

AGENDA

Greater Shepparton City Council

COUNCIL MEETING

3:00PM, Tuesday 15 August 2023

In the Council Boardroom, Welsford Street

COUNCILLORS

Cr Shane Sali (Mayor)

Cr Anthony Brophy (Deputy Mayor)

Cr Seema Abdullah

Cr Dinny Adem

Cr Geoffrey Dobson

Cr Greg James

Cr Ben Ladson

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 15 AUGUST 2023 AT 3:00PM**

**CHAIR
CR SHANE SALI
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)
Almost Certain (5) Would be expected to occur in most circumstances (daily/weekly)	LOW	MEDIUM	HIGH	EXTREME	EXTREME
Likely (4) Could probably occur in most circumstances (i.e. Monthly)	LOW	MEDIUM	MEDIUM	HIGH	EXTREME
Possible (3) Reasonable probability that it could occur (i.e. over 12 months)	LOW	LOW	MEDIUM	HIGH	HIGH
Unlikely (2) It is not expected to occur (i.e. 2-5 years)	LOW	LOW	LOW	MEDIUM	HIGH
Rare (1) 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

1 Welcome to Country

Cr James will now present a Welcome to Country 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.

All care is taken to maintain your privacy; however as a visitor in the public gallery, it is assumed that your consent is given in the event that your image is broadcast to the public. It is also assumed that your consent is given to the use and disclosure of any information that you share at the meeting (including personal or sensitive information) to any person who accesses those recordings or Minutes.

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 18 July 2023 Council Meeting as circulated, be confirmed.

8 Public Question Time

8.1 Public Question and Response

The following public questions were submitted to Council in accordance with our Governance Rules.

Is Greater Shepparton City Council going to publicly support the Yes case for the referendum on an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice to parliament and constitutional amendment to be held later this year?

If Yes, will the council both promote their support of the referendum and take actions to counterbalance/correct misinformation and disinformation circulating in communities?

The following answer was provided by Council officers.

Council will consider its support for an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice to Parliament at the August 2023 Council Meeting.

This action is consistent with the Council Plan 2021-25 priority of calling for substantive First Nations constitutional change and structural reform.

9 Deputations and Petitions

Nil Received.

10 Community Directorate

10.1 **LGBTIQA+ Advisory Committee Terms of Reference & Membership recruitment**

Author	Team Leader Diversity
Approved by	Director Community
Purpose	For Decision at a Council Meeting

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 Terms of Reference for the Greater Shepparton LGBTIQA+ Advisory Committee, as attached.

Executive Summary

The LGBTIQA+ Advisory Committee (the Committee) commenced in August 2021 to provide a platform for advocacy and representation for the LGBTIQA+ community and to support and inform future Greater Shepparton City Council (GSCC) directions relating to representation, decision making and inclusive practices across Greater Shepparton City Council.

Two years on from the Committee's commencement it is now time to recruit Committee members to appoint through Council resolution for a new two (2) year term.

Officers have reviewed the Committee Terms of Reference (ToR) and have made several changes in anticipation of a new membership drive incorporating current Committee feedback, Governance advice and sector best practice into the new ToR.

In accordance with the new ToR current Committee members are welcome to reapply to the Committee and are eligible to be reappointed if they are recommended for appointment by the recruitment panel.

Committee members will be appointed to the new ToR following a recruitment process which will be undertaken commencing August 2023. Committee members will be appointed by Council endorsement at a future Council meeting.

Report Detail

The LGBTIQ+ Advisory Committee (the Committee) commenced in August 2021 to provide a platform for advocacy and representation for the LGBTIQ+ community and to support and inform future Greater Shepparton City Council (GSCC) directions relating to representation, decision making and inclusive practices across GSCC.

Since its commencement, the Committee has:

- provided direct feedback on various Council concept plans for facility design
- facilitated a meeting with Councillors and the Victorian Commissioner for LGBTIQ+ Communities, Todd Fernando and Daniel Witthaus, Founder and CEO of Rural Pride Australia regarding the Rainbow Ready Roadmap
- led and partnered on local Pride events including IDAHOBIT Day, Wear It Purple Day and Pride Month activities
- reviewed and made recommendations to the Greater Shepparton Women's Charter Advisory Committee International Women's Day Event and Awards Criteria and Nomination process
- developed the inaugural Greater Shepparton LGBTIQ+ Action Plan, endorsed by Council in August 2022 and Annual Implementation Plan.

The Committee currently comprises of ten (10) community representatives and one Councillor representative. The Committee is supported by the Team Leader – Diversity.

The amended ToR (attachment 10.1.1) reflect current best practice in LGBTIQ+ Local Government Advisory Committees, feedback from the current Committee, and Council governance advice. Following Council endorsement of the amended ToR, a two (2) week recruitment campaign will commence in mid-August 2023 to seek Expressions of Interest for the LGBTIQ+ Advisory Committee for two (2) year term. Committee members will be appointed by Council endorsement at a future Council meeting.

The amended ToR (attachment 10.1.1) incorporate changes to:

- **Membership composition** allowing for increased community engagement and representation via:
 - The Committee will consist of between ten (10) and twelve (12) members comprising of, but not limited to:*
 - *at least two (2) representatives from local LGBTIQ+ associations, groups and community committees, who have been nominated by their respective group*
 - *up to four (4) representatives from local organisations that work directly with the LGBTIQ+ community*
 - *at least four (4) individuals identifying as LGBTIQ+ with strong community links and the specific skills necessary to support the purpose and role of the Committee*
 - *up to two (2) representatives from the local business community*
 - *up to two (2) community members that identify as LGBTIQ+ allies*
 - *one (1) Councillor, appointed as the Chairperson by resolution of Council.*
- the recognition of the **Councillor representative voting rights**
- the establishment of clear conduct principles, **membership recruitment and terms** that provide a greater clarity of processes and expectations
- the establishment of a process for the appointment of **co-opted members and sub-committees**.

The amended ToR are now ready for Council endorsement.

Council Plan/Key Strategic Activity

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

We will prioritise leadership in the community to celebrate our cultures, people and places that makes Greater Shepparton a unique, vibrant, diverse and liveable region.

- 1.1 Council to take an active leadership role for access and inclusion in our community.
- 1.4 Communities have resources and abilities to self-advocate.
- 1.6 Council provides customer service that meets the needs of the community.
- 1.9 Provide a high profile collaborative advocacy role.

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY and WELLBEING

We will support the mental and physical health and wellbeing of all in our community, ensuring universal access to information, services, housing, healthcare and learning opportunities.

- 2.4 Leave no one behind.
- 2.9 Community members are supported to achieve and sustain physical, emotional and creative wellbeing.

Risk Management

Risks associated with this Advisory Committee are low and are managed through operational decision making and recommendations to Council as required.

Policy Considerations

Officers identified the LGBTIQA+ Action Plan links to a number of internal and external strategic documents including the Council Plan, Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan, Gender Equality Action Plan 2021-2025 and the State Government's Gender Equality Strategy and Action Plan 2021.

Financial Implications

Officers did not identify any financial implications associated with this report.

Legal/Statutory Implications

Officers did not identify any legal or statutory implications associated with this report.

Environmental/Sustainability Impacts

Officers did not identify any environmental or sustainability impacts arising from this report.

Social Implications

The LGBTIQA+ Advisory Committee provides an avenue for greater engagement between Council and the LGBTIQA+ community members, strengthening Council's commitment in creating an inclusive environment for marginalised members of our community where their voice is valued and heard.

Economic Impacts

Officers did not identify any economic impacts associated with this report.

Consultation

Officers consulted with:

- members of the Committee
- Local Government Pride Network
- Council Governance team

Appropriate consultation has occurred and the matter is now ready for Council consideration.

Strategic Links

a) Greater Shepparton 2030 Strategy

There are no direct links to the *Greater Shepparton 2030 Strategy*.

b) Other strategic links

- Greater Shepparton Youth Strategy and Action Plan 2019 – 2023
- Greater Shepparton Gender Equality Strategy 2021-2025
- 5.3 - Young LGBTQI+ 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

The LGBTIQA+ Advisory Committee provides a platform for advocacy and representation for LGBTIQA+ communities.

To ensure the sustainability of the Committee the LGBTIQA+ Terms of Reference have been reviewed to align with good sector practice and the inaugural Action Plan has been developed to drive the activities of the Committee.

Attachments

1. LGBTIQA + Advisory Committee Terms of Reference [**10.1.1** - 8 pages]

10.2 Greater Shepparton Women's Charter Advisory Committee - Terms of Reference

Author	Team Leader - Diversity
Approved by	Director Community
Purpose	For Decision at a Council Meeting

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 Terms of Reference for the Greater Shepparton Women's Charter Advisory Committee, as attached.

Executive Summary

Greater Shepparton City Council officially endorsed its commitment to the Women's Participation in Local Government Coalition Women's Charter in 2010. The inaugural Greater Shepparton Women's Charter Advisory Committee (the Charter) was endorsed by Council in February 2012.

The purpose of the Charter is to support and promote women in leadership roles and all levels of decision-making, including business or workplace positions, community groups or boards of management. The Charter provides advice to Council on matters relating to the participation, leadership, recognition, rights, safety and wellbeing of people that identify as women in Greater Shepparton.

A number of vacancies to the current Charter has resulted in the inability for the Charter to achieve a quorum. A two (2) week recruitment campaign will commence in mid August 2023 inviting Expressions of Interest to join a new Charter committee. In preparation for the recruitment campaign, Officers have reviewed the Committee Terms of Reference (ToR) and have made several changes incorporating Governance advice and sector best practice into the new ToR.

Report Detail

Greater Shepparton City Council officially endorsed its commitment to the Women's Participation in Local Government Coalition Women's Charter in 2010. The inaugural Greater Shepparton Women's Charter Advisory Committee (the Charter) was endorsed by Council in February 2012 with the purpose to support and promote women in leadership roles and all levels of decision-making, including business or workplace positions, community groups or boards of management.

The Charter develops an Action Plan every three (3) years and the implementation of this Plan is support by an Annual Implementation Plan. The Charter has achieved a number of actions over the past two (2) years, including:

- leading and delivering the Greater Shepparton Women’s Charter International Women’s Day event and the Greater Shepparton’s Women’s Award, in celebration of International Women’s Day each year
- working with the Greater Shepparton LGBTIQA+ Advisory Committee to review and made recommendations to the Greater Shepparton Women’s Charter Advisory Committee International Women’s Day Event and Awards Criteria and Nomination process
- supporting the Greater Shepparton Foundation Women’s Charter Scholarship, providing funding to support women with the cost of post-secondary education.

The amended ToR (see attachment 10.2.1) reflect best practice across Women’s Charter Local Government Advisory Committees and Council governance advice. Following Council endorsement of the amended ToR, a two (2) week recruitment campaign will in August 2023 to seek Expressions of Interest for the Charter for a two (2) year term. Committee members will be appointed by Council endorsement at a future Council meeting.

The amended ToR (attachment 10.2.1) incorporate changes to:

- **Membership composition** allowing for increased community engagement and representation via:
 - The Committee will consist of between ten (10) and twelve (12) members comprising of, but not limited to:*
 - *one (1) Councillor, appointed as the Chairperson by resolution of Council*
 - *a minimum of six (6) and a maximum of ten (10) community members chosen to represent the interests of people who identify as women in Greater Shepparton. Community representatives should, as far as possible, be balanced in regard to age, disability, ethnicity, and geographical location.*
 - *a maximum of six (6) representative of non-profit organisations, groups or networks that work to improve the participation, representation, recognition, safety and wellbeing of people who identify as women Greater Shepparton*
 - *a maximum of three (3) representatives of businesses who are committed to the representation, recognition, safety and wellbeing of people who identify as women Greater Shepparton*
 - *the Committee will be supported by at least one (1) Council Officer. Council Officers who attend the meetings of the Committee do so to provide advice and support to the Committee, are not considered Committee members and do not have voting rights.*
- the recognition of the **Councillor representative voting rights**
- the establishment of clear conduct principles, **membership recruitment and terms** that provide a greater clarity of processes and expectations
- the establishment of a process for the appointment of **co-opted members and sub-committees**.

The amended ToR that are now ready for Council endorsement.

Council Plan/Key Strategic Activity

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

We will prioritise leadership in the community to celebrate our cultures, people and places that makes Greater Shepparton a unique, vibrant, diverse and liveable region.

1.1 Council to take an active leadership role for access and inclusion in our community.

1.4 Communities have resources and abilities to self-advocate.

1.6 Council provides customer service that meets the needs of the community.

1.9 Provide a high profile collaborative advocacy role.

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY and WELLBEING

We will support the mental and physical health and wellbeing of all in our community, ensuring universal access to information, services, housing, healthcare and learning opportunities.

2.4 Leave no one behind.

2.9 Community members are supported to achieve and sustain physical, emotional and creative wellbeing.

Risk Management

Risks associated with this advisory committee are low and are managed through operational decision making and recommendations to Council as required.

Policy Considerations

Officers identified the purpose of the Greater Shepparton Women's Charter Advisory Committee links to a number of internal and external strategic documents including the Council Plan, Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan, Gender Equality Action Plan 2021-2025 and the State Government's Gender Equality Strategy and Action Plan 2021.

Financial Implications

Officers did not identify any financial implications associated with this report.

Legal/Statutory Implications

Officers did not identify any legal or statutory implications associated with this report.

Environmental/Sustainability Impacts

Officers did not identify any environmental or sustainability impacts arising from this report.

Social Implications

The Charter provides an avenue for greater engagement between Council and the people that identify as women, strengthening Council's commitment in creating an inclusive environment for marginalised members of our community where their voice is valued and heard.

Economic Impacts

Officers did not identify any economic impacts associated with this report.

Consultation

Officers consulted with:

- Victorian Local Government Authority
- Council Governance team

Appropriate consultation has occurred and the matter is now ready for Council consideration.

Strategic Links

a) Greater Shepparton 2030 Strategy

There are no direct links to the *Greater Shepparton 2030 Strategy*.

b) Other strategic links

- Greater Shepparton Youth Strategy and Action Plan 2019 – 2023
- Greater Shepparton Gender Equality Strategy 2021-2025
- Greater Shepparton Public Health Implementation Plan 2017 – 2021
- Greater Shepparton Women's Charter 3x3 Action Plan

Conclusion

The Greater Shepparton Women's Charter Advisory Committee provides a voice to Council on issues relating to people that identify as women in the municipality. The Charter supports and promotes women in leadership roles and all levels of decision-making, including business or workplace positions, community groups or boards of management.

To ensure the sustainability of the Committee the Greater Shepparton Women's Charter Advisory Committee Terms of Reference were reviewed to align with good sector practice.

Attachments

1. Women's Advisory Committee Terms of Reference [**10.2.1** - 9 pages]

10.3 Empowering Communities Project Grants and Update

Author Team Leader 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 the successful applicants awarded funding under delegated authority for the Empowering Communities Project Grants as follows:

Organisation	Grant Amount Awarded
Giz A Break Limited	\$ 80,000
Goulburn Valley Gangaru Parasports	\$100,000
Greater Shepparton Lighthouse Project	\$100,000
International Association for Psychiatric Nurses	\$ 40,000
Masomo Mbele Foundation	\$100,000
Mooroopna Education and Activity Centre	\$ 40,000
Secure Shepp Kids	\$ 20,000
Umoja Empowerment Group	\$ 20,000
TOTAL	\$500,000

Executive Summary

Empowering Communities funding aims to support community designed and delivered initiatives that take an innovative approach to address local issues around community safety (real or perceived). Through Victorian Government funding, \$500,000 in community grants have been awarded to projects that meet criteria designed by a community-led local action plan with the aim of improving safety outcomes of young people.

Report Detail

The Empowering Communities Project Grants (coordinated by Greater Shepparton City Council) is funded through the Victorian Government Building Safer Communities Grant – Empowering Communities Program, which is administered by the Department of Justice and Community Safety (DJCS).

Greater Shepparton is one of nine local governments who have been successful in receiving funding through this program; with other localised initiatives underway in Ballarat, Brimbank, Casey, Dandenong, Knox, Hume, Melton and Wyndham Councils.

Empowering Communities funding aims to support community designed and delivered initiatives that take an innovative approach to address local issues around community safety (real or perceived).

The Greater Shepparton Empowering Communities Project formed a Local Action Group (LAG) to deliver the project within the Greater Shepparton community. The LAG is supported by the Empowering Communities Project Coordinator, Greater Shepparton City Council and comprises representatives from across the youth, welfare, education, law enforcement sectors along with small business and community-based organisations with members who identify, or advocate on behalf of, Aboriginal, multicultural, living with a disability, LGBTQIA+ and other diverse groups within community.

The LAG is the decision-making body for the Empowering Communities Grant. Utilising a variety of data and community input, the LAG established a Common Goal and Action Plan which prioritised the primary audience of all initiatives as young people aged 0-24. Victoria's Crime Prevention Strategy details the importance of people having access to the right supports and services at the right time as being a strong protective factor against offending. Access to education, employment and sustainable housing, having strong physical and emotional wellbeing and being connected to family and culture ensures a better chance of doing well in life.

The LAG formed the Empowering Communities Project Grants (the Grant) as part of a deliverable within the overall project. The Grant program was delivered over two stages; an initial expressions of interest (EOI) program, followed by an invitation only full application process. A grant allocation of \$500,000 was provided to fund these community led projects. The EOI process included a broad marketing campaign to encourage organisations, community groups, educational providers, and individuals to submit their project idea for consideration. Eighteen submissions were received and assessed by the LAG against the Common Goal and Action Plan; 10 of which were invited to submit full application.

The Empowering Communities Project was pleased to receive eight full applications to the Grants. These applications were assessed by a panel of Greater Shepparton City Council staff in line with Common Goal, Action Plan, funding agreement criteria and Council's Grants Distribution Policy. These criteria include:

- clearly align with one or more of the goals outlined in the Empowering Communities Action Plan.
- test new and innovative approaches or deliver proven safety outcomes that address the Common Goal.
- provide evidence of how the initiative can become sustainable beyond the funding period.
- demonstrate clear measures that can be evaluated.
- identify the benefits to the community including the primary audience of the Common Goal i.e. young people aged 0-24 years.

Recommendations of the panel were presented to the LAG on 4 May 2023 for discussion and final approval. Additional information for some applicants was requested and received and the recommended applications have now been endorsed by the DJCS and approved under delegation by Greater Shepparton City Council.

Further details relating to the eight applicants who have been successfully awarded funding under delegated authority are provided in the following table:

Organisation	Details	Grant Amount Awarded (GST Free)
Giz a Break	Justice Diversion Program Delivery of a one-year justice diversion program for 14-17 year-olds, referred by members of the Hume Regional Aboriginal Justice Advisory Committee, through adventure four-wheel drive camps.	\$ 80,000
Goulburn Valley Gangaru Parasports	Adaptive Sports Programs GV Gangaru Parasports will purchase specialised equipment that will support young people to participate in disability sporting programs.	\$100,000
Greater Shepparton Lighthouse Project	Life Links Coordinator A Life Links Coordinator will be employed at the Family Haven in Mooroopna. This role will provide specialised and individual support to young people and guardians of young people to navigate services, respond to challenges and provide mentorship.	\$100,000
International Association for Psychiatric Nurses	Mental Health First Aid Training This project will provide free internationally recognised training in Youth Mental Health First Aid for groups and individuals. The program will support those working or living with adolescents including parents, school staff, sports coaches, and youth workers.	\$ 40,000
Masomo Mbele	Echo Hope Program Four unique programs will be delivered to support young refugees with a focus on sharing stories, legal education and English language classes, homework club and ICT support and building employment skills.	\$100,000
Mooroopna Education and Activity Centre	Art Mural Mooroopna Education and Activity Centre will work with local vulnerable and disengaged youth as well as collaborating with community leaders with the aim of combatting graffiti, increasing town pride, and building relationships between participants.	\$ 40,000
Secure Shepp Kids	Circle of Security Parenting Program The Secure Shepp Kids Project endeavours to support children and parents by promoting emotional security. Circle of Security® is for parents and carers of children aged 0 to 12 years old who would like to develop secure relationship bonds with their children to help them thrive.	\$ 20,000
Umoja Empowerment Group	English Lessons The Umoja Empowerment Group will provide English lessons to support young people in learning the language of job applications, how to effectively convey their skills in a job interview and how to write essays clearly in school.	\$ 20,000
	TOTAL	\$500,000

The Empowering Communities Project Grants have an acquittal process which must be completed by successful applicants by the 30 June 2024 or at the completion of their project. The acquittal requires the applicants to provide a report on the outcome of the funding including invoices and photographs. Applicants that fail to complete the acquittal to a satisfactory standard are unable to apply for Council's future grant programs.

Council Plan/Key Strategic Activity

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

We will prioritise leadership in the community to celebrate our cultures, people and places that makes Greater Shepparton a unique, vibrant, diverse and liveable region.

1.1 Council to take an active leadership role for access and inclusion in our community.

1.2 Council to work with stakeholders to support leadership within our multicultural communities.

1.7 Youth leadership is fostered, encouraged and embraced.

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY and WELLBEING

We will support the mental and physical health and wellbeing of all in our community, ensuring universal access to information, services, housing, healthcare and learning opportunities.

2.4 Leave no one behind.

2.6 Welcome and embrace multicultural communities and their cultures.

2.7 Address issues contributing to homelessness.

2.8 Support for families and children at all stages of their learning and development.

2.9 Community members are supported to achieve and sustain physical, emotional and creative wellbeing.

VIBRANT and DIVERSE ECONOMY

We will drive the visitor economy by growing visitor experiences and major events that provide employment and other opportunities to the community. Our economic development will focus on establishing a strong, adaptive, sustainable and thriving region supported by agriculture and a diverse range of industries.

3.7 Expanded educational opportunities.

Risk Management

Consideration has been given to risk management issues during the assessment of all applications for funding support.

Insignificant to low risks have been identified and will be addressed at the operational level. All grant recipients will be required to consult fully with Council representatives prior to, and during their projects to identify any potential adverse consequences, and to devise a strategy to minimise any risks.

Applicants have been asked to confirm that they have the necessary public liability insurances for projects where activities are being undertaken by the Grantees themselves. This will be confirmed prior to the release of any funds.

The risk of conflict of interest to the Assessment Panel members has been addressed with the inclusion of a Conflict of Interest Declaration on the Grant Assessment Form.

Policy Considerations

Applications under the Empowering Communities Project Grants have been assessed and awarded funding under delegated authority in accordance with Council's Grant Distribution Policy adopted on 16 March 2021.

Financial Implications

The total funding pool of \$500,000 was available for individual submissions up to a value of \$100,000 per application. All applications were successful, the total budget spent is \$500,000. The funding allocated to this program was provided through the Victorian Government Building Safer Communities Grant – Empowering Communities Program.

Legal/Statutory Implications

The Empowering Communities Project Grants are consistent with the Local Government Act 2020 and the Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act (2006).

There are no legal/statutory implications arising from this report. Council's Community Wellbeing team will provide assistance and advice to successful applicants. Council officers will also assist applicants in the process of gaining permits or approvals, where required.

Environmental/Sustainability Impacts

There are no environmental/sustainability implications arising from this report. Successful applicants must ensure that when planning their project, consideration must be given to how you to avoid negatively impacting on the environment and promoting sustainability as contained in the Grant Program Guidelines.

Social Implications

The Greater Shepparton Empowering Communities Project – Action Plan has defined the Common Goal of the project to be:

“The Empowering Communities Project – Greater Shepparton will have a primary focus on community where, as its core, each initiative improves safety outcomes for young people aged 0-24.”

The Action Plan list eight goals across four key themes which are:

Connection

1. Provide opportunities for young people to connect
2. Activities that celebrate young people within the broader community
3. Increase cultural inclusion
4. Improved connections between neighbours

Support

5. Increase support provided to young people experiencing vulnerability

Access

6. Improve access and promotion of existing community services

Safety

7. Improve perceptions of safety and community pride
8. Increase cultural safety

All applicants awarded funding under the Empowering Communities Project Grants have detailed how their project will address the Common Goal and objectives on the Action Plan.

Victoria's Crime Prevention Strategy details the importance of people having access to the right supports and services at the right time as being a strong protective factor against offending. Access to education, employment and sustainable housing, having strong physical and emotional wellbeing and being connected to family and culture ensures a better chance of doing well in life.

Economic Impacts

All projects awarded funding are being delivered in the Greater Shepparton area or having a direct impact on young people within Greater Shepparton. Where appropriate, local vendors will be engaged to deliver the projects.

Consultation

Level of public participation	Promises to the public/stakeholders	Examples of techniques to use
Inform	Information of the Expression of Interest Program was widespread	Flyer, Electronic Signage, Radio Advertising, Interviews, Print Media, Emails
Consult	Visits and presentations to educational providers and local organisations	Present at staff and team meetings
Involve	Diverse expression of interest submission process	Pitch to panel, video or written submissions
Collaborate	Successful community groups/members will be responsible for the implementation of their projects which will provide the opportunity for community capacity building	Successful applicants will drive their own community initiatives. They can seek assistance if a variation is required during the delivery of the project.
Empower	Assessments of expressions of interest completed by local advisory group. Recipients will deliver their own projects.	Local Action Group of community representatives reviewed and recommended applicants for full submission.

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

Strategic Links

a) Greater Shepparton 2030 Strategy

There are no direct links to the Greater Shepparton 2030 Strategy

Conclusion

The applications for funding through the Empowering Communities Grants Project have been reviewed by an internal Grant Assessment Panel in line with the Grant Distribution Policy of Council and the Guidelines of the Empowering Communities Grants Project.

The Grant Assessment Panel recommended all projects be funded.

Attachments

Nil

10.4 Supporting an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice to Parliament

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 support the establishment of an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice to Parliament.

Executive Summary

Greater Shepparton is home to a proud Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community, one of the largest in regional Victoria.

As part of the Australian Government's commitment to implement the Uluru Statement from the Heart, a referendum will be held between October and December 2023 to recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the Constitution by establishing an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice to Parliament (The Voice).

The Voice would be an independent and permanent advisory body. It would give advice to the Australian Parliament and Government on matters that affect the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Council has the opportunity to advance its priority of calling for substantive constitutional change and structural reform to recognise the First Nation people, by making a public statement of support for the Voice.

Report Detail

As part of the Australian Government's commitment to implement the Uluru Statement from the Heart, a referendum will be held between October and December 2023 to recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the Constitution by establishing The Voice.

The Uluru Statement from the Heart (**attachment 10.4.1**) was presented to the nation five years ago on the 26 May 2017 by delegates to the First Nations National Constitutional Convention, held over four days near Uluru in Central Australia.

The 250 member convention was held after the 16 member Referendum Council had travelled around the country and met with over 1,200 people.

The Uluru Statement from the Heart calls for, “... ***the establishment of a First Nations Voice enshrined in the Constitution and a Makarrata Commission to supervise a process of agreement-making and truth-telling about our history.***”

The Voice would be an independent and permanent advisory body. It would give advice to the Australian Parliament and Government on matters that affect the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

The question Australians will be asked in the referendum is:

A proposed Law: to alter the Constitution to recognise the First Peoples of Australia by establishing an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice. Do you approve this proposed alteration?

If a ‘Yes’ vote prevails at the referendum, there will be a process with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, the Parliament, and the broader public to settle the Voice design. Legislation to establish the Voice will then go through standard parliamentary processes to ensure adequate scrutiny by elected representatives in both houses of Parliament. Council has previously committed to First Nations constitutional reform via a key priority of the Council Plan 2021-2025.

The Municipal Association of Victoria State Council meeting, of which Greater Shepparton is a participant, resolved in June 2022 that the MAV call upon all Victorian local government authorities to consider supporting the Uluru Statement from the Heart, and associated matters including The Voice.

Council is also committed to reconciliation, truth-telling and self-determination, including via its Memorandum of Understanding with Yorta Yorta Nations Aboriginal Corporation, its Reconciliation Action Plan (**attachment 10.4.2**) and as a champion for the Goulburn Murray Regional Prosperity Plan.

There are divergent views about the merits of the Voice among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members and the wider Australian community. These views relate to a variety of opinions and concerns, including some perceptions of a lack of detail about the structure and the role of The Voice, which would be decided by Parliament through legislation.

Council can play an important role by sharing information about the Voice, enabling residents to make their own considered and informed choice in the referendum.

About constitutional reform, and the Voice

The Australian Constitution is the set of rules by which Australia is governed.

The only way to change the Constitution is by holding a referendum. It is up to the Australian people to decide if the Constitution should change.

Between October and December 2023, all eligible Australian citizens aged 18 years and over will vote on whether Australia should change its Constitution to recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First Peoples of Australia by establishing a body called the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice.

The ‘Proposed Law’ that Australians are being asked to vote upon is set out in the Constitution Alteration Bill and is subject to Parliament’s approval. If approved at the referendum, the Bill would add the following words to the Constitution:

Chapter IX Recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples 129 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice

In recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First Peoples of Australia:

- i. there shall be a body, to be called the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice;
- ii. the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice may make representations to the Parliament and the Executive Government of the Commonwealth on matters relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples;
- iii. the Parliament shall, subject to this Constitution, have power to make laws with respect to matters relating to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice, including its composition, functions, powers and procedures.

There has been work over many years to define what a Voice could look like. The following Voice design principles were agreed by the First Nations Referendum Working Group and were drawn from this work. The Voice will:

- give independent advice to the Parliament and Government
- make representations to the Parliament and the Executive Government on matters relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- be able to make representations proactively
- be able to respond to requests for representations from the Parliament and the Executive Government
- have its own resources to allow it to research, develop and make representations.

The Voice will not have:

- program delivery function
- veto powers.

On 18 July 2023, The Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) published the official Yes (**attachment 10.4.3**) and No (**attachment 10.4.4**) cases on its website. These publications will be sent to all Australian households before the referendum.

A date has not been set for the Voice vote, as yet, but Prime Minister Anthony Albanese has advised it will be held between October and December. Voters must have 33 days' notice of the referendum date.

Council Plan/Key Strategic Activity

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

We will prioritise leadership in the community to celebrate our cultures, people and places that makes Greater Shepparton a unique, vibrant, diverse and liveable region.

- 1.1 Council to take an active leadership role for access and inclusion in our community.
- 1.5 Call for substantive First Nations constitutional change and structural reform.

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY and WELLBEING

We will support the mental and physical health and wellbeing of all in our community, ensuring universal access to information, services, housing, healthcare and learning opportunities.

- 2.4 Leave no one behind.
- 2.5 Recognise First Nations history and advance reconciliation.

Risk Management

Risks	Likelihood	Consequence	Rating	Mitigation Action
Dissent amongst the community on The Voice to Parliament	Likely	Major	High	Individuals make their own choice via their vote on the Referendum
Not committing to provide clear information on The Voice and the referendum is a missed opportunity to contribute to ensuring residents have the information they need to participate.	Possible	Moderate	Medium	Provision of information ensuring broad reach across Greater Shepparton and in languages other than English.

Policy Considerations

This report and Innovate RAP relate to the following policy documents:

- Victorian Aboriginal and Local Government Strategy 2021-2026
- Victorian Government Self Determination Reform Framework

Financial Implications

The Australian Government has produced communications and engagement collateral relating to 'The Voice' which are available for Council use. Any additional costs e.g., printing costs, which are likely to be minimal, will be delivered through the 2023/24 Community Wellbeing Department Operational Budget.

Legal/Statutory Implications

This report relates to the following legal and statutory documents:

- The United Nations Declaration of Indigenous People
- The Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006

The Voice to Parliament proposes changes to the Australian Constitution which support the self-determination rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

The referendum does not involve voting for people to be Members of Parliament as is the case with an election. The referendum will ask a simple question which can be answered with a 'Yes' or a 'No' only.

It is compulsory to enrol to vote in a referendum in Australia. For a referendum to be successful it requires a double majority which is both a majority of voters across the nation and a majority of voters in a majority of states.

Legislation and policy will be developed if constitutional change happens (e.g., The Voice is supported through the referendum and the constitution is changed as a result).

Environmental/Sustainability Impacts

No environmental/sustainability implications relate to this report.

Social Implications

Views on 'The Voice to Parliament' are not homogenous and it is important to recognise the diversity of opinions amongst First Nations people and the wider community. The provision of factual and balanced communications material whilst also encouraging community members to make their own choice in the referendum will assist in maintaining social cohesion.

Economic Impacts

No economic implications relate to this report.

Consultation

Level of public participation	Promises to the public/stakeholders	Examples of techniques to use
Inform	Provision of information relating to 'The Voice to Parliament' enabling community members to make their own choice in the referendum.	Social media, posters, videos etc.
Consult	N/A	N/A
Involve	N/A	N/A
Collaborate	N/A	N/A
Empower	N/A	N/A

Strategic Links

- a) Greater Shepparton 2030 Strategy
 - Community Life
- b) Other strategic links
 - Greater Shepparton Health and Wellbeing Plan

Conclusion

The Australian community has a unique opportunity to advance constitutional reform to benefit Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, and to recognise their unique position in the Australian community.

This is especially pertinent to Greater Shepparton, given its large and proud community of Yorta Yorta Traditional Owners and its wider Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.

It is recommended that Council make a public statement of support for the Voice, consistent with the relevant Council Plan 2021-2025 priority.

Attachments

1. Uluru Statement from the Heart [10.4.1 - 1 page]
2. Reconciliation Action Plan 2023-2025 [10.4.2 - 44 pages]
3. The Voice to Parliament - the-case-for-voting-yes - 19 July 2023 [10.4.3 - 13 pages]
4. The Voice to Parliament - the-case-for-voting-no - 19 July 2023 [10.4.4 - 7 pages]

10.5 Greater Shepparton Public Health Advisory Committee - Endorsement of Membership and Terms of Reference

Author Healthy Communities Officer
Approved by Director Community
Purpose For Decision at a Council Meeting

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. appoint the following members to the Greater Shepparton Municipal Public Health Advisory Committee for a period of two years commencing on 1 October 2023 and expiring on 1 October 2025:
 - Kimberly Ackland
 - Camuran Albanoi
 - Dr Suresh Jayasundera
 - David Evans
 - Sherri Smith - Hoyer
 - Charles Oguntade
 - Belinda Conna
 - Amy Robinson
 - Charlotte Brewer
 - Gordon Ross
 - Dr Menon Parameswaran OAM
2. adopt the Terms of Reference for the Greater Shepparton Public Health Advisory Committee.
3. acknowledge the contribution of outgoing committee members and write to thank them for their service.

Executive Summary

Council is required to establish and maintain a Municipal Public Health Advisory Committee (PHAC) as well as develop a four-year Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan (MPHWP) as part of its obligations under the Health and Wellbeing Act 2008 and the Local Government Act 2020.

Council seeks new nominations to this committee every two years and reviews the terms of reference by which the committee operates.

This report recommends the appointment of eleven community and agency representatives to the committee for the term commencing 1 October 2023 and expiring on 1 October 2025.

Carla Dixon, Dr John MacKellar and Katie Richter have not sought renomination for the new committee term but the contribution they have made to the committee and community is warmly acknowledged. Council will write to the outgoing members to thank them for their contribution.

The terms of reference (TOR) for this committee, with minor updates to specify a review period, is also attached with this report for endorsement by Council.

Report Detail

The MPHWP is a significant contributor to the 2021 – 2025 Council Plan and following approval from the Victorian Government is embedded as part of that plan rather than being a separate document.

The Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Advisory Committee (the Committee) which supports the MPHWP comprises up to 15 members. Council is represented by a Councillor who will be appointed as the chairperson for the Committee.

The Director Community, Manager Active Living and Team Leader Healthy Communities and will provide administrative support to the committee and as officers of Council are not able to vote.

An Expression of Interest (EOI) was advertised to fill current vacancies on the committee and ensure representation across all sectors of the community for the Council Plan term 2021- 2025. This EOI closed on 1 June 2023 with eleven completed applications being received.

The applications received represent a diverse cross section of the community with eleven applications meeting the eligibility criteria and being recommended for endorsement.

Acceptance of these applications will ensure the PHAC will be effective in considering and making recommendation to Council in relation to a Public Health Plan with representation across all liveability focus areas.

A summary of applicants is below:

Elected Member	Qualifications Skills and Experience
Kimberly Ackland	University of Melbourne – Department of Rural Health Bachelor of Occupational Therapy Currently working in occupational therapy, lecturing in interprofessional rural education and providing allied health students with opportunities for rural placements in the region.
Camuran Albanoi	Voices for Harmony Shepparton Bachelor of Arts (Major History) Diploma of Counselling Wellways and GV Health – 10 years' experience in employment of Mental Health
Dr Suresh Jayasundera (Current Member)	Clinical Specialist in-charge of HITH and Ambulatory Care GVH. Vice President Ethnic Council – 4 Years Past President of Sri-Lankan Association of Goulburn Valley.
David Evans	Centre for Excellence in Rural Sexual Health – University of Melbourne BA Psychology MHLth Sci Sexual Health PhD Sociology/Gender Studies Diploma in Emergency Health Care
Sherri Smith - Hoyer	Former General Manager – Healthy Mind Solutions (Retired) BA Major in Journalism Deakin University Graduate Certificate in Public Health UTS (University of Technology Sydney) General Manager and Executive with 15+ years' experience in healthcare and IT
Charles Oguntade (Current Member)	Forensic Clinical Specialist GV Area Mental Health Master of Nursing (Mental Health) Foundations of Directorship Certificate, Member Institute of Community Directors, Fairly Community Leadership Alumni. Board President – Ethnic Council Shepparton 2019-2020 President GV African Australian Community Organisation 2015- 2019 Member Shepparton Rotary Club
Belinda Conna	Department of Health 12 Years with Greater Shepparton City Council as Team Leader of Healthy Communities. Public Health Promotion and Municipal Health and Wellbeing Planning Board Member Valley Sport State level with a role to support LGAs (Local Government Authorities) Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Planning
Amy Robinson	Lighthouse Project Bachelor of Applied Management – Masters Secondary Teaching (completing) Social Change Leader at Greater Shepparton Lighthouse Project Advisory Board member of Shepparton Education Youth Foyer Advisory Board member of Department of Education Shepparton Education Plan Goulburn Murray Local Learning and Employment Network Jan 2018 – Jan 2020

Elected Member	Qualifications Skills and Experience
Charlotte Brewer (Current Member)	Charlotte Brewer Consulting. 30 years' experience as a manger, social worker, mental health social worker and in private practice. B.A. Sociology, Bachelor of Social Work University of Melbourne. M.A. (major thesis on Post Natal Depression in the Goulburn Valley). Immediate Past President of The Bridge Youth work Agency
Gordon Ross (Current Member)	Ross Psychology B.A. Dipp App Ch Psych. ASS dip app sc. Dip Bus. Registered psychologist Previous Director Community Care GV Health
Dr Menon Parameswaran OAM (Current Member)	2021 member of the GV-MDBA Pilot Committee Panel Board Member Adult Community and Further Education 2017-2020 Board Director PCC 2004 -2019
Cr Sam Spinks	Councillor Representative and Chair
Louise Mitchell	Director – Community (GSCC)
David Booth	Manager – Active Living Department (GSCC)
Ariyana Gant	Team Leader – Healthy Communities - Active Living (GSCC)

As part of the review of membership of this Committee, a review of the relevant TOR was also undertaken, and minor changes made to specify a regular review period for the TOR. An updated draft terms of reference are attached with this report for adoption by Council.

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.

1.2 Council works closely with/is guided by the Department of Health and Human Services to develop and report annual targets of the Municipal Health and Wellbeing Implementation Plan.

Risk Management

Risks associated with this advisory committee are low and are managed through the operational decision making and recommendation to Council as required.

Policy Considerations

There are no conflicts with existing Council policies associated with this report.

Financial Implications

The financial implications of the role played by the PHAC is relatively simple with a small amount set aside to support the committee's function.

Council provides administrative support to co-ordinate meetings, prepare agendas, record minutes and cater for morning tea or lunch as required.

The recommendations made by this advisory committee to Council at times have greater financial implications however that authority rests with Council as part of its overall budget deliberations.

	Approved Budget Estimate for this proposal ¹ \$	This Proposal GST Exclusive \$	Variance to Approved Budget Estimate \$	This Proposal GST Inclusive ² \$
Revenue	0	0	0	0
Expense –General	1,500	1,500	0	1,650
Expense – Alliance for Gambling Reform membership	15,000	15,000	0	16,650
Net Total	16,500	16,500	0	18,150

¹ Budgets are GST exclusive

² For Contract Award reports the GST inclusive expense shall match the amount reported in the recommendation

Legal/Statutory Implications

This Committee plays an important support role for Greater Shepparton City Council who have received exemption to integrate its MPHWP into the 2021 – 2025 Council Plan.

While the MPHWP is integrated into the Council Plan 2021 - 2025, Council's decision to develop and adopt the Greater Shepparton Public Health Strategic Plan 2018 – 2028 and annual implementation plan which is reviewed further supports the statutory requirements of the Local Government Act 2020 and Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008. The Public Health Advisory Committee are custodian of this strategic plan.

Environmental/Sustainability Impacts

Environmental and sustainable impacts are key to the success of public health plan. The committee will consider environment/sustainability as a specific liveability indicator requiring specific attention to meet natural environment expectations and a sustainable approach into the future and reflect this in any recommendation to Council accordingly.

Social Implications

Local Government's leadership in considering public health matters is paramount, based in part on their population focus, closeness to their communities and ability to influence wider and more equitable access to the social determinants of health through effective policies and strategies that address local needs.

The Liveability focus of the strategic plan and incorporation of the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan into the Council Plan both demonstrate Council's commitment to embedding the principles of health and wellbeing into its long term strategic aims of supporting its community.

Economic Impacts

A collaborative approach to public health discussion will help to strengthen Council's approach to supporting the economy. Key liveability domains including education, workforce opportunities and transport are all key drivers of economic prosperity and so are important as part of this committee's work, their networks and recommendations to Council.

Consultation

Nominations to join the Committee were advertised publicly and closed on 1 June 2023.

With eleven individual responses having been received, officers believe that appropriate consultation has occurred and the matter is now ready for Council consideration.

Strategic Links

a) Greater Shepparton 2030 Strategy

Links to all objectives of this plan have been identified; settlement & housing ensuring enough diverse housing is available, community life encouraging social connection and access to services, environment to plan sustainable practices, waste management and tree protection, economic development to encourage growth and infrastructure to expand transport and active transport opportunities.

b) Other strategic links

- Greater Shepparton Council Plan 2021 - 2025
This report demonstrates the direct link with the integration of health and wellbeing matters across health planning.
- Greater Shepparton Public Health Strategic Health Plan 2018 – 2028
- Greater Shepparton's Reconciliation Action Plan, Gender Equity Plan, Disability Action Plan
- Greater Shepparton Sport 2050 Strategic Plan
This plan is Council's long-term plan for ensuring every resident can play sport, now and in the future.

Conclusion

The endorsement of new members to the MPHWP Advisory Committee and associated TOR will allow the continuation of this collaborative network to address public health matters.

The Committee will continue to play a pivotal role in meeting Council's statutory obligations to involve community in the development and annual review of each Public Health Strategic Plan and annual implementation plan to monitor progress and capture achievements. Importantly, the Committee will continue to provide Council with advice and recommendation on where and how the health and wellbeing of its community can be improved.

Attachments

1. Greater Shepparton Public Health Advisory Committee Terms of Reference [10.5.1 - 4 pages]

11 Corporate Services Directorate

11.1 Contracts Awarded Under Delegation - July 2023

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:

- 1. note the contracts awarded under delegation pursuant to a formal tender process for the reporting period; and**
- 2. note the requests for tender advertised but not yet awarded.**

Report

To inform the Council of the status of request for tenders that have been awarded under delegation during the period 1 July 2023 to 31 July 2023, and those that have been publicly advertised but are yet to be awarded as at 31 July 2023. The report does not include all purchasing activities, only procurement which requires a formal quotation or tender process.

Contracts Awarded under Delegated Authority

Contract No.	Project Name	Details	Value inclusive of GST	Awarded to
2315	Compliant Asbestos Removal - 90 Welsford Street Shepparton	Lump Sum Contract for the Compliant Asbestos Removal - 90 Welsford Street Shepparton	\$98,988.86	AAH Contracting Pty Ltd

Requests for Tenders advertised but not yet awarded

Contract No.	Contract Name	Contract detail, including terms and provisions for extensions	Status
2310	Provision of Printer Lease and Maintenance Services	Lump Sum Contract for the Provision of Printer Lease and Maintenance Services over four years	Tender currently under evaluation
2122	Provision of Party & Event Equipment Hire Services - Panel of Suppliers	Schedule of Rates Contract for the Provision of Party & Event Equipment Hire Services - Panel of Suppliers Initial term of 3 years with two single year options	Tender currently under evaluation
2295	Provision of Line and Road Marking Services - Panel of Suppliers	Schedule of Rates Contract for the Provision of Line and Road Marking Services - Panel of Suppliers Initial term of 2 years with a one-year option	Tender currently under evaluation
2321	Queensland Fruit Fly Trapping Grid and Monitoring	Lump Sum Contract for the Queensland Fruit Fly Trapping Grid and Monitoring	Tender currently under evaluation
2243	Provision of Heavy Plant and Equipment Hire (Wet & Dry Hire) Services	Schedule of Rates Contract for the Provision of Heavy Plant and Equipment Hire (Wet & Dry Hire) Services – Panel of Suppliers Initial term of 3 years with a one-year option	Tender currently under evaluation

Through the S5 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 \$1,000,000.

The financial delegation to Directors to approve contracts up to a value of \$750,000 for goods and services and works are included in the S7 Instrument of Sub-Delegation by Chief Executive Officer.

Collaborative / Third Party Purchasing Arrangements

In accordance with Clause 5.2.11 of the Procurement Policy, Council has the option to utilise third party collaborative purchasing arrangements for various procurement activities.

These collaborative arrangements are established to be an effective and efficient way of sourcing goods and services. Benefits include pre-approved supplier lists, cost savings through economies of scale and dedicated contract administration.

The following collaborative arrangements have recently been utilised:

Contract No.	Entity	Contract Details
2333	MAV	Provision of Bill Payment Services (Aus Post) BP8411-2023

Legal/Statutory Implications

In accordance with Section 108 of the Local Government Act 2020, Council has adopted its Procurement Policy establishing the value at which Council must invite a tender or seek an expression of interest.

Conclusion

It is important that decisions and actions taken under delegation be properly documented and transparent in nature. The report details the contracts awarded under delegated authority of the Council during the period 1 July 2023 to 31 July 2023.

Attachments

Nil

11.2 Appointment of Independent Member to Audit & Risk Management Committee

Author	Team Leader Risk & Assurance
Approved by	Director Corporate Services
Purpose	For Decision at a Council Meeting

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 appoint Daniel Butel to the position of Independent Member on the Audit and Risk Management Committee for a period of three years, commencing on 16 August 2023 and concluding on 15 August 2026.

Executive Summary

Independent Member of the Audit and Risk Management Committee (ARMC), Mr Vivek Chopra, formally resigned from his position in May 2023, creating a vacancy on the Committee.

Council worked closely with the Committee Chair to conduct an Expression of Interest (EOI) process to source a suitably qualified applicant to fill this vacancy.

Five applications were received in response to the publicly advertised EOI. Three applicants were short-listed and interviewed by the Mayor, Cr Shane Sali and ARMC Chair, Goran Mitrevski.

Following the evaluation of interview scores and completion of reference checks, Daniel Butel was identified as the preferred candidate for this position.

Report Detail

Greater Shepparton City Council's Audit and Risk Management Committee is comprised of four independent members and two Councillors.

The purpose of the ARMC is to assist Council in fulfilling its governance responsibilities and having oversight in areas including financial and performance statements, internal and external auditing and reporting, risk management, internal control management and compliance. Independent members of the Committee must collectively have expertise in financial management and reporting, risk management and experience in public sector management. Independent members must have sufficient skills and experience to add value to the Committee.

Following the resignation of Vivek Chopra in May 2023, Council commenced an EOI process to fill this vacancy.

The position was advertised in the Shepparton News, The Age and on Councils Facebook page in late May for a period of two weeks, with five applications being received.

Interviews were conducted by Greater Shepparton City Council Mayor, Cr Shane Sali and ARMC Chair, Goran Mitrevski. At the completion of the interview process, and further supported by reference checks, Daniel Butel was identified as the preferred candidate for appointment to the position of Independent Member of the ARMC.

Daniel has extensive experience in the fields of risk management, internal and external audit, local government, financial, business continuity, disaster recovery, IT, cyber security, project management, OH&S and contractor management, in addition to holding positions on boards and audit and risk committees.

Council is confident that Daniel will be a great asset to the Committee and therefore recommends his appointment to the committee for a three-year term, in accordance with the ARMC Charter.

Council Plan/Key Strategic Activity

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

We will prioritise leadership in the community to celebrate our cultures, people and places that makes Greater Shepparton a unique, vibrant, diverse and liveable region.

1.8 Good governance and sustainable financial management.

Risk Management

There have been no risks identified in relation to the appointment of an Independent Member to the Audit and Risk Management Committee.

Policy Considerations

The EOI process for the appointment of the Independent Member has been undertaken in accordance with the Audit and Risk Management Committee Charter.

Financial Implications

Allowances paid to Independent Members have been considered and approved as part of the 2023/24 budget process. Minor additional expenses were incurred for the advertising of the vacancy.

Environmental/Sustainability Impacts

There are no environmental / sustainability impacts associated with the appointment of the Independent Member to the Audit and Risk Management Committee.

Social Implications

There are no social implications associated with the appointment of the Independent Member to the Audit and Risk Management Committee.

Economic Impacts

There are no economic impacts associated with the appointment of the Independent Member to the Audit and Risk Management Committee.

Consultation

Consultation occurred with the applicable Council Officers, ARMC Committee members and Councillor representatives throughout the EOI process.

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

Strategic Links

Greater Shepparton 2030 Strategy

There are no direct links to the Greater Shepparton 2030 Strategy.

Conclusion

Following the completion of an EOI process in accordance with the Committee charter, it is recommended that Council approve the appointment of Daniel Butel to the position of independent member of the Audit and Risk Management Committee for a period of three years.

Attachments

Nil

11.3 Audit & Risk Management Committee Charter

Author	Team Leader – Risk & Assurance
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 adopt the Audit & Risk Management Committee Charter, as attached.

Executive Summary

The Audit and Risk Management Committee (ARMC) Charter has been developed and reviewed in accordance with Section 53 of the Local Government Act 2020 (Act) and is based on the model Audit and Risk Committee Charter developed by Local Government Victoria.

The ARMC Charter details the purpose and functions of the Committee as defined in the Act.

The Charter identifies that it is to be reviewed every two years, with the last review taking place in 2021.

This review has proposed only minor amendments, with the key changes including:

- Section 3.1 (Councillor Members of the Committee) - reworded
- Section 4.3 (Quorum requirements),
- Section 5 (Committee Program); and
- Section 7.1.4 (annual performance assessment).

To ensure that the Committee is fulfilling its responsibilities under the Charter, the Annual Work Program has been revised to align with this document.

Report Detail

The Audit and Risk Management Committee Charter has been developed in accordance with Section 53 of the Local Government Act 2020, and Local Government Victoria’s Model, Audit and Risk Committee Charter.

The key changes were minor in nature, and included:

- Rewording section 3.1.3 to reference the Mayor or Councillor representative be unable to attend a Committee meeting, meeting organisers will make reasonable attempts to reschedule the meeting to a date and time that suits all attendees.
- Adding further detail to section 4.3 Quorum requirements, more specifically, the options available to the Committee where a quorum cannot be maintained.
- Documenting the individual reports to be presented to the Committee under each section heading within Officer Reports.
- Amending section 7.1.4.2 to enable the CEO's discretion in relation to the engagement of an independent external to conduct the annual performance assessment of the Committee.

Greater Shepparton City Council's Charter will be presented to the Audit and Risk Management Committee (Committee) at the 9 August meeting.

Council Plan/Key Strategic Activity

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

We will prioritise leadership in the community to celebrate our cultures, people and places that makes Greater Shepparton a unique, vibrant, diverse and liveable region.

1.8 Good governance and sustainable financial management.

Risk Management

The Audit and Risk Management Committee members' responsibilities have been outlined in the Charter and the Annual Work Program.

Policy Considerations

Roles and responsibilities of the Audit and Risk Management Committee have been identified in the Risk Management Framework.

Financial Implications

Independent Members of the Audit and Risk Management Committee Charter are entitled to remuneration in accordance with Section 53(6) of the Local Government Act 2020.

An annual budget allocation is made for this remuneration for the amount previously approved by Council resolution.

Legal/Statutory Implications

The Audit and Risk Management Committee Charter has been developed in accordance with the requirements of Section 54 of the Local Government Act 2020.

Environmental/Sustainability Impacts

There are no environmental or sustainability impacts associated with the Audit and Risk Management Committee's Charter.

Social Implications

There are no social implications associated with the Audit and Risk Management Committee's Charter.

Economic Impacts

There are no economic impacts associated with the Audit and Risk Management Committee's Charter.

Consultation

Minor changes were made to the ARMC Charter to improve clarity of quorum requirements following presentation to a Councillor Briefing. The ARMC will be consulted on these changes at their August meeting, prior to the Charter being presented for Council adoption.

Strategic Links

Greater Shepparton 2030 Strategy

There are no direct links to the Greater Shepparton 2030 Strategy.

Conclusion

The Audit and Risk Management Committee Charter has been developed and reviewed in accordance with the requirements of Section 54 of the Local Government Act 2020. It is recommended that the revised charter be adopted to provide improved guidance to the Committee.

Attachments

1. Audit and Risk Management Committee - Charter 2023-2025 [11.3.1 - 15 pages]

11.4 Appointment of Acting Chief Executive Officer Policy

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

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 Appointment of Acting Chief Executive Officer Policy, as attached.

Executive Summary

This policy provides clear guidance on the provisions that apply to the appointment of a person as Acting Chief Executive Officer (A/CEO) of Greater Shepparton City Council.

Report Detail

The Local Government Act 2020 (Act), Section 44 requires that a Council appoint an A/CEO if there is a vacancy in the office of the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) or if the CEO is unable to perform the duties of the office of the CEO.

This policy establishes a process for the appointment of an A/CEO. The policy identifies the positions which are eligible to be placed in the A/CEO position and specifies the duration to which the officer can be appointed before a Council resolution is required.

Only minor administrative changes have been made through the review of this policy. This includes the transferring of the policy to the current Council policy template and the replacement of any references to the Local Government Act 1989 to the Local Government Act 2020.

Council Plan/Key Strategic Activity

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

We will prioritise leadership in the community to celebrate our cultures, people and places that makes Greater Shepparton a unique, vibrant, diverse and liveable region.

1.8 Good governance and sustainable financial management.

Risk Management

There are no risks identified with the adoption of this policy.

Policy Considerations

The Exercise of Delegations Policy and CEO Employment and Remuneration Policy were taken into consideration when reviewing this policy.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

Legal/Statutory Implications

There are no legal implications associated with this report.

Environmental/Sustainability Impacts

There are no Environmental or Sustainable impacts identified with the adoption of this policy.

Social Implications

There are no identified social implications with this report.

Economic Impacts

There are no Economic impacts identified

Consultation

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

Strategic Links

Greater Shepparton 2030 Strategy

There are no direct links to the Greater Shepparton 2030 Strategy.

Conclusion

It is recommended that this policy be adopted to streamline the process for the short term appoint of an Acting Chief Executive Officer.

Attachments

Nil

11.5 July 2023 Monthly Financial Report

Author	Manager Finance and Rates
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 July 2023 Monthly Financial Report.

Executive Summary

This report presents the Council’s actual forecast performance compared to the budget for the month ending 31 July 2023.

Report Detail

The July 2023 Monthly Financial Report incorporates the following sections which are presented for Council’s consideration:

- Financial Performance Overview
- Income Statement
- Balance Sheet
- Cash Flow Statement
- Capital Works Statement
- Operating Performance
- Capital Works Performance

The 2023/2024 Budget was adopted at the Ordinary Council Meeting held 20 June 2023.

The July 2023 Monthly Financial Report will provide commentary on year-to-date budget performance and any projected forecast variances, with a focus on Council’s financial sustainability measures.

Operating Position

The 2023/2024 Adopted Budget projected an accounting surplus of \$31.9m, with an underlying operating deficit of \$7.8m or 5.2%. The underlying operating deficit removes capital related income from the accounting surplus to give a true operating result. Council’s year to date performance against budget is reflected in the income statement within the attachment. Year-to-date performance is on track with the Adopted Budget.

Forecast variances are detailed in the notes to the income statement, with improvement to the underlying operating result forecast largely due to insurance receivables relating to expenditure and claims from 2022/23.

Balance Sheet

The June 2023 figures reported on the Balance Sheet remain subject to audit, which is expected to be completed in September.

The Adopted Budget forecast year end liquidity to be 139%, which is within target range. Year-to-date liquidity is high as rates and charges are raised on 1 July, with the full balance reflected as a receivable. Liquidity will reduce over the year towards forecast as expenditure is incurred.

Capital Works

The 2023/2024 Adopted Budget provided for a \$64.2m capital works program. The attached statement of capital works identifies a small number of projects that have been carried forward, including the Marlboro Drive Upgrade and Knight and Hawdon Street Intersection enabling works.

Council Plan / Key Strategic Activity

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

We will prioritise leadership in the community to celebrate our cultures, people and places that makes Greater Shepparton a unique, vibrant, diverse and liveable region.

1.8 Good governance and sustainable financial management.

Risk Management

Risks	Likelihood	Consequence	Rating	Mitigation Action
Poor performance against budget	Possible	Moderate	Medium	Regular monitoring and reporting of performance against budget and forecast variances.
Deterioration of Council's financial position against the adopted Financial Plan, resulting in diminished ability to achieve and maintain financial sustainability, as measured by the adjusted underlying operating result, liquidity and renewal and upgrade of assets.	Possible	Moderate	Medium	Linkage of budget setting and performance to the adopted Financial Plan

Policy Considerations

The April 2023 Monthly Financial Report has been prepared in accordance with accounting policies and the adopted 2021-2031 Financial Plan.

Financial Implications

The financial implications of the report are contained within the attachment.

Legal / Statutory Implications

Section 101 of the Local Government Act 2020 provides that Council maintains a budgeting and reporting framework that is consistent with the principles of sound financial management.

Environmental / Sustainability Impacts

No environmental or sustainability impacts have been identified in relation to this resolution.

Social Implications

There are no social implications associated with this report.

Economic Impacts

There are no economic impacts associated with this report.

Consultation

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

- 2023/2024 Adopted Budget
- 2021-2031 Financial Plan

Conclusion

The report presents Council's actual financial performance compared to the budget for the month ending 30 April 2023.

Attachments

1. July 2023 - Monthly Financial Report [11.5.1 - 11 pages]

11.6 CEO Employment and Remuneration Council Policy

Author	Manager - People and Development
Approved by	Director Corporate Services
Purpose	For Decision at a Council Meeting

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 and endorse the revised Chief Executive Officer Employment and Remuneration Council Policy

Executive Summary

Section 45 of the Local Government Act 2020 requires Council to develop, adopt and keep in force a Chief Executive Officer Employment and Remuneration Policy. The Policy must specifically provide for Council to obtain independent professional advice in relation to matters dealt with in the Policy and must provide for the following:

- i. The recruitment and appointment process;
- ii. Provisions to be included in the contract of employment;
- iii. Performance monitoring;
- iv. An annual review; and
- v. Include any other matters prescribed by the regulations.

This Policy has been developed to enable all of these matters to be addressed through a proposed Chief Executive Officer Employment and Remuneration committee to be made up of the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, two additional Councillors and an independent external committee member.

The policy also allows for external advice to be procured and available to the committee via an independent facilitator.

Report Detail

Section 45 of the Local Government Act 2020 states the following:

(1) A Council must 'develop, adopt and keep in force a Chief Executive Officer Employment and Remuneration Policy.

(2) The Chief Executive Officer Employment and Remuneration Policy must:

(a) Provide for the Council to obtain independent professional advice in relation to the matters dealt with in the Chief Executive Officer Employment and Remuneration Policy; and

(b) Provide for the following:

- i. The recruitment and appointment process;
- ii. Provisions to be included in the contract of employment;
- iii. Performance monitoring;
- iv. An annual review; and
- v. Include any other matters prescribed by the regulations.

This Policy was originally adopted by Council within 6 months of the commencement of this section of the Act which came into effect 1 July 2021. This Policy has been in place for 24 months and feedback from Councillors has prompted a review of the Policy, and as such several changes are proposed:

1) A set of principles have been included to guide how Council will carry out its functions relating to the appointment, remuneration and performance appraisal of the CEO.

2) The minimum number of meetings which the Committee will convene to review the CEO's performance has been amended from no less than two a year to no less than one a year.

3) Voting rules have been specified for the Committee members, including the independent committee member.

4) Duties of the independent committee member are described in clearer detail.

5) Actions relating to the recruitment process of the Chief Executive Officer have been provided in more detail.

6) The Policy is clear that any decision relating to the extension or ceasing of a CEO contract will be made by Council resolution.

7) A Gender Lens has been applied to the content of the Policy.

Council Plan/Key Strategic Activity

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

We will prioritise leadership in the community to celebrate our cultures, people and places that makes Greater Shepparton a unique, vibrant, diverse and liveable region.

1.8 Good governance and sustainable financial management.

Risk Management

There are no risks associated with this Policy.

Policy Considerations

This Policy takes into consideration the requirements under the Local Government Act 2020 but also under the Councillors Code of Conduct, Employees Code of Conduct and the Chief Executive Officer's employment contract.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications associated with this Policy

Legal/Statutory Implications

Failure to approve and endorse this Policy would mean a breach of the Local Government Act 2020.

Environmental/Sustainability Impacts

There are no Environmental or Sustainability impacts associated with this Policy.

Social Implications

There are no social implications associated with this Policy

Economic Impacts

There are no economic impacts associated with this Policy

Consultation

Feedback has been sought from Councillors on the content of the original policy. Feedback was received from Councillor Abdullah, Councillor Brophy and the Mayor.

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

Strategic Links

a) Greater Shepparton 2030 Strategy

- The Chief Executive Officer is responsible for delivering the Council Plan and any other strategic Council document.

Conclusion

This Policy is a requirement of the Local Government Act 2020. It is considered best practice to regularly review and update Council Policies to ensure the most appropriate and relevant guidance is provided. The changes proposed to this Policy reflect the changes now required by Council in managing the employment and remuneration of the Chief Executive Officer.

Attachments

1. CEO Employment and Remuneration Council Policy (3) [11.6.1 - 8 pages]

12 Sustainable Development Directorate

12.1 Welsford Street Stages 5 and 6 Draft Concept Designs

Author Principal Strategic Planner
 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. note the conclusion of the pre-draft consultation associated with the Welsford Street Upgrade: Stages 5 and 6 held from 25 July to 26 August 2022;**
- 2. receive and note the Conversation Report: Welsford Street Upgrade Stages 5 and 6 Pre-Draft Consultation, August 2023 summarising the community engagement process, all submissions received and Council officers’ responses to submissions, as attached;**
- 3. authorise for exhibition the Draft Welsford Street Stages 5 and 6 Concept Designs August 2023 for a period of four weeks commencing on 21 August 2023 and concluding on 18 September 2023, as attached; and**
- 4. note that Council officers will report back to Council on any feedback, comments and submissions received from the public during the consultation period.**

Executive Summary

Greater Shepparton City Council has commenced investigations for the last two stages of the Welsford Street Upgrade. The upgrade of Welsford Street is a key outcome of the *Shepparton CBD Strategy 2008*, which seeks to improve access to and the amenity of the CBD by reducing through traffic and redirecting freight and non-local traffic onto alternative routes, which includes Welsford Street. The Welsford Street Upgrade seeks to improve traffic flow, safety, and amenity for vehicles and pedestrians.

To date, Stages 1 to 4 between Knight Street and Fryers Street have been completed.

Stage 4 was the most recent section of Welsford Street upgraded, which saw the Welsford Street and Fryers Street, and Fryers Street and Marungi Street intersections expanded and modified. Construction on Stage 4 was completed in March 2023.

Council is currently investigating Stages 5 and 6, which will seek to upgrade Welsford Street from north of High Street to the Wyndham Street (Goulburn Valley Highway) and Sobraon Street intersection.

Between 25 July 2022 and 26 August 2022, Council officers conducted pre-draft consultation for Stages 5 and 6 with landowners and occupiers, and relevant stakeholders and members of the public to identify issues and opportunities in upgrading Welsford Street. Council officers received 42 submissions to the pre-draft consultation process.

Council officers have used the feedback from submissions to inform the preparation of draft concept designs for Stages 5 and 6 of the Welsford Street Upgrade. Council officers intend to undertake community consultation on the Draft Welsford Street Stages 5 and 6 Concept Designs from 21 August 2023 to 18 September 2023 to obtain feedback on the concept designs and identify any further issues and opportunities. Any feedback received will inform the final concept designs, which will be used to prepare more detailed designs and cost estimates as part of Council's 10-year capital works program.

Report Detail

The Welsford Street Upgrade seeks to cater for Welsford Street's role as a busy north-south arterial road by increasing road capacity while improving traffic flow, safety and amenity for vehicles and pedestrians. It will also enable future investigative works on Wyndham Street to facilitate improved pedestrian and cycling access and facilitate improved amenity.

The upgrade of Welsford Street has been a priority for Council for three decades. The *City of Greater Shepparton Strategy Plan 1996* identified Welsford Street as a primary arterial road (see Figure 1), with the goal of distributing traffic around the Shepparton CBD and allow for Wyndham Street to serve as a shopping access function.

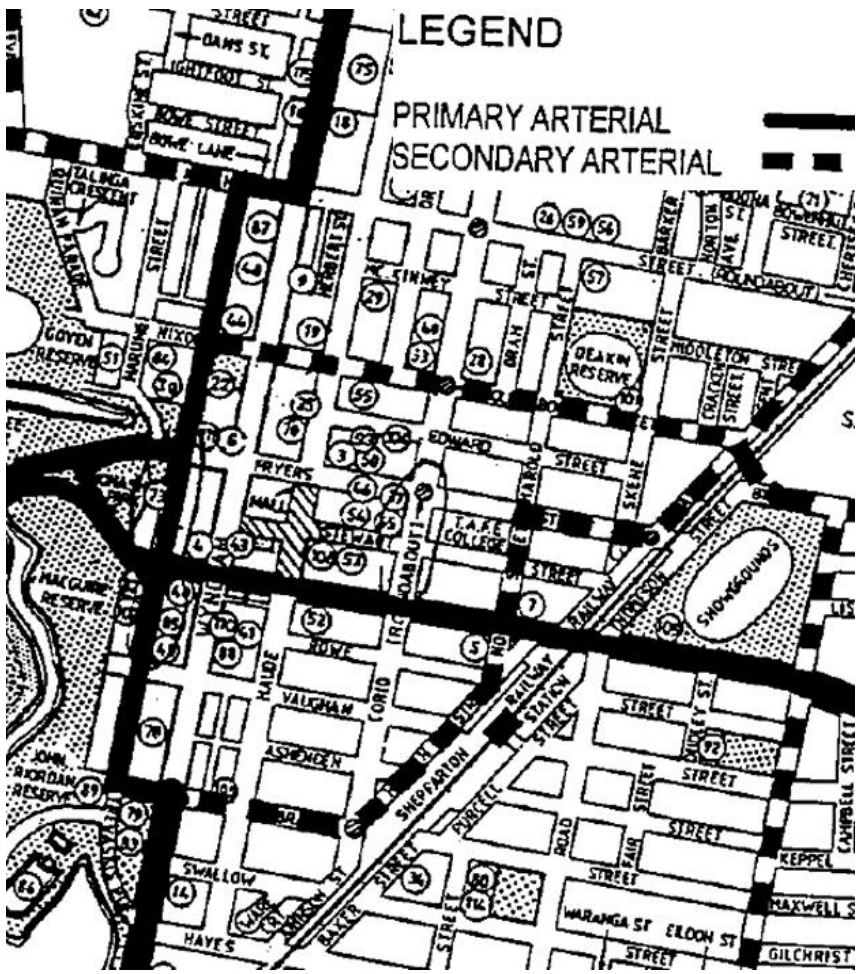


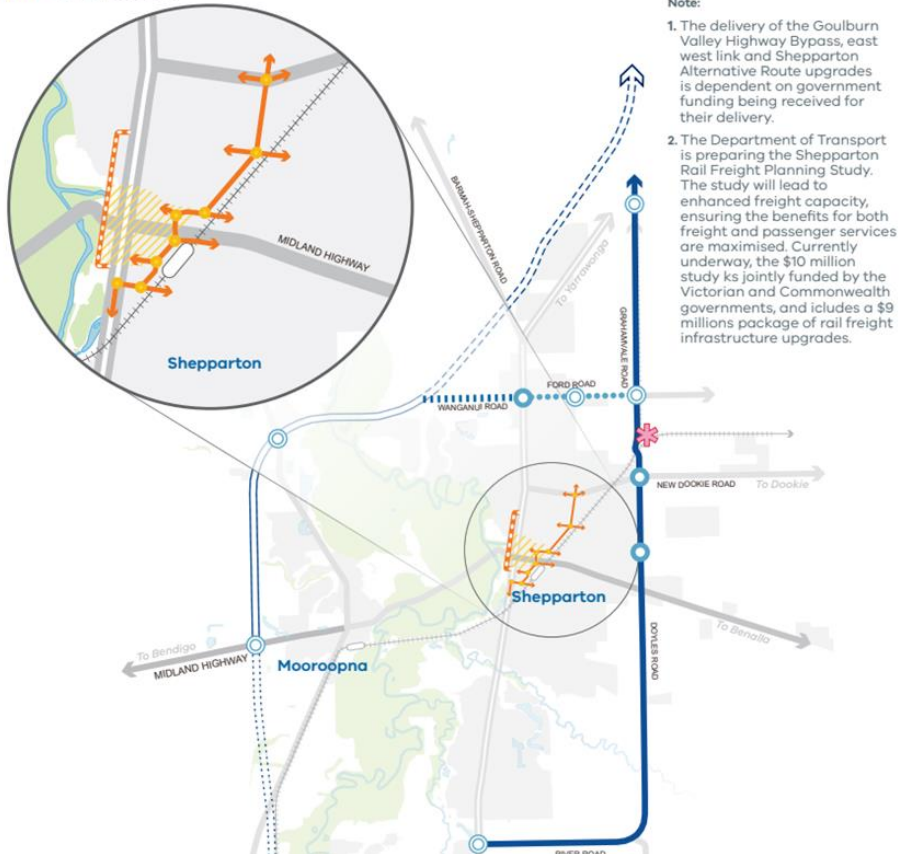
Figure 1: City of Greater Shepparton Strategy Plan 1996; Road Hierarchy.

The goal of upgrading Welsford Street is listed as a key outcome in the *Shepparton CBD Strategy 2008*. The Strategy sought to improve movement and access to the CBD by reducing through traffic and redirecting freight and non-local traffic onto alternative routes (see Figure 2). The upgrade is further supported by the *Shepparton and Mooroopna 2050 Regional City Growth Plan* (see Figure 3).



Figure 2: Extract from the Shepparton CBD Strategy 2008.

Plan 7 - Transport



- Note:**
1. The delivery of the Goulburn Valley Highway Bypass, east west link and Shepparton Alternative Route upgrades is dependent on government funding being received for their delivery.
 2. The Department of Transport is preparing the Shepparton Rail Freight Planning Study. The study will lead to enhanced freight capacity, ensuring the benefits for both freight and passenger services are maximised. Currently underway, the \$10 million study is jointly funded by the Victorian and Commonwealth governments, and includes a \$9 million package of rail freight infrastructure upgrades.

Figure 3: Extract from the Shepparton and Mooroopna 2050: Regional City Growth Plan.

In 2017, Council commenced the upgrade of Welsford Street to facilitate the future role and function of the road. To date, Stages 1 to 4 are now complete, which has seen the intersections at Knight, Nixon and Fryers Street upgraded, and a dual carriageway constructed from Knight Street to Fryers Street.

Stage 5 will upgrade Welsford Street south of the Fryers Street intersection to south of the Vaughan Street intersection, while Stage 6 will upgrade the last section between Vaughan Street and the intersection with Wyndham Street (Goulburn Valley Highway) and Sobraon Street. The stages of the Welsford Street Upgrade are seen in Figure 4.

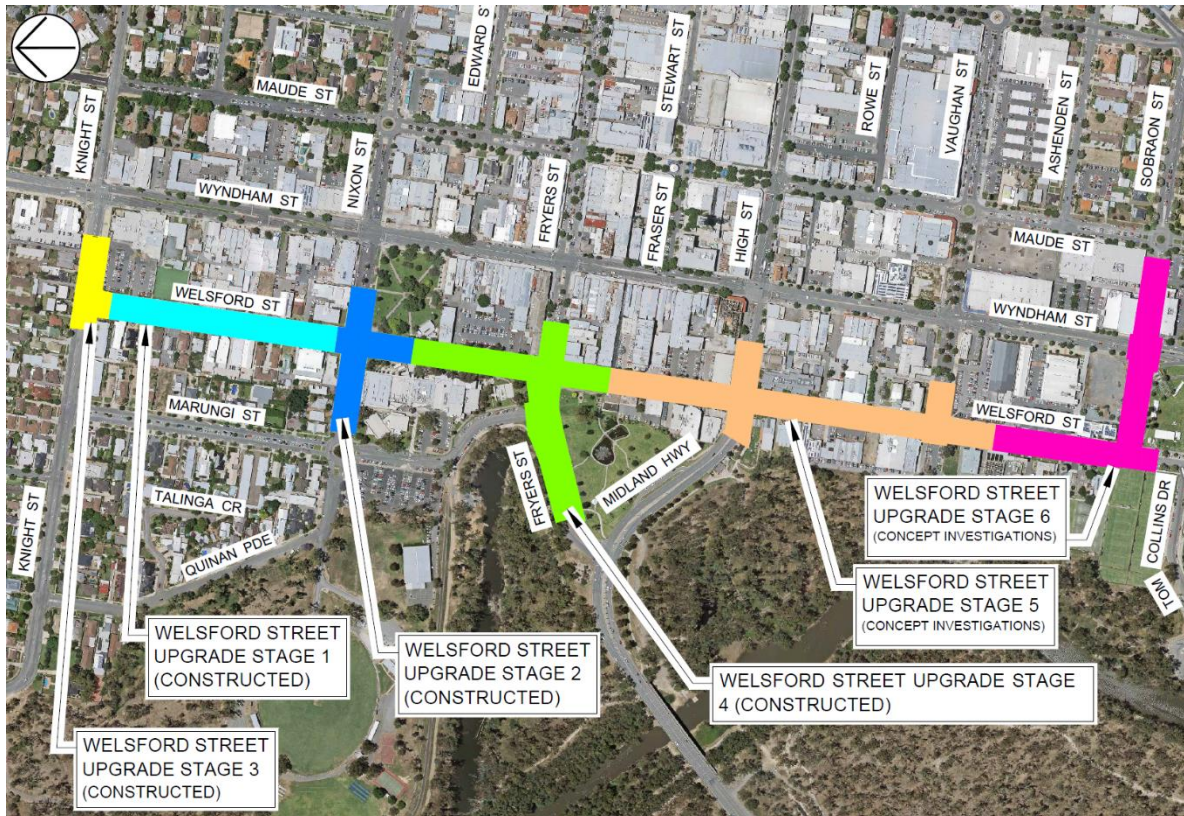


Figure 4: Welsford Street Upgrade Staging Plan, including Stages 1-6. Stage 5 is in orange; Stage 6 is in magenta.

Pre-draft Consultation

To assist in the preparation of draft concept designs for Stages 5 and 6, Council officers undertook pre-draft consultation with landowners, occupiers of land, and other key stakeholders to identify any issues and opportunities in the upgrading of Welsford Street. Pre-draft consultation took place from 25 July 2022 to 26 August 2022.

Methods of engagement included:

- A letter to all landowners and occupiers of land within the study area;
- The distribution of a media release, which attracted media attention from the Shepparton News;
- A consultation webpage on Council's Shaping Greater Shepparton website with an online submission form and an interactive mapping tool;
- 1-2-1 appointments with Council officers; and
- Promotions on Council's social media pages.

A total of 42 submissions were received by Council during the public consultation process. This included 22 submissions via the Shaping Greater Shepparton interactive mapping tool, 15 submissions from the Shaping Greater Shepparton online submission form and five 1-2-1 appointments with Council officers.

As well as hearing from members of the public, businesses, and landowners, Council officers also conducted meetings with Fire Rescue Victoria, Regional Roads Victoria, and Victoria Police, to discuss their specific requirements that will need to be considered in the concept designs and understand their issues and opportunities along Welsford Street.

Through these forums, Council heard a wide range of comments, queries, and concerns. Below is a list of the main themes that emerged:

- Car parking;
- Bike infrastructure;
- Trees;
- Intersection Welsford Street and Vaughan Street;
- Intersection Welsford Street and High Street;
- Pedestrian crossings;
- Parking restrictions and signage; and
- Speed limits.

The results of the review are summarised in the *Conversation Report – Welsford Street Upgrade Stages 5 and 6 Pre-draft Consultation August 2023* (see Attachment 1).

Draft Concept Designs

Stantec Australia Pty Ltd have prepared the Draft Welsford Street Stages 5 and 6 Concept Designs. The draft concept designs have been informed by the undertaking of transport network modelling to understand the future network demands along Welsford Street and the surrounding road network due to population growth, and to understand the traffic impact of multiple design iterations. This included the assessment of a base model utilising traffic volumes from 2022, applying 10 years' worth of traffic growth to the year 2032 with no infrastructure changes, and assessing multiple scenarios with cumulative infrastructure changes to improve the attractiveness of Welsford Street as the preferred through-route and to make Wyndham Street less attractive as the through route.

The draft concept designs have been designed to adopt the general layout based on the preferred scenario in the transport network modelling results, as well as respond to the key themes raised in pre-draft submissions and comments from Council officers. The draft concept designs have been designed to improve traffic flow along Welsford Street and the surrounding road network in response to future traffic demands, all while improving safety of all road users including motorists, pedestrians, and cyclists. The draft concept designs and associated report with the transport network modelling can be viewed in Figures 5 – 8, and Attachment 2: *Draft Welsford Street Stages 5 and 6 Concept Designs Report August 2023* (concept designs report).

Features of the draft concept designs include:

- Intersection improvements at Welsford Street and High Street, with a left turn option from the centre through lane to create two left turning lanes for northbound traffic turning towards Mooroopna;
- Modified intersection at Welsford Street and Vaughan Street to allow for only left-turn in and left-turn out movements with a signalised pedestrian crossing and other additional pedestrian crossing safety features;
- Modifications to the kerbing at the Welsford Street and Tom Collins Drive intersection to improve turning movements in and out of Victoria Park Lake;

- Intersection improvements at Sobraon Street and Wyndham Street, with two right turning lanes for southbound traffic turning onto Wyndham Street;
- A new pedestrian and cycling shared path on the western side of Welsford Street to facilitate safe cycling movements and link with the existing Yahna Gurtji shared path network around Victoria Park Lake, Monash Park, and the Goulburn River;
- The retention of car parking spaces where space permits, and
- The retention of most trees where possible.

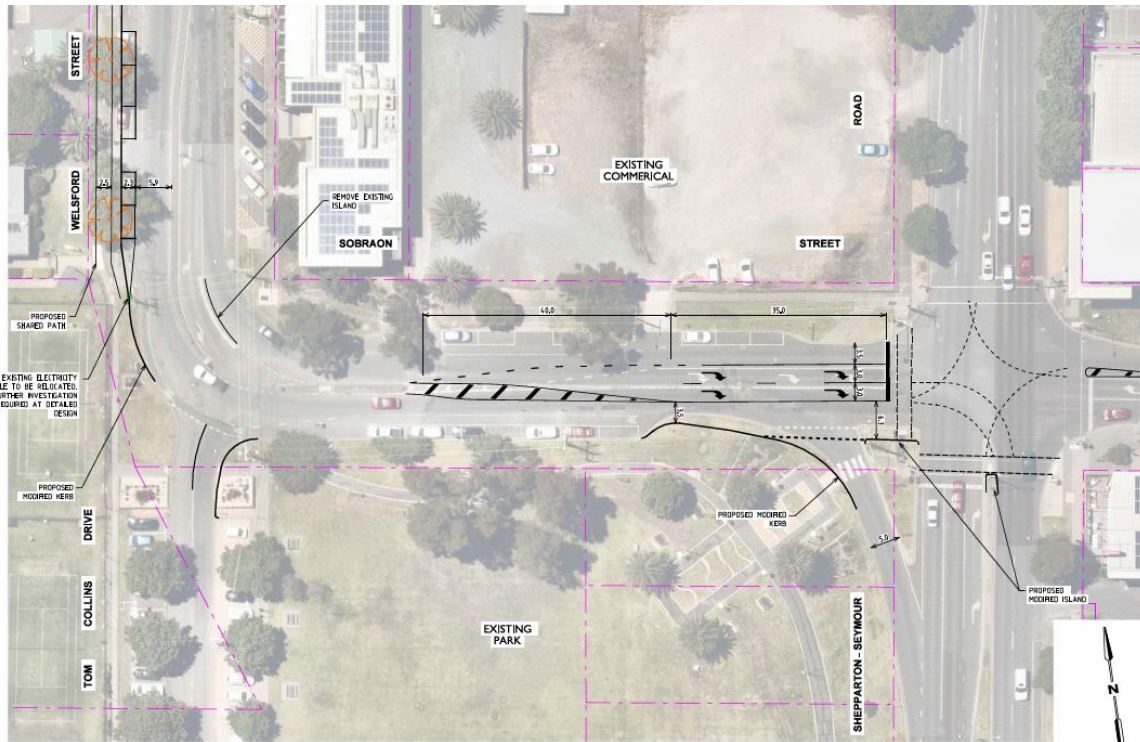


Figure 5: Welsford Street Stage 5 and 6; Sobraon Street & Tom Collins Drive.

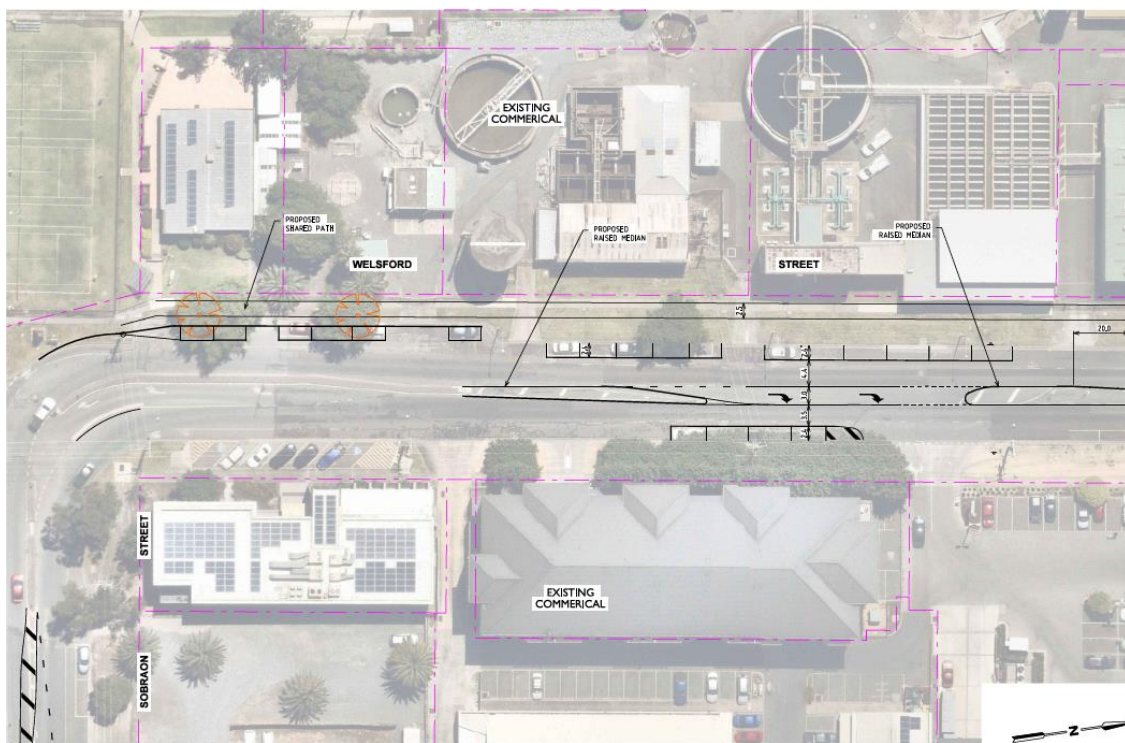


Figure 6: Welsford Street Stage 5 and 6; Welsford Street mid-block.

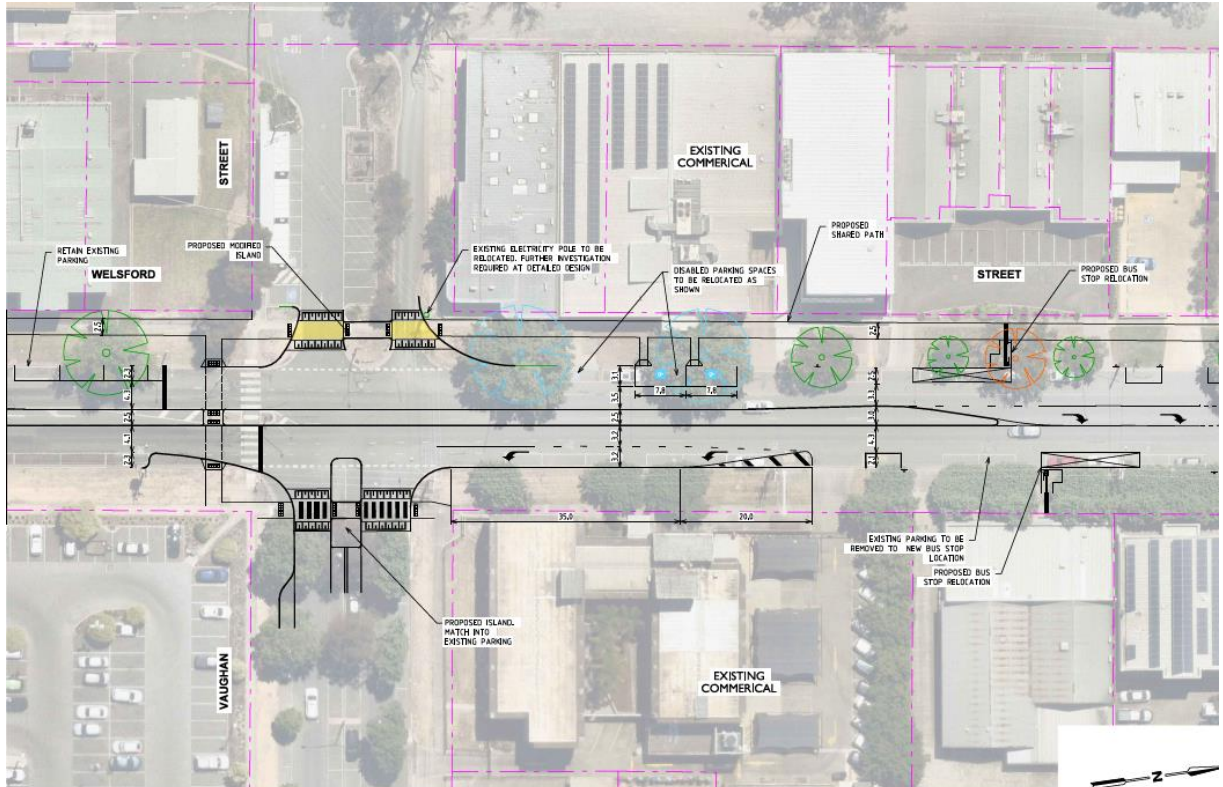


Figure 7: Welsford Street Stage 5 and 6; Vaughan Street.

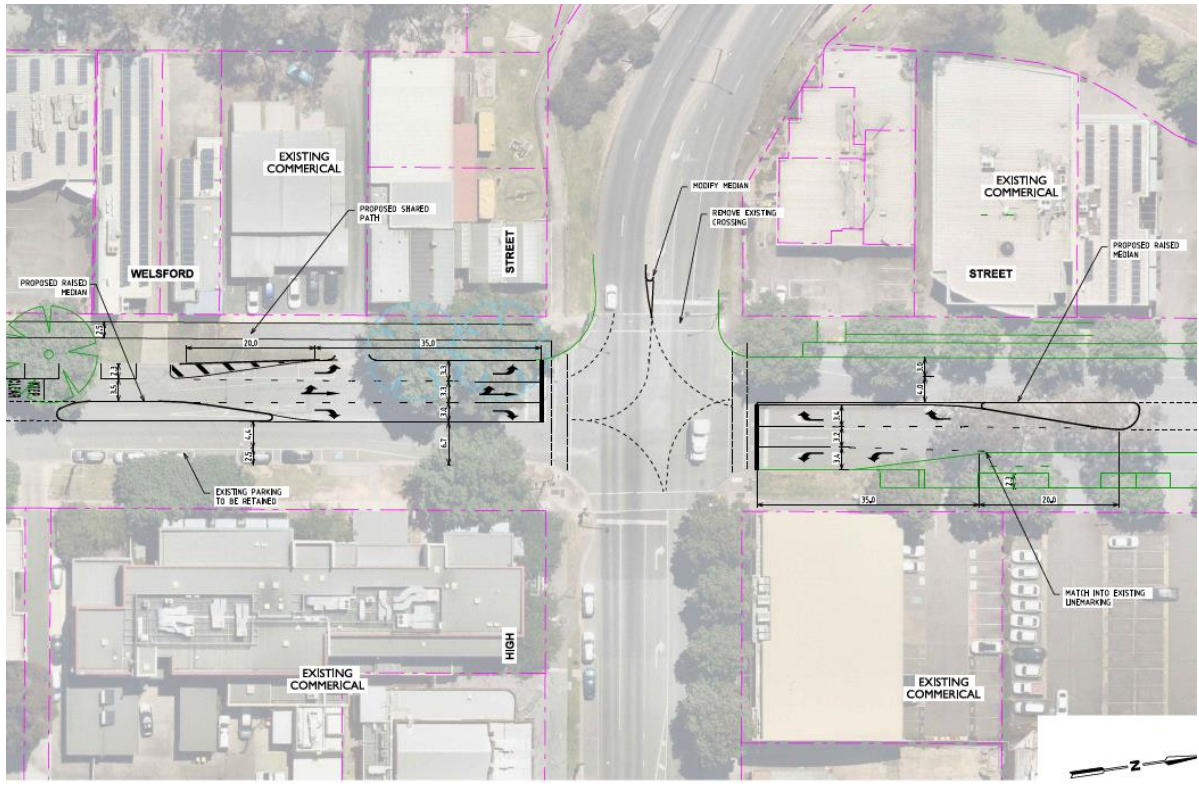


Figure 8: Welsford Street Stage 5 and 6; High Street.

To achieve the objectives of the upgrade to improve traffic flow and road capacity, the draft concept designs will have an impact on car parking in specific areas adjacent to intersections. It's estimated that there will be a loss of 24 on-street car parking spaces and one loading zone as a result of the upgrade.

Council officers acknowledge that this will have a detrimental impact on car parking supply in the area which already has high car parking occupancy.

To offset any car parking losses because of the upgrade and to improve car parking supply in the area, Council officers are currently scoping a project to investigate options for additional off-street car parking facilities in accordance with the recommendations of the *Shepparton CBD Car Parking Strategy April 2020*. Any options identified to increase off-street parking will be explored in conjunction with the future construction of Stages 5 and 6.

Homewood Consulting Pty Ltd have undertaken an arboricultural impact assessment to assess 80 trees within the Stage 5 and 6 upgrade area, which includes a check on the health, structure, tree protection zone, and expected life expectancy of each tree, and has been used to understand the construction impacts of each tree and provide recommendations for the retention of the trees.

The arboricultural impact assessment noted that the majority of the trees along Welsford Street won't be impacted by the draft concept designs. 19 trees have minor or major impact under the draft concept designs but are expected to remain viable if modified construction methods and supervision around the tree protection zone are utilised. Four trees are expected to require removal. The exact number of trees impacted will be further understood as final concept designs and future detailed designs are prepared that will seek to retain these trees without detrimentally impacting the project objectives.

The results of the modelling identified that it would be beneficial in modifying the Wyndham Street / Knight Street intersection to provide double right-turn lanes on the northern approach to help encourage the use of Welsford Street as the preferred through vehicle route once the full Welsford Street Upgrade has been completed. The concept designs report has provided an indicative concept design of the potential arrangements at this intersection which can be seen in Figure 9; however, this concept will be subject to further refinement as part of a future process.

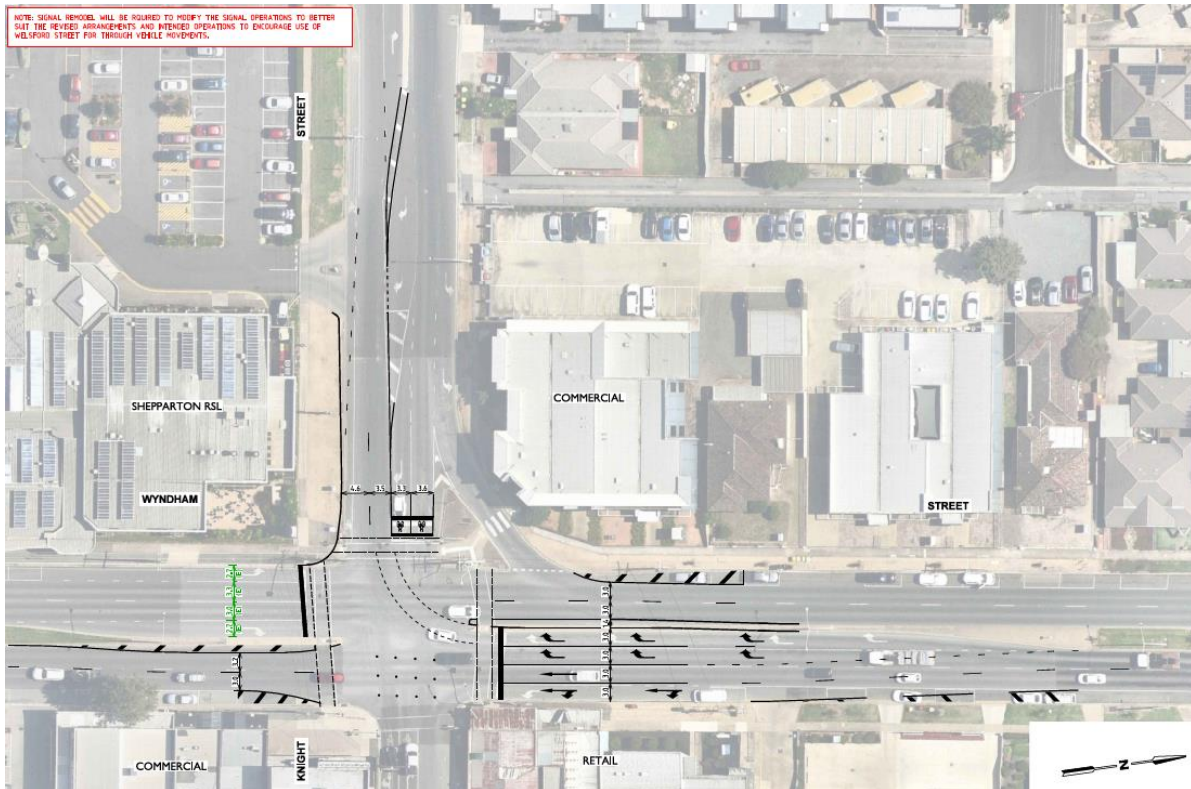


Figure 9: Indicative concept designs for an upgrade to the Knight Street and Wyndham Street intersection, to be designed and costed as part of a future project.

Consultation and Next Steps

To obtain feedback on the draft concept designs and to identify any further issues and opportunities, Council officers will undertake further community consultation on the draft concept designs from the 21 August 2023 to the 18 September 2023.

After consultation is complete, Council officers will prepare a conversation report that will summarise all key themes raised in submissions and Council officers' response to these key themes. The key themes and content outlined in submissions will be considered when preparing the final concept designs.

The final concept designs will be used by Council officers to inform detailed designs and cost estimates that can be included in Council's 10-year capital works program for consideration, and to be accounted for in a future budgetary process for eventual tender and construction.

Council Plan/Key Strategic Activity

INFRASTRUCTURE and TECHNOLOGY

We will focus on the planning of our region's requirements to enable delivery of technology and infrastructure to meet the current and future needs of the community.

4.9 Reliable, efficient, affordable, and accessible transport.

Risk Management

There are no inherent risks with the recommendations of this report. There is a minor risk of community opposition of some aspects of the concept designs, although this can be managed through the community consultation process.

Policy Considerations

The upgrading of Welsford Street is supported by numerous adopted policies, including the *City of Greater Shepparton Strategy Plan 1996*, *Shepparton CBD Strategy 2008*, the *Greater Shepparton Freight and Land Use Study 2013* and the *Shepparton and Moorooopna 2050: Regional City Growth Plan*.

Financial Implications

The preparation of the concept designs will cost the Council \$77,150 excl GST and has been accounted for in the Council budget. The cost of constructing Welsford Street Stages 5 and 6 is currently estimated at \$3,982,103 excl GST. These cost estimates include a 25% contingency, but do not include the additional cost of undergrounding the power lines along Welsford Street, which may be undertaken during the future construction phase. The exact cost of construction will be determined after detailed design and analysis are conducted by Council officers.

The concept designs report has flagged additional projects that will be required to support the role and function of Welsford Street as the preferred north-south through-route for the Shepparton CBD, and to offset the loss of car parking as a result of the upgrade. This includes the future upgrade of the Wyndham Street / Knight Street intersection, and the investigation for additional off-street car parking options along Welsford Street. These projects will have minor implications for Council during the design and scoping stages, and major financial implications for ultimate construction if they're included in Council's 10-year capital works program.

The recommendation to undertake draft consultation will result in minor financial implications for the Council to advertise the consultation process.

Legal/Statutory Implications

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

Environmental/Sustainability Impacts

There are no environmental or sustainability impacts associated with the recommendations of this report. The ultimate construction of the Welsford Street Stage 5 & 6 upgrade may result in a minor impact to trees along Welsford Street. Homewood Consulting Pty Ltd have completed an arboricultural impact assessment of 80 trees along Welsford Street within the Stage 5 and 6 area to understand the condition of the trees and assess how the trees can be retained and protected during future construction works.

The arboricultural impact assessment noted that the majority of the trees along Welsford Street won't be impacted by the draft concept designs. 19 trees have minor or major impact under the draft concept designs but are expected to remain viable if modified construction methods and supervision around the tree protection zone are utilised. Four trees are expected to require removal. The exact number of trees impacted will be further understood as final concept designs and future detailed designs are prepared.

Social Implications

The Welsford Street Upgrade will improve the safety of motorists and pedestrians that utilise Welsford Street, while increasing road capacity to ensure that the road is fit for purpose in line with projected population and employment growth. The ultimate completion of the Welsford Street Upgrade will enable Council to investigate improvements to pedestrian and cycling infrastructure on Wyndham Street.

Economic Impacts

There are no economic impacts associated with the recommendations of this report.

Consultation

Council officers undertook pre-draft consultation with landowners, occupiers of land, and other key stakeholders from the 25 July 2022 to the 26 August 2022 to identify any issues and opportunities in the upgrading of Welsford Street. A total of 42 submissions were received.

Methods of engagement included letterbox drops to residents and businesses, a consultation webpage of Council's Shaping Greater Shepparton website with an online submission form, the circulation of a media release, promotions on social media and advertisements in the Shepparton News.

Council officers believe that appropriate consultation has occurred to date, with officers recommending an additional round of consultation to seek community feedback on the draft concept designs. Council officers will use the same methods of engagement as utilised in the pre-draft consultation.

Strategic Links

a) Greater Shepparton 2030 Strategy

- Infrastructure – Transport and Traffic Systems - Objective 6:
- Provide a hierarchy of roads to encourage the use of suitable roads and to reduce intrusion of through and freight traffic from entering local urban areas.
- Encourage the accessibility and safety for pedestrian movements to be made within the Shepparton CBD area.
- Ensure the efficient management of roads for traffic, public transport, bicycles, pedestrians, parking, scooters, and motorized wheelchairs, and for loading and unloading of goods.

b) Other strategic links

- Shepparton CBD Strategy 2008
- Greater Shepparton Freight and Land Use Study 2013
- Shepparton Mooroopna 2050: Regional City Growth Plan

Conclusion

Stages 5 and 6 of the Welsford Street Upgrade will seek to upgrade Welsford Street from north of High Street to the Wyndham Street (Goulburn Valley Highway) and Sobraon Street intersection. Council has undertaken pre-draft consultation, which has informed the preparation of draft concept designs for Stages 5 and 6.

Council officers recommend that Council resolve to authorise for exhibition the Draft Welsford Street Stages 5 and 6 Concept Designs August 2023 for a period of four weeks commencing on 21 August 2023 and concluding on 18 September 2023. Any feedback received will inform the final concept designs, which will be used to prepare more detailed designs and cost estimates that can be included as part of Council's 10-year capital works program.

Attachments

1. Conversation Report – Welsford Street Upgrade Stages 5 and 6 Pre-draft Consultation August 2023 [12.1.1 - 8 pages]
2. Draft Welsford Street Stages 5 and 6 Concept Designs Report August 2023 [12.1.2 - 93 pages]

13 Infrastructure Directorate

13.1 Kerbside Transition Program Stage 1

Author	Project Manager
Approved by	Director Infrastructure
Purpose	Presentation - Internal Attendee

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. **note the report for Stage 1 Kerbside Transition Program;**
2. **endorse the introduction of a dedicated nappy collection and processing service commencing early 2024; and**
3. **endorse the introduction of a 360L comingled recycling bin as an option offered to residents on as needs basis.**

Executive Summary

This report details the findings from internal reporting and external auditing of Stage 1 of the Kerbside Transition Program, as it relates to the collection frequency changes in Kialla and Tatura.

An external consultant was contracted to conduct bin audits over the first 8 weeks of the frequency change, and that report is attached.

This report represents Council's experiences from Stage 1 of the Kerbside Transition Program and will be used to inform the continued delivery of frequency changes across Greater Shepparton.

Report Detail

In November 2022 Council noted the project plan to change the kerbside collection frequency for green FOGO (Food Organics and Garden Organics) bins and red general waste bins, alongside plans to introduce a purple glass-only bin in line with Victorian State Government policy.

At the start of April 2023, Stage 1 of the changes began in Kialla and Tatura, with the change in frequency of collection services.

In the following months, Council has collected data from these Stage 1 areas to inform the planned rollout of collection frequency changes throughout the municipality.

This data has come from 4 key sources:

1. An 8-week audit, conducted by an external consultant; SALT3, who have conducted weekly bin inspections in Kialla and Tatura, as well as physical waste and FOGO sorting audits of 50 properties (25 from Kialla, 25 from Tatura).
2. Western Composting has provided Council with weekly FOGO tonnage and contamination data for Kialla, Tatura and Greater Shepparton.
3. In conjunction with Veolia, Council has tracked waste tonnage to Cosgrove Landfill from these areas.
4. VISY continue to provide council mixed recycling data as part of their kerbside collection processing.

FOGO Collection and Contamination

The data has shown that there has been an increase in FOGO contamination following the frequency changes in Kialla and Tatura. This initial increase in contamination was expected and is in line with internal expectations based off the experiences of other Victorian councils that have implemented the same frequency change.

Tatura has shown better than expected contamination rates following the frequency change. There have been consistent very low-level increases in contamination. This is encouraging as it shows there may not be large contamination increases across all of Greater Shepparton as the frequency changes are introduced.

Kialla has shown consistent low-level increases in contamination, combined with sharp spikes of high contamination. Contamination of FOGO is frequently soft plastics, nappies and mixed general waste, including general waste rubbish bags and textiles.

It should be noted that fluctuations in contamination rates are normal as part of the FOGO collection. Returning contamination rates to pre-frequency change levels and re-establishing consistently low contamination across the FOGO collection is expected to take multiple months and be an ongoing function of the Resource Recovery Department's Waste Education Team.

Based off the contamination findings from Stage 1, Council should expect similar increases as the frequency change is delivered across Greater Shepparton.

Stage 1 External Audit Findings Summary

The external audit involved consultants inspecting bins across Tatura and Kialla every week for the first 8 weeks of the frequency change. The findings from this data show that there is an even split of full bins between the 3 general waste sizes (80L, 120L, 240L). Across the 8 weeks, on average general waste bins were not full (39%), full (39%) or overfull (12%). Overall, 84-89% of households are either managing with their current capacity or have the option to upgrade.

Bin fullness remains an issue of education and behaviour change, as only 41-49% of bin volume consists of residual waste, with the remained made up of recyclable or FOGO material.

A physical FOGO and waste inspection was conducted with 25 houses from Tatura and 25 from Kialla. This inspection found considerable recyclable material present in the general waste collections, along with some food waste.

This recycling material included aluminium cans, plastic bottles and cardboard. This suggests that some fullness issues may be due to incorrect waste and recycling behaviours. Further data on recycling bin available space is needed, as this may be a contributing factor in recycling found in general waste.

Additional Background Context

There is an estimated even distribution of general waste bin sizes across Greater Shepparton:

80L = 10,654

120L = 8,799

240L = 10,716

Almost all mixed recycling bins are 240L.

Almost all FOGO bins are 240L.

Stakeholder Engagement

Social media including website posts, letter drops, signage, and in-person events have all been used as part of our Stakeholder Engagement Strategy to inform and educate the community on the changes in frequency and appropriate bin usage.

After an initial influx of negative responses to the announcement of the changes (primarily via emails, customer service calls, and social media comments) complaints have largely subsided indicating a general acceptance of the service change.

In-person events have been overwhelmingly positive across all demographics. School age events are particularly successful with students showing significant environment and sustainability awareness.

New educational and informational material has been produced to allow us to provide clear, consistent messaging to the community on the changes to kerbside collection. We will look to increase all our stakeholder engagement efforts as we prepare for the broader rollout of the frequency change and the future introduction of the purple bins.

The Resource Recovery Department will prepare the broader community for Stage 2 collection frequency changes via stakeholder engagements detailed above. In reference to commencement of Stage 1, we expect an increase in adverse feedback about the frequency change as we commence the awareness campaign. This feedback is then expected to lessen over time in line with what we have seen across Stage 1.

No Time to Waste

The Resource Recovery Team hosted their first major event at the McIntosh Centre on the 6th of July, which saw over 400 attendees, and booked-out tours to Cosgrove Landfill. The event had excellent participation from several council teams alongside sustainability focused business from Tatura, Kialla, Shepparton, and Melbourne. This event was an excellent opportunity to teach the community about councils environmental and resource recovery efforts and inform them of the kerbside changes planned across Greater Shepparton. Feedback from the event was extremely positive, and we hope to run it again in 2024.

Stage 2 Delivery

Stage 2 of the Kerbside Transition Program includes 5 key items:

1. The introduction of frequency changes of Red bin to a fortnightly collection and FOGO bin to a weekly collection across the remainder of Greater Shepparton commencing October 2023
2. Introduction of a dedicated nappy collection and processing service commencing early 2024.
3. Introduction of a 360L Comingled Recycling bin as an option offered to residents on as needs basis.
4. The procurement and delivery of purple lid glass-only bins across Greater Shepparton in the first half of 2024.
5. Delivery of FOGO bins to existing rural properties with a kerbside collection that don't currently have a FOGO bin (delivered alongside purple bin in 2024).

Further auditing will be conducted throughout Stage 2 to inform the Resource Recovery Team's efforts in reducing contamination and better understanding the community's waste generation habits.

Illegal Dumping

Council has not recorded any significant or noticeable increase in the frequency or quantity of illegal dumping following the frequency changes introduced in Stage 1. These findings apply across Tatura, Kialla, and Greater Shepparton.

Bin Inspections

To monitor contamination rates and curb contamination over time, bin inspections may be conducted. In instances of contaminated bins, educational letters will be delivered to the bin property owner with a warning for continued contamination. If contamination is detected following these letters, a tag may be placed on the contaminated bin to let the resident know they must remove the contaminant before their bin is collected. Continued contamination may result in refused bin service if the resident has been given multiple opportunities to rectify their waste behaviour and continues to disrupt the collection service through deliberate contamination.

Council Plan/Key Strategic Activity

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

We will prioritise leadership in the community to celebrate our cultures, people and places that makes Greater Shepparton a unique, vibrant, diverse and liveable region.

1.3 Council services will be realistic and delivered in an efficient and effective manner with the aim of continuously looking for delivery that matches our ever-changing environment.

1.6 Council provides customer service that meets the needs of the community.

1.8 Good governance and sustainable financial management.

VIBRANT and DIVERSE ECONOMY

We will drive the visitor economy by growing visitor experiences and major events that provide employment and other opportunities to the community. Our economic development will focus on establishing a strong, adaptive, sustainable and thriving region supported by agriculture and a diverse range of industries.

3.8 Maximise utilisation and investment return on Council assets.

ENVIRONMENT and CLIMATE EMERGENCY

We will prioritise our environment and take urgent action to reduce emissions and waste in order to protect public health and create a region that mitigates and adapts to climate change.

5.2 Council will focus on emission reductions committing to a Zero Emissions 2030 Target.

5.3 Council commits to supporting the establishment of a circular economy within Greater Shepparton.

5.5 Council commits to working with our community to deliver climate safe future.

5.6 Reduce carbon emissions in our community.

5.8 Support a circular economy and reduce waste to landfill.

5.9 Drive climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Risk Management

There are no medium or extreme risks associated with his report.

Policy Considerations

Policy considerations for this report include the Kerbside Landfill Waste Recycling and Organics Policy.

Financial Implications

The financial implications associated with this report pertain to the introduction of the following changes to Councils existing Kerbside Collection services:

1. Dedicated Nappy Service collection - \$210,000 (estimated).
2. Nappy Processing Cost – to be determined and reported back to Council for future FY budget deliberation process.
3. Upsize of Recycling bin – financial cost to be determined based on as needs basis and will form part of our existing kerbside collection services.

¹ Budgets are GST exclusive

² For Contract Award reports the GST inclusive expense shall match the amount reported in the recommendation

Legal/Statutory Implications

This recommendation in this report complies with Local Government Act 2020.

Environmental/Sustainability Impacts

This report has implications for Council's efforts towards environmental and sustainability outcomes, including reduction in waste to landfill, and the increased usage of recycling and compostable material.

Social Implications

This report details changes to the kerbside collection that directly impacts all Greater Shepparton community members who have a kerbside collection. These community members will have to be informed and educated on these changes to the frequency of collection, along with the introduction of and additional bin in 2024.

Economic Impacts

By changing the frequency of general waste collections and promoting the use of FOGO bins, Council can reduce its waste to landfill, increasing the longevity of each landfill cell, and reducing fees associated with landfill waste processing.

Higher contamination of FOGO collection also has financial implications, as contaminated waste cannot be processed and may end up in landfill. As contamination rates decline, costs associated with processing contaminated FOGO collection will decline.

Consultation

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

Strategic Links

a) Greater Shepparton 2030 Strategy

- Working towards Zero Waste

b) Other strategic links

- Kerbside Landfill Waste Recycling and Organics Policy

Conclusion

Stage 1 of the Kerbside Transition Plan has yielded results in-line with Council expectations and provided valuable data that will inform decision making for the continued delivery of the rest of the program.

Stage 2 will see an enhancement of the positive outcomes identified within Stage 1 from which we align our waste and recycling services with strategic landfill diversion objectives. As a result, the following services will be added to our current Kerbside Collection services -

1. Introduction of a dedicated nappy collection and processing service commencing early 2024.
2. Introduction of a 360L Comingled Recycling bin as an option offered to residents on as needs basis.

Attachments

Nil

13.2 Award of Contract Extension for Contract Numbers 1588, 1589 and 1590 for Interim Kerbside Collection and Processing Services

Author Manager Resource Recovery
 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:

1. award extension of the following contracts for the period commencing 1 November 2023 to 22 January 2025:
 - (a) Contract Number 1588 to Veolia Environmental Services for kerbside collection services;
 - (b) Contract Number 1589 to Veolia Environmental Services for recyclables processing;
 - (c) Contract Number 1590 to Western Composting Technology for FOGO processing; and,
2. authorise the Chief Executive Officer to execute such documents as are necessary to give effect to this resolution.

Executive Summary

This report relates to the award of extensions to existing Contract No. 1588, 1589 and 1590 under Clause 4.2 to secure waste and recycling (“kerbside”) collection and processing services for an interim period whilst Council Officers undertake procurement of the succeeding contracts.

Report Detail

This report is prepared in response to Item 2 of the motion carried by Council at the 11 April 2023 Ordinary Council Meeting for the following outcome related to Resource Recovery Collective – Hume Tender:

1. Abandon the tender process relevant to agenda item 7.1 Resource Recovery Collective Hume Tender Award on page 7 of this Additional Council Meeting 11 April 2023; and
2. Instruct the CEO to provide Councillors with a report to the steps forward for waste and recycling services for Greater Shepparton.

Per Item 2 of the motion, this report outlines the way forward to retain successful implementation of the kerbside collection and processing services for an interim period until the new contracts are awarded. The 'interim period' is defined as the period of time between when the current contracts expire, and the new contracts commence.

To ensure a successful provision of kerbside collection and processing services is retained during the interim period, Council Officer's refer to Clause 4.2 "Extension of the Contract Term" for continuation of services under those contracts.

As such, there are three (3) existing Contracts that require an extension being:

Contract Number	Contract Title	Contractor
1588	Kerbside Waste, Recyclables and Organics Collection	Veolia Environmental Services
1589	Recyclables Acceptance and Sorting	Veolia Environmental Services
1590	Kerbside and Other Organics Acceptance and Processing	Western Composting Technology

The recommendation is to extend the above contracts for the period 1 November 2023 to 22 January 2025.

Council Plan/Key Strategic Activity

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

We will prioritise leadership in the community to celebrate our cultures, people and places that makes Greater Shepparton a unique, vibrant, diverse and liveable region.

1.3 Council services will be realistic and delivered in an efficient and effective manner with the aim of continuously looking for delivery that matches our ever changing environment.

ENVIRONMENT and CLIMATE EMERGENCY

We will prioritise our environment and take urgent action to reduce emissions and waste in order to protect public health and create a region that mitigates and adapts to climate change.

5.8 Support a circular economy and reduce waste to landfill.

Risk Management

The extension of existing contracts per contract clause 4.2 ensures that Council retains financially viable and uninterrupted kerbside collection and processing services for the community whilst succeeding contracts are procured. It is noted that due to expiration date of the First (Contract) Service Period (1 November 2023) that:

- There is not sufficient time to appropriately procure an interim service
- Continuation of services negates the risk of service interruption to the community
- Continuation of services ensures financial control of interim services

Risks	Likelihood	Consequence	Rating	Mitigation Action
Refusal to extend existing contracts (disruption of services)	Possible	Major	High	Extension of existing contracts per contract clause

Policy Considerations

- Procurement Policy
- Kerbside Landfill Waste, Recycling and Organics Policy

Financial Implications

The financial implications associated with this report recognise the following:

Assessment	Cost Difference
Kerbside Collection Service: Current FY vs Interim Period	5% increase
All Kerbside Collection & Processing Services: RRCH* vs Interim Period	\$2.8M
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • *Resource Recovery Collective – Hume (RRCH) facilitated the collaborative tender process for waste and recycling services • Council Officers anticipate an increased waste services cost of \$2.8M over course of Interim Period when compared to RCCH for all kerbside collection and processing services • Additional cost of approximately \$500k-\$600k to administer the tender process. 	

Legal/Statutory Implications

- Section 108 Procurement Policy of the Local Government Act 2020
- Section 25(1) Environment Protection Act 2017 (Vic)

Environmental/Sustainability Impacts

Part 5 of the Circular Economy (Waste Reduction and Recycling) Act 2021 (VIC) classifies 'municipal residual waste and municipal recycling services' as mandatory services required to be provided by a Council.

Social Implications

It is noted that an interruption to kerbside collection and processing services may give rise to risk of harm to human health and as such Council must reduce risk of this occurrence so far as reasonably practicable. A continuation of existing services per contract clause 4.2 mitigates any interruption to the kerbside collection and processing services at commencement of the interim period.

Economic Impacts

The economic implications associated with this report are detailed within the confidential attachment.

Consultation

External consultation has not occurred as this is a contractual matter for delivery of kerbside collection and processing services per the Kerbside Landfill Waste, Recycling and Organics Policy.

Strategic Links

a) Greater Shepparton 2030 Strategy

There are no links to the Greater Shepparton 2030 Strategy.

b) Other strategic links

- 2030 Zero Emissions Plan
- Climate Emergency Action Plan
- Greater Shepparton Waste and Recovery Strategy 2013-2023

Conclusion

In response to Item 2 of the motion carried by Council at the 11 April 2023 Ordinary Council Meeting, and in consideration of:

- Mandated requirements for a sustained kerbside collection and processing service
- Risks to human and environmental health as a result of any disruption to services
- Lack of time to appropriately pursue an open tender for an interim service period
- The clause within existing contracts detailing the mechanism to which extension of Contract Numbers 1588, 1589 and 1590 can be granted

Council Officers provide the following recommendation to Council.

That the Council:

1. Award extension of the following contracts for the period commencing 1 November 2023 to 22 January 2025:
 - a) Contract Number 1588 to Veolia Environmental Services for kerbside collection services;
 - b) Contract Number 1589 to Veolia Environmental Services for recyclables processing;
 - c) Contract Number 1590 to Western Composting Technology for FOGO processing;and,
2. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to execute such documents as are necessary to give effect to this resolution

Attachments

Nil



14 Documents for Signing and Sealing

Nil Received.

15 Councillor Reports

15.1 Councillor Activities

15.1.1 Councillor Activities - July 2023

Author	Executive Assistant to the Mayor and Councillors
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 interests regarding the matter under construction.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Council receive and note the summary of the Councillors' Community Interactions and Informal Meetings of Councillors.

Councillors' Community Interaction and Briefing Program

From 1 July 2023 to 31 July 2023, some or all of the Councillors have been involved in the following activities:

- Shepparton Cycling Club | Fruits of the Valley - Cyclo Cross 2023
- NAIDOC Week 2023 | Flag Raising Event
- Heritage Advisory Committee Meeting
- Victorian Electoral Commission - Electoral Structure Review Information Session
- Greater Shepparton LGBTIQ+ Advisory Meeting
- No Time to Waste! GSCC Community Event
- Museum of Vehicle Evolution (MOVE) | Chairman's Dinner
- Shepparton Swans Football Netball Club | Sponsors Day 2023
- Shepparton Squash International 2023 | Presentations of Awards
- Flood Outlook & Recovery Update | Community Information Session - Murchison & Toolamba
- NAIDOC Week - Victoria Police Community Event
- Flood Outlook & Recovery Update | Community Information Session – Mooroopna
- 2023 Fairley La Trobe Lecture | Alan Simon Finkel - Australia's Chief Scientist - "The impacts of climate change on regional Australia"
- 2023 Fairley La Trobe Lecture | Dinner Mayor & Deputy Mayor
- Grand Opening - Escape Smash Play
- Disability Advisory Committee Meeting
- Positive Ageing Advisory Committee (PAAC) Meeting
- Mooroopna Rotary Club | Mayor Guest Speaker
- Community Leadership Program – Workshop 5 | Understanding Community Diversity

- Parking Reference Group Meeting
- Local Government | Candidate Information Session
- Affordable Housing Reference Group Meeting
- Shepparton United Soccer Club | Presidents Luncheon 2023
- Councillor Catch Up | Katandra
- Flood Outlook & Recovery Update | Community Information Session – Shepparton
- Citizenship Ceremony
- 2023 TAC Victorian Top Tourism Town Awards Presentation
- Launch | Greater Shepparton Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) and Joint Art Work Unveiling
- MAV Goulburn Ovens Murray Regional meeting
- 60th Anniversary | Ordination of Priesthood of Monsignor Peter John Jeffrey – Mass and Dinner
- Development Hearing Panel
- Calder Woodburn Memorial Avenue Advisory Committee Meeting
- Lunch Meeting | Professor Michael Wesley, Deputy Vice Chancellor, Global, Culture & Engagement & Members of the University of Melbourne
- 2023 Furphy Literary Awards – Open Competition
- 2023 Furphy Literary Awards – Junior Competition
- Greater Shepparton | National Tree Day - Connect with Nature

In accordance with section 107 of Council’s Governance Rules a summary of the matters discussed at the Informal Meetings of Councillors, are attached.

Attachments

1. Informal Meetings of Council - Councillor Briefing - 4 July 2023 [15.1.1.1 - 1 page]
2. Informal Meetings of Council - CEO Councillors Catch Up - 11 July 2023 [15.1.1.2 - 1 page]
3. Informal Meetings of Council - Councillor Briefing 11 - July 2023 [15.1.1.3 - 1 page]
4. Informal Meetings of Council - CEO Councillors Catch Up 25 - July 2023 [15.1.1.4 - 1 page]
5. Informal Meetings of Council - Councillor Briefing - 25 July 2023 [15.1.1.5 - 2 pages]

16 Notice of Motion, Amendment or Rescission

16.1 Notice of Motion 11/2023 Environmental Water Opposition

Author Senior Governance Officer
Approved by Chief Executive Officer
Purpose For Decision at a Council Meeting

Cr Geoff Dobson has given a notice of intent to move:

RECOMMENDATION

That the Council:

1. Acknowledge the meeting that the Greater Shepparton City Council Mayor Cr Shane Sali and CEO Peter Harriott had with the Federal Minister for Water on Thursday 3 August during a recent delegation to Federal Parliament to discuss the implications of the MDBP on the Goulburn Valley region.
2. Assist the Federal Minister for Water to understand the economic impact of the Basin Plan on the Goulburn Valley region.
3. Advocate for an extension of time for the completion of the Basin Plan so that appropriate environmental infrastructure works and measures can be completed.
4. Work with the State and Federal Governments to ensure that any further water recovery is subject to appropriate socio-economic assessment.
5. If remaining water is to be sourced to meet the targets of the Basin Plan outside of the environmental infrastructure works and measures, that this water be sourced from areas other than the Goulburn Murray Irrigation District.

16.2 Notice of Motion 12/2023 Lemnos Commemorative Structure

Author Senior Governance Officer
Approved by Chief Executive Officer
Purpose For Decision at a Council Meeting

Cr Dinny Adem has given a notice of intent to move:

RECOMMENDATION

That the Council:

- 1. request that officers provide a report to Council by October 2023 containing estimated costs of designing and erecting a memorial structure in the locality of Lemnos. Information contained within the report will outline and acknowledge the relevance of the Lemnos name and its historical link to the Gallipoli campaign, with special focus on the sacrifices of the female nurses based on the Island of Lemnos during World War One to be included within the memorial.**
- 2. engage with the local Lemnos Community with a view to assisting the establishment of a formal community group that can advocate for the interests and aspirations of the Lemnos community.**

17 Urgent Business not Included on the Agenda

Nil Received.

18 Close of Meeting