conduct reviewers recommendation	0
10	The n	umber of investigated complaints resulting in a determination where:	
	a	The external conduct reviewers decision was overturned by OLG	0
	b	Council's response to the external conduct reviewers reccomendation was overturned by OLG	0
11		Date Code of Conduct data was presented to council	10-Dec-24

#### 9.3 DIRECTOR INFRASTRUCTURE REPORT AND SUPPLEMENTARY MATTERS

#### 9.3.1 MENINYA STREET - DECISION ON ECHUCA STREET INTERSECTION

File Number: -

Author: Matthew Sherman, Project Manager Meninya Street Precinct Project

Authoriser: Rod Croft, Director Planning & Environment

#### RECOMMENDATION

#### That Council:

- 1. Receive the information contained in this report regarding the Meninya Street Precinct Project; and
- 2. endorse one of the following options for the Meninya Street Precinct Project for Echuca Street Intersection:

Option A) Council adopt functional layout plan option 1 to prioritise parking provision Option B) Council adopt functional layout plan option 2 to priories turning movements

#### **BACKGROUND**

The Meninya Street Precinct Project is one of Murray River Council's largest projects that will transform Moama into a vibrant precinct of social and economic activity.

Reshaping Meninya Street from a transport thoroughfare into an innovative and sustainable precinct, this project intends to position Moama as a key tourist destination through place-making to compliment surrounding economic markets.

Strategically investing in infrastructure, open spaces and surrounding points of interest, Council aims to create a 'sense of place' and support high intensity developments including multi-level and multi-function spaces for business and the community to thrive.

Delivered in a staged approach, the multi-year project will enhance not only Meninya Street, but the surrounding precinct to create stronger connections to points of interest including the Horseshoe Lagoon, Moama Beach and the surrounding natural environment.

#### **Design Process:**

The design of the Meninya Street Precinct Project has been underway since the commencement of the master plan in 2019. Following the adoption of the master plan, concept designs and video animations were generated to support consultation and feedback from the community and business to identify key revisions before commencing civil design. During the design process, key feedback themes focused on the provisions of parking, traffic calming and improving the environment for pedestrian use. Seeking increased shade, opportunities for outdoor dining and supporting economic development were other feedback themes received from consultation.

In November 2023, Spiire Australia was appointed to complete civil design for the streetscape following a long procurement process. This process includes undertaking the following steps:

- 1) Review of existing concepts and strategies
- 2) Feature survey
- 3) Service location
- 4) Geotechnical investigation
- 5) Functional layout plan design (current stage)

- 6) Civil design including service design
- 7) Bill of quantities
- 8) Cost estimate
- 9) Issue for construction and issue for tender documentation

Current Stage: Functional layout plan design

Functional layout plan (FLP) design refers to the high-level design process to undertake geometric design for the streetscape by focusing on the layout and placement of road elements including footpaths, nature strips, parking bays, kerbs, medians, crossing and intersections. This process must be undertaken in accordance with Australian Standards and Austroads Guide to Road Design to ensure the design complies with geometric design requirements. This process also looks at turning movements, entry/exit points, public transport infrastructure and considers existing building setbacks, services and underground infrastructure. Any changes to the (FLP) once civil design has commenced typically results in time and cost impacts due to the implications associated with redesign.

#### DISCUSSION

The Meninya Precinct Project has remained in the FLP phase for an extensive period to ensure the design provided meets the requirements of the community, businesses and council. During 2024, the project has prioritised design revisions focused on maximising parallel parking supply, improving pedestrian facilities and supporting businesses within the precinct. Currently on the third iteration of plans, council has reached decision point for the Echuca Street Intersection halting the project from proceeding to civil design.

Council is now required to decide on whether to retain the existing road layout configuration with a right-hand turning lane, or to maximise parking supply by removing the turning lane and introducing parallel parking bays adjacent to Echuca Street. Based on the available road reserve width and objectives set for the project means both a turning lane and parallel parking cannot be achieved together.

As a result, council is required to choose of the of the two layout options outlined below. Once a decision is made a final fourth iteration of FLP will be developed and civil design will be 100% commenced.

#### Option 1 - Prioritise on-street parking supply:

Removal of turning lane and provision of parallel parking bays as per Figure 1. The design prioritises parking and traffic calming within the precinct to support increased pedestrian visitation and length of stay. The removal of the turning lane at Echuca Street, will push vehicles to turn right at Blair Street discouraging service vehicles and general traffic accessing the industrial estate via Echuca St and the Meninya Street Precinct. Vehicles still wishing to access Echuca Street can complete a U-turn at the Maiden Street Round-a-bout adding less than 30 seconds to their trip.

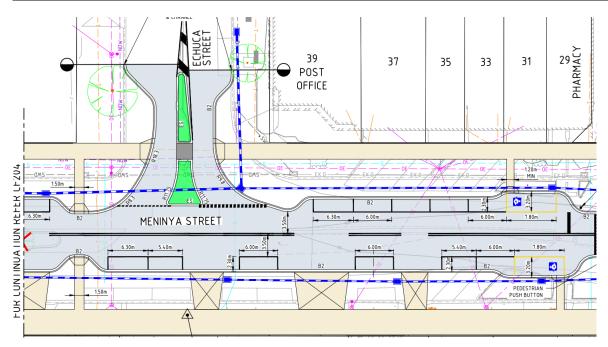
#### Benefits:

- Provision of parking in front of businesses (existing florist)
- Additional pedestrian crossing facilities
- Traffic calming
- Truck and service vehicle deterrence in Meninya Street and encourage use of new Echuca Moama Bridge, Nicholas Drive and Blair Street.

#### Cons:

 For those vehicles wishing to access Echuca Street, a U-turn at Maiden Street will result in a 30 second or less delay

Figure 1)



Option 2 - Prioritise vehicle movements:

Provide a turning lane into Echuca Street as per Figure 2. This design prioritises traffic movement within Meninya Street and will continue to allow vehicles to access the industrial estate via Echuca Street. The provision of a turning lane at Echuca Street will impact the supply of parking bays adjacent to Echuca Street and decrease pedestrian appeal due to noise. An estimated 3 Bays are impacted by the retainment of a turning lane in this location.

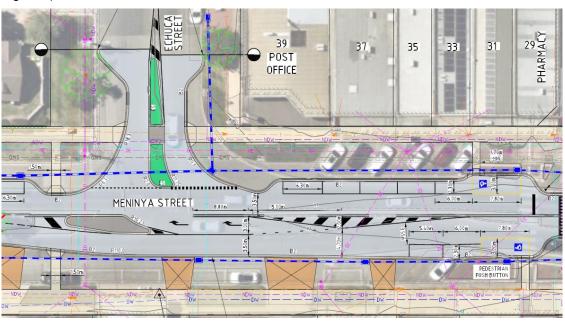
#### Benefits:

- Traffic movement and connectivity to Echuca Street shops and industrial estate
- Connection to Echuca Street car park

#### Cons:

- Supporting continued truck and industrial vehicle usage of Meninya Street
- Impact to pedestrian facilities (removal of 1 informal crossing point)
- Reduction of 3 potential parallel bays on Meninya Street

Figure 2)



#### STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

- 3. Strategic Theme 3: A place of Liveable Communities
- 3.10 Strategic planning which produces consistent, strategic, transparent outcomes Streetscaping / Master Planning / Placemaking.

#### **BUDGETARY IMPLICATIONS**

No Budgetary Implications are associated with the approval of this report or selecting a preferred option as outlined in the discussion section.

#### **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

Nil.

#### LEGISLATIVE IMPLICATIONS

#### **RISK ANALYSIS**

#### What can happen?

Project Delays – This decision is impacting the critical path of the project, as a result it is recommended that an option is selected in the November council ordinary meeting. Delaying a decision will result in direct impacts to the completion date of the project.

Traffic Movement – Option 1 and Option 2 both have minor impacts to traffic movement. Option 1 will calm traffic movement within Meninya Street to support a pedestrian environment by directing vehicles via Blair Street to the industrial estate. Option 2 will maintain high traffic counts through Meninya Street by encouraging the use of Echuca Street for heavy vehicles and service vehicles.

Business Concerns – Option 1 directly responds to business feedback within the precinct by prioritising car parking bay provision overturning lanes. Car parking provision has been made a priority for the project. Pursuing option 2 will likely trigger concerns from Meninya Street businesses losing parking provisions in an area which experience high parking demand.

#### How can it happen?

Project Delays: Triggered if a decision is not made at this meeting.

Traffic Movement: Retaining a turning lane at Echuca Street will continue to encourage vehicles to utilise Meninya Street including vehicles accessing the industrial estate such as service vehicles. The objectives of the streetscape projects are to discourage trucks utilising Meninya Street under normal driving conditions to support visitation and length of stay.

Business Concerns for parking provisions – Triggered if option 2 is pursued.

#### What are the consequences of the event happening?

Failure to achieve project objectives: The Meninya Street Precinct Project is a multi-million-dollar project, and it is critical to achieve the design outcomes conveyed by council and the community. During consultation it was identified that the community was seeking a pedestrian environment and decreased heavy vehicle traffic through the precinct. Failure to deliver this outcome may result in dissatisfaction from the end user in the long run.

Project Timelines: Delaying a decision will delay the project completion date and could trigger variations because of delays or result in opportunity costs, such as missed funding opportunities to complete staged construction.

#### What is the likelihood of the event happening?

Selecting one of the provided options during the November council ordinary meeting will reduce the likelihood of variations and project delays.

#### Adequacy of existing controls?

Controls are acceptable. Council is recommended to select a preferred option for the streetscape in the November ordinary meeting based on the preferred outcome,

#### • Treatment options to mitigate the risk?

Treatment options are to select one of the provided options as outlined in this report. Options provided comply with relevant design standards from a geometric and safety perspective.

#### **CONCLUSION**

The Meninya Street Precinct Project is now at the final stage of Functional Layout Planning and requires a decision from council to prioritise parking provision or vehicle movement at the Echuca Street intersection. Options outlined comply with relevant standards and road design criteria, however, will result in different outcome from traffic movement and pedestrian utilisation of the street. Delaying a decision will result in delays to the contract completion date and may increase the likelihood of additional costs. Council is required to select one of the two outlined options that best aligns to the strategic direction of the project to meet stakeholder expectations.

#### **ATTACHMENTS**

Nil

9.4 DIRECTOR PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT REPORT AND SUPPLEMENTARY MATTERS

Nil

9.5 DIRECTOR COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORT AND SUPPLEMENTARY MATTERS

Nil

#### 9.6 CORRESPONDENCE REPORT

#### 9.6.1 CORRESPONDENCE REPORT

File Number: -

Author: Lindy Leyonhjelm, Executive Assistant

Authoriser: Sarah Ryan, Acting Chief Executive Officer

#### RECOMMENDATION

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

#### DISCUSSION

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

#### **INCOMING CORRESPONDENCE:**

- Thank you National Rally Car Display October 27 2024 Volvo Car Clubs of Australia
- Letter to Murray River Council feedback received to Stage 1 public consultation for the NSW Murray Valley FMP - November 2024
- Koraleigh Community Centre Proposal Nov 2024

#### **OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE:**

- Letter to Cr D Mackrell Mayor Campaspe Shire Council
- Letter of thanks to The Hon Alex Hawke
- Letter of thanks to The Hon Sussan Lev

#### **ATTACHMENTS**

- 1. Thank you National Rally Car Display October 27 2024 Volvo Car Clubs of Australia
- 2. Mayor D Mackrell Letter of congratulations J
- 3. The Hon Alex Hawke thank you letter 🗓 🖺
- 4. The Hon Sussan Ley thank you letter 🏻 📸
- 5. Letter to Murray River Council feedback received to Stage 1 public consultation for the NSW Murray Valley FMP November 2024 🗓 🖺
- 6. Koraleigh Community Centre Proposal 🗓 🖫

Item 9.6.1 Page 97



Sarah Ryan Acting CEO Murray River Council PO Box 906 Moama NSW 2731

#### **VOLVO CLUBS OF AUSTRALIA NATIONAL RALLY 2024**

Dear Sarah

On behalf of the Volvo Club of Victoria I want to thank Murray River Council for its support of the Volvo Clubs of Australia National Rally 2024 held in Echuca Moama, from October 25<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup>.

The Rally themes symbolised its location, "Three Rivers Rally" at the convergence of three mighty rivers (the Goulburn, Campaspe and Murray) near Echuca Moama and "Celebrating 50 Years of Volvo Flagships", a reflective comparison of the 1974 Volvo 164TE and the current launch of the Volvo EX90 SUV – both flagships for their time in Australia.

Volvo Clubs of Australia National Rallies draw members of the five (5) Clubs from across Australia. The 2024 "Three Rivers Rally" saw almost 100 Volvos from the early years of Volvo in Australia, modern classics, current hybrid and fully electric models and rally & race cars attend accompanied by 168 enthusiastic owners & friends. There were many organised & informal events over the weekend, resulting in high visibility of Volvo cars in Echuca Moama and the region — with a highlight being the car Display Day held in Aquatic Reserve Echuca on Sunday, where the public was invited to attend.

The Rally's sponsorship banner (which included your organisation) was prominently displayed at all Rally events & activities as well as specific promotion and acknowledgement of sponsors and donors at Rally events. In particular, I want to thank Murray River Council for working closely with us and Campaspe Shire from August 2023. The strength of cooperation between the Council's gave us confidence and we were able to tap into the knowledge & experience of both Councils on planning for and holding large events in Echuca Moama. An early focus of planning for the National Rally was the location of the Car Display Day. Murray River Council's Tourism Officer Kirsty Hayes worked closely with Belinda Owen; Event Support Officer at Campaspe Shire, assisting us in determining that Aquatic Reserve Echuca, was the preferred location for the Car Display, with the Kerrabee Soundshell Reserve Moama as a back-up location. More recently we have been greatly assisted by Izzy Rees, Economic Development Officer, in the preparation and subsequent approval of documentation to use the Kerrabee Soundshell Reserve, should Aquatic Reserve be unavailable for our use. The Car Display was a huge success and importantly we had the support of Murray River Council to use the Soundshell Reserve if required.

We received inspiring support and feedback from Rally participants, the general public and the Echuca Moama tourism and business community in our planning for the Rally over the past 15 months, and during and post the Rally on how well it was publicised, organised and managed over the weekend.

Thank you once again.

Yours Sincerely

Heino Nowatzky
President
Volvo Club of Victoria Inc.
E: henowatzky@gmail.com

PO Box 3011, Moorabbin East VIC 3189

November 2024

MURRAY RIVER COUNCIL
Received
2 5 NOV 2024
MOAMA



**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

22 November 2024

Mayor Cr Daniel Mackrell Campaspe Shire Council PO Box 35 Echuca VIC 3564

Email: d.mackrell@campaspe.vic.gov.au

#### Dear Mayor Mackrell

Congratulations on your recent appointment as Mayor of Campaspe Shire Council. Your experience as a councillor and as a local business owner will stand you in good stead for your mayoral term.

Having only been recently elected as a councillor and Mayor of Murray River Council, I look forward to meeting with you in the near future to explore opportunities for our councils to work together for the benefit of our communities.

Yours sincerely,

Councillor John Harvie Mayor

John Harvis

Offices: 52 Perricoota Rd, Moama, NSW 2731 • 15 Murray St, Barham, NSW 2732 • 21-25 Conargo St, Mathoura, NSW 2710 • Tualka Tce, Moulamein, NSW 2733



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18 November 2024

The Hon Alex Hawke MP Federal Member for Mitchell PO Box 1173 Castle Hill NSW 1765

Email: alex.hawkemp@aph.gov.au

Dear Alex

Thank you for your recent letter of congratulations on my recent election to Murray River Council and to the position of Mayor and your offer of assistance should I require it.

I appreciate your kind gesture and look forward to meeting you should that opportunity arise.

Yours sincerely,

John Harvis

Councillor John Harvie

Mayor

Offices: 52 Perricoota Rd, Moama, NSW 2731 • 15 Murray St, Barham, NSW 2732 • 21-25 Conargo St, Mathoura, NSW 2710 • Tualka Tce, Moulamein, NSW 2733



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118 November 2024

The Hon Sussan Ley MP Member for Farrer Deputy Leader of the Opposition PO Box 672 Albury NSW 2640

Email: farrer@aph.gov.au

#### Dear Sussan

Thank you for your recent correspondence congratulating me on my recent election to Murray River Council and to the position of Mayor.

I am extremely honoured to be able to provide leadership to the council and look forward to working collaboratively with my fellow councillors to deliver tangible and positive outcomes for our communities.

Thank you for your kind offer of assistance and I look forward to catching up with you when you are next in the Murray River Council area.

I would also like to extend an open invitation to use my office at council headquarters, at 52 Perricoota Road Moama, should you ever need a workspace or to host a meeting.

Yours sincerely,

John Harvis

COUNCILLOR JOHN HARVIE

Mayor



# NSW.

#### Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water

Our ref: OUT24/18288

Mr Jack Bond
Director Infrastructure
Murray River Council
PO Box 906
Moama NSW 2731
jack.bond@murrayriver.nsw.gov.au

#### 22 November 2024

**Subject:** Flooding issues raised during public consultation for the draft NSW Murray Valley Floodplain Management Plan

Dear Mr Bond,

Thank you for your letter of support of 14 March 2024 for the proposed project proposal to reduce the flood risk to urban areas from the impacts of flood works in rural areas. We are pleased to inform you that this proposal has been successful. Further correspondence will be sent on this in the coming weeks.

I am writing to share with you the feedback that the department recently received as part of public consultation in the NSW Murray valley floodplain.

The Water Group in the NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (the department) is developing a floodplain management plan for the rural areas of the NSW Murray valley. Floodplain management plans are legal instruments made under the *Water Management Act 2000*. They set rules for what types of flood works can be constructed on a declared floodplain and where.

#### Feedback received

As part of Stage 1 public consultation from May to June 2024, the department received feedback relating to localised flooding issues with roads and other works. A summary of this feedback is provided in Attachment 1.

We noted in our <u>What we heard report</u> that we would pass this feedback on the relevant local councils. The What we heard report, submissions and maps are published on our website.

#### Hydraulic modelling data

A suite of hydraulic models have been developed as part of the new floodplain management plan. The department is happy to share these models with Murray River Council as required to support local flood risk management and planning for road maintenance and upgrades. The models will be reviewed and updated regularly. They are updated to incorporate additional flood works following the granting of a flood work approval or other changes in the landscape such as road or rail upgrades.

4 Parramatta Square, 12 Darcy Street, Parramatta NSW 2150 Locked Bag 5022, Parramatta NSW 2124

www.dcceew.nsw.gov.au/



#### Stage 2 public exhibition of the draft floodplain management plan

Public exhibition of the draft NSW Murray Valley Floodplain Management Plan is expected to occur in early 2025. Stage 2 public exhibition will provide an opportunity for community feedback on the draft plan, including the proposed management zones, and associated rules and assessment criteria for granting or amending approvals for flood works.

If you would like to discuss this issue further, please contact Jeanie Dewhurst, A/Manager Floodplain Planning team at floodplain.planning@dpie.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely,

Frances Guest

J. lund

A/Director Floodplain Management

Water Planning

Water Group



Attachment 1. Summary of feedback received as part of Stage 1 public consultation for the draft NSW Murray Valley Floodplain Management Plan in relation to local roads and other works.

Feedback received	Location
It is impossible to develop a new Murray FMP without acknowledging the Council decisions / roads / railways / government infrastructure that blocks flood flows in the regions but which NSW Government response is "it's not subject to requirements of the Murray Valley FMP".	Whole region
It is not possible to develop a FMP for the mapped areas without recognition of council owned land or where decisions are blocking the passage of flows. NSW Government and local Shire Councils have constructed numerous impediments to flood flows even within designated floodways identified in the Central Murray Floodplain Plan. This includes rural and town roads, town levees, and floodway designs which have created significant flood flow restrictions.	
In the 2022 flood event the Murray River actually started flowing backwards due to the constraints of the Barmah choke.  I remain concerned that levels of conservatism in the flood modelling previously raised with Council is again not being considered. I reference page 21 of the 2014 Wakool Shire Barham Flood Study report which openly states that changes in levee conditions between 1956,1975 and 2013 are not factored into the modelling however substantial work has been undertaken in the Perricotta forest. This needs to be factored into the modelled outcome.  Further the Murray River Shire asked me to keep photos of the impact from the 2022 event and that is also attached.  Feedback provided also included attached letter to Jack Bond, Murray River Council for review.	Barham
Concerns with local government roads. History of roads being cut off during floods. Issue will local government road. Goes under during flooding. See attachment. Text from map: Section of road shown in red = Road goes under during flood events. Road does not meet current standard. Local government road.	Dhuragoon
Of major significance to me is the impact of council works that impact the flow in the Bullock ck, Papanue ck, Murrain Yarein ck, that prevent any beneficial flows and cause enhanced damage in times of the two flood events studied.  The Dhuragoon Rd connection to the Balpool Rd is essential for school access.	Dhuragoon
I believe if a new weir was installed on the big Murray River adjacent to Snake Avenue similar to Little Murray floodway weir it would only need a causeway one hundred metres wide with one-metre-high banks because of the fast flow distance would be four to five kilometres.  This would relieve much of the pressure on the Waddy and Meran creeks and because of the fast flow a bridge would not be required on the Swan Hill Deniliquin Road as a causeway would be sufficient.	East of Swan Hill, near Waddy Creek
There are also causeways/floodways not shown such as on the Gonn Rd at Merran Park and the Cabool Creek on the Noorong Road. There are also watercourses that have been blocked over the years like Murray Downs No 1 and No 2 bridges removed. Insufficient waterway in Wakool River between Gee Gee Bridge and St Helena.  No flow crossing Noorong Road east of the Gee Gee Bridge.	Gonn



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There are roads that also restrict or block these areas.	East of Swan Hill
These floods are not indicative of where a natural flood would flow. They consist of false floodways due to blocked or restricted creeks and floodways. Channels, roads and previous poor planning allowing creeks and floodways to be starved of water which is critical to its ecology. There are many areas where local roads are blocking or restricting the flow.	Mortons Lake
Swan Hill Road. Issues in this location. These areas need to be maintained so we can get access in and out of property. Access out of property stopped for 3 months.	Moulamein / Mallan
Significant issues in relation to road construction with large levees at the side of road and without causeways. This has resulted in excessive flooding for local properties - Noorong Road, Narcurrie Rd, Swan Hill Barham Road, Murray Downs and Officers Road. This issue needs to be raised with Murray Shire Council.	Multiple locations along Noorong Road from Swan Hill to Wetuppa
Major cause of flooding for our region has been loss of floodways that have been removed over the years, most significantly the replacement of the Gee Gee Bridge over the Wakool River on the Noorong Road. Three floodways were removed from the Noorong Road.	Multiple locations along Noorong Road from Swan Hill to Wetuppa
The plan also fails to accommodate where the water first met the Barnes Road railway line / levee (at Milgate Road) and the benefits of having a culvert installed here to reduce pressure/water build up to the north East of this railway line. A culvert needs the be installed at the Milgate road intersection of the Barnes road railway line. This is where the water first met the railway line during the Oct 2022 flood and the rural levees which broke during that flood have been repaired.	Northeast of Moama
Old Deniliquin Road needs to be lifted. put multiple culverts where required.	Northeast of Moama
Above Barham the flow into the Koondrook Forest is:  1. Water is travelling too fast through the forest and when reaching the Gee Gee Bridge (Wakool) new roadworks and limited causeways are not sufficient to carry the water - there used to be 3 causeways (big 30 m culverts) now there is only one, hence the water is moving in a westerly direction causing untold flooding which has never occurred before. Council needs to fix this problem; it is a matter of urgency.  2. Contact local people - talk to the people on the ground.  Government should be responsible for roads that have been altered to make sure that are above flood level and that all culverts taken out are put back in the same place. Don't replace 3 culverts with 1. This was clearly evident of what happened in	North of Barham
this area.	
If a small levee is allowed to remain in place in Little Forest (as has been there for the last 68 years), we would expect there to be minimal if any flooding of surrounding properties during a 1 in 100-year flood event.	Southeast of Barham, North of Little Forest
If the levee is removed as has been mooted by NSW Forestry corporation, we believe the extent of inundation shown on the map as it relates to our landholdings and other landholdings east of Barham is grossly underestimated, even in a moderate flood event.	
Without a levee in place, in a moderate to high flood, water will rapidly flow into Little Forest approximately at the locations identified at figure 2 and would then	



spill over the forest levees on the west and north-east sides. This was confirmed during the 2022 flood event when a local land surveyor found that the flood level at the Murray River in Little Forest (77.18) was significantly higher than the height of the existing registered levees on the west side of the Forest (76.45 at the western entrance to Forest and 77.02 at Little Forest Lane). These levels provided by NJC Irrigation are provided at figure 3 for your reference (note that the levels are reduced levels not AHD).

If floodwater breaches the levees around the perimeter of the Forest it will move to the north and northwest towards the Barham township. It is possible that most homes to the east of Barham would be at risk of inundation under this uncontrolled scenario. Figure 2 identifies the key locations where we would expect floodwater would spill over existing levees under this scenario.

Floodwater would enter Boords Creek and make its way to the north eventually pooling on farmland to the north of Barham where there is currently no mechanism in place to pump the water back over the top of the KP Levee and into the KP Forest where it naturally wants to go. Prior to the construction of the KP levee, floodwater would have re-entered the Forest at this location to the north of Barham. The construction of the KP levee means that adjoining landholders are at risk of significantly more inundation during a flood event as water can no longer naturally drain back into the KP Forest.

During the 2022 floods after successive years of drought it was found that the small riverfront levee within the Little Forest had been lost in several places due to Riverbank Erosion. This resulted in significant volumes of water entering the Forest (estimated to be approx. 500 ML / day). Within approximately 7 days, the forest had completely filled with water and the secondary levees around the perimeter of the Forest (which include Little Forest Lane and levees on private property) were on the verge of breaching, particularly on the west side of the Forest. The SES ordered an emergency levee to be constructed along the Riverfront in the Little Forest to avoid the potential inundation of up to 13 homes.

The emergency levee was constructed at a height of approximately 1m and resulted in the disturbance of numerous cultural heritage sites within the Forest. The emergency levee currently remains in place 2.5 years after the flood event however NSW Forestry Corporation have advised that the levee must be removed at some point in future. [Little Forest (part of Koondrook Pericoota)].

As part of the development of the Plan, it is suggested that DPIE-water consult with NSW Foresty Corporation and Murray River Council in relation to Little Forest and the fate of the emergency levee. The flood implications of removing the emergency levee need to be well understood prior to any removal of the levee. It is my strong opinion that a small levee MUST be retained within the Forest to prevent extensive inundation of properties east of Barham. Many landholders in this area have purchased and invested in their properties on the assumption that they were protected from flood events as this has been the situation for over 68 years.

The Barmah choke seems to restrict flows, pushing more water into the Edward, Wakool and Niemur rivers. Amors Rd does not have enough capacity for floodwaters to pass through.

Southwest of Niemur, but feedback also relates to Barmah

Historical levee (in Little Forest) eroded over time. SES constructed replacement levee during 2022 flood. Currently prevents floodwater getting from the river into Little Forest but complete removal would be risk. Suggest use of pipe through

Southwest edge of Koondrook state forest

5



existing levee into inlet structures or flood runners to manage to flood water (environmental water regime)	
Due to removal of levee on neighbours property (requested by Council), floodwater during high flood event prevents access to property along Minnie Bend Road. Suggest Council raise height of road with culverts if levee not reinstated. Now floods restricts access due to the removal of levee in south and movement of water from Murray River in the north (combined).	Tooleybuc
The Cockrane Creek in large floods runs backwards due to a restriction caused by the Echuca- Moulamein railway line, this being the case in 2022, causing a upstream flood bank to break pushing more water upstream but with minimal inundation.	Wakool
The flood to the north of Merron Creek was significantly higher than has occurred previously. We suspect this was due to the management of flooding of the Koondrook Pericoota forest.	West of Gonn
There is a protective levee bank located nearby on Crown land that has been in place for many years. We are not sure who owns the levee and who is responsible for its maintenance. Most likely it is the Murray River Council, previously Wakool Shire Council. We wish to have this levee bank retained in its current location and maintained and improved to protect our properties.	West of Moulamein
There is also a bottleneck around Echuca.	West of Womboota

#### KORALEIGH FIRE BRIGADE

To whom it may concern,

The Koraleigh Fire Brigade was reformed in 1981 and at that time, the only fire fighting appliance was a 6x4 trailer unit, and there was no shed to house it in. When we reformed, we raised funds to build a two-bay station. We built this with no assistance from the Wakool Shire of the Rural Fire Service.

As the years passed and the brigade grew, we again raised funds to purchase land and add an extension to the shed in 2004.

Our brigade now has two large tankers, one small tanker, and a lighting and pump trailer. Over the past decade we have gone from strength to strength, becoming one of the busiest brigades in Group 8 of the Murray River Council. Please see below table of our call outs.

Year:	Call Outs:	Year:	Call Outs:
2016-17	20	2020-21	28
2017-18	28	2021-22	14
2018-19	12	2022-23	20
2019-20	13	2023-24	32

Recently, our brigade has had an influx of new members, including some females. We are incredibly grateful to have new members signing up, and we would like to better be able to accommodate the females putting their hand up to volunteer for us by providing better facilities.

We are in need of a larger, more modern station. The issues we have with our current station are;

- We have no facilities for females to change in
- We have no separate female toilets
- We do not have enough room for our members to hang their turn out gear
- We do not have a store room and gear that does not fit in the existing storage is left sitting on the ground and in the way
- We do not have a maintenance area for completing repairs when needed
- The current area next to the trucks for members to change is not large enough to accommodate our number of volunteers
- We do not have a suitable area for drying hoses
- Our current kitchen/meeting area is not large enough to fit all of our volunteers for debriefing or for training sessions
- We are currently based next to the Koraleigh General Store/Tavern and when the shop is busy at night, there is not enough parking for our members

We hope the above issues gives the council an insight into our need for a larger, more modern fire station.

#### KORALEIGH FIRE BRIGADE

The brigade fully supports the idea of a combined Fire Station and Community Centre. We believe this would give the community a modern gathering facility, as well as meeting the brigades ongoing needs. It also would provide better facilities for catering on training days and larger emergencies when the arise.

By combining the community centre and fire station, the Council would be reducing its maintenance from three buildings to just one, and being a new building, the required maintenance would be very low for many years to come.

The fire brigade also believes that the old school block is an ideal position, as we already have a community water storage tank on site. It also would assist when we complete training in the smoke house which is also on site. Adding to this, the brigade is aware of interest in purchasing the existing fire station if the facility were to go ahead.

We hope that this letter goes someway towards assisting the Council to look favourably on our submission for this venture that the Koraleigh Fire Brigade and the Koraleigh community is trying to achieve. We also understand that the Council has plans which have previously been submitted for this project.

Sincerely,

Koraleigh Fire Brigade Captain,

Andrew Fletcher



## Koraleigh Hall and Rec. Reserve Committee

The Koraleigh Rec Reserve and Hall Committee fully support the idea of a combined Community Centre and Fire Station. The Rec Reserve and Hall buildings both need significant upgrades to be compliant with OH&S standards.

The Koraleigh community is seeing a significant number of younger families moving into the area. This Community Centre will help retain these new families in Koraleigh as it will provide a central facility for all our community groups. These include: RFS, Tennis Club, CWA, Exercise Group, Mothers Group, AEC, Agricultural Groups as well as the annual Christmas Tree and Australia Day celebrations.

The Hall has no internal/disability toilets. The Rec Reserve has no wheel chair access nor disability toilets. There are no public toilets provided in Koraleigh but are in the Community Centre plans.

The new Combined RFS and Community Centre will provide:

- · separate men/women change rooms.
- public disability toilet.
- maintenance of one facility rather than three: RFS, Hall & Rec Reserve.
- · comfortable, secure and safe area for family gatherings and meetings. Eg: hire for wedding, 21st and other special occasions.
- these three groups will maintain the facility with assistance from the MRC when necessary.

The Koraleigh Rec Reserve and Hall believe that the old school block is an ideal position as the community water storage tank is on site and it is in close proximity to the recently upgraded tennis courts that feature new lighting.

We hope this letter goes someway towards assisting the MRC to look favourably on our submission for this venture that the Koraleigh community and Fire Brigade is trying to achieve. We also believe that the MRC has the plans which have previously been submitted for this project.

Sincerely, In PRESIDENT

The Koraleigh Rec Reserve and Hall Committee

#### 9.7 SUNDRY DELEGATES REPORT

#### 9.7.1 SUNDRY DELEGATES REPORT

File Number: -

Author: Lindy Leyonhjelm, Executive Assistant

Authoriser: Sarah Ryan, Acting Chief Executive Officer

#### RECOMMENDATION

That the Sundry Delegates Report of the Mayor and Councillors for the period 1 November 2024 through to 30 November 2024 be received and the information noted by the Council; and reasonable out of pocket expenses be met by Council.

#### DISCUSSION

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

- 01 Nov: Meeting with CEO (Terry Dodds) and Acting CEO (Sarah Ryan) Current issues
- 06 Nov: Riverina and Murray Joint Organisation (RAMJO) Board Dinner in Hay
- 07 Nov: RAMJO Board Meeting in Hay
- 11 Nov: Attend Remembrance Day Service and lay a wreath Moama Cenotaph
- 11 Nov: Meet with each of the two, final shortlisted candidates being considered for the role of Chair of the Audit Risk and Improvement Committee (ARIC)
- 12 Nov: Extra Ordinary Council Meeting and Workshop Moama
- 14 Nov: Country Mayors Association Dinner Sydney
- 15 Nov: Country Mayors Association Annual General Meeting Sydney
- 17 Nov: NSW Golf Open Murray Downs
- 20 Nov: Citizenship Ceremonies Moama
- 20 Nov: Water Webinar on-line
- 20 Nov: Acting Chief Executive Officer catchup Moama
- 21 Nov: CEO Recruitment Meeting Marnie Rowden Moama
- 21 Nov: Meeting, NBN Co General Manager Chris Cusack and Andrew Cottrell Moama
- 22 Nov: CEO Review Panel Meeting Moama
- 26 Nov: Ordinary Council Meeting Pre-Briefing and Meeting, Tooleybuc
- 28 Nov: Meeting, Chief Executive Officer, Regional Development Australia Murray in Moama
- 28 Nov: Meeting, Murray River Police District Commander Superintendent Paul Smith and Acting Inspector Mitch Lalor, Moama

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

- 4 Nov: Murray Downs Riverside Park Management Committee
- 12 Nov: Extra Ordinary meeting and workshop
- 12 Nov: Murray Downs NSW Golf Open Dinner
- 22 Nov: Review of HR Consultants Proposals
- 26 Nov: Tooleybuc Ordinary Council Meeting and Workshop

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Councillor Bianca Hurn reported on her attendance at the following meetings and functions

- 12 Nov: MRC Ordinary Council Meeting & workshop
- 12 Nov: Moama Lions Club Delegate meeting
- 17-19 Nov: LGNSW Annual Conference Tamworth
- 20 Nov: Moama Lions Club update at MRC
- 21 Nov: Moama & District Pre School-Delegate meeting
- 26 Nov: MRC Ordinary Council Meeting
- 26 Nov: Echuca Moama Beacon Foundation meeting

**Councillor Joy Allan** did not supply a report on her attendance to meetings and functions for this time period.

**Councillor Kylie Berryman** did not supply a report on her attendance to meetings and functions for this time period.

**Councillor Gen Campbell** did not supply a report on her 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.

**Councillor Gary Pappin** did not supply a report on his attendance to meetings and functions for this time period.

#### **ATTACHMENTS**

Nil

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### 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 REQUEST FOR POLICY ADJUSTMENT

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