



Ararat Rural City

AGENDA

COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday 29 March 2022

To be held in the Alexandra Oval Community Centre
1 Waratah Avenue, Ararat
(Livestreamed)

Commencing at 6.00pm

Council:

Cr Jo Armstrong (Mayor)

Cr Gwenda Allgood

Cr Rob Armstrong

Cr Peter Beales

Cr Henry Burridge

Cr Bob Sanders

Cr Bill Waterston



Ararat Rural City

A recording of this meeting is being made for the purpose of verifying the accuracy of the minutes of the Council Meeting.

The recording is being streamed live via Facebook, to improve transparency between council and the community and give more people the opportunity to view what decisions are being made. You do not require a Facebook account to watch the live broadcast, simply enter www.facebook.com/aratruralcitycouncil into your address bar.

Recordings of Council Meetings (excluding closed sessions) are made available on Council's website.

SECTION 1 – PROCEDURAL MATTERS	3
1.1 LIVE STREAMING	3
1.2 TRADITIONAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT/OPENING PRAYER/COUNCILLORS PLEDGE	3
1.3 APOLOGIES	3
1.4 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES	3
1.5 DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST	4
SECTION 2 – PUBLIC PARTICIPATION	5
2.1 PETITIONS AND JOINT LETTERS	5
2.1.1 JOINT LETTER FROM GOLF LINKS ROAD RESIDENTS	6
SECTION 3 – REPORTS REQUIRING COUNCIL DECISION	7
3.1 REFRAMING THE PLANNING SCHEME.....	7
3.2 OPERATION OF THE WASTE RESERVE POLICY	11
3.3 FUTURE DIRECTIONS OF COMMONWEALTH HOME SUPPORT PROGRAM &	13
3.4 NEIGHBOURHOOD AMENITY LOCAL LAW 2022.....	20
SECTION 4 – INFORMATION REPORTS	24
4.1 BUILDING APPROVALS	24
4.2 PLANNING MATTERS APPROVED UNDER DELEGATION.....	27
4.3 COUNCIL PLAN 2021-2025 YEAR 1 ACTION PLAN UPDATE.....	30
4.4 MAYORS, DEPUTY MAYORS AND COUNCILLORS ALLOWANCES	38
SECTION 5- COMMITTEE MINUTES/REPORTS	41
5.1 AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE MEETING	41
SECTION 6 – INFORMAL MEETINGS	43
6.1 INFORMAL MEETINGS	43
SECTION 7 – NOTICES OF MOTION	45
SECTION 8– URGENT BUSINESS	46
SECTION 9 – CLOSE SESSION (CONFIDENTIAL)	47
CLOSURE OF COUNCIL MEETING TO THE PUBLIC.....	47



Ararat Rural City

OPEN COUNCIL MEETING RECOMMENCEMENT	47
LIFTING OF CONFIDENTIALITY OF CLOSED SESSION RESOLUTIONS	47

SECTION 1 – PROCEDURAL MATTERS

1.1 LIVE STREAMING

Council is keen to engage with members of the community and live streams the formal Council Meetings to make them accessible. The stream is available to view on Council's Facebook page from 6pm and on Council's website following the Council Meeting.

1.2 TRADITIONAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT/OPENING PRAYER/COUNCILLORS PLEDGE

Traditional acknowledgement

We acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which we meet today, and pay our respects to their elders, past, present and emerging.

Opening Prayer

Almighty God, we humbly ask you to help us, as elected Councillors of the Ararat Rural City Council. Guide our deliberations. Prosper what is your will for us, to your honour and glory and for the welfare and benefit of the people whom we serve in the Ararat Rural City.

Councillors Pledge

We will faithfully and impartially carry out and exercise the functions, powers, authorities and discretions invested in us under the *Local Government Act 2020* and any other Act to the best of our skill and judgement.

1.3 APOLOGIES

RECOMMENDATION (if required)

That the apology of Cr be accepted.

1.4 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RECOMMENDATION

That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 22 February 2022 be confirmed.

1.5 DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

A Councillor who has a conflict of interest in a matter being considered at a *Council meeting* at which he or she:

- 1 is present must disclose that conflict of interest by explaining the nature of the conflict of interest to those present at the *Council meeting* immediately before the matter is considered; or
- 2 intends to be present must disclose that conflict of interest by providing to the *Chief Executive Officer* before the *Council meeting* commences a written notice:
 - (a) advising of the conflict of interest;
 - (b) explaining the nature of the conflict of interest; and
 - (c) detailing, if the nature of the conflict of interest involves a Councillor's relationship with or a gift from another person, the:
 - name of the other person;
 - nature of the relationship with that other person or the date of receipt, value and type of gift received from the other person; and
 - nature of that other person's interest in the matter,and then immediately before the matter is considered at the meeting announcing to those present that he or she has a conflict of interest and that a written notice has been given to the *Chief Executive Officer* under this sub-Rule.

The Councillor must, in either event, leave the *Council meeting* immediately after giving the explanation or making the announcement (as the case may be) and not return to the meeting until after the matter has been disposed of.

SECTION 2 – PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

2.1 PETITIONS AND JOINT LETTERS

- 1 Unless *Council* determines to consider it as an item of urgent business, no motion (other than a motion to receive the same) may be made on any petition, joint letter, memorial or other like application until the next *Council meeting* after that at which it has been presented.
- 2 It is incumbent on every Councillor presenting a petition or joint letter to acquaint himself or herself with the contents of that petition or joint letter, and to ascertain that it does not contain language disrespectful to *Council*.
- 3 Every Councillor presenting a petition or joint letter to *Council* must:
 - write or otherwise record his or her name at the beginning of the petition or joint letter; and
 - confine himself or herself to a statement of the persons from whom it comes, the number of signatories to it, the material matters expressed in it and the text of the prayer or request.
- 4 Every petition or joint letter presented to *Council* must be in *writing* (other than pencil), typing or printing, contain the request of the petitioners or signatories and be signed by at least 12 people.
- 5 Every petition or joint letter must be signed by the persons whose names are appended to it by their names or marks, and, except in cases of incapacity or sickness, by no one else and the address of every petitioner or signatory must be clearly stated.
- 6 Any signature appearing on a page which does not bear the text of the whole of the petition or request may not be considered by *Council*.
- 7 Every page of a petition or joint letter must be a single page of paper and not be posted, stapled, pinned or otherwise affixed or attached to any piece of paper other than another page of the petition or joint letter.
- 8 If a petition, joint letter, memorial or other like application relates to an operational matter, *Council* must refer it to the *Chief Executive Officer* for consideration.

2.1.1 JOINT LETTER FROM GOLF LINKS ROAD RESIDENTS

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
DEPARTMENT: CEO'S OFFICE
REFERENCE: 4894

OFFICER DIRECT OR INDIRECT CONFLICT OF INTEREST:

Officers providing advice to Council must disclose any conflict of interest.

No person involved in the preparation of this report has a conflict of interest requiring disclosure.

OFFICER DIRECT OR INDIRECT CONFLICT OF INTEREST:

Officers providing advice to Council must disclose any conflict of interest.

No person involved in the preparation of this report has a conflict of interest requiring disclosure.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A joint letter has been received from residents of Gold Links Road and Lambert Street, Ararat, in particular the eastern end of Golf Links Road, off the Western Highway. The joint letter is requesting that these areas in particular be considered to include correct drainage, kerbing and road widening. The residents have stated that the inclusion of above construction will reduce the flooding into various properties in the area, as well as make it a safe roadway for residents and pedestrians.

DISCUSSION

The joint letter, which consists of 22 signatures, includes comments:

"When we have very heavy rain, which are becoming more prominent, the drain on our side, which is the only one in the street, fills and overflows into properties....."

"Golf Links Road is too narrow (especially on the bend at the beginning of road), as there is a 30mt (roughly)concrete edging that traffic swing away from to go past it"

"With the new housing development going ahead it will increase the road use and drainage issues. Hence, we require correct drainage and the road widened"

Clause 55.1 of Council's Governance Rules, states:

Unless *Council* determines to consider it as an item of urgent business, no motion (other than a motion to receive the same) may be made on any petition, joint letter, memorial, or other like application until the next *Council meeting* after that at which it has been presented.

RECOMMENDATION

That the joint letter requesting Council to consider the inclusion of correct drainage, kerbing and road widening on the eastern end of Golf Links Road, Ararat be received and lay on the table for consideration at the 26 April 2022 Council Meeting.

ATTACHMENTS

There are no attachments relating to this item.

SECTION 3 – REPORTS REQUIRING COUNCIL DECISION

3.1 REFRAMING THE PLANNING SCHEME

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: MANAGER PLANNING, COMMUNITY AND COMPLIANCE
DEPARTMENT: PLANNING, COMMUNITY AND COMPLIANCE
REFERENCE: Amendment C046Arat

OFFICER DIRECT OR INDIRECT CONFLICT OF INTEREST:

Officers providing advice to Council must disclose any conflict of interest.

No person involved in the preparation of this report has a conflict of interest requiring disclosure.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Amendment C46arat to the Ararat Planning Scheme seeks to rezone the land on the southwest corner of Queen Street and Moore Street, described as Allotment 4D-12A on Plan of Subdivision 5017 from Public Park and Recreation Zone (PPRZ) to Commercial 1 Zone (C1Z).

The park has been de-commissioned for many years and the Council is working with the state government to bring the land to market to consolidate the commercial centre of the town.

The proposal was advertised from 23 December 2021 to 4 March 2022 and 1 submission was received that has now been resolved.

The rezoning can now be finalised.

DISCUSSION

The amendment rezones a portion of Crown Allotment 4D Section 12A, Township of Ararat from Public Park and Recreation Zone (PPRZ) to Commercial 1 Zone (C1Z). Specifically, the amendment:

- Rezones a portion of Crown Allotment 4D Section 12A, Township of Ararat from PPRZ to C1Z.
- Amends Planning Scheme Map 10.

The amendment rezones an unused portion of Crown land to C1Z which was once used as a public park. This property has a dual zoning with the eastern portion designated PPRZ and the western portion designated C1Z. The property is within the Ararat Town Centre Commercial Core and alongside land zoned C1Z to the north and west.

The Council resolved in December 2019 to rescind the public park use of the land and requested the sale of the land by State Government. Council relinquished its status as committee of management and subsequently removed the park furniture and playground equipment from the site. The land has been declared surplus for State Government needs and will offer the land for public sale once the land has been rezoned from PPRZ.

The Department of Treasury and Finance has indicated support for Council to rezone the PPRZ portion of the land to C1Z to reflect the surrounding zoning and land use pattern and prepare the land for public sale. The C1Z is considered the most appropriate zone, making the land's future use and development consistent with the remainder of the lot designated C1Z and surrounding C1Z lots.

The rezoning allows the whole of the lot and the land alongside it to be used in a more efficient and sustainable way which could support wider uses including larger retail/ commercial development.

Land to which this amendment applies

The property is approximately 2,519m² and the area to be rezoned is approximately 826m² (PPRZ area indicated in Figure 1 below). The property is Crown land and currently has a dual zoning of PPRZ and C1Z. The land to be rezoned is a former park and is currently undeveloped with scattered trees, grassed areas and a pedestrian footpath along the road frontages.



Exhibition Documents

Two exhibition documents were provided that relate to the amendment. These documents are as follows:

- Explanatory Report
- Amended Map 10ZN

The Amendment documents were available for public inspection, free of charge, during office hours at the following places:

- Council's Municipal Offices, cnr Vincent and High Streets, Ararat
- www.ararat.vic.gov.au

The Amendment was also available for inspection, free of charge, at the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning website at www.planning.vic.gov.au/public-inspection or by contacting the Department to arrange a time to view the amendment documentation.

Submissions

Any person affected by the amendment was able to make a submission to Council between 23 December 2021 and 4 March 2022.

At the close of the submission period the planning team had one formal submission from:

- EPA – seeking clarification and documentation of the previous uses of the land to ensure there was no risk of land contamination

The EPA outlined its concerns thus:

Whilst the amendment appears to present a low risk to the environment, amenity and human health as a result of pollution or waste, we note that the Explanatory Report does not address Ministerial Direction 19 or Ministerial Direction 1. As the proposed zoning allows sensitive uses, EPA reminds Council of the updated Ministerial Direction 1 introduced on 27 August 2021 which requires the following of planning authorities:

- b) where it has determined that the land is not potentially contaminated, state the determination in the amendment Explanatory Report; and*
- c) where it has determined the land, or parts of the land, are potentially contaminated, must state the determination in the amendment Explanatory Report and satisfy itself that the environmental conditions of that land are or will be suitable for that use.*

EPA recommends the Explanatory Report is updated accordingly to address these Directions.

Provided the above recommendations are met, EPA does not object to Council to the amendment.

During the notice period the Council staff confirmed that the Explanatory Report could not be modified mid-process, but the changes were drafted and provided to EPA for review and the outcome was endorsed as satisfying EPA's concerns.

The amended Explanatory Report is provided as an attachment to this report.

In accordance with clause 4(2) of Ministerial Direction No.15 the following panel hearing dates have been set for this amendment:

- Directions hearing: 26 April 2022
- Panel hearing: 23 May 2022

The Planning Panel has been advised that there are no outstanding issues with the amendment so these dates will not be required.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

Alignment to Council Plan Strategic Objectives

The review and reframing of the Planning Scheme advances the following objectives and strategies:

1 Growing Our Place

We will create the settings to support growth across our municipality through an improved planning scheme, actively pursuing new housing options and exploring models for in-migration.

- 1.1** *Develop a new planning scheme for Ararat Rural City that is clear in its intention, supports growth and builds confidence and certainty around land use.*

Budget Implications

The Project, costs have predominantly been met by work done to date by Council utilising assistance from consultants on the Council's planning panel.

Policy/Relevant Law

The preparation of this amendment has been undertaken in accordance with the *Planning & Environment Act*. The amendment advances the objectives set out in section 4 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*. It supports the objectives to:

- Provide for the fair, orderly, economic and sustainable use, and development of land;
- Secure a pleasant, efficient and safe working, living and recreational environment for all Victorians and visitors to Victoria; and
- Balance the present and future interests of all Victorians by facilitating the renewal of surplus government land.

Sustainability Implications

No sustainability issues have been identified as arising because of this amendment.

Risk Assessment

No risk issues have been identified as arising because of this amendment. The rezoning of the land will facilitate the further development of the site, assuming that at some future point the state agrees to release the land for freehold sale.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

Amending the planning scheme is a process of continuous improvement to build and shape controls on individual sites and areas. The land had not been used for parkland for many years before the Council relinquished its custodial role. The site did not represent good practice for a play space by modern standards.

Stakeholder Collaboration and Community Engagement

The process to amend the Planning Scheme has included direct engagement with:

- the state government through the Department of Treasury and Finance as well as DELWP
- State Ministers and agencies nominated by the Planning and Environment Act
- First Nations representatives and
- the relevant owner of nearby private land.

Advertising in the local newspaper and Government Gazette on 23 December 2021, 24 December 2021 and 14 January 2022 as well as advice throughout that period on the Council and DELWP web sites. Furthermore, if the land is to be transferred to freehold in the future this will have its own public engagement process.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Confirm that Amendment C46Arat has been advertised in accordance with the provisions of the *Planning & Environment Act* and the direction of the Minister for Planning;
2. Acknowledge the receipt of the objection from EPA which has been subsequently resolved by minor amendments to the Explanatory Report;
3. Endorse the amendments to the Explanatory Report; and
4. Adopt the amendment with the minor change to the Explanator Report and request the Minister for Planning approve the proposed rezoning of this land.

Attachments

- 1 Amended Explanatory report for C46 and mapping
- 1 Objection by EPA

3.2 OPERATION OF THE WASTE RESERVE POLICY

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
DEPARTMENT: CEO'S OFFICE
REFERENCE: 5006

OFFICER DIRECT OR INDIRECT CONFLICT OF INTEREST:

Officers providing advice to Council must disclose any conflict of interest.

No person involved in the preparation of this report has a conflict of interest requiring disclosure.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Operation of the Waste Reserve Policy has been created to establish the framework for the operation of the Waste Reserve and the annual financial allocation to the water.

This policy is presented to Council for consideration.

DISCUSSION

The Audit and Risk Committee recently suggested that Council should have in place a policy that identifies how Council manages its waste reserves.

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that Council meets its legislative obligations regarding the raising of waste fees and charges. It will also ensure that sufficient funds are available to meet waste service capital infrastructure requirements as documented in Council's 10-year capital works plan.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

Alignment to Council Plan Strategic Objectives

6 Strong and Effective Governance

Budget Implications

This policy establishes a framework for the operation of the Waste Reserve. A budget allocation is made to the waste reserve each year to fund works associated with waste management.

Policy/Relevant Law

Legislation set by state and federal government agencies related to the delivery of the waste services. These include acts, regulations, policies and guidelines.

Sustainability Implications

There are no economic, social or environmental implications in relation to adopting the Operation of Waste Reserve Policy.

Risk Assessment

The development of the Operation of the Waste Reserve Policy will address the potential shortfall in Council's future risk management processes.

Stakeholder Consultation and Communication

The Operation of the Waste Reserve Policy was discussed at the Audit and Risk Committee on 1 March 2022.

The Chief Executive Officer will ensure that all Councillors and Officers have access to the policy once adopted.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopt the Operation of the Waste Reserve Policy.

ATTACHMENTS

Operation of the Waste Reserve Policy.

3.3 FUTURE DIRECTIONS OF COMMONWEALTH HOME SUPPORT PROGRAM & HOME AND COMMUNITY CARE

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: DEPUTY CEO
DEPARTMENT: CEO'S OFFICE
REFERENCE: 5028

OFFICER DIRECT OR INDIRECT CONFLICT OF INTEREST:

Officers providing advice to Council must disclose any conflict of interest.

No person involved in the preparation of this report has a conflict of interest requiring disclosure.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As part of the in-principle decision taken by Council at its last meeting, on its future role as a provider of services under the Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHSP) and Home and Community Care (HACC), it was to undertake further formal discussions with proposed providers including East Grampians Health Service.

Ararat Rural City Council has been a long-term provider of aged and disability services for the community. With significant Commonwealth reforms having been implemented in the past decade and with these changes to the funding and operating environment have now resulted in Council not being able to play a key role as a provider of services. It is therefore recommended that Council proceed to confirm that it will commence a well-managed transition out of all funded home based and community-based services for older residents and ensure that all obligations to clients, families and staff are recognised and respected.

DISCUSSION

The current Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHSP) transitions to the new Support at Home program after 30 June 2023 and Council has concluded that it is in the best interests of the community that it transitions out of the service delivery function. Council has had formal discussions with East Grampians Health to align the services being provided to build local service system capacity and improve access and outcomes for older residents. Council has assured all stakeholders that it will respect all service agreements and industrial obligations. In taking this decision Council understands it has responsibilities to clients and families, staff and the broader community to manage the transition effectively and to anticipate and mitigate risk

Ararat Rural City Council has provided long term home and community care to assist older people and those recovering from acute care to continue to live independently in the community. The current contract with the Commonwealth is to cease on 30 June, 2022 and all Victorian Councils have been given an option to extend the contract to June 2023, however the contract extension requires significant change to the current service delivery arrangements.

Council services are funded under two main programs:

- CHSP is a national program that provides entry level support for older people over 65 who need some help to stay at home. Service providers work with them to maintain their independence. Support can include help with daily tasks, home modifications, transport, social support and nursing care.
- HACCPYP is a state-based program that provides services for people under the age of 65 who need assistance with daily activities, including personal care, dressing, preparing meals, house cleaning, property maintenance, community access and using public transport

The implemented changes will see Council not able to play a key role as a provider of services under the future 'Support from Home' program and that it is in the broader community interest that it transitions out of direct service delivery. If Council were to continue to support the new Support from Home Program it will require to extend its suite of programs beyond its current capacity of entry level services into home care

packages, allied health, nursing and extra complex personal care. This will then require a higher standard of support adding to extra costs for Council.

Qualified direct care workers are in high demand and Council are continuing to advertise for carers on a constant basis. The chronic shortage of qualified workers has meant that Council has not been able to meet the service delivery targets which has resulted in the Commonwealth funding objectives not being met. Local Government are not equipped to effectively operate under the market conditions being provided by the Government. The current block funded and supply driven system will move to a demand driven funding system and ensure consistent services are delivered to where they are needed rather than what areas of funding is allocated.

Support at Home Program

The 'Support at Home' program will be a new integrated program commencing 1 July 2023 that will combine CHSP, Home Care Packages, Residential Respite and Short-term Restorative Care. This integrated model will most likely be client directed, offer a range of providers and require that providers offer a suite of services across in-home, personal, nursing and allied health.

The Commonwealth has advised that the 2022/2023 extension period for CHSP will be based on 'payment in arrears'. CHSP providers will invoice at the end of the month for actual services delivered rather than Council being paid in advance each quarter, with any unspent funds being recouped through the end of year acquittal.

The commonwealth has identified four benefits of this approach:

- Alignment with future reforms – the Support at Home program will support availability of services through funding following the individual client in most cases, payment in arrears facilitates this process and ensures a consistent consumer experience across all levels of care.
- Better consumer choice – payment in arrears encourages a more direct relationship between services that are available and what consumers want, and access services in a timely manner.
- Accountability – paying for services that have been delivered is a more accurate and accountable use of Government funds.
- Reducing unspent funds – payment in arrears reduces the unspent funds and allow reallocation of funding to where it is most needed.

The Commonwealth released a program overview on 6 January 2022 that provides the architecture of the future Support at Home program. This overview confirms previous advice to Council that the proposed program will be different from the existing CHSP program and will include:

- Individualised support plans for clients linked to funding that is based on assessed need
- A new integrated assessment tool that controls access to all aged care services, from home-based to residential-care services
- An increased reliance on technology and digital services for clients, business systems, and payment platforms
- A service list that will better define the outputs and allow flexibility for clients
- Clients being allowed choice and control over the time and place services are provided;
- The end of block funding and transition to payment for units of service delivered, a completely different business model to the current funded model.

- Introduction of regulated competition between providers

This information released from the Commonwealth confirms that Council would not be able to effectively operate under the new Support at Home program without significant investment in changes to its operating model.

The National Aged Care Reforms

Australia's integrated national aged care program has been undergoing significant reforms over the past 10 years following Commonwealth agreement to take full responsibility for aged care in August 2011 and establishment of the National Disability Insurance Scheme at around the same time.

The key drivers for the aged care reforms included:

- the number of people in Australia requiring aged care would increase by 350% between 2011 and 2050
- significant system weaknesses (difficult navigation, limited services, variable quality, and no consumer choice) and inefficiencies (duplication of effort, no competition, and high-cost structures) that needed to be eradicated, and
- real concern that the cost of providing adequate care for older people in future would be unaffordable as a nation.

Attributes of the current aged care model include:

- CHSP - 'entry level' basic home support and community-based services such as domestic assistance, personal care, shopping, etc. – this program provides services to 839,400 older Australians nationally
- Home Care - four levels of 'packaged care' funded from basic to high care to maintain independence – services were provided to 175,000 older Australians
- Residential Care - funded residential aged care (respite and permanent) – 310,000 older Australians nationally

In 2019/20 the total Commonwealth aged care budget for 2020/21 was \$21.5 billion or \$5,063 per older person; this comprised Residential Care \$13.64 billion and Home Care and Home Support \$6.7 billion.

Design principles for the aged care reforms have remained very consistent since initiation, these include:

- Consumer Choice and Control – funding is provided directly to the clients based on assessed need to support choice and control; the client purchases services from a range of providers. This has a strong human rights and philosophical basis but introduces competition and signals the end of 'block funding' certainty for providers in most circumstances.
- A Simplified Gateway – My Aged Care is the single point of entry for all Australians to access aged care services. The 2017 Legislated Review of Aged Care has recommended merging of the RAS (Home Support) and Aged Care Assessment Teams (ACAT) (Residential Aged Care) into a streamlined national assessment service.
- Demand Driven System – the current 'block funded' and supply driven system will progressively move to a 'demand driven' funding system to ensure consistent services are delivered to where they are needed rather than what areas funding is allocated.
- Competition Policy – there is a renewed national focus on competition policy to drive economic growth, productivity, and efficiency in service delivery. It is more likely than not that future program design will be

based on market and competition principles meaning that Local Government will face direct market exposure and ratepayer subsidy will be in effect prohibited.

- Monopoly Market – the current protected market arrangements are being completely dismantled to facilitate open competition and improved efficiency. Local Government is not equipped to effectively operate under market conditions
- Market Efficiencies – the Commonwealth is seeking to reduce transaction costs by having fewer contracts with larger organisations who can operate across large geographic areas. It is unclear whether there will be direct contracts between the Commonwealth and individual Local Governments after June 2023.
- Client Contribution – the Commonwealth expects that all Australians will make a consistent contribution to care depending on their capacity and capability.

Recent reform decisions have reinforced the direction of the Commonwealth, the May 2021 Federal Budget announced a significant response to the Aged Care Royal Commission in its May budget, and this included:

The reforms will provide better, fairer aged care, and deliver respect, care and dignity to our senior Australians.

The government's plan for aged care builds on recent aged care quality reforms, including those announced throughout the Royal Commission's enquiry, COVID-19 pandemic, and in immediate response to the release of the final report.

The aged care reforms build on five pillars over five years:

- home care – supporting senior Australians who choose to remain in their own home
- residential aged care services and sustainability – improving and simplifying residential aged care services and access
- residential aged care quality and safety – improving residential aged care quality and safety
- workforce – supporting and growing a better skilled care workforce
- governance – new legislation and stronger workforce.

\$17.7 billion
5 pillars over 5 years

Pillar 1: Home care	Pillar 2: Residential aged care services and sustainability	Pillar 3: Residential aged care quality and safety	Pillar 4: Workforce	Pillar 5: Governance
<p>2021</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 40,000 more home care packages. Senior Australians able to access assistance and information about aged care through 325 Service Australia Service Centres, and aged care specialists in 70 Service Australia centres. Extra support for informal carers. <p>2022</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 40,000 more home care packages. Respite services for 8,400 additional clients every year. <p>2023</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 500 local Community Care Finders provide targeted, specialist face-to-face support to vulnerable senior Australians to help them access aged care and connect with other health and social supports. Senior Australians can access a new support at home program. Single assessment workforce will expand to the new support at home program. <p>2024</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> New support at home program supports senior Australians to stay in their homes and keep connected to their communities. Single assessment workforce will continue assessments for the new support at home program. <p>2025</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved service sustainability that ensures the care needs and preferences of senior Australians in residential aged care are met. 	<p>2021</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supplement of \$10 per resident per day. Continuation of the increases to the homeless and viability supplements. New practical monitoring, compliance and intervention to help providers build financial sustainability, capacity and resilience. Independent Hospital and Aged Care Pricing Authority established, extending role of existing hospital pricing authority to include aged care advisory functions. <p>2022</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> New funding model to improve quality of care for 240,000 people using residential care and 67,000 people using residential respite care each year. Average care minutes for each resident increased to 200 minutes per day, including 40 minutes of registered nurse time. Registered nurse on site for a minimum of 16 hours per day. Structural Adjustment Program delivers increased provider viability and a strengthened aged care market. Single assessment workforce introduced to improve the experience of senior Australians in residential care. Better reporting, including through Star Ratings, to help senior Australians make easier comparisons and improve choice of care. <p>2023</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimum care time becomes mandatory. Annual funding increases and price setting take into account advice from the new Independent Hospital and Aged Care Pricing Authority. <p>2024</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased choice for senior Australians receiving residential care with care packages assigned to consumers, not providers. New residential aged care accommodation framework gives senior Australians more choice and improves accessibility and dementia-friendly accommodation. Aged Care Approval Board discontinued. <p>2025</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved service sustainability that ensures the care needs and preferences of senior Australians in residential aged care are met. 	<p>2021</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Immediate improvements to the quality of care in dementia, diversity, food and nutrition services. Stronger clinical care standards developed by the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care. Up to 120,000 additional GP services through boosted Aged Care Access Incentive. Increasing dementia care capability delivers better outcomes for people living with dementia. Palliative care services expanded to support end-of-life care at home. <p>2022</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Residents access improved care through Primary Health Networks facilitating telehealth and out-of-hours triage services. Expansion of the Serious Incident Response Scheme gives 1 million senior Australians receiving home and community care greater protection. Stronger presence of Aged Care Quality and Safety Commissions in facilities with an extra 1,200 site audits. Providers to report regularly to residents and families on care and commencement of Star Rating system. <p>2023</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved support and training in dementia care and minimising restraint (restrictive practices). <p>2024</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Aged Care Data Strategy improves the information that is available to senior Australians about the quality in aged care. New independent regulatory authority established following review of the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission. <p>2025</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Senior Australians receive high quality, compassionate care. Confidence in aged care is rebuilt. 	<p>2021</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Up to 8,000 new personal care workers in workplaces. Surge locum workforce capacity in regional and rural locations. Improved training in dementia care and minimising restraint (restrictive practices). <p>2022</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Up to 7,000 new personal care workers in workplaces. 33,300 additional training places rolled out over two years for personal care workers to attain a Certificate III in Individual Support (Ageing). More registered nurses in workplaces due to nurse incentive and financial support schemes. Single assessment workforce in place to conduct assessments across residential and home care. <p>2023</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional training places for personal care workers to attain a Certificate III in Individual Support (Ageing). <p>2024</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued growth of the aged care workforce and a demonstrable increase in registered nurses choosing aged care as their career. <p>2025</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tangible improvements seen in staffing levels, skills mix and training of the care workforce. Workforce continues to meet the demand for aged care services, particularly in home care. 	<p>2021</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initial rollout of expanded regional network to improve local planning and understanding of needs. Council of Elders established to provide a direct voice to Government. National Aged Care Advisory Council established to provide expert advice to Government. Expanded capital infrastructure grants available to improve access to better quality aged care services for First Nations people and those in rural and remote locations, or who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. Improved services and health outcomes for people in remote and Indigenous communities as a result of additional aged care funding. <p>2022</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> New workforce of trusted First Nations people to assist Older First Nations people navigate and access aged and disability care. <p>2023</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduction of a new, values based Aged Care Act. <p>2025</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strong and effective governance of aged care is in place with senior Australians at the centre and improved care outcomes consistently delivered.

Key Budget initiatives

The key initiatives in the government's aged care reforms package include:

- \$6.5 billion for an additional 80,000 Home Care Packages
- \$3.9 billion to increase front line care for senior Australians living in residential aged care
- \$3.2 billion to support providers to deliver better care and services through a new Government Basic Daily Fee supplement and continue increases in the homeless and viability supplements
- \$630.2 million to improve service delivery for vulnerable groups of senior Australians, including First Nations people, people who are experiencing homelessness or at risk, and people living in rural, regional and remote Australia
- \$365.7 million to better support senior Australians transitioning between aged and health care settings, and to improve medication management in residential care settings
- \$231.9 million to strengthen the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission with additional resources
- \$135.6 million to provide additional financial support for registered nurses working for the same aged care provider over a 12 month period, and those working in rural and remote areas, or holding additional qualifications or training responsibilities
- \$49.4 million to enhance training for aged care workers, particularly in dementia care
- \$21.1 million to strengthen governance arrangements, including establishing a National Aged Care Advisory Council, Council of Elders and an Inspector-General of Aged Care
- \$13.4 million to create a local network of Department of Health staff to ensure national planning and policy is informed by local needs and build provider capacity.

The budget included an announcement of an extension of the CHSP program to 30 June 2023 to enable the design and roll-out of the new 'Support at Home' program. The original reform timing was for completion by 30 June 2018, and this has been subject of four extensions: one to 2019, then to 2020, again to 2022 and now to 2023.

The Regional Assessment Service that undertakes intake and assessment for the CHSP and HACCPYP programs was on a pathway to a national streamlined model by 1 July 2020. This initial plan was delayed pending the outcomes of the Aged Care Royal Commission and the Commonwealth announced in May 2021 that that it will initiate a unified assessment model in 2022 and this new program will have responsibility for the new 'Support at Home' program from July 2023

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

Alignment to Council Plan Strategic Objectives

Enhancing Community Life - We will work with the communities of Ararat Rural City to maintain social cohesion, support community activity and cultural life, and enhance safety.

Budget Implications

Council will commit resources to support an effective transition process, this is estimated to be around \$190,000 over the next 12 to 18 months. Industrial obligations to staff in the form of redundancy payments have been incorporated into long-term financial planning. By Council transitioning out of the service the ongoing subsidy (estimated at between \$300,000 and \$350,000) will no longer be able to subsidise the delivery of Commonwealth policy objectives.

Policy/Relevant Law

The Commonwealth have taken responsibility for an integrated aged care program in 2011 and has proceeded to implement a range of reforms based on very consistent design principles. The commonwealth is seeking to deliver nationally consistent consumer centered, integrated and flexible aged care system that meets the needs of all older Australians.

The National Competition Policy was Australia's landmark reform program. A key principle of the program was that competitive markets will generally best serve the interests of consumers and the wider community; this would therefore apply to local government operations.

Council's Community Home Support Service operates within the parameters of the Aged Care Quality Standards, the Victorian Home and Community Care Program guidelines and the Commonwealth Home Support Program guidelines.

Sustainability Implications

Diverse Economy and opportunities – It is in the interests of the Commonwealth to have a diverse range of home support and aged care providers servicing regional needs, this transition will see the community benefit from a more broadened suite of programs with the introduction of Support from Home Program.

Risk Assessment

A comprehensive risk assessment will need to be undertaken to align with any transition of services and requirements.

Including future costs of services, the current estimated cost to council for the Home Support Services of approx. \$600k is based on block funding and a consistent demand for service. With increase of demand the future cost of service will increase. Choosing to transition out of the service delivery, Council will avoid significant risks including commercial risk and business continuity risk.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

If Council seeks to remain as a provider of services post 2023 it will need significant investment to support the new operational model of the Support from Home Program. Requirement of renegotiation of industrial arrangements, working capital (payment in arrears) and the capability to increase operations.

Stakeholder Collaboration and Community Engagement

Council staff have engaged with Commonwealth and Victorian government agencies to provide notice of intention to transition and the decision-making process that is currently being undertaken through Council. Council by taking this decision will commence a comprehensive communication and consultation process and this will include:

- Staff will be informed and will be provided with key internal contact to obtain information as requested or to raise concerns during the process.
- Client and families will be informed that Council is commencing a transition process and will also be provided with key contact for further information or to raise concerns during the process.
- Australian Services Union will be advised of Council's decision with a clear communication strategy implemented throughout the process
- A proactive media engagement strategy to explain the rationale for Council's decision, the intended process and long-term benefits for the community.

RECOMMENDATION

That the:

1. Council agrees to withdraw from its agreement to deliver Commonwealth Home Support Program services and all Victorian Home and Community Care services from 30 June, 2022. This will involve Council transitioning out of direct service delivery roles of:
 - a) All funded Commonwealth Home Support Programme services
 - (i) Domestic Assistance
 - (ii) Personal Care
 - (iii) Flexible Respite
 - (iv) Centre Based Respite
 - (v) Social Support – Group
 - (vi) Social Support – Individual
 - (vii) Home and Property Maintenance
 - (viii) Home Modifications
 - (ix) Delivered Meals
 - (x) Occupational Therapy
 - (xi) Sector Support & Development
 - b) All funded HACC-PYP services
 - (i) Domestic Assistance
 - (ii) Personal Care
 - (iii) Social Support Group
 - (iv) Centre Based Respite
 - (v) Home and Property Maintenance
 - (vi) Delivered Meals
 - (vii) Occupational Therapy
 - (viii) Volunteer Coordination
 - c) Regional Assessment Services (RAS)
2. Council commits to working with the Commonwealth and Victorian governments to negotiate timing and transition processes that will protect the interests of clients, families and staff; and
3. Council commits to working with all proposed providers including East Grampians Health Service to ensure continuity of high-quality service delivery to the community.

ATTACHMENTS

There are no attachments in relation to this item.

3.4 NEIGHBOURHOOD AMENITY LOCAL LAW 2022

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: GOVERNANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COORDINATOR
DEPARTMENT: CEO'S OFFICE
REFERENCE: 5007

OFFICER DIRECT OR INDIRECT CONFLICT OF INTEREST:

Officers providing advice to Council must disclose any conflict of interest.

No person involved in the preparation of this report has a conflict of interest requiring disclosure.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to present the proposed Neighbourhood Amenity Local Law 2022 to Council to commence the community engagement process to make the Local Law.

The proposed Local Law will replace the General Local Law 2012.

DISCUSSION

The current General Local Law 2012 is due for review in April 2022 and it is now proposed to replace it with the Neighbourhood Amenity Local Law 2022. A formal community engagement process will be undertaken as part of the Local Law review.

The proposed Neighbourhood Amenity Local Law 2022 has been prepared following internal discussions about issue commonly encountered by the Community Safety Team. The proposed Local Law has also been reviewed by Council's lawyers.

The form that has been proposed seeks to collate related issues together, separate the legal requirements from the procedural steps and simplify the use of the document.

A comprehensive cross-check has also been done to ensure no content regularly relied upon has been lost.

With the adoption of the Local Government Act 2020 there is also a requirement to reduce the duplication between legislation so part of the current Local Law that are dealt with under other legislation has been removed.

The attached proposed Local Law has been colour coded to identify changes in the document:

- New sections in the document are shown in blue
- Existing controls are shown in black.

Other changes are:

Clauses deleted from the document	Alternate legislative power
Clause 25 – Chimneys	Environmental Health under Public Health and Wellbeing Act
Clause 30 – Noise in a public place	Police under various legislative options
Clause 33 – Temporary Dwelling	Planning Scheme and Building Code of Australia cover
Clause 39 – Unleashed dogs	Domestic Animals Act
Clause 45 – Transportation of Waste	Environmental Protection Act
Clause 46 and 49 – Use of a Resource Recovery Centre and Scavenging at same	Environmental Protection Act
Clause 88 – Resident parking scheme	Local Government Act 2020
Clause 89 - Heavy vehicle parking in residential zones	Road Safety Road Rules 2017.

Another change has been to roll the controls currently set out for Green Hill Lake into the broader management of Council's municipal reserves.

The table below shows the current components of these controls and where they now exist in the document. Whilst the Green Hill Lake reserve is a unique one in terms of the environment and recreational opportunities it presents, the management issues to preserve the amenity and environment are not themselves unique. The approach to apply the same rules to all reserves seeks to add clarity about what is permitted where, for how long and consistency.

Existing Clauses in relation to Green Hill Lake	New Clauses in Proposed Local Law
Clause 32 - Camping	Clause – Camping prohibited on Council land
Clause 51 - Behaviour in Municipal Places	Clause – Behaviour in Municipal Place - Prohibitions
Clause 52 – Control of Activities	<p>Clause – Wholesale Review part 6 Council land (including Municipal Places, Parks and Council Buildings)</p> <p>This change streamlines the management of all Council Reserves and provides consistency in relation to camping.</p>
Clause 53 – Green Hill Lake	
(1) In addition to clauses (32), (51) and (52), within Green Hill Lake Reserve, no person may;	
a. drive or ride any motorcar, motorcycle, bicycle or other vehicle except in areas that may be set aside for that purpose or for the parking of vehicles and then only subject to the observance of such terms and conditions and the payment of such fees as may be prescribed by the Council from time to time.	
b. allow any cat or dog under their control into the Reserve unless adequately restrained in accordance with posted signage or so as not to cause annoyance or danger to any person or animal, or be potentially damaging to any property.	
c. bring glass bottles into designated beach areas or boat ramp areas of the Reserve as defined.	
d. drive, ride or operate any motorised vehicle within the Reserve at a speed in excess of any displayed speed sign.	
e. remove, alter, damage or shift any bouys, lakeside markers, floats or lines secured within the lake.	
Clause 53(2) Green Hill Lake Reserve is a designated area where horses are permitted provided they are kept under effective control and cause no nuisance.	
Clause 53(3) All provisions of the Marine Safety Act 2010 and its Regulations shall apply to the waters of Green Hill Lake.	

New Clauses	Description
Clause 21 – Shipping Containers	This will integrate shipping containers in with planning controls.
Clause 23 and 24 – Planting of Trees in Public Places	To respond to inappropriate planting on public land.
Clause 29 – Feeding of Birds on Private Property	Gives Council the ability to respond where this action creates a nuisance.
Clause 63 - Operation of Model Aircraft	This will cover model airplanes and drones on Council land.

Neighbourhood Amenity Local Law 2022 Guidelines

The Neighbourhood Amenity Local Law 2022 makes reference to the Local Law Guidelines, these guidelines will be developed once the Local Law is made. These Guidelines will be subject to a separate community engagement process and once adopted by Council regularly reviewed.

Community Engagement:

In line with the Local Government Act 2020 and Council’s Community Engagement Policy, Council is required to publish its intention to make a Local Law and the purpose of the Local Law.

Key Timeframes for the review of the Neighbourhood Amenity Local Law 2022:

Report to Council to commence the community engagement process	29 March 2022
Notice on Council’s Engage Ararat website	30 March 2022
Community Engagement – Invite submissions	30 March 2022 to 19 April 2022
Copy of proposed Local Law available from Municipal Officers, 59 Vincent Street, Ararat	30 March 2022 to 19 April 2022
Report to Council to consider submissions and adoption of the proposed Neighbourhood Amenity Local Law 2022	26 April 2022

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

Alignment to Council Plan Strategic Objectives

- 6. Strong and Effective Governance
We will work hard to build models of governance that place delivering public value at the centre through effective financial management, well measured risk management and implementation of effective community engagement practices.

Budget Implications

There are no budget implications for the proposed Neighbourhood Amenity Local Law 2022

Policy/Relevant Law

From the 1 July 2021, any new Local Laws must be made in accordance with the Local Government Act 2020:

Section 73 of the Local Government Act) states that Council:

- Must make a Local Law in accordance with its Community Engagement Policy.
- Must public a notice stating:
 - (a) the objectives of the proposed local law; and
 - (b) the intended effect of the proposed local law; and
 - (c) that a copy of the proposed local law is available for inspection—
 - (i) at the Council's office; and
 - (ii) on the Council's Internet site
- Must ensure that a copy of the proposed Local Law is available for inspection at the Council’s office and on Council’s internet site.

Section 74(1) states that before a Council makes a Local Law, a Council must obtain a certificate from a qualified person stating that the person is of the opinion that the proposed local law is consistent with the local law requirements.

Sustainability Implications

No economic, social or environmental implications were identified as part of this report.

Risk Assessment

The proposed Neighbourhood Amenity Local Law 2022 will ensure that Council meets it legislative requirements.

Stakeholder Collaboration and Community Engagement

The proposed Neighbourhood Amenity Local Law 2022 has been reviewed by Council's lawyers.

Council's Governance, Planning and Community Safety teams have been consulted in relation to the Local Law.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 1 Receives the proposed Neighbourhood Amenity Local Law 2022 (proposed Local Law);
- 2 Gives notice, in accordance with sections 73(3) and (4) of the *Local Government Act 2020*, on Council's website;
 - 2.1 stating the objectives of the proposed Local Law;
 - 2.2 stating the intended effect of the proposed Local Law;
 - 2.3 stating that a copy of the proposed Local Law can be obtained from Council's website and from Council's Offices; and
 - 2.4 describing the community engagement process that applies under Council's Community Engagement Policy, including inviting submissions;
- 3 Considers all submissions, and hears from submitters wishing to be heard, at the Council Meeting to be held on 26 April 2022, or such later Council meeting as the Chief Executive may determine;
- 4 Considers whether to make the proposed Local Law at the Council Meeting referred to in paragraph 3 of this resolution; and
- 5 Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to take such steps as are necessary to give effect to this Resolution.

ATTACHMENTS

The Proposed Neighbourhood Amenity Local Law 2022 is provided as Attachment 3.4.

SECTION 4 – INFORMATION REPORTS

4.1 BUILDING APPROVALS

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: MANAGER PLANNING, COMMUNITY & COMPLIANCE
DEPARTMENT: PLANNING, COMMUNITY & COMPLIANCE
REFERENCE: 3243

OFFICER DIRECT OR INDIRECT CONFLICT OF INTEREST:

Officers providing advice to Council must disclose any conflict of interest.

No person involved in the preparation of this report has a conflict of interest requiring disclosure.

DISCUSSION

This report outlines the monthly building permit approvals issued by Ararat Rural City Council and by private building surveyors for building works within Ararat Rural City for February 2022.

Approvals by Ararat Rural City Municipal Building Surveyor February 2022

Permit No.	Application Date	Approval Date	Building Address	Description of Building Works or Use of Building
NIL				

TOTAL VALUE \$ Nil

Approvals by private surveyors – February 2022

Permit No.	Date Approved	Notification Received by Council	Building Address	Description of Building Works or Use of Building	Surveyor
5728629693172	08/02/2022	03/02/2022	497 Tunnel Road, Pomonal	Construction of shed	PROVIC Building Approvals
9520013271316	02/02/2022	25/11/2021	CA7D, Sec19 Queen Street S Ararat	Shed	Coast to Country Building Approvals
4612658682118	07/02/2022	09/11/2021	405 Spittle Road, Willaura	Yard cover	Coast to Country Building Approvals
3196876575330	10/02/2022	10/01/2022	15 Best Street, Ararat	Garage	Coast to Country Building Approvals
1873952714949	11/02/2022	10/01/2022	20 Albert Street, Ararat	Storage shed	Coast to Country Building Approvals
7009237285925	11/02/2022	10/01/2022	248 Western Highway Ararat	Carport	Coast to Country Building Approvals
1793923279849	12/02/2022	09/02/2022	Lot 82, Warranooke Street Willaura	Shade Sail Structures x 2	Southern Building Approvals
3918545379433	11/02/2022	10/01/2022	65 Queen Street, Ararat	Storage shed	Coast to Country Building Approvals
4318394641828	14/02/2022	25/10/2021	142 Lennox Springs Road, Moyston	Construction of a detached dwelling	C&M Building Surveyors
7382286725609	14/02/2022	12/02/2022	3377 Ararat-Halls Gap Road Pomonal	Shade sail structure	Southern Building Approvals
597862798086	15/02/2022	22/11/2021	5558 Pyrenees Highway, Ararat	Farm shed	Coast to Country Building Approvals
4277506358285	15/02/2022	08/12/2021	945 Moyston-Willaura Road, Willaura North	Proposed Swimming Pool, Safety Barrier and Deck	VIC Central Building Surveying
9179448700315	18/02/2022	24/01/2022	6 Caledonian Court, Ararat	Construction of a workshop (Class 8) (SHED 2)	PROVIC Building Approvals
4441009378575	23/02/2022	24/02/2022	77-89 Barkly Street, Ararat	Construction of alterations	RBS Building Surveyors

TOTAL VALUE \$1,216,659

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

Alignment to Council Plan Strategic Objectives

The report supports the strategic objective of the Council Plan 2021-2025:

2 **Building Robust Local Economies -**

We will develop strong relationships to build and strengthen a diverse local economy, focused on creating jobs and wealth through adding value to existing strengths in agriculture, manufacturing, tourism and hospitality.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Building Approvals Report be received.

ATTACHMENTS

There are no attachments relating to this item.

4.2 PLANNING MATTERS APPROVED UNDER DELEGATION PLANNING PERMITS AND CERTIFICATION OF SUBDIVISION PLANS

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: MANAGER PLANNING, COMMUNITY & COMPLIANCE
DEPARTMENT: PLANNING, COMMUNITY & COMPLIANCE
REFERENCE: 3243

OFFICER DIRECT OR INDIRECT CONFLICT OF INTEREST:

Officers providing advice to Council must disclose any conflict of interest.

No person involved in the preparation of this report has a conflict of interest requiring disclosure.

DISCUSSION

Planning permits, certification of subdivision plans and Statement of Compliances are approved under delegated authority by relevant Council officers each month, where possible. This report outlines the various approvals for Council's information.

Planning permit approvals under delegated authority – February 2022

Application No.	Date Lodged	Date of Delegated Approval / Refusal	Applicant	Location	Proposed Use of Development
2661	08/02/2022	15/02/2022	Designplus Consulting Group	22 Banfield Street, Ararat	Extension of Time granted to Construct 2 additional dwellings and 3 lot subdivision
2704	21/02/2022	24/02/2022	Gloria Saunders	15a Barkly Street West, Ararat	Extension of Time for a 2 Lot Subdivision
2819	14/02/2022	15/02/2022	Ryan Adamson for Gibson	1939 Astons Road, Narrapumelap South	Secondary Consent issued on plans for Use and Development: Construction of a Dwelling
3042	02/08/2022	11/02/2022	Inception Planning	137-139 Grano Street, Ararat	Construction of 46 dwellings on a lot, staged multi lot subdivision and an associated reduction in car parking requirements
3066	08/10/2022	03/03/2022	Danny Drake	63 Banfield Street, Ararat	Construction of 2 single storey dwellings and subdivision into 3 parcels of land
3070	11/10/2021	03/02/2022	Sudhanshu Goel, e2eGrowth Consultants P/L	65 Banfield Street, Ararat	Use and Development for 5 Units and 5 Lot Subdivision
3085	02/12/2022	17/02/2022	Sudhanshu Goel, e2eGrowth	1 Blackie Avenue, Ararat	Notice of Decision Issued to grant a permit for 5 Lot Subdivision

Application No.	Date Lodged	Date of Delegated Approval / Refusal	Applicant	Location	Proposed Use of Development
			Consultants P/L		
3089	23/12/2021	23/02/2022	Lisa Brockley	53 Lambert Street, Ararat	New access from Lambert Street being Transport 2 Zone
3095	30/12/2021	04/02/2022	Hotondo for Woods	9 Rhymney Road, Cathcart	The use and development for a second dwelling, outbuilding, driveway and associated services
3096	22/12/2021	04/02/2022	Inception Planning for Spalding	17 Picnic Road, Ararat	Development of a dwelling and associated outbuilding in the Bushfire Management Overlay and outside the designated area specified in the Section 173 agreement
3107	14/02/2022	25/02/2022	Leanne Stewart	653 Back Bushy Creek Road, Narrapumelap South	2 Lot Subdivision
VS2022028	08/02/2022	24/05/2022	Wolf Sebastian	111 Barkly Street, Ararat	Building and Works, display two signs and externally paint the building

VCAT				
Application No.	Applicant	Location	Proposed Use or Development	Status
3048	A Lacey for Peatt	Government Road, Warrak	Use and development of a dwelling	Hearing 30/08/2022

Certification of subdivision plans under delegated authority – February 2022

Application No.	Date Lodged	Date of Decision	Applicant	Location	Procedure
S1225	18/11/2021	11/02/2022	Ararat Survey Pty Ltd for Hinchliffe	368 Tatyoon Road, Ararat	Certification & Statement of Compliance Issued in relation to Plan of Consolidation PC379320E

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

Alignment to Council Plan Strategic Objectives

The report supports the strategic objective of the Council Plan 2021-2025:

2 Building Robust Local Economies -

We will develop strong relationships to build and strengthen a diverse local economy, focused on creating jobs and wealth through adding value to existing strengths in agriculture, manufacturing, tourism and hospitality.

RECOMMENDATION

That the report on Planning Matters Approved under Delegation – Planning Permits and Certification of Subdivision Plans and Statement of Compliances be received.

ATTACHMENTS

There are no attachments in relation to this item.

4.3 COUNCIL PLAN 2021-2025 YEAR 1 ACTION PLAN UPDATE

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
DEPARTMENT: CEO'S OFFICE
REFERENCE: 5008

OFFICER DIRECT OR INDIRECT CONFLICT OF INTEREST:

Officers providing advice to Council must disclose any conflict of interest.

No person involved in the preparation of this report has a conflict of interest requiring disclosure.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Council Plan Action report is presented to Council updating the progress of actions identified against the strategic objectives in the Council Plan 2021-2025 for Year 1.

The Council Plan 2021-2025 contains actions to be undertaken during the 2021-2022 financial year under the pillars and foundation of Growing Out Place, Building Robust Local Economies, Preserving our Environment, Developing and maintaining key enabling infrastructure, Enhancing our Community and Strong and Effective Governance.

DISCUSSION

This report outlines the progress of the actions listed in the Council Plan for Year 1 (2021/2022) as at 24 March 2022.

The Council Plan for 2021/2022 contain 55 actions, which the following table outlines the results in relation to these actions:

Progress	Number
Ongoing	7
0-50% completed	19
51%-99 completed	14
Completed	12
Not started	3
TOTAL	55

The following tables details the Council Plan Actions for 2021/2022 in full.

Council Plan Objective	Action	Progress	Officers Update
1.1 Develop a new planning scheme for Ararat Rural City that is clear in its intention, supports growth and builds confidence and certainty around land use	Commence consultation and implementation of new Planning Scheme	In progress 0-50%	Review of current scheme is complete to be received at the April 2022 Council meeting. Work on environmental review due to commence in early April 2022. The fire study will go to tender in early April and consultant appointed by late April.

Council Plan Objective	Action	Progress	Officers Update
1.2 Support innovative housing models that work to overcome market failure and create the capacity to increase the population of Ararat Rural City.	Development of a Transitional Worker Housing project	In progress 0-50%	Project partners identified and Heads of Agreement for a rental guarantee has been negotiated. Another funding option from the State Government is currently being explored.
	Develop a potential Public Private Partnership (PPP) model for development of affordable housing	In progress 51-99%	A Heads of Agreement has been negotiated with a private investor. More detailed financial modelling is being undertaken and business structures are being explored.
	Explore feasibility of development of state-owned land with Development Victoria	In progress 51-99%	Discussions and planning well advanced. The project has stalled over complexities associated with transfer of state-owned land.
	Develop an alternate access to the Ararat East Development Zone based on successful State Government funding	In progress 51-99%	State funding secured through the Workforce Pilot Program. Design and other preliminaries complete. Contract documents are being finalised for project tender process.
	Seek funding support from Victorian State Government for key trunk infrastructure to assist in de-risking private sector housing development	Complete	Trunk road and drainage infrastructure gained through the State Government Workforce Pilot Program (\$950,000). An additional fund was provided to support Transitional Worker Housing projects (\$300,000).
1.3 Work with other levels of government, business, and not-for-for profits to develop programs to increase in-migration to Ararat Rural City to grow our population.	Seek funding from the Victorian State Government to support a significant in-migration project to support population growth.	Complete	Funding was received under the Workforce Pilot project to support a project with the Wyndham Community Education Centre to support in-migration to support population growth (\$650,000).
	Seek funding for a workforce pilot program to support employment attraction initiatives	Complete	Funding received under the Workforce Pilot project to support employment attraction (\$281,000). Carmel Goulding appointed as Workforce Pilot Lead.
2.1 Partner with Federation University Australia to deliver the Ararat Jobs and Technology Precinct.	Ararat Jobs and Technology Precinct established with 4 PhD scholars appointed in 2021/2022	In progress 51-99%	Ararat Jobs and Technology Precinct established. 3 PhD and 2 Masters by research Scholarships have been funded through the Destination Australia Scheme. An additional scholarship will be funded by Council to support the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan. A scholarship has been negotiated to support the development of Council's new

Council Plan Objective	Action	Progress	Officers Update
			planning scheme. Scholarships have been advertised and roles will be filled by the end of April 2022. Refurbishment of the Laby St site will commence in May 2022.
	Develop a community digital hub and co-working space	Complete	Project complete. Digital Hub and Coworking space opened by 30/11/2021.
2.2 Work with other levels of government, local business, and private investors to develop a business park within Ararat Rural City, focused on agricultural value adding and advanced manufacturing, potentially leveraging “behind the meter” power.	Commence consultation with stakeholders to the develop the concept of a Business Park in the municipality.	In progress 0-50%	Business Park identified as a key advocacy project by Council for the 2022 Federal and State Elections. Collateral being developed. Discussions have been held with potential investors and tenants.
	Continue to support the development of biomass power facility	Ongoing	The biomass power facility is progressing well. It has successfully completed FEL1 design and is progressing to FEL2. Over 140,000 tonnes of straw have been committed to provide feedstock.
2.3 Engage with Grampians Tourism and local businesses to drive growth in high yield tourist outcomes.	Implement new funding model Grampians Tourism	Complete	A new MOU has been developed, including new funding model, and adopted by Council.
	Continuation of business facade program	Complete	2021/2022 Façade Grant program rolled out.
3.1 Position Ararat Rural City Council as a prime mover in driving circular economy policy in waste management, including local processing and management of recyclables, and in use of renewable energy for Council purposes.	Fully implemented new Waste Management Plan, aligned with circular economy outcomes by 30 June 2022.	In progress 0-50%	Council has agreed to Waste Management Plan. Implementation is progressing well.
	Council adopts Waste Management Pathway Plan at the October 2021 Council Meeting	Complete	Plan adopted by Council at the October 2021 Council meeting.
3.2 Develop innovative energy solutions utilising locally produced waste.	Continue to support the development of biomass power facility	Ongoing	The biomass power facility is progressing well. It has successfully completed FEL1 design and is progressing to FEL2. over 140,000 tonnes of straw have been committed to provide feedstock.
	Work with Pomonal Power and BREAZE to undertake a feasibility study for an innovative local power solution	Ongoing	Working to assist Pomonal power and Breaze to conduct the feasibility study.
3.3 Partner with local organisations and scientific experts to	Establish Environment Working Group comprising scientific/technical and community membership	In progress 51-99%	Second EoI has gone out for community representatives. A number were received and a

Council Plan Objective	Action	Progress	Officers Update
develop an appropriate and pragmatic local government Environment Strategy, focussed on the circular economy, emission reduction through renewable energy and management of Council assets.			process of selecting community representatives is underway.
	Environment Working Group, working with consultants, develops Environment Strategy 2021-2031.	Not started	This project will commence once the Environment Working Group forms and commences work.
	Implementation of Environment Strategy	Not started	Implementation of the ARCC Environment Strategy will commence once it is developed by the Environment Working Group.
4.1 Ensure that asset development and renewal during the planning period matches that identified in Council's Asset Plan 2021-2031	Undertake complete review of assets management, including systems, physical asset management, valuation and financial models.	In progress 51-99%	Asset Project team established, comprising membership from engineering, operations, finance and executive to undertake full asset review in line with the Asset Management Schema adopted by Council at the November 2021 Council Meeting. Complete review of road and bridge assets progressing very well.
	Commence planning and negotiation with Regional Roads Victoria to develop a north– south heavy vehicle route for the Pyrenees Hwy	In progress 0-50%	Initial discussions and route planning have commenced with Regional Roads Victoria. This project is a key element of Council's election advocacy strategy for 2022.
	Complete 2020-2022 Roads Capital Works Plan	In progress 51-99%	The Capital works program is progressing well with most rural roads finished. Works on Dean St and Baird St have also been completed.
	Implement sealed road shoulder maintenance program	In progress 0-50%	Works have commenced and will be completed by 30 June 2022. 50 kms of shoulders will be graded by the end of 2021/2022.
	Undertake the 2021/2022 footpath and cycleway maintenance program	In progress 0-50%	Planning has commenced and the program will be completed by 30 June 2022. Condition assessment will be completed as an element of the asset review.
	Plan and undertake the drainage renewal program	In progress 0-50%	Planning has commenced and the program will be completed by 30 June 2022. Learning for the extreme weather events on the 6 & 7 January 2022 will form part of the planning piece.

Council Plan Objective	Action	Progress	Officers Update
4.2 Work directly with asset users to manage and develop new and existing assets.	Planning and funding models for rural roads "spine" developed and endorsed by Rural Roads Group	In progress 0-50%	Planning underway and funding models being explored and negotiated with government. Reconstruction of a significant length of Mt William Road near Lakaput Bulk Storage Facility is a key element of this work. A meeting of the Rural Roads Group will occur in early April to progress this work further. DoT and Central Highlands Regional Partnership have funded a grains transport logistics study which will provide valuable input into makeup of the road's spine.
	Policy and framework developed for sealing urban gravel roads and significant urban laneways	In progress 51-99%	Policy development is well underway. A draft policy for consideration will be presented to the April 2022 Council Meeting.
	Undertake a feasibility study for redevelopment of McDonald Centre (jointly with Grampians Community Health)	In progress 0-50%	Discussions have commenced with Grampians Community Health. This project is a key element of Council's advocacy plan in the lead up to the 2022 State and Federal elections.
	Work with the Lake Bolac Hall Committee to complete preliminary design for Lake Bolac Hall refurbishment	Not started	Discussion with the Lake Bolac Hall Committee to commence in first half of 2022.
	Undertake the Ararat Fitness Centre Feasibility Study Implementation of key infrastructure projects from the Asset Plan 2021-2031 during the planning period.	In progress 51-99%	Work is nearly completed on the study. Community consultation is complete, concept designs are being costed and it will be presented to the May 2022 Council meeting
4.3 Deliver infrastructure outcomes that support economic growth, promote community wellbeing and safety, and align with Council's financial sustainability.	Implementation of key infrastructure projects from the Asset Plan 2021-2031 during the planning period.	Complete	Key infrastructure projects have been identified for the Asset Strategy. The majority of work in 2021/2022 will be in the planning and funding space.
	Provide free public WiFi services Ararat	In progress 51-99%	This project has commenced and due for completion in 2022.
	Implement Pomonal Tunnel Track Linkage Plan	In progress 0-50%	Work has commenced on planning of the site requirements.
	Implement Gordon Street Recreation Reserve Redevelopment	In progress 0-50%	Work has commenced on site, milestone tender requirements have now been extended out to 31.03.2022 to obtain costings that adhere to the budget.

Council Plan Objective	Action	Progress	Officers Update
	Undertake renovation and extension of the Buangor Recreation Reserve kitchen	In progress 0-50%	Three design proposals have been developed for community consideration.
	Undertake renovation of the Lake Bolac Complex kitchen	In progress 0-50%	The "complex" kitchen is now managed by the Lake Bolac Golf Club under a lease agreement with Council. Discussions have commenced around kitchen design to meet the Golf Club's needs.
5.1 Open up Council's arts and culture assets to greater community participation, ownership and engagement in decision-making.	Work with the Friends of Gum San to explore a model for improving the viability of Gum San.	Complete	An MoU has been negotiated with Friends of Gum San for management of the site. Final handover will occur in late January 2022.
	Develop the Ararat Regional Library Strategy	Complete	5-year Strategy complete and action plan currently being formed for implementation.
	Establish a Town Hall Users Group to provide advice on issues relating to the operations of the Town Hall	In progress 0-50%	Town Hall user group established, will hold first meeting in early 2022.
	Establish a TAMA Gallery Reference Group to provide advice on the operations of TAMA	In progress 0-50%	Work on establishing the TAMA Gallery reference group will commenced in late January 2022.
5.2 Develop models of volunteering that recognise, support and properly utilise the skills that community volunteers bring to community life.	Promote the benefits and achievements of volunteers to encourage participation.	Ongoing	This project will be implemented in the first half of 2022. Council has supported volunteers to promote the work of Langi Morgala and Gum San.
	Facilitate networks/partnerships with community groups	Ongoing	Council will continue to increase its level of involvement with and support for community groups across the municipality. Council's Community grants need to be better publicised across ARCC.
5.3 Partner with community groups, not-for-profits, and traditional owner organisations to develop Ararat Rural City as a more inclusive and diverse community.	Review the Access and Inclusion Policy	In progress 0-50%	This policy is being reviewed during the first half of 2022.
	Develop a Gender Equality Policy	In progress 51-99%	Extensive work has been done to develop Council's Gender Equity Plan. This has been supported by Women's Health Grampians.
	Commence a process of establishing respectful and productive relationships with traditional owner organisations	In progress 0-50%	Council will develop an engagement model in consultation with external experts and traditional owner groups in the first half of 2022.

Council Plan Objective	Action	Progress	Officers Update
6.1 Deliver responsible budget outcomes, linked to strategy, that deliver value, innovation and rating fairness.	Council budgets continue to deliver public value and return dividends where appropriate	Ongoing	Council budgets will continue to be framed to deliver public value across all services. Focus of core business and financial sustainability will underpin financial decision making. The 2022/2023 Budget will be framed to ensure that Council has the option to deliver a zero percent rate rise.
	Council develop and implement a performance dashboard providing reporting to the CEO, Council and Community	In progress 51-99%	Performance dashboard in place and currently being used for Budget management and monitoring. KPIs developed across services and being refined through sense checking activity and regular meetings with service leaders.
	Undertake key data quality improvement projects during 2021/2022	In progress 51-99%	Key data projects are being developed and delivered around KPI, financial and asset data.
6.2 Ensure appropriate risk management is applied to Council and organisational decisions. Council's internal function is applied to areas of perceived risk.	Council Review the Business Continuity Plan and Disaster Recovery Plan	In progress 51-99%	Emergency Management and Risk Management staff have commenced a review of BCP and DRP. This has been assisted through work with Council's Internal Auditors.
	Review Council's Risk Management Policy and Framework	Complete	Risk Management Policy and Risk Management Framework reviewed. Presented to Audit and Risk Committee on 7 September 2021, and adopted by Council at the Council meeting held on 21 September 2021
	Develop a Risk Management training program	In progress 0-50%	Basic Risk Training Session to be conducted by Council's Risk Service Provider on 2 March 2022 for all Managers, Coordinators, Supervisors and Team Leaders.
	Implement a Risk Assessment Process and Building Inspection Program for all Council assets	Complete	Building Inspection Checklist developed and utilised by Depot and Asset staff.
6.3 Continuously improve Council's community engagement process and practices in line with deliberative engagement practices, while acknowledging the need for a range of different techniques to ensure effective engagement.	Implement the Community Engagement Policy to support and development Council's strategies and projects.	Ongoing	Council's Community Engagement Policy will be rolled out further during the first half of 2022. This will include utilising the Policy in development of Council's 2022/2023 Budget and Annual Plan.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

Alignment to Council Plan Strategic Objectives

The actions support all the strategic objectives of the Council Plan 2021-2025 including:

1. Growing our Place
2. Building Robust Local Economies
3. Preserving our Environment
4. Developing and Maintaining Key Enabling Infrastructure
5. Enhancing Community Life
6. Strong and Effective Governance

Budget Implications

Initiatives and projects listed in the Council Plan Action Plan have an allocation in the 2021/2022 Budget.

Policy/Relevant Law

The Local Government Performance Reporting Framework – Governance and Management Checklist No 17 – Council Plan Reporting - Report reviewing the performance of the Council against the Council Plan including the results in relation to the strategic indicators for the first six months of the financial year.

Where Council has a report, it must also provide details of the report, where Council has no report, it must provide a reason.

In relation to funding projects, all State Government funding milestone requirements have been met.

Sustainability Implications

None identified for this report.

Risk Assessment

Not meeting the requirements of the Local Government Performance Reporting Framework will result in negative feedback on the Know Your Council website.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

The list presented to Council shows the innovation and continuous improvement that Council is providing both the organisation and the community.

Stakeholder Collaboration and Community Engagement

The Chief Executive Officer along with relevant officers have worked to ensure that Council Plan actions have met expected milestones and timeframes where possible.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Council Plan 2021-2025 Year 1 Update Report be received.

ATTACHMENTS

There are no attachments relating to this item.

4.4 MAYORS, DEPUTY MAYORS AND COUNCILLORS ALLOWANCES

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
DEPARTMENT: CEO'S OFFICE
REFERENCE: 5005

OFFICER DIRECT OR INDIRECT CONFLICT OF INTEREST:

Officers providing advice to Council must disclose any conflict of interest.

No person involved in the preparation of this report has a conflict of interest requiring disclosure.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A change to Councillor Allowances under the Local Government Act 2020 is the transfer of responsibilities in determining Mayoral, Deputy Mayor and Councillor allowances to the Victorian Independent Remunerations Tribunal (VIRT).

On 7 March 2022 the VIRT made the Allowances payable to Mayors, Deputy Mayors and Councillors (Victoria) Determination No 01/2022. The determination takes effect from 18 December 2021.

The purpose of this report is to provide a summary of the Mayor's, Deputy Mayor's and Councillors Allowance as determined by the VIRT.

DISCUSSION

The VIRT Determination sets a base allowance for each Council member, which is based the role and the Council allowance category. Ararat Rural City Council falls under Category 1.

The VIRT decided to phase-in the increases over five years for Mayors. An 8% increase applies from 18 December 2021, with a 12% increased applying in four equal portions on 18 December 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025. The Deputy Mayors base allowance are set to be equal to half of the Mayors base allowance, and also phased-in over five years.

The Councillors allowances will be phased in over 3 years, with a 4% increase applying from 18 December 2021 and a 6% increase to apply in two equal portions on 18 December 2022 and 2023.

In the VIRT determination the annual allowance and payment in lieu of superannuation are combined into a base rate. Below are the amounts as determined:

Council Allowance Category	Value of Mayor base allowance (\$ per annum) from 18 December 2021					
	Current	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Category 1	69,172	74,706	74,781	78,857	80,932	83,007

Council Allowance Category	Value of Deputy Mayor base allowance (\$ per annum) from 18 December 2021					
	Current	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Category 1	23,154	37,353	38,391	39,428	40,466	41,503

Council Allowance Category	Value of Councillor base allowance (\$ per annum) from 18 December 2021			
	Current	2021	2022	2023
Category 1	23,154	24,080	24,775	25,469

A Mayor, Deputy Mayor or Councillor may elect to —
(a) to receive the entire allowance to which they are entitled; or
(b) to receive a specified part of the allowance to which they are entitled; or
(c) to receive no allowance.

Previous Allowances

The previous Mayor and Councillors Allowances were Mayors - \$62,884 and Councillors - \$21,049. In addition to the allowance Mayors and Councillors were entitled to an additional payment of 10% which was equivalent to the superannuation guarantee contribution. There was no separate allowance for Deputy Mayor prior to the VIRT Determination.

Remove Area Travel Allowance

The VIRT determined to set a remote area travel allowance for a Councillors who normally resides more than 50km by the shortest practicable road distance from the location or locations specified for the conduct of ordinary, unscheduled or committee meetings of the Council, or any municipal or community functions which have been authorised by Council resolution for the Council member to attend.

The remote area travel allowance has been set at \$44 per day up to a maximum of \$5,500. The previous remote area travel allowance was \$40.

A full copy of the Victorian Independent Remuneration Tribunal report can be downloaded from <https://www.vic.gov.au/allowances-mayors-deputy-mayors-and-councillors>.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

Alignment to Council Plan Strategic Objectives

6 Strong and Effective Governance

Budget Implications

Mayor's, Deputy Mayor's and Councillors Allowances are allocated in the 2021/2022 budget.

Policy/Relevant Law

The Local Government Act 2020:

Section 39(1) states that a Mayor or a Deputy Mayor is entitled to receive from the Council an allowance as a Mayor or a Deputy Mayor in accordance with a Determination of the Victorian Independent Remuneration Tribunal under the Victorian Independent Remuneration Tribunal and Improving Parliamentary Standards Act 2019; and

Section 39(2) states a Councillor is entitled to receive from the Council an allowance as a Councillor in accordance with a Determination of the Victorian Independent Remuneration Tribunal under the Victorian Independent Remuneration Tribunal and Improving Parliamentary Standards Act 2019; and

Section 39(5) states that a Mayor, Deputy Mayor or Councillor may elect—
(a) to receive the entire allowance to which they are entitled; or
(b) to receive a specified part of the allowance to which they are entitled; or
(c) to receive no allowance.

Sustainability Implications

There are no economic, social or environmental implications in relation to Mayors, Deputy Mayors and Councillors Allowances.

Risk Assessment

Council is obliged to comply with this process under the various provisions of the Local Government Act 2020.

Stakeholder Collaboration and Community Engagement

The Chief Executive Officer briefed Councillors on the VIRT's Allowance payable to Mayors, Deputy Mayors and Councillors (Victoria) Determination No 01/2022 at the Councillor briefing held on Tuesday 15 March 2022

RECOMMENDATION

That the Mayors, Deputy Mayors and Councillor Allowance Report be received.

ATTACHMENTS

There are no attachments in relation to this item.

SECTION 5- COMMITTEE MINUTES/REPORTS

5.1 AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE MEETING

AUTHOR'S TITLE: CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
DEPARTMENT CEO'S OFFICE
REFERENCE: 5009

OFFICER DIRECT OR INDIRECT CONFLICT OF INTEREST:

Officers providing advice to Council must disclose any conflict of interest.

No person involved in the preparation of this report has a conflict of interest requiring disclosure.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report contains the minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee meeting held on 01 March 2022.

DISCUSSION

Minutes of Audit and Risk Committee meetings are provided to Council at the first available opportunity after clearance by the Audit and Risk Committee Chairperson. The report contains the Audit and Risk Committee Meeting held on 01 March 2022.

Council Committees	Councillor representative	Current meeting (as presented)	Next scheduled meeting/s
Audit and Risk Committee	Cr Jo Armstrong & Cr Burrige	01 March 2022	07 June 2022

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

Alignment to Council Plan Strategic Objectives

The report supports the strategic objective of the Council Plan 2021-2025:

6 Strong and Effective Governance

Budget Implications

No budget impact for the receiving of minutes.

Policy/Legal/Statutory

Section 53 of the *Local Government Act 2020* states that Council must establish an Audit and Risk Committee.

Section 6.1 of the *Audit and Risk Committee Charter* states that minutes of Committee meetings will be provided to Council at the first available opportunity after clearance by the Committee Chairperson following each Committee meeting.

Risk Assessment

Council needs to be aware of issues raised in the minutes.

Stakeholder Consultation and Communication

Audit and Risk Committee members.

Councillor representation on Council Committees.

Chief Executive Officer and relevant Council officers.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Audit and Risk Committee Meetings minutes of 01 March 2022 be received.

ATTACHMENTS

The Audit and Risk Committee minutes as listed above are provided as Attachment 5.1.

SECTION 6 – INFORMAL MEETINGS

6.1 INFORMAL MEETINGS

AUTHOR'S TITLE: CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
DEPARTMENT: CEO'S OFFICE
REFERENCE: 13039074

OFFICER'S DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Officers providing advice to Council must disclose any conflict of interest.

No person involved in the preparation of this report has a conflict of interest requiring disclosure.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Governance Rules state that if there is a meeting of Councillors that:

- 1 is scheduled or planned for the purpose of discussing the business of *Council* or briefing Councillors;
- 2 is attended by at least one member of Council staff; and
- 3 is not a *Council meeting*, *Delegated Committee* meeting or *Community Asset Committee* meeting, the *Chief Executive Officer* must ensure that a summary of the matters discussed at the meeting are:
 - a) tabled at the next convenient *Council meeting*; and
 - b) recorded in the minutes of that *Council meeting*.

DISCUSSION

As a requirement of the Governance Rules, a summary of matters discussed at the Council Briefings held since the last Council Meeting are presented to Council and will be recorded in the minutes.

INFORMAL MEETINGS
Council Briefing held on 01 March 2022
Council Briefing held on 15 March 2022

Issues discussed at the briefing:

- Enterprise Bargaining Agreement
- Planning issues
- 41 Queen St and 6-8 Dawson St developments
- Extent of medium density housing in Ararat
- Childcare survey
- Budget preliminaries- Councillor perspectives
- Tourism investment priorities
- Lease update
- Rating
- Young people's mental health
- Mayors, Deputy Mayors and Councillors Allowance Determination
- Organisation strategy

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

Alignment to Council Plan Strategic Objectives

The report supports the strategic objective of the Council Plan 2021-2025:

- 6.3 Continuously improve Council's community engagement process and practices in line with deliberative engagement practices, while acknowledging the need for a range of different techniques to ensure effective engagement.

Financial

There are no financial impacts for the receiving of Informal Meetings of Councillors.

Policy/Relevant Law

Reporting of Informal Meetings is in line with the requirements of the Governance Rules.

Risk Assessment

Following the requirements of the Governance Rules will ensure that Council meets its legislative requirements.

Stakeholder Collaboration and Community Engagement

A summary of matters discussed at the Council Briefings are presented for community information.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Informal Meetings of Councillors Report be received.

ATTACHMENTS

The Summary of Council Briefings are provided as Attachment 6.1.

SECTION 7 – NOTICES OF MOTION

A notice of motion must be in writing signed by a Councillor and be lodged with or sent to the *Chief Executive Officer* no later than 12.00pm (noon) and at least six (6) days prior to the Council Meeting to allow sufficient time for the *Chief Executive Officer* to include the *notice of motion* in agenda papers for a *Council meeting*.

SECTION 8– URGENT BUSINESS

Items cannot be admitted as urgent business other than by resolution of *Council* and only then if it:

- 1 relates to or arises out of a matter which has arisen since distribution of the *agenda*; and
- 2 cannot safely or conveniently be deferred until the next *Council meeting*.

SECTION 9 – CLOSE SESSION (CONFIDENTIAL)

In accordance with section 66(2)(a), 3(1) *Confidential Information* (a) of the Local Government Act 2020, the following agenda items are listed for consideration in the confidential section:

- Item 9.1- CEO Employment and Remuneration Committee Update
- Item 9.2- Contract No. 675- Gordon St Recreation Reserve- Lighting Upgrade Infrastructure (A&B)
- Item 9.3- Contract No. 675- Gordon St Recreation Reserve- Lighting Upgrade Infrastructure (C)
- Item 9.4- Contract No. 670- Panel Supply Tender
- Item 9.5- Contract No. 672- Panel Supply Tender
- Item 9.6- Contract No. 669- Panel Supply Tender
- Item 9.7- Research and Development- Organic Waste Management

CLOSURE OF COUNCIL MEETING TO THE PUBLIC

The Open Council Meeting will now be closed, but members of the public are welcome to rejoin the Council Meeting following the recommencement of the meeting.

RECOMMENDATION

That the meeting be closed to members of the public pursuant to section 66(2)(a) of the Local Government Act 2020 to consider confidential reports.

OPEN COUNCIL MEETING RECOMMENCEMENT

RECOMMENDATION

That the Open Council Meeting recommence.

Gallery invited to return to Council Chamber.

LIFTING OF CONFIDENTIALITY OF CLOSED SESSION RESOLUTIONS

RECOMMENDATION

That the Confidentiality of the:

- Decision in relation to Confidential Agenda Item 9.2, 9.3, 9.4, 9.5 and 9.6 be lifted;
- Report of Confidential Agenda Item 9.2, 9.3, 9.4, 9.5 and 9.6 not be lifted.
- The confidentiality of the report and decision in relation to 9.1 and 9.7 not be lifted on adoption of the motion