

AGENDA

Greater Shepparton City Council

COUNCIL MEETING

3:00PM, Tuesday 19 September 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 19 SEPTEMBER 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 15 August 2023 Council Meeting as circulated, be confirmed.

8 Public Question Time

Nil Received.

9 Deputations and Petitions

Nil Received.

10 Community Directorate

10.1 2023 Seniors Festival Grant Program recipients

Author Project Officer Diversity
 Approved by Director Community
 Purpose Information Only

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 2023 Seniors Festival Grants Program.

Successful grant applicants: Amount (GST Free):

The Lions Club of Toolamba Incorporated	\$500.00
Shepparton Access	\$500.00
Goulburn Valley Pride Inc.	\$500.00
Murchison and District Historical Society Inc.	\$330.00
Shepparton Croquet Club Inc.	\$150.00
Goulburn Valley Seniors Association Incorporated	\$500.00
Dookie Men's Shed Inc.	\$500.00
Total	\$2980.00

Executive Summary

Held annually in October, the Victorian Seniors Festival (the Festival) is an opportunity to celebrate the contribution made by seniors in our community. Through State Government and Council funding, a \$3000 grant pool has been made available to support participation of seniors in a range of activities throughout the festival.

The grant fund was open throughout June 2023. The Grant Assessment panel received a total of eleven applications to the value of \$4,980.00. Seven applications have been deemed successful under the program guidelines and awarded funding under delegated authority in accordance with the Grant Distribution Policy. Four applications were deemed unsuitable under the policy guidelines.

Report Detail

The Festival commenced in 1982 and was initially known as Senior Citizens Week. In 2002 the week was rebranded Victorian Seniors Festival. Each year Council provides a Seniors Festival Grant as part of the Victorian Seniors Festival, now held annually throughout the month of October.

The Festival is targeted at people aged 60 years and over, which represents 27.6% of the Greater Shepparton population (ABS Census 2021). Over 1000 events occur state-wide and many are planned locally with varying levels of support from Councils.

Through the Greater Shepparton Seniors Festival Grant program (the Program) funding is provided to support community organisations, services, and clubs to develop a program that will give senior members of our community the opportunity to participate in a range of activities to enhance their social interaction, try new things and increase physical activity and wellbeing.

Greater Shepparton City Council received eleven applications which were considered by the internal assessment panel against the eligibility criteria in the grant guidelines.

The panel recommended that seven receive the full funding requested. The remaining four applications did not successfully address the grant guidelines and were not recommended for funding.

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

Organisation	Details	Grant Amount Awarded (GST Free)
The Lions Club of Toolamba Incorporated	Providing an afternoon for senior members of Toolamba and adjoining districts with an opportunity to come together and enjoy fellowship, be entertained, and enjoy a fabulous afternoon tea, to provide a happy experience and lessen any loneliness that may exist.	\$500
Shepparton Access	"Flock of Ages 1" Seniors, family, and support workers are invited to join us for a full day at Shepparton Access to make birds using clay. The clay birds will form a permanent art installation "Flock of Ages 2" Local musician Anthony Tenace will perform at a lunch event for seniors, family, and support workers. People would be encouraged to interact, play board games, and dance.	\$500

Organisation	Details	Grant Amount Awarded (GST Free)
Goulburn Valley Pride Inc.	Silver Rainbows Support Program is supported by GV Pride and is a program dedicated to supporting older LGBTIQA+ members of our community. Many LGBTIQA+ communities in rural and regional Victoria and in particular Shepparton are socially isolated, at risk of mental health issues and suffer acute loneliness. This will be an event of inclusion and diversity for all members of the Shepparton community but in particular for our LGBTIQA+ community to launch our program and how it will support Seniors into the future.	\$500
Murchison and District Historical Society Inc.	A history walk has been planned for History Month (Stepping Back in Time) that coincides with Seniors Month in October and so that walk will be adjusted to cater closely for Senior participants and in comparison, offered at no charge each Wednesday morning and Sunday afternoon in October. This grant will cover costs that would normally be covered by an entry fee. Beginning at the Heritage Centre and with a local guide leading, the walk will progress through the Riverbank Gardens and around the business area of Murchison.	\$330
Shepparton Croquet Club Inc.	The delivery of four 'come and try' Golf Croquet events, an easy game for all to play that is social and fun. The Croquet Club aspires to be a welcoming, pleasant, physically and psychologically safe place for usually middle-aged and elderly people to gather and play sport and socialise. Share a cuppa with us after the game too.	\$150
Goulburn Valley Seniors Association Incorporated	A concert by the GV Seniors Association Ukulele and choir members. This will be followed by afternoon tea snacks to be prepared and served by members of GV Seniors Association.	\$500
Dookie Men's Shed Inc.	As a cluster of district Men's Sheds (Shepparton, Shepparton East, and Dookie), a series of "Come and See' days at the 3 different shed locations. These days aim to create a greater awareness of Men's Sheds activities, how participants can be part of the Men's Shed Movement and gain the benefits to physical, mental, and emotional health that can result.	\$500
Total		\$2,980

The Program has an acquittal process which must be completed by successful applicants at the finalisation of the 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.

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.

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

Risk Management

Insignificant to low risks have been identified and will be addressed at the operational level. All grantees will be required to consult with Council staff prior to and during their projects to identify any potential adverse consequences and implement relevant risk mitigation.

Policy Considerations

Applications under the Seniors Festival Grant program have been awarded funding under delegated authority in accordance with Councils Grant Distribution Policy adopted on 16 March 2021.

Financial Implications

Greater Shepparton has an allocation in 2023-2024 of \$3000 for the Seniors Festival Grants.

\$3700 is provided through the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing to support the Greater Shepparton Seniors Festival month long festival.

\$2980 in funds will be provided to grant recipients and the remaining grant funds (\$720) will be utilised in Council driven Seniors Month activity working closely with the Positive Ageing Advisory Committee (PAAC).

Legal/Statutory Implications

The Seniors Festival grants are consistent with the Local Government Act 2020 and the Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act (2006).

Environmental/Sustainability Impacts

There are no environmental/sustainability impacts arising from this project.

Social Implications

Projects recommended for funding are community driven and led. Each project provides opportunities for the senior community to engage in activities that will improve community connections and enhance the social capacity of participants.

The program targets older people from varying backgrounds and abilities, including those who reside in our smaller rural communities. The planning and implementation of most of these projects is made possible through a significant voluntary contribution from community members. All projects are community driven initiatives that will be implemented by groups in the community.

Economic Impacts

Several of the planned activities will support economic stimulus throughout the municipality through the purchasing of materials and supplies and attracting visitors to the region through event participation.

Consultation

Council officers have promoted this program through online social media, Councils website, radio advertising and emailing past participants and relevant networks.

Strategic Links

a) Greater Shepparton 2030 Strategy

- 2.3.2 Community Life
- 2.4.4 The Need to Grow

b) Council Plan 2021 - 2024

- 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.
- 1.8 Good governance and sustainable financial management.

Conclusion

The grant fund was open throughout June 2023. The Grant Assessment panel received a total of eleven applications, of which seven have been deemed eligible for funding.

The seven applications have been deemed successful under the Program Guidelines and awarded funding under delegated authority in accordance with the Grant Distribution Policy.

Attachments

Nil

10.2 26 January Community Engagement Findings (May-June 2023)

Author Team Leader - Diversity
 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, from 2024:

1. **Continue its advocacy to the Australian Government to change the date of Australia Day from 26 January to a more suitable date as soon as possible.**
2. **Conduct an Australia Day community awards and citizenship ceremony event on 25 January.**
3. **Replace the Australia Day Small Town Grants Program with a Community Celebration Grants Program that provides funding for the Greater Shepparton community to hold their own celebrations on 23-25 January, or 27-29 January.**
4. **Recognise in its communications that Australia Day, held on 26 January, remains Australia's national day.**
5. **Out of respect to First Nations people, do not formally participate in Australia Day events held on 26 January.**

Executive Summary

26 January holds diverse and complex meanings for Australians. It is Australia's national public holiday and a date upon which awards and citizenships have been conferred. However, it is not a day of celebration for all, particularly for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People.

Reflection on Council's role in 26 January activities formally commenced in 2022 with the formation of a community stakeholder group, comprising Australia Day committee members, and Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal community groups.

In October 2022, Greater Shepparton City Council resolved to advocate to the Australian Government for a change of date for Australia's national holiday, and to continue community engagement to inform a Council decision about Council's role on 26 January in 2024 and beyond.

Council also resolved to conduct community engagement on the idea of having a day of community celebration that is not held on 26 January, is inclusive, reflects the full history of Australia, and is culturally respectful.

The engagement conducted in 2023 expands on the picture drawn by the *Community Stakeholder Group Conversation Meetings: What we heard* report (**Attachment 10.2.1**) and provided all community members with the opportunity to contribute to this topic.

A survey enabling open-ended responses was conducted to gather community views from 427 individuals, supported by engagement with a number of organisations.

Unsurprisingly, diversity of views about Council's appropriate role in marking Australia Day on 26 January emerged. These views are outlined in the 26 January Findings Report (**Attachment 10.2.2**) and have informed the development of the recommendations contained within this Report to Council.

Report Detail

Greater Shepparton has a population of approximately 66,000 which is roughly evenly split between the major urban centres of Shepparton and Mooroopna, and the surrounding rural areas including the smaller townships of Tatura, Murchison, Dookie, Merrigum, Congupna, Toolamba, Undera, Katandra and Tallygaroopna.

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

Our community is also culturally and linguistically diverse with a large proportion of the population born overseas, relative to other Victorian regional cities.

Initial community engagement and 2022 Council resolution

Reflection on Council's role in 26 January activities formally commenced in 2022 with the formation of a community stakeholder group, comprising Australia Day committee members, and Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal community groups. A summary of these discussions is at **Attachment 10.2.1**.

In October 2022, Council resolved:

That, in relation to Council's role in January 26 activities for 2023 and beyond, Council endorse:

1. That Greater Shepparton City Council write to the Prime Minister, the Minister for Home Affairs, other relevant Australian Government Ministers, Members of Parliament and Senators to:
 - a. Change the date for Australia's National Day from January 26.
 - b. Remove the Australian Citizenship Ceremonies Code requirement for the local government councils to conduct citizenship ceremonies on January 26.
2. The lowering of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flag to half-mast on 26 January at all council-owned facilities to acknowledge this date as a day of mourning for Aboriginal people.
3. Financial and in-kind support for:
 - a. Greater Shepparton's Australia Day Committees for 2023
 - b. Survival Day Dawn Ceremony' and recognition of this event in Council Communications.
4. A review of the Australia Day grant guidelines to encourage and support grant recipients to reflect on Australia's full history at events held on January 26.
5. Continued community engagement to inform a Council decision about:
 - a. Australia Day in 2024 and beyond

- b. The development of a program proposal for a day of community celebration for 2024, that is not held on 26 January, that is inclusive, reflects the full history of Australia, and is culturally respectful.

Council has now completed items 1 to 4 and this report responds to item 5.

Community engagement conducted in 2023

Over a five week period from May to June 2023, Council conducted community engagement about Council's role in marking Australia Day on 26 January.

The purpose of the community engagement was to:

- encourage residents to share their thoughts on Council's role on 26 January
- create a platform for respectful community feedback
- provide Council with feedback relating to the development of a community celebration that is not held on 26 January, is inclusive, reflects the full history of Australia is and culturally respectful.

The consultation was conducted via Council's community engagement platform, *Shaping Greater Shepparton* and sought to gain feedback through open ended questions.

A total of 427 survey responses were received during the consultation period 26 May to 2 June 2023. Responses were received from 52 First Nations people, 345 members of the wider community, and 30 people who did not specify.

The findings of the 2023 survey have expanded significantly on the feedback provided in 2022 by the Community Stakeholder Group, however similar themes have emerged and are reflected in the 26 January Findings Report (**Attachment 10.2.2**).

Unsurprisingly, diversity of views about Council's appropriate role in marking Australia Day on 26 January emerged, with a significant appetite for change among Greater Shepparton residents, particularly among those under the age of 45.

There are also strong views about the merits of Council continuing to mark Australia Day on 26 January by continuing its current role. These views were most apparent among Greater Shepparton's older residents.

For those seeking change, using 26 January to mark Australia Day represents an unacceptable connection between national pride, and Australia's colonial origins. The dispossession and disadvantage experienced by Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people is commonly seen by them as a poor platform for celebrating Australia.

The findings suggest there is scope to consider retaining some of the specific Australia Day activities (for example community recognition awards, citizenship ceremonies), and to incorporate these into events not conducted on 26 January.

Similarly, there are different views about the merits of conducting a day of celebration for Greater Shepparton that is inclusive and culturally respectful, and whether such a date adds value to the local calendar.

Advocacy to the Australian Government

Greater Shepparton City Council wrote to the Prime Minister of the Australian Government in December 2022 advocating for a change of date of Australia's national day from 26 January to a date that is culturally respectful to all Australians, and to remove the requirement in the Australian Citizenship Ceremonies Code to conduct a citizenship ceremony on 26 January as part of councils' Australia Day celebrations.

Updates to the Australian Citizenship Ceremonies Code

In December 2022, the Australian Government announced an update to the *Australian Citizenship Ceremonies Code* (the Code) that removed the requirement of Councils to hold Australia Day Citizenship ceremonies as part of their Australia Day celebrations on 26 January (The Hon. Andrew Giles, Minister for Immigration, Citizenship and Multicultural Affairs press release *Greater Flexibility for Citizenship Ceremonies for 2023*).

The change to the Code provides a period (23 – 29 January) before and after 26 January on which Council are permitted to hold Australia Day citizenship ceremonies.

Lowering of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags, and support for the Dawn Mourning Service

These activities will continue on 26 January 2024 and beyond, as per the 2022 resolution.

Reconciliation Action Plan

Greater Shepparton City Council (GSCC) formalised its commitment to reconciliation in 2019 via the development of its first Reconciliation Action Plan RAP Reflect 2019 - 2020. The Reflect Plan provided a strategic framework to build Councils capacity to advance and develop collaborative relations with First Nations People and the broader community.

Council adopted its second ‘Innovate’ Reconciliation Action Plan in June 2023 with specific actions and deliverables under the pillars of relationships, respect, and opportunities, including specific commitments in relation to 26 January, and Australia Day activities.

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.
- 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.

- 2.5 Recognise First Nations history and advance reconciliation.

Risk Management

The risks associated with the recommendations of this report have been identified by Officers in the below table:

Risks	Likelihood	Consequence	Rating	Mitigation Action
The outcome from community on 26 January is complex and contested and causes community division.	Almost Certain	Moderate	High	Education and community information on the full outcome of Councils decision.

Policy Considerations

The *Australian Citizenship Ceremonies Code* follows the Australia Citizenship Act 2007 and sets out the legal and other requirements for conducting Citizenship ceremonies as well as the roles and responsibilities for those involved in Citizenship Ceremonies.

In December 2022, the requirement for Councils to hold citizenship ceremonies on 26 January were removed and replaced with requirement to hold a citizenship ceremony between 23 and 29 January (inclusive).

Financial Implications

The direct financial costs currently associated with delivering Australia Day activities amount to \$35,000 covering events, the Australia Day grants Program, and support for the 'Survival Day Dawn Ceremony'. In kind support is also provided by Council Officers.

Legal/Statutory Implications

There are no Legal/Statutory Implications associated with this report.

Environmental/Sustainability Impacts

There are opportunities to explore the cultural values and themes of caring for Country as part of delivering inclusive, culturally respectful events and activities over time.

Social Implications

The decision to be made by Council is one that is layered with socially and historically complex considerations. It is important the sensitivity and emotion of the report be considered carefully during this process.

Economic Impacts

The economic impact of the decision to be made by Council varies depending on the decision of Council it is difficult to determine until a decision is made.

Consultation

In 2022 a commitment was made to establish a Community Stakeholder Group (CSG) with a small focus group who would gather over several sessions to provide initial local advice on the topic.

The CSG was established by targeted invitation comprising of nominated Australia Day committee members, First Nations organisations and groups, and non-First Nations community organisations and groups.

Between 26 May and 2 June 2023 Council conducted further community engagement using Council's community engagement platform, *Shaping Greater Shepparton*. The survey sought feedback through open ended questions. Personalised support was provided to complete the survey where needed.

The consultation campaign was promoted via a number of networks and databases, internally and externally. 615 community agencies and groups were approached and contacted to help engage community.

Aboriginal controlled organisations and key Aboriginal partners engaged included Yorta Yorta Nations Aboriginal Corporation, Rumbalara Cooperative, ASHE, Gambina, Kaiela Arts, and the Shepparton Region Reconciliation Group.

A total of 427 survey responses were received during the consultation period 26 May to 2 June 2023. Responses were received from 52 First Nations people, 345 members of the wider community, and 30 people who did not specify.

The response was the second largest response to community consultation received by Council.

The engagement methods below were selected to ensure that inclusivity and accessibility provided community with the maximum opportunity to contribute.

Engagement Strategy:	Platform:
Online survey	Shaping Greater Shepparton
Hardcopy survey	Customer Service and 11 organisations
Invitation to community to provide written responses	To the survey, or seek a call back from Council Officers via telephone
Advertising and promotion of social media.	Through Greater Shepparton City Website, Facebook and sharing of information from other organisations and groups.
Six print ads	Shepparton News and The Advisor
Two media releases	Shepparton News and The Advisor

Engagement Strategy:	Platform:
Direct email	Distribution advising of the consultation and opportunities to be involved, including online survey, hard copy submissions via hardcopy and/or telephone.
Over forty Council databases	Across the areas of community including education, access and inclusion, multicultural, small towns, volunteers, health, youth, business, environment, arts, and culture.
Sixteen Council Advisory Committees	Via Council Responsible Officers.

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

Strategic Links

a) Greater Shepparton 2030 Strategy

- Community Life

b) Other strategic links

- 2021-2025 Council Plan

Greater Shepparton Reconciliation Action Plan – July 2023-July 2025

Theme – Respect

Action 9.2 - Advocate to the Australian Government to change the date of Australia Day from January 26.

Action 9.3 - Lower the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags to half-mast on 26 January at all Council-owned facilities to acknowledge this date as a day of mourning for First Nations people.

Action 9.4 - Continue to provide financial and in-kind support for the 'Day of Mourning Dawn Service' and recognition of this event in Council communications

Greater Shepparton Public Health Plan 2018-2028

Arts & Culture – Greater Shepparton residents can safely identify with their culture and identity.

Community Participation – Greater Shepparton residents are socially engaged and live in inclusive communities.

Crime & Safety – Greater Shepparton residents live in a community that is safe and secure.

Conclusion

Engagement with the community has indicated diversity of views exist about the best way forward. There is strong community support for changing how Greater Shepparton City Council acknowledges this date, particularly among its younger residents. There is also support for Council continuing to mark Australia Day on 26 January.

Consultation has indicated that the community values aspects of current Australia Day celebrations including awards ceremonies, citizenship ceremonies and opportunities for community to come together and celebrate. Feedback from community members suggests that the value placed on these events is not strongly linked to the date of 26 January.

On this basis, it is proposed that Council:

- continue its advocacy to the Australian Government to change the date of Australia Day from 26 January
- cease hosting and supporting Australia Day activities on 26 January from 2024, while providing opportunities for communities to come together and acknowledge Australia Day on alternative dates in late January.

Attachments

1. January 26 Community Stakeholder Group conversation meetings - What we heard [10.2.1 - 8 pages]
2. January 26 Findings Report - June 2023 [10.2.2 - 18 pages]

10.3 Potential Greater Shepparton Avenue of Flags

Author	Acting Manager Community Wellbeing
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, in relation to a potential avenue of flags project, Council:

- 1. Write to the relevant embassies to seek engagement and a financial co-contribution.**
- 2. Conduct further community consultation.**
- 3. Consider alternative options for the public recognition of Greater Shepparton's diverse First Nations, migrant and refugee communities.**
- 4. Receive a further report that responds to points 1-3.**

Executive Summary

In April 2023 Council resolved to seek a report for endorsement of the recognition of Indigenous, migrant and refugee communities by way of an avenue of flags in an appropriate location within the municipality.

This report responds to that resolution by considering the purpose, initial community engagement, flag selection, potential locations, risks and whole of life cost estimates of an avenue of flags.

Report Detail

This report responds to a resolution of Council at the April 2023 Council meeting to:

- provide a report to seek endorsement of the recognition of Indigenous, migrant and refugee communities by way of an avenue of flags in an appropriate location within the municipality
- include the financial implications, together with a plan to seek assistance from embassies representing the nominated countries, Victorian multicultural agencies, the Victorian Government, and the Australian Government.

This report responds to that resolution by considering the purpose, initial community engagement, potential locations, flag selection and financial implications.

Purpose

Greater Shepparton is diverse. It has a proud First Nations community, one of the largest in regional Victoria. Successive waves of migration have also seen many overseas born residents call Greater Shepparton home. The Australian Bureau of Statistics 2021 Census data show that 17.4 per cent of Greater Shepparton residents are born overseas. Migrants have and continue to make a significant contribution to the local culture and economy.

The purpose of an avenue of flags is to recognise the Indigenous, migrant and refugee communities within the Greater Shepparton community, and to provide a location for residents and visitors to celebrate identity and culture.

Similar examples

There are few similar examples of this type of initiative, however locations for residents to celebrate identity and culture include:

- *Snowy Monaro Regional Council, New South Wales*
The avenue of flags in Cooma is a display of the region's multicultural heritage and celebrates the nationalities of those who participated in the construction of the Snowy Scheme. Developed in 1959 and over two stages, the avenue now contains 40 flags
- *City of Burnside, South Australia*
Burnside's community flagpole is located at its civic centre to display flags of different nations on specific occasions. Nominations are sought directly from community and a flag flying policy has also been developed.
- *Greater Dandenong, Victoria*
Situated in the heart of a bustling retail precinct, Multicultural Place is an outdoor public place where community can access free wi-fi or a 'little library'. To reflect the Asian influence, street furniture and public infrastructure are culturally themed.

Community engagement

Initial consultation with community has suggested there is some support for this type of recognition of multicultural communities.

The Ethnic Council of Shepparton and District have suggested that an expression of interest could be offered to communities to display their flags but also raised some potential issues around displaying or not displaying certain flags. They also indicated that the space such as the avenue of flags would allow community to feel connected.

There are no indications from the local Indigenous community that the display of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags in this way would not be supported.

Full consultation with the broader Greater Shepparton community regarding the initiative including the display of specific flags, inclusion of interpretive signage, small event infrastructure requirements and community sentiment around value for money will be conducted over the coming months, with findings to be presented to Council.

Engagement with embassies

Under the Australian Flag Protocol (**Attachment 4.2.1**), specific permission to fly a recognised flag is not required. Nonetheless, Council will write to relevant embassies to seek their interest in engaging with the avenue of flags in the form of a formal visit or financial co-contribution.

Selection of flags

It is proposed that an avenue of flags would initially include the:

- Australian
- Victorian
- Aboriginal
- Torres Strait Islander flags.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics 2021 data identifies the top 25 birthplaces of Greater Shepparton residents:

India	Iraq	Greece
United Kingdom	Albania	Thailand
Italy	Pakistan	Germany
Afghanistan	Turkey	Taiwan
New Zealand	China	Samoa
Philippines	Sri Lanka	Democratic Republic of Congo
Malaysia	Netherlands	Germany
Iran	South Africa	Nepal
Fiji		

Complexities relating to the selection of flags arise from minority refugee communities residing in Greater Shepparton who have migrated from recognised nations, for example Afghanistan, Sri Lanka, and Iran.

In-depth consultation with individual multicultural communities locally, as well as the Victorian Multicultural Commission, is required to understand refugee perspectives regarding the display of relevant, Australian Government recognised national flags.

The Australian Flag Protocols (**Attachment 4.2.1**) guides how the Australian flag may be flown and managed alongside other flags. Under the protocols, only official flags recognised by the Australian Government may be flown with the Australian Flag. Officers have reached out to the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet to seek further advice around flags that are officially recognised.

The Pride flag has not been included in this proposal given the purpose is to recognise Indigenous, refugee and migrant communities. A report will be presented to Councillors in 2023 which seeks to improve the visibility of the Pride Flag through installation of permanent poles at two Council flag stations.

Community flagpole

The avenue of flags could contain a site for a community flagpole that allows for community members to make use of the site to lower and raise their flags (where represented in the avenue of flags) on days of national significance.

This function will require the development of an operational model for this activity.

Interest from the community on this inclusion will be determined following consultation.

Potential locations

Several potential locations have been considered for an avenue of flags. Considerations for the sites included visibility / exposure, capacity for events, Council owned, existing use, planning, heritage, and maintenance access.

- *Monash Park (preferred)*

This site satisfies all requirements for a high-profile location (located at the entrance point of Shepparton from Mooroopna), a pleasant and peaceful environment for visitors and small community events.

Monash Park is Council-owned. Parts of Monash Park are subject to a heritage overlay (for example, immediately surrounding the lake).

The location of many of Greater Shepparton's Moooving Art herd is an aesthetic consideration that will need to be managed onsite if an avenue of flags is implemented on this site.

- *Goulburn Valley Highway at Kialla, and Numurkah Road North Shepparton*

These sites were considered but are less favourable due to the potential for distracting motorists on busy thoroughfares, not offering the opportunity to hold small community gatherings and the need to close major roads for installation / maintenance.

Financial implications

The cost of the project will be influenced by the number of the flags to be displayed. Estimated costs are outlined below for 30 flagpoles. Some of these expenses are optional and will be given further consideration following community consultation.

Expense	Frequency	Cost per flagpole (ex GST)	Total for 30 flagpoles (ex GST)
Flagpoles	Once off	\$12,000	\$360,000
Staff time / project management of installation	Once off	\$170	\$5,100
Design	Once off		\$3,000
Lighting	Once off		\$63,000
Shelter	Once off		\$112,000
BBQ and Picnic Seating	Once off		\$23,000
Signage (Moor War Memorial no lighting)	Once off		\$70,000
Staff time / stakeholder engagement, including with embassies	First 12 months	N/A	\$8,000
Flags	Initial investment	\$85	\$2,550
Flags replacement	Bi-annual	\$85	\$2,550
Maintenance	Annually	\$115	\$3,450

The \$12,000 per flagpole is averaged out across the project and considers potential costs around:

- Regional Roads Victoria (RRV) Memorandum of Authorisation permit
- RRV design review approval
- traffic management
- supply of flagpole (needs to be frangible)
- geotechnical test
- building permit
- planning permit
- site survey
- service locations
- irrigation replacement cost
- civil construction costs (engineered footings, concrete plinth, installation, and construction)
- cultural heritage management plan.

Economic and visitation

The proposal of an avenue of flags may lead to increased community events in the space however to be able to attract visitation to the area, there would need to be significant investment in creating an experience through storytelling, including interpretive signage, as well as additional infrastructure such as shelters and barbeque facilities. There is not likely to be any significant economic impact to the region as a result of this project.

Alternative options

A future report will be prepared for Council that will provide alternative options that address the intent of the resolution in recognising Indigenous, migrant and refugee communities.

Location, costs, and scope will be considered for:

- artwork / mural / street art – aligned with the current range of installations
- community flagpole – to provide all communities with a space to display their flag during important events
- a dedicated community space as a location for celebrating identity and culture.

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.

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

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.

2.5 Recognise First Nations history and advance reconciliation.

2.6 Welcome and embrace multicultural communities and their cultures.

Risk Management

Risks for this project relate to sensitivities relating to the recognition/non-recognition of some communities in the form of a flagpole in the avenue of flags, and complexities that may exist for some community members from refugee backgrounds.

Risks	Likelihood	Consequence	Rating	Mitigation Action
Some local CALD communities do not see their nation/community represented due to constraints on the numbers of flagpoles that can be erected.	Almost Certain	Minor	Medium	Transparent flag selection process, and community engagement.
Offence/distress caused to local community members from refugee backgrounds, by flying some recognised national flags.	Possible	Moderate	Medium	In-depth community engagement for groups where this is an identified risk, before determining whether to proceed.
Community sentiment around value for money	Likely	Moderate	Medium	Extensive community consultation required if proceeding

Policy Considerations

The flying and management of the Australian flag is governed by the *Australian Flag Protocols*.

The Greater Shepparton corporate procedure that addresses Council raising and management of flags may require minor updates to recognise the scope of activities addressed in this report.

Financial Implications

The following are the estimates costs of initial installation and establishment of the avenue of flags for up to 30 flagpoles.

	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	0	\$652,650	\$652,650	\$652,650
Net Total	0	\$652,650	\$652,650	\$652,650

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

There are no legal/statutory implications.

Environmental/Sustainability Impacts

The sustainability impacts of the proposal are limited to emissions arising from the production of the flagpoles and flags and ground disturbance through the installation of flagpoles and infrastructure.

Social Implications

The avenue of flags will recognise the diversity of Greater Shepparton's community, including First Nations and culturally and linguistically diverse communities. Risks related to the social implications are addressed in the risk management section of this report.

Economic Impacts

The proposal of an avenue of flags may lead to increased community events in the space however to be able to attract visitation to the area, there would need to be significant investment in creating an experience through storytelling, including interpretive signage, as well as additional infrastructure such as shelters and barbeque facilities.

There is not likely to be any significant economic impact to the region as a result of this project.

Consultation

Initial consultation with community has suggested there is some support for this type of recognition of multicultural communities.

- *Ethnic Council of Shepparton and District* have suggested that an expression of interest could be offered to communities to display their flags but also raised some potential issues around displaying or not displaying certain flags. They also indicated that the space such as the avenue of flags would allow community to feel connected.
- There are no indications from the local Indigenous community that the display of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags in this way would not be supported.
- *Goulburn Valley Pride* is supportive of the Pride flags inclusion, however also requested consideration be given to the transgender flag. The Pride flag has not been included in this proposal given the purpose is to recognise Indigenous, refugee and migrant communities. A report will be presented to Councillors in 2023 which seeks to improve the visibility of the Pride Flag through installation of permanent poles at two Council flag stations.

Full consultation with the broader Greater Shepparton community regarding the initiative including the display of specific flags, inclusion of interpretive signage, small event infrastructure requirements and community sentiment around value for money will be conducted over the coming months, with findings to be presented to Council.

Under the Australian Flag Protocol (**Attachment 4.2.1**), specific permission to fly a recognised flag is not required. Nonetheless, Council will write to relevant embassies to seek their interest in engaging with the avenue of flags in the form of a visit or formal activities.

Council's Heritage Advisor has advised that flags in Monash Park *'can be considered but the extent and location will need to be provided. Ideally, the flags might need some interpretative material as well, and this could be in the form of signage, and this should be considered as part of any proposal. It might be a simple key and plan to identify the nationalities/countries or interpretative material to acknowledge the types of contribution that the nationals from these countries have made to the region.'*

Strategic Links

a) Greater Shepparton 2030 Strategy

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

Conclusion

This report responds to a resolution of Council at the April 2023 Ordinary Council Meeting to provide a report to seek endorsement of the recognition of Indigenous, migrant and refugee communities by way of an avenue of flags in an appropriate location within the municipality.

This report responds to that resolution by considering the purpose, initial community engagement, flag selection, potential locations, risks and whole of life cost estimates.

Officers will now write to embassies to request formal engagement and financial contribution towards the project, conduct community consultation to determine interest and scope of project, explore alternative options to recognise community diversity and provide an updated report to Council for further consideration.

Attachments

1. Australian Flags Booklet (Protocols) [**10.3.1** - 84 pages]

11 Corporate Services Directorate

11.1 Audit & Risk Management Committee - Minutes - 8 February and 11 May 2023

Author	Team Leader – Risk & Assurance
Approved by	Director Corporate Services
Purpose	Information Only

Disclosures of Conflict of Interest in Relation to this Report

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

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

RECOMMENDATION

That the Council receive the minutes of the 8 February and 11 May 2023 Audit & Risk Management Committee meetings.

Executive Summary

In compliance with the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act) an Audit and Risk Management Committee must be established by Council under section 53 of the Act. The Audit and Risk Management Committee is not a delegated committee.

The purpose of this report is to present the minutes of the Audit and Risk Management Committee meetings held on 8 February and 11 May 2023 in accordance with the Local Government Act 2020 and the Committee's Charter.

Report Detail

The Charter states that minutes from each committee meeting will be presented to Council, summarising progress, matters discussed and any issues the Committee wishes to share with Councillors.

The minutes of the 8 February and 11 May 2023 Audit and Risk Management Committee (the Committee) note the following key points of discussion:

- CEO verbal report
- Financial report
- 2022/2023 Interim Audit – Draft Management Letter
- Risk management and insurance report including October Flood Recovery report
- High / extreme operational risks
- Strategic risks
- Project risks
- Gift declarations
- Legislative compliance

- Procurement compliance
- Compliance review report
- Internal audit reports
- Publications of Interest
- Audit Item Status report
- Audit approach with internal auditors
- Disaster Recovery report
- Contract 2273 – Provision of Internal Audit Services - Update
- Audit & Risk Biannual report – Committee Chair

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 are to provide guidance to Council in external and internal audit, annual financial reporting, insurance and risk exposures, compliance and assessment, and review, all of which are high-risk components of Council's role.

Councillors may be unaware of significant issues raised and discussed at the Committee meetings if the minutes are not presented accurately and in a timely manner.

Policy Considerations

There are no policy considerations associated with this report.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

Legal/Statutory Implications

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

Environmental/Sustainability Impacts

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

Social Implications

There are no social implications associated with this report.

Economic Impacts

There are no economic impacts associated with this report.

Consultation

The minutes of the 8 February and 11 May 2023 Audit and Risk Management Committee (ARMC) meetings were distributed to management for review.

Following management's review, the minutes were distributed to the Committee Chair for review, followed by distributing to Council's independent members of the ARMC, including all relevant internal staff.

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 links to the Greater Shepparton 2030 Strategy.

Conclusion

In accordance with Charter requirements, the Audit and Risk Management Committee minutes from 8 February and 11 May 2023 meetings have been prepared and are to be presented to Council for noting.

Attachments

1. Audit and Risk Management Committee Minutes - 8 February 2023 [11.1.1 - 32 pages]
2. Audit and Risk Management Committee Minutes - 11 May 2023 [11.1.2 - 21 pages]

11.2 Contracts Awarded Under Delegation - August 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 August 2023 to 31 August 2023, and those that have been publicly advertised but are yet to be awarded as at 4 September 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
2321	Queensland Fruit Fly Trapping Grid and Monitoring	Lump Sum Contract for the Queensland Fruit Fly Trapping Grid and Monitoring	\$231,589.60	IK Caldwell AGnVET
2310	Provision of Printer Lease and Maintenance Services	Lump Sum Contract for the Provision of Printer Lease and Maintenance Services over four years	\$194,377.70	Kiss Print Solutions Pty Ltd

Contract No.	Project Name	Details	Value inclusive of GST	Awarded to
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	Estimated value of \$750,000.00 if all options exercised	Sprayline Road Services J&A Harry Pty Ltd T/A Linemasta Complete Linemarking Services Pty Ltd

Requests for Tenders advertised but not yet awarded

Contract No.	Contract Name	Contract detail, including terms and provisions for extensions	Status
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
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
2319	Tatura Structure Plan Intersections Functional Design	Tatura Structure Plan Intersections Functional Design - Lump Sum Contract	Tender scheduled to close on 13 September 2023

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 arrangement has recently been utilised:

Contract No.	Entity	Contract Details
2323	State Purchase Contract	Victorian Telecommunication Services (VTS)

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 August 2023 to 31 August 2023.

Attachments

Nil

11.3 Council Plan 2021-25 Progress Report

Author	Corporate Planning Analyst
Approved by	Director Corporate Services
Purpose	Information Only

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 2022-23 Progress Report on the key performance indicators contained within the 2021 – 2025 Council Plan, as attached.

Executive Summary

This report presents the fifth update on the Council Plan 2021 - 2025.

The report provides an update on Council's progress against the Council Plan key performance indicators for 2022-23.

At the end of the second year of the Council Plan, 73 out of 81 key performance indicators are on track.

Report Detail

In accordance with Section 90 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, Council developed and adopted a four-year Council Plan on 25 October 2021.

The Council Plan includes the strategic objectives that influence the priorities of the Council during the current term in office and guides the decision making, and the allocation of resources to deliver outcomes and services to the community.

Based on the outcomes of the deliberative engagement and community consultation, Council identified five themes to describe what we are working towards in achieving the Community Vision.

These five themes are:

1. 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.

2. 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.

3. 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.

4. 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.

5. 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.

The Council Plan is the organisational focus for the development of Directorate and Business plans and the individual responsibilities of officers. The Council Plan 2021 - 2025 identified Goals, Key Strategic Objectives and Strategies for implementation across the life of the plan.

This is the fifth report of the Council Plan 2021 – 2025.

At the end of the second year of the Council Plan, 73 out of 81 key performance indicators are on track.

Theme	On Track	Off Track
Community Leadership	13	0
Social Responsibility and Wellbeing	15	0
Vibrant and Diverse Economy	20	2
Infrastructure and Technology	12	3
Environment and Climate Emergency	13	3
Total	73	8

Please refer to the attached report for further information.

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
Failure to report to Council and the community	Unlikely	Moderate	Low	Legislative obligations, including reporting requirements, are managed through a centralised compliance monitoring system.

Policy Considerations

There are no policy considerations associated with this report.

Financial Implications

The report contains no financial implications, however many of the initiatives contained within the Council Plan require Council to allocate funds in its budget to facilitate the implementation of the Council Plan.

Legal/Statutory Implications

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

Environmental/Sustainability Impacts

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

Social Implications

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

Economic Impacts

The report contains no economic impacts, however there are several initiatives contained in the Council Plan that aim at improving the economic wellbeing of the Greater Shepparton municipality.

Consultation

Internal consultation occurred with the responsible officers which entailed the provision of regular updates against individual actions within the Council Plan. A comprehensive review of progress updates against all actions within the plan was also conducted by the Executive Team.

Community consultation was achieved by publishing quarterly progress reports in Council Meeting agendas which are publicly available on Council's website.

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

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

Strategic Links

a) Greater Shepparton 2030 Strategy

The Council Plan 2021-2025 plays a pivotal role in the delivery of the short term plans and aspirations of Council and the community whilst following the long term strategies of Greater Shepparton 2030 and the Community Vision

b) Council Plan 2021-2025

The Council Plan 2021-2025 supports the short term direction of the organisation (4 years) and provides linkage to the strategies developed and or implemented over the duration of the plan.

c) The Annual Budget 2022-23

The Annual Budget 2022-23 provides the financial resources required to support the implementation of the Council Plan 2021-2025.

Conclusion

This report provides the 2022-23 fourth quarter update on Council's progress towards achieving the key performance indicators from the Council Plan.

Attachments

1. Council Plan 2021 - 2025 Progress Report - June 2023 [11.3.1 - 15 pages]

11.4 Councillor Representation on Committees - Municipal Association of Victoria

Author	Executive Assistant to the Mayor and Councillors
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:

- 1. nominate Councillor (*to be provided*) to represent Greater Shepparton City Council at the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) State Council Meeting to be held on 13 October 2023;**
- 2. revert Councillor representatives to Cr Seema Abdullah and Cr Dinny Adem following the 13 October 2023 MAV State Council Meeting.**

Executive Summary

The Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) holds two State Council Meetings per year, in March and October. Greater Shepparton City Council nominates two Councillors as representatives at these Council Meetings. The current MAV representatives are Cr Seema Abdullah and Cr Dinny Adem.

Cr Abdullah and Cr Adem are unable to attend the MAV State Council Meeting scheduled for 13 October 2023. As it is a requirement under Council's agreement with MAV to provide a representative at the State Council Meeting, Council is requested to nominate a Councillor to attend in lieu of Cr Abdulah and Cr Adem.

Report Detail

The State Council is the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) governing body, made up of representatives from each member of Council. State Council's powers include:

- determining the rules of the Association;
- electing the President and other members of the Board;
- determining the strategic direction; and
- appointing the auditor.

Two State Council meetings are held in Melbourne each year, occurring in May and October.

Both elected Councillor representatives, Cr Abdullah and Cr Adem, are unable to attend the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) State Council Meeting scheduled for Friday, 13 October 2023. Council is requested to nominate an alternate Councillor to represent Council at the upcoming meeting.

The Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) require a resolution of Council with the nominated Councillor representative to attend the October 2023 MAV State Council 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.

1.1 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.

1.3 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.

1.4 Communities have resources and abilities to self-advocate.

Risk Management

The nomination of an alternate Councillor has been assessed in line with statutory requirements. No risks associated with this appointment has been identified.

Policy Considerations

There are no conflicts with existing Council policies.

Financial Implications

The only financial implications associated with this proposal are the expenses associated with the Councillors attendance at this meeting. All such expenses have budgetary provision.

Legal/Statutory Implications

This proposal is in line with legislative requirements.

Environmental/Sustainability Impacts

There are no environmental or sustainability impacts arising from this proposal.

Social Implications

There are no social implications arising from this proposal.

Economic Impacts

There are no economic impacts arising from this proposal.

Consultation

Councillors have been notified of the temporary vacancy and have elected to provide an alternate representative for the upcoming meeting. Officers believe that appropriate consultation has taken place, and the matter is now ready for consideration.

Strategic Links

Greater Shepparton 2030 Strategy

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

Conclusion

It is recommended that a Councillor be nominated to attend the 13 October 2023 MAV State Council Meeting on behalf of Greater Shepparton City Council.

Attachments

Nil

11.5 August 2023 Monthly Finance Report

Author	Team Leader Financial Reporting
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 the August 2023 Monthly Financial Report.

Executive Summary

This report presents the Council's actual financial performance compared to the adopted budget for the month ended 31 August 2023

Report Detail

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

- Dashboard
- Income Statement
- Balance Sheet
- Cash Flow Statement
- Statement of Capital Works
- Operating Statement

The 2023/24 Budget was adopted at the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 20 June 2023.

The 2023/24 Budget provides for:

- \$151.22 million operating revenue
- \$158.12 million operating expenditure
- \$38.85 million capital income
- \$64.15 million capital expenditure

The August 2023 Monthly Finance Report presents year-to-date performance against budget and details of any anticipated forecast variances.

Operating Position

The Council's year-to-date (YTD) budget performance and projected full year underlying operating position are reflected in the income statement within the attachment.

The YTD underlying operating surplus of \$70.57 million is favourable compared to the YTD adopted budget largely due receipt of insurance claims in relation to the October 2022 Flood.

The projected full year underlying operating position of \$8.25 million deficit is steady compared to the Adopted Budget position of \$7.82 million deficit.

While there has been an increase in insurance claims expected to be received regarding the October 2022 Floods, there is also additional costs expected to be incurred from the October 2022 Flood event and increases in materials and services as noted in the attached income statement.

Capital Works

The YTD capital works program is slightly ahead of YTD budget however the projected full year capital works has seen a decrease of \$6.11 million compared to the Adopted Budget due to a revision of the Roads program for the remediation works required as a result of the October 2022 Flood

Balance Sheet

Council has adopted liquidity ratio (current assets as a percentage of current liabilities) as a further measure of financial sustainability. The current liquidity ratio is impacted by the high rates receivable balance, which will reduce over the year as Council receipts payments and expends funds on services and infrastructure. The 2023/2024 ending liquidity was budgeted to be 139% which is within the desired range.

The 2023/24 Adopted Budget and 2021-2031 Financial Plan indicate future challenges in maintaining liquidity at the required level. Continued focus on financial sustainability, through reviews of services, reduction of operating expenditure, increases to revenue and prioritisation of renewal ahead of new assets is required.

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 monthly financial report has been prepared in accordance with accounting policies and the 2021-2031 Financial Plan.

Financial Implications

The financial implications associated with this report are detailed in the monthly financial report.

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. In addition, Section 97 requires that at least every 3 months a statement comparing the budgeted revenue and expenditure for the financial year with the actual revenue and expenditure to date is presented to Council at a Council meeting which is open to the public.

Environmental/Sustainability Impacts

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

Social Implications

No social implications have been identified in relation to this report.

Economic Impacts

No economic impacts have been identified in relation to 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

- There are no links to the Greater Shepparton 2030 Strategy

b) Other strategic links

- 2021-2031 Financial Plan

Conclusion

This report presents Council's actual financial performance compared to the Budget for the month ending 31 August 2023.

Attachments

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

11.6 Financial Statements and Performance Statement for the year ending 30 June 2023

Author	Manager Finance and Rates
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:

- 1. Approve in principle the financial statements and performance statement for the financial year ended 30 June 2023, as attached; and**
- 2. Authorise the Mayor, Cr Shane Sali, and the Deputy Mayor, Cr Anthony Brophy and the Chief Executive Officer, Peter Harriott, to certify the financial statements and performance statement in their final form, after any changes, recommended, or agreed to by the auditor have been made.**

Executive Summary

The report presents the final financial statements and performance statement for the financial year ending 30 June 2023 for in principle approval by the Council prior to submission to the Victorian Auditor-General in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020* (“the Act”).

The Act requires the Council to authorise two Councillors to certify the financial statements and performance statement in their final form, after any changes recommended, or agreed to, by the auditor have been made. The Chief Executive and the Manager Finance and Rates (as Principal Accounting Officer) will also be signatories to the financial statements and performance statement.

Council’s Audit and Risk Management Committee will meet on 6 September 2023 to review and formally recommended that Council approve in principle the financial statements and performance statements.

Report Detail

Overview

In accordance with the Act, the Council is required to prepare financial statements and a performance statement at the end of each financial year.

The Act requires Council to approve in principle the final financial statements and performance statements prior to submission to the Victorian Auditor-General.

The Act also requires that the Council authorises two Councillors to certify the financial statements and performance statement in their final form, after any changes recommended, or agreed to, by the auditor have been made.

The Chief Executive Officer and the Manager Finance and Rates (as Principal Accounting Officer) will also be signatories. At the 6 September 2023 meeting the Council's Audit and Risk Management Committee will review the statements in conjunction with the Victorian Auditor-General's Appointed Auditor with a recommendation to formally recommend that the Council approve in principle the financial statements and performance statement for the financial year ended 30 June 2023.

Financial Summary

Council achieved a net accounting surplus of \$30.14 million in 2022/23. The surplus is influenced by non-recurrent capital grants (\$14.1 million) contributed assets from new estates and subdivisions (\$6.8 million), and other capital contributions (\$2.1 million) including Developer Contribution Plans. Excluding these capital items, the true underlying operating surplus was \$7.1 million. This result is also positively influenced by early receipt of 100 per cent of the 2023/24 Federal Financial Assistance Grants during June 2023 (refer recurrent operating grants) and favourable movement of discount rates used to calculate the landfill provision (refer financing costs).

Council adopted a zero per cent rate rise for the 2022/23 year, below the 1.75 per cent rate cap. In addition to the cost pressures that present when inflation exceeds revenue growth, Council was also faced with the financial impact resulting from the October 2022 Flood, despite insurances and other funding received. Against a backdrop of increasing cost pressures and rising expectations of service delivery, Council will need to continue working hard to deliver on the adopted Financial Plan strategic actions.

During the year \$42.47 million of capital works was completed. Of this program, \$34.22 million was for renewal and upgrade of existing assets, which represents 101% of total depreciation expense which is within Council's target range.

Early-receipt of 100 per cent of the 2023/24 Federal Financial Assistance Grants of \$16.3 million in late-June 2023 has favourably influenced Council's ending liquidity of 199 per cent. This is a measure of Council's ability to meet its current obligations (current assets as a percentage of current liabilities).

Performance against budget commentary is provided within the financial statements.

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
Risk of material misstatement	Unlikely	Major	Moderate	Strong internal controls and external audit by VAGO appointed audit service provider RSD Audit.
Council does not approve the statements in principle.	Rare	Major	Moderate	Statements reviewed and endorsed by Council's Audit and Risk Management Committee.

Policy Considerations

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with accounting policies as detailed throughout the notes of disclosure. The performance statement has been prepared in accordance with the Local Government Victoria performance reporting framework.

Financial Implications

Financial implications are detailed within the Financial Statements and Performance Statement for the year ended 30 June 2023.

Legal/Statutory Implications

This report is consistent with sections 98 and 99 of the *Local Government Act 2020* and the Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020 Part 4 Divisions 2 and 3.

Environmental/Sustainability Impacts

There are no environmental or sustainability impacts associated with this report

Social Implications

There are no social implications associated with this report.

Economic Impacts

There are no economic impacts associated with this report.

Consultation

Level of public participation	Promises to the public/stakeholders	Examples of techniques to use
Inform	Keep informed	Council's Annual Report

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 links to the Greater Shepparton 2030 Strategy.

b) Other strategic links

- The financial statements and performance statement are performance monitoring and accountability obligations within the Integrated Reporting Framework.

Conclusion

The report presents the final financial statements and performance statement for the financial year ending 30 June 2023 for in principle approval prior to submission to the Victorian Auditor-General.

Attachments

1. GSCC 2022-2023 Financial Statements [11.6.1 - 55 pages]
2. GSCC 2022-2023 Performance Statement [11.6.2 - 11 pages]

12 Sustainable Development Directorate

12.1 Park Name - Lance Woodhouse Village Green - Kialla Lakes Estate

Author Senior Support Officer – Building, Planning & Compliance
 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 approve the naming of Lance Woodhouse Village Green within Kialla Lakes in accordance with *Naming Rules for Places Victoria 2016*.

Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to approve the name Lance Woodhouse Village Green within Kialla Lakes.

The name has been assessed and is in accordance with the *Naming Rules for places in Victoria 2022*.

On 18 January 2023, the Executive Leadership Team approved the proposed name to be placed on public notice.

The name was placed on public notice in the Shepparton News and no submissions were received.



Report Detail

Chris Smith & Associates on behalf of Kavant Management has written to Council requesting the naming of a reserve within the Kialla Lakes Estate, Kialla as Lance Woodhouse Village Green.

The name was assessed and is in accordance with the Naming Rules for places in Victoria 2016. In-principle support has also been granted for this name request by the Registrar of Geographic Names.

The name is assessed against various principles including but not limited to:

- No duplication of name within a 15km radius
- Not of similar sounding or spelling to any other feature within a 15km radius.
- Not to be offensive or derogatory
- No business/commercial link to the name.

As per the Naming rules for places in Victoria 2016 the Council is required to place the proposed name of “Lance Woodhouse Village Green” on public notice by way of advertisement in the local newspaper. The notice period is 30 days after which if no submissions are received the name is then approved for use by the way of a formal Council resolution and then gazetted by Geographic Names Victoria.

Any submission received during the public consultation period must be considered by the naming authority. The naming authority is responsible for deciding the weight to be given to competing submissions, having regard to these naming rules and any other relevant matters it identifies.

All submissions must be included in an assessment report, stating the objection or support for a proposal, indicating relevance to the naming rules and the naming authority’s consideration/response to the submission.

The decision about whether or not to proceed with a naming proposal resides with the naming authority.

Note: The naming authority need not consider objections that do not explain reasons for the objector opposing the name.

On 18 January 2023, the Executive Leadership Team approved the proposed name to be placed on public notice.

The name was placed on public notice in the Shepparton News and no submissions were received.

Council Plan/Key Strategic Activity

There are no direct links to the Council Plan.

Risk Management

Risks	Likelihood	Consequence	Rating	Mitigation Action
Not proceeding with the naming could create confusion for emergency services staff, delaying response time	Possible	Low	Low	Name to avoid confusion for emergency services

Policy Considerations

Park naming requests are assessed under *Naming Rules for Places in Victoria 2016*.

Financial Implications

Financial implications will be for a park name sign only which there is already budget provision for.

Legal/Statutory Implications

There are no legal/statutory implications associated with park naming

Environmental/Sustainability Impacts

There are no environmental/sustainability impacts associated with park naming.

Social Implications

There are minimal social implications given that the proposal is to name a park, but there could be significant emergency delays if this is not acted upon.

Economic Impacts

There are no direct significant economic impacts with this proposal.

Consultation

The name was placed on Public Notice in the Shepparton News and no submissions were received.

Strategic Links

a) Greater Shepparton 2030 Strategy

- There are no strategic links to park naming.

b) Other strategic links

- There are no strategic links to park naming.

Conclusion

The naming of the park will be imperative to the safety of the local residents and the wider community as it will be identifiable for Emergency Services.

Attachments

1. Woodhouse - Request to Name Reserve - Lance Woodhouse Village Green [12.1.1 - 2 pages]
2. Woodhouse - Locality Plans for Council Report [12.1.2 - 2 pages]

12.2 Heritage Advisory Committee - 2022 Annual Report

Author	Team Leader - Strategic Planner
Approved by	Director Sustainability Development
Purpose	For Noting

Disclosures of Conflict of Interest in Relation to this Report

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

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

RECOMMENDATION

That the Council receive and note the Greater Shepparton Heritage Advisory Committee Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2022, as attached.

Executive Summary

Council authorised the formation of the Greater Shepparton Heritage Advisory Committee (the Committee) on 17 January 2012. The primary purpose of the Committee is to act as an advocate for all cultural heritage matters within the municipality.

The Committee has prepared an annual report to inform Council of its activities for the year ending 31 December 2022. At the Committee's monthly meeting held on 3 July 2023, the Committee agreed to present the Greater Shepparton Heritage Advisory Committee Annual Report 2022 (the 2022 Annual Report) to Council, to provide an opportunity for Council to receive and note the Report.

Report Detail

Council authorised the formation of the Committee at the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 17 January 2012. As part of the resolution, Council adopted Terms of Reference (TOR) to guide the future operation of the Committee. The Committee's membership consists of up to two Councillors, one voting member from each of the ten member organisations, up to six community representatives unaffiliated with any of these organisations, up to two members of Council's Strategic Planning Team and Council's Heritage Advisor. The Committee has prepared its tenth annual report to inform Council of its activities. At the Committee's monthly meeting held on 3 July 2023, the Committee agreed to present the 2022 Annual Report to Council, to provide an opportunity for Council to receive and note the Report.

The Committee meetings in 2022 were undertaken as face-to-face meetings with the option for attendees to participate online. The Committee meet each month in the Council Board Room.

The Annual Report updates Council on each of the activities undertaken by the committee in 2022, including the Greater Shepparton Heritage Plaques Pilot Program, the Greater Shepparton Heritage Interpretive Signage Program, and the 2022 Heritage Lecture, amongst others. The Annual Report outlines the Committee's activities for the year ending 31 December 2022 (see Attachment 1: Greater Shepparton Heritage Advisory Committee Annual Report 2022). It tracks the Committee's membership, activities and achievements, advocacy, and advice.

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.

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.

4.6 Engage with historical societies and museums to develop a plan that ensures their sustainability.

Risk Management

There are minimal risks associated with the consideration of the 2022 Annual Report.

Policy Considerations

The consideration of the 2022 Annual Report does not conflict with existing Council policies.

Financial Implications

There are no costs associated with the consideration of the 2022 Annual Report.

The Committee has an annual budget allocation of approximately \$2,000 to support its operation. A total of \$2,000 was included in the 2022/2023 Budget to meet the operating costs of the Committee in the 2022/2023 financial year.

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

There are no legal or statutory implications associated with the consideration of the 2022 Annual Report. The preparation of the 2022 Annual Report accords with the *Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006* and *Local Government Act 2020*. No human rights were negatively impacted upon through the preparation of the 2022 Annual Report. The consideration of the 2022 Annual Report is unlikely to impact upon the rights of all individuals and groups regarding freedom of expression, the right to be heard, or entitlement to participate in public life and property rights.

Environmental/Sustainability Impacts

There are no environmental or sustainability impacts associated with the consideration of the 2022 Annual Report.

Social Implications

There are no direct social impacts associated with the consideration of the 2022 Annual Report. The operation of the Committee has positive social impacts. The Committee is seen as a critical way of raising awareness and promoting community participation of cultural heritage issues within the municipality. The Committee will continue to raise awareness within the community of cultural heritage conservation.

Economic Impacts

There are no economic impacts associated with the consideration of the 2022 Annual Report.

Consultation

Council officers believe that appropriate consultation has occurred during both the formation and operation of the Committee, and the key activities it has been involved in since its formation by Council.

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

Strategic Links

a) Greater Shepparton 2030 Strategy

- The consideration of the 2022 Annual Report is consistent with the objectives, strategies and actions outlined in the Environment Section of the Greater Shepparton 2030 Strategy 2006.

b) Other strategic links

- The consideration of the 2022 Annual Report will continue to implement a key recommendation of the Greater Shepparton Heritage Study Stage II April 2020.

Conclusion

It is recommended that Council receive and note the 2022 Annual Report. The Committee provides a critical way of raising awareness of cultural heritage issues, as well as promoting community participation in cultural heritage issues within the municipality. By continuing to support the Committee, Council is continuing to embrace a cost-effective opportunity of raising awareness and promoting community participation of cultural heritage issues within the municipality.

Attachments

1. Heritage Advisory Committee 2022 Annual Report [12.2.1 - 14 pages]

12.3 IGA - Numurkah Road

Author	Team Leader Statutory Planning
Approved by	Director Sustainable Development
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:

- 1. that the formal decision in relation to application (2017-177/A) would have been refused in its current form had an appeal for failure not been lodged with VCAT due to the following reason:**
 - proposed design produces unacceptable planning outcomes; and
- 2. an amended permit may be granted should the design shortcomings be generally addressed to the satisfaction of Council officers at the VCAT Compulsory Conference or within the current VCAT proceedings.**

Executive Summary

This amended application seeks permission for a single stage redevelopment of the IGA site to include two supermarkets, 5685sqm of shop floor space, 577 on site car parking spaces and road works to support the proposed redevelopment.

The amended application has been advertised to neighbours and one objection has been lodged by a competing supermarket developer.

The permit applicant has elected to file an application to the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) as the proposal was not decided in the 60-day timeframe. The first hearing is set down for 9 October 2023.

Since 2008 there have been supermarket development proposals along Numurkah Road, often the applications have resulted in various forms of litigation, which to date has not resulted in the development of additional supermarket floor space.

Officers consider that it is important to recognise the following:

- Additional supermarket floor space is required now in Shepparton North
- The IGA site is within the Commercial 1 Zone with 8000sqm of shop floor space as of right
- The IGA site is currently the only site zoned in Shepparton North for a supermarket-based shopping centre development

- Based on the zoning of the land, a supermarket development at the IGA site is appropriate and encouraged by the Greater Shepparton Planning Scheme

The purpose of this report is for Council to determine its position on the application that will form the basis of Council's submission to VCAT, including its position at the VCAT compulsory conference on 9 October 2023.

Officers have obtained an independent assessment of the application by a consulting town planner being Hollerich Town Planning (HTP).

HTP reached the following conclusions:

As outlined above, while we believe the amended proposal has merit and that it should ultimately be approved, there are aspects of the amended proposal that should be improved prior to this approval being issued. There is potential for these issues to be addressed as a conditional requirement of any amended Permit that may be approved, albeit it may be difficult to appropriately articulate these matters through conditions. Should it be considered that these matters cannot be adequately addressed through conditions then the application should be refused with grounds reflecting the matters summarised below.

The following matters should be addressed as part, or prior to, any approval of the application.

- *Increased activation should be achieved at the western end of supermarket 1 as presented to Numurkah Road. A featureless façade of the size proposed is inappropriate at this key site address and greater activation should be ideally achieved through provision of increased retail floor space along this façade, noting that re-design of the supermarket is unlikely to achieve an appropriate outcome. An architectural treatment to the façade may address these concerns however, given the interface with the broader SNAC to the north, providing an active address in this location is clearly preferable.*
- *A public / town square element should be reintroduced into the proposal, most likely to the northern side of the roundabout at the centre of the subject site. This element of the approved development is considered an important feature for the broader community and it is expected would be a positive design feature to provide a focal point for the development and the centre more broadly. This public square element should be used to provide greater direct connection between the two supermarkets and avoid them operating as two separate shopping centres, as is likely the case with the current proposal. Landscape within the town square should complement that along the boulevard entry from Hawkins Street and the additional tree planting along the east-west access road as detailed below.*
- *Increased tree planting should be achieved along the east-west accessway through the subject site. This could be achieved through removing the parallel car spaces along the northern side of the accessway and potentially increasing the landscape elements at the end of the parking rows to the south of the accessway, noting that an adequate number of car spaces must be retained on the subject site.*
- *It is suggested that Condition 1 include specific requirements for further detailed design resolution of the Hawkins Street interface, including landscape and pedestrian treatments in the narrow street setback, and to ensure that an appropriate interface between the retail floor space and the street is achieved. This condition should require that greater direct activation of Hawkins Street be achieved, where possible and should ensure that tree planting is achieved, at least in places, along this interface. Condition 3 should be retained to address potential concerns regarding this interface.*

Officers agree with the shortcomings of the proposal identified by HTP.

Officers have considered if the recommended modified design requirements could be resolved through amended plans under condition 1 of an amended permit.

Officers have concluded that it may not be appropriate or statutorily correct to use conditions to deal with the design issues as the extent of the changes to the proposal considered appropriate by officers are such that:

- An amendment to the permit amendment application may arguably be warranted.
- The changes may warrant further notice of the proposal.
- The changes may likely trigger the need for further consideration of the impacts of the proposal in terms of the relevant planning scheme considerations.

Officers recommend that the current application should be refused on design grounds.

As outlined above officers consider it may be possible to satisfactorily address the design issues identified and given that the current application is now within the jurisdiction of VCAT, it may be possible for an agreed design solution be reached at the VCAT compulsory conference.

Based on the above recommendations from HTP, officers recommend that Council decide to oppose the amended application in its current form on design grounds.

Should the shortcomings of the proposal identified by HTP be generally addressed by the permit amendment applicant to the satisfaction of Council officers, officers seek confirmation that they may settle the current VCAT proceeding on that basis.

Amongst other things, subject to the permit amendment applicant acting on any amended permit ultimately issued, this would facilitate the development of a long needed second full-line supermarket at Shepparton North.

Property Details

Amended Permit Number:	2017-177/A
Applicants Name:	Sam Herszberg
Date Amendment Received:	29 July 2022
Land/Address:	177-193 Numurkah Road, Shepparton
Land Size:	4.4ha
Is the permit valid?	Yes. Permit requires commencement by 4 August 2024
Why is the amendment required?	Revised layout of the shopping centre to accommodate Coles Reduce car parking requirements by 27 spaces
Why is a permit required (include Permit Triggers)?	Use of the land for retail greater than 8,000m2 under 34.01-1 Buildings and works in the C1Z under 34.01-4 Buildings and works in the Land Subject to Inundation Overlay under 44.04-2 Removal of easement under 52.02 Reduction in car parking requirements under 52.06-3 (new permission) Erection and display of business identification signage under 52.05-11 (category 1 area) Removal of native vegetation (Grey Box trees) under 52.17-1 Create and alter access to a road in a Transport Zone 2 (Numurkah Road) under 52.29-2 The sale of liquor from a bottle shop under 52.27

Are all plans provided?	Yes
Was the application fee paid?	Yes \$3,524.30 – Development (class 15) \$680.40 – Reduction in car parking Total - \$4,204.70
Zoning:	C1Z Abuts TRZ2
Overlays:	LSIO SCO3
Further Information?	No
Lapse date?	NA
Number of Objections?	1
Grounds of objection	Non-compliance with the Shepparton North Structure Plan Traffic related concerns including Hawkins Street upgrades, use of 2016 traffic data and truck movements
Title details – any:	
o Restrictive Covenant?	No
o Section 173 agreement?	Yes
o Easement/Caveat?	Yes – Easement
o Building Envelope?	No
o Access restrictions?	No
Is a CHMP required?	No
Garden area provisions?	NA
Is the site contaminated?	NA
Is the site in a BMO or BPA?	No

Proposal in Detail

The amended application is summarised as:

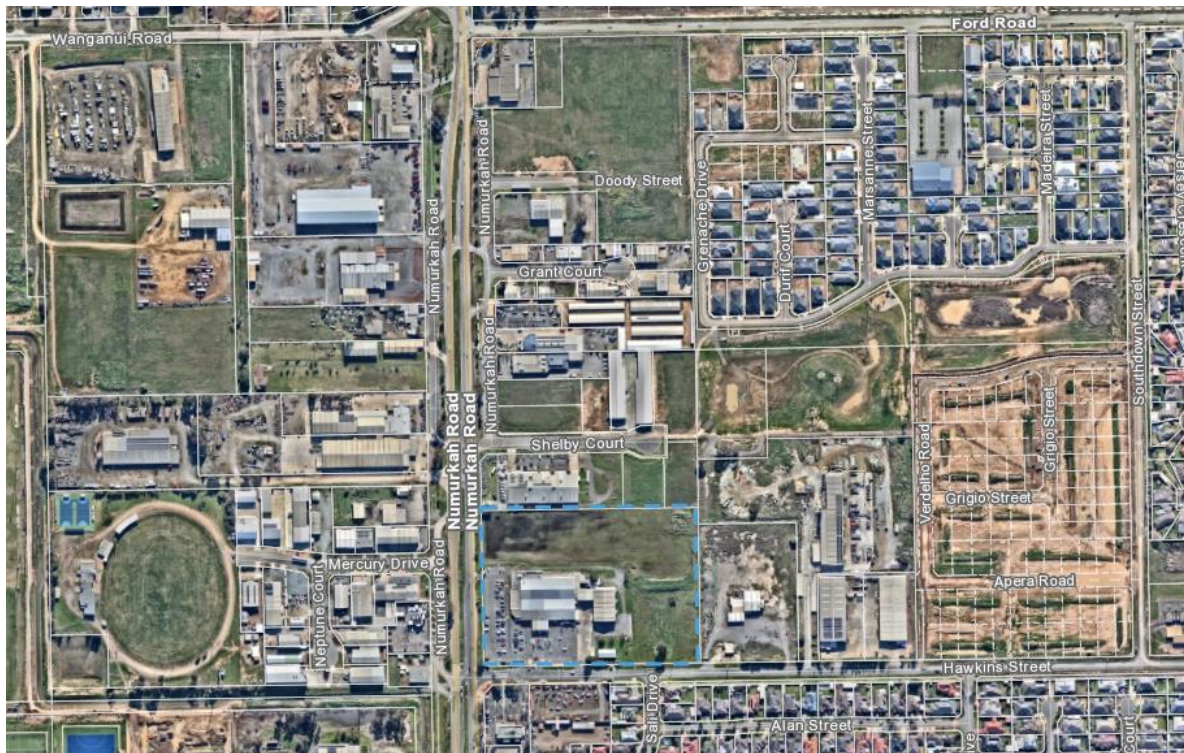
- Two full line supermarkets
- A bottle shop for each supermarket
- 5685sqm of shop floor space
- Total retail floor space of 13,085sqm
- Maximum building height of 10.8m
- 577 on site car parking spaces, some spaces are covered with shade sail structures
- Two vehicle crossings to Numurkah Road and Hawkins Street
- Loading areas to the rear of the supermarkets with dedicated internal roads for truck traffic
- 200sqm community centre fronting Hawkins Street
- Road works including signalisation of Numurkah Road Hawkins Street intersection, turning lanes and a new bus stop in Hawkins Street
- Footpath construction abutting the land
- Removal of three Grey Box trees
- Installation of business identification signage typical to a supermarket-based shopping centre

Table 1 Summary of proposed amendments to floorspace and car parking

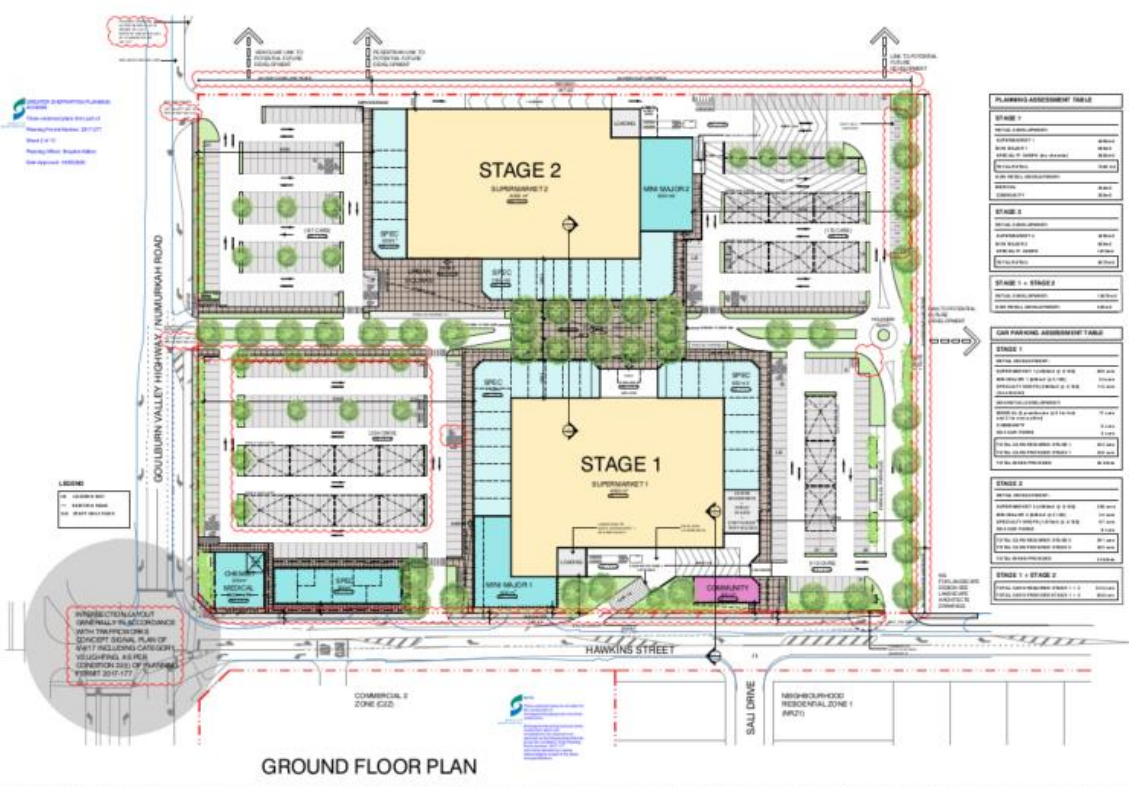
Type	Approved (m2)	Proposed (m2)	Change (m2)
Supermarket (2)	8,000	7,400	-600
Shop	5,675	5,685	+10
Total retail	13,675	13,085	-590
Medical	350	0	-350
Community	200	200	0
TOTAL	14,225	13,285	-940
Car parking spaces	658	577	-81

Source: Centrum Town Planning, 2022, based on Doig Architecture, 2018, and TRG, 2022.

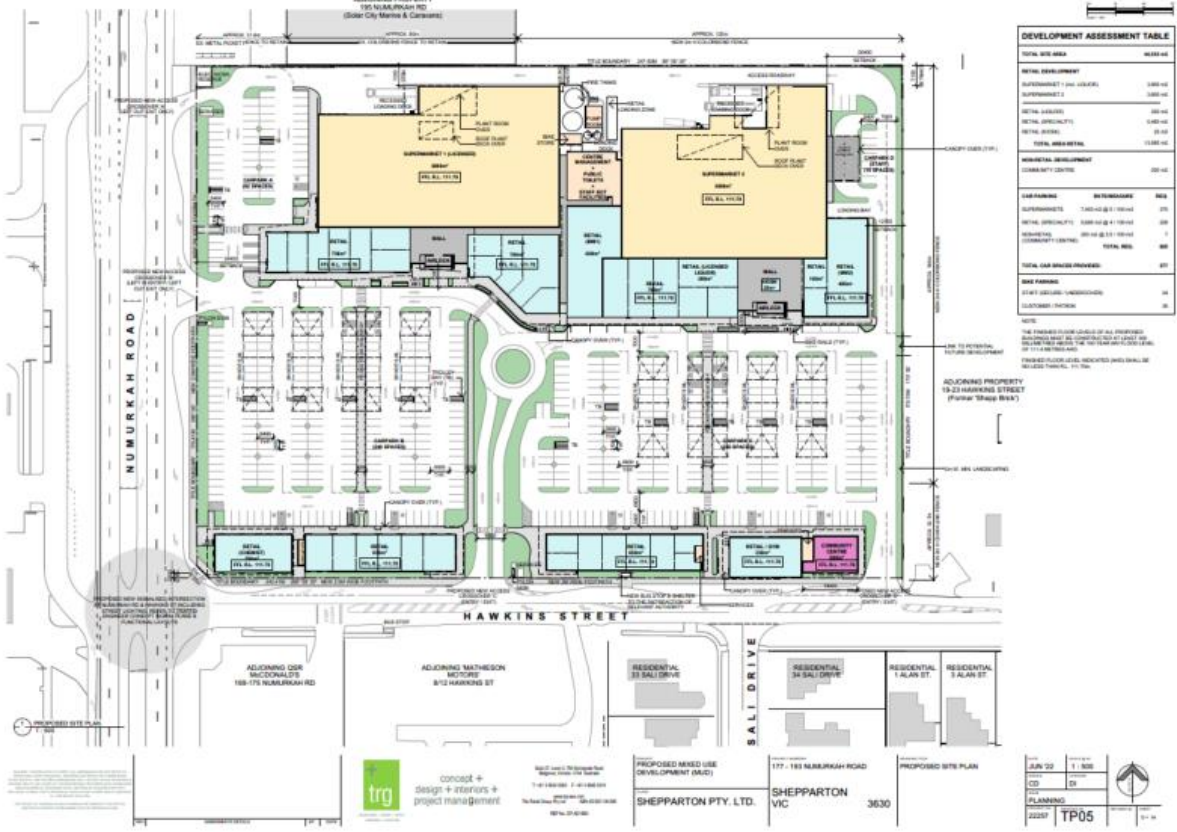
Aerial photo of the land and surrounds



Existing Endorsed Plan



Proposed Amended Plan



Shepparton North Structure Plan

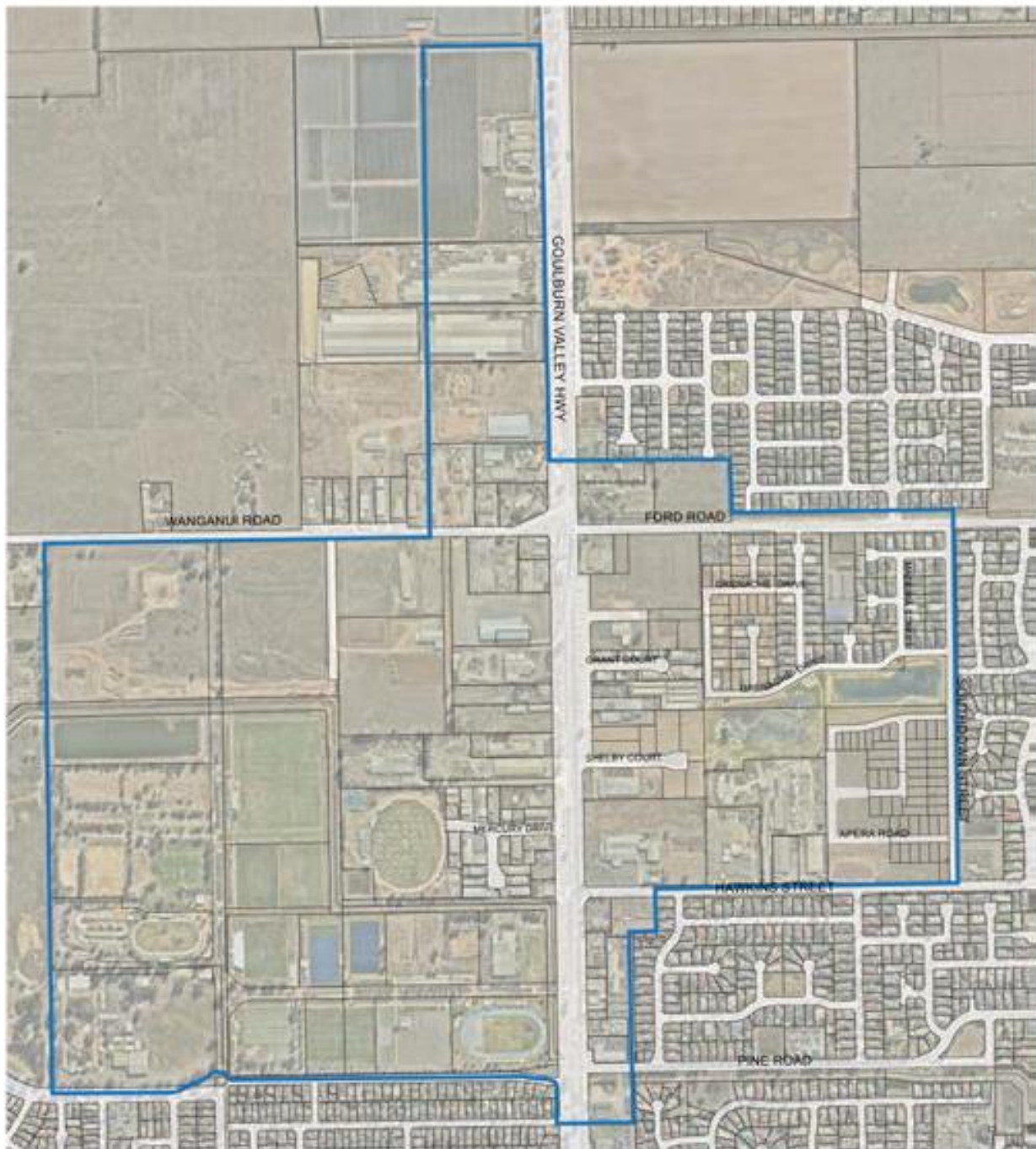
Council's website explains the SNSP as:

Shepparton North is experiencing strong population growth and significant investment in infrastructure, particularly planning for arterial road projects and stormwater drainage infrastructure, in recent years.

The Shepparton North Activity Centre (SNAC) was identified in the Commercial Activity Centres Strategy, November 2015 (CACs) and, subsequently, designated a sub-regional activity centre in the retail hierarchy of the Greater Shepparton Planning Scheme. This is the same status as Riverside Plaza and Mooroopna CBD. The CACS identified the SNAC as comprising land between Ford Road and Hawkins Street on the eastern side of Numurkah Road. Further expansion of retail and commercial facilities are required in the future to serve the growing population of Shepparton North.

Council has prepared the Shepparton North Activity Centre Structure Plan to guide future development and support the transformation of Shepparton North into a fully functioning activity centre.

SNSP includes the IGA land, the wider precinct plan is shown below.



The Shepparton North Activity Centre Structure Plan was adopted by Council at the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 21 March 2023. Council is now preparing a planning scheme amendment process to implement the findings of the Shepparton North Structure Plan into the Greater Shepparton Planning Scheme.

IGA is included in precinct 1 – retail core of the SNSP.

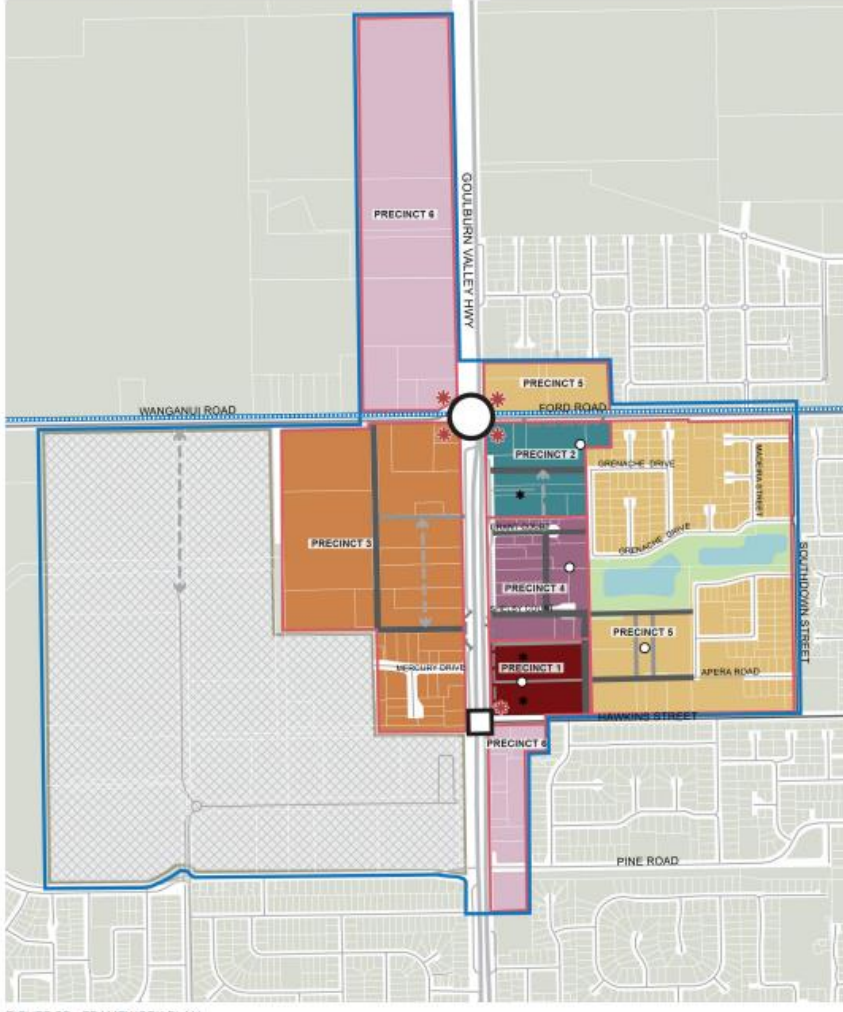
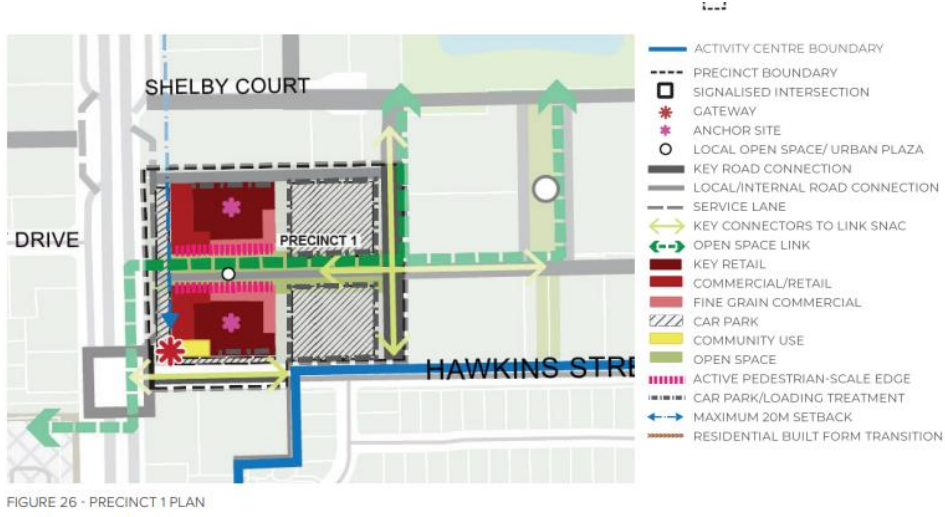


FIGURE 25 - FRAMEWORK PLAN

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ACTIVITY CENTRE BOUNDARY EXISTING OPEN SPACE KEY ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADES FUTURE BYPASS CONNECTION SIGNALISED INTERSECTION ROUNDABOUT GATEWAY ANCHOR SITE LOCAL OPEN SPACE/ URBAN PLAZA KEY ROAD CONNECTION LOCAL/INTERNAL ROAD CONNECTION POTENTIAL ROAD CONNECTION SERVICE LANE | <p>PRECINCTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PRECINCT 1 RETAIL CORE PRECINCT 2 COMMERCIAL CORE PRECINCT 3 INDUSTRIAL CORE PRECINCT 4 COMMERCIAL CORRIDOR PRECINCT 5 PERIPHERAL RESIDENTIAL PRECINCT 6 PERIPHERAL COMMERCIAL PUBLIC LAND PRECINCT NOT INCLUDED IN ACZ |
|--|--|

SHEPPARTON NORTH SUBREGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRE STRUCTURE PLAN

SHEPPARTON NORTH SUB-REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRE STRUCTURE PLAN



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Officers acknowledge that the Planning Authority is working towards a planning scheme amendment to implement the SNSP into the scheme. Despite this, officers consider that currently the SNSP is not well advanced in terms of its statutory weight, as:

- The amendment has not been allocated a C number
- The Department has not authorised the amendment
- The amendment has not been exhibited
- Council has not considered whether to progress the amendment to a Panel (if required) and a Panel has not assessed the amendment

For these reasons, officers consider that at the time of Council setting its position on the application (September Council Meeting), SNSP should be afforded very little or no statutory weight.

It is noteworthy that HTP makes the following findings on the SNSP:
It is understood that a planning scheme amendment is now being prepared to implement the Structure Plan, noting that authorisation from the Minister for Planning regarding this amendment has not yet been sought. As a result, the Structure Plan and associated planning scheme amendment cannot be considered as being ‘seriously entertained’ and therefore, have little, if any, weight in the consideration of this application to amend the Permit.

It is noted that although at the current time the SNSP would arguably have little or no statutory weight, depending on the progress of the amendment associated with the SNSP, it may well subsequently become relevant for the current VCAT proceeding.

Assessment under the Planning and Environment Act

A detailed assessment of the amended application has been completed by HTP; this technical review is attached to this report.

As set out earlier in this report, HTP conclude that the amended application should ultimately be approved, following design improvements to the shopping centre, particularly:

- Increased activation at the western end of supermarket 1 as presented to Numurkah Road
- A public / town square element be reintroduced to the northern side of the roundabout at the centre of the subject site
- Additional tree planting along the east-west access road

- Further detailed design resolution of the Hawkins Street interface, including landscape and pedestrian treatments

Officers consider that these design improvements should be incorporated into the amendment proposal by the applicant and agreed to by the responsible authority before an amended permit issues.

Council Plan / Key Strategic Activity

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.

3.5 Encourage and facilitate investment and expansion.

3.6 Attract people to live, work, study and remain in our region.

3.10 Efficient land use planning to encourage and support future development.

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.

4.10 Progress housing and business development opportunities.

Risk Management

Officers have not identified any risks associated with the amended application.

Policy Considerations

The amended application has been considered under the relevant policies of the Greater Shepparton Planning Scheme.

Financial Implications

The amended application has no significant financial implications for Council.

Legal / Statutory Implications

The applicant has filed a VCAT application for this amended application.

VCAT has scheduled a compulsory conference hearing on 9 October 2023. As discussed in this report, Officers consider that it may be possible to resolve the matter by way of the compulsory conference process if the shortcomings of the proposal are satisfactorily addressed by the applicant.

If the matter cannot be resolved at the compulsory conference, VCAT will determine if the amended application is acceptable or not following a contested hearing.

Cultural Heritage

The land is not within an area of aboriginal cultural heritage sensitivity; therefore, no cultural heritage management plan is required.

Environmental / Sustainability Impacts

The amended application has no environmental or sustainability impacts.

Social Implications

The amended application has no significant social implications.

Economic Impacts

The amended application has no significant economic impacts to Greater Shepparton City Council in terms of its budget position.

Referrals/Public Notice

Referrals to Authorities

External Referrals Required by the Planning Scheme:

Section 55 - Referrals Authority	List Planning clause triggering referral	Determining or Recommending	Advice/Response/Conditions
CMA	44.04-7	Recommending	Consent subject to floor level requirements
Vic Roads	52.29-4	Determining	Consent subject to detailed road works requirements.
Head, Transport for Victoria (Public Transport)	66.02-11	Determining	No response provided.

Notice to Authorities

External Notice to Authorities:

Section 52 - Notice Authority	List Planning clause triggering notice	Advice/Response/Conditions
GVW	NA	Consent subject to five standard conditions
GMW	NA	Consent subject to five standard conditions

The application was placed on public notice by letters to neighbours and a sign on site. One objection to the application was lodged by Lascorp.

Strategic Links

Commercial Activity Centres Strategy, November 2015 (CACS)

CACS includes the following policy direction *‘facilitate and support the expansion and concentration of additional retail and commercial facilities for the Shepparton North activity centre, between Ford Road and Hawkins Street on the eastern side of Numurkah Road, to reflect the designated sub-regional role and function of the centre’*.

Officers consider that this policy direction supports the re-development of the IGA site.

Conclusion

Officers having undertaken an assessment of the amended application, recommend the Council oppose the current proposal on design grounds and give officers authority to settle the matter should the shortcomings identified be generally addressed to the satisfaction of officers by way of the VCAT compulsory conference process.

Attachments

- 230721 HTP Assessment of 2017 177 Amendment [12.3.1 - 47 pages]

13 Infrastructure Directorate

13.1 Australian Botanic Gardens Shepparton Advisory Committee - Appointment of Community Representatives

Author Coordinator - Arboriculture
 Approved by Director Infrastructure
 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 community representatives to the Australian Botanic Gardens Shepparton Advisory Committee for a period of two years commencing on 20 September 2023 and concluding on 19 September 2025:**
 - Wendy D'Amore
 - Sue Berwick
 - Mary-Jane Taylor
 - Suzanne Whyte
 - Micaela Deery
 - Leigh Taig
 - Jenny Houlihan
2. **formally acknowledge and thank outgoing members, Karen Kilgour, Marilyn Bazeley and Audrey Hurst for their outstanding contributions to the committee.**

Executive Summary

The term of appointment of the existing Australian Botanic Gardens Shepparton Advisory Committee has expired. Council called for applications to fill vacant positions by way of Public Notice in the Shepparton News on 30 June 2023 and it was also advertised on the Council website for a two-week period.

A total of eight applications were received however following the closing date one candidate withdrew their application.

Council Officers have assessed the seven remaining applications and present this report consider the applications received and formerly appoint members to fill the vacant positions on the Committee.

Report Detail

The purpose of the Advisory Committee is to provide advice to Council in relation to the ongoing development, functioning and performance of the Australian Botanic Gardens Shepparton.

In accordance with the Terms of Reference for the Committee, membership shall comprise of up to eight members representatives of the community and one Councillor.

The term of office for appointed members will be for two years commencing the following day after the formal appointment.

Advertisements calling for community representative applications for membership of the Advisory Committee were placed in the Shepparton News on 30 June 2023 and it was also advertised on the Council website for a two-week period.

A total of eight applications were received however following the closing date one candidate withdrew their application. Council Officers have assessed the seven remaining applications.

The recommended candidates were selected from the applications received. Applicants were asked to outline relevant qualifications, skills and experience that could contribute to the management and development of the Australian Botanic Gardens Shepparton Advisory Committee. They were also asked to provide details to support their application.

Based on the applications received, all community applicants have various skills and qualifications that will assist in the informing of the maintenance and management of the Australian Botanic Gardens. The skills and qualifications of these candidates will be an asset to the on-going promotion and development of the gardens.

Council Officers recommend the following candidates be appointed:

- Wendy D'Amore
- Sue Berwick
- Mary-Jane Taylor
- Suzanne Whyte
- Micaela Deery
- Leigh Taig
- Jenny Houlihan

Councillor Geoff Dobson will continue as the Council representative for the Committee.

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.

1.3 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.

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.

4.11 Develop and improve Community and recreation facilities.

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.

5.4 Council commits to improving biodiversity and the natural environment within Greater Shepparton.

5.7 Conserve and improve biodiversity and our natural environment and protect and improve river health.

Risk Management

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

Policy Considerations

This process is in accordance with the Australian Botanic Gardens Shepparton Advisory Committee Terms of Reference and the Council Corporate Procedure for Advisory Committees.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications associated with this recommendation.

Legal/Statutory Implications

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

Environmental/Sustainability Impacts

The Advisory Committee will have an official capacity in community involvement, promotion and education in local natural values related to the Gardens.

Social Implications

There are no adverse social implications associated with this recommendation.

Appointing community members to the committee will assist in engaging with the community and increase stakeholder participation and pride in their local community.

Economic Impacts

There are no economic impacts associated with this recommendation.

Consultation

A public notice calling for applications from members interested in joining the committee was advertised in the Shepparton News on Friday 30 June 2023 and was also advertised on the Council website.

An email was sent to the current members of the Advisory Committee to advise them that a public notice calling for applications was advertised in the Shepparton News. Attached to this email was a link to the online application form for appointment to Australian Botanic Gardens Shepparton Advisory Committee.

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 links to the Greater Shepparton 2030 Strategy.

Conclusion

Officers recommend that Council appoint Wendy D'Amore, Sue Berwick, Mary-Jane Taylor, Suzanne Whyte, Micaela Deery, Leigh Taig and Jenny Houlihan to the Australian Botanic Gardens Shepparton Advisory Committee for a two-year term commencing on 20 September 2023 and concluding on 20 September 2025 and acknowledge and thank the outgoing committee members for their contribution to the Australian Botanic Gardens Shepparton Advisory Committee.

Attachments

Nil

13.2 Tree Management Policy

Author Team Leader - Arboriculture, Parks and Sports Facilities
Approved by Director Infrastructure
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 Tree Management Policy, as attached.

Executive Summary

Policies are essential to ensure that legal, fair and consistent decisions are made across the Council. They support Council in achieving its corporate objectives and provide crucial guidance for Councillors, staff and stakeholders.

The Tree Management Policy was developed to ensure a consistent approach to the management of trees, shrubs and plants within Greater Shepparton's streetscapes, urban environment, rural roadsides and any public land managed by Council.

Good planning and appropriate maintenance are vital for managing street, roadside, park and reserve trees that will provide aesthetic, environmental and ecological benefits to the community.

The current policy is out of date and a revised policy is presented for endorsement by the Council.

Report Detail

The Tree Management Policy was developed to ensure a consistent approach to the management of trees, shrubs and plants within Greater Shepparton's streetscapes, urban environment, rural roadsides and any public land managed by Council.

The Tree Management Policy further supports the following Greater Shepparton City Council strategic documents:

- Urban Forest Strategy 2017-2037
- Tree Technical Manual
- Electric Line Clearance Management Plan
- Asset Management Strategy
- Asset Management Plans

- Service Plans
- Road Management Plan
- Infrastructure Design Manual

The Tree Management Policy was originally adopted on 15 June 2010 after much public consultation. The policy was then reviewed in in 2017 coinciding with the launch of the Urban Forest Strategy. The current policy is out of date and a revised policy is presented for endorsement by the Council.

As part of the revision the policy was updated into the current policy template. The only content change made was to update the related legislation to the correct version in relation to the Electricity Safety (Electric Line Clearance) Regulations 2020 and the Local Government Act 2020.

The revised Tree Management Policy is now ready for consideration by Council.

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.

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.

5.4 Council commits to improving biodiversity and the natural environment 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.

Risk Management

There have been no risks identified with the adoption of this Policy.

Policy Considerations

This policy provides a clear and a consistent approach to tree management within Greater Shepparton's Urban Forest, and rural environment. It further supports several strategic documents including but not limited to the Tree Technical Manual and the Urban Forest Strategy 2017-2037.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications associated with the adoption of this policy.

Legal/Statutory Implications

There are no legal / statutory implications associated with this policy.

Environmental/Sustainability Impacts

The policy is in place to ensure Council is positively impacting the environment by planting trees and tree removal is not just approved without all options to retainment considered.

Social Implications

There are no social implications associated with this policy.

Economic Impacts

There are no economic impacts associated with this policy.

Gender Impact Assessment

Officers have undertaken the review of this policy and undertaken a Gender Impact Assessment (GIA) in accordance with Council's obligations as outlined in the Gender Equality Act 2020.

Consultation

Officers have consulted internally with the Sustainability and Environment departments as part of the development and review of this policy.

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 links to the Greater Shepparton 2030 Strategy.

b) Other strategic links

- Greater Shepparton Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2014 – 2030
- Urban Forest Strategy 2017-2037

Conclusion

The Tree Management Policy was developed to ensure a consistent approach to the management of trees, shrubs and plants within Greater Shepparton's streetscapes, urban environment, rural roadsides and any public land managed by Council.

The Tree Management Policy has been reviewed and updated into the new template and is now ready for consideration by Council.

Attachments

1. Tree Management Policy, August 2023 [**13.2.1** - 5 pages]

14 Confidential Management Reports

Nil Received.

15 Documents for Signing and Sealing

Nil Received.

16 Councillor Reports

16.1 Councillor Activities

16.1.1 Councillor Activities - August 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 August 2023 to 31 August 2023, some or all of the Councillors have been involved in the following activities:

- Beyond Housing | Official Opening - Large Housing Project
- Regional Cities Victoria - Executive Members - Canberra Visit
- Public Health and Wellbeing Advisory Committee Meeting
- Sports Hall of Fame Advisory Committee Meeting
- Opening Ceremony | Hockey Australia Country Championships
- Heritage Advisory Committee Meeting
- Mooroopna Probus Club | Mayor Guest Speaker
- Greater Shepparton LGBTIQ+ Advisory Meeting
- Walking 1000Km for a Freedom
- Hockey Australia Country Championships
- Audit & Risk Management Committee Meeting
- GV SUNS | Australia Cup - Soccer Game
- Destination Goulburn Valley | Official Launch - 'Seasoned' - A Tasting Trail for the Goulburn Valley
- Shepparton Heritage Centre - Official History Hub Grand Opening
- Presentations of Medals | Hockey Australia Country Championships
- FIFA Women's World Cup | Matildas - Quarter Final
- RiverConnect IAC Meeting
- Devenish Dookie & District - Royal Children Hospital Appeal
- Flood Outlook & Recovery Update | Community Information Session – Undera
- FIFA Women's World Cup | Matildas - Semi Final

- Launch - Empowering Communities
- Best Start Early Years Alliance meeting
- Committee for Greater Shepparton - Captain's Table Luncheon
- Regional Cities Victoria Networking Function
- Regional Cities Victoria Annual Forum
- Meeting | CEO Employment & Remuneration Committee
- Fruit Logistica 2023 - Hong Kong | Luncheon
- Minister for Regional Development | Shepparton Regional Package Information Session
- Shepparton Senior Citizens Club | 65th Anniversary Celebration
- Kaiela Institute & the University of Melbourne | Dungala Kaiela Oration 2023 and Dinner
- Shepparton Running Festival - Mayor to present Medals
- Visitor Economy Industry Gathering
- Showgrounds Advisory Committee meeting
- GSCC Councillors - Town Catch Up – Merrigum
- Community Leadership Program 2023 | Graduation
- Citizenship Ceremony

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 - CEO Councillors Catch Up - 1 Aug 2023 [**16.1.1.1** - 1 page]
2. Informal Meetings of Council - Councillor Briefing - 1 August 2023 [**16.1.1.2** - 2 pages]
3. Informal Meetings of Council - CEO Councillors Catch Up - 8 Aug 2023 [**16.1.1.3** - 1 page]
4. Informal Meetings of Council - Councillor Briefing - 8 August 2023 [**16.1.1.4** - 2 pages]
5. Informal Meetings of Council - Councillor Briefing - 22 August 2023 [**16.1.1.5** - 2 pages]
6. Informal Meetings of Council - CEO Councillors Catch Up - 22 Aug 2023 [**16.1.1.6** - 1 page]
7. Informal Meetings of Council - Councillor Briefing - 29 August 2023 [**16.1.1.7** - 2 pages]

17 Notice of Motion, Amendment or Rescission

Nil Received.

18 Urgent Business not Included on the Agenda

Nil Received.

19 Close of Meeting