



Ararat Rural City

AGENDA

COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday 30 May 2023

To be held in the Council Chambers, Shire Offices
(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.

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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 Meetings held on 18 April 2023 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.

SECTION 3 – REPORTS REQUIRING COUNCIL DECISION

3.1 2022/2023 CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAM – MAY 2023

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
DEPARTMENT: CEO'S OFFICE
REFERENCE: 9655

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

Council adopted its 2022/2023 Capital Works Program as a key element of the 2023/2023 Budget. The program is significantly different to previous years in that it is not predominantly made up of larger road and bridge renewals. The 2022/2023 Program is composed of a series of smaller projects, including a focus on renewal and upgrade of community infrastructure.

The flood events in October 2023, provided some disruption to Council's planned capital works program. Work by Council staff and contractors continues to make good significant damage to Council's road and drainage assets, particularly the unsealed road network.

The capital works program has also been impacted by significant volatility in contract pricing. Market uncertainty, cost of materials, logistical issues and price gouging have all created substantial fluctuations in contract pricing and delivery. To mitigate this risk Council has decided to manage a range of projects in-house where cost can be more reliably managed.

Despite the impacts of flooding and market uncertainty it is still anticipated that capital works program for 2022/2023 will approach 100% completion.

DISCUSSION

Council's 2022/2023 Capital Works Program is substantially different to the last few years. The program does not have a number of major road or bridge projects. Council believes that during the period of pricing instability currently being experienced, that it was better to undertake a "small target" capital works program in 2022/2023.

The emphasis for 2022/2023 has been on renewal and updating Council assets, undertaking a larger number of smaller projects of lower value to avoid the impacts of price volatility in the market. It is hoped that this approach will also provide opportunities to leverage in-house capability, support local employment and engagement of local contractors.

The capital works program has had an emphasis on the following areas:

- Improvements to range of community infrastructure
- An enhanced road reseal program
- Improvement to urban drainage
- Upgrades to the footpath network
- Major patching work to extend the life of heavy use local roads

The October 2022 flood event impacted significantly on Council's capacity to undertake works on the capital works program. This disruption was felt for several months. In spite of this disruption, it is anticipated that Council will go very close to fully expending the capital works budget in 2022/2023.

The capital work budget is currently 84% spent. This is less than would have been hoped, but it is important to note that the October flood event represented a significant disruption to the smooth roll out of the program and pricing volatility has also impacted projects such as the Helendoite Road bridge.

	Budget	Committed/ Contracted	Complete	Notes
PROPERTY -CAPITAL	\$1,500,000			
Park Infrastructure		\$92,285.92	\$85,042.04	This is made up of a series of smaller projects. The most significant of these is the purchase and installation of new playground equipment at Alexandra Gardens and Lake Bolac. Existing gas BBQs have been replaced with new models and the Barkly St public toilet will be replaced. It is expected that the community infrastructure program will be at least 90% expended in 2022/2023.
Playgrounds		\$478,145.98	\$110,626.02	
Sporting Infrastructure		\$136,194.12	\$49,516.00	
Ararat Fitness Centre			\$143,451.80	
Community Facilities		\$133,899.00	\$205,502.76	
TOTAL PROPERTY		\$840,525.02	\$594,138.62	
PLANT & EQUIPMENT	\$810,000			
Vehicle Purchased			\$225,551.70	The plant and equipment program will be fully expended in 2022/2023. This amount does not include provision to purchase a mobile speed shredder and all current book stock purchased for the library
Major Plant Purchases		\$75,404.00	\$232,354.00	
Book stock - Library Book Replacement			\$34,417.71	
TOTAL PLANT & EQUIPMENT		\$75,404.00	\$ 492,323.41	
Gravel Road Sheeting & Gravel Road Widening	\$2,100,000		\$1,260,181.71	The gravel road resheeting program will be fully expended in 2022/2023.
Reseal Program	\$2,100,000		\$1,587,156.94	The road reseal program will be completed. It is recommended that road widening on Rhymney Rd and Buangor Ben Nevis Rd are deferred until 2023/2024 and the additional \$643,000 be invested in additional direct road reseal works.
Major Patching	\$400,000		\$306,192.65	Major patching has been undertaken on higher volume local roads and includes \$273,527 for targeted asphalt works.
Asphalting Works (T698)			\$273,527.20	
Helendoite Road Bridge	\$800,000		\$476,889.75	The bridge elements have been purchased through InQuik. Installation was tendered and the pricing was viewed as excessive. This will now be undertaken in-

				house, with an aim to completion as soon as practicable.
Footpath Renewal Program	\$300,000		\$327,729.50	The footpath program will be fully expended in 2022/2023.
Urban Drainage Works	\$700,000		\$48,783.43	Reconstruction of Tobin St and kerb and channel at Walkerville and Wileman St, Willaura are contracted for construction in Q1 and Q2 of 2023/2024. It is recommended that the \$643,200 expenditure be deferred until 2023/2024 and that this amount is invested in additional road resealing in 2022/2023 in order to take advantage of price savings.
Reconstruction of Tobin Street (Ch. 930) (T712)		\$317,200.00		
Walkerville & Wileman St Kerb & Channel (T711)		\$326,000.00		
TOTAL INFRASTRUCTURE		\$916,727.20	\$4,006,933.98	
TOTAL CAPITAL WORKS		\$1,832,656.22	\$5,093,396.01	

There are also recreation facilities projects that were funded in the 2021/2022 budget that have extended beyond the single financial year. The committed expenditure includes contracts entered into for construction of various elements of the projects. The table below provides a summary of these projects:

Capital Work Element	Committed expenditure	% complete	Notes
Gordon St Recreation Reserve	\$4,472,677	97%	The project is running on time and very close to budget. The remaining elements yet to be procured is seeding of construction of the playing fields.
Buangor Recreation Reserve Kitchen Extension	\$40,520	15%	Project halted due to huge variations in construction pricing. The project is tender ready and currently waiting of an updated cost plan.
Lake Bolac Golf Club Kitchen	\$174,124	80%	Tender has been awarded to Build Forth, from Ballarat for completion of the works. Currently awaiting Building Permit to be able to commence works.
Lake Bolac Hall Design Project		0%	No progress on project.
Total	\$4,707,322	92%	

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

Alignment to Council Plan Strategic Objectives

The key financial drivers align strongly with the thrust of the Council Plan 2021-2025, particularly the following:

- 4.1 Ensure that asset development and renewal during the planning period matches that identified in Council's Asset Plan 2021-2031.
- 4.2 Work directly with asset users to manage and develop new and existing assets.
- 4.3 Deliver infrastructure outcomes that support economic growth, promote community wellbeing and safety and align with Council's financial sustainability.
- 6.1 Deliver responsible budget outcomes, linked to strategy, that deliver value, innovation, and rating fairness.

Budget Implications

The 2022/2023 Capital Works Program represents a significant element of Council's 2022/2023 Budget. In the current volatile civil construction market, it is essential that Council manages capital works expenditure carefully to ensure budget outcomes are met. Although there have been market and natural disaster impacts it is anticipated that Council will go very close to fully expending the capital works budget.

Policy/Relevant Law

The 2022/2023 Capital Works Program complies with the program funded in the 2022/2023 Budget.

Sustainability Implications

There are no environmental sustainability implications.

Risk Assessment

The 2022/2023 Capital Works Program was developed as a mitigation of the financial risks associated with market volatility currently being experienced in the civil and building construction sectors.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

Development of the 2022/2023 Capital Works Program represented an agile response to market conditions. A capacity to rework strategy based on a changing environment is a critical element in developing an innovative organisation.

Stakeholder Collaboration and Community Engagement

The 2022/2023 Capital Works Program was developed as an element of the 2022/2023 Budget. There was extensive community engagement undertaken prior to adoption.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council reallocate \$600,000 Road widening allocation for Rhymney Road and Buangor Ben Nevis Road within the road resealing budget to road resealing works that will be completed in this financial year.
2. That Council reallocate \$643,200 from urban drainage works for contracted works of Walkerville & Wileman Street Kerb and Channel Works and Reconstruction of Tobin Street to reseal works that can be completed in the current financial year, with money for these contracts to be redirected in the 23/24 financial year from the resealing budget.

ATTACHMENTS

There are no attachments in relation to this report.

3.2 COUNCIL POLICY REVIEW – PROCUREMENT POLICY

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: CONTRACTS AND PROCUREMENT COORDINATOR
DEPARTMENT: CORPORATE SERVICES
REFERENCE: 9892

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

Council policies are updated as part of an ongoing policy and procedure review process.

The Procurement Policy has been updated as part of the review process.

DISCUSSION

The review of the Procurement Policy has been conducted to ensure that Council meets its legislative requirements and to ensure that the policy is current and meets Council's operational needs.

The main additions/changes to the policy are as follows:

<p><i>Under 2.17.3 Delegations Reserved for Council - updated wording</i></p> <p>The following procurement values must be approved by the Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• \$225,000 and above for agreements or contracts for the purchase of goods and services; or• \$300,000 and above for entry into contract for works;
<p><i>APPENDIX 1: FINANCIAL DELEGATIONS</i></p> <p><i>Update of Tier 1: Chief Executive Officer</i> <i>Goods and Services - \$225,000</i> <i>Works - \$300,000</i></p>
<p><i>APPENDIX 2: EVALUATION PANEL</i></p> <p>Adjustment of procurement value - \$10,000 to \$15,000. Adjustment of procurement value – from \$10,000 - \$30,000 to \$15,000 - \$30,000</p>
<p><i>APPENDIX 3: PROCUREMENT METHODS</i></p> <p>Adjustment of price requiring one quote to \$1,000 - \$15,000. Adjustment of price requiring three quotes to \$15,000 - \$30,000 Deletion of Deputy CEO in Approval of Procurement Process prior to Execution, replaced with CEO.</p>

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

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

Ensuring good financial controls around expenditure of Council funds.

Policy/Relevant Law

The review of the Procurement Policy is prescribed within the Local Government Act 2020 and must be completed once in every four-year council term.

Sustainability Implications

Environmental, social and economic impacts have been considered in the development of the Procurement Policy.

Risk Assessment

Clarity and transparency of Council Policies and Procedures is enhanced.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

As part of Council's commitment to continuous improvement, the Procurement Policy will be reviewed as required by legislation.

Stakeholder Collaboration and Community Engagement

Internal consultation has been undertaken with Councillors (Briefing 23 May 2023) and relevant staff in relation to the alterations to the Procurement Policy.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopt the Procurement Policy.

ATTACHMENTS

The Procurement Policy is provided as Attachment 3.2.

3.3 YEAR 2023 GENERAL VALUATION

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
DEPARTMENT: CEO'S OFFICE
REFERENCE: 10127

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

On 12 May 2023 Council received notification from the Valuer-General, certifying the 2023 General Valuation to be generally true and correct.

The Valuer-General has reported to the Minister for Planning that the 2023 General Valuation is generally true and correct with respect to each of the bases of value.

Once the Minister has made his declaration that the valuation is suitable to be adopted and used Council can raise rates for the 2023/24 financial year.

DISCUSSION

The Valuer-General Victoria is the valuation authority responsible for revaluing all properties in the municipality each year.

The Valuer-General Victoria appointed PW Newman PTY LTD as the valuer. Mr. Paul Newman has delivered valuations for rateable and non-rateable leviable properties to Council. The non-rateable leviable valuations are returned to enable Council to calculate the Fire Services Levy for these properties. The Valuer-General has audited the valuations to ensure they are generally true and correct. The Minister for Planning will make a declaration under the provisions of the Valuation of Land Act 1960 that allows the returned valuations to be used to raise rates for 2023/24.

	2023 Rateable Valuations	2023 Non Rateable Leviable Valuations	Total
Site Value	\$5,415,545,000	\$33,001,000	\$5,448,546,000
Capital Improved Value	\$6,753,828,000	\$99,425,500	\$6,853,253,500
Net Annual Value	\$342,465,150	\$5,430,250	\$347,895,400

The following table illustrates the change in capital improved valuations (CIV) between each category of property as a result of the revaluation. The categories included in this table are based on Valuation Best Practice Guidelines which are not consistent with the classifications used for rating purposes. For example, the rural category includes urban farmland that may not necessarily be defined as farmland for rating purposes. There are several properties that are rated at the general rate but are classed as rural for the fire services levy.

Category	2023 CIV\$	2022 CIV\$	% Change
Residential	\$1,773,948,000	\$1,581,384,500	12.18%
Commercial	\$165,305,500	\$146,742,500	12.65%
Industrial (includes windfarms)	\$71,894,500	\$63,799,500	12.69%
Rural (including Urban Farm Land)	\$4,742,680,000	\$4,418,878,000	7.33%
Non Rateable Leviaible	\$99,425,500	\$91,638,000	8.50%
Totals	\$6,853,253,500	\$6,302,442,500	8.74%

Residential properties

In comparison to 2022 valuations, residential property valuations have increased by 12.18%.

Commercial and Industrial properties

In comparison to 2022 valuations, commercial property valuations have increased by 12.65%.

Industrial property valuations have increased by 12.69%.

Rural properties

In comparison to 2022 valuations, rural valuations have increased by 7.33%.

Non rateable leviaible properties

In comparison to 2022 valuations, non-rateable leviaible property valuations have increased by 8.5%.

Whilst these properties are non-rateable for municipal rates, they are charged the *Fire Services Levy*. Land in this category includes properties such as Council owned properties and churches.

The table below outlines the movement in valuations over previous years:

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2016
Residential	12.18%	33.85%	14.73%	3.07%	4.32%	3.45%	3.88%
Commercial	12.65%	8.97%	1.17%	0.29%	1.43%	8.69%	6.66%
Industrial	12.69%	-88.83%	0.36%	3.83%	0.09%	0.75%	10.97%
Rural	7.33%	50.23%	39.00%	21.79%	2.72%	24.48%	7.09%
Non-Rateable	8.50%	0.18%	5.67%	37.49%	3.06%	1.15%	-2.55%

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

The Valuer-General Victoria is now responsible for the cost of the annual general revaluation. Council is required to pay for the costs of supplementary valuations during the year and these costs are included in the budget each year.

Policy/Relevant Law

The Valuer General Victoria is required to revalue all properties in accordance with the Valuation of Land Act 1960

Sustainability Implications

The report does not raise any sustainability implications.

Risk Assessment

Low.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

Revaluing properties every year allows current land values to be used for Council Rating purposes and Land Tax purposes.

Stakeholder Collaboration and Community Engagement

The valuation process is undertaken by the Valuer-General and widely promoted to ratepayers across various websites including the Department of Transport and Planning, State Revenue Office and the Council's.

RECOMMENDATION

That subject to Ministerial approval, Council adopts the General Valuation for 2023 conducted by Mr Paul Newman for:

1. Total Site Value of \$5,448,546,000 (rateable Site Value of \$5,415,545,000 and non-rateable leviable Site Value of \$33,001,000);
2. Total Capital Improved Value of \$6,853,253,500 (rateable Capital Improved Value of \$6,753,828,000 and non-rateable leviable Capital Improved Value of \$99,425,500); and
3. Total Net Annual Value of \$347,895,400 (rateable Net Annual Value of \$342,465,150 and non-rateable leviable Net Annual Value of \$5,430,250).

ATTACHMENTS

There are no attachments relating to this item.

3.4 ARARAT RURAL CITY COUNCIL – ARARAT ON THE MOVE

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: EXECUTIVE OFFICER
DEPARTMENT: CEO'S OFFICE
REFERENCE: 10137

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

Council views that safety of all pedestrians as critically important and wishes to ensure their ongoing safety. In March 2023, Council received a joint letter from Ararat Early Learning Centre.

The joint letter raised the important question of pedestrian safety in Ararat. It is an issue that Council has since investigated more generally and has developed a strategic position on.

Council had adopted Ararat On the Move: Active Transport and Lifestyle Strategy 2015-2025 which has provided some guidance on broader issues of pedestrian safety.

Council officers will commence undertaking upgrades and projects from this strategy and complete them within the allocated capital works budget.

Ultimately, Council's aim is to continue to be one of the most liveable, healthy, and safe cities in regional Victoria, we believe this will be achieved through continually implementing new road safety treatments and walking paths offering more opportunities for active modes of transport with the growing number of walkers and cyclists using the roads and shared paths around Ararat.

DISCUSSION

As a result of the joint letter received in March, from the Ararat Early Learning Centre, Council has begun to take action to improve the quality and safety of life for residents.

Road safety can be treated in a wide variety of ways, some of these include – pedestrian crossings, refuges, line marking, narrowing streets, modifications to roundabouts and speed limit reviews etc.

By using the road safety treatments in collaboration with the community, the treatments can improve public safety in walking and cycling throughout the city of Ararat especially around school precincts.

Ararat Rural City Councils vision is for our community to be lead in road safety in Victoria who also promote active transport.

To ensure our Ararat on the Move remains focused on the overall objectives of our community, our plan employs the following principles:

- Road safety
- Pedestrian Safety
- Cyclist safety
- Active Transport
- Connectivity to green spaces

Thus far, Ararat Rural City Council has come up with the following ideas to achieve safe and active transport:

Pedestrian Safety

- Pedestrian Refuge on King Street/ Moore Street intersection on the (north end)
- Pedestrian Refuge on King Street/Rundell Street intersection (north and South end)
- Lowe Street Pedestrian Refuge at intersection at Beverage and Hyde Street
- Lowe Street Pedestrian Refuge at Intersection of Mimosa Avenue.

Cyclist Safety

- Queen Street cyclist line marking creating a central route throughout town
- Elizabeth Street cyclist line marking for formalization connecting southern part of town
- Grano Street cyclist line marking to for formalization connecting the loop on the east side of Ararat
- Gordan Street cyclist line marking connecting the green space to existing cyclist paths

Walking Paths

- Formalise the shared path along the south stormwater drainage line connecting all green spaces through Ararat
- Formalize the walking track through the most southern track which goes through various green spaces that connects with the southern stormwater drainage track

Council officers will continue to investigate ways to improve the safety for road users within our municipality by continually referring back to the Ararat On the Move: Active Transport and Lifestyle Strategy 2015-2025.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

Alignment to Council Plan Strategic Objectives

3 Preserving our Environment

We will take pragmatic approaches to ensuring that Ararat Rural City Council takes a regional lead in responsible environmental management and engagement with circular economy.

4 Developing and Maintaining Key Enabling Infrastructure

We will ensure that we plan, fund and develop new infrastructure in ways that delivers strong public value. Existing infrastructure will be managed, renewed, and maintained to ensure that it continues to serve identified public needs.

5 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

There are no direct budget impacts associated with this item.

Policy/Relevant Law

Ararat Rural City Council Asset Plan 2022-2031

Sustainability Implications

This report does not raise any sustainability implications.

Risk Assessment

There are no risks identified with this report.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

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

Stakeholder Collaboration and Community Engagement

Council have Used the Ararat on the Move – active Transport and Lifestyle Strategy 2015-2025 which collaborated with the community with survey, community talk shop and auditing of current infrastructure.

RECCOMENDATION

That Council:

- 1 Endorses Council Officers to commence development of priority projects from the Ararat On the Move: Active Transport and Lifestyle Strategy 2015-2025; and
- 2 Resolve that any projects undertaken will be completed within the allocated Capital Works budget.

ATTACHMENTS

Ararat on the Move strategy is provided as Attachment 3.4.

SECTION 4 – INFORMATION REPORTS

4.1 ARARAT RURAL CITY COUNCIL – ENVISIONING A SMART RURAL CITY

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: EXECUTIVE OFFICER
DEPARTMENT: CEO'S OFFICE
REFERENCE: 10133

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

Ararat Rural City Council is getting ready for the future – to become a sustainable, prosperous and empowered community, through the use of data, enhanced connectivity and digital technology, which enables us to provide improved and efficient services to the community.

Ultimately, Council's aim is to continue to be one of the most liveable, healthy, and safe cities in regional Victoria, we believe this will be achieved through continually implementing new IoT technology and offering more opportunities for connectivity.

The installation of the advances in technology outlined in the report below has been possible due to various funding Council have been successful in obtaining. These technology advances will enable Council to continue their journey to becoming a Smart Rural City.

DISCUSSION

A Smart City is a city that uses technology and data to improve the quality of life for citizens.

Smart Cities use a variety of technologies such as sensors, camera, and data analytics to collect and analyse data about the city to assist in smart decision making.

By using technology in collaboration with the community, smart cities can improve public safety, transportation and efficiency, making the city a better place to live.

Ararat Rural City Councils vision is for our community to be the leading 'Smart Rural Community' in Victoria, using shared data for better decision-making.

To ensure our Smart City program remains focused on the overall objectives of our community, our plan employs the following principles:

- Community centred
- Future ready
- Outcome/solution focused
- Shared action and leadership
- Sustainability

Thus far, grant funding and Council's partnership with Telstra Pty Ltd has enabled us to see the installation of the following Smart Cities Internet of Things trials:

- Smart Bins – 18 high use bins in the CBD with sensors installed for monitoring waste levels
- Traffic analytics – Cameras at a key intersection providing traffic data
- Demonstration Lab – A lab run by Council demonstrating cutting edge IoT Technology
- Public WiFi – 49 access points broadcasting free public WiFi across Ararat and Lake Bolac
- Drain monitoring – Sensors installed on three drains for early detection of flooding

The following projects and funding have made it possible for Council to trial the sensor technology:

Ararat Public WiFi Project

Council received funding for our IoT trials related to Smart bins, video analytics for traffic, and current drain monitoring, and there is potential for smart parking to be included in this funding.

Digital Twin Project

Has enabled Council to run a trial of ag tech on farms in the community, with a plan to install 25 weather sensors to make up a planned local weather network, including fire detection and flood monitoring. It has also enabled development of the demonstration lab at Laby Street, Ararat Jobs and Technology Precinct.

Rural Roads Victoria Project

Funding the installation of bridge monitoring sensors.

Digital Planning Grant

Funding the purchase of up-to-date LIDAR data to populate into our data lake for future digital twin/digital mapping purposes.

Council wishes to build on the following smart initiatives in the future:

- Weather stations – Providing live local weather data
- Bridge monitoring – Sensors on key bridges to assist with the monitoring of bridge health
- Flood monitoring – Sensors on key bridges measuring depth, to assist in early detection of flood activity
- Water level monitoring – On-farm sensors to monitor tank and trough levels
- Parking – Sensors to monitor overstays in Council parking bays
- Stock tracking – On-farm sensors to monitor tank and trough levels
- Fire detection – Key weather stations will contain thermal sensors to assist in early identification of fire activity

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

Alignment to Council Plan Strategic Objectives

4 Developing and Maintaining Key Enabling Infrastructure

We will ensure that we plan, fund and develop new infrastructure in ways that delivers strong public value. Existing infrastructure will be managed, renewed, and maintained to ensure that it continues to serve identified public needs.

5 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

There are no direct budget impacts associated with this item.

Policy/Relevant Law

Ararat Rural City Council Asset Plan 2022-2031

Sustainability Implications

This report does not raise any sustainability implications.

Risk Assessment

There are no risks identified with this report.

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

Council have endorsed Telstra Pty Ltd as our 'Innovation Partner' specific to the execution of council projects that require the procurement and implementation of IoT technology and connectivity.

RECCOMENDATION

That the Ararat Rural City Council – Envisioning a Smart Rural City report be received.

ATTACHMENTS

Ararat Rural City Council - Envisioning a Smart Rural City document is provided as Attachment 4.1.

SECTION 5– INFORMAL MEETINGS

5.1 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
GWM Water Briefing held on 16 May 2023
Council Briefing held on 22 May 2023

Issues discussed at the briefing:

- MAV State Council feedback
- Council meeting disruptions across Victoria – ARCC statement
- Capital Works Programs 2022/2023 and 2023/2024
- Procurement Policy
- Budget engagement sessions- feedback and responses
- Local Government (General) Amendment Regulations 2023
- Small Rural City program
- Property valuations and rating differentials 2023/2024
- Visitor Economy Partnerships
- Population projections

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 5.1.

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 – Bituminous Surfacing 23-28
- Item 9.2 – Waiver of Rates & Interest
- Item 9.3 – Contract No. 711Kerb & Channel upgrade - Walkerville & Wileman Streets, Willaura
- Item 9.4 – Contract No. 712 Reconstruction of Tobin St, Ararat
- Item 9.5 – Rubber Playground surfacing

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 report and decision in relation to 9.1, 9.2, 9.3, 9.4 and 9.5 not be lifted on adoption of the motion