



Ararat Rural City

# AGENDA

## COUNCIL MEETING

**Tuesday 28 February 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

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/araratruralcitycouncil](https://www.facebook.com/araratruralcitycouncil) 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 31 January 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 CHILD SAFE POLICY

**RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:** HUMAN RESOURCES BUSINESS PARTNER  
**DEPARTMENT:** CEO'S OFFICE  
**REFERENCE:** 8884

#### **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.

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#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The purpose of this report is to present the reviewed Child Safe Policy (the Policy) for adoption.

#### **DISCUSSION**

In August 2020, Council adopted a Child Safe Policy. Since that time, a new set of Child Safe Standards (the Standards) has been released by the Victorian Government and these have been incorporated in the Policy. The updated Policy is provided as Attachment 3.1.

##### Key Issues

Key changes arising from the new Standards include new requirements:

- to involve families and communities in organisations' efforts to keep children and young people safe.
- to provide a greater focus on safety for Aboriginal children and young people.
- to manage the risk of child abuse in online environments.
- to provide greater clarity on the governance, systems, and process to keep children and young people safe.

The purpose of this revised Policy is to communicate Council's commitment to keeping children and young people safe and affirming Council's zero tolerance stance toward child abuse.

The Policy also details how Council will fulfil our Victorian Child Safe Standards obligations giving due regard to the underlying principles when implementing and designing services for the community.

The seven Standards have been replaced with eleven new Standards which came into effect on 1 July 2022. The changes have been made to support a greater national consistency, reflecting the National Principles for a Child Safe Organisation developed following the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

The eleven Standards are:

- |                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| Child Safe Standard 1 – | Organisations establish a culturally safe environment in which the diverse and unique identities and experiences of Aboriginal children and young people are respected and valued. |
| Child Safe Standard 2 – | Child safety and wellbeing is embedded in organisational leadership, governance, and culture.  |
| Child Safe Standard 3 – | Children and young people are empowered about their rights, participate in decisions affecting them and are taken seriously.   |
| Child Safe Standard 4 – | Families and communities are informed and involved in promoting child safety and wellbeing.  |
| Child Safe Standard 5 – | Equity is upheld, and diverse needs respected in policy and practice.  |
| Child Safe Standard 6 – | People working with children and young people are suitable and supported to  |

Child Safe Standard 7 –	reflect child safety and wellbeing values in practice.
Child Safe Standard 8 –	Processes for complaints and concerns are child focused.
Child Safe Standard 9 –	Staff and volunteers are equipped with the knowledge, skills, and awareness to keep children and young people safe through ongoing education and training.
Child Safe Standard 10 –	Physical and online environments promote safety and wellbeing while minimising the opportunity for children and young people to be harmed.
Child Safe Standard 11 –	Implementation of the Child Safe Standards is regularly reviewed and improved.
	Policies and procedures document how the organisation is safe for children and young people.

The Child Safe Policy was placed on Engage Ararat on 3 February 2023 and submissions closed on 22 February 2023. During this time we received two submissions, these included:

Submitter	Submission	Response
Isabel Nancarrow	<p>I would like to see all Councillors and council management being required to hold working with children's check or valid exemption cards.</p> <p>With children under 18 making up 1/5 of the Ararat population it is very responsible to require the people voted in to represent our municipality be known to be safe adults, especially when they are making decisions on behalf of their families and their future.</p>	<p>All Council staff that are required to have a Working With Children's Check, obtain one.</p> <p>These are checked annually to ensure that they are still valid and if they require renewal, then this is enforced.</p>
Harold Collins	<p>What steps is Council taking to ensure that volunteers at council facilities comply with regulations re "Working with Children checks?"</p> <p>I volunteer at J Ward and Gum San.</p> <p>At J Ward, my working with children check is verified and on file.</p> <p>At Gum San, no such check is done.</p> <p>I think Council needs to ensure that organizations are complying with the law.</p> <p>Leaving it to organizations to comply will not work.</p> <p>If Council does not ensure compliance, then I fear this just becomes another exercise in "ticking the boxes" because "we have to"</p>	<p>The Chief Executive Officer will be in contact with Mr Harry Collins to further discuss this submission.</p> <p>The process/enforcement of volunteers requiring WWC Checks working within Council facilities will be reviewed.</p>



## 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.

#### **6.2** Ensure appropriate risk management is applied to Council and organisational decisions. Councils internal function is applied to areas of perceived risk.

### *Budget Implications*

There are no budget implications in relation to the adoption of the Child Safe Policy.

### *Policy/Relevant Law*

The Victorian Child Safe Standards are compulsory minimum standards organisations must abide by in accordance with the Child Wellbeing and Safety Act 2005.

### *Sustainability Implications*

There are no economic, social, and environmental implications identified.

### *Risk Assessment*

There are no significant risks involved in adopting or implementing the Child Safe Policy. Human Resources will ensure that the Policy is accessible to Councillors, employees, contractors and volunteers.

### *Innovation and Continuous Improvement*

Protecting the safety and wellbeing of children and young people is the responsibility of everyone regardless of position. The Child Safe Policy will help support an organisational culture where protecting children and young people from abuse is part of everyday thinking and practice.

### *Stakeholder Collaboration and Community Engagement*

A designated Child Safe Policy "Have Your Say" page was created on Council's website. Submissions were invited for feedback on the Child Safe Policy, with submissions opening 3 February 2023 and closing on 22 February 2023.

The Human Resources Business Partner in consultation with other relevant officers has reviewed the Child Safe Policy.

## RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopt the Child Safe Policy

## ATTACHMENTS

The Child Safe Policy is provided as Attachment 3.1

### 3.2 S18 INSTRUMENT OF SUB-DELEGATION FROM COUNCIL TO MEMBERS OF COUNCIL STAFF

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: GOVERNANCE AND RISK LEAD  
DEPARTMENT: CEO'S OFFICE  
REFERENCE: 9011

#### 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.

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#### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report seeks Council's endorsement of the S18 Instrument of Sub-Delegation under the *Environment Protection Act 2017*.

#### DISCUSSION

The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) has given Council the power to appoint officers under the Act and once appointed they can also be delegated some of the EPA's powers.

This report identifies changes since the S18 Instrument of Sub-Delegations was adopted on the 25 October 2022

A review of current delegates to this Instrument of Delegation has been carried out.

#### KEY CONSIDERATIONS

##### *Alignment to Council Plan Strategic Objectives*

6 Strong and Effective Governance

##### *Budget implications*

There are no budget implications arising from the review of the S18 Instrument of Sub-delegation – Council to Members of Council Staff.

##### *Policy/Relevant Law*

Section 11(8) of the *Local Government Act 2020* requires that the Council keep a register of delegations. This delegation will be made available to the public.

Section 437 (1) the *Environment Protection Act 2017* states that the Governing Board may be instrument delegate all or any of the Authority's powers and functions under this Act to (b) a Council.

##### *Sustainability Implications*

There are no economic, social or environmental implications in relation to the S18 Instrument of Sub-delegation – Council to Members of Council Staff.

##### *Risk Assessment*

It is essential that the Instruments of Delegation are kept up to date to ensure that the CEO is properly empowered to undertake the role.

##### *Stakeholder Collaboration and Community Engagement*

The *Instrument of Sub-delegation from Council to Members of Council Staff* has been sourced through Council's subscription to the Maddocks Lawyers Delegations Service.

The revocation and consideration of delegations does not require any public consultation; however, Council is required to keep a public register of all delegations.

#### RECOMMENDATION

That:

In the exercise of the powers conferred by the legislation to in the attached Instrument of Sub-delegation, Ararat Rural City Council resolves that -

1. The members of Council staff referred to in the Instrument of sub-delegation under the Environment Protection Act 2017 be appointed and authorised as set out in the instrument. ;
2. The instrument comes into force immediately the common seal of Council is affixed to the instrument, and remains in force until Council determines to vary or revoke it and;
3. The instrument be signed under the seal of the Council.

#### ATTACHMENTS

S18 Instrument of Sub-delegation – Council to Members of Council Staff are provided as Attachment 3.2.

### 3.3 UPDATE OF COMMUNITY SUPPORT GRANT AND EVENT FUNDING GUIDELINES

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
DEPARTMENT: CEO'S OFFICE  
REFERENCE: 9029

#### 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.

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#### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council's Community Support Grant and Event Funding program provides funding for projects and activities that build healthy and vibrant communities, sustain important community infrastructure and encourage community groups to work together to share and benefit from community resources.

Council will provide assistance to eligible organisations for activities that provide opportunities in the areas of sport and recreation, health and wellbeing, culture and arts, festivals and events, and environment and sustainability.

The Community Support Grant and Event Funding program takes place four times throughout the year (approximately March, June, September and November), with funds being available from Councils budget.

**Minor changes to the** Community Support Grant and Event Funding program guidelines are suggested to be endorsed, as a result of the VAGO- Fraud Control Over Local Government Grants report that was produced in May 2022.

#### DISCUSSION

The guidelines for event funding and community support grants are in line with Council's aspirations, in assisting the community to benefit in all associated areas

Under the previously mentioned categories applications can seek funding as follows:

- Sport & Recreation, Arts & Culture, Environment & Sustainability may apply for up to \$3,000
- Festivals and Events can seek seed or growth funding of up to \$5,000

All funds will be allocated to successful applicants on a 2 for 1 basis, meaning that Council will provide 2 dollars for each dollar contributed by the applicant, and of course adhering to the funding criteria

Community Support Grants are a competitive process and each application will be assessed on the relevant criteria undertaken by an independent broad based panel, incorporating Council officers and Community members.

All applications will be advised in writing of the outcome via the contact details provided, with the grant program being held twice a year to better align with the community requirements as well as external funding opportunities.

The review of the Community Support Grants and Events funding program came about due to the VAGO- Fraud Control Over Local Government Grants. The Victorian Auditor General's Office (VAGO) tabled a report to the Victorian Parliament on 11 May 2022 into *Fraud Control Over Local Government Grants*. The report

provided nine recommendations to all Victorian Councils to improve management of Council grant programs. These recommendations fell into two categories: improving fraud control and improving guidance and training.

Council has previously reviewed its approach to community grants, adopting a revised model at the 15 December 2020 Council meeting, however, it was agreed at the December 2022 Audit & Risk Committee that Council review the grant guidelines by March 2023, in order to improve current processes.

***Minor changes to the guidelines include:***

- Changes to old contact details from Robyn Hemley, who has since retired, to Josie Frawley, Executive Officer
- Updated details on how and where to apply
- Further details on projects that will be funded
- Steps involved in the evaluation process
- Updated terms and conditions, incorporating the compulsory acquittal form that is to be submitted after completion of the project/event

***Additional changes to the Community Support Grants program include (these have already been implemented):***

- A Conflict-of-Interest form will be created and circulated to the community panel prior to the meeting
- Letters of unsuccess will continue to be sent to applicants, however, they will now include reasoning as to why they were not granted funds
- An acquittal form has been created for successful grant applicants will be required to complete at the completion of their project/event
- A template has been created for each application to outline who was involved in the process, whether the applicant met the eligibility criteria and any additional notes that the panel would like included. This form will then be attached to each application and stored online

## KEY CONSIDERATIONS

***Alignment to Council Plan Strategic Objectives***

- 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.
- 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.

***Budget Implications***

There are no direct budget impacts associated with this item.

***Policy/Relevant Law***

Review of the community grants program based on the VAGO recommendations relates to a number of requirements of the Local Government Act 2020 including, community accountability, financial management and service performance.

***Sustainability Implications***

This report does not raise any sustainability implications.

***Risk Assessment***

There is significant reputational, fraud and integrity risk to Council in failure to adequately deliver the Community Support Grants & Event Funding program.

***Innovation and Continuous Improvement***

Reviewing the current Council grants program provides an opportunity to ensure processes are moving towards current best practice.

***Stakeholder Collaboration and Community Engagement***

Discussion on the new Community grants program was had at the December 2022 Audit & Risk Committee meeting.

**RECCOMENDATION**

**That Council endorse the revised Community Support Grants and Event Funding guidelines.**

**ATTACHMENTS**

The Community Support Grants and Event Funding guidelines are provided as Attachment 3.3.

### 3.4 POOL MAINTENANCE AND RENEWAL WORKS

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
DEPARTMENT: CEO'S OFFICE  
REFERENCE: 9064

#### 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.

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#### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Audits of pool condition have identified some maintenance and renewal works required at three Council pools to extend useful life and maintain operational effectiveness. The works require an investment of \$108,000 across the Indoor Heated Pool, the Ararat Outdoor Pool, and the Willaura Memorial Pool.

The works may be funded in the first instance from budget savings across the 2022/2023 Budget, if this is not sufficient, the remainder be funded through the Building Capital Reserve.

#### DISCUSSION

Recent audits of works required on Councils pools have identified some projects which need to be undertaken to maintain reliable operations and improve the amenity for pool users. All of Council's pools have aging infrastructure and it is necessary to ensure regular maintenance and renewal of the assets to extend their useful lives.

It is proposed that the following work be undertaken during the 2022/2023 financial year at three pools: the Indoor Heated Pool, the Ararat Outdoor Pool, and the Willaura Memorial Pool at a total cost of \$108,000.

##### Indoor Heated Pool

Refurbish filters	\$ 44,000
Actuator	\$ 2,000
Valves X 6	\$ 10,000
Water replacement heater	\$ 8,000
Dosing pump	\$ 3,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 67,000</b>

##### Ararat Outdoor Pool

Lane ropes	\$ 1,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 1,000</b>

##### Willaura memorial Pool

Drainage renewal	\$ 40,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 40,000</b>

In the first instance the projects will be funded from existing budget savings across Council's 2022/2023 budget, if sufficient savings cannot be identified to fund the work it is proposed that the difference be funded through the Building Capital Reserve.

## 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*

The costings for the work to be undertaken are provided below:

- Indoor Heated Pool \$ 67,000
- Ararat Outdoor Pool \$ 1,000
- Willaura memorial Pool \$ 40,000

It is proposed that this work be funded in the first instance from savings across the 2022/2023 Budget and if this is not sufficient the balance is funded from the Building Capital Reserve, which is held partly to fund works on the Fitness Centre.

### *Policy/Relevant Law*

Council's Procurement Policy

### *Sustainability Implications*

N/A

### *Risk Assessment*

If required works are not undertaken it may expose Council to financial, reputations and health and safety risks. Council's pool assets are aging and to maintain them in effective working order it is necessary to undertake periodic maintenance and renewal works. Given the difficult operating environment this maintenance and renewal work is often not able to be undertaken as scheduled maintenance.

### *Innovation and Continuous Improvement*

N/A

### *Stakeholder Collaboration and Community Engagement*

Council staff will ensure that pool users and other stakeholders are notified in advance of any works. Where practicable these works will be scheduled in normal pool downtime to minimise the impact on users.

## RECOMMENDATION

That

1 Council endorse the works to be undertaken on three Council-owned pools:

Indoor Heated Pool	
Refurbish filters	\$ 44,000
Actuator	\$ 2,000
Valves X 6	\$ 10,000
Water replacement heater	\$ 8,000
Dosing pump	\$ 3,000
TOTAL	\$ 67,000



Ararat Outdoor Pool	
Lane ropes	\$ 1,000
TOTAL	\$ 1,000

Willaura memorial Pool	
Drainage renewal	\$ 40,000
TOTAL	\$ 40,000

- 2 The works be funded through savings in the 2022/2023 Budget and if this is not sufficient the balance is funded from the Building Capital Reserve.

#### ATTACHMENTS

There are no attachments in relation to this item.

### 3.5 UPGRADE OF ELECTRIC CAR CHARGING SITES

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
DEPARTMENT: CEO'S OFFICE  
REFERENCE: 9043

#### 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.

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#### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

EVIE Networks have approached Council to replace the current car charger at Collings St/Elizabeth Park with a new ultrafast charger for electric vehicles.

Their proposal also involves the relocation of the current car charger at the site, to a new site, at the Ararat Town Hall.

Due to the Collings St/Elizabeth Park site being Crown Land, Council will need to sign a 17B License agreement, that allows EVIE Networks to undergo works on the site.

The new ultrafast car charger will cost commuters to use, and it has been agreed that EVIE Networks will obtain the income from the Collings St/Elizabeth Park site.

#### DISCUSSION

Council have been approached by EVIE Networks to update the current electric car charging sites and facilities available in Ararat.

EVIE Networks was a company founded in 2017 to build Australia's largest electric vehicle fast charging network.

EVIE Networks propose to move the existing EV car charger at the Collings St/Elizabeth Park site and install it at the new location, the Ararat Town Hall.

The existing Collings St/Elizabeth Park site with the current free EV car charger is shown in the picture below.



The red circle below indicates where the existing EV car charger will be installed at the Ararat Town Hall.



DEWLP in conjunction with Fast Cities Australasia PTY LTD (EVIE Networks) are wishing to then install an ultrafast charger at the Collings St/Elizabeth Park site, where the old charger was located.

Evie Networks have agreed to cover the costs associated with the relocation of the old charger and the installation of the new ultrafast charger.

The new ultrafast charger will charge users a fee for the service, the fee will be obtained by EVIE Networks. The station will allow for multiple payment methods including Credit Card, PayPal and RFID Card.

The charging prices are set at a station level and can be viewed via the EVIE Networks App after you select the relevant station.

The ultrafast charging station allows users to be back on the road within minutes and caters for most electric vehicles on the road.

Key benefits this initiative brings to Council:

- Community contribution to Net Zero Emissions.
- A no capital contribution to electrifying our roads.
- Small business support, driving EV commuters through your township.
- Powered by 100% renewable energy.
- Made, manufactured, and supported by Australian Business.
- Capabilities to service all Electric Vehicles.
- Additional car charging sites in Ararat, which further encourages commuters to stop and spend money in the community

The charging Collings St/Elizabeth Park charging site is now identified as Crown Land. As a part of Crown Land, a 17B License is required with Ministerial consent (DECCA) to install the new ultrafast charger.

It is recommended that Council endorse this document, in order to continue investigations and installation of the new charger and relocation of the current charger.

## 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 the circular economy

### *Budget Implications*

There are no direct budget impacts associated with this item.

### *Policy/Relevant Law*

N/A

### *Sustainability Implications*

This report does not raise any sustainability implications. The installation of the new fast charger will add an additional electric car charging site within Ararat, therefore encourages less pollution amongst the municipality.

### *Risk Assessment*

There are no risks identified with this report.

*Innovation and Continuous Improvement*

The installation of this new ultrafast charger will allow commuters and residents access to advanced technology that is compatible with a large majority of electric vehicles.

*Stakeholder Collaboration and Community Engagement*

EVIE Networks have been in collaboration with various Councils around Victoria, as a part of the Destination Charging Victoria Program (DCAV) program. This program granted money to undergo the installation and relocation of EV charging sites.

**RECCOMENDATION**

That the Chief Executive Officer sign the 17B License document on behalf of Council, in order for EVIE Networks to commence installation of the new ultrafast charger at the Collings St/Elizabeth Park site.

**ATTACHMENTS**

The Draft 17B License for the Ararat EV Fast Charging Station is provided as Attachment 3.5.



## SECTION 4 – INFORMATION REPORTS

### 4.1 AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

AUTHOR'S TITLE: CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
DEPARTMENT: CEO'S OFFICE  
REFERENCE: 8885

#### 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.

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#### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As per the Audit and Risk Committee Charter the Chairperson of the Audit and Risk Committee will prepare a report to Council through the Chief Executive Officer on the Committee's activities twice per annum.

#### DISCUSSION

The appointment of independent members to the Committee enables the Committee to provide advice to Council on matters related to its responsibilities based on broader skills and experience than might otherwise be the case and in so doing bring additional benefits to Council.

The Chairperson of the Audit & Risk Committee has provided a report to Council on the Committee's activities as required by the Charter.

The Committees 7 areas of responsibilities and activities are summarised below:

- Financial and performance reporting
- Internal controls
- Risk management
- Fraud prevention systems and controls
- Internal audit processes
- External audit processes
- Compliance with policies and legislative and regulatory requirements

The Chairperson's report is provided as Attachment 4.1. The Committee's minutes are also presented to Councillors in the Council agenda after each Committee meeting as an information report.

#### KEY CONSIDERATIONS

##### *Alignment to Council Plan Strategic Objectives*

6 Strong and Effective Governance

##### *Budget Implications*

No budget impact for the receiving of the Audit and Risk Committee Chair Report.

***Policy/Legal/Statutory***

Audit and Risk Committee Charter -

- 6.2 The Chairperson of the Audit and Risk Committee will prepare a report to Council through the Chief Executive Officer on the Committee's activities twice per annum. One of these reports will be prepared after the meeting at which the annual financial report and the annual performance statement have been considered and recommended to Council for adoption, such report indicating how the Committee has discharged its responsibilities as set out in this Charter for the previous year.

***Risk Assessment***

The report is presented to meet the requirements of the Audit and Risk Committee Charter.

***Stakeholder Consultation and Communication***

Audit and Risk Committee members.

Chief Executive Officer and relevant Council officers.

The Chairperson's biannual report will be presented to the Audit and Risk Committee on 7 March 2023.

**RECOMMENDATION**

**That the Audit and Risk Committee Chairperson's Report be received.**

**ATTACHMENTS**

The Audit and Risk Committee Chairperson's Report 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.

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#### 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 06 February 2023
Council Briefing held on 21 February 2023

#### Issues discussed at the briefing:

- Capital Works Financial Model
- Helendoite Rd
- Mt William Rd
- Budget parameters 2023/2024
- Aradale lobbying update
- Economic development update
- Pitch Festival update
- Capital Works 2023/2024
- Stewardship of historic buildings owned by Council
- CEO's leave arrangements

#### 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 6 – 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 7– 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 8 – 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 8.1-** Contract No. F10/2022- Supply & Delivery of one new Waste Truck by 60-month lease
- **Item 8.2-** Contract No. 706- Supply, delivery and installation of playground equipment, Alexandra Gardens, Ararat & Lake Bolac playground

## 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 8.1 and 8.2 not be lifted on adoption of the motion