

# AGENDA

Greater Shepparton City Council

## COUNCIL MEETING

**5:30PM, Tuesday 16 March 2021**

Function Room, Riverlinks Eastbank

### COUNCILLORS

Cr Kim O’Keeffe (Mayor)

Cr Robert Priestly (Deputy Mayor)

Cr Seema Abdullah

Cr Anthony Brophy

Cr Geoffrey Dobson

Cr Greg James

Cr Shane Sali

Cr Sam Spinks

Cr Fern Summer

### VISION

**GREATER SHEPPARTON, GREATER FUTURE**

A thriving economy in the foodbowl of Victoria with excellent lifestyles, innovative agriculture a diverse community and abundant opportunities

# Values

Values reflect what we feel is important. Organisations may have core values that reflect what is important in the organisation. These values may be guiding principles of behaviour for all members in the organisation.

## **Respect first, always**

We are attentive, listen to others and consider all points of view in our decision making.

## **Take ownership**

We take pride in honouring our promises and exceeding expectations, and are transparent with and accountable for our actions.

## **Courageously lead**

We lead with integrity, and stand up and stand by what is in the best interests of the Greater Shepparton community.

## **Working together**

We work collaboratively to create higher quality outcomes that are more efficient, thoughtful, effective and responsive. We cannot accomplish all that we need to do without working together.

## **Continually innovate**

We are open to new ideas and creatively seek solutions that encourage us to do our best for our community.

## **Start the celebration**

As ambassadors for our people and place, we proudly celebrate the strengths and achievements of Council and the Greater Shepparton community.

**A G E N D A  
FOR THE  
COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD ON  
TUESDAY 16 MARCH 2021 AT 5:30PM**

**CHAIR  
CR KIM O'KEEFFE  
MAYOR**

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## Risk Level Matrix Legend

**Note: A number of reports in this agenda include a section on “risk management implications”. The following table shows the legend to the codes used in the reports.**

Likelihood	Consequences				
	Negligible (1)	Minor (2)	Moderate (3)	Major (4)	Extreme (5)
<b>Almost Certain (5)</b> Would be expected to occur in most circumstances (daily/weekly)	LOW	MEDIUM	HIGH	EXTREME	EXTREME
<b>Likely (4)</b> Could probably occur in most circumstances (i.e. Monthly)	LOW	MEDIUM	MEDIUM	HIGH	EXTREME
<b>Possible (3)</b> Reasonable probability that it could occur (i.e. over 12 months)	LOW	LOW	MEDIUM	HIGH	HIGH
<b>Unlikely (2)</b> It is not expected to occur (i.e. 2-5 years)	LOW	LOW	LOW	MEDIUM	HIGH
<b>Rare (1)</b> May occur only in exceptional circumstances (i.e. within 10 years)	LOW	LOW	LOW	MEDIUM	HIGH

**Extreme** Intolerable – Immediate action is required to mitigate this risk to an acceptable level. Event/Project/Activity is not to proceed without authorisation

**High** Intolerable – Attention is needed to treat risk.

**Medium** Variable – May be willing to accept the risk in conjunction with monitoring and controls

**Low** Tolerable – Managed by routine procedures

**PRESENT:**

## 1 Welcome to Country

To be presented by Cr James on behalf of the Yorta Yorta Elders Council and the 16 family groups.

## 2 Acknowledgement

“We, Greater Shepparton City Council, acknowledge the Yorta Yorta Peoples of the land which now comprises Greater Shepparton, we pay our respect to their tribal elders, we celebrate their continuing culture and we acknowledge the memory of their ancestors.”

## 3 Privacy Notice

This public meeting is being streamed live via our Facebook page and made available for public access on our website along with the official Minutes of this meeting.

## 4 Governance Principles

Council considers that the recommendations contained in this Agenda gives effect to the overarching governance principles stated in Section 9(2) of the *Local Government Act 2020*. These principles are as follows:

1. Council decisions are to be made and actions taken in accordance with the relevant law;
2. priority is to be given to achieving the best outcomes for the municipal community, including future generations;
3. the economic, social and environmental sustainability of the municipal district, including mitigation and planning for climate change risks, is to be promoted;
4. the municipal community is to be engaged in strategic planning and strategic decision making;
5. innovation and continuous improvement is to be pursued;
6. collaboration with other Councils and Governments and statutory bodies is to be sought;
7. the ongoing financial viability of the Council is to be ensured;
8. regional, state and national plans and policies are to be taken into account in strategic planning and decision making;
9. the transparency of Council decisions, actions and information is to be ensured.

## 5 Apologies

Nil Received.

## 6 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.**

## 7 Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meetings

### RECOMMENDATION

**That the minutes of the 16 February 2021 Council Meeting as circulated, be confirmed.**

## 8 Public Question Time

Nil Received.

## 9 Community Directorate

### 9.1 Reconciliation Action Plan 2019-2020 Report and Future Directions

Author	Coordinator Community Strengthening
Approved by	Director Community
Purpose	For Noting

#### Disclosures of Conflict of Interest in Relation to this Report

Under section 130 of the *Local Government Act 2020* officers, delegates and persons engaged under a contract providing advice to Council must disclose any conflicts of interests.

No Council officers or contractors who have provided advice in relation to this report have declared a conflict of interest regarding the matter under consideration.

#### RECOMMENDATION

**That the Council note:**

- 1. the achievements of the Reconciliation Action Plan 2019-2020; and**
- 2. the Engagement approach identified for the development of Council's next Reconciliation Action Plan.**

#### Executive Summary

The Greater Shepparton City Council Reconciliation Action Plan (Reflect) July 2019 – June 2020, adopted by Council in June 2019, is an internal organisational plan that outlines Council's commitment to reconciliation and to ensuring Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and cultures are respected, acknowledged and celebrated.

Council has worked to implement the Plan and actions throughout 2019 and 2020 with oversight and drive from the internal Reconciliation Action Plan Working Group. This report provides an overview of the key achievements from the Plan and a detailed progress report against all actions which was also provided to Reconciliation Australia as per their annual online reporting system in October 2020.

Council is preparing to develop its next Reconciliation Action Plan. This report presents the Greater Shepparton City Council Reconciliation Action Plan *Engagement Plan* (see *Attachments*) to inform Executive and Councillors of the future direction and approach to developing the next Plan building on existing work and Council's relationship with Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation and the network of Elders.



## Report Detail

The Greater Shepparton City Council Reconciliation Action Plan (Reflect) July 2019 – June 2020 is an internal organisational plan that outlines Council’s commitment to reconciliation and to ensuring Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and cultures are respected, acknowledged and celebrated.

Council worked with Reconciliation Australia throughout 2018 and 2019 to develop the Plan, which was approved by Reconciliation Australia, and endorsed by Council at the Ordinary Council Meeting on 18 June 2019.

Council considered a number of key documents and policy statements to guide the development of the Reconciliation Action Plan, in particular:

- The Uluru Statement from the Heart
- The United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- The Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006

The Plan is a ‘Reflect’ plan which enabled Council to reflect upon the work it has been doing over many years, and to identify opportunities that better benefit Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and the broader community.

The Plan has a strong focus on truth telling. It contains some information about the distressing and uncomfortable events that happened in the local area, as well as throughout Australia. Council feels acknowledgement of the true history of Australia must occur before true reconciliation can be achieved.

The Reconciliation Action Plan will help achieve Council’s vision for a future where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples have equitable access, inclusion and opportunities, and where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples’ cultures are honoured and respected.

The Plan contains actions in the areas (pillars) of Relationships, Respect, Opportunities and Governance and Tracking Progress. An internal working group with representation from across Council oversees the implementation of the Plan, associated activities and reporting.

### **Key Achievements**

As a Council, a number of events or activities stand out as significant throughout the life of this plan, in particular:

1. The Smoking ceremony that was held in October 2019, to publicly acknowledge the culturally significant burial site the Council offices had been built on – the traditional lands of the Yorta Yorta people.
2. The strengthening of Council’s relationship with Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation (YYNAC) across a number of areas at both a strategic level- through the endorsement of an MOU and adoption of a formal acknowledgment of YYNAC as the Registered Aboriginal Party, and at project level through the Aboriginal Street Art project, RiverConnect and Munarra.
3. Reaching Council’s employment targets as set out in the Algabonyah Agreement, and increasing this commitment to 5% of our total workforce.
4. Celebration and acknowledgment of dates of significance: Council has continued to work in partnership with Shepparton Region Reconciliation Group to deliver the Apology Breakfast, Reconciliation week and NAIDOC week activities for community and staff. In 2020, the Apology Breakfast drew its largest audience yet and delivered an inspiring speech by Lena-Jean Charles and the Reconciliation Week Flag raising ceremony was streamed live for the first time in Council’s history.

A detailed report of status and achievements against all actions is attached to this report and the required reporting has been submitted to Reconciliation Australia, as per their annual online reporting framework.

This report also presents the Greater Shepparton City Council Reconciliation Action Plan *Engagement Plan* to inform Executive and Councillors of the future direction and approach to develop the next Plan with oversight from Reconciliation Australia. This document was developed by Council's Reconciliation Action Plan Working Group.

The next Plan, as per Reconciliation Australia's process is required to be an 'Innovate' Plan. An Innovate RAP is used to develop and test innovative strategies to establish the best approach for advancing reconciliation in our Council. It should take approximately 6-12 months to develop an Innovate RAP (particularly given engagement challenges associated with Covid 19) and 2 years for implementation. There are a number of mandatory actions associated with this Plan that Council is required to include but also much flexibility to innovate and create effective local solutions and activities that promote reconciliation at a local level. This Plan will see Council:

- build on the relationship established with YYNAC and all other local Aboriginal networks
- better engage with the Elders and the broader Aboriginal Community to develop the next Reconciliation Action Plan
- through engagement with the Elders, build on the reconciliation ideas generated by the Councillors
- continue to work on existing projects, initiatives and delivery of culturally appropriate services
- strengthen Council's Reconciliation response- acknowledge, respect, opportunity
- develop an Aboriginal Employment Strategy and progress towards employment targets
- Investigate and increase supplier and procurement diversity within the requirements of Council's policy, process and legislated requirements
- Improve cultural safety within the workplace

The next Plan will look to build on all the existing efforts and achievements of the previous Plan and the strengthened relationships with Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation and Community. The plan signifies Council's maturity and growth and is a strong indicator to the community and other organisation's that Council is committed to Reconciliation.

## Council Plan/Key Strategic Activity

### **LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE**

Provide strong civic leadership, advocacy and good governance in the operation of Greater Shepparton City Council.

1.3 Council demonstrates strong leadership and sound decision making in the best interests of the community.

### **SOCIAL**

Develop resilient, inclusive, healthy communities that make Greater Shepparton a safe and harmonious place to live, work, learn, and play.

2.1 Greater Shepparton is a welcoming, inclusive and safe place for all.

2.8 Our Aboriginal culture and people are valued and celebrated, with collaborative actions undertaken to enable peaceful, healthy and productive lives in a safe environment.

## Risk Management

There are no moderate to extreme risks identified with this report.

## Policy Considerations

This report and the Reconciliation Action Plan is consistent with Council Policy.

## Financial Implications

Budget is subject to annual budget process, no changes to budget or expenditure are associated with this report.

## Legal/Statutory Implications

This report and Reconciliation Action Plan is compliant with any related legal and statutory obligations, with particular reference to the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006.

## Environmental/Sustainability Impacts

There are no environmental or sustainability impacts directly associated with this report.

## Social Implications

Council is committed to reconciliation; this Action Plan and its associated actions and achievements represents Council's first documented formal step towards Reconciliation and healing.

The delivery of the Plan sends a clear signal to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and Communities – as well as the broader community – that Council is serious about acknowledging and celebrating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and Cultures.

The engagement plan for the development of Council's next Reconciliation Action Plan builds on Council's work to date in the space of reconciliation and identifies the next steps in Council's growth and reconciliation journey.

## Economic Impacts

There are no economic impacts associated with this report.

However, it is important to note that stronger relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and Communities may lead to positive economic impacts for those communities and the broader community. Projects such as the Munarra Centre for Regional Excellence project will have flow on positive economic impacts.

## Consultation

Council work with a range of community stakeholders, organisations and community in the delivery of this Plan. A number of activities are overseen by established partnerships across a number of directorates.

The draft Scope, Context and Engagement Plan attached to this report provides and overview of how Council will engage across community and stakeholders in the development of Council's next Reconciliation Action Plan.

Officers believe that appropriate consultation has occurred and the matter is now ready for Council consideration.

## Strategic Links

a) Greater Shepparton 2030 Strategy

- Nil

b) Other strategic links

- Nil

## Conclusion

Council is committed to reconciliation and is on a reconciliation journey to ensure Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and cultures are respected, acknowledged and celebrated.

Council has made significant progress to implement the first Reconciliation Action Plan and the achievements and progress of that Plan is presented in this report.

Preparation is also underway to develop the next iteration of the Plan and the *Engagement Plan* attached details the future direction and approach to developing this next Plan with oversight from Reconciliation Australia.

## Attachments

1. Reconciliation Action Plan Progress Report January 2021 [9.1.1 - 21 pages]
2. Reconciliation Plan Two Innovate Engagement Plan [9.1.2 - 6 pages]

## 9.2 Murchison Aged Care - Investigation and Future Directions Report

Author                      Manager - Community Wellbeing  
 Approved by            Director Community  
 Purpose                   For Decision by Council

### Disclosures of Conflict of Interest in Relation to this Report

Under section 130 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, officers, delegates and persons engaged under a contract providing advice to Council must disclose any conflicts of interests.

No Council officers or contractors who have provided advice in relation to this report have declared a conflict of interest regarding the matter under consideration.

### RECOMMENDATION

**That the Council, following receipt of further information from the Federal Government and building consultants will:**

1. **consider engaging a consultant to undertake a comprehensive feasibility study into the purchase of the Murchison Aged Care Facility; and**
2. **undertake a further review of all information gathered, and prepare a report for Council to inform future decisions with regards to any proposal for purchase of the facility.**

### Executive Summary

The Murchison Aged Care Facility, which once traded as DP Jones Nursing Home, formally closed in early 2019 following significant financial hardship. Appointed liquidators are managing the future sale of this premise. This report has been generated following discussions with both the Federal Government and the Murchison community regarding the prospect of Council purchasing this facility for the purposes of providing ongoing residential aged care through a second party lease.

Council has put forward a formal request to the Federal Government seeking clarification on a number of areas relating to the proposal. Correspondence was sent via the CEO to the Deputy Prime Ministers office last week and we await a response. Consultants have undertaken a building assessment of the DP Jones facility and Council has now received this report.

Council has some information at hand that would assist with making a decision on whether to purchase the building however pertinent information remains outstanding. Based on this preliminary due diligence there are many outstanding issues to be resolved before Council could make a meaningful decision.

## Report Detail

Murchison Aged Care Facility trading as DP Jones Nursing Home was formally closed in early 2020, following significant financial hardship. Administrators were appointed late in 2019 to oversee the viability of the service and make appropriate recommendations regarding the future viability of the facility and the service. This resulted in the subsequent closure of the facility to the public and its residents in early 2020.

DP Jones operated a facility providing a 40 bed residential aged care service located in Murchison. In addition to this service, DP Jones Nursing Homes also auspiced the Murchison Neighbourhood House along with its associated services and leased facilities to a Medical Clinic and a Pharmacy.

Following liquidation, the Medical Clinic, Pharmacy and Neighbourhood House are now operating under different arrangements with new private ownership of associated facilities, leasing agreements and auspice arrangements in place or being finalised to support these essential community services.

However, the Aged Care facility remains vacant, nonoperational and in poor condition.

There is political and community encouragement for Council to consider its role in the potential purchase of the facility. A proposal has been put to Council to purchase the aging facility and utilise Federal funding through the 'Local Roads and Community Infrastructure (LRCI) Funding Program' to purchase the premise and undertake essential maintenance to the facility to bring it up to an acceptable standard to lease to a potential Aged Care provider. The CEO has subsequently corresponded with the Deputy Prime Ministers office seeking clarification on the following areas:

The Proposal -

1. That Council tender to purchase the land and buildings. This would be funded by utilising Federal Government funding already allocated to council through round 2 of the local roads and community infrastructure program. Council have asked for Department of Infrastructure clarification as to the ability to utilise these funds for the purchase of land and buildings and the written response was that we could not do this under the funding criteria that exists. Subsequent to this Council has received written and verbal advice that additional criteria allows for exceptions to be considered. In the Federal Government response to this proposal could you please confirm the ability of council to utilise the LRCI funding for the purchase of land and buildings. Council is not sure of the cost that might be incurred however the administrator's agent has been asked for the likely cost and this has not been provided to date. A figure of \$700k has been mentioned in the past however the administrator has not confirmed this and has commented that the property must be sold at close to the valuation. I have not seen a valuation to date. Council do not also have a date for close of submissions however Council understands from discussion with the administrator that this will be sometime in April.
2. That the Council undertake basic infrastructure improvements. Again, this would be funded by utilising the LRCI program. Council gained access to the building just last Friday and engaged a Building Surveyor to do a preliminary assessment of works required. Council is not in possession of this report as yet however it has been suggested previously that these works to repair the roof, gutter, eaves, access etc might be of the order of \$300k. Council has asked that services be checked for currency including the fire service. Council is currently not in a position to estimate what current service connection improvements or cost might be. A preliminary report from the Building Surveyor is expected next week.

3. Availability of Funds within the round 2 LRCI program. Council was allocated \$3.2m in round 2 and had planned to allocate \$2.2m from round 2 and \$2m from round 1 towards the Vibert Reserve sports and community centre. This would leave \$1m available for "The Proposal".
4. That Council following the purchase of the facility lease the facility to Honeysuckle Health for the purpose of running the DP Jones Residential Aged Care facility. One of the requirements of Council to do this would be to publicly advertise this fact and request submissions on the matter. Under "The Proposal" Council would indicate to the public that under agreement with the Federal Government Council proposes to lease the recently purchased DP Jones facility to Honeysuckle Health as they are the recommended approved provider for this site following a separate Federal Government initiated procurement process and due diligence check. Council does however note that in correspondence from the Federal Department of Health that whilst Honeysuckle Health are regarded as their preferred provider, they have not conducted a due diligence check in relation to Governance. Council would imagine that this is done before Honey suckle were recommended and approved for Council to lease the facility to. Please confirm that the Federal Government would handle the appointment of Honeysuckle Health as the approved Aged Care provider and that the detail of these arrangements be placed in an overarching agreement between Council and the Federal Government.
5. That the 40 bed licenses currently in the hands of the administrator are transferred by some Federal Government agreed process to Honeysuckle Health for the purposes of being used at the DP Jones facility. It is understood that the administrator regards the licenses as an asset to sell however subject to a Federal Government arrangement with Council they may be purchased by the Federal Government and transferred to Honeysuckle Health. Council cannot bid for the licenses as it is not an approved aged care provider. Please confirm that the licenses would be secured by the Federal Government for the purposes of transferring to Honey suckle Health under separate agreement including no cost to Honeysuckle.
6. That under separate agreement between the Federal government and Honeysuckle Health the Federal Government agrees to subsidise Honeysuckle Health's operating budget until such time as the facility is occupied sufficiently to cover costs and make a profit.
7. That under separate agreement between the Federal Government and Honey suckle Health the Federal Government commits to fund Capital improvement works to make the facility compliant under current requirements for an approved Residential Aged care Facility.
8. That should Honeysuckle Health fail in the operations of the facility that the Federal Government assist Council and the Murchison community with any cost associated with the shutdown that might follow.
9. That all of these matters for the Proposal are written into an agreement to be executed between the Federal Government, council and Honeysuckle Health.
10. Any issues for the landlord or tenant that relate to the Aged Care Royal Commission are yet to be understood therefore assistance from the Federal Government may be required in this regard also.

There are many considerations and risks associated with the potential purchase, lease and intended use of a facility of this nature. In order to understand the condition of the building Council engaged a building surveyor consultant to undertake a building assessment of the facility and this has now been completed. The report submitted contains the following summary of 11 significant defects;

	<b>Defect identified</b>	<b>Possible Solution</b>
1	Roof leaking due to the poor condition of the ceramic tiles.	Re-roof the facility with iron.
2	Skylights cut into the roof with no support provided in roof battens.	Determine if skylights required. Repair Roof structure.
3	Roof leaking over skink area between Leggett Wing and the dining area.	Re-flash and seal the roof area.
4	Fascia rotten at ends and now allowing vermin into roof space.	Replace / Repair fascia beams.
5	Eave lining broken away where sprinkler pipe is supported.	Provide adequate support to sprinkler pipe.
6	Address breaches in fire wall in roof space.	Repair and seal all penetrations to meet fire rating requirements as required.
7	South canopy fascia and ceiling damaged.	Repair damaged fascia and ceiling and repaint.
8	Cracking to internal walls and plaster along north side of Lyons wing.	Further investigation is required to ascertain most probable cause, then rectifying the issue prior to attempting to repair the damage.
9	Irrigation system leaking in southeast area of the site with the potential to cause building damage.	Fix the irrigation system and prevent it from leaking. Monitor the building in this area for future damage due to foundation movement (Inevitable Drying Out).
10	Rot to the window frames in the link way.	Verify the drainage system is adequate in this area and replace the damaged window frames.
11	The driveways around the site are in poor condition.	Upgrade the driveways as required.

The report makes various follow up recommendations required for proper due diligence covering items such as Essential Safety Measures, inspection and assessment of the adequacy of termite protection, compliance of fire and smoke walls, the hot water system including mixing valves located in the ceiling, assessment of the electrical aspects of the building covering the feed in power, connection of backup generator, switchboards and general wiring and air-conditioning units.

In addition, the report states *“should the building be utilised as an aged care facility again then it would also be wise to have it assessed by an architect familiar with the current requirements for aged care to determine if there are any major issues. This could be a desk top audit based on plans being submitted”*.



Council's experience with other facilities is that the scope of repairs required can vary significantly along with the costs required to undertake these works which only becomes obvious once works have commenced. It is important to note that this initial report has no cost details included in order to bring this premise to quality standards.

Should Council purchase the property and proceed with a commercial lease arrangement, the process would be as follows:

- a) Negotiate terms and conditions with proposed tenant. The Federal Government has suggested they will be involved in this process.
- b) Council prepares disclosure statement of rent, rates and utilities to be paid by the tenant.
- c) Advertise lease including the period negotiated under the Retail Leases Act 2003.
- d) In accordance with Section 190 of LG Act 1989, any lease must undergo a Section 223 public consultation process if:
  - the lease is for one year or more and the rent of land is \$50,000+ per year; or
  - the lease is for a 10+ year period.
- e) Enter into a lease of the facility with tenant when all of these other requirements are met.

Council has a range of obligations under the Local Government Act 2020 (the Act 2020), and the continuing obligations under the 1989 Local Government Act. Section 187 of the Act 1989 and section 112 of the Act 2020 are identical, so there is no difference with regards to the requirements for purchasing of any land depending on the timing of such action.

Under the Local Government Act 1989, the "Best Value Principles" are in force until 1 July 2021 when they are replaced with "Service Performance Principles". Council's must plan and deliver services to the municipal community in accordance with service performance principles.

1. services should be provided in an equitable manner and be responsive to the diverse needs of the municipal community;
2. services should be accessible to the members of the municipal community for whom the services are intended;
3. quality and costs standards for services set by the Council should provide good value to the municipal community;
4. a Council should seek to continuously improve service delivery to the municipal community in response to performance monitoring;
5. service delivery must include a fair and effective process for considering and responding to complaints about service provision.

Considering the expense of operating an aged care facility in a town the size of Murchison, especially one that has a history of poor financial performance, Council would likely struggle to meet the legislative obligations set out in section 106(2)(c) of the Act, where the quality and costs standards for services provide good value to the municipal community.

Section 9(2)(g) of the Act 2020 states that a Council must give effect to the overarching governance principles in particular the ongoing financial viability of the Council is to be ensured. This includes a requirement for all financial risks to be managed prudently. With the financial implications alone, any potential purchase of the facility creates a significant risk to the Council's financial sustainability. Exposure to ongoing costs such as renewals, repairs and maintenance, and capital improvements, even with a small level of rental income, along with the possibility of approved providers withdrawing or finding the service model is financially unviable would see Council in a tenuous position to avoid having to provide a high level of financial subsidy in the long term.

It is important to note that residential aged care is not a core function or usual responsibility of Council.

Council has not previously provided any residential aged care services and there is a significant reform that is about to occur following release of the Royal Commission in to Aged Care services. There are 148 recommendations from the Aged Care Royal Commission all focusing on improved quality and safety for aged care residents. In turn there will be many unknown requirements and costs associated with owning and operating such facilities to ensure our older persons are cared for appropriately and with a high quality of life.

**Council Plan/Key Strategic Activity**

**LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE**

Provide strong civic leadership, advocacy and good governance in the operation of Greater Shepparton City Council.

1.3 Council demonstrates strong leadership and sound decision making in the best interests of the community.

1.4 Financial management is responsible and effective in responding to challenges and constraints with a focus on the financial sustainability of the Council.

1.7 Council advocates on issues, priorities and needs that matter to our community in partnership with key stakeholders.

**BUILT**

Provide and support appealing relevant infrastructure that makes Greater Shepparton an attractive, liveable regional city.

4.4 Quality infrastructure is provided and maintained to acceptable standards.

4.5 Assets are well managed and their renewal is being planned through long term renewal strategies.

**Risk Management**

There are high to extreme risks to Council in the purchase and operation of an aged care facility.

Council could face serious reputational damage resulting from poor management, impacts due to the pandemic and potential lack of appropriately qualified operators and staff within the facility.

Risks	Likelihood	Consequence	Rating	Mitigation Action
No available funds	possible	medium	high	Council to negotiate further with the Federal Government
Procurement issues restricting the contracting of the Federally approved service provider.	possible	high	Extreme	Obtain market interest prior to procurement, if unable to obtain suitable interest, do not proceed with procurement

Skilled Council staff in how to manage an aged care facility and meet the requirements of the Aged Care Royal Commission	likely	medium	high	Engage suitably qualified and competent Aged Care provider to manage facility.
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### Policy Considerations

Council's Procurement Policy requires economic and social sustainability. The organisation's procurement decisions and initiatives will be based on clear and transparent evidence, informed economic, environmental and social considerations. Therefore, to achieve sustainable procurement, Council will adopt a triple -bottom -line approach by considering economic, environmental and social sustainability.

As a consideration in all procurement, the focus must be on obtaining best value. This means minimising the total cost of ownership over the lifetime of the requirement, including disposal and end of life costs, consistent with acceptable quality, reliability and delivery considerations. Lowest purchase price is not the sole determinate of best value.

Council is committed to improving the quality of life in Greater Shepparton region through the involvement of the community in a range of factors including the provision of goods, services and works. Council is also committed to ensuring that all views are considered through inclusive deliberation and active involvement of the community.

### Financial Implications

There is no approved budget in Council's 2020/2021 adopted budget, nor allocation in Council's current 10-year capital works plan, and therefore no allowance in Council's current Long Term Financial Plan.

The Federal Director Infrastructure Investment has communicated to Councils CEO, that his past advice regarding the use of the LRCI (local roads and community infrastructure) that this fund cannot be used to purchase land or buildings remains current.

Unsubstantiated initial estimates of a \$700,000 purchase price and \$300,000 required renewal spend, with no funding, would equate to a 5% impact to Council's liquidity position. As at Quarter 2 of 2020/2021 Council's projected ending liquidity of 104% would therefore drop from low risk to medium risk liquidity and impact future year's liquidity.

Ongoing maintenance and renewal requirements are likely to remain partly the responsibility of the asset owner (Council) and have not been considered in Council's long term financial plans. The details of such can only be determined after a more thorough assessment of the building has been made.

### Legal/Statutory Implications

The Federally approved and appointed Service provider will be required to meet all obligations under the Aged Care Act 1997 and will be subject to regular assessment and review through the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission.

Contracts for the purchase of land do not attract the requirements of section 186. 'Goods' means movable personal property, especially merchandise used in trade or commerce and requiring carriage from one place to another. Land is not a good and not subject to section 186 of the Act.

### Environmental/Sustainability Impacts

There are no significant environmental or sustainability impacts associated with this report specifically.

However, it is important to note that there may be environmental or sustainability impacts as a result of climate change, adaptation and waste management practices associated with ownership and operation of a facility of this nature, as well as unforeseen costs for associated capital improvements to contribute to this.

### Social Implications

Residential aged care provides an essential community function to support one of our most vulnerable populations, providing accommodation and care to those who can no longer live independently or support their own personal care needs.

Ideally, care should be provided where family members and friends can also maintain contact and connection with their loved one through visits and regular contact as this contributes to quality of life for the residents, keeping them healthy and well for longer.

There is also a certain level of expectation from loved ones, and the broader community in regards to the quality of care through both the actual services provided but also the facilities themselves that are in essence 'homes for our most vulnerable'. This can potentially have broader social and reputational implications for Council where Council and communities' expectations can differ.

### Economic Impacts

The economic impacts associated with this report are not fully known. A comprehensive feasibility study would be required to ascertain the estimated economic benefits associated with the purchase of the facility and the provision of residential aged care services in Murchison and more broadly Greater Shepparton. It is estimated that there would be an economic benefit in terms of local employment and local spend associated with the provision of the service but the figures are unknown at this early stage and dependent on the number of residents.

### Consultation

As detailed above, in the report detail section, there will be requirements to advertise this lease and the details of which are dependent on the timing of when the lease is established, that is, which Local Government Act will be in effect at the time.

More broadly, the requirement to engage with the community on expenditure of this nature and magnitude would need to be considered once the timeframe for such is established and in consideration of whether it has been identified in Council's advertised budget.

Consultative engagement is required prior to Council making the decision to purchase and or lease the premises. Whilst there has been some level of community feedback, Officers believe a more extensive community consultation process is required to determine community support of this project.

Level of public participation	Promises to the public/stakeholders	Examples of techniques to use
Inform	Councillors Local community	Council briefing
Consult	Local community	Letters Council briefing
Involve	Federal Member	Letters Council briefing

## Strategic Links

### a) Greater Shepparton 2030 Strategy

- Nil

### b) Other strategic links

- Nil

## Conclusion

As outlined in this report, there are a number of considerations and risks to Council associated with the purchase and potential lease of an aged care facility.

Whilst Officers acknowledge that residential aged care is an essential and important community service, there are many other residential aged care providers and private buyers who may be better suited and positioned to purchase and/or operate the facility that are not bound by the same limitations and conditions of Local Government.

The recommendation is - that the Council, following receipt of further information from the Federal Government and building consultants will:

1. consider engaging a consultant to undertake a comprehensive feasibility study into the purchase of the Murchison Aged Care Facility; and
2. further consider all information gathered, before a formal resolution of Council is made to purchase the facility.

## Attachments

1. DP Jones Nursing Home Property Boundary [9.2.1 - 1 page]

## 9.3 Establishment of a LGBTIQA+ Advisory Committee

Author                      Coordinator – Social Equity and Safety  
 Approved by              Director Community  
 Purpose                    For Decision by Council

### Disclosures of Conflict of Interest in Relation to this Report

Under section 130 of the *Local Government Act 2020* officers, delegates and persons engaged under a contract providing advice to Council must disclose any conflicts of interests.

No Council officers or contractors who have provided advice in relation to this report have declared a conflict of interest regarding the matter under consideration.

### RECOMMENDATION

**That the Council:**

- 1. approve the establishment of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex, Queer, Asexual and other sexuality, sex and gender diverse Advisory Committee (LGBTIQA+ Advisory Committee) as presented in this report; and**
- 2. adopt an interim Terms of Reference for further review upon the establishment of the LGBTIQA+ Advisory Committee.**

### Executive Summary

In response to a Notice of Motion in July 2020 and a subsequent Council Report tabled at the August 2020 Council Meeting, Council officers have proceeded to further investigate the establishment of a LGBTIQA+ Advisory Committee. This report proposes the establishment of a Greater Shepparton City Council Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual, Transgender, Intersex, Queer, Asexual and other sexuality, sex and gender diverse, (LGBTIQA+ Advisory Committee). The Committee will act as an advocacy and representative group to support and inform future Council directions on behalf of the LGBTIQA+ community, decision making and inclusive practices across Council for the next 12 months.

This report provides an overview of the proposed strategic direction and context for the establishment of a LGBTIQA+ advisory committee. In addition, it presents key considerations regarding current initiatives and existing partnerships in Greater Shepparton that will need to be worked through over time. Consideration needs to be given to the existing groups and committees to ensure there is clear purpose, communication and collaboration where possible between all groups to encourage strong partnerships.

Council officers have made contact with existing groups in Greater Shepparton, including representatives of the LGBTIQA+ community, government bodies and key stakeholder groups to further understand current initiatives being undertaken at a Local and State level to ensure the establishment of the LGBTIQA+ Committee aligns with the local context and the broader policy direction.

## Report Detail

### Background

Council officers have been exploring opportunities to strengthen relationships with Greater Shepparton LGBTIQ+ community. In the past there has been some level of engagement with community representatives and LGBTIQ+ community groups, however the involvement has been largely limited to participation in networks or the support of already established advocacy bodies such as GV Pride.

Council officers have also reviewed existing models across Local Government areas (LGA's) that support inclusivity and engagement of the LGBTIQ+ community noting these models vary considerably across the sector. These variations may be related to existing community advocacy bodies and the organisational capacity to deliver an initiative with a specific focus on the LGBTIQ+ community. Some LGA's have incorporated LGBTIQ+ actions within a social justice or human rights lens. In other LGAs the development of LGBTIQ+ community groups have been coordinated by community health organisations or education providers where these groups have a focus on community connection and advocacy.

In the development of the proposed Committee, Council Officers have also considered the current initiatives that are currently being delivered at a state level that will have an impact on the Greater Shepparton community. Presently the Victorian Government's LGBTIQ+ Strategy is in the final consultation and planning stage with the finalised strategy anticipated to be released mid to late 2021. Several of the proposed directions outlined within the draft strategy directly relate to the delivery of Council policy, practices and services including:

- Direction 1: Equal rights and freedoms
- Direction 2: Equitable and accessible service systems
- Direction 3: Visibility to inform decision making
- Direction 4: Safe, strong and sustainable communities

Another consideration for the creation of the Committee is the imminent delivery of the Department of Premier and Cabinet's (DPC) Rainbow Ready Roadmap Pilot. This LGBTIQ+ inclusion pilot will be delivered in Greater Shepparton in the first quarter of 2021 and is a continuation of the DPC's 2016 Rainbow Roadshow. The pilot will aim to engage local LGBTIQ+ leaders to participate in a consultative process with three main focus areas for local communities to collaborate together on:

1. Assess the community's current local LGBTIQ+ inclusion status;
2. Identify and focus on which key local LGBTIQ+ inclusion actions will have the greatest impact; this might include identifying who else needs to join the conversation; and,
3. Develop an action plan based on local capacity and better practice examples from other Victorian communities.

Within a local context Council officers have had several productive discussions with key stakeholders regarding the establishment of Council's LGBTIQ+ adv committee including Uniting's Diversity Project, GV Pride and the LGBTI+ GO (Goulburn Ovens) Community Alliance. The involvement of these stakeholders serves as an important community resource representing a substantial cross-section of Greater Shepparton's LGBTIQ+ community and supporting organisations.

### Proposed LGBTIQ+ Advisory committee Model

Council is proposing the establishment of a LGBTIQ+ Advisory Committee at the cessation of the Rainbow Roadmap Pilot in April 2021.

The aim of the Committee is to strengthen and formalise Council relationships with the LGBTIQ+ community and key stakeholders, as well as providing a clear avenue to engage and advocate to Council on key issues that are identified by the LGBTIQ+ community.

Additional strategic aims identified for the LGBTIQ+ Advisory committee are:

1. Act as an to Council on the needs of people identifying as LGBTIQ+ or gender diverse in our community.
2. Promote community participation in and awareness of LGBTIQ+ and Gender issues within the Municipality.
3. Through the Responsible Officer put forward recommendations to Council about further work required to identify, document and promote inclusion of people identifying within the LGBTIQ+ spectrum in the City of Greater Shepparton.
4. Provide advice and feedback to Council on proposals and Strategies from local, state, national and international bodies.
5. Ensure there is consultation and participation mechanisms in place for people identifying within the LGBTIQ+ and gender diverse spectrums, their families, allies, advocates and service providers to enable meaningful input into Greater Shepparton City Council's services, policies and practices.

Membership will consist of ten community members and Council Officers including the Social Equity and Safety Coordinator, a representative from the Greater Shepparton Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Committee and a representative from Greater Shepparton Womens Charter Committee.

Community membership will be divided into four community stakeholder representatives and six community members who identify within the LGBTIQ+ spectrum. Nomination for community members will be sought through an expression of interest (EOI) process, and will be designed to ensure inclusiveness of a broad range of community members reflective of Greater Shepparton's LGBTIQ+ community.

Members will be appointed for a 12-month term, after which time the Committee will be evaluated and reviewed, the review process will be completed prior to the appointment of any future members.

Attached to this report is a Interim Term's of Reference (ToR) for the Committee. The intention is that the Draft ToR will be tabled for discussion at the Committee's first meeting in May 2021 ensuring the Committee have input into the development of the final ToR.

## Council Plan/Key Strategic Activity

### **LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE**

Provide strong civic leadership, advocacy and good governance in the operation of Greater Shepparton City Council.

- 1.1 Council demonstrates strong regional and local partnerships to improve health and wellbeing access and inequity.
- 1.3 Council demonstrates strong leadership and sound decision making in the best interests of the community.
- 1.6 Gender equity and equality is embedded into Council policy and decision making and employment processes.

### **SOCIAL**

Develop resilient, inclusive, healthy communities that make Greater Shepparton a safe and harmonious place to live, work, learn, and play.

- 2.1 Greater Shepparton is a welcoming, inclusive and safe place for all.



## Risk Management

There are no risks associated with this report.

## Policy Considerations

This report is linked to a number of strategic documents including the Council Plan, Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan and the State Government's Gender Equality Strategy and Action Plan 2021.

## Financial Implications

The approximate per annum cost of operating such a committee is \$5,000. This includes Council staff resourcing and potential actions arising from the committee. The actual financial cost will not be fully known until the terms of reference, meeting frequency, membership and reporting requirements is determined.

## Legal/Statutory Implications

There are no legal or statutory implications associated with this report.

## Environmental/Sustainability Impacts

There are no environmental/ sustainability impacts associated with this report.

## Social Implications

The establishment of a committee would provide an avenue for greater engagement between Council and LGBTIQ+ community members, strengthening Council's commitment in creating an inclusive environment for marginalised members of our community where their voice is valued and heard.

This will also support Council in the creation of an Advisory Committee that is reflective of the concerns and needs of Greater Shepparton's LGBTIQ+ and gender diverse community.

## Economic Impacts

There are no economic impacts associated with this report.

## Consultation

Council officers have engaged with GV Pride, Uniting's Diversity project and representatives of the Department of Premier and Cabinet regarding the scope and direction of the proposed group, identifying current gaps in LGBTI+ engagement and knowledge, as well as current and future initiatives being under taken from a local, states and national context.

Whilst initial consultation has been beneficial for the purpose of this report, Council officer believe further targeted consultation is required with representatives Greater Shepparton's LGBTIQ+ to further refine the proposed Reference Committees scope and delivery direction.

## Strategic Links

### a) Greater Shepparton 2030 Strategy

- Nil

### b) Other strategic links

- Greater Shepparton Youth Strategy and Action Plan 2019 – 2023
- 5.3 - Young LGBQTI+ members of the community feel valued by GSCC
- Greater Shepparton Public Health Implementation Plan 2017 – 2021

- A12 – Develop local strategies to guide LGBTQI affirming prevention, early intervention and accessible health care services

### Conclusion

Council is committed to equity, diversity and inclusion for all. This is explicitly detailed in the Council Plan Objective 2.1 *Greater Shepparton is a welcoming, inclusive and safe place for all.*

The report provides an overview of the policy, resourcing implications and proposed model for establishing a lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and other sexuality, sex and gender diverse (LGBTIQA+) reference committee.

### Attachments

1. Terms of Reference LGBTIQ+ Advisory Committee [9.3.1 - 7 pages]

## 10 Corporate Services Directorate

### 10.1 February 2021 Monthly Financial Report

Author	Management Accountant
Approved by	Director Corporate Services
Purpose	For Noting

#### Disclosures of Conflict of Interest in Relation to this Report

Under section 130 of the *Local Government Act 2020* officers, delegates and persons engaged under a contract providing advice to Council must disclose any conflicts of interests.

No Council officers or contractors who have provided advice in relation to this report have declared a conflict of interest regarding the matter under consideration.

#### RECOMMENDATION

**That the Council receive and note the February 2021 Monthly Financial Report.**

#### Executive Summary

The report presents the Council's actual financial performance compared to the budget for the eight months ended 28 February 2021.

#### Report Detail

The 2020/2021 Budget was adopted at the Ordinary Council Meeting held 16 June 2020.

The 2020/2021 Budget provided for an operating surplus of \$5.22 million with revenue of \$152.62 million and expenditure of \$147.40 million. The 2020/2021 Budget also provided for capital works of \$61.72 million.

The 2020/2021 Q1 Adopted Forecast was adopted at the Ordinary Council Meeting held 15 September 2020. The 2020/2021 Q1 Adopted Forecast provided an operating surplus of \$6.8 million, an increase on the 2020/2021 Adopted Budget surplus of \$1.58 million, largely due to an increase in Capital Grant income. The 2020/2021 Q1 Adopted Forecast also provided for capital works of \$65.28 million an increase of \$3.56 million on the adopted budget due to capital works re-budgeted from the 2019/2020 financial year.

On 16 February 2021, Council adopted the 2020/2021 Q2 Adopted Forecast with an accounting surplus of \$9.29 million which is \$4.08 million more than the 2020/2021 Adopted Budget and \$2.49 million more than the 2021/2022 Q1 Adopted Forecast. The capital works program of \$65.21 million is forecast to be expended during the 2020/2021 financial year which is an increase of \$3.49 million from the 2020/2021 Adopted Budget.

Council actual financial performance compared to the budget is presented to Council on a monthly basis.

The February 2021 Monthly Financial Report incorporates the following sections which are presented for Council's consideration:

- Operating Performance
- Capital Works Performance
- Income Statement
- Balance Sheet
- Cash Flow Statements
- Capital Works Statement

### **Council Plan/Key Strategic Activity**

#### **LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE**

Provide strong civic leadership, advocacy and good governance in the operation of Greater Shepparton City Council.

1.4 Financial management is responsible and effective in responding to challenges and constraints with a focus on the financial sustainability of the Council.

1.9 Service standards and service delivery models are realistic and meet community expectations and demand while being financially viable and in line with Council's core business.

### **Risk Management**

There are no risks identified in providing this financial report.

### **Policy Considerations**

There are no conflicts with existing Council policies.

### **Financial Implications**

There are no financial implications arising from this proposal.

### **Legal/Statutory Implications**

Section 137 of the *Local Government Act 1989* provides that Council maintain a budgeting and reporting framework that is consistent with the principles of sound financial management. In addition, Section 138 requires that at least every 3 months a statement comparing the budgeted revenue and expenditure for the financial year with the actual revenue and expenditure to date is presented to Council at a Council meeting which is open to the public. This report satisfies that requirement.

### **Environmental/Sustainability Impacts**

There are no environmental or sustainability impacts associated with this report.

### **Social Implications**

There are no social implications associated with this report.

### **Economic Impacts**

There are no economic implications associated with this report

### **Consultation**

Officers believe that appropriate consultation has occurred and the matter is now ready for Council consideration.

### **Strategic Links**

There are no strategic links associated with report.

## Conclusion

The report presents Council's actual financial performance compared to the budget for the eight months ended 28 February 2021.

## Attachments

1. February 2021 Monthly Financial Statements [10.1.1 - 11 pages]

## 10.2 Council Plan 2020-21 Quarter Two Progress Report

Author Corporate Planning Analyst  
Approved by Director Corporate Services  
Purpose For Noting

### Disclosures of Conflict of Interest in Relation to this Report

Under section 130 of the *Local Government Act 2020* officers, delegates and persons engaged under a contract providing advice to Council must disclose any conflicts of interests.

No Council officers or contractors who have provided advice in relation to this report have declared a conflict of interest regarding the matter under consideration.

### RECOMMENDATION

**That the Council note the Council Plan 2020-21 Quarter Two Progress Report.**

### Executive Summary

This report provides the second quarter update of 2020-21 in relation to the actions taken to achieve the Key Strategic Objectives identified in the 2017-2021 Council Plan and forms part of council's accountability framework.

Of the identified general actions for progress reporting in relation to measuring achievement, 34 out of 52 actions are on target.

### Report Detail

In accordance with Section 90 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, Council developed and adopted a four-year Council Plan on 20 June 2017. The Council Plan contains Key Strategic Objectives and Strategies to achieve those objectives.

This report provides the second quarter update of 2020-21 in relation to the actions taken to achieve the Key Strategic Objectives identified in the 2017-2021 Council Plan and forms part of council's accountability framework. The report also includes progress made in achieving the Key Strategic Activities contained within the 2020-21 Budget, which form Council's Performance Statement.

Of the identified general actions for progress reporting in relation to measuring achievement, 34 out of 52 actions are on target.

The Council Plan becomes the organisational focus for the development of Directorate and Business Unit plans and ultimately the individual responsibilities of officers, which are subsequently reflected in those officers' annual appraisals. The 2017-2021 Council Plan identified Goals, Key Strategic Objectives and Strategies for implementation across the life of the plan.

Based on the outcomes of the community consultations, Council identified five themes to describe what we are working towards in achieving the community's vision of a Greater

Shepparton - Greater Future. As these goals explicitly align with the Municipal Public Health Planning Framework (Department of Health Services, 2001) with the emphasis on the built, social, economic and natural environments, the Council Plan also addresses the legislative requirements for the Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan.

These five themes are:

1. Leadership and Governance - Provide strong civic leadership, advocacy and good governance in the operation of Greater Shepparton City Council.
2. Social - Develop resilient, inclusive, healthy communities that make Greater Shepparton a safe and harmonious place to live, work, learn and play.
3. Economic - Build a thriving, resilient economy where Greater Shepparton is recognised as a competitive place to invest and grow business.
4. Built - Provide and support appealing relevant infrastructure that makes Greater Shepparton an attractive, liveable regional city.
5. Environment - Enhance and protect the clean, green environment that makes Greater Shepparton the unique place it is.

### Council Plan/Key Strategic Activity

#### LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE

Provide strong civic leadership, advocacy and good governance in the operation of Greater Shepparton City Council.

1.5 Council is high performing; customer focused and is marked by great people and quality outcomes.

### Risk Management

Risks	Likelihood	Consequence	Rating	Mitigation Action
Failure to report to Council and the community	Unlikely	Moderate	Low	Continue quarterly reports to Council

### Policy Considerations

There are no policy considerations associated with this report.

### Financial Implications

The report contains no financial implications, however many of the initiatives contained within the Council Plan required Council to allocate funds in its 2020-21 budget to provide the finances to continue implementation of the Council Plan.

### Legal/Statutory Implications

The report complies with Councils' obligations to monitor and report on progress in relation to achieving the strategic objectives and strategies contained within the council plan. The provision of regular reporting, in addition to the Annual Report, provides an opportunity for Council and the community to consider the progress made towards achieving the targets set by Council against the Council Plan.

### Environmental/Sustainability Impacts

The report contains no environmental/sustainability impacts, however many of the initiatives contained within the Council Plan were targeted at improving Greater Shepparton's sustainability, both as an organisation and a municipality.

## Social Implications

The report contains no social implications, however there are a number of initiatives contained in the Council Plan that were aimed at improving the health and well-being of the Greater Shepparton communities and the wider municipality. This is expected to improve social outcomes.

## Economic Impacts

The report contains no economic impacts however there were a number of initiatives contained in the Council Plan that were aimed at improving the economic wellbeing of the Greater Shepparton municipality.

## Consultation

Internal consultation occurred with the responsible officers regularly updating individual actions and the overall review of all plans by the Executive Team.

Community consultation was achieved by publishing quarterly reports in the Council meeting agenda and including the plan and quarterly updates on Council's website.

Level of public participation	Promises to the public/stakeholders	Examples of techniques to use
Inform	Keep Informed	Council Meeting Minutes Council Website

Officers believe that appropriate consultation has occurred and the matter is now ready for Council consideration.

## Strategic Links

### a) Greater Shepparton 2030 Strategy

The Council Plan 2017-2021 plays a pivotal role in the delivery of the short term plans and aspirations of council and the community whilst following the long term strategies of Greater Shepparton 2030.

### b) Council Plan 2017-2021

The Council Plan 2017-2021 supports the short term direction of the organisation (4 years) and provides linkage to the strategies developed and or implemented over the duration of the plan

### c) The Annual Budget 2020-21

The Annual Budget 2020-21 supports the short term direction of the organisation (1 year)

## Conclusion

This report provides the 2020-21 second quarter update with progress on achieving the Key Strategic Objectives contained within the 2017-2021 Council Plan and the Key Strategic Activities contained within the 2020-21 Budget.

## Attachments

1. Council Plan 2020-21 Quarter Two Progress Report [10.2.1 - 55 pages]



## 10.3 Contracts Awarded Under Delegation - February 2021

Author                      Team Leader - Contracts and Procurement  
 Approved by              Director Corporate Services  
 Purpose                     For Noting

### Disclosures of Conflict of Interest in Relation to this Report

Under section 130 of the *Local Government Act 2020* officers, delegates and persons engaged under a contract providing advice to Council must disclose any conflicts of interests.

No Council officers or contractors who have provided advice in relation to this report have declared a conflict of interest regarding the matter under consideration.

### RECOMMENDATION

- That the Council note:**
- 1. contracts awarded under delegated authority by a Director;**
  - 2. contracts awarded under delegated authority by a Manager; and**
  - 3. request for tenders advertised but not yet awarded.**

### Executive Summary

To inform the Council of the status of request for tenders that have been awarded under delegation during the period 1 February 2021 to 28 February 2021, and those that have been publicly advertised but are yet to be awarded as at 1 March 2021

#### Tendered Contracts Awarded under Delegated Authority by the Director

Contract Number	Contract Name	Contract details, including terms and provisions for extensions	Value inclusive of GST	Awarded to
2116	Tatura Pool Thermal Pool Blankets	Lump Sum Contract for Tatura Pool Thermal Pool Blankets	\$58,829.73	Sunbather Pty Ltd

### Tendered Contracts Awarded under Delegated Authority by a Manager

Contract Number	Contract Name	Contract details, including terms and provisions for extensions	Value inclusive of GST	Awarded to
2057	Design, Supply & Installation of Shade Sail Structure for Colaura Gardens, Toolamba	Lump Sum Contract for the Design, Supply & Installation of Shade Sail Structure for Colaura Gardens, Toolamba	\$19,829.81	BIAM Shade Sails & Playgrounds

### Requests for Tenders advertised but not yet awarded

Contract No.	Contract Name	Contract detail, including terms and provisions for extensions	Status
2069	Construction of Landscaping and Irrigation – Block 4, McLennan Street Mooroopna	Lump Sum Contract for the construction of landscaping, concrete pavement, irrigation and associated works in Block 4 McLennan Street, Mooroopna	Tender closed on 24 February 2021. Tender currently being evaluated.
2040	Supply of Resource Recovery Glass Bins	Lump Sum Contract for the Supply of Resource Recovery Glass Bins	Tender closed on 27 January 2021. Tender currently being evaluated.
2093	Home Modifications – Panel of Suppliers	Schedule of Rates Contract for the Panel of Suppliers – Home Modifications	Tender closed on 9 December 2020. Tenders currently being evaluated.
1911	Merrigum Swimming Pool – Sand Filter and Pump Renewal	Lump Sum Contracts for the Merrigum Swimming Pool – Sand Filter and Pump Renewal	Tender scheduled to close on 17 March 2021.
2121	Watt Road Bridge Upgrade	Lump Sum Contract for the Upgrade to the Watt Road Bridge, Mooroopna.	Tender scheduled to close on 10 March 2021.
2147	Supply and Installation of Leachate Pump, Compressor and Pipe System, Cosgrove 3 Landfill Precinct	Lump Sum Contract for the Supply and Installation of Leachate Pump, Compressor and Pipe System, Cosgrove 3 Landfill Precinct	Tender scheduled to close on 24 March 2021.
2138	Sport 2050 Strategic Plan Review	Lump Sum Contract for the Sport 2050 Strategic Plan Review	Tender scheduled to close on 5 March 2021.

### Requests for Tenders advertised but not yet awarded (continued)

Contract No.	Contract Name	Contract detail, including terms and provisions for extensions	Status
2077	Construction of Northern Taxiway and Concrete Helipark at Shepparton Aerodrome	Lump Sum Contract for the Construction of Northern Taxiway and Concrete Helipark at Shepparton Aerodrome - Lump Sum Contract	Tender scheduled to close on 24 March 2021.
2087	Construction Stage 1, Echuca Road, Mooroopna Shared Path	Lump Sum Contract for the Construction Stage 1, Echuca Road, Mooroopna Shared Path	Tender scheduled to close on 17 March 2021.
2149	Bud Lighting in Street Trees	Expression of Interest for Bud Lighting in Street Trees	Expression of Interest scheduled to close on 17 March 2021.
2024	Supply & Install of Upgraded Sound System - Riverlinks Eastbank	Lump Sum Contract for the Supply & Install of Upgraded Sound System - Riverlinks Eastbank	Tender closed on 22 December 2020. Tender currently being evaluated.

#### Policy Considerations

Through the *Instrument of Delegation to the Chief Executive Officer* the Council has delegated authority to the Chief Executive Officer to award a contract up to the value of \$500,000 including GST.

The Council through the *Exercise of Delegations* Policy has delegated authority to the Directors to approve a contract up to the value of \$150,000 for goods and services and \$200,000 for works.

#### Legal/Statutory Implications

Section 186 of the *Local Government Act 1989* (the Act) establishes the requirements for tendering and entering into contracts.

Section 186(1) of the Act requires that before Council enters into a contract for the purchase of goods or services to the value of \$150,000 or more, or for the carrying out of works to the value of \$200,000 or more, it must give public notice of the purpose of the contract and invite tenders or expressions of interest from any person wishing to undertake the contract.

#### Conclusion

It is important that decisions and actions taken under delegation be properly documented and transparent in nature. The report details the publicly advertised contracts awarded by the Chief Executive Officer and Directors under delegated authority of the Council during the period 1 February 2021 to 28 February 2021.

#### Attachments

Nil

## 11 Sustainable Development Directorate

### 11.1 Application of the Public Acquisition Overlay to realise Regional Infrastructure

Author Graduate Strategic Planner (Amendments)  
 Approved by Director Sustainable Development  
 Purpose For Decision by Council

#### Disclosures of Conflict of Interest in Relation to this Report

Under section 130 of the *Local Government Act 2020* officers, delegates and persons engaged under a contract providing advice to Council must disclose any conflicts of interests.

No Council officers or contractors who have provided advice in relation to this report have declared a conflict of interest regarding the matter under consideration.

#### RECOMMENDATION

**That the Council prepare and exhibit a planning scheme amendment to apply the Public Acquisition Overlay to the following parcels of land to realise the construction of shared and recreational paths, and land to serve as additional open space:**

- 560 Archer Road, Kialla
- 90 Seven Creeks Drive, Kialla, and
- 7265 Midland Highway, Mooroopna

#### Executive Summary

Frequently, land must be acquired to assist in the realisation of infrastructure to be used for public purposes. This report identifies three parcels of land that must be acquired in order to realise missing shared and recreational path links, and open space.

Greater Shepparton City Council is committed to supporting the development of walking and cycling as alternative modes of transport, and as tourism and recreation options. Greater Shepparton's flat topography makes cycling, in particular, a popular option for commuters and recreational riders.

The development of the walking and cycling network is supported in Council policy, including the *Greater Shepparton 2030 Strategy 2006* and the *Greater Shepparton Cycling Strategy 2013-2017*, which provide a framework and vision for the development of Greater Shepparton's networks by catering for the needs of commuter and recreational users.

In addition, Council is also implementing the *Riverconnect Paths Masterplan 2015*, which identifies five new recreational routes between Shepparton and Mooroopna through the Shepparton Regional Park.

In order to realise some of the cycling aspirations contained in these policy documents, Council will need to acquire land to assist in the realisation of a connected shared and recreational path network that will improve community wellbeing and tourism opportunities.

Council will also need to acquire land to serve as open space and floodplain as envisaged in the *Shepparton South Growth Corridor Outline Development Plan 2003*.

To realise this infrastructure, the acquisition of the following parcels of land at 560 Archer Road and 90 Seven Creeks Drive in Kialla, and 7265 Midland Highway in Mooroopna is required.

## Report Detail

The provision and development of walking and cycling infrastructure within Greater Shepparton is supported by numerous Council policy documents, which identify walking and cycling as legitimate modes of transport and recreational pursuits. The *Greater Shepparton 2030 Strategy 2006* and the *Greater Shepparton City Council Plan 2017-2021* include multiple objectives and strategies to develop walking and cycling across the municipality. The implementation of safe, connected and improved cycling linkages using off-road path networks, which would service existing and planned for future residential developments, are critical to the realisation of this vision.

A number of new paths within the municipality have been constructed on Council-owned land, on crown land through license agreements, and constructed by developers as part of planning permit conditions or as works-in-kind in new residential areas on behalf of Council. However, there are a number of identified shared and recreational paths that transverse through privately-owned land. To realise the vision of these strategic documents, land must be acquired to construct these important missing links.

### **560 Archer Road, Kialla**

The Kialla Lakes and Sanctuary Park estates feature a sizeable recreation path network that links the estates with the Yahna Gurtji shared path along the Broken River. This network of shared paths has been progressively extended to serve existing and newly built residential subdivisions in the area. The next step is to construct a shared path along the western side of Archer Road to link the recently constructed shared paths along part of Archer Road and Sanctuary Drive, constructed as part of the Sanctuary Park residential estate, with those being planned for along Marlboro Drive and existing at Coorong Court further to the north (see Figure 1). To achieve this, Council will need to acquire a small section of land fronting onto Archer Road at 560 Archer Road, Kialla.

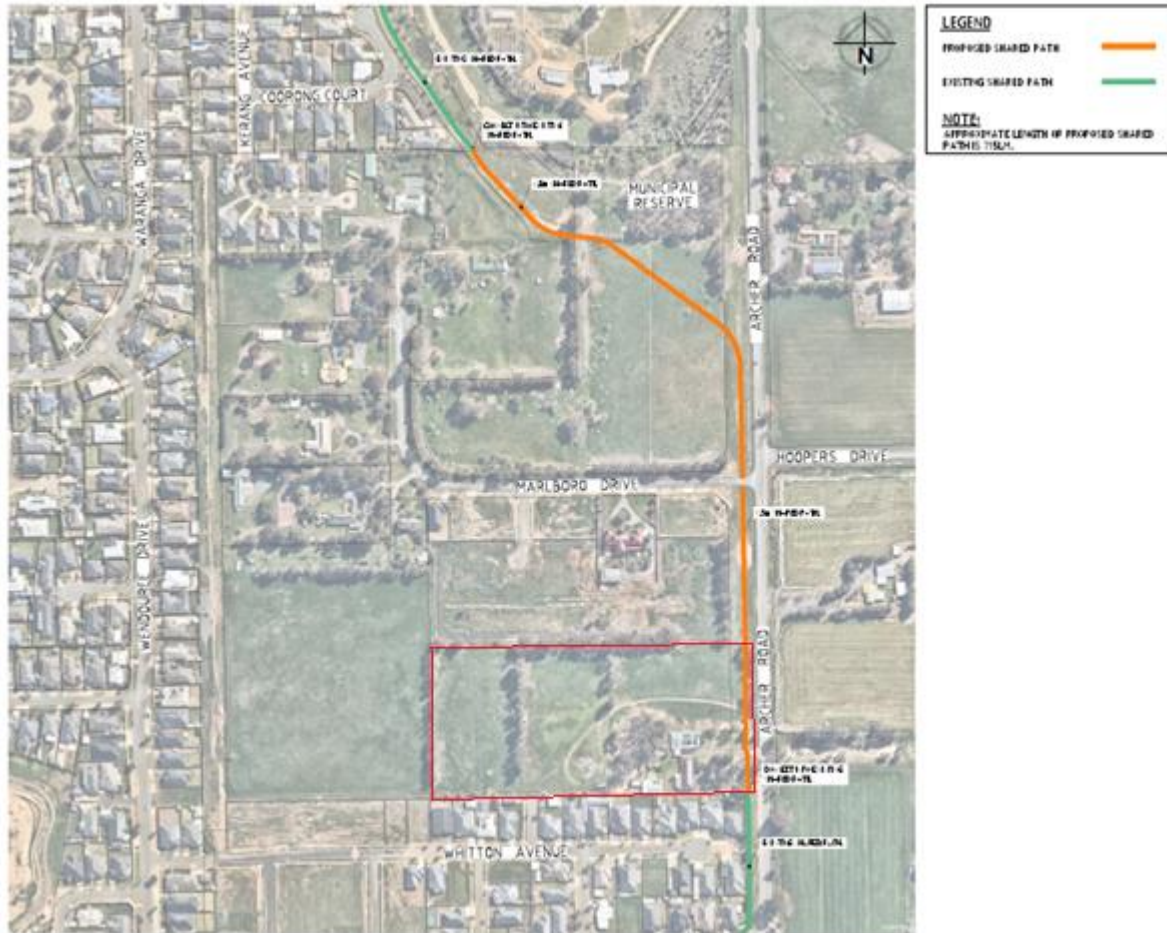


Figure 1: Existing shared paths in green, proposed shared path, along Archer Road, in orange and 560 Archer Road, Kialla outlined in red.

The front portion of the property abuts Archer Road while neighbouring properties to the north and south are both set-back eight metres to the west. A shared path from the Sanctuary Park estate was recently constructed up to the southern lot boundary (see Figure 2), which was constructed as part of the approved development plan under Development Plan Overlay DPO11. The section of the property to be acquired is a small frontage along Archer Road that is currently being used as a gravel access way, and was recently granted a planning permit for subdivision.



Figure 2: The existing shared path at the southern property boundary.

The acquisition of the land will facilitate the orderly extension of the existing and proposed shared path network, link new and proposed communities in the area to existing community infrastructure, and foster transport connections along Archer Road that link with jobs and services. A shared path cannot be accommodated in the existing road reserve without an adverse impact on established vegetation, and on-road bicycle lanes are undesirable at this location due to the high-speed limits on Archer Road and poor-quality shoulders.

A planning permit (2020-264) was recently granted to subdivide the land into two lots (see Figure 3). A condition on the planning permit requires the owners will enter into a Section 173 agreement with Council to vest an eight-metre strip of land on the eastern boundary to facilitate the widening of the road reserve for Archer Road, in lieu of the land owners paying open space contributions. It is intended that the land will be acquired at no cost to Council, but Council will need to pay for the subdivision process and the construction of the path.



Figure 3: 560 Archer Road, Kialla. The land to be acquired is outlined in red.

### 90 Seven Creeks Drive, Kialla

In 2003, the Shepparton South Growth Corridor was identified to accommodate 1,412 houses over a 20-25 year time horizon. All infrastructure required to support this future residential development was also identified as part of the planning for the Growth Corridor. The *Shepparton South Growth Corridor Outline Development Plan* (Outline Development Plan, see Figure 4) guides the development of all land in the Growth Corridor.

A significant aspiration of the Outline Development Plan was the realisation of low-lying land adjacent to the Seven Creeks to act as a series of encumbered and unencumbered open spaces. These open spaces would serve the recreational needs of the future residents and be complemented by playgrounds abutting Seven Creeks.

This land would also assist in realising one of the main overarching aims of the Outline Development Plan: the construction of a continuous north-south shared path network extending from the Goulburn Valley Highway to the south to the Broken River to the north along the Seven Creeks.

Since 2003, numerous shared paths were constructed along this alignment as land was subdivided for residential development.



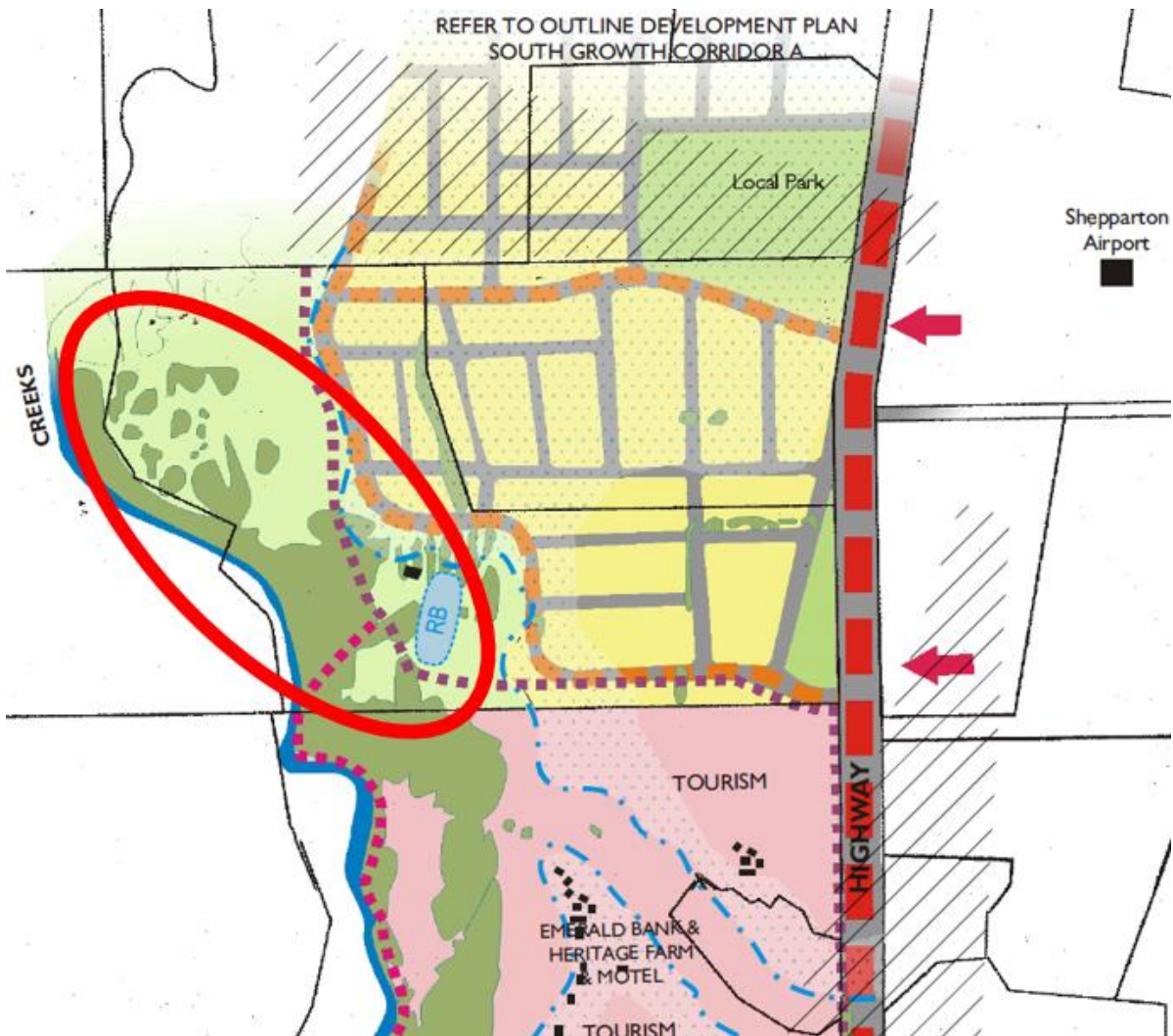


Figure 4: Extract from the *Shepparton South Growth Corridor Outline Development Plan* with the approximate extent of 90 Seven Creeks Drive, Kialla outlined in red.

A section of shared path was constructed in the Sevens Creek estate adjacent to Seven Creeks Drive, which will connect to the Riverwood shared path (Stages 1 and 2), which are currently under construction to the north.

The land to be acquired is currently divided into two lots. The first lot is 83 Seven Creeks Drive, Kialla, which is within the General Residential Zone and has a planning permit for a 15 lot subdivision to construct the first stage of the Sevens View Estate. The second lot is 90 Seven Creeks Drive, Kialla, which is within the Urban Floodway Zone. The Outline Development Plan identifies this lot as public open space with a shared path traversing north-south. This lot is currently in private ownership with a dwelling.

To enable the second lot to be utilised as public open space and to be managed by Council as a floodway, Council must acquire 12.57 hectares of 90 Seven Creeks Drive, Kialla (see Figure 5). The acquisition of land will also allow for the realisation of a shared path to be extended further south towards the Emerald Bank tourist precinct.



Figure 5: Land to be acquired from 90 Seven Creeks Drive, Kialla.

**7265 Midland Highway, Mooroopna**

Riverconnect was founded to develop a strong sense of belonging and connection to the Goulburn and Broken River environments for the people of Shepparton, Kialla and Mooroopna, and to deliver a more cohesive approach to river management. A long-term goal for the organisation within the *Riverconnect Strategic Plan 2017-2022* is to increase access to the river environment and its associated places of cultural heritage significance. The creation of a shared path network is central to achieving this goal.

The implementation of the *Riverconnect Paths Master Plan 2015* (Master Plan) informs the development of the shared and recreational path network between Shepparton and Mooroopna through the Shepparton Regional Park. The Master Plan was adopted by Council at the Ordinary Council Meeting held in November 2015 and identifies five main routes within the Shepparton Regional Park: routes 3 (The Flats) and 5 (Botanic gardens over Broken River) are currently under construction (see Figure 6).



Figure 6: The Riverconnect Paths Master Plan 2015. Route 2 is enclosed in red.

The development of the path network through the Shepparton Regional Park is also supported by numerous Council policy documents. An objective in the *Greater Shepparton Strategy Plan 2030 2006* is to protect and enhance the network of public open space, with a key action to achieve this being the examination of options for developing existing linear tracts of land, including floodways and river frontage, to provide additional opportunities for walking and cycling. The *Greater Shepparton Council Plan Council Plan 2017-2021* aims to achieve and sustain physical, emotional and spiritual health and wellbeing to encourage active transport through safe and connected linkages, and to ensure the creation of high quality public open spaces.

A key action in the *Mooroopna Community Plan 2015* aspires to develop Gemmill Swamp with walking tracks, bicycle links, chairs, interpretative signage and viewing platforms to provide new cultural and recreational tourism opportunities in Gemmill Swamp.

A section of route 2 (Gemmill Swamp to Kidstown) transverses through privately-owned land at 7265 Midland Highway, Mooroopna that will need to be acquired if the path is to be constructed (see Figure 7).

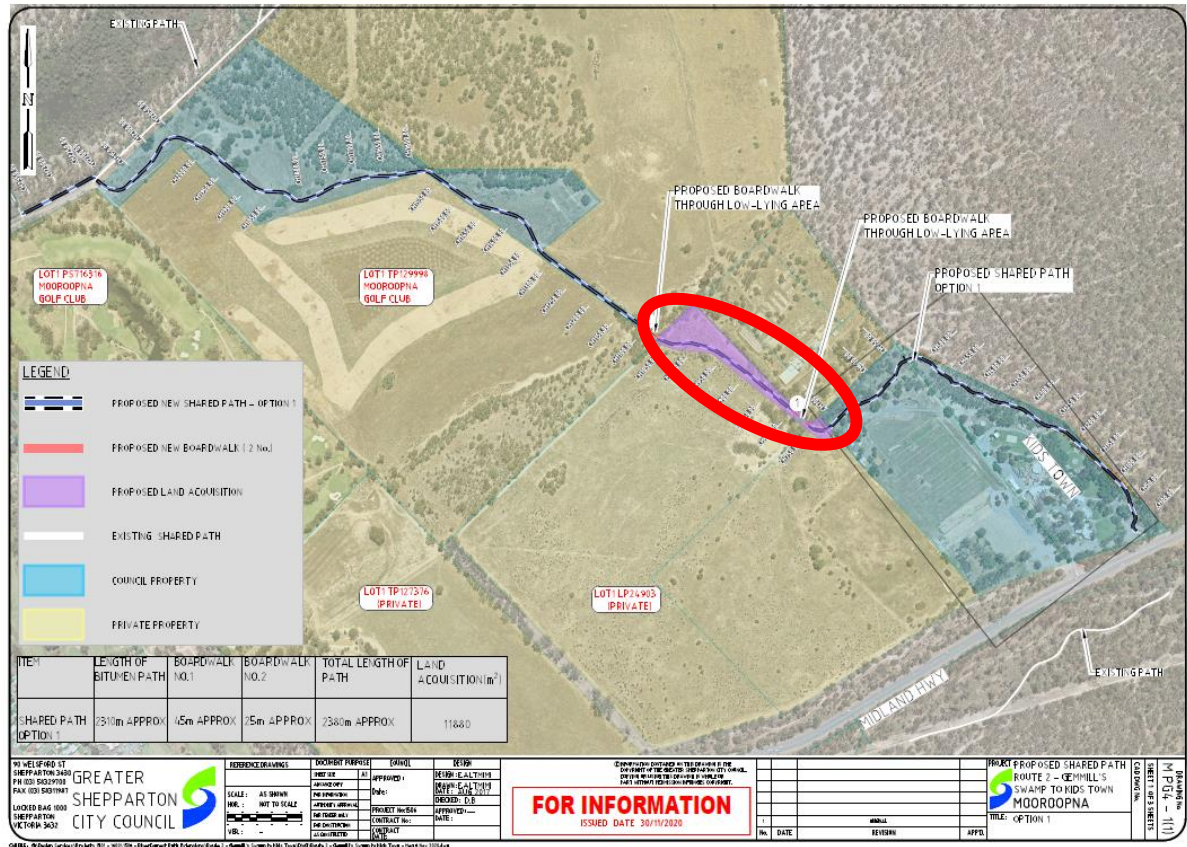


Figure 7: Concept alignment for Riverconnect Route 2. Land to be acquired is highlighted in purple.

**Public Acquisition**

It is proposed that each parcel of land will be acquired by applying a Public Acquisition Overlay (PAO) to part of the land parcels identified in this report to facilitate the realisation of regional infrastructure: recreational and shared path missing links, and open space and floodway. The *Land Acquisition and Compensation Act 1986* requires that the PAO be applied to the land before steps are taken to acquire it.

The PAO identifies land that is proposed to be identified by a government department, agency or municipal council, and to reserve land for a public purpose and to ensure that changes to the use or development of the land do not prejudice the purpose for which the land is to be acquired. Applying the PAO does not compel Council to purchase the land until Council decides to initiate the acquisition process.

A planning scheme amendment is required to apply the PAO to land in the Greater Shepparton Planning Scheme. This process will include significant consultation with all affected landholders and, if any submissions that object or request changes that cannot be resolved are received, an independent planning panel.

**Council Plan/Key Strategic Activity**

**BUILT**

Provide and support appealing relevant infrastructure that makes Greater Shepparton an attractive, liveable regional city.

- 4.1 Growth is well planned and managed for the future.
- 4.7 Reliable, safe, more frequent and connected local and broader transport system supporting the connection of people within, across and outside of Greater Shepparton.
- 4.8 Active transport (cycling, walking) is encouraged through safe, connected and improved linkages.

### **Risk Management**

There are no inherent risks of undertaking a planning scheme amendment. The only risks to Council are financial implications if the planning scheme amendment is not adopted by Council or approved and gazetted by the Minister for Planning. The Planning and Environment Act 1987 guides the entire planning scheme amendment process to minimise risk to planning authorities.

### **Policy Considerations**

The acquisition process will assist in implementing shared and recreational path projects that have been identified in several Council policy and planning documents, including the *Greater Shepparton Cycling Strategy 2013-2017*, the *Shepparton South Growth Corridor Outline Development Plan 2003* and the *Riverconnect Paths Master Plan 2015*.

The future compulsory acquisition process will be performed in accordance with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020*, and the *Land Acquisition and Compensation Act 1986*.

### **Financial Implications**

The process to prepare and exhibit a planning scheme amendment to apply a PAO to the land will result in financial implications for Council. The costs of the planning scheme amendment process and an Independent Planning Panel, if required, will need to be met by Council.

Should the planning scheme amendment be approved by the Minister for Planning and be gazetted, taking effect in the Greater Shepparton Planning Scheme, the cost of purchasing the land under the acquisition process will also need to be met by Council. However, this component is a future process.

### **Legal/Statutory Implications**

The planning scheme amendment process and the compulsory acquisition of land will be performed in accordance with the requirements of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, the *Local Government Act 2020*, and the *Land Acquisition and Compensation Act 1986*.

### **Environmental/Sustainability Impacts**

There are positive environmental or sustainability implications associated with undertaking a planning scheme amendment. Acquiring the land to construct regional infrastructure will improve environmental and sustainability outcomes by assisting in facilitating cycling as an active mode of transport, and increasing the community's awareness and appreciation for the local environment. It will also improve flood resilience.

### **Social Implications**

There are positive social implications associated with undertaking a planning scheme amendment. Acquiring the land to construct shared paths will improve social outcomes by encouraging the uptake of cycling for recreational purposes, leading to improved health outcomes.

### **Economic Impacts**

There are positive economic implications associated with undertaking a planning scheme amendment. Acquiring the land to construct shared paths through the Shepparton Regional Park and along Seven Creeks towards Emerald Bank may improve Greater Shepparton's reputation as a cycling destination for tourists, facilitating increased expenditure from visitors and tourists.

## Consultation

Council officers have communicated with landowners about the need to acquire land to facilitate these projects as part of the project planning process.

The planning scheme amendment process to apply the PAO will be subject to a public exhibition and submission process in accordance with the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*. This will include direct notification to affected landowners and interested parties, and referral to an Independent Planning Panel, if required, to consider any submissions requesting changes that cannot be supported or object to the proposed planning scheme amendment.

## Strategic Links

### a) Greater Shepparton 2030 Strategy

#### Objectives

- To develop Walking/Bicycle and Public Transport networks that provides transport and accessibility options to segments of the community who have not or prefer not to use a motor car.

### b) Other strategic links

- Greater Shepparton Cycling Strategy 2013-2017
- Riverconnect Paths Master Plan 2015
- Shepparton South Growth Corridor Outline Development Plan 2003

## Conclusion

To facilitate regional recreational and shared path missing links, and ensure identified open space and floodway are within public ownership, as identified in a variety of Council policy documents, Council will need to acquire the three parcels of land identified in this report. The land will be acquired through the application of a Public Acquisition Overlay (PAO) that will provide a formal mechanism to acquire the land in accordance with State government legislation.

In order to apply a PAO, Council must prepare and exhibit a planning scheme amendment in accordance with the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*. This report seeks Council's support to commence the planning scheme amendment process.

## Attachments

Nil

## 11.2 Grants Distribution Policy

Author Executive Assistant to Director Sustainable Development  
 Approved by Director Sustainable Development  
 Purpose For Decision by Council

### Disclosures of Conflict of Interest in Relation to this Report

Under section 130 of the *Local Government Act 2020* officers, delegates and persons engaged under a contract providing advice to Council must disclose any conflicts of interests.

No Council officers or contractors who have provided advice in relation to this report have declared a conflict of interest regarding the matter under consideration.

### RECOMMENDATION

**That the Council adopts the Grants Distribution Policy 43.2 POL1.**

### Executive Summary

The Grants Distribution Policy outlines Council's role, responsibilities for grants, the grant categories, and funding criteria and was first implemented in 2014.

The current process of awarding grants as outlined in the existing policy is robust yet lengthy. Feedback from applicants is that Council's lengthy process of notifying the outcome of grants inhibits flexible and community friendly processes to implement and execute projects. This is felt in particular within the sporting community who are dependent on seasonal decisions.

Following a trial of a 'quick response' approach to awarding grants as part of the Council's Economic response package to COVID-19 it is recommended that Council's grants policy be amended to allow for a more responsive approach to all grant programs on a permanent basis.

The new process will remove the requirement to have all grants approved at an Ordinary Council Meeting (OCM) and allow for individual Directors to approve the outcome within their financial delegation as recommended by the assessment panel.

All grant outcomes will then be presented to Executive Leadership Team (ELT) and a Councillor Briefing post execution of grant agreement for transparency and for noting in a OCM report.

It is estimated that this change will allow for grants to be awarded and executed within five to six weeks after the grant round closes. At present it takes eight to ten weeks for applicants to know the outcome after the grant round closes and agreements are executed.

## Report Detail

Council has an annual grant distribution of community grants of approximately \$450,000.

A policy and procedure for distribution of council grants was first developed and adopted by the council in March 2014.

The purpose of the policy and procedure was to introduce an open and transparent process and sound management structure around the way council awards and records grants.

The policy outlines council's role, responsibilities for grants, the grant categories, and funding criteria. The policy provides direction for the grants distribution procedure, which outlines the process for staff.

The Grant Distribution Policy 43.2POL1 was reviewed and re-adopted with minor changes in April 2016.

The Grant Distribution Policy 43.2POL1 was reviewed and re-adopted with minor changes in April 2017.

The Grant Distribution Policy 43.2POL1 was audited by Crowe Horwath, reviewed and re-adopted with minor changes in July 2019.

In July 2020 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic a modified approval process was trailed for the first time.

The current approval process (as per Policy) is based on the following structure:

- Grant applications received
- Assessment of applications (via Smartygrants) by panel made up of council staff chaired by the Grants Coordinator
- Recommendation from assessment presented to ELT
- Recommendation presented to Council briefing
- All grant recommendations presented to an Ordinary Council Meeting
- Grant applications notified of the outcome from the OCM

This approval process is very robust and allows for scrutiny of applications from all levels of council. However, it is at the same time, with considerations of the reporting timeframes, quite time consuming and this has a negative impact on the grant recipients as they have to wait for a decision for up to 2.5 months from closing of the grant round. Once the decision is made additional time is required to issue and execute the funding agreements and processing of payments leaving the applicants waiting for their grant money for up to 3 months or sometimes longer.

Council officers have received anecdotal feedback from applicants regarding the time of the process. In particular this is felt within the sporting community as it is divided into seasons and dependent on timely decisions regarding upgrading of facilities and purchase of uniforms etc. It is understood that a more efficient approach from council will aid all community groups in undertaking projects and implement new programs in a timelier manner.

At the time of commencement of the grants policy and associated procedure in 2014 the pre-existing process of awarding of grants at council was quite ad-hoc and lacked rigour. At the time a new rigorous process with final approval at OCM was necessary to achieve the standard and structure that council was aiming for.



Since 2014 a number of key improvements has been made across the council in relation to awarding grant monies. This includes the introduction of a grants policy, grants procedure for staff and the standardisation of grant applications via the use of the Smartygrants software (developed by the Australian Institute of Grants management (AIGM)). All staff have the ongoing support of the Grants Coordinator position who oversees the process and chair all grant panel meetings making sure there is consistency across the organisation.

All council grant programs, policy and process were successfully audited by external auditors Crowe Horwath in July 2019.

When benchmarking Shepparton's approval process across the state evidence suggest that every council is quite different and there is no unison approach on the actual approval structure. Most council's do apply an assessment panel however the delegation of approval varies. The most crucial factors are that there is transparency, that the grants are non-biased, align with council plan and polices and that they are fair.

The panel of assessors (council staff) does undertake a robust assessment process which includes a 'conflict of interest' and to 'keep information confidential' declaration recorded in Smartygrants. A panel of 3-5 assessors, council officers, (depending on the size of the program) read all applications and score them against grant criteria based on objectives for the program that is pre-set in the grant guidelines.

Assessors are chosen based on their expertise of the topic of the grant. I.e., the Community Matching Grant will have staff from, Community Wellbeing, Active Living, Recreation and Parks and occasionally Children's services depending of the theme of the grants that come through. After scoring the grants are ranked with 50% cut off point. Depending of the number of applications and amount of funds available applications are then discussed at a panel meeting and decided upon. All results from the panel meeting are recorded in minutes which makes the basis for a report provided to the Manager and then Director before going to ELT.

In the current Policy all grants are obliged to be presented to ELT and approved at an OCM. During the COVID-19 lock down as a measure in the Council's Economic Response package council trialled a "quick response" approach to awarding a number of selected community grants. The purpose was to allow for funds to dispersed in time for the community to aid recovery from the pandemic.

This process included the same steps as mentioned above however instead of approval at an OCM the grants were approved under the delegation of the individual Director and presented to ELT and Councillors for noting after the applicants have been notified of the outcome.

Proposed updated approval process:

- Grant applications received
- Assessment of applications (via Smartygrants) by panel made up of Council staff chaired by the Grants Coordinator
- Panel recommendation reviewed by relevant Manger
- Panel recommendations approved by relevant Director
- Applicants notified/Grant agreements executed

Post each approved grant round

- Outcome of the grant round presented to ELT
- Outcome of the grant round presented at Council briefing

- Outcome of the grant round included in the OCM report for public awareness

All grant programs are in line with the financial delegation of all Directors.

It is proposed that the grant policy to be amended to allow for this more efficient approval process to be implemented across all grant programs.

This update will allow for a robust yet response approach to awarding of grants at Greater Shepparton giving the community greater opportunity to implement timely projects and programs.

## Council Plan/Key Strategic Activity

### **LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE**

Provide strong civic leadership, advocacy and good governance in the operation of Greater Shepparton City Council.

1.3 Council demonstrates strong leadership and sound decision making in the best interests of the community.

### **SOCIAL**

2.2 Our community is supported to achieve and sustain physical, emotional and spiritual health and wellbeing.

2.5 Creativity and participation in arts and culture is nurtured and encouraged.

2.6 Volunteering is promoted and encouraged along with other measures to improve community resilience.

2.7 Greater Shepparton is valued for cultural celebrations, inclusion and engagement of our diverse communities.

2.8 Our Aboriginal culture and people are valued and celebrated, with collaborative actions undertaken to enable peaceful, healthy and productive lives in a safe environment.

2.9 Public places, open space and community facilities are safe and accessible for all and presented to a high quality.

### **ECONOMIC**

3.3 Greater Shepparton is a major destination for events and tourism

### **BUILT**

4.3 Greater Shepparton's heritage places, cultural landscapes, and objects are protected and conserved for future generations.

4.4 Quality infrastructure is provided and maintained to acceptable standards.

4.5 Assets are well managed and their renewal is being planned through long term renewal Strategies.

### **ENVIRONMENT**

5.1 Greening Greater Shepparton has created an attractive, vibrant and liveable place with well-connected green spaces that are valued by the community

5.4 Council has positioned itself to be a leader in building Greater Shepparton's response to climate change issues, in partnership with key stakeholders.

## Risk Management

Awarding grants to the local community provides many opportunities in terms of social and economic benefits and it promotes innovation, capacity building and long-term sustainability. The risks associated with grants involve financial reporting and how Council can ensure that the money is expended in an appropriate way that creates benefits to the local community.

### Policy Considerations

No conflict with any other policy has been identified.

### Financial Implications

Council currently has an annual financial commitment to the dissemination grants of approximately \$450,000. This amount is determined as part of the budget process on an annual basis and may vary from year to year.

### Legal/Statutory Implications

Council is expected to comply with privacy regulations and government record management legislation in relation to keeping grant records. The introduction of the policy and a more efficient record keeping system will improve Council's ability to show auditors how a decision was reached, the process from initial application to assessment and all other associated correspondence to the application.

### Environmental/Sustainability Impacts

The policy supports that all grant applications are managed via an online system, which reduces the use of paper-based forms.

### Social Implications

Grant programs provides ongoing social benefits to the local community. With a policy in place, Council can ensure it does provide key outcomes that respond to the active and engaged (social) objectives of the Council Plan.

### Economic Impacts

Grant programs provides ongoing economic benefits to the local community. With a policy in place, Council can ensure it does provide key outcomes that respond to the economic prosperity objectives of the Council Plan.

### Consultation

Following the quick response grant approval process as a response to COVID-19 feedback from council officers and community members were received by the Grants Coordinator. It was highlighted that a more efficient process to awarding grants would be of great benefit to local sporting, event and community organisations.

Current funding application forms also include a "feedback" section at the end of the form. It has been noted from this process and also when meeting with applicants at grants information sessions that there is a wish for the council grants to be disseminated faster.

All grant programs are aligned with the current council plan objectives.

Officers believe that appropriate consultation has occurred and the matter is now ready for Council consideration.

### Strategic Links

#### a) Greater Shepparton 2030 Strategy

- a) Greater Shepparton 2030 Strategy
- Topic: Community Life
- Theme: Health and Social Services
- To encourage and implement activities that will strengthen community spirit.

#### b) Other strategic links

Nil

## Conclusion

The current process of awarding grants as outlined in the existing policy is robust yet lengthy. It is proposed that the process of awarding council grants is amended to allow for a more efficient process.

## Attachments

1. Grant Distribution Policy 43. POL1 [11.2.1 - 7 pages]

## 11.3 Adoption of Shepparton and Mooroopna 2050: Regional City Growth Plan

Author Team Leader Strategic Planning  
 Approved by Director Sustainable Development  
 Purpose For Decision by Council

### Disclosures of Conflict of Interest in Relation to this Report

Under section 130 of the *Local Government Act 2020* officers, delegates and persons engaged under a contract providing advice to Council must disclose any conflicts of interests.

No Council officers or contractors who have provided advice in relation to this report have declared a conflict of interest regarding the matter under consideration.

### RECOMMENDATION

That the Council:

1. receive and note the *Shepparton and Mooroopna 2050: Regional City Growth Plan, Community Engagement Summary Report January 2020*;
2. receive and note the *Greater Shepparton City Council Conversation Report – Shepparton and Mooroopna 2050: Regional City Growth Plan – additional community consultation, March 2021*;
3. receive and note the *Shepparton and Mooroopna 2050: Regional City Growth Plan, Background Report, July 2020*;
4. receive and note the *Shepparton East Agricultural Land Use Options Study, March 2020* and the *Addendum to Shepparton East Agricultural Land Use Options Report, November 2020*;
5. receive and note the *Land Supply Review – Shepparton and Mooroopna 2050: Regional City Growth Plan, November 2020*;
6. adopt the *Shepparton and Mooroopna 2050: Regional City Growth Plan*, which includes the following changes to the version considered at the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 18 August 2020 titled *Shepparton and Mooroopna 2050: Regional City Growth Plan, July 2020*:

Page	Change	Revised wording
Cover	Date	March 2021
All	Date in footers	March 2021
2	Update acknowledgement	"We, Greater Shepparton City Council, acknowledge the Yorta Yorta Peoples of the land which now comprises Greater Shepparton, we pay

		our respect to their tribal elders, we celebrate their continuing culture and we acknowledge the memory of their ancestors.”
8	Update Plan 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Add GSSC location</li> <li>- Add Mooroopna Integrated Early Learning Centre location</li> <li>- Extend Kialla West Growth Corridor (“residential future”) further south to align with extent shown on page 34 (Plan 6)</li> </ul> Change designation of Kialla North Growth Corridor to “planning underway”
9	Add additional consultation before “Strategic context”	<p>“Additional Consultation</p> <p>Additional consultation on the Growth Plan following the August 2020 Ordinary Council Meeting occurred from 16 November to 24 December 2020. The purpose of the additional community consultation was to better ensure that any interested stakeholders across Greater Shepparton have had the opportunity to provide informed feedback on the proposed planning outcomes for Shepparton, Mooroopna and Kialla. 79 submissions were received by Council, which are summarised in the <i>Conversation Report – Shepparton and Mooroopna 2050: Regional City Growth Plan – Additional Community Consultation (March 2020)</i>.”</p>
10	Update list of documents under “How has the Growth Plan been prepared?”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Shepparton East Agricultural Land Use Options Report March 2020</li> <li>- <i>Conversation Report – Shepparton and Mooroopna 2050: Regional City Growth Plan – Additional Community Consultation (March 2020)</i></li> </ul>
10	Update flowchart under “Key tasks in the development of the Growth Plan”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Add Growth Plan after Community Engagement</li> <li>- Add additional consultation after Growth Plan (before Final Growth Plan)</li> </ul>
17	Amend Outcome 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To ensure adaption to climate change and a robust economy for continued prosperity in times of change.</li> </ul>
22	Update timeframes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Change timeframe to “immediate” for 1.1.1</li> <li>- Change timeframe to “ongoing” for 1.1.2</li> <li>- Change timeframe to “medium” for 1.1.3</li> </ul>
26	Update Plan 4	Replace Cycling Corridors plan with updated plan from the Department of Transport
27	Update timeframes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Change timeframe to “short” for 2.2.1</li> <li>- Change timeframe to “ongoing” for 2.2.2</li> </ul>
29	Update timeframe	Change timeframe to “immediate” for 2.5.2
32	Add additional wording regarding Investigation Area 4 future use	<p>Before the final sentence above Table 4, add the following text:</p> <p>Land immediately to the east of the Shepparton Alternative Route (Doyles Road) between the</p>

		Midland Highway and the Shepparton-Dookie Railway Line will remain in the Farming Zone. The Farming Zone provisions facilitate the use of land for rural industrial uses, including transport-related uses, that do not adversely affect the use of land for agriculture and where land use conflicts can be mitigated. Where appropriate, Council will support the use of this land for rural industry, which must be considered through the planning permit process on a case-by-case basis, particularly where such uses rely on proximity to the Principal Freight Network, uses that require a large site or uses related to agriculture that cannot generally be accommodated in the existing industrial zones. It should be noted that direct access to the Shepparton Alternative Route will not generally be supported, and access should be directed to Old Dookie Road and New Dookie Road.
32	Update growth areas in Table 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Change “Kialla Raceway Development” to “Kialla South Growth Corridor”</li> <li>- Change “Radio Australia Site” to “Former Radio Australia site”</li> <li>- Change timing for Shepparton Airport to “unknown”</li> </ul>
33	Amend wording in Kialla North Growth Corridor	Change “It’s” to “It is”
33	Additional wording for the Kialla West Growth Corridor description	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Change the second last sentence to read: “The density of this growth corridor must be respectful of the existing context of the area, and development must recognise and be integrated with the existing Kialla West Township.”</li> <li>- Add the following at the end of the existing description: “Development must recognise and mitigate risks associated with bushfire due to the vegetation in the area, as well as the location of the blast zone of the APA High Pressure Gas Pipeline.</li> <li>- Land west of Raftery Road, between Raftery Road and the Arcadia Downs Estate, within the Rural Living Zone and Farming Zone may realise some rural residential potential in the short-medium term. The rural residential development of this land will not require a Precinct Structure Plan.”</li> </ul>
33	Amend name of Kialla Raceway Development and add wording to the	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Change name to “Kialla South Growth Corridor”</li> <li>- Add the following at the end of the existing description:</li> </ul>

	description	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- “Development must recognise and mitigate risks associated with the location of the blast zone of the APA High Pressure Gas Pipeline.”</li> </ul>
33	Amend Kialla Central description	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Change second bullet point to read: “Determine the need for additional community infrastructure. New development must ensure connectivity to existing road networks and walkability to existing community facilities, particularly the primary school. Any expansion must have regard to the role and function of the Shepparton Alternative Route must provide sufficient buffers to this key network.</li> <li>- Change final bullet point to read: “Review the most appropriate zones for the land around the Kialla Central Township, having regard to the development constraints applying at the time. The development of this growth corridor must recognise and be integrated with the existing Kialla Central Township.”</li> </ul>
33	Amend name of Radio Australia Site	Change name to “Former Radio Australia site”
33	Amend Shepparton Airport description	<p>Add the following at the end of the existing description:</p> <p>Until the relocation of the Shepparton Airport is confirmed, ongoing investment at the current site should continue to be supported and encouraged in the medium to long term, particularly where that investment ensures that safety standards can be maintained.</p>
34	Update Plan 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Change name of Radio Australia site to “Former Radio Australia site”</li> <li>- Update designation of Shepparton South East to “short term future residential (standard density)” (same designation as shown for the southern portion of Kialla North Growth Corridor)</li> <li>- Change Shepparton Airport location to be shown as an asterisk in dark/navy rather than a blob</li> <li>- Change designation of dark/navy asterisk in legend to “unknown timing”</li> <li>- Change Kialla Central asterisk to a small circle (in existing location and the same size as the existing asterisk) with four arrows pointing outwards from the circle and colour to match former Radio Australia site</li> </ul>
35	Update wording in	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Change Kialla North growth corridor to</li> </ul>



	strategies	<p>“Kialla North Growth Corridor” for the Action in section in 3.1.2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Change name of “Kialla Raceway Development” to “Kialla South Growth Corridor” for the Action in section 3.1.3</li> <li>- Change the wording of the Action in section 3.1.4 to read “Maintain the current 8-hectare minimum lot size requirement, until a Precinct Structure Plan and Development Contributions Plan for the Kialla West Growth Corridor have been prepared. The land between Raftery Road and the Arcadia Downs estate may realise some rural residential function in the short-medium term and can be considered without the preparation of a Precinct Structure Plan and Development Contributions Plan.”</li> <li>- Change the name of “Radio Australia site” to “former Radio Australia Site” for the Action in section 3.1.7</li> </ul>
36	Correct wording under “Heritage”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Change the year of <i>Greater Shepparton Heritage Study II</i> from 2019 to 2020</li> <li>- Change “20<sup>th</sup> Century Heritage” to “20<sup>th</sup> century heritage”</li> </ul>
44 and 45	Update funding tables	Update funding tables to align with current known funding.
46	Update Plan 7	Add connection arrows to Shepparton CBD inner eastern link road
51	Fix typo	Remove apostrophe from CBDs in Strategy 5.2.2
56	Update Responsibility in Strategy 6.1.1	Add DELWP to Responsibility

**7. note that Council officers will begin preparing a planning scheme amendment to implement the *Shepparton and Mooroopna 2050: Regional City Growth Plan* into the Greater Shepparton Planning Scheme.**

### Executive Summary

The *Shepparton and Mooroopna 2050: Regional City Growth Plan* (the Growth Plan) will integrate Council’s strategic work relating to growth, land use planning and infrastructure requirements into a cohesive framework, incorporating the various components into a blueprint for the future.

The Victorian Planning Authority (VPA), in collaboration with Council, has prepared the Growth Plan to identify strategic advantages, address key challenges, and set a vision to guide sustainable growth and development up to 2050. It addresses residential, commercial and industrial needs, major infrastructure requirements and staging options, such as drainage, recreation and open space networks, and provides for the future needs of the transport network.

Preliminary consultation was undertaken with key stakeholders, such as school students, referral authorities, agencies and service providers, to inform the *Shepparton and Mooroopna 2050: Regional Growth Plan Key Issues and Opportunities Report, February 2019* (the Issues and Opportunities Report). This report was then released for public consultation in February and March 2019. The community consultation was very successful, with 225 pieces of feedback received online, 46 written submissions and 90 conversations at face-to-face engagement events.

Following consideration of feedback from the public, the *Draft Shepparton and Mooroopna 2050: Regional City Growth Plan 2019* (the Draft Growth Plan) was prepared. The Draft Growth Plan was released for community consultation in September and October 2019. 37 written submissions were received by the VPA on the Draft Growth Plan, as well as an additional 15 late submissions that were addressed directly to Council. Details on the community consultation undertaken are included in the *Shepparton & Mooroopna 2050: Regional City Growth Plan, Community Engagement Summary Report January 2020* (see *Attachment 1 – Community Engagement Summary Report*).

The final Growth Plan provides new residential and industrial framework plans for the Shepparton, Mooroopna and Kialla urban areas to guide urban development to 2050, and incorporates feedback that emerged from key stakeholders, agencies and members of the general public.

At the Ordinary Council Meeting (OCM) held on 18 August 2020, Council resolved to defer the adoption of the Growth Plan for six months to allow time for extended consultation with the Greater Shepparton community. This additional community consultation period allowed further opportunities for the community to provide informed feedback to Council about the future of Shepparton, Mooroopna and Kialla.

This additional community consultation commenced on Monday, 16 November 2020 and concluded on Thursday, 24 December 2020. 79 submissions were received during the additional community consultation period. Themes that emerged during the additional community consultation period included:

1. Supply and demand;
2. Land east of Doyles Road and the north-south expansion of Shepparton;
3. Former Radio Australia site;
4. Mooroopna – rezoning land to the Rural Living Zone;
5. Kialla Central Growth Corridor;
6. Kialla Raceway Development;
7. Kialla West Growth Corridor;
8. Rezoning requests;
9. Former Mooroopna Hospital site;
10. Funding / staging for arterial road upgrades;
11. Greater Shepparton Secondary College (GSSC);
12. Shepparton North Activity Centre (SNAC); and
13. Flood controls.

On Tuesday, 19 January 2021, all submitters to the Growth Plan were provided with the opportunity to verbally brief Councillors on their submissions and outline their concerns.

Council officers have considered all feedback received and have made various changes to the final Growth Plan as a result. These changes are detailed in the above recommendation, as well as in Table 1 in this report.

It is now recommended that Council adopt the *Shepparton and Mooroopna 2050: Regional City Growth Plan*. The adoption of the Growth Plan will provide Council with a strategic

planning framework that will assist in the preparation of more detailed local plans, and help Council to advocate for funding to deliver infrastructure to support the sustainable growth of the city.

### Report Detail

Shepparton is nominated as a regional city forecast for major growth in the *Hume Regional Growth Plan 2014* and *Plan Melbourne 2017-2050*. To inform this future growth, the Victorian Planning Authority (VPA), in conjunction with Council, has prepared the *Shepparton and Mooroopna 2050: Regional City Growth Plan*. The Growth Plan identifies Shepparton and Mooroopna's strategic advantages, addresses key challenges, and sets a vision to guide sustainable growth and development to 2050.

The current Framework Plan for Greater Shepparton is the *Greater Shepparton 2030 Strategy*, which was adopted in 2006. This document provides a blueprint for building sustainable economic activity and maximising the quality of life in Greater Shepparton.

Since the finalisation of this Strategy, Greater Shepparton has experienced a significant amount of growth, particularly in Shepparton and Mooroopna, and investment in infrastructure from the Federal and State Governments. It is now necessary to prepare a revised Framework Plan to adequately plan for Shepparton and Mooroopna's future.

Council was successful in attaining funding of \$200,000 from the Streamlining for Growth Fund, administered by the VPA in the 2016/2017 financial year. This assisted in the preparation of the *Shepparton and Mooroopna 2050: Regional City Growth Plan Background Report July 2020* (see Attachment 2 – Background Report).

Council successfully applied for additional funding of \$200,000 from the Streamlining for Growth Fund in the 2017/2018 financial year to prepare the Draft Growth Plan. The VPA provided \$150,000 of resources to the project, while \$50,000 was utilised for additional consultancy work. Council contributed \$100,000 towards the project in the form of in-house assistance.

The Growth Plan is a high-level and broad strategy that:

- compiles and reviews existing strategies;
- identifies gaps in the provision and services of key infrastructure, such as drainage and transport networks;
- prepares reports where gaps have been identified;
- sets out the future vision for Shepparton and Mooroopna;
- guides sustainable future growth and development over the next 30 years;
- identifies the steps needed to manage growth;
- defines key projects and infrastructure required to support growth; and
- provides an improved and more certain environment for making both public and private investment decisions.

To inform the community consultation and the preparation of the final Growth Plan, Council and the VPA prepared the following documents:

- *Shepparton and Mooroopna 2050: Regional Growth Plan Key Issues and Opportunities Report, February 2019;*
- *Shepparton and Mooroopna 2050: Regional City Growth Plan Background Report July 2020;*
- *Shepparton East Agricultural Land Use Options Study, March 2020;*
- *Addendum to Shepparton East Agricultural Land Use Options Report, November 2020;*
- *Land Supply Review – Shepparton and Mooroopna 2050: Regional City Growth Plan, November 2020; and*

- *Draft Shepparton and Mooroopna 2050: Regional City Growth Plan.*

The Growth Plan provides new residential and industrial framework plans for the Shepparton, Mooroopna and Kialla urban areas to guide urban development to 2050, and will be used to coordinate, guide and inform the preparation and consideration of future more detailed local plans and planning permit applications.

#### Stakeholder Engagement

Preliminary consultation with key stakeholders was undertaken, including a workshop on 17 April 2018 and individual consultation sessions on 1, 2 and 3 May 2018. The purpose of this preliminary consultation was to confirm draft issues and opportunities, test principles and outcomes, identify additional issues and develop a draft vision statement.

The *Shepparton and Mooroopna 2050: Regional Growth Plan Key Issues and Opportunities Paper, February 2019* was released for public consultation between 22 February and 25 March 2019, and the results were summarised in the *Shepparton and Mooroopna 2050: Regional City Growth Plan – Key Issues and Opportunities Report, Community Engagement Summary Report, June 2019*. The VPA also prepared the *Shepparton and Mooroopna 2050: Primary School Engagement Report October 2018* to summarise the consultation undertaken with primary schools in Shepparton and Mooroopna.

At the OCM held on the 17 September 2019, Council resolved to:

1. receive and note the *Shepparton and Mooroopna 2050: Regional City Growth Plan – Key Issues and Opportunities Report, Community Engagement Summary Report, June 2019*;
2. authorise for exhibition the *Draft Shepparton and Mooroopna 2050: Regional City Growth Plan 2019* for public comment for a period of six weeks beginning on 20 September 2019 and concluding on 1 November 2019; and
3. note that Council officers will report back to Council on any feedback, comments and submissions received from the public during the consultation period.

As a result of the resolution, the *Draft Shepparton and Mooroopna 2050: Regional City Growth Plan 2019* (Draft Growth Plan) was released for community consultation for six weeks between September and October 2019. The VPA received 37 written submissions via email and online survey from members of the public. An additional 15 submissions were received that were addressed directly to Council. The extent of community consultation and results are listed in the *Shepparton and Mooroopna 2050: Regional City Growth Plan, Community Engagement Summary Report January 2020*.

#### Shepparton East Agricultural Land Use Options Study

11 of the submissions received were from, or on behalf of, landowners from Investigation Areas 4 and 10 in Shepparton East seeking this land be identified for residential or industrial development. Submissions indicated that the agricultural viability of the area was compromised by its proximity to residential development, which was the source of land use conflict.

In response to these submissions, the VPA and Council engaged RMCG Pty Ltd to prepare the *Shepparton East Agricultural Land Use Options Study* (Study, March 2020). RMCG Pty Ltd was engaged to provide advice on:

- the viability of agricultural land in Shepparton East;
- alternative farm management practices or alternative farming practices that are suited to the land's context; and
- a planning response to the existing land use conflict between farming and rural residential.

The key findings of the Study, in terms of agricultural viability are:

- Shepparton East has an ideal combination of natural attributes for high-value agriculture, including excellent soil types, Mediterranean climate and access to a secure supply of high-quality water;
- farm businesses are establishing new orchards, affirming the productive potential of the area;
- an assessment of farm size, land values, land use conflict and planning policy on the viability of farming in Shepparton East found that farm size to be the most significant factor currently impacting farm viability; and
- the biggest barrier to increasing farm scale is the uncertainty created by ambiguous planning policy, being the status of some land in Shepparton East being within Investigation Areas 4/10.

The key findings of the Study, in terms of land use conflicts are:

- there are some residential and industrial land uses adjacent to Shepparton East, while not ideal from a land use conflict risk point of view, the residential estates are contained and well defined;
- complaints regarding noise from the use of scare guns are received by Council from time to time. There have been no ongoing disputes;
- EPA guidelines provide clear standards and thresholds for operation of farm machinery, frost fans and scare guns and from the low number of complaints it would appear that farmers are operating within the guidelines; and
- a land use conflict risk assessment was completed and did not identify any high priority risks that reduce the viability of agriculture.

The Study prepared by RMCG Pty Ltd affirmed the conclusion in the draft Growth Plan that this land should be retained as productive farmland. The final Growth Plan reflects this.

Council and the VPA made numerous changes to the Growth Plan based on feedback from submissions. These changes are outlined in the *Shepparton and Mooroopna 2050: Regional City Growth Plan, Community Engagement Summary Report January 2020*.

July 2020 Ordinary Council Meeting

At the OCM held in July 2020, the following motion was put to Council.

*That the Council:*

1. *receive and note the Shepparton & Mooroopna 2050: Regional City Growth Plan, Community Engagement Summary Report January 2020;*
2. *receive and note the Shepparton & Mooroopna 2050: Regional City Growth Plan, Background Report July 2020;*
3. *adopt the Shepparton & Mooroopna 2050: Regional City Growth Plan; and*
4. *note that Council officers will begin preparing a planning scheme amendment to implement the Shepparton & Mooroopna 2050: Regional City Growth Plan into the Greater Shepparton Planning Scheme.*

Council resolved to lay the motion on the table until the August 2020 Ordinary Council Meeting.

August 2020 Ordinary Council Meeting

At the OCM held in August 2020, Council resolved to lift the motion from the table and resolved to:

*...defer the adoption of the Shepparton and Mooroopna 2050 Regional City Growth Plan for six months to allow time for extended consultation with the Greater Shepparton community.*

Additional Community Consultation Period

This additional community consultation period allowed further opportunities for the community to provide informed feedback to Council about the future of Shepparton and Mooroopna, and where growth would best be accommodated.

Additional community consultation commenced on Monday, 16 November 2020 and concluded on Thursday, 24 November 2020.

79 submissions were received in response to the additional community consultation period. Themes that emerged from these submissions included:

1. Supply and demand;
2. Land east of Doyles Road and the north-south expansion of Shepparton;
3. Former Radio Australia site;
4. Mooroopna – rezoning land to the Rural Living Zone;
5. Kialla Central Growth Corridor;
6. Kialla Raceway Development;
7. Kialla West Growth Corridor;
8. Rezoning requests;
9. Former Mooroopna Hospital site;
10. Funding / staging for arterial road upgrades;
11. Greater Shepparton Secondary College (GSSC);
12. Shepparton North Activity Centre (SNAC); and
13. Flood controls.

On Tuesday, 19 January 2021, submitters to the Growth Plan were provided with the opportunity to verbally brief Councillors on their submissions and outline their concerns. 22 submitters availed of this opportunity.

Table 1, below, includes a summary of the themes that emerged and the changes made to the Growth Plan in response. These themes are explored in detail in the *Conversation Report – Shepparton and Mooroopna 2050: Regional City Growth Plan – additional community consultation, March 2021*.

<b>Table 1</b>	
<b>Theme</b>	<b>Changes made to the Growth Plan</b>
Supply and demand	<b>Recommendation: No changes required.</b>
Land east of Doyles Road and the north-south expansion of Shepparton	<b>Recommendation: No changes required.</b>
Former Radio Australia site	<b>Recommendation: No changes required.</b>
Mooroopna – Rezoning land to the Rural Living Zone	<b>Recommendation: No changes required.</b>
Kialla Central Growth Corridor	<b>Recommendation: No changes required.</b>
Kialla Raceway Development	<b>Recommendation: Change the name of the Kialla Raceway Development area to Kialla South Growth Corridor.</b>
	<b>Recommendation: Include the high</b>

	<b>pressure gas pipeline and acknowledgement of the APA requirements in the Kialla Raceway Development (Kialla South Growth Corridor) section.</b>
Kialla West Growth Corridor	<p><b>Recommendation: Note that land between Raftery Road and the existing Arcadia Downs development may provide some rural residential opportunities, subject to detailed design and this land may not be included in the Precinct Structure Plan area.</b></p> <p><b>Recommendation: Acknowledge the concerns raised by the Country Fire Authority regarding bushfire risk and the APA requirements regarding the high pressure gas pipeline.</b></p>
Rezoning requests	<p><b>Recommendation: Amend the timeframe for Strategy 2.5.2 review the Framework Plan for the Shepparton East Township on page 29 to read immediate.</b></p> <p><b>Note: The Shepparton East Framework Plan review is being drafted and should be implemented immediately following community and agency consultation.</b></p>
Former Mooroopna Hospital site	<b>Recommendation: No changes required.</b>
Funding / staging for arterial road upgrades	<b>Recommendation: No changes required.</b>
Greater Shepparton Secondary College (GSSC)	<b>Add GSSC to Plan 2.</b>
Shepparton North Activity Centre (SNAC)	<b>Recommendation: No changes required.</b>
Flood controls	<b>Recommendation: No changes required.</b>

There are three submissions that are not addressed in the themes identified in Table 1. The submissions and Council officers' responses are outlined below:

1. Submission 11 – noted a number of comments regarding Greater Shepparton's outlying townships. The importance of the townships is acknowledged; however, all of the townships (except Shepparton East) are assessed in the Greater Shepparton Townships Framework Plan Review, which has already been implemented. Monitoring and review will continue to occur.
2. Submission 12 – raises concerns regarding increasing land use conflicts in the area east of Doyles Road. This submission did not request a land use change, but highlighted various pressures impacting the ongoing use of land for agriculture due to the location of dwellings.
3. Submission 15 – raised concerns regarding sustainable development and environmental impacts, including greening urban areas, promoting active transport, waste management and environmentally sustainable design. The 2050 Growth Plan is a land-use plan and not a whole of Council document like the *Greater Shepparton 2030 Strategy 2006*. Objective 6 on page 56 outlines a variety of strategies to address these concerns through the planning process.

These concerns are acknowledged and will play a key role in the sustainable development of Shepparton, Mooroopna and Kialla. Council officers believe that these ideas already underpin Council's current strategic land use planning documents, including the *Shepparton CBD Strategy 2008*, *Greater Shepparton Cycling Strategy 2013-2017*, *Environmentally Sustainable Design / Sustainable Design Assessment in the Planning Process Projects*, *Urban Forest Strategy 2017*, etc., as well as the 2050 Growth Plan.

In addition, some submissions raised general concerns regarding the timing of this additional community consultation and queried the reason for Council "rushing" the consideration of the 2050 Growth Plan, particularly given that the *Land Supply Review - Shepparton and Mooroopna 2050: Regional City Growth Plan* concluded that there is sufficient identified residential land.

#### Additional changes

Although not raised through submissions, an updated Strategic Cycling Corridors plan is now available from the Department of Transport. It is recommended that Plan 4 on page 26 be updated to include this new information.

#### Next Steps and Implementation

It is recommended that Council adopt the *Shepparton & Mooroopna 2050: Regional City Growth Plan*. The adoption of the Growth Plan will assist Council in the preparation of more detailed local plans, and help Council to advocate for funding to deliver infrastructure to support the sustainable growth of the city.

Council is currently progressing the Planning Policy Framework (PPF) translation with the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP), with the restructure of the policy component of the Greater Shepparton Planning Scheme (Planning Scheme) critical to set a framework for the Growth Plan's implementation.

The adoption of the Growth Plan will enable Council to begin the process for a planning scheme amendment to implement the Growth Plan into the Planning Scheme. It is anticipated that Council will be the planning authority for the amendments to implement the flood studies and the Growth Plan.

### **Council Plan/Key Strategic Activity**

#### **LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE**

Provide strong civic leadership, advocacy and good governance in the operation of Greater Shepparton City Council.

1.3 Council demonstrates strong leadership and sound decision making in the best interests of the community.

#### **ECONOMIC**

Build a thriving, resilient economy where Greater Shepparton is recognised as a competitive place to invest and grow business.

3.1 The Greater Shepparton economy is prosperous, high value and a focus of choice for business, investment and employment.

3.5 Shepparton is the regional city centre supported by well-planned and designed existing and emerging commercial activity centres.

#### **BUILT**

Provide and support appealing relevant infrastructure that makes Greater Shepparton an attractive, liveable regional city.

4.1 Growth is well planned and managed for the future.

4.2 Urban and rural development is sustainable and prosperous.

4.3 Greater Shepparton's heritage places, cultural landscapes, and objects are protected



and conserved for future generations.

4.7 Reliable, safe, more frequent and connected local and broader transport system supporting the connection of people within, across and outside of Greater Shepparton.

4.8 Active transport (cycling, walking) is encouraged through safe, connected and improved linkages.

4.9 Freight and logistics infrastructure is developed to accommodate future growth.

## ENVIRONMENT

Enhance and protect the clean, green environment that makes Greater Shepparton the unique place it is.

5.1 Greening Greater Shepparton has created an attractive, vibrant and liveable place with well connected green spaces that are valued by the community.

5.2 The region's environmental assets are planned and managed to ensure they are enhanced and sustainable for future generations.

5.4 Council has positioned itself to be a leader in building Greater Shepparton's response to climate change issues, in partnership with key stakeholders.

5.6 Floodplain management minimises the consequences of flooding to life, property, community wellbeing and the economy.

## Risk Management

Adopting the 2050 Growth Plan is unlikely to lead to risk to Council. However, there are significant risks associated with not adopting and implementing the 2050 Growth Plan into the Planning Scheme. Council may jeopardise future funding from the public and private sectors for projects across Shepparton, Mooroopna and Kialla. Such an outcome may result in Council directing resources away from important strategic planning projects that seek to address the short term industrial and residential land supply shortfalls.

In addition, the 2050 Growth Plan has been prepared following extensive consultation with all stakeholders, including referral authorities and agencies, and updates all previous strategic planning work. Any delay in the adoption and implementation of the 2050 Growth Plan could significantly impact upon the agricultural and horticultural industries, and the development industry, in general. These industries require certainty before making major investment decisions. Uncertainty regarding the future use of land across Shepparton, Mooroopna and Kialla threatens the medium to long-term business interests for these industries.

## Policy Considerations

The Growth Plan supports and builds upon existing Council policy, including the *Greater Shepparton 2030 Strategy 2006*, the *Greater Shepparton Housing Strategy 2011*, the *City of Greater Shepparton Industrial Land Review 2011* and the Greater Shepparton Planning Scheme. The recommendations do not conflict with any Council policy.

## Financial Implications

The recommendations to adopt the Growth Plan will not result in any financial implications for Council, however it should be noted that the implementation of the Growth Plan through a future planning scheme amendment will result in financial implications to Council. This must be included in Council's future 2021-2022 Budget.

To date, the VPA provided \$150,000 of resources to the project, while \$50,000 was utilised for additional consultancy work, where required. Council has contributed \$100,000 towards the project in the form of in-house assistance.

### Legal/Statutory Implications

The recommendations will not result in any legal or statutory implications. The future implementation of the Growth Plan in the Greater Shepparton Planning Scheme will allow for the consideration of the findings and recommendations of the Growth Plan during the assessment of planning permits, further strategic works, etc.

### Environmental/Sustainability Impacts

The 2050 Growth Plan considers the impact of flooding and drainage on development in the area and seeks to ensure that any potential impacts on the environment can be appropriately mitigated.

The Growth Plan has also been informed by multiple Council and State Government policy documents which seek to manage and mitigate impacts to the environment. The Growth Plan contains several outcomes that aim to bolster Greater Shepparton's environmental resilience by managing and mitigate environmental impacts and to ensure that environmental considerations are at the forefront of Council's decision-making process.

The recommendations will not result in any adverse environmental or sustainability impacts.

### Social Implications

The Growth Plan has, among other things, identified strategic greenfield and infill sites for residential and industrial development within Shepparton and Mooroopna. The preparation of a comprehensive Growth Plan will assist in the release of additional land for development and allow for greater housing choice and diversity, and the location of new commercial and industry within Shepparton and Mooroopna. This will result in positive social outcomes for Greater Shepparton.

The recommendation will not result in any adverse social implications.

### Economic Impacts

The Growth Plan will provide clear direction and certainty to land owners and developers regarding areas suitable for development. It will identify opportunities for investment in infrastructure and development of residential areas, as well as industrial/commercial areas. It is expected this will lead to continued growth in construction, as well as economic growth associated with overall population growth.

The recommendation will not result in any adverse economic implications.

### Consultation

Preliminary consultation with key stakeholders, such as referral authorities, agencies and service providers, has been undertaken. This preliminary consultation included a workshop on 17 April 2018 as well as individual consultation sessions on 1, 2 and 3 May 2018. The purpose of this preliminary consultation was to confirm draft issues and opportunities, test principles and outcomes, identify additional issues and develop a draft vision statement.

*The Shepparton and Mooroopna 2050: Regional Growth Plan Key Issues and Opportunities Paper, February 2019* was released for public consultation between 22 February and 25 March 2019, and the results were released in the *Key Issues and Opportunities Community Engagement Report June 2019*.

Council resolved to release the *Draft Shepparton and Mooroopna 2050: Regional City Growth Plan* for exhibition for six weeks between September and October 2019, where 37 public submissions were received. The results were released in the *Shepparton &*

*Mooroopna 2050: Regional City Growth Plan, Community Engagement Summary Report January 2020.*

In response to submissions in Shepparton East citing concerns over land use conflicts, Council and the VPA commissioned RMCG Pty Ltd to prepare the *Shepparton East Agricultural Land Use Options Study*, where additional consultation with landowners in Shepparton East was undertaken.

Council officers undertook the following actions during the additional consultation period between 16 November 2020 to 24 December 2020:

- Direct emails to all stakeholders consulted with so far;
- The inclusion of a 'subscribe for updates' feature on the 2050 Growth Plan Council website;
- Council's e-newsletter which was sent to approximately 5,500 subscribers;
- Information on Council's website including a submission portal allowing online submissions;
- Social media promotion with link back to website;
- Attendance / presentation to the Mooroopna and Shepparton Community Planning Group meetings, electronic communication with other community planning groups;
- Advertisements in the Shepparton News / Adviser; and
- Direct letters to every registered household address on the Australian Postal System in the Greater Shepparton municipality.

Council officers also conducted 20-minute one-on-one engagement sessions with interested individuals or small groups to the 2050 Growth Plan. The following dates were made available:

- Wednesday, 18 November 2020
- Friday, 20 November 2020
- Tuesday, 24 November 2020
- Thursday, 26 November 2020
- Monday, 30 November 2020
- Wednesday, 2 December 2020.

Two additional dates were added on Monday, 14 December and Wednesday, 16 December 2020.

A total of 24 one-on-one engagement sessions were held with individuals and groups.

An email was sent to key stakeholder groups, local community planning groups, government agencies and referral authorities, and subscribers and submitters to the Growth Plan informing them of the additional community consultation phase and inviting them to provide additional comments or submissions.

The additional community consultation phase was promoted across Greater Shepparton through advertisements and notifications in the Shepparton News and the Shepparton Adviser newspapers. Online promotion was conducted using promotional links on Council's Facebook page, through Council's e-newsletter and the uploading of media releases on Council's website, which resulted in additional media attention.

An A4 flyer was also sent to every household in Greater Shepparton inviting them to engage with Council and provide comment on the 2050 Growth Plan.

A total of 79 submissions were received.

Council officers provided all submitters with an opportunity to address Council regarding the contents of their submissions. This took place on 9.00am to 12.00pm and 2.00pm to 3.30pm on Tuesday, 19 January 2021 at the Eastbank Centre at 70 Welsford Street, Shepparton. Briefings were limited to a speaking time of six minutes per submitter (ten minutes in total) or a longer time was allocated if a small group (maximum of three persons) wished to make a joint presentation. 22 submitters chose to present to Council.

Council officers believe that appropriate consultation has occurred in previous stages and that the Growth Plan is now ready to be adopted by Council.

It should be noted that further community consultation will take place as part of the planning scheme amendment process to implement the Growth Plan.

## Strategic Links

### a) Greater Shepparton 2030 Strategy

- Relevant objectives:
- To provide for sufficient suitable additional land for urban growth
- To release land efficiently in terms of location, supply of services and infrastructure.
- To recognise the constraints of the floodplain on the development of land and minimise the future economic impacts of flooding.
- To locate industrial developments effectively, by utilising existing and planning infrastructure, and consolidating the existing main industrial areas.
- To provide sustainable infrastructure to support the growth and development of the municipality
- To provide for a broader range of dwelling densities and types of housing to meet current and future community needs and differing lifestyles
- To increase the supply of medium density housing in appropriate locations
- To provide a restricted amount of land for rural residential purposes, without impacting on the long-term growth potential of urban centres and productive agricultural land.

### b) Other strategic links

- *Shepparton CBD Strategy 2008*
- *Greater Shepparton Housing Strategy 2011*
- *Industrial Land Review, City of Greater Shepparton, 2011*
- *Hume Regional Growth Plan 2014*
- *City of Greater Shepparton Commercial Activity Centres Strategy 2015*
- *Greater Shepparton Planning Scheme*
- *Shepparton Heath & Education Precincts Action Plan 2020*

## Conclusion

The Growth Plan will guide the sustainable development of Shepparton, Mooroopna and Kialla to the year 2050, and will integrate the strategic work undertaken by Council relating to growth, land use planning and infrastructure into a cohesive framework, incorporating the various components into a blueprint for the future.

Extensive community consultation has been undertaken. Feedback from submitters has been considered and changes made to the Growth Plan, where appropriate.

The final Growth Plan provides new residential and industrial framework plans for the Shepparton, Mooroopna and Kialla urban areas to guide urban development to 2050, and incorporates feedback that emerged from key stakeholders, agencies and members of the general public.

The Growth Plan is now ready to be considered by Council. It is recommended that Council adopt the *Shepparton and Mooroopna 2050: Regional City Growth Plan*, and note Council officers' intention to prepare a planning scheme amendment to implement the Growth Plan.

### Attachments

1. Shepparton & Mooroopna 2050 Regional City Growth Plan, Community Engagement Summary Report - January 2020 [**11.3.1** - 18 pages]
2. Greater Shepparton City Council Conversation Report – Shepparton & Mooroopna 2050 Regional City Growth Plan - Additional Community Consultation - March 2021 [**11.3.2** - 18 pages]
3. Shepparton & Mooroopna 2050 Regional City Growth Plan, Background Report - July 2020 [**11.3.3** - 41 pages]
4. Addendum to Shepparton East Agricultural Land Use Options Report - November 2020 [**11.3.4** - 13 pages]
5. Land Supply Review - Shepparton and Mooroopna 2050: Regional City Growth Plan - November 2020 [**11.3.5** - 33 pages]
6. Shepparton East Agricultural Land Use Options Study - March 2021 [**11.3.6** - 61 pages]
7. Shepparton & Mooroopna 2050 Regional City Growth Plan - March 2021 [**11.3.7** - 60 pages]

## 12 Infrastructure Directorate

### 12.1 Our Sporting Future Funding Guidelines for Adoption

Author Sporting Clubs Officer  
 Approved by Director Infrastructure  
 Purpose For Decision by Council

#### Disclosures of Conflict of Interest in Relation to this Report

Under section 130 of the *Local Government Act 2020* officers, delegates and persons engaged under a contract providing advice to Council must disclose any conflicts of interests.

No Council officers or contractors who have provided advice in relation to this report have declared a conflict of interest regarding the matter under consideration.

#### RECOMMENDATION

**That the Council adopt the updated Our Sporting Future Funding Guidelines to be implemented for Round One 2021/2022.**

#### Executive Summary

The Our Sporting Future Funding program has provided funding to sports clubs since 2009, when it replaced the Minor Leisure Facilities Funding program first adopted in 2002.

- The current Our Sporting Future guidelines offer three categories of funding:
- Major facility development – for projects on a \$1 for \$1 basis but not exceeding \$30,000
  - Minor facility development – for projects on a \$1 for \$1 basis but not exceeding \$15,000
  - Sports Aid - funding between \$500 and \$5,000 (without matching contributions) for special sports projects that provide support to new and developing sporting organisations, for special access and participation projects, or for planning initiatives that address the future sport and recreation needs of the club/organisation

A review of the current guidelines has occurred taking into consideration a number of factors including; growth in women and girls involvement in sport, both participation and governance roles, inclusivity for all abilities and genders, decreases in certain youth aged sport and in response to COVID19.

- It is proposed that the updated guidelines would include two new categories:
- Our Sporting Future – **Women & Girls** will provide funding towards programs that increase opportunities for women and girls in sports clubs for development programs or training between \$500 and \$10,000 (without matching contributions) for the following type of programs:
    - Leadership development programs including governance and leadership programs or training

- Development programs aimed at increasing participation skills or official accreditation/training e.g. Female football umpires course, netball umpires courses for junior girls

A maximum contribution of \$10,000 over a five-year period per organisation.

- Our Sporting Future – **Youth Participation** will provide funding towards initiatives to increase participation in sport for teams/sport between sixteen and eighteen years of age where significant decrease in participation has occurred over the previous 1-3 years, for between \$500 and \$5,000 (without matching contributions) for the following type of projects:
  - Development programs or skills training to assist the engagement of youth participation in community sport where participation has decreased (decreased participation levels to be demonstrated)
  - Purchase of uniforms to help increase participation in youth aged teams where participation has significantly decreased (decreased participation levels to be demonstrated with evidence provided from State Sporting Association's or Leagues)

A maximum contribution of \$10,000 over a five-year period per organisation.

In conjunction with the addition of the two proposed new categories, a bigger emphasis will also be placed and included as part of the application questions where clubs will be required to clearly address how their project will benefit those groups they are targeting.

Consultation has occurred across the organisation with direct input from the Neighbourhoods Department, Economic Development Department and also externally from ValleySport.

It is also proposed to include a representative from Valley Sport, the Regional Assembly for Sport, as part of the assessment panel for future rounds of the Our Sporting Future Funding Program. ValleySport have been consulted directly and are highly supportive of being included on the assessment panel.

## Report Detail

The Our Sporting Future Funding Program has been established to assist community organisations with the implementation of small to medium sized facility development projects. The types of projects that may be funded include:

- Sports surface development
- OHS and public safety improvements
- Lighting upgrades
- Pavilion upgrades
- Shade for participants
- Disability Access

The program also assists with development programs for new and developing sporting organisations throughout Greater Shepparton. Clubs such as the reformation of the Shepparton Rowing Club and the Shepparton Rugby Union Club have benefited from the Our Sporting Future Funding, Sports Aid program.

The funding program provides three categories for funding:

- Major facility development – for projects on a \$1 for \$1 basis but not exceeding \$30,000
- Minor facility development – for projects on a \$1 for \$1 basis but not exceeding \$15,000
- Sports Aid - funding between \$500 and \$5,000 (without matching contributions) for special sports projects that provide support to new and developing sporting organisations, for special access and participation projects, or for planning initiatives that address the future sport and recreation needs of the club/organisation

The Our Sporting Future Funding applications are assessed in two rounds annually, with the first round closing at the end of July each year and the second round closing in February each year.

A cross department assessment team was developed to improve the assessment of applications. The team consists of the following members:

- Communications Officer – Marketing & Communications
- Coordinator Social Equity & Safety – Community Wellbeing
- Team Leader Arboriculture, Parks & Sports Facilities – Parks, Sport & Recreation
- Team Leader Strategic Planning & Sports Development – Parks, Sport & Recreation (when conflicts are declared by other panel members)

The Our Sporting Future Funding Program is available for all sporting/recreational groups within the municipality. The program was advertised this year in the Shepparton News and through social media. In addition, Council held a grants information session, to help promote all Council grants. This campaign was highly successful and has increased the number of applications dramatically compared to previous rounds. The program is also promoted on Council's external website with testimonials from previous recipients of funding. ValleySport, the Goulburn Valley's Regional Sports Assembly, actively advertise the funding program through their network of known local community sport and recreation groups.

The Our Sporting Future Funding Program has an acquittal process at the completion of the project. An electronic funding acquittal form is received including supporting documentation of invoices and photographs of installation. A Council Officer also undertakes a site visit.

A review of the current guidelines has occurred taking into consideration a number of factors including; growth in women and girls involvement in sport, both participation and governance roles, inclusivity for all abilities and genders, decreases in certain youth aged sport and in response to COVID19.

It is proposed that the updated guidelines would include two new categories;

- Our Sporting Future – **Women & Girls** will provide funding towards programs that increase opportunities for women and girls in sports clubs for development programs or training between \$500 and \$10,000 (without matching contributions) for the following type of programs;
  - Leadership development programs including governance and leadership programs or training
  - Development programs aimed at increasing participation skills or official accreditation/training e.g. Female football umpires course, netball umpires courses for junior girls

A maximum contribution of \$10,000 over a five-year period per organisation.

- Our Sporting Future – **Youth Participation** will provide funding towards initiatives to increase participation in sport for teams/sport between sixteen and eighteen years of age where significant decrease in participation has occurred over the previous 1-3 years, for between \$500 and \$5,000 (without matching contributions) for the following type of projects;
  - Development programs or skills training to assist the engagement of youth participation in community sport where participation has decreased (decreased participation levels to be demonstrated)
  - Purchase of uniforms to help increase participation in youth aged teams where participation has significantly decreased (decreased participation levels to be



demonstrated with evidence provided from State Sporting Association's or Leagues)

A maximum contribution of \$10,000 over a five-year period per organisation.

In conjunction with the addition of the two proposed new categories, a bigger emphasis will also be placed and included as part of the application questions where clubs will be required to clearly address how their project will benefit those groups they are targeting.

Consultation has occurred across the organisation with direct input from the Neighbourhoods Department, Economic Development Department and also externally from ValleySport.

It is also proposed to include a representative from Valley Sport, the Regional Assembly for Sport, as part of the assessment panel for future rounds of Our Sporting Future Funding Program. ValleySport have been consulted directly and are highly supportive of being included on the assessment panel.

## Council Plan/Key Strategic Activity

### LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE

Provide strong civic leadership, advocacy and good governance in the operation of Greater Shepparton City Council.

1.1 Council demonstrates strong regional and local partnerships to improve health and wellbeing access and inequity.

1.6 Gender equity and equality is embedded into Council policy and decision making and employment processes.

### SOCIAL

Develop resilient, inclusive, healthy communities that make Greater Shepparton a safe and harmonious place to live, work, learn, and play.

2.1 Greater Shepparton is a welcoming, inclusive and safe place for all.

2.2 Our community is supported to achieve and sustain physical, emotional and spiritual health and wellbeing.

2.9 Public places, open space and community facilities are safe and accessible for all and presented to a high quality.

## Risk Management

Consideration has been given to risk management issues arising from this recommendation with low to medium risks unlikely.

## Policy Considerations

There are no conflicts with existing Council policy.

## Financial Implications

There are no financial implications arising from this report as the additional categories would form part of the total funding pool adopted each financial year, which has in past years been \$160,000.

### **Legal/Statutory Implications**

There are no conflicts with existing Council policy.

### **Environmental/Sustainability Impacts**

There are no environmental/sustainability impacts from this project.

### **Social Implications**

The new categories proposed within the updated guidelines will support ongoing community participation in sporting activity.

### **Economic Impacts**

There is expected to be minor regional economic stimulus arising from the construction works.

### **Consultation**

Officers believe appropriate consultation has occurred and the matter is now ready for Council consideration.

### **Strategic Links**

#### a) Greater Shepparton 2030 Strategy

These proposals support the community and infrastructure objectives of the Greater Shepparton 2030 Strategy. Direction 2 – Community Life

#### b) Other strategic links

Council Plan 2017-2021

Goal 1 – Active and Engaged Communities (social)

### **Conclusion**

That the Council approve and adopt the updated guidelines for Our Sporting Future Funding program to be implemented for Round One 2021/2022.

### **Attachments**

1. Our Sporting Future Grant Program - Guidelines 2020 2021 | Final Updated COVID Lens applied PDF [12.1.1 - 8 pages]

d

## 12.2 State Government Additional \$2.5M for New SAM - Delegation Alteration

Author                      Officer - Project Management  
 Approved by              Director Infrastructure  
 Purpose                     For Decision by Council

### Disclosures of Conflict of Interest in Relation to this Report

Under section 130 of the *Local Government Act 2020* officers, delegates and persons engaged under a contract providing advice to Council must disclose any conflicts of interests.

No Council officers or contractors who have provided advice in relation to this report have declared a conflict of interest regarding the matter under consideration.

### RECOMMENDATION

**That the Council authorise the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to approve all post award variations for a cumulative value of \$3,450,000 including GST, for the following:**

- **Contract 1865 (Construction); and**
- **Contract 1732 (Architectural and Engineer)**

### Executive Summary

Greater Shepparton City Council (Council) successfully obtained an additional \$2,750,000 inc GST from the State Government to conduct additional works associated with the new SAM facility. The scope of works includes items such as fit out of the kitchen, design and construction of a healing garden and children's playground, specialist lighting and works to improve the safety of the adjacent intersection and rail crossing.

To ensure the works are undertaken in the most efficient manner a portion of the new works will be completed as a variation to existing contracts. This report seeks approval for the required financial delegation for the Chief Executive Officer to facilitate delivery of these works.

The additional delegation sought for works, to be undertaken as variations to existing contracts is \$1,100,000, including GST, which will result in a total delegation for the CEO of \$3,450,000 GST for variations under these contracts. The previous delegation of \$2,350,000 was approved at the Ordinary Council Meeting on 31 March 2020.

## Report Detail

Greater Shepparton City Council (Council) has successfully obtained an additional \$2,750,000 inc GST in funding from the State Government to conduct additional works within and surrounding the new SAM facility. These works include:

- A commercial kitchen fit out
- Cultural ceremonial area
- Additional shelving within display cabinetry
- Additional lighting systems for display area
- Works associated with the adjacent intersection and rail crossing
- Design and construction of a BBQ shelter, indigenous children's playground and healing garden.

To enable a portion the of the new works to be conducted under existing commercial arrangements, and derive best value for the community, additional scope for variations is required beyond the previous delegation provided as part of the Ordinary Council Meeting of 31 March 2020 when Council resolved; as follows:

*That the Council authorise the Chief Executive Officer to approve all post award variations for a cumulative total of \$2,350,000 inclusive of GST, for the following:*

- *Contract 1865 (Construction);*
- *Contract 1732 (Architectural and Engineering)*

It is recommended that the delegated authority detailed above be increased by \$1,100,000 including GST to a total of \$3,450,000. The balance of the works funded under the additional State Government funding will be delivered under separate arrangements.

## Council Plan/Key Strategic Activity

Provide strong civic leadership, advocacy and good governance in the operation of Greater Shepparton City Council.

Financial management is responsible and effective in responding to challenges and constraints with a focus on the financial sustainability of the Council.

## Risk Management

Risks	Likelihood	Consequence	Rating	Mitigation Action
Works will not be completed within the funding milestone dates	4	2	Medium	Use pre-existing contractual arrangements to complete works
New works conducted within SAM by third parties potentially void warranties provided by pre-existing contracts	4	2	Medium	Use pre-existing contractual arrangements to complete works

## Policy Considerations

Nil

### Financial Implications

Greater Shepparton City Council were successful in obtaining \$2,750,000 inc GST from the State Government to enable additional works to be complete within and surrounding the new SAM facility. However, as the funding agreement is milestone driven the expenditure of the works will occur prior to income resulting in greater cash flow requirements for the duration of the works.

### Legal/Statutory Implications

The Funding Agreement between Council and the State Government has fixed milestones for completion and requires prompt delivery.

### Environmental/Sustainability Impacts

Additional works within the Funding Agreement will be designed and installed in accordance with sustainable design requirements of the Building Code of Australia and, where applicable, Greenstar specifications.

### Social Implications

Greater Shepparton is transitioning from an agricultural and manufacturing-based economy to a services-based economy. Attracting new residents to Greater Shepparton to support the continuation of growth in the services-based economy, in a community with limited architectural form, against other key Victorian regional cities creates a significant challenge to attract and retain professional staff and external investors.

The new SAM's bold and striking architectural design represents the punctuation mark in changing external perceptions and will act as a catalyst for economically re-positioning Greater Shepparton in much the same way, albeit on a smaller scale, as the Museum of Old and New Art (MONA) has in Hobart. That is, since MONA officially opened in 2011, Hobart has experienced an increase in population growth, visitor numbers and investment, particularly in new hotels and tourism associated infrastructure.

### Economic Impacts

Refer to Social Implications

### Consultation

Council has conducted extensive and productive consultation to deliver the funding and project outcomes detailed in this report including but not limited to;

- State Government - Regional Development Victoria
- State Government - Office of Victoria Government Architects
- Architect – Denton Corker Marshall
- Quantity Surveyor – Currie & Brown

### Strategic Links

Greater Shepparton City Council Plan 2017 – 2021

Social

- 2.4 Social and Cultural and employment opportunities are created to enable children, young people, individuals and families to actively participate in their community
- 2.5 Creativity and participation in arts and culture is nurtured and encouraged
- 2.8 Our Aboriginal culture and people are valued and celebrated, with collaborative actions undertaken to enable peaceful, healthy and productive lives in a safe environment
- Social Key Capital Projects – Construction of a new SAM

Economic

- 3.3 Greater Shepparton is a major destination for events and tourism

### Conclusion

Council was successful in obtaining an additional \$2,750,000 inc GST in funding from the State Government to conduct additional works within and surrounding the new SAM facility. To facilitate the most efficient delivery of the new works the CEO's approved delegation to approve variations under Contract 1732 (Architectural Design of new SAM) and Contract 1865 (Construction of new SAM) should be increased to the value of \$3,450,000 including GST.

The recommendation proposed is:

That the Council authorise the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to approve all post award variations for a cumulative of \$3,450,000 including GST, for the following:

- Contract 1865 (Construction); and
- Contract 1732 (Architectural and Engineer)

### Attachments

Nil

## 13 Documents for Signing and Sealing

### 13.1 Documents for Signing and Sealing

Author                      Team Leader Governance  
 Approved by              Director Corporate Services  
 Purpose                    For Decision by Council

#### Disclosures of Conflict of Interest in Relation to this Report

Under section 130 of the *Local Government Act 2020* officers, delegates and persons engaged under a contract providing advice to Council must disclose any conflicts of interests.

No Council officers or contractors who have provided advice in relation to this report have declared a conflict of interest regarding the matter under consideration.

#### RECOMMENDATION

**That the Council authorises the Chief Executive Officer to sign and seal the following document:**

- **Deed of Gift between Carrillo Gantner, Shepparton Art Museum Ltd and Greater Shepparton City Council.**

#### Executive Summary

The following document has been presented for signing and sealing:

- Deed of Gift between Carrillo Gantner, Shepparton Art Museum (SAM) Ltd and Greater Shepparton City Council.  
 This deed outlines the terms of donation for a significant collection of Australian Indigenous artworks including paintings, ceramics and sculptures as part of the Collection of Carrillo and Ziyin Gantner, including the transfer of existing works from Council to SAM Ltd.

#### Attachments

Nil

## 14 Confidential Management Reports

### 14.1 Designation of Confidentiality of Information

#### RECOMMENDATION

That pursuant to section 66 (1) of the *Local Government Act 2020*, resolve that the Council meeting be closed to the members of the public for consideration of a confidential item.

### 14.2 Confirmation of Chief Executive Officer Remuneration

### 14.3 Re-opening of the Council Meeting to Members of the Public



## 15 Councillor Reports

### 15.1 Councillor Activities

#### 15.1.1 Councillor Activities - January and February 2021

Author Governance Officer  
 Approved by Chief Executive Officer  
 Purpose For Noting

#### Disclosures of Conflict of Interest in Relation to this Report

Under section 130 of the *Local Government Act 2020* officers, delegates and persons engaged under a contract providing advice to Council must disclose any conflicts of interests.

No Council officers or contractors who have provided advice in relation to this report have declared a conflict of interest regarding the matter under consideration.

#### RECOMMENDATION

**That the summary of the Councillors' community interaction and briefing program be received and record of Assemblies of Councillors be noted.**

#### Councillor's Community Interaction and Briefing Program

From 1 February 2021 – 28 February 2021, some or all of the Councillors have been involved in the following activities:

- Heritage Advisory Committee meeting
- Tatura Park Advisory Committee
- Saleyards Advisory Committee meeting
- The Ethnic Council | Friendship Cafe - Guest Speaker
- Greater Shepparton City Council | Councillor Strategic Planning Sessions
- The Nationals Party | Annual General Meeting and Guest Speaker
- Audit Risk Management Committee Meeting
- Shepparton Hatchery (Arcadia) Start of major earthworks | Minister for Fishing & Boating
- Disability Advisory Committee Meeting
- Regional Cities Victoria - Victoria Planning Authority | Minister for Planning
- Munarra Centre for Regional Excellence - Site Visit with Minister for Aboriginal Affairs
- Shepparton Apology Breakfast | Honouring the Stolen Generations
- Development Hearing Panel
- Positive Ageing Advisory Committee Meeting
- Break the Drought - Harvest Ball
- RiverConnect Implementation Advisory Committee Meeting
- Waste & Resource Recovery Group | Chairs and Executive Officers Meeting
- Regional Cities Victoria | General Meeting
- McGuire Secondary College Visit and Guest Speaker
- Best Start Early Years Partnership meeting

- Murray Darling Association - Region 2 Ordinary Meeting
- Rail Freight Alliance - Annual General Meeting
- Shepparton Greyhound Racing Club - Shepparton Greyhounds Awards
- Shepparton East Primary School - Presentation of Leadership Badges
- St Mary's Primary School | Visit & Friends Igniting Reconciliation throughout Education Carrier
- Municipal Association Victoria | Presidential Candidate Forum
- GV Harmony Cup | All Abilities Cricket
- Opening | 2020 Australian Livestock & Property Agents Association - Victorian Young Auctioneers Competition
- Shepparton Rotary Club - Guest Speaker
- Project Ready Students - Guest Speaker
- Eastern Goulburn Valley – Country Women's Association | Conference Opening & Guest Speaker
- Katandra West Community Planning Group Meeting
- Greater Shepparton Municipal Recovery Meeting - February 2021
- Aerodrome Advisory Committee Meeting
- Roadshow | Community Vision and Council Plan - Shepparton
- Greater Shepparton Secondary College | College Leaders Investiture Assembly 2021
- GV Waste & Resource Recovery Group | Board meeting
- Introducing New Migrant Children to Cricket
- Clean Up Australia Day | Goulburn River Rubbish Clean Up
- Roadshow | Community Vision and Council Plan - Murchison

From 12 December 2020 – 31 January 2021, some or all of the Councillors have been involved in the following activities:

- Shepparton Cycling Club | Shepparton Track Christmas Carnival 2020

In accordance with section 106 of *Councils Governance Rules* the records of the Assemblies of Councillors are attached.

## Attachments

1. CEO and Councillor Catch Up 2 February 2021 [**15.1.1.1** - 2 pages]
2. Councillor Briefing Session 2 February 2021 [**15.1.1.2** - 2 pages]
3. Councillor Briefing Session 9 February 2021 [**15.1.1.3** - 3 pages]
4. CEO and Councillor Catch Up 9 February 2021 [**15.1.1.4** - 2 pages]
5. Tatura Park Advisory Committee Record of Assemblies of Councillors Monday 1 February 2021 [**15.1.1.5** - 1 page]
6. Record of Assemblies of Councillors Development Hearings Panel 12 February 2021 [**15.1.1.6** - 1 page]
7. Record of Assemblies of Councillors RiverConnect Implementation Advisory Committee Meeting 17 February 2021 [**15.1.1.7** - 1 page]
8. CEO and Councillor Catch Up 16 February 2021 [**15.1.1.8** - 2 pages]
9. Councillor Briefing Session 23 February 2021 [**15.1.1.9** - 2 pages]
10. CEO and Councillor Catch Up 23 February 2021 [**15.1.1.10** - 2 pages]
11. Record of Assemblies of Councillors Aerodrome Advisory Committee Meeting 25 February 2021 [**15.1.1.11** - 2 pages]
12. Councillor Briefing Session 2 March 2021 [**15.1.1.12** - 2 pages]

## 15.2 Council Committee Reports

### 15.2.1 Murray Darling Association

Author	Cr Dobson
Approved by	Chief Executive Officer
Purpose	For Noting

#### Murray Darling Association

The meeting was held by Zoom and attended by representatives of Federation, Berrigan, Greater Shepparton and Edward River shires.

A Report was tabled from Murray Darling Basin Authority titled Managing the risks in the River Murray System.

In particular, the report included a study of the loss of conveyance of water and made the following observations:

There has been no increase in water demand from the River Murray system.

Irrigation has moved downstream into the Sunraysia region.

There is no discernible change in timing of demand.

Water for the environment has not increased summer demands.

However, the more contentious section of the report suggests that diminished water flow through the Barmah Choke is the result of gold mining, land clearing, de snagging and river regulation.

The Association, however, is suggesting that more water is being allocated to new crops in the Sunraysia resulting in more flows through the Choke being required and so placing pressure on the Choke.

Again, rather than historical river dredging for gold the Association suggests that the degradation of the upstream river banks by constant lowering and raising river levels for downstream water usage is more to the point in clogging the Choke.

A report entitled The Murray Regional Water Supply Strategy was also tabled. This report talked about regional water strategy development around the Lachlan, Murrumbidgee and Murray regions and understanding climate risk.

Another report entitled Water Availability in the Goulburn Murray Irrigation District was tabled from RM Consulting and again mentioned inter valley water trading effects, Barmah Choke Bypass impacts, Traditional Owners access to water just to name a few.

This is a very comprehensive document.

Greater Shepparton will assist in sourcing additional memberships from neighbouring councils as we believe that every municipality should be involved in the Association.

The National Conference of the Association will be held in May at Wentworth and it is important that Greater Shepparton supports Region 2 of The National Association by its presence and the submitting of agenda items for consideration.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

**That the Council note Cr Dobson's report on the Murray Darling Association.**

### **Attachments**

Nil

## 15.3 Notice of Motion, Amendment or Rescission

### 15.3.1 Notice of Motion 2/2021 - LGBTQIA+

Author	Cr Spinks
Approved by	Chief Executive Officer
Purpose	For Decision by Council

Cr Spinks has given notice that she will move:

#### RECOMMENDATION

**That the Council prepare a report to:**

- 1. install a permanent 'Rainbow Footpath' at a public location within the municipality.**
- 2. fly the LGBTQIA+ Rainbow Flag from GSCC Council office buildings all year round, and ongoing.**
- 3. publicly acknowledge LGBTQIA+ annual days of celebration and significance (in 2021 and on subsequent dates in the years ahead) utilising the GSCC media platforms such as social media and media statements; with dates including but not limited to:**
  - **Transgender Visibility Day - 31st March**
  - **'International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, Intersexphobia and Transphobia (IDAHOBIT)' - 17th May**
  - **LGBT Pride Month – whole of June**
  - **International Non-Binary Peoples Day – 14th July**
  - **'Wear It Purple Day' - 27th August**
  - **National Coming Out Day – 11th October**
  - **World AIDS Day – 1st December**

## 15.3.2 Notice of Motion 3/2021 - Governance Rules

Author Cr Summer  
Approved by Chief Executive Officer  
Purpose For Decision by Council

Cr Summer has given notice that she will move:

### MOTION

**That the Council prepare a report and costings in regard to striking out clause 62.5 our Governance Rules which states:**

**62.5 A Notice of Motion must call for a Council report if the Notice of motion proposes any action that:**

- 62.5.1 impacts the levels of Council service;**
- 62.5.2 commits Council to either a loss of income, or expenditure that is not included in the adopted Council Budget, to the value of \$25,000 or greater;**
- 62.5.3 proposes to establish, amend or extend Council policy;**
- 62.5.4 proposes to impact the rights of any person who has not had the opportunity to contribute their views;**
- 62.5.5 commits Council to any contractual arrangement; or**
- 62.5.6 concerns any litigation in respect of which Council is a party.**

**These requirements are adequately covered by clause 62.3 of the Governance Rules, which states: The Chief Executive Officer must inform Councillors about the potential legal and cost implications of any proposed Notice of Motion.**

## **16 Urgent Business not Included on the Agenda**

## **17 Close of Meeting**