



CORANGAMITE
SHIRE

Agenda

Council Meeting

Tuesday 22 April 2025

To be held in the Killara Centre
At the Camperdown Community
Centre
Commencing at 3:00 pm



Vision

We strive for a connected and thriving community.

Mission

We will foster opportunities, celebrate our identity and lifestyle, and provide high quality and responsive services.

Values

Teamwork

Integrity

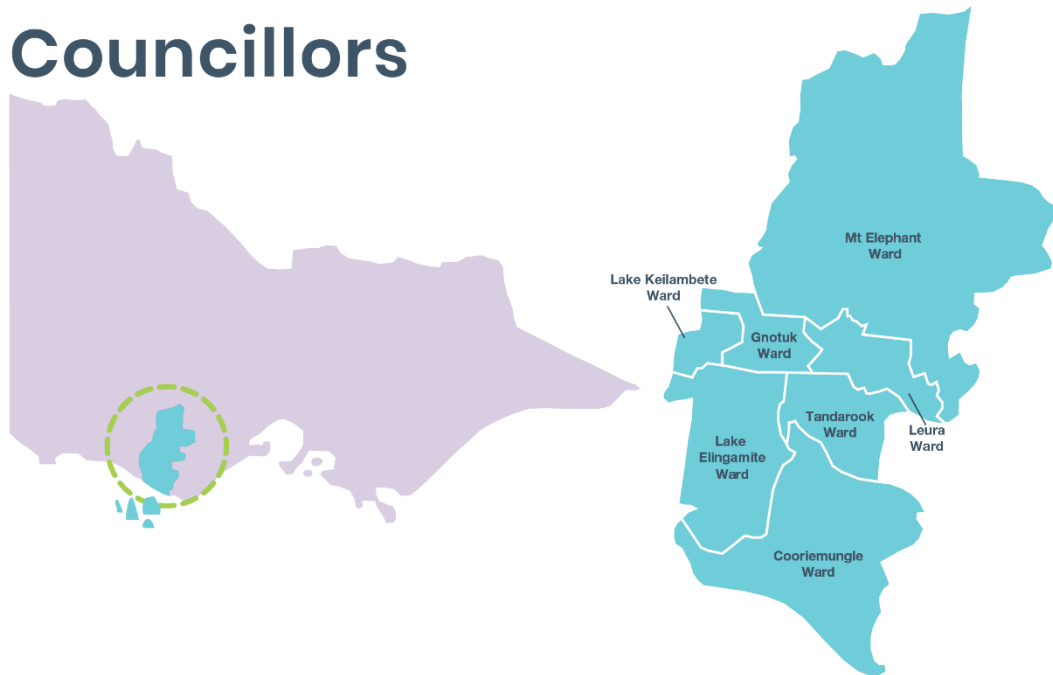
Respect

Disclaimer

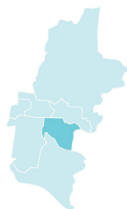
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Council meetings are livestreamed on the Internet to provide members of the community greater access to Council decisions and debate. A recording of the meeting will be available on Council's website after the meeting (usually within 48 hours). Visitors in the public gallery may be filmed and/or recorded during the meeting. By attending the meeting, it is assumed consent is given in the event that this occurs.

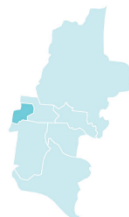
Councillors



Cr Jo Beard
Tandarook Ward



Cr Geraldine Conheady
Lake Keilambete Ward



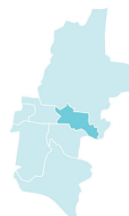
Cr Nick Cole
Mount Elephant Ward



Cr Ruth Gstrein
Gnotuk Ward



Cr Laurie Hickey (Deputy Mayor)
Leura Ward



Cr Kate Makin (Mayor)
Lake Elingamite Ward



Cr Jamie Vogels
Cooriemungle Ward



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Order of Business

1 Prayer

We ask for guidance and blessing on this Council. May the true needs and wellbeing of our communities be our concern. Help us, who serve as leaders, to remember that all our decisions are made in the best interests of the people, culture and the environment of the Corangamite Shire.

Amen.

2 Acknowledgment of Country

Corangamite Shire Council acknowledges and pays our respects to the Eastern Maar and Wadawurrung peoples, as the Traditional Owners of the Lands that we work, live and play. We also acknowledge their Elders, past and present and recognise their ongoing cultural, spiritual and educational practices.

3 Apologies

4 Declarations of Conflict of Interest

In accordance with section 130 (1)(a) of the Local Government Act 2020 Councillors are required to disclose any “conflict of interest” in respect of a matter to be considered at a Council Meeting. Disclosure must occur immediately before the matter is considered or discussed.

5 Confirmation of Minutes

RECOMMENDATION

That the minutes of the Corangamite Shire Council meeting held on 25 March 2025 be confirmed as correct.

6 Deputations and Presentations

Members of the public may address Council under this section of the agenda during a meeting of Council if:

- 1) The person is addressing the Council in respect to a submission on an issue under Section 223 of the Local Government Act 1989; or
- 2) The person has requested that they address Council on an issue and the Mayor has agreed that they be heard.

Requests to address Council must be received by 5.00 pm on the day prior to the scheduled meeting of Council.

Presentations made to Council in this section of the agenda may not exceed five minutes in length, although Councillors may ask questions following each presentation. If a presentation exceeds five minutes in length, the Mayor may request that the presenter ceases to address Council immediately.

7 Committee Reports

7.1 Mt Leura Mt Sugarloaf Management Committee Annual Report and Budget 2025 2026

Directorate:	Sustainable Development
Author:	Jessica Maxwell, Waste and Sustainability Officer
Attachments:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. CONFIDENTIAL REDACTED - Mt Leura and Mt Sugarloaf Management Committee Assessment of Nominations Summary Apr 2025 [7.1.1 - 1 page]2. CONFIDENTIAL REDACTED - Mt Leura and Mt Sugarloaf Management Committee Nomination - Phoebe Hemingway [7.1.2 - 2 pages]3. CONFIDENTIAL REDACTED - Mt Leura and Mt Sugarloaf Management Committee Nomination - Noni Wallace [7.1.3 - 1 page]4. CONFIDENTIAL REDACTED - Mt Leura and Mt Sugarloaf Management Committee Proposed Budget FY25-26 [7.1.4 - 1 page]

Declaration

Pursuant to sections 3(1) and 66(5) of the *Local Government Act 2020* the Chief Executive Officer has designated this attachment as confidential on the grounds that it contains personal information, being information which if released would result in the unreasonable disclosure of information about any person or their personal affairs. In particular the attachment contains information regarding the appointment of new Committee members to the Mt Leura & Mt Sugarloaf Management Committee.

Chief Executive Officer – David Rae

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

Author – Jessica Maxwell

In providing this advice to Council as the Waste and Sustainability Officer, I have no interests to disclose in this report.

Summary

The purpose of this report is to present the 2024-2025 Mt Leura and Mt Sugarloaf Management Committee Update and proposed 2025-2026 budget. The report also provides advice to Council on the appointment of two community representatives to the Committee.

Introduction

The Mt Leura and Mt Sugarloaf Management Committee is a Community Asset Committee of Council, first established in 1995.

The Committee's role is to implement the Mt Leura and Mt Sugarloaf Management Plan and Risk Management Plan. The Committee comprises six community representatives and one Council representative. Community representatives are elected to the Committee for a three-year term, with two positions advertised annually.

Issues

Over the past year, the Mt Leura and Mt Sugarloaf Management Committee has worked to achieve the Management Plan's vision, in which the Reserves are an environmental, social and geological asset, a place for diverse recreational and educational activities, and a regional tourist destination where people can reconnect with nature in a safe and scenic environment.

During the previous year, the Reserves have remained a valuable resource for the local community with over 14,000 pedestrians visiting the Mt Leura summit based on data received by an automated pedestrian counter. Despite volunteerism declining, the Committee continues to attract a diverse range of volunteers to assist with the implementation of the Management Plan.

Committee achievements over the past year include:

- Completing projects related to the \$10,000 grant from the Corangamite Catchment Management Authority.
- Continuation of understorey plantings with macropod guards and provision of fauna habitat via the Hollows for Habitat project.
- Revegetation planting of previously grazed areas assisted by community volunteers.
- Updating Mount Leura and Mount Sugarloaf Management Plan.
- NAIDOC week activities attended by 50 participants and local Aboriginal facilitators, including the installation of a season's of the Eastern Maar calendar.
- Collaborating with CFA Vegetation Management Team and Council Emergency Team to investigate ecological burns.
- Installation of signage at two information shelters.

The ability to access grant funding has resulted in a range of projects being undertaken on the Reserves that would otherwise not have been possible.

An annual calendar of events is co-managed with the Friends of Mt Leura (FoML) community group. The following events and activities have taken place in the past year:

- Expanding the annual 'Come and Explore' event to include Indigenous weaving, Indigenous foods, and traditional tools.
- The eighth annual 'Four Peaks Challenge' event.
- Three plant propagation workshops.
- Monthly working bees.
- Expert guests speaking on flora and fauna such as mistletoe propagation and Timboon Field Naturalists.

The Project Officer for the Committee, employed at 0.2 FTE, is directed by the Committee, and plays an important role in coordinating many of the management activities. Employment of a Project Officer provides value-for-money when compared to engaging contractors to complete works on an ad-hoc basis. The current Project Officer provides technical and practical skills to the management of the Reserves.

Duties carried out by the Project Officer in 2024-2025 include:

- Implementation of on-ground projects.
- Coordination of contractors including arborists, landscapers and weed control.
- Assist with the annual hazard and maintenance schedule, including completion of necessary works.
- Installation of infrastructure across the Reserves.
- Assist the Committee to undertake monitoring and management of weeds across the Reserves.

The Committee continues to value-add via its volunteers and partnerships. Volunteers continue to play a critical role in the year's achievements, with Committee members contributing over an estimated 1000 volunteer hours and community members contributing an additional estimated 1000 hours to projects over the past 12 months. In-kind labour for Mt Leura and Mt Sugarloaf is estimated to total \$50,000 for the 2024–2025 financial year (2,000 hours based on an in-kind hourly rate of \$25).

Committee Appointments

In accordance with the Committee's Instrument of Delegation, Council is required to advertise two vacant Committee positions annually with terms of three years. These positions were advertised for a period of four weeks during March 2025. Council received two nominations (provided under separate cover) for the two vacant positions.

Four Committee members considered the nominations according to the selection criteria, to provide advice to Council. The recommendation of the Committee is for

Phoebe Hemingway and Noni Wallace to be appointed to the Committee for a three-year term. These two nominees meet the selection criteria and current and future skills required by the Committee.

Noni Wallace is a current employee of the Council. Any potential conflict with her employment will be addressed through Council's internal conflict of interest declaration process.

Policy and Legislative Context

This report is in keeping with the commitments in the Council Plan 2021-2025:

Theme One - A Connected Community

Access to infrastructure that supports a healthy and active lifestyle for our community

Theme Two - A Thriving Community

A local tourism industry that is valued and recognised for its significant role to the Shire

Theme Five - Community Leadership

We listen to and engage with our community

Working with First Nations people

Internal / External Consultation

The Mt Leura and Mt Sugarloaf Reserves are managed in accordance with the Mt Leura and Mt Sugarloaf Management Plan and Risk Management Plan, which was developed through extensive consultation with the community and stakeholders.

Nominations for the Committee vacancies were advertised through local newspapers and on Council's website and Facebook page for four weeks during March 2025.

Various media and publications regarding the Reserves were published during 2024-2025 on Committee achievements. These include articles in the Camperdown Chronicle, media releases via Council, information on the Mt Leura website and social media posts via the Friends of Mt Leura Facebook page.

Financial and Resource Implications

The Committee requires \$34,000 to deliver their annual work program. Council's annual operating allocation to the Committee will be considered in the 2025-2026 Council budget process.

Options

Council may receive the Mt Leura and Mt Sugarloaf Management Committee update and note the proposed 2025-2026 Budget. Alternatively, Council may choose not to receive the update and proposed 2025-2026 Budget.

In relation to Committee appointments, Council may appoint Phoebe Hemingway and Noni Wallace to fill the two vacant positions on the Mt Leura and Mt Sugarloaf Management Committee for a three-year term. Alternatively, Council may decide not to appoint the current nominees and readvertise the vacancies.

Conclusions

Mt Leura and Mt Sugarloaf Management Committee has continued to work towards the Management Plan's vision in which the reserves are an environmental and geological asset, a place for diverse recreational and education activities, and a tourist destination where people can connect with nature.

RECOMMENDATION - 7.1

That Council:

- 1. Receives the 2024-2025 Mt Leura and Mt Sugarloaf Management Committee Update and notes the 2025-2026 proposed budget will be considered as part of the Council's budget process.**
- 2. Appoints Phoebe Hemingway and Noni Wallace as community representatives on the Mt Leura and Mt Sugarloaf Management Committee for a three-year term.**

8 Planning Reports

8.1 Planning Permit Application PP2024/103 - 451 Melrose Road, Cooriemungle - Two Lot Subdivision (Excision of Dwelling)

Directorate: Sustainable Development
Author: Shwetha Amaranarayana, Planning Officer
Attachments:

1. Under Separate Cover - Planning Permit Application PP2024/103 [8.1.1 - 33 pages]
2. Under Separate Cover - CFA Referral Response PP2024/103 [8.1.2 - 2 pages]
3. Under Separate Cover - Objection to Application PP2024/103 [8.1.3 - 2 pages]

Declaration

Chief Executive Officer – David Rae

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

Author – Shwetha Amaranarayana

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

Summary

Council must consider a planning permit application seeking approval for a two (2) lot subdivision (excision of dwelling) at 451 Melrose Road, Cooriemungle.

Council has received one (1) objection to the application.

The application has been assessed against the Corangamite Planning Scheme, and it is considered that the proposed subdivision, which creates an isolated rural-residential lot within the Farming Zone, does not provide an acceptable response to the relevant strategic direction, planning policy and controls of the planning scheme.

It is recommended that Council issue a Notice of Decision to Refuse to Grant a Permit.

Introduction

Planning Permit Application PP2024/103 was received on 21 October 2024 for a two-lot subdivision to excise a dwelling from the balance farmland. The reason the proposed subdivision is sought is to facilitate the sale of the farmland and enable the owner to retain the small lot with the dwelling.

Council has given public notice of the application and one (1) objection to the application was received. The key issues raised can be summarised as follows:

- Detrimental to agriculture and dairying
- Land use compatibility
- Potential change in land use from dairy to timber production

This report provides a planning assessment of the application.

History

- There is not recent planning permit history for the site.

Subject Land

The subject site has a total area of approximately 72.11 hectares and consists of:

- Single Dwelling
- Sheds
- Access off Melrose Road
- Dams
- Dairy
- Grain silos for supplementary stock feeding
- Effluent Pond and other infrastructures

Surrounding Area

The main land use characteristics within the surrounding area include:

- The subject site is rectangular in shape and has road frontage to Melrose Road towards the south.
- The property mainly consists of cleared grazing land used in association with the dairy operation.
- The site is located approximately 13 kilometres southwest of the Timboon township and approximately 10 kilometres northwest of Port Campbell township.
- The topography of the land falls from Melrose Road (south) towards the northern boundary.
- The subject site and the surrounding land are in the Farming Zone with agricultural (dairy farming) being a major primary land use.
- Towards the north is a land used for timber plantation.
- East of the site is a dairy farming property with dwelling, dairy and associated outbuildings. A large dam is located across the shared boundary with this property.
- South is a land with dense vegetation and used for agriculture, and towards the west also is a dairy farming property with dwelling and dairy infrastructure.

Figures 1 and 2 include a planning zone map and aerial images of the site and surrounds.

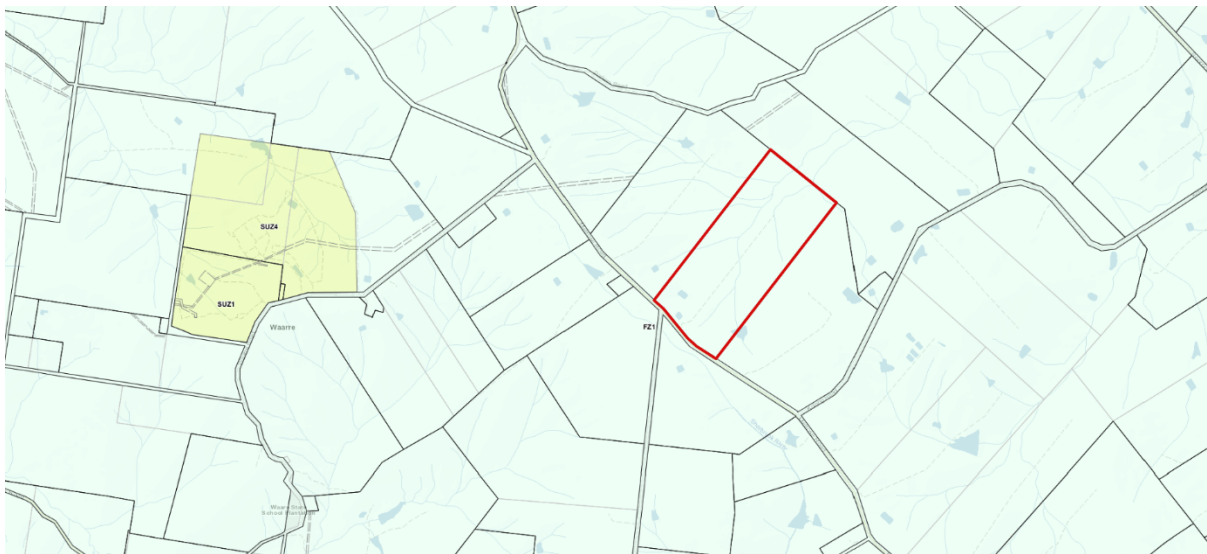


Figure 1 : Planning Zone Map

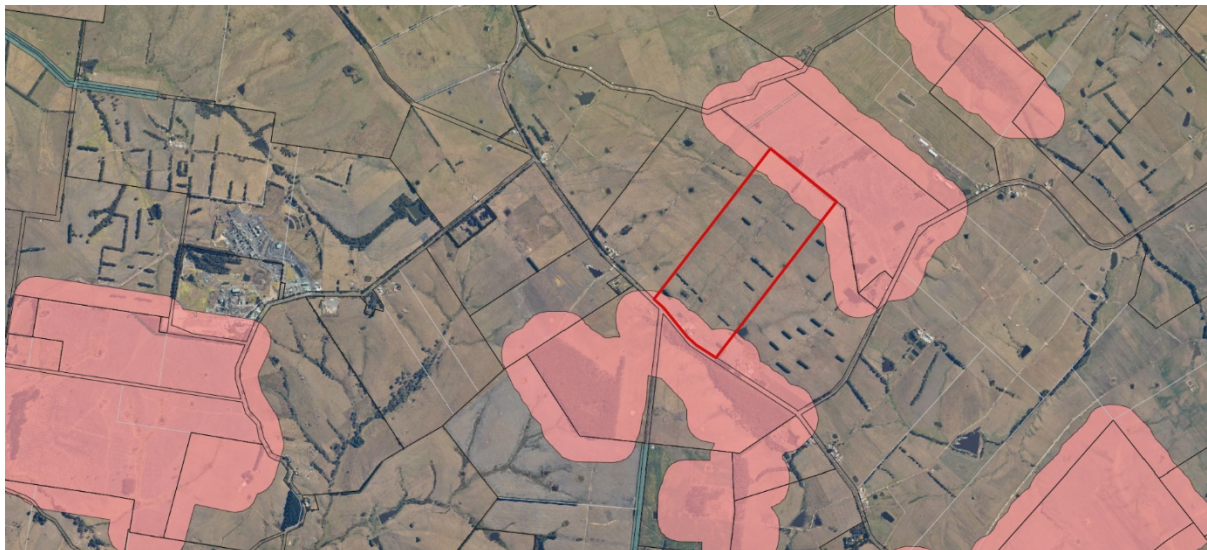


Figure 2 : Aerial showing subject site and surrounds and Bushfire Management Overlay

Proposal

The application seeks approval for a two-lot subdivision to excise an existing dwelling from the balance farmland. The new lots comprise of:

- Lot 1 – 4.53 ha consisting of the dwelling, and several buildings including machinery/hay shed and calf rearing shed. There are two vehicle crossovers from Melrose and an internal loop driveway.
- Lot 2 – 67.58 ha balance land consisting of the dairy (to be decommissioned), dams and effluent pond. There is a single vehicle crossover from Melrose Road to the lot connecting to a central laneway.

The subdivision is sought to facilitate the sale of the balance farmland as an out paddock (Lot 2). It is the owner's intention to retain the dwelling (Lot 1) to be used as rental accommodation and continuing their calf rearing activities.

A copy of the planning permit application is provided under separate cover.

Policy and Legislative Context

Zoning

The subject land is in the Farming Zone – Schedule 1 (FZ1).

The purpose of the zone is to provide land for agriculture and ensure that non-agricultural uses do not adversely affect farming activities.

A permit is required to subdivide land in the Farming Zone. Each lot must be at least 40 hectares. However, a permit may be granted to create smaller lot if the following applies:

- The subdivision is to create a lot for an existing dwelling. The subdivision must be a two-lot subdivision.

The proposal complies with this provision. The purpose and decision guidelines of the Farming Zone will need to be considered in the assessment of this application.

Overlays

The subject land is partly impacted by Bushfire Management Overlay along the southern and northern boundaries, as shown in Figure 2.

This is due to the increase bushfire risk because of the proximity to a timber plantation and remnant native forest. A planning permit is required to subdivide land in the Bushfire Management Overlay. The assessment of the application will need to consider the requirements of overlay.

Municipal Planning Strategy and the Planning Policy Framework

The following clauses are considered relevant to this permit application:

Clause 02 Municipal Planning Strategy

Clause 02.01 Context

The Shire is a renowned farming region, producing dairy, wool, beef, prime lamb, crops and grain. Agricultural production and processing, along with their ancillary services, are the largest economic drivers for the municipality.

Clause 02.02 Vision

Clause 02.03-4 Natural Resource Management

Seeks to limit the fragmentation of rural land, avoid the subdivision of land for dwellings where it has the ability to impact on the 'right to farm' or removes land from agricultural production and avoid land use conflicts between agricultural and sensitive land uses.

Clause 02.03-6 Housing (Rural Living)

Supports rural-residential use and development adjacent to existing townships to sustain population levels and communities and seeks to avoid rural-residential development in farming areas which can lead to the inefficient use of land.

Clause 13 Environmental Risks and Amenity

Clause 13.02-1S Bushfire - Bushfire planning

Clause 13.07-1S Land Use Compatibility

Seeks to protect amenity and ensure that use and development is compatible with adjoining uses and avoid location uses in areas that may be affected to off-site impacts.

Clause 14 Natural Resource Management

Clause 14.01-1S Protection of agricultural land

Aims to protect the state's agricultural base by preserving productive farmland.

Strategies include:

- Identify areas of productive agricultural land, including land for primary production and intensive agriculture.
- Consider state, regional and local, issues and characteristics when assessing agricultural quality and productivity.
- Avoid permanent removal of productive agricultural land from the state's agricultural base without consideration of the economic importance of the land for the agricultural production and processing sectors.
- Protect productive farmland that is of strategic significance in the local or regional context.
- Protect productive agricultural land from unplanned loss due to permanent changes in land use.
- Prevent inappropriately dispersed urban activities in rural areas.
- Protect strategically important agricultural and primary production land from incompatible uses.
- Limit new housing development in rural areas by:
 - Directing housing growth into existing settlements.
 - Discouraging development of isolated small lots in the rural zones from use for dwellings or other incompatible uses.

- Encouraging consolidation of existing isolated small lots in rural zones.
 - Identify areas of productive agricultural land by consulting with the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action and using available information.
- In considering a proposal to use, subdivide or develop agricultural land, consider the:
 - Desirability and impacts of removing the land from primary production, given its agricultural productivity.
 - Impacts on the continuation of primary production on adjacent land, with particular regard to land values and the viability of infrastructure for such production.
 - Compatibility between the proposed or likely development and the existing use of the surrounding land.
 - The potential impacts of land use and development on the spread of plant and animal pests from areas of known infestation into agricultural areas.
 - Land capability.

Clause 14.01-1L Agriculture – Subdivision in the Farming Zone

- Discourages subdivision unless the subdivision will enhance farm consolidation and trading of lots between farms and will not adversely impact on the ability to use the land for agriculture.
- Discourages subdivision that increases the potential for future dwellings.
- Discourages excisions of lots unless all the following apply:
 - It can be demonstrated that farming can be continued on the balance of the lot unhindered.
 - The dwelling is not required for the farming use of the property.
 - The dwelling is in a habitable condition.
 - The dwelling is at the front of the property.
 - The dwelling is serviced by a road.
 - The lot is designed in a manner that does not prejudice surrounding rural production activities.
- Discourage excisions that create long narrow lots or battle axe lots.
- Seeks to ensure that the excision of a dwelling and creation of a lot smaller than what is specified in the Schedule to the Farming Zone (i.e. 40ha) is consistent with the purposes of the zone.

Clause 16 Housing

Clause 16.01-3S Residential Development (Rural residential development)

Seeks to manage development in rural areas to protect agriculture, avoid inappropriate rural residential development and discourages the development of small lots in rural zones for residential use.

Particular Provisions

Clause 53.02 Bushfire

The clause applies to application under the Bushfire Management Overlay (BMO) and seeks to ensure that the development is only permitted where the risk to life and property from bushfire can be reduced to an acceptable level. The clause sets out objectives to manage risk relating to access, water, defensible space and construction standards.

The BMO partially covers the site. As no new development is proposed and any future development on Lot 2 can occur outside of the BMO, the applicant was not required to provide an assessment under this clause.

Clause 65 Decision Guidelines

Council must decide whether the proposal will provide an acceptable outcome in terms of the purpose and decision guidelines of the Farming Zone and the direction outlined in the MPS and PPF which contains strong policy seeking to protect agricultural land.

Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006

Under section 46 of the Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006, a mandatory cultural heritage management plan is required for a proposed activity if the regulations require the preparation of the plan for that activity

If required, an approved cultural heritage management plan (CHMP) must be submitted to Council before deciding on a planning permit application.

The Aboriginal Heritage Regulations 2018 stipulate that unless an activity is specified as being an exempt activity, a cultural heritage management plan is required if:

- a) all or part of the activity area for the activity is an area of cultural heritage sensitivity; and
- b) all or part of the activity is a high impact activity.

The subject land (activity area) is not in an area of cultural heritage sensitivity and the subdivision of land into two lots is not specified as a high impact activity in the regulations. Therefore, a mandatory CHMP is not required for the proposed subdivision.

Internal / External Consultation

Referrals

The following referrals were undertaken for this application:

Referrals/Notice	Advice/Response/Conditions
Country Fire Authority (CFA)	Recommending Referral Authority - Does not object to the grant of the permit with no conditions.

Referrals/Notice	Advice/Response/Conditions
Environmental Health	Standard comments for a rural subdivision in relation to wastewater management for a dwelling on a small lot.

Advertising

Notice of the application was given in accordance with Section 52 of the Planning and Environment Act 1987, including:

- Sending notices to the owners and occupiers of adjoining land.
- Notice of Council's website.

Objections

One objection was received to the application. The issues raised in the objections can be summarised as follows:

- Detrimental to agriculture and dairying in the region
- Land use compatibility
- Potential change in land use from dairy to timber production which would result in the land lost to dairy farming.

A copy of the objection is provided under separate cover.

Consultation

Consultation for the application was undertaken and included:

- 3 December 2024: The applicant was requested to provide additional information, including further justification for the proposed subdivision. Concerns were raised by planning officers that the proposed subdivision did not provide an appropriate response to the Farming Zone and planning policy which seeks to protect agricultural land.
- 18 February 2025: Following receipt of further information, the applicant was informed that planning officers maintained their concerns with the application.
- 31 March 2025: A planning site inspection was held and attended by Councillors, Council officers, and the landowner. The landowner stated that the dairy is currently working and their intention to decommission the dairy should the subdivision be approved and sell the balance farmland (lot 2) as an out paddock while retaining the dwelling (lot 1) to continue raising calves and renting the dwelling. 31 March 2025: A separate meeting was held with the

objector and attended by Councillors and Council officers to discuss the proposal, planning considerations and issues raised in the objection.

Assessment

The assessment of the permit application will consider how the proposal responds to the relevant planning controls under the Corangamite Planning Scheme, including the purpose and decision guidelines of the Farming Zone and the strategic and policy direction outlined within Municipal Planning Strategy and the Planning Policy Framework.

The Corangamite Planning Scheme discourages the creation of small rural-residential lots in productive agricultural areas which have the potential to impact on the continuation of agriculture and cause land use conflict. The southern parts of the Corangamite Shire include areas of high agricultural value and productivity, which need to be protected from land use change to ensure the long-term viability of agriculture as the primary industry in the local economy given its State and regional importance.

The application raises key issues for Council to consider, including the need to protect and avoid fragmentation of agricultural land, which may impact on the 'right to farm' due to land use conflict and impede the long-term viability of agriculture within Corangamite Shire.

Municipal Planning Strategy and Planning Policy Framework

The objectives and strategies of the Planning Policy Framework (PPF) recognise the importance of agriculture and the need to protect productive land from inappropriate subdivision which fragments agricultural land and creates isolated small rural residential lots which can be incompatible with adjoining farming operations and growth, and lead to land use conflict.

These objectives are further supported through the Municipal Planning Strategy (MPS) and local planning policy. The agricultural sector is identified as the largest and most important industry in the Corangamite Shire, employing approximately one third of the Shire's workforce. A key issue for the Council, is the need to manage the subdivision of land to reduce potential impacts on productive agricultural land and uses.

The proposed subdivision seeks to subdivide a dwelling onto a small lot, separating it from the balance farmland and thus creating a rural-residential lot of 4.53ha. The balance farmland is proposed to be sold while the owner intends to retain Lot 1 with the dwelling and continue their calf rearing activities from the site and use the dwelling for rental accommodation.

The proposal fails to provide an appropriate response to planning policy for the following reasons:

- It is the owner's intent to continue the calf rearing activities and use the dwelling for rental accommodation on proposed Lot 1, however there is potential of the land becoming a rural residential lot/hobby farm in the future. The proposal will create a small lot within a productive farming area and lead to land use change to a rural-residential lot disconnected from agriculture. There is greater value in retaining the land in the larger single lot and preventing its fragmentation, to protect the agricultural value of the land.
- Planning policy seeks to avoid the potential for land use conflict and ensure that agriculture can continue unconstrained and remain viable on adjoining land. The proposed subdivision can potentially lead to land use conflicts due to amenity impacts (dust, noise, and traffic), and may restrict the ability to use the surrounding agricultural land for farming activities and carry out agricultural production activities. This ultimately raises compatibility and agricultural continuation issues between the two uses, in which agricultural use must be prioritised.
- Recognising the existence of agricultural infrastructure (the dairy) on the proposed Lot 2, particularly in close proximity to the proposed Lot 1 and the existing dwelling, it is plausible that the excision of the dwelling may necessitate new permit requirements should there be plans for additional infrastructure within 100 meters of an un-associated dwelling. This regulatory burden underscores the argument that the excision could impede farming viability and exacerbate land use conflicts given the proximity of the dwelling to the farming infrastructure.
- The subdivision creates an opportunity for an as of right dwelling on the larger balance lot (Lot 2), which is over 40 hectares. A dwelling is not proposed as part of the application; however, the Corangamite Planning Scheme discourages increasing the potential for future dwellings.
- The benefits of the rural-residential subdivision do not outweigh the impacts through land use change, conflict and restriction on the continuation and growth of agricultural uses.

Overall, the application does not provide an appropriate response to the strategic direction and policy objectives of the Planning Scheme which seek to prioritise the protection of productive agricultural land from incompatible land uses and prevent inappropriate urban activities in rural areas which may prejudice the ongoing operation of agriculture.

Local strategic direction in the MPS, more specifically, discourages subdivision where it has the ability to impact on the 'right to farm' and create land use conflict. In addition, subdivision should be discouraged unless it will clearly advance and

agricultural outcome on the balance land and not adversely impact on the ability to use the balance land for agriculture.

The Corangamite Planning Scheme has a strong emphasis on protecting the agricultural land from fragmentation. Consistent with the conclusion and findings in the VCAT decision PP2023/118 (Otway Silva Pty Ltd v Corangamite SC [2024]), it is important to give weight to the higher order purposes and policies in the planning scheme to ensure that the subdivision seeks to improve agricultural outcomes in terms of increased production, better land management or long-term protection of agricultural land of local, regional and State significance.

Farming Zone

The purpose of the Farming Zone is to provide land for agricultural uses, retain productive agricultural land and ensure that non-agricultural uses such as dwellings do not adversely affect farming activities.

The application must be considered against the purpose and decision guidelines of the zone. The following comments are made with regard to the decision guidelines:

- The proposed subdivision seeks to excise a dwelling onto a small lot, which separates it from the balance farmland creating an isolated small lot of approximately 4.53ha in a productive and significant agricultural area.
- The subdivision is sought to enable the sale of farmland, and the dwelling lot to be continued to be retained by the owner for rental accommodation and calf rearing. The application does not adequately justify how the proposed subdivision will enhance the agricultural productivity of the subject land by creating an isolated rural-residential lot with a high risk of land use conflict and incompatibility between land uses.
- The subdivision will result in the removal of land and a dwelling permanently from agricultural production having no direct connection to agriculture on site. It will create a rural lifestyle block, to be primarily used for residential purposes.
- The proposal at present is to retain the dwelling with the owner and using it for rental accommodation and calf rearing, there is no certainty that the land will not be sold and potential future residents are likely to be adversely affected by agricultural activities on adjacent and nearby land, by way of noise, smell and the impact of ongoing farming operations.
- Rural-residential lots must be located in areas which do not have the potential to restrict the continuation of agriculture and are compatible with the current and future use of surrounding land. Residential growth and development should be directed to existing settlements which have the services and facilities to support this use.
- The proposed subdivision creates a balance lot of 67.58 ha, where the use of the land for a dwelling would be as-of-right and has the potential to increase the number of dwellings in the area.

- The existing use and possible future development of the land has been considered. The land is productive and valuable farming land, and orderly planning directs that isolated rural-residential lots and potential land use conflict should be avoided to preserve the Shire's agricultural base.

Response to Objections

The key issues raised in the objection and an officer response are provided below:

Objection	Officer Response
Detrimental to agriculture and dairying in the region	<p><u>Objection Supported</u></p> <p>Rural-residential subdivision and land use change, without clear and adequate justification, could cumulatively impact and erode the agricultural use and land in the area.</p> <p>The loss due to the fragmentation of productive agricultural land is a relevant consideration and the Corangamite Planning Scheme seeks to discourage this.</p>
Land use compatibility	<p><u>Objection Supported</u></p> <p>The creation of a rural residential lot in a productive agricultural area has the potential to prejudice and limit the operations and expansion of adjoining and nearby agricultural uses.</p> <p>The proposed subdivision is not necessary to facilitate the change in the agricultural use of the land and will lead to a permanent land use change, with the creation of a separately disposable rural-residential property. These properties can be incompatible with neighbouring agricultural operations, leading to land use conflict issues but can also restrict the ability for farms to intensify and enhance agricultural production within the surrounding area.</p>
Potential change in land use from dairy to timber production	<p><u>Objection not supported</u></p> <p>No speculation can be made or control the land use which is 'as of right' and does not need a planning permit.</p> <p>Currently there is no application made to the council indicating the change to timber production. The assessment of</p>

	<p>the application is to be made as per the current application based on the information provided and relevant planning policy and direction.</p> <p>Timber production is a section 1 use under the Farming Zone and no restriction can be placed on this.</p>
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Options

Council has the following options:

1. Issue a Notice of Decision to Refuse to Grant a Permit based on the grounds set out within the recommendation. **(Recommended option)**
2. Issue a Notice of Decision to Grant a Permit subject to conditions.

Conclusion

The application for a two-lot subdivision (excision of dwelling) at 451 Melrose Road, Cooriemungle is not supported.

The application for the subdivision of land which creates a rural residential lot, has not been adequately justified and does not demonstrate the advancement of an agricultural outcome on the balance land or that the dwelling is not required for any ongoing farming use of the property. The current and future agricultural use of the land does not warrant or justify the need for subdivision and, at present and based on the information provided, there is greater planning benefit in retaining the dwelling on the land for long-term connection with agriculture.

The proposal will result in the fragmentation of productive agricultural land and the creation of a rural-residential use in an established farming area, leading to a permanent land use change. The subdivision will increase the potential for land use conflict through a rural-residential lot disconnected from agriculture, with the potential to limit long-term productive capacity and restrict the continuation of ongoing agricultural production. The subdivision will also increase the potential for future dwellings.

RECOMMENDATION - 8.1

That Council having caused notice of Planning Application No. PP2024/103 to be given under Section 52 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and having considered all the matters required under Section 60 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, decides to issue a Notice of Decision to Refuse to Grant a Permit under the provisions of the Corangamite Planning Scheme in respect of the land known and described as Crown Allotment 24 Section B Parish of Waarre TP312077, 451 Melrose Road, Cooriemungle, for a two-lot subdivision (excision of dwelling), based on the following grounds:

1. The subdivision does not provide an acceptable response to the Municipal Planning Strategy Clause 02.03-4 which seeks to limit fragmentation of rural land and avoid subdivision of land for dwellings where it has the ability to impact on the 'right to farm' for existing rural properties.
2. The subdivision does not provide an acceptable response to the Planning Policy Framework Clause 14.01-1S Protection of agricultural land, which seeks to protect agricultural land in regard to permanent changes in land use and limit the dispersal of inappropriate urban activities in rural areas.
3. The subdivision does not provide an acceptable response to the Planning Policy Framework Clause 14.01-1L Protection of agricultural land, which seeks to avoid rural-residential subdivision of productive agricultural land, unless it can be demonstrated that it is required to maintain the productive agricultural use of the land.
4. The subdivision does not provide an acceptable response to the purpose and decision guidelines of the Farming Zone.
5. The subdivision has the potential to lead to land use conflict with adjoining productive agricultural uses.
6. The subdivision will not result in the proper and orderly planning of the area.

9 Officer's Reports

9.1 Council Annual Action Plan Performance July 2024 - March 2025

Directorate: Governance and Civic Support
Author: Kathryn Anderson, Manager Governance and Civic Support
Attachments: 1. Annual Action Plan March 2025 [9.1.1 - 12 pages]

Declaration

Chief Executive Officer – David Rae

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

Author – Kathryn Anderson

In providing this advice to Council as the Manager Governance and Civic Support, I have no interests to disclose in this report.

Summary

This report provides information on Council's progress against the 2024-2025 Annual Action Plan for Quarter three of the financial year.

Introduction

Council is required to report regularly on its performance against the Council Plan, including results in relation to the strategic indicators. This requirement is included in the Governance and Management Checklist, which forms part of Council's Annual Report of Operations. This report has the Annual Action Plan as its focus.

Issues

The Annual Action Plan is derived from the Council Plan, a strategic document which sets out the priorities and direction of the elected Council via strategic objectives, strategies to achieve the objectives, and indicators to measure Council's progress in achieving the overarching objectives and strategies. The Annual Action Plan is a collection of specific actions and initiatives identified each year to advance the Council Plan.

The Annual Action Plan outlines 61 identified actions, with positive progress being made on most of them.

The attached report outlines each action item in greater detail, but as of 31 March 2025:

- 37 Annual Action Items were In progress,

- 17 Annual Action Items were Completed,
- 6 Annual Action Items were Not Started, and
- 1 Annual Action Item Deferred.

This breakdown provides a clear overview of the status of the action items. Financial constraints have required careful strategic adjustments, leading to revision and resulting in the deferral of one key action item. Due to budgetary limitations, the item could not be incorporated into the financial plan for the 2024/25 fiscal year, necessitating a shift in priorities to align with available resources. However, efforts to secure external funding remain ongoing, with continued advocacy aimed at obtaining financial support from outside sources. This approach seeks to bridge the funding gap, ensuring that despite current limitations, progress toward achieving the intended goals can still be pursued through alternative financial avenues.

Policy and Legislative Context

The *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020* supports the planning and reporting framework for councils in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020*. The regulations include the Governance and Management Checklist which requires Council to report on its performance against the Council Plan.

This report is also in keeping with the commitments in the Council Plan 2021-2025:

Theme Five - Community Leadership
Having strong governance practices

Internal / External Consultation

Corangamite Shire's Leadership Team have contributed to the preparation of the Council Plan and Annual Action Plan Progress Report for the period July 2024 – March 2025.

Financial and Resource Implications

Preparation of the performance report is part of Council's annual reporting cycle and was completed within existing resources.

Conclusion

As of 31 March 2025, the Organisation remains on track in advancing the initiatives set out in the 2024-2025 Annual Action Plan, demonstrating consistent progress towards its objectives.

RECOMMENDATION - 9.1

That Council receives the Annual Action Plan Progress Report for July 2024 – March 2025.

Quarter 3 Monthly Progress Report Against Annual Action Plan 2024-2025

Theme 1 A Connected Community

Council Plan Objective	Key Action	Planned Completion Date	Progress at 31 March	Comments
Roads that are fit for purpose	Seek funding for an upgrade to Noogee Road for heavy vehicle bypass of Terang	June	In Progress	Funding submission to be made to Fed Govt's Safer Local Roads & Infrastructure Program. Alternatively works would be funded by 2025-2026 Roads to Recovery Program.
	Advocate to the State Government for continued funding to support arterial road maintenance and upgrades	June	In Progress	Advocacy with State Government and Dept of Transport & Planning is ongoing. During the last quarter the Mayor and CEO met with Minister for Roads to advocate for these important matters.
Footpaths that provide access to key destinations in our towns	Link to Terang College from the west via Laing Street	October	Completed	
	Tandarook Park Masterplan implementation (Footpath)	February	Completed	
Improved mobile phone coverage	Advocate for improved mobile connectivity for Port Campbell, Noorat and Skipton	N/A	In Progress	Advocacy for more appropriate location of tower for Noorat underway. Advocacy for Port Campbell and Skipton improvements to be highlighted in May and June.
Digital connectivity that meets the needs of our community	Complete implementation of Coastal Connect project to increase digital access to services	June	In Progress	Project timeline in place with new go live date communicated (1 Nov 2025). Managing project delivery risks.
	Investigate public Wi- Fi for Port Campbell public spaces	June	Not Started	No available funding programs for implementation. Other opportunities will be explored.
Infrastructure that enables industry and business growth	Pursue funding the Camperdown Production Precinct	May	In Progress	Officers working with Regional Development Victoria and Wannon Water to develop a funding application.

Council Plan Objective	Key Action	Planned Completion Date	Progress at 31 March	Comments
Infrastructure and services that deliver population growth and new housing	Review of Council owned and managed properties to consider alternate use to encourage population attraction and key worker housing	June	Not Started	Scheduled to commence in April/May
Contemporary library services that are accessible to residents	Upgrade of library facades	April	In Progress	March: Fit out and furniture replacement well advanced, facades to be completed in Q4.
A range of public and/or active transport options for Corangamite Shire residents	Advocate for introduction of electric busses including required infrastructure	N/A	Not Started	Not commenced yet due to resourcing constraints.
Access to infrastructure that supports a healthy and active lifestyle for our community	Support Skipton Community for enhance recreation and community facilities	N/A	In Progress	Ongoing discussions with Skipton Recreation Reserve committee and Skipton Football and Netball Club, to develop designs for Recreation Reserve changeroom facilities.
	Implement outcomes of SRV applications	N/A	In Progress	Simpson Reserve changeroom construction has commenced.

Theme 2
A Thriving Community

Council Plan Objective	Key Action	Planned Completion Date	Progress at 31 March	Comments
Facilitating and supporting economic development	Implement Grow and Prosper Action Plan	N/A	Completed	Implementation is ongoing and covers 6 separate action plans including Population Attraction and Retention, Events and Festivals, Creative Industries, Circular Economy, Visitor Economy and Industry Sectors. Council was briefed on during the last quarter on initiatives undertaken during 2024-2025 and those planned for 2025-2026.
Helping businesses recover from COVID and capitalise on opportunities	No actions			
More housing and subdivision to cater for population growth	Progress key worker housing action plan	May	In Progress	Civil works nearing completion on Timboon Trestle Estate subdivision. Discussions with RDV continue regarding opportunities for Simpson.
	Develop unlocking housing program	June	Not Started	Program design to commence in April.
Arts and culture that is supported and accessible	Implement the Creative Industries Action Plan	N/A	Completed	Contribution to Regional Arts Victoria regional strategic action plan has been completed. Support for a range of activities and events including the artist elements of Light Up Camperdown, Graze the Day, and performance in other venues.
	Advocate for funding of the Stage One of the Camperdown Theatre Transformation Project	N/A	In Progress	Advocacy documents prepared and provided to State and Federal politicians.
Engaging with young people and encouraging opportunities that retain young people in our Shire	Provide traineeship opportunities in a range of occupations, which could serve as a 'gap year' or to upskill local young people for Council or other local industries.	June	Completed	Trainees have been recruited and have commenced in their positions.

Council Plan Objective	Key Action	Planned Completion Date	Progress at 31 March	Comments
Engaging with young people and encouraging opportunities that retain young people in our Shire	SYNC strategy implementation	June	In Progress	
Recognising the	Sustaining our Agricultural Future strategy	N/A	In Progress	Strategy adopted and Planning Scheme Amendment C67 prepared as resolved by Council in March.
Our young people are encouraged and supported to engage in learning	Continue to grow our own early years educators through ongoing traineeship programs	June	Completed	Four trainees in place in Early Years Team with additional trainee being recruited April/May. This is an ongoing program.
	Partner with stakeholders to improve vocational outcomes for young people	June	In Progress	Work underway with Neil Porter Foundation. Short course training provided for young people (e.g. Barista training).
A local tourism industry that is valued and recognised for its significant role to the Shire	Complete the Port Campbell Town Centre Project	June	In Progress	Major works completed on foreshore, Tregua Street, Cairns Street and Lord Street. Minor finishing and rectification works to continue to end May.
	Promote Corangamite as a Cycle Tourism destination	June	In Progress	Program to commence in April.
Corangamite's townships are attractive, accessible and appealing to visitors and are presented in a way in which our residents can be proud	Design for Skipton Streetscape improvements in line with Structure Plan	May	In Progress	Structure plan to be reviewed to confirm scope. Consultant to be engaged to prepare design.
	Implement first stage of Timboon Urban Design Precinct Plan	June	In Progress	Draft Planning Scheme Amendment documentation prepared. Council will consider amendment in May.
	Implement first stage of township entrance and signage strategy	June	In Progress	Quotations sought for initial signs. Council to be further briefed on final design.

Council Plan Objective	Key Action	Planned Completion Date	Progress at 31 March	Comments
	Implement Population Growth and Retention Action plan as part of Grow and Prosper Framework	N/A	In Progress	Work with Designated Area Migration Agreement (DAMA) program for the South West and Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) communities on workers in agriculture and manufacturing, including hosting a regional Skilled Migration seminar in Camperdown in March.
We retain and grow our population (cont.)	Complete development of the Family & Children's Services Early Years 2024-2034 Plan and commence implementation	March	Completed	Early Years Plan was adopted in March. Working Group to be established. Plan implementation subject to annual budget allocation and grant funding.
We retain and grow our population (cont.)	Complete development of the Regional ECEC Workforce Plan 2024-2029 and commence implementation	September	Completed	Workforce Plan completed in partnership with Moyne Shire & Warrnambool City Council.

Theme 3
A Healthy, Safe and Resilient Community

Council Plan Objective	Key Action	Planned Completion Date	Progress at 31 March	Comments
Supporting our communities to move on from COVID	No actions			
Improving the health and wellbeing of our residents	Continue to support Healthy Well Corangamite to improve health and wellbeing outcomes for community	June	In Progress	Healthy Well Corangamite continue to meet stakeholders bimonthly to progress actions from the Plan.
Access and inclusion is improved	Implement 'all access' parking improvements program in townships through streetscape upgrades	May	In Progress	Audit completed of "all access" parking in towns. Improvement works to occur in 2025-2026 subject to budget allocation.
	Continue to provide community education programs to encourage awareness of access and inclusion	June	In Progress	Continued implementation of the Disability Access and Inclusion Plan with all 32 actions completed or in progress. This includes delivery of Accessible Beach Day which raises awareness of access and inclusion.
Council continues to provide a key role in emergency planning and recovery	Seek further funding to undertake high priority flood studies and reduce data gaps, identified in Stage1 of the Shire Wide Flood Study	June	In Progress	Funding obtained. LiDAR data will be completed in next month. Curdies Flood Study funded and will be completed by June.
Community resilience is improved to allow individuals and towns to respond and recover from emergencies	Continue to promote 72 hour resilience programs and work with three towns to develop improved emergency planning	June	In Progress	Promoted at Skipton Festival. Emergency planning activities underway throughout Autumn at Noorat, Simpson and Port Campbell as part of a community resilience program funded through a grant program.
Corangamite residents have access to a range of sport and recreation opportunities	Research alternate affordable fee and membership options for a range of sports and activities	June	Complete	Benchmarking stadium fees and charges completed as part of budget consideration.

Council Plan Objective	Key Action	Planned Completion Date	Progress at 31March	Comments
Our community groups and clubs are engaged and supported and facilities are fit for purpose	Develop a strategy for facility and club development for Soccer	N/A	Deferred	The Soccer Strategy has been deferred, as it was not identified as an immediate priority for facility upgrades. Advocacy efforts are ongoing to secure funding for a fit-for-purpose facility.

Theme 4

Improving our Environment

Council Plan Objective	Key Action	Planned Completion Date	Progress at 31 March	Comments
Protecting and improving our built and natural environment	Develop an advocacy resource to promote the issue of invasive weeds on Regional Roads land	June	Not Started	Not commenced yet due to resourcing constraints.
Providing high quality waste services, including sustainable management of the regional landfill at Naroghid	Investigate the use of sustainable construction materials including the use of Council collected kerbside glass in civil construction	June	In Progress	Options being investigated with Works and Services working with the Environment department to examine the possibility of trial sites for implementation in future works programs.
Capitalising on opportunities created by new energy, and minimising impacts on key industry sectors, landscape values and natural assets	Advocate for low impact energy storage systems	June	In Progress	Advocacy to DEECA, RDV and VicGrid on options for the proposed Community Benefits Scheme mooted as part of the Victorian Transmission Infrastructure Framework (VTIF) and the development of Victorian Renewable Energy Zones (VREZ). Discussions held with potential investors and developers of smaller scale Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) and compressed air storage systems (Hydrostor).
Reducing the carbon footprint of Council operations	Investigate behind meter solar and battery systems for Councils highest energy use sites	June	In Progress	Stadiums and Naroghid Landfill behind the meter solar systems investigated and implementation underway to install the system at the Landfill. Further investigation and business case preparation examining systems at the Camperdown Civic Centre and depots will occur by June.

Council Plan Objective	Key Action	Planned Completion Date	Progress at 31 March	Comments
Helping our community plan and respond to climate change	Complete the Council Climate Change Strategy and Emissions Reduction Plan	June	In Progress	A project steering committee with community representatives is in place and the draft Action Plan prepared to be presented to Council in April.
	Implement stage 1 actions of the Environment and Sustainability Strategy	June	In Progress	Actions underway include education on climate change. Binfo app and Environment grants completed.
Piloting the implementation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the local level	Map the 2024-2025 Annual Action Plan against the Sustainable Development Goals and promote achievements in this area	N/A	Completed	
	Prepare a Corangamite Shire Case study for submission to the Australian UNSDG portal	June	Not Started	Preparation of case study to begin in April.

Theme 5 Community Leadership

Council Plan Objective	Key Action	Planned Completion Date	Progress at 31 March	Comments
Having strong governance practices	Complete induction of newly elected members	June	Completed	
	Complete all requirements of Local Government Act following Council election in 2024 including review of Community Vision and adoption of a new Council Plan	June	In Progress	Community Engagement survey and in person sessions completed. Work continues to analyse data and complete the Community Vision and Council Plan. All requirements are planned for Council adoption by 30 June.
	Review Councillor Code of Conduct	June	Completed	Effective 26 October 2024, all Councillors are required to observe the Model Councillor Code of Conduct which is prescribed in Schedule 1 of the Local Government (Governance and Integrity) Amendment Regulations 2024.
Ensuring that we maintain our strong financial position	Update and adopt the Long-Term Financial Plan	June	In Progress	On track to be updated and adopted at the 30 June 2025 Council Meeting.
Council advocates strongly and respectfully on issues that matter to our community	Update advocacy material following Council election in October 2024	May	Completed	
We listen to and engage with our community	Review the 2040 Corangamite Community Vision	June	In Progress	Community Consultation conducted in March to enable a new updated vision. A refresh Community Vision will be adopted by 30 June 2025.

Council Plan Objective	Key Action	Planned Completion Date	Progress at 31 March	Comments
Council promotes best value and value for money for its ratepayers	Complete implementation the Coastal Connect shared service project	November 2025	In Progress	Project timeline in place with new go live date communicated – 1 November 2025.
We provide a great work environment	Provide organisational training to increase capability of staff in the use of IT systems and software	November	Completed	Microsoft training offered to all staff and completed over a number of sessions.
	Develop a health and wellbeing and reward and recognition program for staff	June	Completed	A number of initiatives have been delivered including the CorangaMIGHTY staff awards, service awards, employee assistance program and the end of year celebration. Councillors will receive a briefing in quarter 4 on the initiatives and achievements.
	Develop and implement organisational leadership training plan	June	Completed	A leadership training plan was developed with a 12-month program delivered to the Leadership Team (CEO, Directors and Managers).
	Mandatory training in equal opportunity, health and safety, conflict of interest, child safe standards, information privacy, human rights and bullying and harassment completed annually	June	In Progress	Human Resources are monitoring progress of all mandatory training which is completed over a calendar year. In the first 3 months of the year, just over 1/3 of the organisation has completed the mandatory training.
	Develop a workplace accommodation strategy	June	In Progress	An accommodation strategy will be developed through a review of the current workplace, consultation with staff and assessment of accessibility requirements. Office layout plans will be prepared to guide future works.

Council Plan Objective	Key Action	Planned Completion Date	Progress at 31 March	Comments
Working with First Nations people	Cultural awareness training with Councillors following October 2024 election	March	Completed	
	Continue to encourage staff to participate in Cross Cultural Awareness Training	June	In Progress	All leadership group team members have completed the training, and it is being rolled out selected staff members.
	Continue implementing the Aboriginal Participation and Engagement Action Plan	N/A	In Progress	Participation in NAIDOC week and Reconciliation week undertaken. Training for staff underway.

9.2 March 2025 Finance Report

Directorate: Corporate and Community Services
Author: Prabath Jayawardana, Manager Financial Services
Previous Council Reference: Nil
Attachments: 1. Finance Report for March 2025 [9.2.1 - 11 pages]

Declaration

Chief Executive Officer – David Rae

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

Author – Prabath Jayawardana

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

Summary

This report is to note Council's current financial position as at 31 March 2025 and to approve changes to the 2024-2025 reviewed budget that have occurred since the mid-year budget review.

Introduction

Council adopted the 2024-2025 Budget at the ordinary Council meeting in June 2024. At the September 2024 Council meeting, a number of 2023-2024 projects and grants paid in advance were identified as being required to be carried forward into the 2024-2025 year.

During January and March 2025, Managers conducted a review of budgets and the required funds to deliver programs and initiatives. This report is seeking approval of the changes which will decrease the cash position at the end of the year by \$82k. Council's year to date financial performance for 2024-2025 is currently \$2.1m favourable to budget.

Issues

Financial Performance

Council's financial performance for 2024-2025 is on track with a year to date (YTD) favourable cash variance of \$2.1m compared to budget. Key contributors to this favourable cash result as of 31 March include:

- **Recurrent operations expenditure:**

Recurrent operations expenditure is \$2.1m favourable to budget. The primary driver of this variance is the operating expenditure on materials and services, which is \$1.13m lower than forecasted due to underspends on many projects across the organisation with Landfill (\$490,000) delays in greenwaste mulching, as well as roadside weed spraying which is currently underway (\$160,000). Additionally, investment returns are \$280k above the predicted income, further contributing to the positive variance.

- **Capital Program:**

The YTD Capital program is \$0.27m underspent compared to the YTD budget. However, the year-end forecast is expected to align with the budget, noting that the Port Campbell Town Centre Revitalisation project is in the final stages and constitutes a significant portion of the 2024/25 Capital program.

Budget Variations

Council's target cash position is \$5 million or greater on an annual basis. The cash surplus as at 30 June 2024 was \$25.35 million which was primarily due to incomplete projects, grant funding received in advance and a favourable result to the adjusted forecast. The higher than forecast cash position as at 30 June 2024 funded the carry forward budget adjustments approved in September 2024 and improved the starting position for the 2024-2025 Budget.

The unfavourable variance of \$82k that has been identified in the March 2025 quarter relates to the Sealed Roads Major Maintenance. This is due to additional work required to fix the defects caused by dry weather conditions.

2023-2024 Brought Forward "Cash" Surplus	\$25,353,924
2024-2025 Adopted Budget "Cash" Surplus	\$1,029,096
2023-2024 Carried Forwards (net)	(\$4,687,460)
2024-2025 August Variations	(\$482,234)
2024-2025 September Variations	(\$14,494)
2024-2025 December Variations	\$455,684
2024-2025 March Variations	(\$82,000)
2024-2025 Revised "Cash" Surplus at year end	\$21,572,516
Target Cash Position	\$5,699,611
Adjusted Unrestricted Surplus/(Deficit)	\$15,872,905

Policy and Legislative Context

The report meets Council's requirements for reporting under the *Local Government Act 2020* and is also in keeping with the commitments in the Council Plan 2021- 2025:

- Theme Five - Community Leadership
- Having strong governance practices
- Ensuring that we maintain our strong financial position
- Council promotes best value and value for money for its ratepayers

Internal / External Consultation

The report has been prepared in consultation with relevant department Managers and has been reviewed by the Executive Leadership Team. As there are no material changes to rates or charges and no proposed borrowings, the forecast budget is not required to be publicly advertised.

Financial and Resource Implications

The financial performance of the organisation is favourable and a "cash" surplus is projected for 30 June 2025.

Conclusions

Council's financial performance for 2024-2025 remains on target. The year-to-date favourable cash variance is \$2.1m.

RECOMMENDATION - 9.2

That Council:

1. Receives the finance report for the period ending 31 March 2025.
2. Approves the adjustments to the 2024-2025 budget of \$82k unfavourable.



Finance Report

March 2025



Finance Report

Attestation

In my opinion the information set out in this report presents fairly the financial transactions for the period ended 31 March 2025. All statutory obligations which relate to the period of this report have been made.



Prabath Jayawardana CA
Manager Financial Services

Certification Statement

The financial position of Council has been reviewed and it has been determined that a Revised Budget under s95 of the Local Government Act 2020 is not required.



David Rae
Chief Executive Officer

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Synopsis

The purpose of this report is to provide Council an update and commentary on the financial performance of Council's operations on a quarterly basis.

Definitions

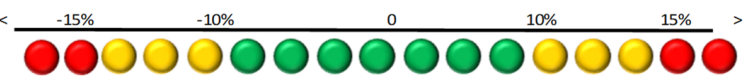
Adopted Budget represents the Budgeted adopted by the Council in June.

Reviewed Budget represents the adopted budget adjusted for approved budget amendments (such as carry forward or mid-year reviews)

Forecast Budget represents the most recent estimated financial position which has not been approved by Council

Variance indicator thresholds

The following tolerances are used on all reports represented by traffic light indicator



Performance Summary

The performance summary provides a high level overview of the year to date (YTD) cash result against budget. The report also projects the overall cash balance available to Council at the end of the financial year, this cash balance provides a starting point for future budgets.

	Adopted Budget	Reviewed Budget	Forecast Budget	YTD Budget	YTD Actuals	YTD Variance fav/(unfav)		
						\$	%	
Recurrent Operations	(11,915,987)	(13,492,710)	(13,574,710)	(6,380,444)	(4,325,119)	2,055,324	32%	●
Rate Income	25,938,412	26,076,870	26,076,870	26,024,851	25,993,922	(30,930)	(0%)	●
Net Loans	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%	●
Projects	(1,920,631)	(4,290,302)	(4,290,301)	(650,962)	(1,447,317)	(796,355)	(122%)	●
Capital	(12,787,636)	(25,329,390)	(25,329,390)	(20,943,076)	(20,375,455)	567,620	3%	●
Proceeds from sale of property, infrastructure, plant & equi	2,204,000	2,350,000	2,350,000	506,269	656,597	150,328	30%	●
External Loan Funds	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%	●
Reserve Transfers	(489,062)	10,120,802	10,120,802	0	0	0	0%	●
Extraordinary Events	0	865,321	865,321	722,341	890,100	167,759	23%	●
Surplus/(Deficit)	1,029,096	(3,699,408)	(3,781,408)	(721,020)	1,392,728	2,113,748	293%	●
Surplus/(Deficit) B/forward	18,770,625	25,353,924	25,353,924					
Surplus/(Deficit) at end of year	19,799,721	21,654,516	21,572,516					

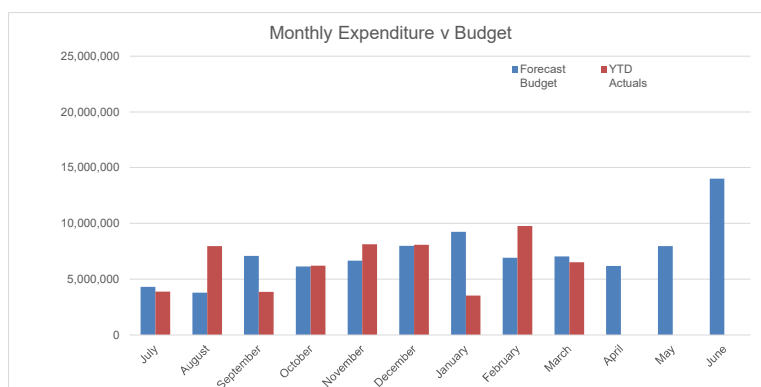
Note: Figures in brackets indicate cost to Council

Unfavourable variances shown in brackets

Cash Budget

The cash budget compares Council's financial plan, expressed through its annual budget, with actual performance. This report notes the cash movement of all Council activities (ignoring any accounting adjustments). Council has adopted a materiality threshold of the lower of 10 percent and at least \$100,000 where further explanation is provided. Explanations have not been provided for variations below the materiality threshold unless the variance is considered to be material because of its nature.

	Adopted Budget	Reviewed Budget	Forecast Budget	YTD Budget	YTD Actuals	YTD Variance fav/(unfav)	%	Ref
						\$		
REVENUE								
Rates and charges	25,938,412	26,076,870	26,076,870	26,024,851	25,993,922	(30,930)	(0%)	
Statutory fees and fines	425,493	431,493	431,493	1,055,779	1,167,491	111,712	11%	1
User fees	8,093,131	8,684,643	8,684,643	6,572,665	6,330,001	(242,664)	(4%)	
Contributions - monetary	714,414	1,929,590	1,929,590	937,074	1,105,758	168,684	18%	2
Grants - Operating	15,099,082	20,396,641	20,403,615	14,696,021	14,611,633	(84,388)	(1%)	
Grants - Capital	4,546,025	10,333,365	10,333,365	7,245,696	7,555,801	310,105	4%	
Other Revenue	1,854,235	2,024,235	2,024,235	1,476,857	1,960,590	483,733	33%	3
Proceeds from sale of property, infrastructure, plant & equi	2,204,000	2,350,000	2,350,000	506,269	656,597	150,328	30%	4
Transfer From Reserves	43,634	11,043,634	11,043,634	0	0	0	0%	
Total Revenue	58,918,426	83,270,471	83,277,445	58,515,213	59,381,792	866,579	71%	
EXPENDITURE								
Employee benefits	19,856,318	20,611,448	21,010,480	15,546,135	15,504,472	41,664	0%	
Materials and services	16,797,295	25,273,622	24,963,564	11,557,373	10,443,998	1,113,375	10%	5
Bad and doubtful debts	500	500	500	500	0	500	100%	
Other expenses	3,128,860	3,785,142	3,785,142	2,930,679	3,106,057	(175,379)	(6%)	
Capital Expenditure	17,573,661	36,376,335	36,376,335	29,201,547	28,934,538	267,009	1%	
Transfer to Reserves	532,696	922,832	922,832	0	0	0	0%	
Total Expenditure	57,889,330	86,969,879	87,058,853	59,236,233	57,989,065	1,247,168	2%	
Surplus/(Deficit)	1,029,096	(3,699,408)	(3,781,408)	(721,020)	1,392,727	2,113,748	293%	



Comments

1. Higher than predicted EPA levy held for Landfill Operations.
2. Contribution of funds held in trust for South West Alliance not budgeted.
3. Additional interest on investments of \$280,000 due to favourable market conditions as well as additional interest on rates (\$80,000) predictions that payment plan interest waivers would be taken up by rate payers has not occurred to the extent expected, as well as a higher level of 2024-2025 outstanding rate balances.
4. Heavy Plant sales are on track with some sales occurring slightly ahead of schedule.
5. There are current year underspends on many projects across the organisation Landfill (\$490,000) with delays in greenwaste mulching, as well as roadside weedspraying which is currently underway (\$160,000).

Summary of Capital Works

The summarised statement of capital works presents Council's performance against the forecast capital budget by category.

Capital Type	Adopted Budget	Reviewed Budget	Forecast Budget	YTD Budget	YTD Actuals	Variance
Property						
Buildings	878,500	1,100,548	1,100,548	398,938	305,830	93,108
Total Property	878,500	1,100,548	1,100,548	398,938	305,830	93,108
Plant and Equipment						
Information Technology	0	64,000	64,000	64,000	64,327	(327)
Plant, Machinery & Equipment	3,548,000	4,953,155	4,953,155	4,285,136	4,235,133	50,003
Total Plant and Equipment	3,548,000	5,017,155	5,017,155	4,349,136	4,299,460	49,676
Infrastructure						
Bridges	150,000	1,357,169	1,357,169	852,130	845,811	6,319
Drainage	414,889	288,669	288,669	288,669	288,678	(9)
Footpaths & Cycleways	813,000	953,451	953,451	182,020	162,766	19,254
Kerb & Channel	185,000	225,000	225,000	105,000	51,341	53,659
Waste Management	3,128,802	3,756,427	3,756,427	2,013,073	1,935,902	77,171
Parks, Open Space & Streetscapes	0	12,742,038	12,742,038	12,742,038	12,760,260	(18,222)
Playgrounds	0	16,181	16,181	0	156	(156)
Roads	8,215,470	10,579,697	10,579,697	8,152,898	8,173,912	(21,014)
Artworks	0	50,000	50,000	0	0	0
Other Infrastructure	50,000	50,000	50,000	0	0	0
Recreational, Leisure & Community Facilities	120,000	170,000	170,000	47,645	40,421	7,224
Library Collection Materials	70,000	70,000	70,000	70,000	70,000	0
Total Infrastructure	13,147,161	30,258,632	30,258,632	24,453,473	24,329,247	124,225
Total capital works expenditure	17,573,661	36,376,335	36,376,335	29,201,547	28,934,538	267,009
Represented by:						
New asset expenditure	4,000,825	17,626,158	17,626,158	14,907,615	14,873,662	33,953
Asset renewal expenditure	12,040,390	16,594,212	16,594,212	13,131,535	12,971,203	160,332
Asset expansion expenditure	0	0	0	0	0	0
Asset upgrade expenditure	1,532,446	2,155,965	2,155,965	1,162,396	1,089,672	72,724
Total capital works expenditure	17,573,661	36,376,335	36,376,335	29,201,547	28,934,538	267,009

Capital Project Detail Report

Project Name	Project Number	Project Status	Adopted Budget	Reviewed Budget	Forecast Budget	YTD Budget	YTD Actuals	Variance
PROPERTY								
Buildings								
Buckle My Shoe (8 The Promenade, Terang) - Fence replacement	400791	Completed	12,500	12,500	12,500	12,500	12,500	0
Camperdown Civic Centre - Heritage Works	400790	Not Started	11,000	11,000	11,000	0	1,232	(1,232)
Camperdown Stadium - Installation of court dividers (LRCI)	400719	Completed	0	37,254	37,254	37,254	37,254	0
Civic Centre Internal Repaint	400781	Completed	90,000	125,000	125,000	65,000	64,080	920
Cobden Depot Toilet Upgrade	400782	Deferred	75,000	0	0	0	748	(748)
Corangamite Libraries - façade refresh and furniture replace	400776	In Progress	100,000	100,000	100,000	46,666	40,783	5,883
Energy and Water Savings	400365	In Progress	100,000	100,000	100,000	0	728	(728)
Height safety rectification - Stage 2	400780	Completed	75,000	75,000	75,000	75,000	73,557	1,443
McNicol Street Camperdown Long Day Care Upgrades (LRCI3) 15	400583	Completed	0	61,585	61,585	0	3,988	(3,988)
Mobile Child Care Sustainability Funding	400447	In Progress	0	10,024	10,024	7,518	1,241	6,277
Old Chambers IT Upgrade	400792	Completed	25,000	25,000	25,000	15,000	14,007	993
Replacement Skipton Jubilee Park Toilets - Design	400784	Completed	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	2,030	22,970
Roof renewals - Stage 1	400720	In Progress	0	120,000	120,000	90,000	25,836	64,164
Swimming Pool Upgrades	400027	Completed	0	15,000	15,000	0	0	0
Terang Hall - Floor replacement	400785	In Progress	100,000	103,471	103,471	0	0	0
Timboon Depot Toilet Upgrade	400786	In Progress	75,000	75,000	75,000	0	0	0
Timboon Hall - Modification to mens toilet	400787	Completed	20,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	11,000	(1,000)
Timboon Stadium Floor Renewal	400788	In Progress	150,000	150,000	150,000	0	3,030	(3,030)
Universal Access to Public Buildings	400148	In Progress	20,000	44,714	44,714	15,000	13,816	1,184
Total Buildings			878,500	1,100,548	1,100,548	398,938	305,830	93,108
TOTAL PROPERTY			878,500	1,100,548	1,100,548	398,938	305,830	93,108
PLANT AND EQUIPMENT								
Information Technology								
Server Infrastructure Renewal program	400057	Completed	0	64,000	64,000	64,000	64,327	(327)
Total Information Technology			0	64,000	64,000	64,000	64,327	(327)
Plant, Machinery & Equipment								
GPS Purchase and Install	400266	In Progress	85,000	85,000	85,000	28,333	728	27,605
Heavy Plant Replacement Program	100653	In Progress	3,020,000	4,265,155	4,265,155	3,696,865	3,696,959	(94)
Light Fleet Replacement Program	100645	Completed	408,000	568,000	568,000	538,937	519,109	19,828
Minor Plant Purchases	100652	In Progress	35,000	35,000	35,000	21,000	18,337	2,663
Total Plant, Machinery & Equipment			3,548,000	4,953,155	4,953,155	4,285,136	4,235,133	50,003
TOTAL PLANT AND EQUIPMENT			3,548,000	5,017,155	5,017,155	4,349,136	4,299,460	49,676
INFRASTRUCTURE								
Bridges								
Lanes Access Bridge Replacement of Timber Deck Panels (LRCI)	400680	In Progress	0	300,000	300,000	0	0	0
Latrobe Road Major Culvert Replacements0	400735	Completed	150,000	5,800	5,800	5,800	5,800	0
Maddens Bridge Road Culvert Upgrade and Road Raising Design	400679	In Progress	0	350,518	350,518	146,330	139,160	7,170
Old Coach Road bridge remedial works	400555	Completed	0	700,000	700,000	700,000	700,000	0
Smythe Street Culvert replacements and Road Raising	400678	Unfunded	0	851	851	0	851	(851)
Total Bridges			150,000	1,357,169	1,357,169	852,130	845,811	6,319
Drainage								
Drainage Renewal Program	400681	Completed	200,000	146,426	146,426	146,426	146,435	(10)
Park Lane Skipton - Culvert ReplacementLRCI	400736	Completed	214,889	142,243	142,243	142,243	142,243	0
Total Drainage			414,889	288,669	288,669	288,669	288,678	(9)
Footpaths & Cycleways								
(SCS) Morris Street from Hotel to Old Great Ocean Road, Port	400740	In Progress	90,000	90,000	90,000	0	0	0
(SCS) Park Lane - Bowen Street to Caravan Park	400783	In Progress	420,000	579,000	579,000	0	3,115	(3,115)
Bowen Street Pedestrian Outstands	400629	Completed	0	2,431	2,431	0	0	0
Camperdown Botanic Gardens - Upgrade to path network	400789	Not Started	100,000	100,000	100,000	0	0	0
Laing Street McKinnon St to Strong St, Terang	400738	Completed	28,000	24,670	24,670	24,670	24,670	0
Tandarook Park Masterplan Implementation - New Footpath	400793	Completed	125,000	125,000	125,000	125,000	102,632	22,368
Timboon Embankment Wooden Steps Replacement	400739	Completed	50,000	32,350	32,350	32,350	32,350	0
Total Footpaths & Cycleways			813,000	953,451	953,451	182,020	162,766	19,254
Kerb & Channel								
High St Median, Wilson St to Dow st, Terang	400741	In Progress	125,000	145,000	145,000	25,000	25,000	0
McNicol St from Manifold St to Scott St Kerb & Channel Renew	400742	In Progress	60,000	80,000	80,000	80,000	26,341	53,659
Total Kerb & Channel			185,000	225,000	225,000	105,000	51,341	53,659
Waste Management								
Composting System Biochar Trial	400775	Unfunded	500,000	0	0	0	0	(0)
Landfill - Cell 13 Cap Construction	400451	Completed	0	32,511	32,511	32,511	29,967	2,544
Landfill - Cell 14 Capping Design	400575	In Progress	0	165,241	165,241	0	0	0
Landfill - Cell 14a and b Capping Installation	400777	Deferred	368,636	0	0	0	0	0
Landfill - Cell 16 Design	400621	In Progress	0	117,016	117,016	117,016	48,945	68,070
Landfill - Cell 16a Excavation & Geosynthetics	400725	In Progress	0	283,398	283,398	184,452	189,349	(4,897)
Landfill - Cell 16A lining	400778	In Progress	2,000,166	2,000,166	2,000,166	883,444	882,860	584
Port Campbell and Skipton Transfer Station Site Huts	400779	In Progress	120,000	120,000	120,000	120,000	113,268	6,732
Stage 1 Small Scale BHTM Solar Project Landfill to offset Co	400774	In Progress	140,000	140,000	140,000	0	0	0
Timboon Transfer Station Implementation of redesign layout	400615	In Progress	0	793,650	793,650	635,650	632,567	3,083
Upfront cost of new glass bins	400722	Completed	0	104,445	104,445	40,000	38,945	1,055
Total Waste Management			3,128,802	3,756,427	3,756,427	2,013,073	1,935,902	77,171
Parks, Open Space & Streetscapes								
Cobden Streetscape - Stage 2 (LRCI3)	400578	Completed	0	0	0	0	1,800	(1,800)
Port Campbell streetscape - Construction	400225	In Progress	0	12,742,038	12,742,038	12,742,038	12,758,460	(16,422)
Total Parks, Open Space & Streetscapes			0	12,742,038	12,742,038	12,742,038	12,760,260	(18,222)

Project Name	Project Number	Project Status	Adopted Budget	Reviewed Budget	Forecast Budget	YTD Budget	YTD Actuals	Variance
Playgrounds								
Playground Renewal and fitness equipment - Timboon PlaygrounLRCI	400726	Completed	0	16,181	16,181	0	156	(156)
Total Playgrounds			0	16,181	16,181	0	156	(156)
Roads								
(SCS) Curdies River Road Sealing Upgrade	400709	Completed	0	0	0	0	2,127	(2,127)
Bailey Street, Timboon Retaining Wall Replacement	400745	Completed	50,000	62,910	62,910	62,910	62,910	0
Batemans Road Ch. 3.35km to 4.01km Rehab	400746	Completed	159,000	195,000	195,000	119,520	173,635	(54,115)
Blind Creek Rd & Sandys Lane Intersection - Asphalt, culvertLRCI	400747	Completed	314,889	272,516	272,516	170,000	121,344	48,656
Castle Carey Road Ch. 8km to 9km Final Seal	400748	Completed	33,000	33,000	33,000	33,000	33,000	0
Chocolyn Settlement Road Ch. 1.69km to 2.37km Final Seal	400749	Completed	14,000	14,000	14,000	14,000	14,000	0
Church Street, Morgan St to Rand St, Timboon Final Seal	400750	Completed	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	0
Cooriemungle Road Ch. 14.78km to 15.66km Rehab	400751	Completed	350,000	330,000	330,000	330,000	274,326	55,674
Crawfords Road Ch. 4.43km to 5.44km Rehab	400752	Completed	243,000	562,927	562,927	562,927	587,218	(24,291)
Curdies River Road Widening Safety Improvement (North of Cur Danedite Road (Ch. 2.41km to 3.49km) Rehab	400753	Completed	0	592	592	0	592	(592)
Darlington Terang Road Ch. 0.18km to 1.86km Widening & Rehab	400754	Completed	389,000	370,000	370,000	185,000	189,799	(4,799)
Dow Street & Ewing Street Intersection Traffic Calming RaiseLRCI	400754	In Progress	74,889	74,889	74,889	0	553	(553)
Dow Street South, Terang Sealing of Gravel RoadLRCI	400755	Completed	199,890	199,890	199,890	199,890	190,172	9,718
Gallum Road & Princetown Road Intersection Upgrade (Building Glenlyne Brucknell Road Ch. 0km to 0.99km Final Seal	400756	Completed	0	145,000	145,000	145,000	1,038	143,962
Guardrail Installation at Multiple SitesLRCI	400757	Completed	33,000	33,000	33,000	33,000	33,000	0
Hinkleys Road Ch. 0km to 1.68km Rehab	400758	Completed	224,023	224,023	224,023	106,856	167,944	(61,088)
Hospital Rd, Balleys Rd to Leahys Lane, Timboon Rehab	400759	Completed	403,000	390,000	390,000	390,000	387,111	2,889
Jubilee Park Carpark, Skipton - Asphaltting (LRCI)	400761	Completed	233,000	250,000	250,000	250,000	273,877	(23,877)
Lalrobe Road Stabilisation of Batter Slip	400760	Completed	115,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	0
Melrose Road Ch. 1.53km to 2.19km Final Seal	400762	Completed	75,000	46,600	46,600	46,600	46,600	0
Morris Street Kerb Replacement and Asphalt Surfacing	400763	Completed	22,000	22,000	22,000	22,000	22,000	0
Naroghid Road Widening on Batemans Road Bend, Naroghid	400764	Completed	89,890	89,890	89,890	60,000	115,031	(55,031)
Old Geelong Road Ch. 2.71km to 3.37km Final Seal	400765	Completed	193,000	219,161	219,161	219,161	221,326	(2,165)
Preparation Prior to Reseal	100693	Completed	23,000	23,000	23,000	23,000	23,000	0
Rands Road from Morgan St to Church St, Timboon Widening &LRCI	400766	Completed	260,000	200,000	200,000	200,000	197,849	2,151
Resealing Program	100694	Completed	199,889	199,889	199,889	100,000	114,611	(14,611)
Resheeting Program	100695	In Progress	1,905,000	2,455,000	2,455,000	2,355,000	2,374,087	(19,087)
Sisters Noorat Road Ch. 4km to 5.63km Final Seal	400767	Completed	1,236,000	1,236,000	1,236,000	863,975	864,965	(990)
Street light improvements	400224	Not Started	54,000	54,000	54,000	54,000	54,000	0
Timboon Terang Road (10.67km to 11.4km) Rehab	400768	In Progress	10,000	10,000	10,000	0	0	0
Unlocking Housing - New Road - Thomson Road, Terang (RDV)	400715	Completed	289,000	289,000	289,000	114,649	113,578	1,071
Vite Vite Road (0km to 1km) Final Seal	400769	Completed	0	348,657	348,657	348,657	360,185	(11,528)
Vite Vite Road Ch.2.01km to 2.71km Rehab	400770	Completed	33,000	33,000	33,000	33,000	33,000	0
Williams Road Ch. 0km to 0.63km Final Seal	400771	Completed	328,000	423,753	423,753	423,753	424,321	(568)
Winrdgil Road (Ch. 1.67km to 3.17km) Final Seal	400772	Completed	21,000	21,000	21,000	21,000	21,000	0
Winrdgil Road (Ch. 3.17km to 5.0km) Widening and Rehab	400773	Completed	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	0
Total Roads			8,215,470	10,579,697	10,579,697	8,152,898	8,173,912	(21,014)
Artworks								
Camperdown Public Art Project	400718	Not Started	0	50,000	50,000	0	0	0
Total Artworks			0	50,000	50,000	0	0	0
Other Infrastructure								
Skipton Streetscape - Design	400743	In Progress	50,000	50,000	50,000	0	0	0
Total Other Infrastructure			50,000	50,000	50,000	0	0	0
Recreational, Leisure & Community Facilities								
Equipment for YAK Program	400798	Completed	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	19,169	831
Renewal of Swimming Pools	400795	In Progress	100,000	100,000	100,000	0	9,146	(9,146)
Twelve Apostles Trail - Stage 1 Timboon to Port Campbell Year 1 - Cor	400392	Completed	0	50,000	50,000	27,645	12,105	15,540
Total Recreational, Leisure & Community Facilities			120,000	170,000	170,000	47,645	40,421	7,224
Library Collection Materials								
Collection Materials - Libraries	400613	Completed	70,000	70,000	70,000	70,000	70,000	0
Total Library Collection Materials			70,000	70,000	70,000	70,000	70,000	0
TOTAL INFRASTRUCTURE			13,147,161	30,258,632	30,258,632	24,453,473	24,329,247	124,225
TOTAL CAPITAL WORKS			17,573,661	36,376,335	36,376,335	29,201,547	28,934,538	267,009

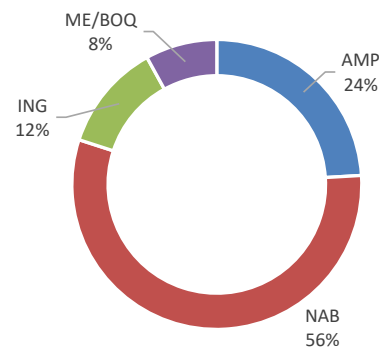
Corangamite Shire Council
Investments

	Current Year
	Actuals

Investments

Cash - Investments	25,000,000
Investment - Victorian Funds Management Corporation	11,843,832
Total Investments	36,843,832

Term Deposit % per Institution



Weighted Average Yield
4.99%

Weighted Average Term
255 Days

Forecast Budget Variations March 2025

Project Type	Favourable/ (Unfavourable) Movement
Recurrent operations	(82,000)
Operating projects	-
Capital projects	-
Total Variations for December Quarter 2024	(82,000)

Project Name	Adopted Budget	Reviewed Budget	Forecast Budget	Favourable (Unfavourable)	Comment
Operating Projects					
Sealed Roads - Minor Maintenance	(502,207)	(502,207)	(482,207)	20,000	Reallocate labour to work on Sealed Roads - Major Maintenance
Sealed Roads - Major Maintenance	(245,404)	(245,404)	(370,404)	(125,000)	Additional work required due to defects caused by dry weather conditions. \$100,000 allocated from other maintenance programs with \$25,000 budget increase overall.
Rural Drainage Maintenance Program	(386,564)	(386,564)	(306,564)	80,000	Reallocate labour to work on Sealed Roads - Major Maintenance
Heavy Plant	1,240,953	1,433,953	1,376,953	(57,000)	Additional \$57,000 to replace truck motor
Total	106,778	299,779	217,779	(82,000)	
Net Variations as at 31 March 2025 (Unfavourable)				(82,000)	

Income Statement for the period ended 31 March 2025

	Adopted Budget	Reviewed Budget	Forecast Budget	YTD Budget	YTD Actuals	Variance
REVENUE						
Rates and charges	25,938,412	26,076,870	26,076,870	26,024,851	25,993,922	(30,930)
Statutory fees and fines	425,493	431,493	431,493	1,055,779	1,167,491	111,712
User fees	8,093,131	8,684,643	8,684,643	6,572,665	6,330,001	(242,664)
Contributions - monetary	714,414	1,929,590	1,929,590	937,074	1,105,758	168,684
Grants - Operating	15,099,082	20,396,641	20,403,615	14,696,021	14,611,633	(84,388)
Grants - Capital	4,546,025	10,333,365	10,333,365	7,245,696	7,555,801	310,105
Other Revenue	1,854,235	2,024,235	2,024,235	1,476,857	1,960,590	483,733
Total Revenue	56,670,792	69,876,837	69,883,811	58,008,944	58,725,195	716,251
EXPENDITURE						
Employee benefits	19,856,318	20,611,448	21,010,480	15,546,135	15,504,472	41,664
Materials and services	16,797,295	25,273,622	24,963,564	11,557,373	10,443,998	1,113,375
Bad and doubtful debts	500	500	500	500	0	500
Depreciation	12,991,500	12,991,500	12,991,500	0	0	0
Ammortisation	350,000	350,000	350,000	0	0	0
Other expenses	3,128,860	3,785,142	3,785,142	2,930,679	3,106,057	(175,379)
Total Expenditure	(53,124,473)	(63,012,212)	(63,101,186)	(30,034,686)	(29,054,527)	980,159
Surplus/(Deficit) from Operations	3,546,319	6,864,625	6,782,625	27,974,258	29,670,668	1,696,411
Proceeds from sale of property, infrastructure, plant & equi	2,204,000	2,350,000	2,350,000	506,269	656,597	(150,328)
Written down value property, infrastructure, plant and equip	1,880,970	1,880,970	1,880,970	0	0	0
Net (gain)/loss on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	323,030	469,030	469,030	506,269	656,597	(150,328)
Surplus/(Deficit) for Period	3,869,349	7,333,655	7,251,655	28,480,526	30,327,265	1,546,082

Balance Sheet for the period ended 31 March 2025

	Prior Year Balance	Adopted Budget	Reviewed Budget	Forecast Budget	YTD Actuals
CURRENT ASSETS					
Cash and cash equivalents	6,800,129	4,877,030	8,796,972	8,714,972	33,006,517
Financial Assets	38,482,996	19,000,000	19,000,000	19,000,000	11,843,832
Rate Receivables	973,865	0	0	0	4,589,477
Other Trade Receivables	1,154,135	1,437,050	1,437,050	1,437,050	2,283,209
Inventories	81,309	85,075	85,075	85,075	153,606
Other assets	2,490,962	707,250	707,250	707,250	1,041,506
Total Current Assets	49,983,396	26,106,405	30,026,347	29,944,347	52,918,146
NON CURRENT ASSETS					
Trade and other receivables	35,211	186,990	186,990	186,990	44,975
WIP - Capital	12,383,966	12,000,000	12,000,000	12,000,000	41,318,504
Fixed assets	571,842,644	574,575,900	574,575,900	574,575,900	571,842,644
Right-of-use assets	5,094,392	4,681,813	4,681,813	4,681,813	5,094,392
Intangible assets	1,463,387	163,388	163,388	163,388	0
Total Non Current Assets	590,819,600	591,608,091	591,608,091	591,608,091	618,300,514
Total Assets	640,802,996	617,714,496	621,634,438	621,552,438	671,218,660
CURRENT LIABILITIES					
Trade and other payables	3,640,050	3,669,500	3,669,500	3,669,500	2,889,088
Trust funds and deposits	784,869	744,150	744,150	744,150	1,436,512
Provisions - current	5,111,965	4,069,494	4,069,494	4,069,494	4,702,540
Unearned Revenue	4,318,348	3,410,000	3,410,000	3,410,000	4,510,757
Lease liabilities	96,563	154,000	154,000	154,000	96,563
Total Current Liabilities	13,951,795	12,047,144	12,047,144	12,047,144	13,635,460
NON CURRENT LIABILITIES					
Provisions - non-current	8,331,486	6,092,325	6,092,325	6,092,325	8,733,883
Lease liabilities	5,489,100	5,462,000	5,462,000	5,462,000	5,489,600
Total Non Current Liabilities	13,820,586	11,554,325	11,554,325	11,554,325	14,223,484
Total Liabilities	27,772,381	23,601,469	23,601,469	23,601,469	27,858,943
Net Assets	613,030,615	594,113,027	598,032,969	597,950,969	643,359,717
EQUITY					
Operating Surplus/Deficit	2,140,397	3,869,349	7,333,655	7,251,655	30,327,265
Accumulated surplus	190,336,937	203,295,366	203,295,367	203,295,367	192,479,171
Asset revaluation reserve	405,009,906	382,482,000	382,482,000	382,482,000	405,009,906
Reserves	15,543,375	4,466,312	4,921,948	4,921,948	15,543,375
Total Equity	613,030,615	594,113,027	598,032,969	597,950,969	643,359,717

9.3 Community Initiated Projects Policy

Directorate: Works and Services

Author: Jarrod Woff, Manager Facilities and Recreation

Declaration

Chief Executive Officer – David Rae

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

Author – Jarrod Woff

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

Summary

The purpose of this report is to provide an update to Council's Community Initiated Projects Policy, which details Council's involvement in projects which are initiated, delivered and maintained by a community group on Council land.

Introduction

The Community Initiated Projects Policy has been developed to assist and support community organisations seeking to develop new infrastructure or to renew existing assets on Council owned or controlled land.

Issues

The Policy outlines the responsibilities for both Council and the initiating community organisation. Council, as land owner or management committee of the land will reserve the right to consider, approve or reject proposals taking into consideration the roles and responsibilities, linkages with corporate and community plans, project scope and the outcomes and benefits as key decision guidelines.

The Policy has been reviewed, with amendments proposed as follows:

- Addition of a clause that explicitly excludes infrastructure projects that involve discriminatory activities from being undertaken. Any proposal from a community group that involves any discriminatory activity, will be rejected and not be allowed to proceed on Council owned or controlled land.
- Projects that do not consider universal access to and from the proposed project site will be rejected.
- Council reserving the right to consider, approve or reject proposals based on any costs associated with ongoing maintenance.
- Approval process of construction drawings.

Policy and Legislative Context

This report is in keeping with the commitments in the Council Plan 2021-2025:

Theme Two - A Thriving Community

Corangamite's townships are attractive, accessible and appealing to visitors and are presented in a way in which our residents can be proud

Theme Three - A Healthy, Active and Resilient Community

Improving the health and wellbeing of our residents

Our community groups and clubs are engaged and supported and facilities are fit for purpose

Internal / External Consultation

Council's Community Initiated Projects Policy has been reviewed internally by Council's Facilities and Recreation Department, Economy and Prosperity Department and Executive Leadership Team.

Financial and Resource Implications

Council staff resources will be utilised to assist initiating community groups through the planning and implementation phase of the project as well as review and analysis of project proposals for Council's consideration.

As part of this Policy change it is proposed that if there are ongoing operational or maintenance costs associated with the development and construction of infrastructure on Council owned or controlled land, these projects will be considered by Council prior to approval to proceed.

Options

Council may choose to adopt the reviewed Community Initiated Projects Policy as prepared, with amendments, or choose not to adopt the Policy.

Conclusions

Council's Community Initiated Projects Policy highlights the roles and responsibilities of Council and the initiating community group with respect to the development of community infrastructure.

The Policy acknowledges that many communities are continually striving to improve the appearance of their townships and associated infrastructure outside of the planning and associated works of Council. The revised Community Initiated Projects Policy aims to ensure Council's and community's involvement in community infrastructure projects on Council owned or controlled land is well defined, transparent and consistent.

RECOMMENDATION - 9.3

That Council:

- 1. Revokes the Community Initiated Projects Policy dated February 2022**
- 2. Adopts the Community Initiated Projects Policy dated April 2025**

Community Initiated Projects Policy

Corangamite Shire
April 2025



Council Policy



Community Initiated Projects Policy

Introduction

Council recognises that many communities are continually striving to improve the amenity and appearance of their townships and associated infrastructure outside the planning cycle and works delivered by Council. Council acknowledges the value of community based organisations and the work they undertake to strengthen local communities. This policy has been developed to assist and support those community organisations seeking to develop new infrastructure or to renew existing assets on Council owned or controlled land.

Purpose

This policy aims to set out conditions and a process for community groups who may identify and propose a project to develop and maintain infrastructure projects on Council owned or controlled land. It details Council's involvement in such projects which are initiated, fully funded, delivered and maintained by a community group.

Scope

This policy applies to the development of community initiated infrastructure projects, which do not form part of Council's annual works plan, strategic plan or corporate plan or Township Community Plans. These projects are for new assets or renewal of community assets such as park furniture, rotundas, property landscaping, community gardens, public art works, footpaths, minor buildings/structures and other civil infrastructure.

It is considered this Policy does not impact negatively on any rights identified in the *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act (2006)*.

Definitions

'Initiating community group' – a community group which identifies and proposes an infrastructure project and intends to be the lead agency and organiser in the construction, operation and maintenance of the project/infrastructure asset.

'Memorandum of understanding (MOU)' – a signed agreement negotiated between an initiating community group and Council, setting out the respective responsibilities and obligations of each party in regard to the infrastructure project and its ongoing maintenance and management.

Policy Detail

Council Role

1. Council will assist initiating community groups develop infrastructure projects as follows:

- Guidance with Council permit requirements and public consultation processes where required.
- Guidance on how the project proposal relates to Council's scheduled works or strategic plans.

Adopted at Council on:
Agenda Item:
Responsibility: Facilities and Recreation Manager
Document Number:

Department: Works & Services
To be reviewed by: April 2029

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- Guidance on relevant industry standards and regulations.
- Guidance with scoping, planning, design and approvals for the project where required.
- Assistance with advice on contractors to undertake works.
- Approval of construction drawings.
- Consent for project to be undertaken.
- Advice on risks and legislative requirements in relation to Work, Health & Safety.
- Identifying appropriate sites for works to occur.
- Evaluation of outcomes.

Community Group Responsibility

The following items will be considered the responsibility of the Community group unless an alternative arrangement is established and approved by Council.

1. Planning

- 1.1. Submit a project proposal to the relevant Council department for consideration and approval including the following information:
 - demonstrated community benefit for current and future generations;
 - level of community consultation and/or support gained for the project;
 - links with current Council and community strategies and plans;
 - contact details of the organisation with a nominated project supervisor; and
 - a budget which specifies the sources of funds expected to be used for the development, implementation and management / maintenance of the project and timeline for completion
- 1.2. Undertake all scoping, planning, design and approvals for the project where required.
- 1.3. Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)
 - Enter into discussions with Council to formulate an MOU describing the nature of the project and detailing the agreed arrangements for its construction, operation and management, including responsibilities in relation to any costs and ongoing maintenance.
 - MOU to record the agreed understanding of both parties and will be signed and dated prior to commencement of project implementation.

Any community initiated project that involves any discriminatory activity or does not consider access to and from the project site will be rejected and not supported by Council.

2. Implementation

- 2.1. Implement the project in full according to the final and agreed proposal with Council.
- 2.2. Ensure public liability insurance coverage is provided to permit the group to undertake the project where in kind labour is anticipated.
- 2.3. Appoint appropriately qualified contractors to undertake relevant items of work e.g. electrician, plumber, builder.
- 2.4. Ensure any works undertaken by contractors or the community group, relating to the project, complies with all Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) legislation.
- 2.5. Meet with Council's representative to inspect the final works in accordance with relevant regulations.

Adopted at Council on:
Agenda Item:
Responsibility: Facilities and Recreation Manager
Document Number:

Department: Works & Services
To be reviewed by: April 2029

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3. Maintenance

- 3.1. Meet/contribute to costs associated with such infrastructure (e.g. floodlighting, electric barbecues, drinking taps etc.)
- 3.2. Undertake/contribute to the ongoing and routine maintenance for the infrastructure to the satisfaction of Council and the community.
- 3.3. Arrange for an alternative organisation to assume ongoing maintenance responsibilities for the relevant assets in the event the initiating organisation disbands or determine they no longer wish to be involved in the maintenance of the infrastructure.

4. Abandonment

In the event an asset is abandoned by the initiating community group one of the following should occur:

- 4.1. Council will be notified immediately should a replacement organisation be unable to be sourced to undertake ongoing maintenance.
- 4.2. Council will discuss and consider the future of that asset including:
 - the benefit to the community
 - the stance of the township progress / action association
 - the capacity of Council to fund ongoing maintenance
 - the cost to decommission or remove the infrastructure.
 - seek reimbursement for removal of the item.

Implementation

- All proposals for a community initiated project will be initially considered and discussed with the relevant Council officer(s).
- Council reserves the right to consider, approve or reject proposals taking into consideration the above roles and responsibilities, linkages with corporate and community plans, project scope and the outcomes and benefits, along with any costs associated with ongoing maintenance as key decision guidelines. Projects that are likely to impact Council's operating budget may be referred to Council's budget process.
- A memorandum of understanding or similar agreement (e.g. license, occupancy) may be established in the project initiation phase to assist with guiding the ongoing management arrangements.

The Gender Equality Act 2020 requires Council to undertake gender impact assessments when developing or reviewing any policy, program or service which has a direct and significant impact on the public. A Gender Impact Assessment has been undertaken and the policy adjusted to ensure that it meets the needs of people of different genders, addresses gender inequality, and promotes gender equality.

Review Date

This policy will be reviewed in April 2029, or earlier as required by changed circumstances including changes to the legislation and policies of Corangamite Shire, the Victorian Government and its agencies or Federal Government and its agencies.

Adopted at Council on:
Agenda Item:
Responsibility: Facilities and Recreation Manager
Document Number:

Department: Works & Services
To be reviewed by: April 2029

Page Number: 4

9.4 Playground Management Policy

Directorate: Works and Services

Author: Jarrod Woff, Manager Facilities and Recreation

Attachments: 1. Playground Management Policy 2025 [9.4.1 - 5 pages]
2. Under Seperate Cover Playground Management Policy with track changes April 2025 [9.4.2 - 5 pages]

Declaration

Chief Executive Officer – David Rae

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

Author – Jarrod Woff

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

Summary

This report recommends Council adopts a revised Playground Management Policy as a guide to the maintenance, management and renewal of playgrounds within the Corangamite Shire. The Policy has been reviewed with only minor changes recommended.

Introduction

Council manages and maintains a number of public playgrounds across the Shire including community playgrounds and pre-school playgrounds. The Policy aims to establish funding and management arrangements for public playgrounds owned or managed by Council and which are generally accessible for community use.

Issues

Township Playgrounds

Council has consistently invested in developing quality playgrounds with an emphasis on upgrading playgrounds to provide access for all abilities.

Council maintained playgrounds are listed in Table 1.

Playground	Location	Town
Jaycees Park	Princes Highway – Wright Street	Camperdown
Curdie Street Reserve	Curdie Street	Camperdown
Queen's Park	Pike Street	Camperdown
Apex Park	Manifold Street	Camperdown
Grimwade Park	Hamilton Highway (near Swimming Pool)	Lismore
Jubilee Park	Cnr Glenelg Hwy & Park Lane	Skipton
Derrinallum Recreation Reserve	Hamilton Highway	Derrinallum
Town Park	Mortlake-Terang Road	Noorat
Noorat Recreation Reserve	Noorat Road	Noorat
Thompson Street Playground	Thompson Street	Terang
Apex Playground	Princes Highway	Terang
Apex Park	Cnr Victoria Street & Shenfield Road	Cobden
Cobden Dam	Shenfield Road	Cobden
Snake Track Road Reserve	Snake Track Road	Timboon
Masonic Park	Cnr Barrett & Bond Streets	Timboon
Apex Park	Cnr Morris & Lord Streets	Port Campbell
Princetown Recreation Reserve	Old Coach Road	Princetown
Jaycees Park	Barramul Street	Simpson

Table 1: Council Maintained Playgrounds

Council commissions an independent playground audit annually to identify any non-compliance issues with Australian Standards and provides an action plan for maintenance and improvements.

Council provides public liability insurance for general public use of these facilities.

Other Playgrounds

Where other public playgrounds are located within the Shire and not maintained by Council, these have in the past been assessed as a part of the annual compliance audit. Table 2 highlights the location of other playgrounds within the Shire.

Camperdown Recreation Reserve	Pomorneit Recreation Reserve
Camperdown Caravan Park	Port Campbell Recreation Reserve
Cobden Miniature Trains Playground	Prinetown Recreation Reserve
Ecklin Hall	Redhill Hall
Glenormiston Hall	Scotts Creek Recreation Reserve
Lake Tooliorook	Simpson Recreation Reserve
Lake Elingamite	Skipton Recreation Reserve
Lake Bullen Merri	Terang Recreation Reserve
Lismore Recreation Reserve	Timboon Recreation Reserve

Table 2: Playgrounds not maintained by Council

Committees of Management for these facilities are eligible to apply to Council's Facility Grants Fund program to assist with funding maintenance and upgrades.

Council's capital works plan provides for an allocation of funds each year for playground renewal or replacement in the Shire.

Table 3 highlights the identified renewal schedule for Council managed/owned playgrounds in the current priority order.

Town	Playground
Cobden	Cobden Playground
Camperdown	Camperdown Apex Park
Terang	Terang Apex Park
Derrinallum	Derrinallum Playground
Prinetown	Prinetown Playground
Port Campbell	Port Campbell Playground
Noorat	Noorat Recreation Reserve
Skipton	Skipton Jubilee Park
Lismore	Lismore Playground
Timboon	Timboon Playground

Table 3: Playground Renewal Schedule

The playground renewal schedule currently reflects a 14 year cycle of replacement. Industry advice suggests playground replacement is generally within 10–20 years from construction, depending on the material used (e.g. timber has a lower life expectancy), the environment it is situated (e.g. coastal environment can deteriorate the playground structure), and the level of maintenance across the life of the playground.

The playground renewal schedule needs to be flexible to accommodate essential upgrades and external funding allocations. Planning for any new development or

associated removal should involve community consultation with relevant user groups and wider community.

The Policy has been reviewed with only minor changes proposed.

Policy and Legislative Context

The Playground Management Policy is a Council Policy which provides a consistent approach to the delivery of playground facilities, governing the way in which Council will undertake its activities in relation to playground management. The Policy has been developed in accordance with Council's Policy Development Framework.

This report is also in keeping with the commitments in the Council Plan 2021-2025:

Theme Three - A Healthy, Active and Resilient Community

Improving the health and wellbeing of our residents

Corangamite residents have access to a range of sport and recreation opportunities

Our community groups and clubs are engaged and supported and facilities are fit for purpose

Theme Four - Improving Our Environment

Protecting and improving our built and natural environment

The Gender Equality Act 2020 requires Council to undertake Gender Impact Assessments when developing or reviewing any policy, program or service which has a direct and significant impact on the public. A Gender Impact Assessment has been undertaken and it is considered that the policy meets the needs of people of different genders, addresses gender inequality, and promotes gender equality.

It is noted that although not part of the policy, gender and inclusion considerations will be integrated into the playground renewal planning process. These considerations will be addressed during stakeholder consultation by including questions relating to gender, accessibility, and inclusive use.

Internal / External Consultation

The Playground Management Policy is supported by an independent audit with reference to the relevant Australian Standards. Council's independent playground auditor has indicated Council's maintenance regime and cyclical playground replacement of 14 years is well within the industry norm being 10-20 years.

Council will consult with the community with regards to renewal, refurbishment or removal of playgrounds.

Financial and Resource Implications

The Playground Management Policy seeks to retain the existing level of service standard provided at Council's playgrounds through:

- The implementation of an annual maintenance program as a part of Council's operating budget.
- Support of committees of management of reserves within the Shire with playgrounds with a compliance audit of facilities and access to Council's Minor Grants funding program.
- A playground renewal schedule as a part of the capital works annual budget process.
- Prioritisation of playground renewals for external funding programs, open space developer contributions and community projects.

Funding is allocated as a part of Council's operational budget to undertake the annual compliance audit and to assist in maintaining those facilities managed or owned by Council.

Funding of playground renewal projects is considered as a part of Council's capital works budget. Council's allocation should reflect the scope of the project, the availability of external funding and the requirement for essential upgrades.

Council should also consider use of public open space developer contributions to help offset any deficit in grant funding. This should be considered in conjunction with the Public Open Space Contributions Policy.

Renewal of Council's playgrounds should be flexible, taking into account funding provision and essential upgrades as they occur.

Options

Council can opt to endorse the Playground Management Policy as proposed or choose to increase or reduce the service provided to support of committees of management of reserves within the Shire.

Conclusions

The proposed Policy provides ongoing resources to the service level of Council's playgrounds. It retains current maintenance standards, supports committees of other playground facilities, provides a capital works renewal schedule consistent with industry best practice and our local environment.

Council, through the provision of quality play opportunities within its public open space, is able to create shared, accessible and diverse spaces that encourage and promote physical, creative and social experiences for all members of the community.

RECOMMENDATION - 9.4

That Council:

- 1. Revokes the Playground Management Policy dated February 2022**
- 2. Adopts the Playground Management Policy dated April 2025**

Playground Management Policy

Corangamite Shire

April 2025



Council Policy



Playground Management

Introduction

Council is committed to providing playgrounds that:

- Offer a shared space for children, young people and adults to play, socialise and relax.
- Provide an inspiring and well-designed play space that encourages physical, creative and inventive play.
- Provide an appropriate level of challenge and promotes a sense of adventure.
- Integrate built play equipment with a natural and sensory setting through landscaping design, path networks and associated park infrastructure, and
- Provide an attractive, vibrant and inviting environment for both local residents and visitors i.e. a traveller break.

Purpose

The policy aims to establish funding and management arrangements for public playgrounds owned or managed by Council to ensure equitable community access and a continued provision of high quality facilities.

Scope

This policy applies to public playgrounds which are owned or managed by Corangamite Shire Council and are generally accessible by community members.

Definitions

‘Accessible’ - A design that encourages use by people of all abilities and ages.

‘Playground’ – A playground is built play equipment set within a public open space environment which promotes active and passive physical activity, creativity and inventive play for all ages and all abilities.

‘Play space’ – An environment which integrates built play equipment with a natural and sensory setting through landscaping design and associated park infrastructure to offer a shared space where children, young people and adults can meet and play.

‘Play equipment’ - Play structures such as swings, slides and climbing frames.

References

Play Australia, www.playaustralia.org.au

Adopted at Council on:
Agenda Item:
Responsibility: Sport and Recreation Coordinator
Document Number:

Department: Facilities and Recreation
To be reviewed by: February 2029

Page Number: 2

Policy Detail

1. Design

Council will ensure the development of its playgrounds considers the following design elements:

- Relevant industry benchmark documents including:
 - Australian Standards for playgrounds;
 - Access Audits Australia *How to develop more accessible playgrounds*;
 - Sport and Recreation Victoria play spaces resources
 - Department of Planning and Community Development *The Good Play Space Guide: I can play too*; and
 - National Heart Foundation of Australia, *Healthy by Design: planners' guide to environments for active living*.
- A balance between play value, access, safety and value for money.
- An environment which offers unstructured, exploratory play and low maintenance options for a range of ages and developmental stages.
- A design complimenting the location and layout, and which considers a combination of built and natural elements, links to existing infrastructure including public toilets, car parking, landscape and nearby access points where appropriate or available.
- Provision of an accessible environment which promotes inclusion and offers interactive accessible play opportunities including sensory and tactile components.
- A space providing opportunities for people to meet and play in a comfortable physical environment (shade, seating, etc.)
- Public art may be incorporated within the park design.

2. Maintenance

Council will allocate funds as a part of its annual operating budget to maintain those playgrounds managed / owned by Council.

Playground	Location	Town
Jaycees Park	Princes Highway - Wright	Camperdown
Curdie Street Reserve	Curdie Street	Camperdown
Queen's Park	Pike Street	Camperdown
Apex Park	Manifold Street	Camperdown
Grimwade Park	Hamilton Highway (near Swimming Pool)	Lismore
Jubilee Park	Cnr Glenelg Hwy & Park Lane	Skipton
Derrinallum Recreation Reserve	Hamilton Highway	Derrinallum
Town Park	Mortlake-Terang Road	Noorat
Noorat Recreation Reserve	Noorat Road	Noorat
Thompson Street Playground	Thompson Street	Terang
Apex Playground	Princes Highway	Terang
Apex Park	Cnr Victoria Street & Shenfield Road	Cobden

Adopted at Council on:
 Agenda Item:
 Responsibility: Sport and Recreation Coordinator
 Document Number:

Department: Facilities and Recreation
 To be reviewed by: February 2029

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Cobden Dam	Shenfield Road	Cobden
Snake Track Road Reserve	Snake Track Road	Timboon
Masonic Park	Cnr Barrett & Bond Streets	Timboon
Apex Park	Cnr Morris & Lord Streets	Port Campbell
Princetown Recreation Reserve	Old Coach Road	Princetown
Jaycees Park	Barramul Street	Simpson

Table 1: Council Maintained Playgrounds

Council's role in managing and maintaining any new and community initiated facilities should be considered in recognition of the existing township playground provision, annual budget allocation and Community Initiated Projects Policy.

3. Risk and Compliance

Council will arrange for a playground inspection to be completed annually to ensure playground equipment is compliant with Australian Standards. This will be provided for all playgrounds within the Shire including those located on Crown Land, such as Recreation Reserves where they are available for general community use but not managed by Council.

These reserve Committees will be eligible to apply to Council's Facility Grants Fund each year to support ongoing maintenance of their play facilities.

4. Capital Upgrades

Council will make an annual allocation for the renewal of its playgrounds as a part of its budget process and in consideration of the playground renewal schedule as follows:

Town	Playground
Lismore	Lismore Playground
Timboon	Timboon Playground
Cobden	Cobden Playground
Camperdown	Camperdown Apex Park
Terang	Terang Apex Park
Derrinallum	Derrinallum Playground
Princetown	Princetown Playground
Port Campbell	Port Campbell Playground
Noorat	Noorat Playground
Skipton	Skipton Jubilee Park

The playground renewal schedule will be flexible taking into account funding provision and essential upgrades as they occur.

Council will actively seek contributions from other funding sources such as grant programs and the local community to support the renewal works. Council will consider use of public open space developer contributions to help offset any deficit in grant funding.

Council will consider the retirement of facilities which offer limited play value and experiences and are collocated in close proximity to larger township playgrounds at the end of their reasonable life as governed by the playground inspection process.

Adopted at Council on:
 Agenda Item:
 Responsibility: Sport and Recreation Coordinator
 Document Number:

Department: Facilities and Recreation
 To be reviewed by: February 2029

Page Number: 4

Planning for any new development or associated removal will involve community consultation with the relevant user groups and wider community.

Review Date

February 2029

It is considered that this Policy does not impact negatively on any rights identified in the *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006*.

It is considered that this policy does not adversely impact community members or employees of different genders and has been developed in accordance with the *Gender Equality Act 2020*.

Adopted at Council on:
Agenda Item:
Responsibility: Sport and Recreation Coordinator
Document Number:

Department: Facilities and Recreation
To be reviewed by: February 2029

Page Number: 5

9.5 Public Halls Management Policy

Directorate: Works and Services

Author: Jarrod Woff, Manager Facilities and Recreation

Attachments: 1. Public Halls Management Policy 2025 [9.5.1 - 4 pages]
2. Under Seperate Cover Public Halls Management Policy with track changes April 2025 [9.5.2 - 4 pages]

Declaration

Chief Executive Officer – David Rae

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

Author – Jarrod Woff

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

Summary

This report recommends adoption of a revised Public Halls Management Policy as a guide to the funding and management arrangements for public halls located within the Corangamite Shire.

The Policy has been reviewed with minor amendments proposed.

Introduction

Corangamite Shire currently contributes to the operation of nine township public halls. The Halls Management Policy applies to township halls in Cobden, Darlington, Derrinallum, Lismore, Port Campbell, Simpson, Skipton, Terang and Timboon.

The Policy also applies to other rural halls in the Corangamite Shire which provide general public access and are used for community purposes on both Council owned land and land not owned by Council.

Issues

The Halls Management Policy defines the halls located throughout the Corangamite Shire as:

- Township Halls located in Cobden, Darlington, Derrinallum, Lismore, Port Campbell, Simpson, Skipton, Terang and Timboon that provide general public access and are used for community purposes.

- Rural Halls located within Corangamite Shire that are not specified as a Township Hall but which provide general public access and are used for community purposes.
- Rural Halls – Council Owned, located within the Corangamite Shire that are not specified as a ‘Township Hall’ but which provides general public access, is used for community purposes and is owned by the Corangamite Shire Council.

The Camperdown Theatre Royal is managed directly by Council with dedicated staff to operate the facility and its programs, and as such is not included in this Policy.

Amendments to the Policy are proposed as follows:

- Review Policy on a four yearly basis.
- Remove funding allocation to Port Campbell Community Centre as this is now managed by Great Ocean Road Coastal and Parks Authority

Given there have only been minor amendments to this Policy, it is proposed that this Policy is reviewed on a four-yearly basis.

There is a significant burden on committee volunteers in managing, maintaining, and upkeeping community facilities, particularly in the context of rising utility and operational costs. The majority of local Committees of Management have limited capacity to generate revenue beyond venue hire and associated fees. Additionally, increasing administrative and reporting requirements have placed further demands on these volunteer-led groups. Council acknowledges and values the ongoing contribution of committee volunteers, whose efforts are essential to the continued operation and activation of community halls.

There are no changes recommended to the financial contribution percentages allocated to the halls, other than the removal of Port Campbell Community Centre, whilst the budgetary amount provided will be considered as part of Council's annual budget process.

Policy and Legislative Context

The Halls Management Policy is a Council Policy which provides an approach to the funding and management arrangements for halls throughout the Corangamite Shire. The Policy has been developed in accordance with Council's Policy Development Framework.

This report is also in keeping with the commitments in the Council Plan 2021-2025:
Theme Three - A Healthy, Active and Resilient Community

Improving the health and wellbeing of our residents

Corangamite residents have access to a range of sport and recreation opportunities

Our community groups and clubs are engaged and supported and facilities are fit for purpose

Theme Four - Improving Our Environment

Protecting and improving our built and natural environment

A GIA has been undertaken in relation to the Public Halls Management Policy in accordance with the Gender Equality Act 2020 (GEA). The Policy primarily addresses the provision of funding and maintenance at the halls. The GIA has identified and recommends consideration be given to the Instruments of Delegation by which the Community Asset Committees operate. It is proposed the Instrument of Delegation is reviewed to ensure inclusive programming, safety measures and gender access and participation are actively managed by the committees.

Internal / External Consultation

Council's Public Halls Management Policy has been reviewed internally by the Facilities and Recreation Department, Risk Department and Executive Leadership team.

Financial and Resource Implications

The Halls Management Policy recommends Council allocate a financial contribution as a part of its recurrent budget to assist hall committees with managing their facilities.

Council allocated \$201,000 as a part of its recurrent budget to halls in 2024-2025, with \$125,000 in allocations provided to assist committees with operational costs of the facility.

Options

Council may choose to adopt the reviewed Public Halls Management Policy as prepared, with amendments, or choose not to adopt the Policy.

Conclusions

The valuable contribution of volunteers who manage community facilities is acknowledged. Their ongoing commitment plays a vital role in the effective operation and sustainability of these important assets.

The proposed amendments to the Public Halls Management Policy will maintain the current level of support for hall operations and management responsibilities, while continuing to assist the committees who deliver this essential service to the community.

These facilities offer a range of benefits to the community and the work of hall committees is integral to ensuring they stay well-maintained, effectively managed, and aligned with local needs.

RECOMMENDATION - 9.5

That Council:

- 1. Revokes the Public Halls Management Policy dated February 2022**
- 2. Adopts the Public Halls Management Policy dated April 2025**

Public Halls Management Policy

Corangamite Shire
April 2025



Council Policy



Public Halls Management Policy

Introduction

Public Halls provide a community space which can contribute to the social fabric of our communities. Quality facilities provide an opportunity for residents and visitors to participate in a wide range of social, recreational and cultural activities.

Purpose

This policy aims to detail Council's involvement in the funding and management arrangements of Public Halls located within Corangamite Shire.

Scope

This policy applies to township halls in Cobden, Darlington, Derrinallum, Lismore, Port Campbell, Simpson, Skipton, Terang and Timboon and other rural halls in the Corangamite Shire which provide general public access and are used for community purposes on both Council owned land and land not owned by Council.

This policy does not include Camperdown Theatre Royal and Killara Community Centre as this facility is managed directly by Council.

This policy provides direction to Council consistent with current arrangements and may need to be reviewed, subject to circumstances.

Definitions

'Community Asset Committee' – is a committee established by Council under section 65 of the Local Government Act 2020 to which special functions and powers have been delegated by the Chief Executive Officer to assist in the management and operation of community assets.

'Instrument of Delegation' – charter of responsibility, terms and conditions of committees delegated under Section 65 of the Local Government Act 2020.

'Rural Hall' – a hall or community centre located within Corangamite Shire that is not specified as a 'Township Hall' but which provides general public access and is used for community purposes.

'Rural Hall – Council Owned' – a hall or community centre located within Corangamite Shire that is not specified as a 'Township Hall' but which provides general public access, is used for community purposes and is owned by Corangamite Shire Council.

'Township Hall' – a hall or community centre located in Cobden, Darlington, Derrinallum, Lismore, Port Campbell, Simpson, Skipton, Terang and Timboon and which provides general public access and are used for community purposes.

Adopted at Council on:
Agenda Item:
Responsibility: Manager Facilities & Recreation
Document Number:

Department: Facilities & Recreation
To be reviewed by: April 2029

Page Number: 2

Policy Detail

Township Halls

1. Council will allocate an amount for each township hall as a part of its recurrent budget to assist with operational expenses.

Funding will be allocated in accordance with the following funding levels as a percentage of Council's budget discussions in each financial year.

Funding Levels:

Category 1	Funding Allocation
Cobden Civic	23%
Timboon Hall	23%
Terang Civic	23%
Category 2	Funding Allocation
Simpson Hall	6%
Skipton Mechanics Institute	6%
Darlington Hall	6%
Derrinalum Public Hall	6%
Lismore Community Centre	6%
*Port Campbell Community Centre	0%

Table 1: Funding levels (includes rounding)

2. Council will provide a contribution for maintenance as a part of its recurrent budget which will be allocated according to the asset condition assessment, demonstrated need, financial capability and budget parameters.
3. Council will maintain building and contents (limited) insurance for the buildings.
4. Council can provide public liability insurance cover for otherwise uninsured casual hirers of halls (conditions apply).
5. Council will maintain costs for all property rates and charges.
6. Township Hall Committees will be responsible for all operational expenses outside those costs to be met by Council as identified above including phone, gas, electricity and water.
7. Township Hall Committees will retain all income received through the hire of the facility.
8. Township Hall Committees will co-ordinate hiring of the facility and will ensure that all hiring arrangements are appropriately documented.
9. Council and Township Hall Committees will be collectively responsible for sound asset planning and implementation of facility improvements in accordance with annual budget priorities and external funding opportunities.
10. Township Hall Committees will be invited to apply to Council's Facilities Grants Program each year for minor infrastructure works or related projects.

* Port Campbell Community Centre is now managed by GORCAPA who will be responsible for funding operational costs at the centre.

Adopted at Council on:
 Agenda Item:
 Responsibility: Manager Facilities & Recreation
 Document Number:

Department: Facilities & Recreation
 To be reviewed by: April 2029
 :
 Page Number: 3

Rural Halls

1. Rural Hall Committees will be responsible for all day to day operational and maintenance costs.
2. Rural Hall Committees will be invited to apply to Council's Facilities Grants Program each year for minor infrastructure works or related projects.
3. Council will maintain building and contents (limited) insurance for the buildings.
4. Council can provide public liability insurance cover for otherwise uninsured casual hirers of halls (conditions apply).

Rural Halls – Council Owned

1. Rural Hall – Council Owned Committees will be responsible for all day to day operational and maintenance costs including utility costs.
2. Rural Hall – Council Owned Committees will be responsible for all capital costs.
3. Rural Hall – Council Owned Committees will be invited to apply to Council's Facilities Grants Program each year for minor infrastructure works or related projects.
4. Council will maintain building and contents (limited) insurance for the buildings.
5. Council can provide public liability insurance cover for otherwise uninsured casual hirers of halls (conditions apply).
6. Rural Hall – Council Owned Committees will retain all income received through the hire of the facility.
7. Rural Hall – Council Owned Committees will co-ordinate hiring of the facility and will ensure that all hiring arrangements are appropriately documented.
8. Council will provide an annual operating allocation and/or service support consistent with current arrangements to assist with facility operations, subject to Council's annual budget and evidence of ongoing facility use.

Facility	Operating Allocation	Electricity	Capital Works
Berrybank Hall	Nil	Nil	Nil
Ecklin Hall	Yes	Nil	Nil

Hall Committees will be required to provide reporting detail in line with the instruments of delegation, including financial, asset improvements/upgrades and activities.

Review Date

April 2029

It is considered that this Policy does not impact negatively on any rights identified in the *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006*.

It is considered that this policy does not adversely impact community members or employees of different genders and has been developed in accordance with the *Gender Equality Act 2020*.

Adopted at Council on:
Agenda Item:
Responsibility: Manager Facilities & Recreation
Document Number:

Department: Facilities & Recreation
To be reviewed by: April 2029
:
Page Number: 4

9.6 Terang and District Indoor Sport and Recreation Centre Funding

Directorate: Works and Services

Author: Jarrod Woff, Manager Facilities and Recreation

Attachments: 1. Under Seperate Cover - Terang Sporting Centre Funding Request 2025 [9.6.1 - 2 pages]
2. Under Seperate Cover - Stadium Upgrade Proposal [9.6.2 - 8 pages]

Declaration

Chief Executive Officer – David Rae

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

Author – Jarrod Woff

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

Summary

The Terang and District Indoor Sports and Recreation Committee (TDISRC) are seeking the release of \$50,000, allocated in the 2024-2025 Council budget to support the delivery of the Terang Stadium Upgrade Proposal.

Introduction

In the 2024-2025 budget, the Terang Stadium Upgrade Proposal (under separate cover) was supported as part of a co-contribution for a grant application to Sport and Recreation Victoria (SRV). The project application was to upgrade seating, flooring and basketball rings at the Terang Stadium. The project was identified and supported by Council during budget preparation in February 2024, leading to the allocation of \$50,000 in the 2024-2025 Council budget as part of the co-funding requirement, seeking \$300,000 from Sport and Recreation Victoria to see the entirety of the project proposal delivered.

The proposed funding breakdown was:

Funding Source	Contribution
Council	\$50,000
Terang Stadium CoM	\$50,000
SRV Grant	\$300,000
Total	\$400,000

The project proposal was discussed with SRV representatives, who outlined that the project was unlikely to gain support from SRV, given the competitive nature of the grant program and proposed project. As a result, the committee have approached Council requesting release of the \$50,000 allocation, to enable the delivery of stage 1 of the project (installation of new basketball ring systems).

Issues

The original project scope for the Terang Stadium had a total project budget of \$400,000 and included the following:

- Installation of new basketball ring systems
- Stadium seating
- Stadium floor sand and recoat
- Accessible toilet/shower (since completed)
- Bathroom and shower upgrade (since completed)

This project was to be funded with a \$50,000 allocation from Council, a \$50,000 allocation from Terang and District Indoor Sports and Recreation Committee and Terang Basketball Association, and \$300,000 from Sport and Recreation Victoria (SRV). As the project was not put forward for application to SRV, the Committee have requested the release of the \$50,000 allocation from Council to be able to deliver stage 1 of the overall project replacement of the basketball ring system.

The current basketball ring systems no longer meets the needs of the community, are considered an OHS risk and are not fit for purpose. TDISRC have sought quotes for the new system and confirmed the timing of delivery of the project if supported. The new system can be fully funded and installed prior to the end of 2025 should Council support the release of funds towards this stage of the project. The project requires the financial support of Council to be delivered.

The committee have been proactive in delivering improvements to the stadium in the past and are well equipped to deliver this project.

Policy and Legislative Context

This report is also in keeping with the commitments in the Council Plan 2021-2025:

Theme Three - A Healthy, Active and Resilient Community

Corangamite residents have access to a range of sport and recreation opportunities

Our community groups and clubs are engaged and supported and facilities are fit for purpose

Internal / External Consultation

The Terang Stadium have met with the Terang Basketball Association to confirm the financial contribution that can be made towards this project. Council officers have met and discussed the project with TDISRC.

Financial and Resource Implications

The proposal attached outlines a number of upgrade works required at the Terang Stadium, whilst highlighting the work and the projects that they have been able to deliver to date.

The installation of new basketball ring systems has been costed at \$99,000. The request to Council for \$50,000, coupled with the \$50,000 from the basketball association and the committee would see this project completed.

The \$50,000 allocation for the project exists within the adopted 2024-2025 budget.

Options

Council may elect to grant the \$50,000 contribution to the Terang and District Indoor Sports and Recreation Committee or to retain the \$50,000 allocation in the 2024-2025 budget as savings.

Conclusions

The installation of new basketball ring systems at the Terang stadium is a project that has been supported by Council as part of a larger upgrade project. The current system no longer meets the needs of the community, is considered an OHS issue and is not fit for purpose. The committee has scoped the new system and sought quotes. If supported the new system will be installed and ensure that the basketball needs in the Terang stadium are fit for purpose into the future.

RECOMMENDATION - 9.6

That Council approve a contribution of \$50,000 (GST free) from the current budget to the Terang and District Indoor Sports and Recreation Committee to deliver the Basketball Ring System Upgrade Project.

9.7 Response to Petition - Viewing Platforms under Norfolk Island Pines

Directorate: Sustainable Development

Author: Justine Linley, Director Sustainable Development

Attachments: 1. CONFIDENTIAL REDACTED - Petition Peter Younis March 2025 [9.7.1 - 53 pages]

Declaration

Pursuant to sections 3(1) and 66(5) of the *Local Government Act 2020* the Chief Executive Officer has designated this attachment as confidential on the grounds that it contains personal information, being information which if released would result in the unreasonable disclosure of information about any person or their personal affairs.

Chief Executive Officer – David Rae

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

Author – Justine Linley

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

Summary

This report addresses the petition titled “Viewing Platforms under Norfolk Island Pines” presented by Mr Peter Younis as part of the Open Forum item at the Council meeting held on 25 March 2025. A copy of the petition has been circulated to Councillors under separate cover.

Introduction

The Port Campbell Town Centre Revitalisation project seeks to strengthen and improve the functionality of the town and deliver a world-class tourism product while still meeting the needs of locals.

A key component of the revitalisation project is the installation of decks under the Norfolk Island Pines on Lord Street south.

A petition, containing 1412 names gathered using a combination of paper based and online formats, was tabled at the Council Meeting on 25 March 2025 by local resident, Mr Peter Younis.

The paper based version of the petition reads:

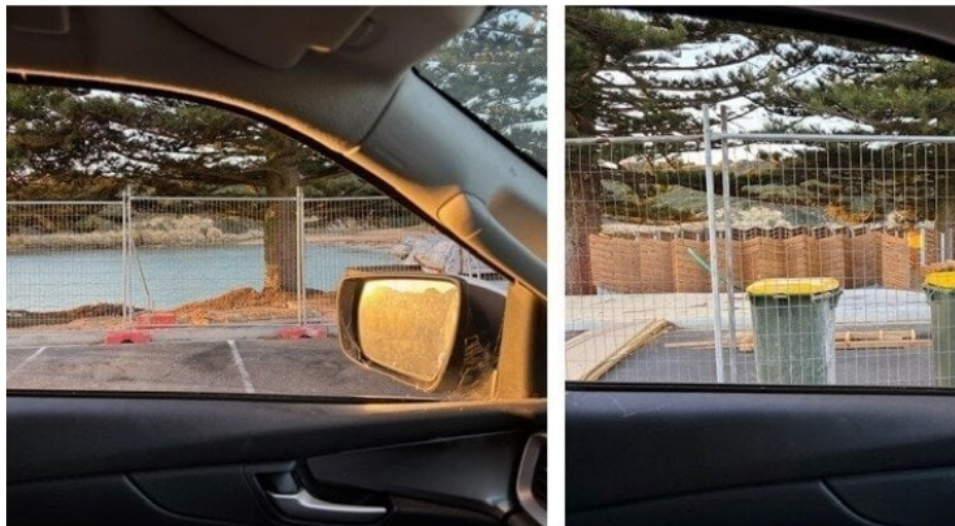
*“We the undersigned, both residents and visitors, respectfully request
Corangamite Shire Council to remove all of the wooden balustrade panelling*

(sic) and replace it with a balustrade that does not impede views of the bay, pier, cliffs, beach and headlands, from all vantage points. This is in line with the plans 14/11/2019 and in the final plan dated June 2023, which shows Section A-A as having vertical components that allow an unhindered view."

The online version of the petition utilizing the change.org platform reads:

"We, the undersigned, respectfully request Corangamite Shire Council to remove all of the wooden balustrade paneling and replace it with a balustrade that does not impede views of the bay, pier, cliffs, beach and headlands, from all vantage points.

The Image shows the before and after view. What was part of the character of our town, the view from Lord Street over the bay has been obliterated by the picnic decks. This was a design error that we don't wish to live with."



A printed out copy of the list of names from the online petition was included as part of the overall petition.

Issues

Council's Governance Rules are silent on the process for the receipt and handling of petitions. In the absence of a specific process for Corangamite Shire Council, Council has followed the process outlined in Chapter 11 of the Legislative Council of Victoria Standing Orders as a guide. Chapter 11 deals with the process regarding the content, signing, presentation, process following presentation and e-petitions.

Petition

It is considered that the petition generally meets the content requirements as outlined in Chapter 11.01 of the Legislative Council of Victoria Standing Orders, in that it is addressed to the Council, seeks an action or remedy that is within the Council's administrative responsibilities, is legible and clear, is respectful and moderate in language, generally states the action sought on the top of every sheet although there is a difference between the online version introduction and the version tabled by Mr Younis at the Council meeting held on 25 March 2025.

With regard to the signing of the petition, the petition includes multiple repetition of names/signatures and also includes approximately 95 interstate/overseas signatories. While this is not in line with section 11.02 of the Legislative Council standing orders where a person must be a resident of Victoria and cannot sign or join the same petition more than once, Mr Younis in presenting the petition made note that the duplicates had not been counted in the 1412 signatories. It is also noted that a signatory should also not forge the name of any other person or add any fictitious name and there are a small number of fictitious or substituted names in both the online and hard copy versions.

Of the 1412 signatories the vast majority were made via the change.org platform with 1049 signed online no comments and 75 online with comments. Of the unique signatories for both online and hard-copy petitions, 137 in total nominated their place of residence as Port Campbell or Newfield.

Background

Decking system under the Norfolk Island Pines, Lord Street south.

The design for the decks (that is the seven round pod shapes, with timber platforms, timber cladding and sawtooth edges), was the concept and schematic design approved at the Council meeting in August 2020.

Construction Documentation was undertaken after the August 2020 Council meeting and involved technical input from respective regulatory bodies and agencies. With the exception of some engineering changes to the footings (from cantilevered platforms on a large pillar to the Surefoot design) and consequent down-sizing and minor shifting of platform locations to avoid tree roots and address geotechnical challenges, the construction designs for the decks do not differ from the approved Design Development drawings from August 2020.

Early in the design process, initial concepts in 2018 showed rectangular platforms with several jutting out beyond the canopy of the Norfolk Island Pines across the cliff line, most with step-down and level changes presenting accessibility challenges. Following feedback, which was provided at in-person community meetings, online and at co-design workshops held in Port Campbell, the rectangular platforms were replaced with round decks with enclosed areas featuring timber cladding. The concept designs were reviewed by the Victorian Government Architect Design Review Panel. The first versions of the round, more enclosed concepts were put forward in 2019 to a briefing of Council and developed further by the design architects, the then Community Reference Group and the Project Working Group during 2019 and 2020.

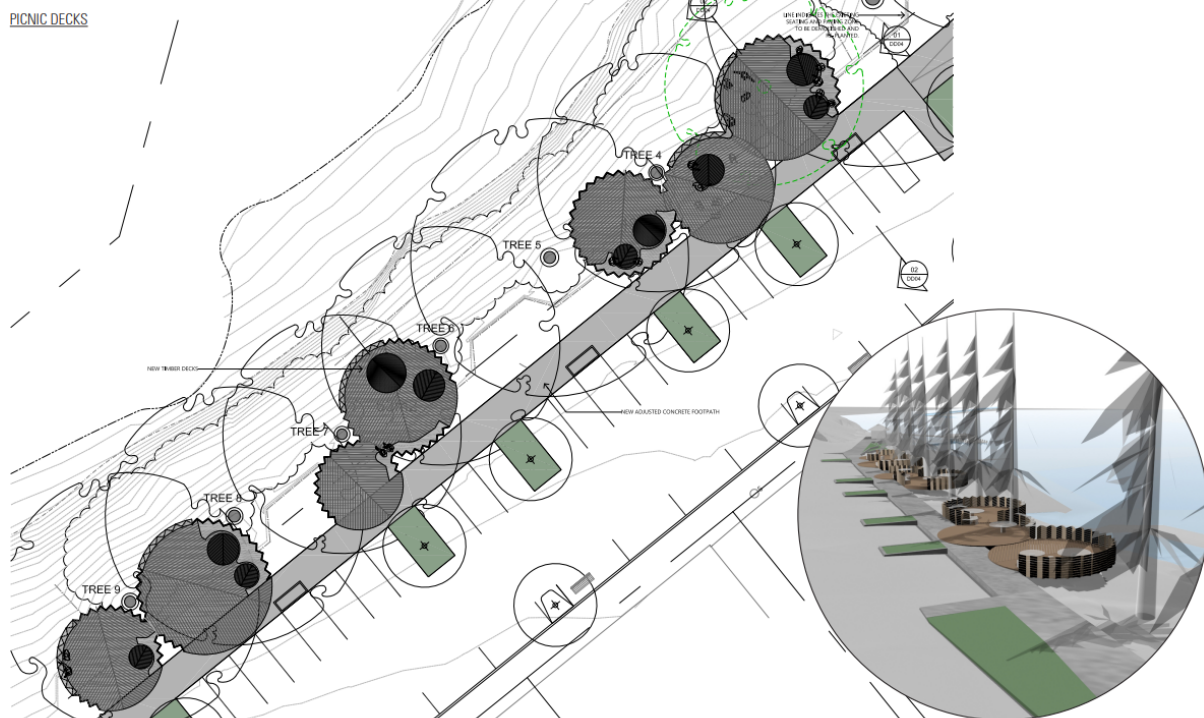
The design report of June 2023, referred to in the paper-based petition, shows a number of artist renders and concept designs for the decks including:

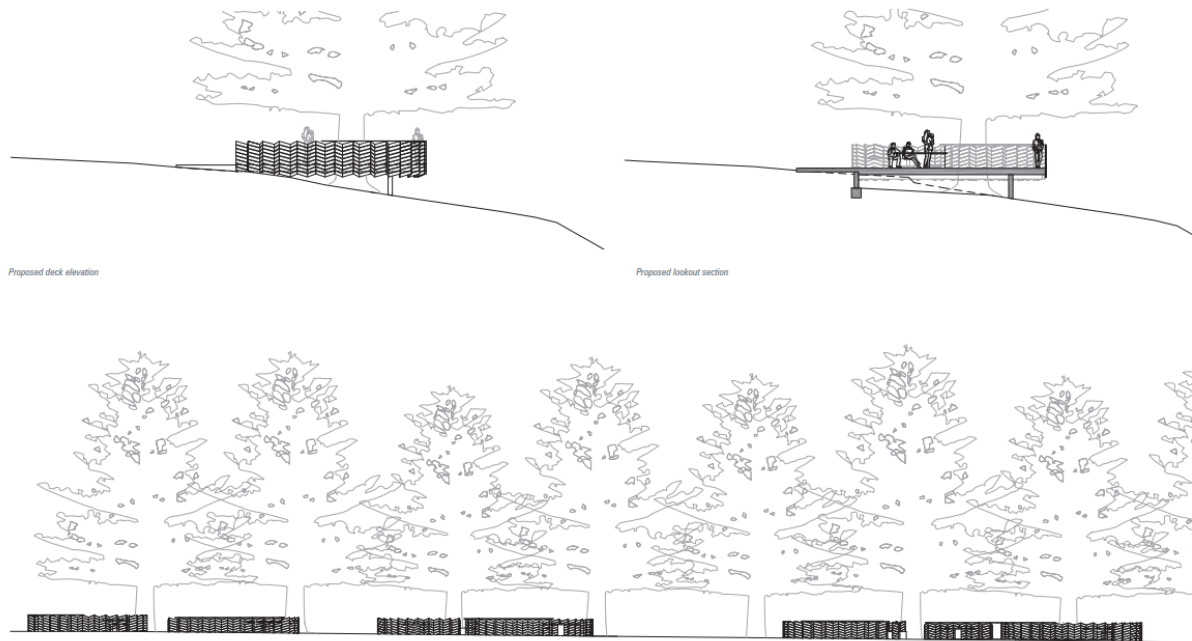
- An indicative design development plan (page11) with a deck section that indicates decks cantilevered over the pine roots as follows:



- Deck visual concepts (pages 33 and 34) which includes elevations and concepts that indicate horizontal zig-zag balustrades as follows:

9 PICNIC DECKS





Concurrent with community feedback in late January, early February 2025, some revisions were made to the deck balustrades. Sections of the timber have been replaced with wire. Approximately one-third of the bay-facing side of the largest deck in each deck group will have a balustrade of tensioned wire. This is the maximum amount of replacement that retains the structural engineering integrity of the deck balustrades and meets regulatory and building approvals.

Current construction status

All seven deck platforms have been constructed. The final balustrade treatment, with minor modifications described above, including the lowering by two boards of the cladding on deck 1 and replacement of timber cladding with stainless steel tensioned wire on the bay-side of deck 1, has been completed. The first three decks were made available for public use on 22 March 2025. The foundations, structural elements, platforms and tie-ins between the concrete footpath and the remaining four decks were completed by 31 March 2025. Cladding of the balustrade and understorey of the remaining four decks will be completed during April.

Council has a construction contract in place Contract 2023017 with Civilnow to deliver the decks as designed.

Council has two separate funding agreements for this project, one with the Federal Government and one with State Government. To enable completion of the project and acquittal of the grants, the project requires completion including finalisation of the decks.

Policy and Legislative Context

This report is in keeping with the commitments in the Council Plan 2021-2025:

Theme Five - Community Leadership
Having strong governance practices

Internal / External Consultation

The Project operates in accordance with a project charter that provides for several avenues for community feedback and input. The subject of the decks has been discussed at the Port Campbell Community and Business Reference Group on a number of occasions throughout the project, including most recently at the ordinary meeting held on 5 February 2025 and a Special meeting called to discuss the decks on 27 March 2025. In addition to the petition the Port Campbell Progress Group has also submitted the results of a member survey to the Community and Business Reference Group and to Council.

Financial and Resource Implications

The Project is funded jointly by Council, the State Government and Commonwealth Government. Council has two separate funding agreements for this project, namely the Australian Government – Building Better Regions Fund and the Victorian Government – Regional Infrastructure Fund. The grant funding agreements require major project works completion by 31 March 2025 with finalisation of works by end April 2025. The decks as a key component of the project require finalisation within this timeframe. If the decks are not completed it may require a revision to the funding agreements.

Options

Council has a number of options with regard to the decks namely:

1. Continue to complete the revised deck balustrades inclusive of a mix of timber and tensioned wire balustrades as contracted; or
2. Revert to the original endorsed design of full timber balustrades; or
3. Stop the remaining deck construction, noting this will have an impact on compliance with funding agreements and present a financial risk to the completion of Contract 2023017 and additional project costs and penalties.

Conclusions

A key component of the Port Campbell Town Centre Revitalisation is the installation of decks under the Norfolk Island Pines on Lord Street. Minor modifications have been made to the materials and construction of the decks to increase views of the bay. Finalisation of the project is now due to meet funding requirements including completion of the decks.

RECOMMENDATION - 9.7

That Council:

- 1. Notes that the petition requesting Council remove the wooden balustrade paneling and replace it with a balustrade that does not impede views from all vantage points;**
- 2. Continues to complete the revised deck balustrades inclusive of a mix of timber and tensioned wire in accordance with Contract 2023017 and funding agreements with the Commonwealth and State Governments; and**
- 3. Writes to the lead petitioner, Mr Peter Younis, advising of the outcome.**

9.8 Business Assistance Scheme - April 2025

Directorate: Sustainable Development
Author: Samantha Fox, Coordinator Wellbeing Economy
Attachments: 1. CONFIDENTIAL REDACTED - Business Assistance Scheme Grants April 2025 Summary [9.8.1 - 1 page]

Declaration

Pursuant to sections 3(1) and 66(5) of the *Local Government Act 2020* the Chief Executive Officer has designated this attachment as confidential on the grounds that it contains personal information, being information which if released would result in the unreasonable disclosure of information about any person or their personal affairs.

Chief Executive Officer – David Rae

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

Author – Samantha Fox

In providing this advice to Council as the Coordinator Economy and Tourism, I have no interests to disclose in this report.

Summary

The purpose of this report is to provide information on the assessment and recommended funding allocation for the April 2025 round of the Business Assistance Scheme (BAS).

Introduction

As part of Grow and Prosper Corangamite, Council has consolidated its approach to economic and community development, inclusive of arts, culture, tourism and the circular economy. The Grow and Prosper Framework outlines new programs including the BAS.

The BAS enables Council to support local businesses, big or small, community enterprises, creative industries and new businesses looking to establish in the municipality.

Issues

The BAS provides business, building owners and community the opportunity to apply for support, including financial assistance. Applications are assessed on merit, considering the eligibility criteria and available funds.

The BAS policy was adopted by Council in September 2023. The Scheme is ongoing across the year enabling businesses to submit when suitable for their proposed project and provides four streams 1) Business Facade Improvement; 2) Creative Industries and Placemaking; 3) Community Enterprise; and 4) Fees and Enabling Infrastructure.

There is one application, under Stream 3 Community Enterprise that has been assessed and is recommended for assistance to be considered by Council for determination:

- **Cobden Football Netball Club Inc:** this project includes the supply of services to upskill volunteers, members and community to obtain RSA certification; supporting local employment and increasing the club's ability to host functions whilst ensuring safety and compliance. The funding assistance requested is \$2,000 excluding GST.

The BAS scheme is an ongoing grant and business support scheme that is open for applications year-round. Council officers work with applicants to enable applications to be grant ready. Applications are assessed against the relevant stream criteria and evaluated by an assessment panel. Applications are assessed to ensure they meet all assessment criteria and align with the objectives of the program and if so, are recommended for approval.

Policy and Legislative Context

This report is in keeping with the commitments in the Council Plan 2021-2025:

Theme Two - A Thriving Community

Facilitating and supporting economic development

Arts and culture that is supported and accessible

Our young people are encouraged and supported to engage in learning

We retain and we grow our population

Theme Three - A Healthy, Active and Resilient Community

Our community groups and clubs are engaged and supported and facilities are fit for purpose

Internal / External Consultation

Extensive external promotion and consultation about the BAS has occurred across the Shire including media releases, Council's social media channels, Corangamite News, Corangamite E-News and Corangamite Business E-News.

On receipt of applications internal consultation is undertaken with relevant teams (e.g. planning, building and environmental health) to ensure all aspects of proposals are considered and applicants are supported through the permit processes.

Financial and Resource Implications

The current application is seeking a total commitment of funds of \$2,000. Council's 2024-25 adopted budget includes an allocation of \$90,000 for the BAS with a remaining budget of \$73,797.

Options

Officers have assessed the applications and recommend them for assistance under the BAS the options are:

1. Allocate funds of \$2,000 excl GST to the Business Assistance Scheme applicant.
2. Not allocate funding through the program.

Conclusions

The BAS provides businesses, building owners and community enterprises with the opportunity to apply for support, including financial assistance. The April application from Cobden Football Netball Club meets the objectives of the BAS program and contributes to the growth and prosperity of Corangamite and is recommended for support.

RECOMMENDATION - 9.8

That Council approve the Business Assistance Scheme Application from Cobden Football Netball Inc for the amount of \$2,000 excluding GST.

10 Other Business

11 Open Forum

Members of the public are very welcome to make statements or ask questions relevant to Corangamite Shire at the Open Forum section of scheduled Council meetings.

To assist with the smooth running of the meeting, we ask that you raise a maximum of two items at a meeting and please follow this procedure:

1. Wait until the Mayor asks if there are any items in Open Forum and invites you to speak.
2. Stand if you are able and introduce yourself.
3. Speak for a maximum of five minutes.

We will undertake to answer as many questions as possible at a meeting, and if we cannot answer a question at the meeting, we will provide a written response no later than five working days after the Council meeting.

12 Confidential Items

RECOMMENDATION

That pursuant to the provisions of Section 66(2)(a) of the *Local Government Act 2020* the meeting be closed to the public to enable consideration of the following reports as they relate to Council business information and personal information.

12.1 Ferguson Wind Farm Noise Complaint Investigation

12.2 Camperdown Truck Wash

13 Close Meeting