



MINUTES

Ordinary Council Meeting Wednesday, 5 February 2025

Date: Wednesday, 5 February 2025

Time: 6.00pm

Location: Council Chambers, 15 Stead Street, Ballan &
Online

Order Of Business

1 Opening of Meeting and Prayer4

2 Acknowledgement of Country4

3 Recording of Meeting4

4 Present.....4

5 Apologies4

6 Confirmation of Minutes5

7 Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest..... 5

8 Public Question Time.....5

9 Petitions..... 5

Nil

10 Presentations/Deputations.....5

11 Community Strengthening Reports6

11.1 Community Asset Committees - Reports6

11.2 Advisory Committees of Council - Reports 8

11.3 Health and Wellbeing Plan 2025-2029 Consultation 9

12 Customer and Corporate Services Reports 13

12.1 Audit and Risk Advisory Committee of Council - Reports 13

12.2 Draft Councillor Social Media Policy 14

13 Community Assets & Infrastructure Reports 17

13.1 Final Gateways Strategy 17

14 Other Reports 21

Nil

15 Notices of Motion..... 22

15.1 Notice of Motion No. 322 - Two (2) Year Trial for the Provision of a Snake
Catching Removal Service 22

16 Notices of Rescission 24

Nil

17 Mayor’s & Councillors Reports..... 25

17.1 Mayor's Report..... 25

17.2 Councillors Reports 26

18 Urgent Business..... 28

18.1 Fire Risk in Towns Located in Wombat State Forest..... 28

19 Closed Session of the Meeting to the Public..... 30

19.1 C0156-2024/2025 Clarendon - Lal Lal Road Reconstruction 30

19.2 Ingliston Road, Ballan - Additional Works under Contract C0145 2024/2025..... 30

20 Meeting Closure 31

1 OPENING OF MEETING AND PRAYER

The Mayor opened the meeting at 6.00pm with the Deputy Mayor leading the Council Prayer.

2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

I acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land on which we are meeting. I pay my respects to their Elders, past and present, and the Aboriginal Elders of other communities who may be here today.

3 RECORDING OF MEETING

In accordance with Moorabool Shire Council's Governance Rules, the meeting is livestreamed.

4 PRESENT

Cr Paul Tatchell, Mayor

Cr Rod Ward, Deputy Mayor

Cr Moira Berry

Cr Jarrod Bingham

Cr Sheila Freeman

Cr John Keogh

Cr Ally Munari

Cr Tom Sullivan

Cr Steve Venditti-Taylor

Officers:

Mr Derek Madden

Chief Executive Officer

Mr David Jackson

General Manager Customer & Corporate Services

Mr Phil Jeffrey

General Manager Community Assets & Infrastructure

Ms Leigh McCallum

General Manager Community Strengthening

Mr Henry Bezuidenhout

Executive Manager Community Planning & Development

Mr Joseph Spiteri

Manager Governance & Civic Support

5 APOLOGIES

Nil

6 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Tom Sullivan

Seconded: Cr Moira Berry

That the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on Wednesday 18 December 2024 be confirmed.

CARRIED

7 DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Cr Bingham declared a conflict of interest in relation to Item 15.1.

Cr Keogh declared a conflict of interest in relation to Item 19.1.

8 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Nil

9 PETITIONS

Nil

10 PRESENTATIONS/DEPUTATIONS

Nil

11 COMMUNITY STRENGTHENING REPORTS

11.1 COMMUNITY ASSET COMMITTEES - REPORTS

Author: Kaylene Bowker, Executive Assistant

Authoriser: Leigh McCallum, General Manager Community Strengthening

- Attachments:**
1. Minutes - Navigators CAC - 28 February 2024 (under separate cover)
 2. Minutes - Millbrook Community Centre CAC - 24 April 2024 (under separate cover)
 3. Minutes - Elaine Recreation Reserve CAC - 8 May 2024 (Redacted) (under separate cover)
 4. Minutes - Greendale Recreation Reserve CAC - 9 May 2024 (Redacted) (under separate cover)
 5. Minutes - Lal Lal Soldiers Memorial Hall CAC - 18 June 2024 (under separate cover)
 6. Minutes - Elaine Recreation Reserve CAC - 16 July 2024 (under separate cover)
 7. Minutes - Bacchus Marsh Public Hall CAC - 5 August 2024 (under separate cover)

BACKGROUND

Community Asset Committees are established by Council under section 65 of the *Local Government Act 2020* to manage and maintain Community Assets within the municipal district. By Instrument of Delegation, Council may delegate to the committees such functions and powers of the Council that it deems appropriate, utilising provisions of the *Local Government Act 2020*. The Council cannot delegate those powers identified in section 11(2) of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The following Community Asset Committees present the following reports of the Committee Meetings for Council consideration.

| Committee | Meeting Date |
|---|------------------|
| Navigators Community Asset Committee Meeting | 28 February 2024 |
| Millbrook Community Centre Community Asset Committee Meeting | 24 April 2024 |
| Elaine Recreation Reserve Community Asset Committee Meeting (Redacted) | 8 May 2024 |
| Greendale Recreation Reserve Community Asset Committee Meeting (Redacted) | 9 May 2024 |
| Lal Lal Soldiers Memorial Hall Community Asset Committee Meeting | 18 June 2024 |
| Elaine Recreation Reserve Community Asset Committee Meeting | 16 July 2024 |

| | |
|---|---------------|
| Bacchus Marsh Public Hall Community Asset Committee Meeting | 5 August 2024 |
|---|---------------|

RESOLUTION**Moved: Cr Rod Ward****Seconded: Cr Tom Sullivan****That Council receives the following Community Asset Committee Minutes:**

- 1. Navigators CAC Minutes for meeting held on 28 February 2024.**
- 2. Millbrook Community Centre CAC Minutes for meeting held on 24 April 2024.**
- 3. Elaine Recreation Reserve CAC Minutes for meeting held on 8 May 2024 (Redacted).**
- 4. Greendale Recreation Reserve CAC Minutes for meeting held on 9 May 2024 (Redacted).**
- 5. Lal Lal Soldiers Memorial Hall CAC Minutes for meeting held on 18 June 2024.**
- 6. Elaine Recreation Reserve CAC Minutes for meeting held on 16 July 2024.**
- 7. Bacchus Marsh Public Hall CAC Minutes for meeting held on 5 August 2024.**

CARRIED

11.2 ADVISORY COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL - REPORTS

Author: Kaylene Bowker, Executive Assistant

Authoriser: Leigh McCallum, General Manager Community Strengthening

Attachments: 1. Minutes - Moorabool Health and Wellbeing Advisory Committee Meeting - 5 August 2024 (under separate cover)

BACKGROUND

Advisory Committees are established to assist Council with executing specific functions or duties.

Advisory Committees of Council currently have no delegated powers to act on behalf of Council or commit Council to any expenditure unless resolved explicitly by Council following recommendation from the Committee. Their function is purely advisory.

Advisory Committees are required to report to Council at intervals determined by the Council.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Councillors, as representatives of the following Advisory Committees of Council, present the reports of the Committee Meetings for Council consideration.

| Committee | Meeting Date | Council Representatives |
|---|----------------------|---|
| Moorabool Health and Wellbeing Advisory Committee | Monday 5 August 2024 | Cr Tonia Dudzik Cr Moira Berry (sub) |

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Ally Munari

Seconded: Cr Moira Berry

That Council receive and note the following Advisory Committee Minutes:

- 1. Moorabool Health and Wellbeing Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes for Monday 5 August 2024.**

CARRIED

11.3 HEALTH AND WELLBEING PLAN 2025-2029 CONSULTATION

Author: Nichole Knight, Health Promotion and Gender Equality Officer
Authoriser: Leigh McCallum, General Manager Community Strengthening
Attachments: Nil

PURPOSE

This report details the legislated requirements and consultation process for the development of the Health and Wellbeing Plan 2025-2029. Council approval for community consultation to inform the Plan is being sought.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Under section 26 of the *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008*, Council is required to develop a Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan (MPHWP) within 12 months of a Council election.
- The Moorabool Health and Wellbeing Plan 2025-2029 (the Plan) is a four-year plan designed to enhance the health and wellbeing of our residents.
- The Plan is developed in consultation with the community and stakeholders, and in partnership with local health providers and community organisations to improve the health and wellbeing of the Moorabool community.
- Consultation and engagement will be undertaken as set out in this report.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Tom Sullivan

Seconded: Cr Moira Berry

That Council approves consultation and engagement to inform the development of the Health and Wellbeing Plan 2025-2029.

CARRIED

BACKGROUND

Under section 26 of the *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008*, Council is required to develop a Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan (MPHWP) within 12 months of a Council election. The Plan must be consistent with the Council Plan and the Municipal Strategic Statement, be reviewed annually and evaluated at the end of the four-year period.

The Moorabool Health and Wellbeing Plan 2025-2029 is a four-year plan for enhancing the health and wellbeing of our residents. The Plan draws upon localised and other health data and current research to capture the health and wellbeing status of our communities. The Plan must align with key health issues as identified through the Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Plan which includes guidelines to ensure climate change and the prevention of violence against women is included in the establishment of a new MPHWP.

The Moorabool Health and Wellbeing Plan 2025-2029 will be developed to align with the Council Plan 2025-2029 and the Municipal Strategic Statement to form Council's Strategic Planning Framework for the next four years. It aligns with relevant strategies and policy documents across Council and will inform future policy and strategy to address emerging trends across the social, built, natural, cultural and economic environments for health.

The Plan is developed in consultation with the community and stakeholders, and in partnership with local health providers and community organisations to improve the health and wellbeing of the Moorabool community. Consultation and engagement will be undertaken as set out in this report.

The Health and Wellbeing Advisory Committee provides oversight and input into the progression of actions within the Plan, with Action Groups established to progress specific themes. Committee membership includes internal and external stakeholders, identified through the consultation period, who commit to participating throughout the life of the Plan.

MPHWPs respond to the broad determinants of health and aim to reduce barriers to preventative health measures, whilst empowering individuals and communities to make positive decisions about their health. There are a wide range of factors influencing health and wellbeing including individual, social, cultural, economic and environmental. A healthy community is not just one with an absence of disease and infirmity but one which strengthens people's protective factors such as their sense of belonging, their resilience, the availability of economic and social opportunities and a clean environment.

MPHWPs provide strategic direction for Council, local health providers and community organisations to improve the health of the Moorabool community. Council has a lead role in developing the Plan, however the delivery of strategies and actions are in partnership with organisations and the community. This ensures that a collective impact approach is taken to improving the health and wellbeing of the community.

PROPOSAL

Community consultation is required to inform the development of the Plan. A detailed Communications and Consultation Strategy is set out in this report which includes a community survey to engage with the broader community. In addition a range of face-to-face engagements will be undertaken to ensure information is captured from broad demographic groups, including harder to reach and more vulnerable community members.

COUNCIL PLAN

The Council Plan 2021-2025 provides as follows:

Strategic Objective 1: Healthy, inclusive and connected neighbourhoods

Priority 1.1: Improve the health and wellbeing of our community

The proposal to develop the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2025-2029 is consistent with the Council Plan 2021-2025.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Costs for the development of the Plan are provided for within the current Health and Wellbeing budget.

RISK & OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY ISSUES

| Risk Identifier | Detail of Risk | Risk Rating | Control/s |
|--|--|--------------------|---|
| Financial – Inadequate funds to finish project | Inadequate financial management | Medium | Seek quotes for design. |
| Timeframes not met – Reputation | Not adhering to the timeframes set by the Department of Health for development of the Plan | Medium | Provide for adjustments within the project plan and timeline as required. Timely communication with the Department of Health. |

COMMUNICATIONS & CONSULTATION STRATEGY

| Level of Engagement | Stakeholder | Activities | Location | Date | Outcome |
|----------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|---|
| Consult | Community | Have Your Say survey | Online | February 2025 | Results to inform the development of the Plan |
| Consult | Community Groups | Outreaching face-to-face meetings | Various | February 2025 | Results to inform the development of the Plan |
| Consult | Community Agencies | Online or face-to-face workshops | Various | March 2025 | Results to inform the development of the Plan |
| Consult | Internal Stakeholders | Online or face-to-face workshops | Ballan Darley Bacchus Marsh | March 2025 | Results to inform the development of the Plan |
| Consult | Internal and External Stakeholders and HWB Advisory Committee | Action Planning Workshops | Bacchus Marsh | April/May 2025 | Develop outcomes, strategies and actions for the Plan |
| Inform/ Consult | Council and Executive | Briefings and OMC | TBC | July/August 2025 | Present the draft Plan and gain insights to inform the final Plan. Gain approval for the draft Plan to go out for further community feedback. |

| Level of Engagement | Stakeholder | Activities | Location | Date | Outcome |
|---------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------|-------------------------------|--|
| Consult | Community and Stakeholders | Have Your Say – Draft Plan | Online | August 2025 | Opportunity for community and stakeholders to provide final feedback on Draft Plan |
| Empower | Council | Briefings and OMC | TBC | September/ 1 October OMC 2025 | Present final Plan for adoption |
| Inform | Department of Health | Submit Plan | | 31 October 2025 | Plan endorsed |

VICTORIAN CHARTER OF HUMAN RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES ACT 2006

In developing this report to Council, the officer considered whether the subject matter raised any human rights issues. In particular, whether the scope of any human right established by the Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities is in any way limited, restricted or interfered with by the recommendations contained in the report. It is considered that the subject matter does not raise any human rights issues.

OFFICER’S DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

Under section 130 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, officers providing advice to Council must disclose any interests, including the type of interest.

General Manager – Leigh McCallum

In providing this advice to Council as the General Manager, I have no interests to disclose in this report.

Author – Nichole Knight

In providing this advice to Council as the Author, I have no interests to disclose in this report.

CONCLUSION

Community consultation is a requirement in the development of the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan. A community survey and community engagement plan have been developed to engage with the community, and to ensure relevant stakeholders are consulted to inform the Plan.

12 CUSTOMER AND CORPORATE SERVICES REPORTS

12.1 AUDIT AND RISK ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL - REPORTS

Author: Kaylene Bowker, Executive Assistant

Authoriser: David Jackson, General Manager Customer & Corporate Services

- Attachments:**
1. **Audit and Risk Advisory Committee Summary of Minutes - 14 August 2024 (under separate cover)**
 2. **Audit and Risk Advisory Committee Summary of Minutes - 11 September 2024 (under separate cover)**

BACKGROUND

Advisory Committees are established to assist Council with executing specific functions or duties.

Advisory Committees of Council currently have no delegated powers to act on behalf of Council or commit Council to any expenditure unless resolved explicitly by Council following recommendation from the Committee. Their function is purely advisory.

Advisory Committees are required to report to Council at intervals determined by the Council.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Councillors, as representatives of the following Advisory Committees of Council, present the reports of the Committee Meetings for Council consideration.

| Committee | Meeting Date | Council Representatives |
|---|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Audit and Risk Advisory Committee | Wednesday 14 August 2024 | Cr Moira Berry Cr Tonia Dudzik |
| Audit and Risk Advisory Committee (Special Meeting) | Wednesday 11 September 2024 | Cr Moira Berry Cr Tonia Dudzik |

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Jarrod Bingham

Seconded: Cr Ally Munari

That Council receive the Audit and Risk Advisory Committee Summary of Minutes for the meetings held on Wednesday 14 August 2024 and Wednesday 11 September 2024 (Special Meeting).

CARRIED

12.2 DRAFT COUNCILLOR SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY**Author: Leanne Manton, Manager Customer and Communications****Authoriser: David Jackson, General Manager Customer and Corporate Services****Attachments: 1. Draft Councillor Social Media Policy (under separate cover)****PURPOSE**

The purpose of this report is to provide a draft Councillor Social Media Policy for adoption.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Local Government Victoria has advised Councils to adopt a Councillor Social Media Policy.
- A draft Councillor Social Media Policy has been developed for Council consideration.
- The draft policy is based on a model policy create by the Victorian Local Governance Association with input from Councils.

RESOLUTION**Moved: Cr Rod Ward****Seconded: Cr Moira Berry****That Council adopts the Councillor Social Media Policy.****CARRIED**

BACKGROUND

In the Local Government Victoria publication Guidance on the Model Councillor Code of Conduct October 2024, it is stated that “to avoid breaching the Model Code of Conduct, Councillors should act consistently with any social media or communications policies or protocols that their own Council has developed to guide the responsible use of social media by Councillors”.

It is advised Councils adopt a Councillor Social Media Policy to provide guidance to Councillors in the use of social media to ensure they do not breach the Model Councillor Code of Conduct, and also a range of legislative or other risks that may apply.

PROPOSAL

Social media is a complex and ever-changing area.

In order to assist Councils in developing a Social Media Policy for Councillors, the Victorian Local Governance Association (VLGA) has developed a Model Councillor Social Media Policy with input from across the sector. The VLGA is an independent governance organisation supporting Councils and Councillors.

This policy is designed to enshrine the right of Councillors to fully engage with the municipal community via social media and that any policy restrictions placed on their social media activity should be limited in scope.

The VLGA Model Councillor Social Media Policy does not seek to introduce restrictions that do not already exist and seeks instead to codify the existing provisions that are applicable to social media activity.

These provisions are drawn from:

- The Local Government Act 2020;
- The Local Government (Governance and Integrity) Regulations 2022;
- Model Councillor Code of Conduct; and
- Other relevant law.

The VLGA Model Councillor Social Media Policy has formed the basis for the draft policy provided to Councillors for this briefing.

COUNCIL PLAN

The Council Plan 2021-2025 provides as follows:

Strategic Objective 3: A Council that listens and adapts to the needs of our evolving communities

Priority 3.5: Be recognised for demonstrating a culture of excellence, creativity and inclusiveness

The proposal to adopt a Councillor Social Media Policy is consistent with the Council Plan 2021-2025.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications of the adoption of a Councillor Social Media Policy.

RISK & OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY ISSUES

| Risk Identifier | Detail of Risk | Risk Rating | Control/s |
|---|---|-------------|-----------------------------|
| Possible breach of Model Councillor Code of Conduct and a range of legislative and other risks. | It is advised Councils adopt a Councillor Social Media Policy to provide guidance to Councillors in the use of social media to ensure they do not breach the Model Councillor Code of Conduct, and a range of other legislative and other risks that apply. | Medium | Council adoption of policy. |

COMMUNICATIONS & CONSULTATION STRATEGY

| Level of Engagement | Stakeholder | Activities | Location | Date | Outcome |
|----------------------------|--------------------|---|-----------------|-------------|---|
| Consult | VLGA | The VLGA conducted consultation across the sector in developing its model policy. | Various | 2024 | Model Councillor Social Media Policy developed. |

VICTORIAN CHARTER OF HUMAN RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES ACT 2006

In developing this report to Council, the officer considered whether the subject matter raised any human rights issues. In particular, whether the scope of any human right established by the Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities is in any way limited, restricted or interfered with by the recommendations contained in the report. It is considered that the subject matter does not raise any human rights issues.

OFFICER’S DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

Under section 130 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, officers providing advice to Council must disclose any interests, including the type of interest.

General Manager – David Jackson

In providing this advice to Council as the General Manager, I have no interests to disclose in this report.

Author – Leanne Manton

In providing this advice to Council as the Author, I have no interests to disclose in this report.

CONCLUSION

The draft Councillor Social Media Policy meets the Local Government Victoria advice that councils develop a Councillor Social Media Policy to provide guidance to Councillors in the use of social media. Once adopted, the draft policy will be finalised and placed on Council’s website.

13 COMMUNITY ASSETS & INFRASTRUCTURE REPORTS

13.1 FINAL GATEWAYS STRATEGY

Author: Mitchell Cunningham, Acting Manager Environment & Waste

Authoriser: Phil Jeffrey, General Manager Community Assets & Infrastructure

Attachments: 1. Final Gateways Strategy (under separate cover)

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to present the final Gateways Strategy at the February Ordinary Meeting of Council for Council adoption.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Council engaged Tract to develop the Gateways Strategy.
- Extensive consultation undertaken resulted in changing a number of items within the strategy to align with community feedback.
- A check-in was undertaken with Councillors based on the findings of the consultation and it was determined that the draft strategy would be amended to align with the consultation and research.
- All feedback has now been incorporated into the final document and the final strategy is now presented to Council for adoption.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Jarrod Bingham

Seconded: Cr Rod Ward

That Council:

1. **Adopt the Gateways Strategy.**
2. **Notes the Action Plan within the Gateway Strategy for inclusion within future budget considerations.**

CARRIED

BACKGROUND

The development of the Moorabool Shire Gateways Strategy is listed as an action within the Living and Thriving Environment objective of the Council Plan 2021-25. This action contributes to beautifying the Shire including parks, gardens, streetscapes and public open spaces.

The strategy has been developed to prepare a suite of landscape and signage treatments for the townships within Moorabool. It provides a planning framework and includes a toolkit of treatments that helps to plan and deliver future works at the various locations across the Shire.

The process for developing the strategy was as follows:

- Development of a background report from town analysis.

- Development of Draft Gateways Strategy.
- Approval to publicly advertise the Draft Gateways Strategy was received at an Ordinary Meeting of Council.
- Public consultation.
- Analysis of 200+ responses to public consultation.
- Councillor Briefing to check in.
- Strategy reworked following Councillor briefing check in.
- Final strategy development.

PROPOSAL

The Gateways Strategy comprises three main components and builds on the previously prepared Background Analysis document. The strategy includes:

- Part 1 Overview: which states the project background, context and aims.
- Part 2 Framework: which sets out the rules for deciding gateway treatments.
- Part 3 Action Plan: which sets out Council's future five-year Actions for the Gateways.

The draft Gateways Strategy aims to address the current uneven distribution of existing signage throughout the Shire, an inconsistent approach to sign replacement, and the opportunity to combine landscape and vegetation treatments as a way of creating and celebrating identity across the Shire. It will provide an integrated approach to implementing upgrades to signs and town entrances based on a suite of landscape elements and treatments.

The town gateways will serve as a series of recognisable landmarks that reflect the character of the towns within the Shire. More broadly Shire boundaries will identify the transition points from neighbouring local government areas.

Four key elements will be used to establish a common approach to the gateways character across the Shire and they are:

- Landform.
- Siting and features.
- Planting.
- Signs.

The strategy sets a signing hierarchy based the Small Towns and Settlements Strategy distribution and provides signs to be included throughout the shire based on hierarchy. This includes:

- Type A Town and Village Picture Frame signs: all existing picture frame signs are to be retained and maintained with a number of localities proposed to have picture frames worked through.
- Type B Main Gateway signs 1200mm(L) x 600mm(H): which will be typically used at towns above 300 population.
- Type C Secondary Gateway sign 600mm(L) x 900mm (H): which will be typically used at smaller settlements with towns with a population below 300.

A decision-making process has also been prepared to help guide the consistent planning for the development of each gateway. This process seeks to provide guidance on questions such as:

- Where should the gateway be located?
- Which sign should be used and where?
- What other gateways elements should be used and where?
- What role should planting play?

COUNCIL PLAN

The Council Plan 2021-2025 provides as follows:

Strategic Objective 2: Liveable and thriving environments

Priority 2.2: Beautify our Shire including our parks, gardens, streetscapes, public and open spaces

The proposal to adopt the Gateways Strategy is consistent with the Council Plan 2021-2025.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The development of the strategy has been funded from the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 adopted Council budgets. The strategy has a number of actions with budgetary requirements with budget proposals being developed to support recommended actions and submitted through the annual budget process.

RISK & OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY ISSUES

| Risk Identifier | Detail of Risk | Risk Rating | Control/s |
|---|---|-------------|---|
| Reputation with community and stakeholders | Plan is not implemented within set timelines. | Medium | Monitoring of Strategy. |
| Reputation with community and stakeholders | Picture frame signs are not in line with community need | Medium | Additional community consultation for all towns identified for a future picture frame sign. |
| Strategy does not meet legislative requirements | Plan is not implemented or approved by Council. | Medium | Council adoption of Strategy. |

COMMUNICATIONS & CONSULTATION STRATEGY

| Level of Engagement | Stakeholder | Activities | Location | Date | Outcome |
|---------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------|--------------------------|---|
| Consult | Community Groups / Stakeholders | “Have your Say” digital platform | Various | September – October 2022 | Feedback provided by community and stakeholders |
| Engage | Executive Group | Executive / Councillor Briefing | Various | September 2022 | The Executive Group and Councillors were |

| | | | | | |
|--|-------------|--|--|-----------|---|
| | Councillors | | | June 2023 | engaged in the development of the Strategy and a check in on the changes following the community consultation |
|--|-------------|--|--|-----------|---|

VICTORIAN CHARTER OF HUMAN RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES ACT 2006

In developing this report to Council, the officer considered whether the subject matter raised any human rights issues. In particular, whether the scope of any human right established by the Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities is in any way limited, restricted or interfered with by the recommendations contained in the report. It is considered that the subject matter does not raise any human rights issues.

OFFICER’S DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

Under section 130 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, officers providing advice to Council must disclose any interests, including the type of interest.

General Manager – Phil Jeffrey

In providing this advice to Council as the General Manager, I have no interests to disclose in this report.

Author – Mitchell Cunningham

In providing this advice to Council as the Author, I have no interests to disclose in this report.

CONCLUSION

The Gateways Strategy development was identified as an action in the Council Plan. It is recommended the Gateways Strategy is adopted by Council.

14 OTHER REPORTS

Nil

15 NOTICES OF MOTION

Cr Bingham declared a conflict of interest in relation to Item 15.1 and left the Chamber at 6.07pm.

15.1 NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 322 - TWO (2) YEAR TRIAL FOR THE PROVISION OF A SNAKE CATCHING REMOVAL SERVICE

Attachments: Nil

I, Councillor Rod Ward, give notice that at the next Ordinary Meeting of Council to be held on 5 February 2025, I intend to move the following motion:

MOTION

That commencing in the 2025/2026 financial year Council implements a two (2) year trial for the provision of a snake catching removal service for MSC residents as per the following:

- 1. Council outsources the service to a licenced snake catcher who holds a valid license (Wildlife Controller Licenses) under the Wildlife Act 1975 and Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994 with experience in safely handling and relocating venomous snakes.**
- 2. Council should engage a licensed snake catcher/s through a competitive tender process.**
- 3. That this service be provided across the warmer months and summer period when snakes are most active, being from 1 November to 31 March.**
- 4. For the purposes of this trial it is recommended that the following exclusions are applied to ensure Council are able to prioritise resources towards situations where this service will have the biggest impact to community safety. The proposed exclusions are:**
 - (a) Industrial or commercial premises;**
 - (b) The location of the snake is unknown, or the snake was sighted some time ago;**
 - (c) Public places e.g. along the 1000+ Steps Bald Hill and there is no immediate threat to the community;**
 - (d) Snakes in their natural habitat (it is illegal to remove snakes from their natural habitat);**
 - (e) In rural locations and more than 10m from a dwelling.**
- 5. Should Council approve this trial that a concurrent awareness campaign be implemented to educate the community.**
- 6. Should Council approve the two (2) year trial of a free snake catching service for the community, an evaluation be undertaken at the conclusion of the trial to evaluate its effectiveness. The evaluation is proposed to include:**
 - (a) The location and spread of calls received;**
 - (b) The type of snakes (as identified by the contractor);**
 - (c) The time to respond to calls;**

- (d) The number of snakes successfully located and relocated; and
- (e) The actual costs to provide the service.

The evaluation would assist Council in deciding if the trial should be extended for a longer period, discontinued or provided as an ongoing service.

WITHDRAWN

RATIONALE

A report on the possible provision of a snake catching service trial for Moorabool Shire Council residents was presented at the OMC held 3 July 2024.

It identified that in Australia there are around 130 species of snakes with approximately 74 being venomous. Moorabool Shire Council is home to some of the most venomous snakes in the world, and the only municipality in Australia to house all of Red-Bellied Black Snakes, Eastern Brown Snakes, Eastern Tiger Snakes and Copperheads, all of which are highly venomous.

Snake encounters are common in peri-urban areas such as Moorabool due to the mix of urban and rural environments. Due to the rapid growth in some areas of MSC there are housing estates increasingly being built that are encroaching into areas that are traditionally a safe habitat for snakes. This has led to increased snake sightings and has led to further sightings and encounters between snakes and residents, which can pose a risk to community safety.

As we enter the 2024/25 summer it has been apparent that there has been an increasing number of snake sightings (as per reports from private snake catchers and based on feedback on various resident pages on social media) and with the expected further growth in population it is reasonable to expect a continuation of increased sightings and encounters, leading to further increases to community safety.

It is noted that neighbouring and nearby Councils have a free snake removal service in place and these include City of Hume, City of Melton, Brimbank City Council and Hobsons Bay Council.

The report presented to Council on 3 July 2024 noted that number of calls for snake removal does vary significantly depending on the region and the level of snake activity. The report estimated that, noting the geographic area of the municipality, the cost of a callout and the anticipated number of calls during the trial period, that engaging a licensed snake catcher/s is expected to cost between \$40,000 and \$50,000 for the 1 November to 31 March period.

I commend this Notice of Motion to Council.

Cr Bingham returned to the meeting at 6.09pm.

16 NOTICES OF RESCISSION

Nil

17 MAYOR’S & COUNCILLORS REPORTS

17.1 MAYOR'S REPORT

Author: Dianne Elshaug, Co-ordinator CEOs Office

Authoriser: Derek Madden, Chief Executive Officer

Attachments: Nil

PURPOSE

To provide details to the community on the meetings and events attended by the Mayor since the last Ordinary Meeting of Council.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

That the Mayor’s Report be tabled for consideration at the Ordinary Meeting of Council.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Ally Munari

Seconded: Cr Tom Sullivan

That Council receives the Mayor’s Report.

CARRIED

| Cr Paul Tatchell – Mayor’s Report | |
|--|---|
| <i>Date: 5 February 2025</i> | |
| 26 January | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Australia Day Awards Ceremony & Australian Citizenship Ceremony |
| 29 January | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Councillor Briefings - Health & Wellbeing Plan 2025-2029; Ingliston Road, Ballan – Additional Works Under Contract C0145 2024/25; Final Gateways Strategy; Draft Councillor Social Media Policy; Consideration of Intent to Seek a Rate Cap Variation; Review of the OMC Agenda |
| 5 February | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ordinary Meeting of Council |

17.2 COUNCILLORS REPORTS

Author: Dianne Elshaug, Co-ordinator CEOs Office
Authoriser: Derek Madden, Chief Executive Officer
Attachments: Nil

PURPOSE

To provide details to the community on meetings and events attended by Councillors since the last Ordinary Meeting of Council.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

That the Councillors Reports be accepted for consideration at the Ordinary Meeting of Council.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Tom Sullivan
Seconded: Cr John Keogh

That Council receives the Councillors Reports.

CARRIED

| Cr Tom Sullivan | |
|------------------------|---|
| 26 January | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Australia Day Awards Ceremony & Australian Citizenship Ceremony |

| Cr John Keogh | |
|----------------------|---|
| 26 January | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Australia Day Awards Ceremony & Australian Citizenship Ceremony |

| Cr Steve Venditti-Taylor | |
|--|---|
| 26 January | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Australia Day Awards Ceremony & Australian Citizenship Ceremony |
| 2 February | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bacchus Marsh Wings, Wheels and Coffee |
| Various | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Peppertree Parkruns held recently |
| Cr Venditti-Taylor congratulated the Blackwood community on the Blackwood Hotel reopening. | |

Cr Ally Munari

| | |
|------------|---|
| 26 January | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Australia Day Awards Ceremony & Australian Citizenship Ceremony |
|------------|---|

Cr Sheila Freeman

| | |
|------------|---|
| 26 January | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Australia Day Awards Ceremony & Australian Citizenship Ceremony |
|------------|---|

Cr Moira Berry

| | |
|------------|---|
| 26 January | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Australia Day Awards Ceremony & Australian Citizenship Ceremony |
|------------|---|

Cr Jarrod Bingham

| | |
|------------|---|
| 26 January | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Australia Day Awards Ceremony & Australian Citizenship Ceremony |
|------------|---|

Cr Rod Ward

| | |
|------------|--|
| 31 January | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Western Highway Action Committee Meeting |
|------------|--|

Cr Ward advised Coffee with a Councillor sessions will commence on Wednesday 12 February from 10am – 12pm.

Cr Ward congratulate those involved in the drafting of the Moorabool Gateway Framework.

18 URGENT BUSINESS

Cr Sullivan raised an item of urgent business in relation to fire risk in Wombat State Forest.

FIRE RISK IN TOWNS LOCATED IN WOMBAT STATE FOREST**RESOLUTION**

Moved: Cr Tom Sullivan

Seconded: Cr Moira Berry

That council admit the item of urgent business in relation to fire risk in towns located in Wombat State Forest.

CARRIED

PREAMBLE

In June 2021 the State Government declared that the Wombat State Forest be added to the National Park Register.

A number of small towns within Moorabool are located within the Wombat State Forest including Blackwood, Barrys Reef, Dales Creek, Blakeville, Korweinguboorra, Spargo Creek and Barkstead. There are also a number of communities and towns immediately to the south of the Forest.

In June 2021 a significant storm hit the Wombat Forest and the towns and communities located within the forest in Moorabool as well as into Hepburn Shire to the north. This storm caused significant localised damage to the towns and communities and the forest within Moorabool Shire.

Nearly four years on much of the fallen timber is still lying on the forest floor potentially creating a significant fire risk to the towns and communities within the forest.

18.1 FIRE RISK IN TOWNS LOCATED IN WOMBAT STATE FOREST**RESOLUTION**

Moved: Cr Tom Sullivan

Seconded: Cr Moira Berry

That a report be prepared and brought back to Council that provides recommendations, directions and strategies to ensure the safety of the residents of the small towns that are located within and nearby the Wombat State Forest.

CARRIED

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Tom Sullivan

Seconded: Cr Jarrod Bingham

That Council adjourn for a five-minute break.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned for a five-minute break at 6.26pm.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Tom Sullivan

Seconded: Cr Rod Ward

That Council resume the meeting.

CARRIED

The meeting resumed at 6.34pm.

19 CLOSED SESSION OF THE MEETING TO THE PUBLIC**RESOLUTION****Moved: Cr Tom Sullivan****Seconded: Cr Rod Ward****That Council considers the confidential report(s) listed below in a meeting closed to the public in accordance with Section 66(2)(a) of the *Local Government Act 2020*:****19.1 C0156-2024/2025 Clarendon - Lal Lal Road Reconstruction**

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 3(1) confidential information - (g) 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 private commercial information, being information provided by a business, commercial or financial undertaking that

(i) relates to trade secrets; or

(ii) if released, would unreasonably expose the business, commercial or financial undertaking to disadvantage.

19.2 Ingliston Road, Ballan - Additional Works under Contract C0145 2024/2025

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 3(1) confidential information - (g) 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 private commercial information, being information provided by a business, commercial or financial undertaking that

(i) relates to trade secrets; or

(ii) if released, would unreasonably expose the business, commercial or financial undertaking to disadvantage.

CARRIED

20 MEETING CLOSURE

The Meeting closed at 6.43pm.

.....

CHAIRPERSON