

AGENDA

**SCHEDULED COUNCIL MEETING
WARRNAMBOOL CITY COUNCIL
5:45 PM - MONDAY 6 MAY 2024**



VENUE:

**Reception Room
Warrnambool Civic Centre
25 Liebig Street
Warrnambool**

COUNCILLORS

Cr. Ben Blain (Mayor)
Cr. Otha Akoch
Cr. Debbie Arnott
Cr. Vicki Jellie AM
Cr. Angie Paspaliaris
Cr. Max Taylor
Cr. Richard Ziegeler

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can be obtained online at www.warrnambool.vic.gov.au

**Andrew Mason
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

Audio Recording of Council Meetings

All Open and Special Council Meetings will be audio recorded, with the exception of matters identified as confidential items in the agenda. This includes public participation sections of the meeting. Audio recordings of meetings will be made available for download on the internet via the Council's website by noon the day following the meeting and will be retained and publicly available on the website for 12 months following the meeting date. The recordings will be retained for the term of the current Council, after which time the recordings will be archived and destroyed in accordance with applicable public record standards. By participating in Open and Special Council meetings, individuals consent to the use and disclosure of the information that they share at the meeting (including any personal/sensitive information), for the purposes of Council carrying out its functions.

Behaviour At Council Meetings

Thank you all for coming – we really appreciate you being here. These meetings are the place where, we as Councillors, make decisions on a broad range of matters. These can vary greatly in subject, significance and the level of interest or involvement the community has. As part of making these decisions, we are presented with comprehensive information that helps us to form our position – you will find this in the agenda. It should also be remembered that the Council meeting is a “meeting of the Council that is open to the public”, not a “public meeting with the Council.”

Each Council is required to have Governance Rules that pertains to meeting procedures. Warrnambool City Council has followed best practice in this regard and its Governance Rules provides regulations and procedures for the governing and conduct of Council meetings. Copies of the Conduct and Behaviour excerpt from Warrnambool City Council's Governance Rules can be obtained online at www.warrnambool.vic.gov.au. We thank you in anticipation of your co-operation in this matter.

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1. **Opening Prayer & Original Custodians Statement**
Almighty God
Grant to this Council
Wisdom, understanding and Sincerity of purpose
For the Good Governance of this City
Amen.

Original Custodians Statement

I wish to acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which we stand and pay my respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.

2. **Apologies**
3. **Confirmation of Minutes**

RECOMMENDATION

That the Minutes of the Scheduled Meeting of Council held on 8 April 2024, be confirmed.

4. **Declaration By Councillors And Officers Of Any Conflict Of Interest In Any Item On The Agenda**

Section 130 of the Local Government Act 2020 (Vic) (**the Act**) provides that a relevant person must disclose a conflict of interest in respect of a matter and exclude themselves from the decision making process in relation to that matter including any discussion or vote on the matter at any Council meeting or delegated committee meeting and any action in relation to that matter.

Section 126(2) of the Act sets out that a relevant person (Councillor, member of a delegated Committee or member of Council staff) has a conflict of interest if the relevant person has a **general conflict of interest** within the meaning of section 127 of the Act or a **material conflict of interest** within the meaning of section 128 of the Act.

A relevant person has a **general conflict of interest** in a matter if an impartial, fair minded person would consider that the person's private interests could result in that person acting in a manner that is contrary to their public duty.

A relevant person has a **material conflict of interest** in a matter if an affected person would gain a benefit or suffer a loss depending on the outcome of the matter.

A Councillor who has declared a conflict of interest, must leave the meeting and remain outside the room while the matter is being considered, or any vote is taken. Councillors are also encouraged to declare circumstances where there may be a perceived conflict of interest.

5. **Mayoral Presentation**
6. **Public Question Time**

7. REPORTS

7.1. OPEN DATA POLICY

DIRECTORATE : GOVERNANCE

PURPOSE:

This report provides information on the proposed Open Data Policy.

Executive Summary

The intent of this policy is to enable public access to some Council data to support research and education, promote innovation, support improvements in productivity, stimulate growth in the local and Victorian economy, and enhance access to information-rich resources to support evidence-based decision making in the public sector.

DRAFT RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopt the attached Open Data Policy 2024.

Background

Open access to government data is an established international trend and a growing trend. It enables public sector information to be treated as a valuable resource and promotes the adoption of data openness and government transparency. The principle of data openness rests on the democratic premise that public sector information is a resource that should be available for community access and use.

There are many benefits of the availability of government data for the public good. The draft Open Data Access Policy promotes a position of data openness, unless there is a clear need to restrict or preclude access for reasons of privacy, security, confidentiality, or other relevant considerations.

The intent of this policy is to enable public access to Council data to support research and education, promote innovation, support improvements in productivity, stimulate growth in the local and Victorian economy, and enhance access to information-rich resources to support evidence-based decision making in the public sector.

Issues

This policy is expected to achieve the following benefits:

- Stimulate economic activity and drive innovation and new services to the community and business by providing information that can identify new opportunities.
- Increase productivity and improve personal and business decision making based on improved access to data.
- Improve research outcomes by enabling access to primary data to researchers in a range of disciplines.
- Reduce the effort required to share data with other parties.
- Improve the efficiency and effectiveness of government by encouraging better management practices and use of the data.

The local government sector is the custodian of many high value datasets such as trees, accessible buildings, roads, drains, properties, planning permits, footpaths, bike lanes, waste collection zones, parks, events, signs, and amenities. When this data is released in machine-readable formats, it can be easily manipulated and consumed by a range of computer systems and web services (e.g. mobile apps and web portals). This type of data is highly sought after by researchers, developers, other government agencies, and the public. The more government data that is available in machine-readable formats, the more it can be used, reused, repurposed and built on in combination with other data, for everyone's benefit.

Some examples of open government data use cases include:

- Open Bin Map: <http://www.openbinmap.org/>
- Open Trees: <http://www.opentrees.org/>

Financial Impact

Nil.

Legislation / Policy / Council Plan Context

5 An effective Council

5.1 Leadership and governance: Council will be a high-functioning team committed to respectful relationships, collaboration and ongoing engagement. It will provide strong, effective leadership, sound governance and informed decision-making

5.7 Effective advocacy: Council will pursue effective advocacy by providing compelling materials for desired support and funding for community priorities through establishing strong relationships with other levels of government, strategic partners and key stakeholders

Timing

Policy to be adopted at the 6 May 2024 Scheduled Council meeting.

Community Impact / Consultation

The recommended IAP2 approach is to "inform".

Legal Risk / Impact

N/A

Officers' Declaration of Interest

Nil.

Conclusion

An Open Data Policy has been developed for consideration of Council.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Open Data Access Policy 2024 [7.1.1 - 5 pages]

7.2. ASSET MANAGEMENT POLICY REVIEW

DIRECTORATE : City Infrastructure



Purpose:

This report provides information on the revised Asset Management Policy which is due for review.

Executive Summary

The Asset Management Policy applies to all Councillors, Council officers, Committees of Management, consultants responsible for asset management undertaken for or on behalf of Council. This can and will include people involved in the creation, operation, maintenance, renewal, upgrade, expansion and disposal of Council assets.

The policy defines the guiding principles, practices and responsibilities which consistently apply in managing Council assets. It ensures that asset related decisions align with community expectations and service needs in a sustainable manner and acts to moderate the risk of poorly managed assets.

The policy has been reviewed against current activities and best practice. Only minor changes to this policy are proposed.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council adopt the revised Asset Management Policy 2024.
 2. That Council revoke the previously adopted Asset Management Policy
-

Background

The Asset Management Policy is a mechanism for elected Councillors and executive management to signal their commitment and priorities for asset management programs. The policy provides a clear direction for asset management and defines the key principles that underpin asset management for a council.

For the purposes of this Policy, an asset is defined as any physical item which has value, enables services to be provided and has an economic life of greater than 12 months. Items considered assets include Plant, Equipment, Property, Buildings, Facilities, Infrastructure, Commercial Investments, Natural and Heritage items owned or controlled by Council.

The very nature of asset management requires input and interaction between all facets of the organisation and with a whole of Council approach to asset management, this policy will help to establish the platform required for the sustainable and responsible management of Council's assets, based on services provided.

Issues

The Asset Management Policy is an integral document within the asset management framework. Every council is exposed to considerable political, managerial and financial risks due to its scale of investment in infrastructure assets. A council is better able to manage these risks and obtain better value for money in the delivery of services to the community by applying a strategic approach to asset management.

This review has provided the opportunity to streamline and re-word the policy without changing the intended outcomes. The changes made to the policy section are to remove goals that will be accomplished through effective asset management and tasks incumbent on asset managers to perform their operational duties. Changes have also been made to remove duplication of information already captured in our asset management plans and remove some governance items that have not been met in the past so are considered obsolete to the current principles of Council asset management.

Financial Impact

No more costs will be incurred by adopting the revised policy document. The policy is designed to provide guiding principles for cost-effective long-term asset management practices.

Legislation / Policy / Council Plan Context

5 An effective Council

5.5 Organisational and financial sustainability: Council will ensure organisational and financial sustainability through the effective and efficient use of Council's resources and assets.

TIMING

The adoption of the revised Asset Management Policy ensures that the document is up to date and will continue to provide a comprehensive, accountable and transparent Asset Management Framework for Council.

Community Impact / Consultation

This policy is designed to inform the community of the guiding principles followed in the Council's stewardship role of Strategic Asset Management.

Legal Risk / Impact

The Asset Management Policy is an integral document within the asset management framework designed to ensure appropriate management of Council's assets to support the delivery of services that meet current and future community needs.

Officers' Declaration of Interest

Nil

Collaborative Procurement

N/A

Conclusion

The existing policy has been in place for 4 years and must be reviewed. This review has enabled the document to be streamlined and re-word the existing Asset Management Policy without wholesale change to the intended outcomes.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Asset Management Policy - Review 2024 [7.2.1 - 7 pages]
2. Gender impact assessment [7.2.2 - 18 pages]



7.3. REVOCATION OF SHORT STAY ACCOMMODATION LOCAL LAW

DIRECTORATE : GOVERNANCE

PURPOSE:

This report presents Council with a draft Local Law to revoke the Short Stay Accommodation Local Law.

Executive Summary

At its February meeting Council resolved to not charge the Short Stay Accommodation Local Law registration fee for the 2024 calendar year and instructed the Chief Executive Officer to undertake the required legislative process to revoke the *Warrnambool City Council Local Law No. 2 – Short Stay Accommodation Local Law*.

A consultation window opened on 27 March 2024 and ran for 21 days until 17 April 2024. This consultation invited community members to have their say on the yoursay website with a notice advertising the consultation being placed on Council's website and in the Warrnambool Standard. No submissions were received at the time of the consultation window closing.

The next required step is that Council make the Revocation Local Law to formally revoke the Local Law currently in force.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopt the Revocation Local Law 2024.

Background

In adopting the 2022-23 Annual Budget, Council signalled the introduction of a short stay accommodation fee to help address inequalities between registered accommodation and nonregistered accommodation providers, whilst also contributing to services, events, infrastructure, and natural assets that support the local visitor economy.

This was followed by the adoption of the Short Stay Rental Accommodation Local Law on 6 February 2023. This law not only introduced the fee on short stay accommodation providers but also provided for administrative, regulatory, and enforcement matters. Specifically, the stated objectives of the local law were:

1. provide clear guidelines on the required standards for the operation of this type of accommodation;
2. ensure equity within the municipal tourism sector by Short Stay Rental Accommodation providers contributing to the tourism sector;
3. enhance neighbourhood amenity;
4. provide for the administration of this Local Law and of Council's powers and functions; and
5. assist with the Peace, order and good governance of the municipal district.

The local law also required owners of short stay accommodation properties to be registered with Council and maintain compliance with the Short Stay Rental Accommodation Code of Conduct – which covered:

- displaying the code of conduct for occupants and visitors;
- taking responsibility for the behaviour of occupants and visitors and addressing unacceptable behaviour;

- informing occupants and visitors of waste disposal arrangements and removing any excess waste left by occupants and visitors;
- providing off-street parking for occupant's motor vehicles, and providing parking arrangement information to occupants prior to arrival;
- banning additional accommodation by way of tents, caravans, campervans, or similar facilities;
- restricting the use of outdoor areas between 11pm and 7am; and
- maintaining land connected to the dwelling in good condition.

This Local Law came into effect immediately and remains in force at present. As of December 2023, 139 properties had registered as short stay accommodation providers with the Council, generating \$55,600 in registration fees for the 2023 calendar year. However, In September 2023, the Victorian State Government announced that a new state-based levy would be introduced on short stay accommodation. The levy would amount to a 7.5% charge and be introduced from January 2025 as part of its new housing policy, with the funds collected to be directed towards social housing. The 7.5% levy is expected to raise \$70m for the state government.

The estimated revenue is intended to be transferred to Homes Victoria to be invested in social and affordable housing options, with 25 per cent to be invested in homes in regional Victoria. The state government indicated that this levy would replace any levies introduced by local government authorities. Local Government Authorities were not consulted prior to the announcement by the state government.

At the Council meeting held on 5 February 2024, Council considered the operation of the Principal Local Law in the context of the announcement by the State Government that a new levy would be introduced on short stay accommodation.

Council was presented with three options:

1. Remove the Local Law and associated registration fee for the 2024 calendar year.
2. Do not change the current arrangement.
3. Maintain the Local Law but remove the registration fee.

The State Government, having removed the ability of Council to generate income, could not reasonably expect Local Government to manage amenity and other issues associated with short stay accommodation.

Having regard to this information, Council resolved as follows:

That Council:

1. Resolve to not charge the Short Stay Accommodation Local Law registration fee for the 2024 calendar year.
2. Instructs the Chief Executive Officer to undertake the required legislative process to revoke the *Warrnambool City Council Local Law No. 2 – Short Stay Accommodation Local Law*.

Issues

Work has been undertaken following the resolution of Council instructing the CEO undertake the required process.

To revoke a Local Law, a Revocation Local Law must be made following the same process that Council is required to follow in making any other local law. That process is set out in Division 3 of Part 3 of the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act).

Council must complete the following steps when making the Revocation Local Law:

- preparation and approval of a draft local law;
- compliance with Council's Community Engagement Policy;
- receipt of a certificate from a solicitor under s 74 of the LGA;
- making of a Resolution to make the Revocation Local Law; and
- publication of the notice that the local law has been made.

Given the terms of the Resolution made on 5 February 2024 and that the Revocation Local Law has no effect other than to revoke the Principal Local Law the Chief Executive Officer approved the Revocation Local Law for public notice and community engagement purposes under delegation.

This draft local law is attached to this report. It's purpose is to revoke Council's *Local Law Number 2 – Short Stay Accommodation Local Law*.

A community consultation window opened on 27 March 2024 and ran for 21 days until 17 April 2024. This consultation invited community members to have their say on the yoursay website with a notice advertising the consultation being placed on Council's website and in the Warrnambool Standard. No submissions were received at the time of the consultation window closing.

According to s 74(1) of the Act, before Council makes the Revocation Local Law, it must obtain a certificate from a solicitor stating that they are of the opinion that the Revocation Local Law is consistent with the local law requirements set out in s 72 of the Act. This certificate has been provided by Maddocks law firm and is attached to this report for Council.

Once Council has received and considered the:

- (a) proposed Revocation Local Law;
- (b) certificate provided by a solicitor under s 74 of the LGA; and
- (c) submissions received in respect of the proposed Revocation Local Law (if Council adopts a 'Consult' level of community engagement),

Council must then decide whether it will make the Revocation Local Law.

Financial Impact

As of December 2023, 139 Short Stay Accommodation properties have registered with the Council, generating \$55,600 in registration fees.

Removing this income stream makes it difficult for Council to manage issues associated with these accommodation types. As such, complaints about matters such as noise and parking will now be referred to Victoria Police and other State Government bodies.

Legislation / Policy / Council Plan Context

5 An effective Council

5.1 Leadership and governance: Council will be a high-functioning team committed to respectful relationships, collaboration and ongoing engagement. It will provide strong, effective leadership, sound governance and informed decision-making

5.2 Engaged and informed community: Council will ensure ongoing community engagement to identify changing needs and priorities when developing and delivering services and programs.

5.5 Organisational and financial sustainability: Council will ensure organisational and financial sustainability through the effective and efficient use of Council's resources and assets.

5.7 Effective advocacy: Council will pursue effective advocacy by providing compelling materials for desired support and funding for community priorities through establishing strong relationships with other levels of government, strategic partners and key stakeholders

Community Impact / Consultation

The Short Stay Accommodation Local Law was introduced in February 2023 after two separate community engagement processes. A third process was undertaken regarding revocation which received no submissions.

Warrnambool City Council is advocating for 50% of the funds raised by the state levy to be spent in regional areas.

Legal Risk / Impact

The State Government changes will over-ride any Local Government rules from 1st January 2025. Council must change or revoke its Local Law by 31 December 2024 in preparation of this.

Officers' Declaration of Interest

The Officer preparing this report has no conflict of interest to declare.

Conclusion

At its February meeting Council resolved to not charge the Short Stay Accommodation Local Law registration fee for the 2024 calendar year and instructed the Chief Executive Officer to undertake the required legislative process to revoke the *Warrnambool City Council Local Law No. 2 – Short Stay Accommodation Local Law*.

That process is being undertaken, with the next required step being that Council make the Revocation Local Law to formally revoke the Local Law currently in force.

A draft Revocation Local Law is attached for Council's consideration.

ATTACHMENTS

1. DRAFT Revocation Local Law [7.3.1 - 3 pages]
2. Solicitor's Certificate - Revocation Local Law 2024 [7.3.2 - 2 pages]

7.4. WARRNAMBOOL EVENTS STRATEGY 2024-2028

DIRECTORATE : City Growth

Purpose:

This report presents the Final 2024-28 Warrnambool Events Strategy for Council adoption along with information on the public consultation received.

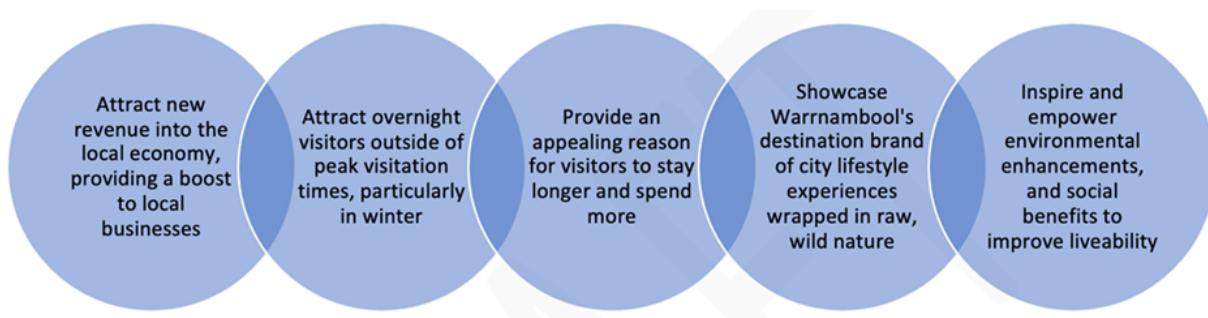
Executive Summary

The 2024-28 Warrnambool Events Strategy outlines how the City's Events & Promotion team will focus on supporting the growth and attraction of destination events, as well as increasing the economic benefits of events, achieved through a suggested implementation framework.

The strategy focusses on and distinguishes between two types of events:

- Destination Events: Events that attract visitors from outside the region.
- Community events: Events that are primarily for residents of Warrnambool and the surrounding Shires that Warrnambool serves as a service hub.

The draft strategy is for the whole of Council whereas the previous strategy was focused on the Events & Promotion Team role. The key directions from the draft strategy include:



The four strategic priorities over the coming four years will be to:-

1. Identify and nurture fit for purpose events.
2. Maximise events' contribution to the local economy.
3. Empower and enable community and industry to deliver successful events.
4. Ensure events are socially, environmentally, and economically sustainable.

Following the release of the draft 2024-2028 Events Strategy for public consultation over a four-week period, fifteen responses were received with overall feedback supporting the strategy with some minor adjustments and inclusions recommended.

The recommended changes to the Strategy document from the public consultation which have now been included are:

- Include a greater range of photos throughout the strategy to represent the breadth of events Warrnambool has to offer.
- Include lawn bowls on page 17 (5.2 Event Venues & Infrastructure) as a potential of state and national events.
- Include hockey on page 17 (5.2 Event Venues & Infrastructure) as a potential host of state events.

The 2024-28 feedback from stakeholders recognised the previous work of the events and promotion team in supporting community-based events with a recommendation to continue to do so but also place more emphasis on attracting new events and supporting local events (festivals, business, sporting etc.) to grow so they have a greater economic benefit to the city.

In line with Council deliberations, the strategy also now includes a commitment from the Council to deliver an annual community event, detailed on page 20.

- *WCC will facilitate a community event as part of its commitment to fostering community engagement, wellbeing, and inclusiveness. Council will produce an annual plan for an approved seasonal event that meets the objectives, sustainability and growth on the overarching goals of the Events strategy including attraction, promotion and economic activity.*

RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopts the Warrnambool Events Strategy 2024-28 and writes back to all those who submitted to the consultation of the draft document.

Background

The previous WCC Events Strategy covered 2018-2022, and the review process has been through key stakeholder engagement, including a public consultation period of four weeks for the feedback on the draft.

Key stakeholder engagement involved input from 62 individuals across 12 stakeholder groups during October 2023.

Issues

No Issues have been identified.

Financial Impact

The 2024-28 Events Strategy will be completed within the budget allocated for review.

Legislation/Policy/Council Plan Context

1 A healthy community

1.1 Be a welcoming and inclusive city: Warrnambool will be a city that is more welcoming to all and which fosters diversity.

1.5 Recreation, arts, culture and heritage: Council will support opportunities to participate in a wide range of recreational, arts and cultural programs that promote activity, wellbeing, diversity heritage and which increase community connectedness.

3 A strong economy

3.3 Visitor growth: Council will facilitate Warrnambool's visitor growth and year-round visitation through industry development, effective destination management and promotion of attractions, experiences and by leveraging key events.

Timing

The strategy will cover 2024 to 2028.

Community Impact/Consultation

Fifteen responses were received with overall feedback supporting the strategy with some minor adjustments and inclusions recommended.

The community feedback on the draft strategy and proposed responses are attached to this report.

Legal Risk/Impact

The draft strategy includes information on accessibility and inclusion. No significant risks have been identified.

Officers' Declaration Of Interest

No conflicts of interest declared.

Collaborative Procurement

N/A

Conclusion

The 2024-28 Warrnambool Events Strategy consultation period has now closed and the final document is presented to Council for adoption.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Public Consultation Feedback Informal Council - FINA L.docx [7.4.1 - 12 pages]
2. 3587 WCC Event Strategy 230424 [7.4.2 - 30 pages]

7.5. COUNCIL PLAN 2021-2024 (2024 REVISION)

DIRECTORATE : Corporate Strategies



Purpose:

This report provides the revised activities and initiatives which are proposed for inclusion in the revised Council Plan 2021-2025.

Executive Summary

Section 90 of the Local Government Act (2020) requires Council to prepare and approve a Council Plan by October 31 following a general election.

The Council Plan, reviewed annually, is the feature document in Council's suite of strategic planning documents, formulated to guide the work for which Council has responsibility and will provide to our community over a four-year period.

The annual review ensures that the plan remains relevant and delivers on the objectives identified in the plan and in the long-term community vision, Warrnambool 2040.

The Council Plan lists key activities and initiatives Council will undertake over the financial year to deliver on the five objectives described in the plan.

These actions and initiatives demonstrate to the community important areas of effort in the delivery of the plan's key objectives. These objectives are:

1. **COMMUNITY:** To be a healthy, inclusive, and thriving community with equitable access to services, cultural opportunities and recreational activities.
2. **ENVIRONMENT:** To protect and strengthen local ecosystems, enhance biodiversity and enable sustainable communities.
3. **ECONOMY:** Support a resilient local and self-sustaining regional economy that encourages economic growth and provides increased employment opportunities attracting ongoing investment.
4. **PLACE:** Provide quality places that all people value and want to live, work, play and learn in.
5. **COUNCIL:** To be recognised as a collaborative Council and a high-performing organisation that enables positive outcomes for Warrnambool's community, environment and economy and Victoria's South West.

In late 2023, the community was invited to provide feedback on the Council Plan and, in recent months, Council staff reviewed and updated the activities and initiatives in it.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council considers the revised actions and initiatives in the Council Plan 2021-2025 and releases the revised plan for community feedback.

Background

The Council Plan 2021-2025 was adopted in 2021. The development of the Council Plan included a two-day workshop involving all seven Councillors, who reviewed the long-term vision - Warrnambool 2040 - and explored their aspirations for the community over the four-year term. This process considered the realities of resource limitations, new legislative requirements and the implications of COVID-19.

The engagement process continued with a staff workshop, community listening posts and two deliberative engagement workshops to which the community was invited. Further engagement included the release of the draft to the community with a call for review and submissions.

The annual review of the actions and initiatives identified in the Council Plan began in November 2023 with a community survey focused on the Council Budget and Plan. The survey asked respondents to rank each of the five main Council Plan objectives with the results indicated below:

	1	2	3	4	5	TOTAL	SCORE
A healthy communityWe will be a healthy, inclusive and thriving community with equitable access to services, cultural opportunities and recreational activities.	21.05% 4	21.05% 4	26.32% 5	26.32% 5	5.26% 1	19	3.26
A sustainable environmentWe will protect and strengthen local ecosystems, enhance biodiversity and enable sustainable communities.	15.79% 3	10.53% 2	10.53% 2	21.05% 4	42.11% 8	19	2.37
A strong economyWe will support a resilient local and self-sustaining regional economy that encourages economic growth and provides increased employment opportunities that attract ongoing investment.	26.32% 5	21.05% 4	26.32% 5	21.05% 4	5.26% 1	19	3.42
A connected, inclusive placeWe will provide high quality places that people value and want to live, work, play and learn in.	5.26% 1	26.32% 5	21.05% 4	10.53% 2	36.84% 7	19	2.53
An effective CouncilWe will be recognised as a collaborative Council and a high-performing organisation that enables positive outcomes for Warrnambool's community, environment and economy and for Victoria's South West.	31.58% 6	21.05% 4	15.79% 3	21.05% 4	10.53% 2	19	3.42

The survey also asked respondents to identify gaps in the Council Plan. There were 11 responses to this question, a number of which were perhaps more applicable to feedback on the Budget.

The responses are below along with the relevant part of the Council Plan.

Suggestion or issue	How Council has addressed the suggestion
There is a major funding distribution issue for the footpath program, Allansford never receives any, Allansford has several streets that have no foot paths, Warrnambool has always had first preference with the funding for years, approx. 10million over a 10-year period, School children have to walk to school on the roads with heavy vehicles. Tooram Road is in need of a footpath on the East side, from Ziegler Prd to Station Street, this would be a great start, The funding is their every year.	Work to improve pedestrian and motorist safety along Ziegler Parade near the bakery is soon to start with funding allocated from the 2023-2024 Council budget. The Allansford Strategic Framework Plan also addresses these issues with the following: A. Investigate an alternative road connection to the Princes Highway to replace Garibaldi Lane.



<p>but is allocated to Warrnambool..... The Allansford Ziegler Prd Bridge is in need of Replacement. funding needs to allocated for this replacement.</p>	<p>B. Further consider closure of the Ziegler Parade bridge to vehicles only if an alternative entry to the Princes Highway can be established.</p> <p>C. Investigate options for a shared path connection to Warrnambool and to the Speedway.</p> <p>D. Implement safety measures (permanent barriers, reduced speed limit) to ensure pedestrian safety on the Ziegler Parade bridge.</p> <p>E. Reduce the speed limit along Ziegler Parade to 50km/h.</p> <p>F. Explore traffic calming measures in the school zone.</p> <p>G. Enhance the pedestrian and shared path network by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • creating new pedestrian crossings in proximity to the kindergarten and on Tooram Road. • Upgrading footpaths along primary and secondary streets by extending the footpath along the southern side of Ziegler Parade and western side of Catherine Street (between Ziegler Parade and Frank Street); extending the footpath along Elizabeth Street between Ziegler Parade and Station Street; extending the footpath along Station Street between Tooram Road and Elizabeth Street; constructing a new footpath along the northern side of Frank Street and eastern side of Alice Street; and establishing wayfinding signage along the walking paths. <p>H. Extend the on-street bicycle lane along Ziegler Parade to connect to all key destinations within the town.</p>
<p>The governance within the Council needs to be fixed. Roads are bad and the fixes don't seem good. Why have you downgraded roads in my neighbourhood from asphalt to bitumen. The Asset plan states that the life of each material is 40 years and 15 years respectively.</p>	<p>All roads are maintained under the Road Management Plan taking into account best practice and industry standards.</p>
<p>There are no references to the Council being financially responsible, and mindful of the expenditure on projects in regard to the preferences of the community. A financially responsible council will both be effective and provide a strong economy using the funds collected from residents and through appropriate government/or other grants.</p>	<p>The Council Plan addresses financial responsibility through the following strategy: 5.5 Organisational and financial sustainability: Council will ensure organisational and financial sustainability through the effective and efficient use of Council's resources and assets.</p>
<p>Stop increasing our rates by astronomical amounts to waste on roundabouts and resurfacing perfectly good roads!!!</p>	<p>Roads are maintained in accordance with the Road Management Plan to ensure road surfaces and safe and fit-for-purpose, In recent years Council has increased rates in line with, or below, the rate cap set by the Victorian Government.</p>
<p>Engaging with Community Groups to highlight their needs and wants in their community.</p>	<p>Where it is relevant to do so, Council endeavours to involve all of the community in decision-making.</p>

Helping these groups to fulfil their needs for what's best for their community.	In some instances Council will reach out directly to community groups and recently did so in relation to the Affordable Housing Project.
Some streets in Bushfield are inundated with excess stormwater on annual basis. This can be easily remedied with basic forming and shaping of table drains down Bellmans Road, or as a longer term and more permanent solution installation of curb and channel drains. The road is extremely narrow and requires cars to veer over onto the side of the road to allow two cars to pass. It is extremely dangerous for both vehicle drivers, passengers and pedestrians. The lack of storm water drains has also caused the postal service to refuse to deliver post to various houses along Bellmans Road for fear of getting their car bogged. For a relatively minimal outlay from Council, these issues may be alleviated.	This is being addressed through the Bushfield-Woodford Strategic Framework Plan which is currently under development.
It's good, but I would make more emphasis on sustainable transport under the "Healthy Community" heading. We need more people to walk and cycle. Vehicle use is making people sick (by causing air pollution, enabling people to remain sedentary which leads to lifestyle diseases, and causing climate change which leads to increased mosquito-borne diseases).	Council continues to expand its pedestrian network working on priority areas identified in the Principle Pedestrian Network. The Principle Pedestrian Network was developed in consultation with the community and took into local knowledge, current and projected population growth and aims to work "with the local community to become less reliant on private motor vehicle transport and shifting towards utilising more modes of active transport."
Non political council basic services.	Insufficient detail in the feedback to enable a response.
Sporting facilities and events to bring in tourism. New legislation on new buildings in Warrnambool requiring to use Solar Panels on the roof, regardless of how small the business is, have WCC subsidise this along with potentially state government(LOL).	Council is in the process of developing a new Events Strategy but in recent years Council has facilitated events including AFLW matches and surf lifesaving carnivals which draw have boosted visitation. Local businesses can consider entering in to an Environmental Upgrade Agreement with Council which allows them to undertaken sustainability improvements to their buildings – such as solar panels – with the cost of the work repaid through Council rates on terms of up to 20 years.
New business attraction and national scale. Not just a big box retailer. But a HQ of a major business in town.	Council works to attract business investment and is currently refining an online "live, work, invest" website.
Reasonable rental or housing options. A better cancer centre that has more than breast and prostate facilities - more than ONE ENT specialist. More options for the younger generation - from indoor play places to fenced playgrounds to entertainment for the teens.	Council is investigating an affordable housing project. The services offered at the Cancer Centre are governed by South West HealthCare. Council provides an indoor sports stadium, a performing arts theatre, art gallery and indoor pool along with more than 65 playgrounds for young people.

A number of other consultations taking place in the second half of 2023 and early this year have also influenced the proposed activities and initiatives.



These include consultations for:

- the Aquatic Strategy;
- the Art Gallery;
- the Lake Pertobe Integrated Water Management Plan;
- the Warrnambool Foreshore Framework Plan;
- the Flagstaff Hill master plan;
- a business representative group for Warrnambool;
- the South Warrnambool Flood Investigation;
- the Bushfield-Woodford Strategic Framework Plan;
- the West Warrnambool Neighbourhood House;
- the Allansford Flood and Drainage Study;
- the Economic Development Strategy; and the
- Pest Animal and Plant Framework.

Council staff have since reviewed the annual actions and initiatives within the Plan and proposed the following for 2024-2025:

<p>GOAL 1 - A HEALTHY COMMUNITY: We will be a healthy, inclusive, and thriving community with equitable access to services, cultural opportunities and recreational activities.</p> <p>Objective 1 - WELCOMING & INCLUSIVE CITY: Warrnambool will be a city that is more welcoming to all and fosters diversity.</p>	<p>1.1.1 Review current parenting programs in line with community profile data to ensure all programs are inclusive to all parents.</p>
<p>GOAL 1 - A HEALTHY COMMUNITY: We will be a healthy, inclusive, and thriving community with equitable access to services, cultural opportunities and recreational activities.</p> <p>Objective 1 - WELCOMING & INCLUSIVE CITY: Warrnambool will be a city that is more welcoming to all and fosters diversity.</p>	<p>1.1.2 Review the Communications Strategy and expand to include customer service elements that align with the Customer Service Charter.</p>
<p>GOAL 1 - A HEALTHY COMMUNITY: We will be a healthy, inclusive, and thriving community with equitable access to services, cultural opportunities and recreational activities.</p> <p>Objective 1 - WELCOMING & INCLUSIVE CITY: Warrnambool will be a city that is more welcoming to all and fosters diversity.</p>	<p>1.1.3 Deliver a new West Warrnambool Neighbourhood House.</p>
<p>GOAL 1 - A HEALTHY COMMUNITY: We will be a healthy, inclusive, and thriving community with equitable access to services, cultural opportunities and recreational activities.</p> <p>Objective 1 - WELCOMING & INCLUSIVE CITY: Warrnambool will be a city that is more welcoming to all and fosters diversity.</p>	<p>1.1.4 Increase access to participation for all abilities and raise awareness within the community regarding the needs of people with a disability.</p>
<p>GOAL 1 - A HEALTHY COMMUNITY: We will be a healthy, inclusive, and thriving community with equitable access to services, cultural opportunities and recreational activities.</p> <p>Objective 2 - ENGAGEMENT WITH ABORIGINAL COMMUNITIES: Council will pursue improved partnerships and meaningful engagement with Aboriginal people to grow opportunities and better outcomes for Aboriginal people.</p>	<p>1.2.1 Finalise Council's Reconciliation Action Plan.</p>

<p>GOAL 1 - A HEALTHY COMMUNITY: We will be a healthy, inclusive, and thriving community with equitable access to services, cultural opportunities and recreational activities.</p> <p>Objective 2 - ENGAGEMENT WITH ABORIGINAL COMMUNITIES: Council will pursue improved partnerships and meaningful engagement with Aboriginal people to grow opportunities and better outcomes for Aboriginal people.</p>	<p>1.2.2</p> <p>Increase participation of Aboriginal families in early years services, with a focus on maternal and child health and kindergarten services.</p>
<p>GOAL 1 - A HEALTHY COMMUNITY: We will be a healthy, inclusive, and thriving community with equitable access to services, cultural opportunities and recreational activities.</p> <p>Objective 3 - HEALTH & WELLBEING: Council will take action to improve health, wellbeing and safety outcomes for Warrnambool's community.</p>	<p>1.3.1</p> <p>To continue to deliver the actions of the South West Child and Family Alliance to achieve improved outcomes for vulnerable children and young people by working with families to maximise the opportunities and support for their children.</p>
<p>GOAL 1 - A HEALTHY COMMUNITY: We will be a healthy, inclusive, and thriving community with equitable access to services, cultural opportunities and recreational activities.</p> <p>Objective 3 - HEALTH & WELLBEING: Council will take action to improve health, wellbeing and safety outcomes for Warrnambool's community.</p>	<p>1.3.2</p> <p>Promote health and wellbeing through delivery of a diverse range of programs for older adults that support social connection and active participation from the Archie Graham Community Centre.</p>
<p>GOAL 1 - A HEALTHY COMMUNITY: We will be a healthy, inclusive, and thriving community with equitable access to services, cultural opportunities and recreational activities.</p> <p>Objective 3 - HEALTH & WELLBEING: Council will take action to improve health, wellbeing and safety outcomes for Warrnambool's community.</p>	<p>1.3.3</p> <p>Deliver high quality and affordable in-home care within the relevant guidelines and funding agreements.</p>
<p>GOAL 1 - A HEALTHY COMMUNITY: We will be a healthy, inclusive, and thriving community with equitable access to services, cultural opportunities and recreational activities.</p> <p>Objective 3 - HEALTH & WELLBEING: Council will take action to improve health, wellbeing and safety outcomes for Warrnambool's community.</p>	<p>1.3.4</p> <p>Engage children in Learn to Swim programs that align with the National Swimming and Water Safety Framework and provide adult learning opportunities in accordance with LSV Swim and Survive program.</p>
<p>GOAL 1 - A HEALTHY COMMUNITY: We will be a healthy, inclusive, and thriving community with equitable access to services, cultural opportunities and recreational activities.</p> <p>Objective 3 - HEALTH & WELLBEING: Council will take action to improve health, wellbeing and safety outcomes for Warrnambool's community.</p>	<p>1.3.5</p> <p>Increase participation through activation, promotion and programming of AquaZone that meets the needs of the community.</p>
<p>GOAL 1 - A HEALTHY COMMUNITY: We will be a healthy, inclusive, and thriving community with equitable access to services, cultural opportunities and recreational activities.</p> <p>Objective 3 - HEALTH & WELLBEING: Council will take action to improve health, wellbeing and safety outcomes for Warrnambool's community.</p>	<p>1.3.6</p> <p>Continue to implement the Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021-25 (Healthy Warrnambool) through the Committee of Practice model.</p>

<p>GOAL 1 - A HEALTHY COMMUNITY: We will be a healthy, inclusive, and thriving community with equitable access to services, cultural opportunities and recreational activities.</p> <p>Objective 3 - HEALTH & WELLBEING: Council will take action to improve health, wellbeing and safety outcomes for Warrnambool's community.</p>	<p>1.3.7 Continue to improve children and families' health and wellbeing as set by reaching the benchmarks within the Healthy Achievement Program.</p>
<p>GOAL 1 - A HEALTHY COMMUNITY: We will be a healthy, inclusive, and thriving community with equitable access to services, cultural opportunities and recreational activities.</p> <p>Objective 3 - HEALTH & WELLBEING: Council will take action to improve health, wellbeing and safety outcomes for Warrnambool's community.</p>	<p>1.3.8 Provide increased services through the Enhanced Maternal and Child Health Service to support children up to the age of three years.</p>
<p>GOAL 1 - A HEALTHY COMMUNITY: We will be a healthy, inclusive, and thriving community with equitable access to services, cultural opportunities and recreational activities.</p> <p>Objective 4 - AN ACCESSIBLE CITY: Council will improve the physical and social accessibility to community services, facilities, places and precincts.</p>	<p>1.4.1 Where possible, and in accordance with current standards, deliver all-abilities access compliance as part of asset renewal projects.</p>
<p>GOAL 1 - A HEALTHY COMMUNITY: We will be a healthy, inclusive, and thriving community with equitable access to services, cultural opportunities and recreational activities.</p> <p>Objective 4 - AN ACCESSIBLE CITY: Council will improve the physical and social accessibility to community services, facilities, places and precincts.</p>	<p>1.4.2 Implement the Fair Access and Use Policy for Community Sports Facilities as mandated by the Victorian Government to be endorsed by Council by 1 July 2024.</p>
<p>GOAL 1 - A HEALTHY COMMUNITY: We will be a healthy, inclusive, and thriving community with equitable access to services, cultural opportunities and recreational activities.</p> <p>Objective 4 - AN ACCESSIBLE CITY: Council will improve the physical and social accessibility to community services, facilities, places and precincts.</p>	<p>1.4.3 Develop a Youth Strategy that will guide Council programs, initiatives, advocacy and engagement with young people.</p>
<p>GOAL 1 - A HEALTHY COMMUNITY: We will be a healthy, inclusive, and thriving community with equitable access to services, cultural opportunities and recreational activities.</p> <p>Objective 4 - AN ACCESSIBLE CITY: Council will improve the physical and social accessibility to community services, facilities, places and precincts.</p>	<p>1.4.4 Develop a Community Services Infrastructure Plan.</p>
<p>GOAL 1 - A HEALTHY COMMUNITY: We will be a healthy, inclusive, and thriving community with equitable access to services, cultural opportunities and recreational activities.</p> <p>Objective 5 - RECREATION, ARTS, CULTURE & HERITAGE: Council will support opportunities to participate in a wide range of recreational, arts and cultural programs that promote activity, wellbeing, diversity heritage and which increase community connectedness.</p>	<p>1.5.1 Complete the Playspace Strategy for community playgrounds and spaces.</p>

<p>GOAL 1 - A HEALTHY COMMUNITY: We will be a healthy, inclusive, and thriving community with equitable access to services, cultural opportunities and recreational activities.</p> <p>Objective 5 - RECREATION, ARTS, CULTURE & HERITAGE: Council will support opportunities to participate in a wide range of recreational, arts and cultural programs that promote activity, wellbeing, diversity heritage and which increase community connectedness.</p>	<p>1.5.2</p> <p>Deliver a Lighthouse Theatre season program that is relevant and appealing to the local/South West audience and that provides opportunity to experience a diverse range of performing arts.</p>
<p>GOAL 1 - A HEALTHY COMMUNITY: We will be a healthy, inclusive, and thriving community with equitable access to services, cultural opportunities and recreational activities.</p> <p>Objective 5 - RECREATION, ARTS, CULTURE & HERITAGE: Council will support opportunities to participate in a wide range of recreational, arts and cultural programs that promote activity, wellbeing, diversity heritage and which increase community connectedness.</p>	<p>1.5.3</p> <p>Deliver Warrnambool Art Gallery exhibitions and experiences that engage community, attract and increase visitors, support artists and build new audiences.</p>
<p>GOAL 1 - A HEALTHY COMMUNITY: We will be a healthy, inclusive, and thriving community with equitable access to services, cultural opportunities and recreational activities.</p> <p>Objective 5 - RECREATION, ARTS, CULTURE & HERITAGE: Council will support opportunities to participate in a wide range of recreational, arts and cultural programs that promote activity, wellbeing, diversity heritage and which increase community connectedness.</p>	<p>1.5.4</p> <p>Develop a Warrnambool City Council Arts and Culture Strategy.</p>
<p>GOAL 1 - A HEALTHY COMMUNITY: We will be a healthy, inclusive, and thriving community with equitable access to services, cultural opportunities and recreational activities.</p> <p>Objective 5 - RECREATION, ARTS, CULTURE & HERITAGE: Council will support opportunities to participate in a wide range of recreational, arts and cultural programs that promote activity, wellbeing, diversity heritage and which increase community connectedness.</p>	<p>1.5.5</p> <p>The Library and Learning Centre will deliver a program of community-responsive activities and events to promote, engage and support learning and literacy to people of all ages and abilities within the community.</p>
<p>GOAL 1 - A HEALTHY COMMUNITY: We will be a healthy, inclusive, and thriving community with equitable access to services, cultural opportunities and recreational activities.</p> <p>Objective 6 - COMMUNITY LEARNING PATHWAYS: Council will support and encourage lifelong learning that helps built community resilience and preparedness for change.</p>	<p>1.6.1</p> <p>Maintain and further develop Council’s partnership with Deakin University to enable research and development opportunities for community and industry.</p>
<p>GOAL 1 - A HEALTHY COMMUNITY: We will be a healthy, inclusive, and thriving community with equitable access to services, cultural opportunities and recreational activities.</p> <p>Objective 6 - COMMUNITY LEARNING PATHWAYS: Council will support and encourage lifelong learning that helps built community resilience and preparedness for change.</p>	<p>1.6.2</p> <p>Development and implement a 10-year Early Years Infrastructure Strategy for Council, in response to Victorian Government kindergarten reforms.</p>

<p>GOAL 2 - A SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT: We will protect and strengthen local ecosystems, enhance biodiversity and enable sustainable communities.</p> <p>Objective 1 - NATURAL ENVIRONMENT: Council will enhance open spaces and infrastructure that support a healthy community, wildlife, flora, fauna and biodiversity.</p>	<p>2.1.1 Implement Invasive Plant and Animal Management Framework for the control of environmental weeds and pests.</p>
<p>GOAL 2 - A SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT: We will protect and strengthen local ecosystems, enhance biodiversity and enable sustainable communities.</p> <p>Objective 1 - NATURAL ENVIRONMENT: Council will enhance open spaces and infrastructure that support a healthy community, wildlife, flora, fauna and biodiversity.</p>	<p>2.1.2 Develop and implement programs that improve biodiversity, protect and enhance flora and fauna including revegetation with the assistance of community.</p>
<p>GOAL 2 - A SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT: We will protect and strengthen local ecosystems, enhance biodiversity and enable sustainable communities.</p> <p>Objective 2 - WATER & COASTAL MANAGEMENT: Council will protect and enhance the health of Warrnambool’s coastline and inland waterways to protect and improve biodiversity.</p>	<p>2.2.1 Implement the Domestic Waste Water Management Plan to improve health and environmental outcomes for our community.</p>
<p>GOAL 2 - A SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT: We will protect and strengthen local ecosystems, enhance biodiversity and enable sustainable communities.</p> <p>Objective 2 - WATER & COASTAL MANAGEMENT: Council will protect and enhance the health of Warrnambool’s coastline and inland waterways to protect and improve biodiversity.</p>	<p>2.2.2 Implement the Warrnambool Coastal Management Plan to guide the future use, development and management of Warrnambool’s coastline.</p>
<p>GOAL 2 - A SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT: We will protect and strengthen local ecosystems, enhance biodiversity and enable sustainable communities.</p> <p>Objective 2 - WATER & COASTAL MANAGEMENT: Council will protect and enhance the health of Warrnambool’s coastline and inland waterways to protect and improve biodiversity.</p>	<p>2.2.3 Complete the South Warrnambool Flood Study and begin Planning Scheme Amendment.</p>
<p>GOAL 2 - A SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT: We will protect and strengthen local ecosystems, enhance biodiversity and enable sustainable communities.</p> <p>Objective 3 - ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT & A CHANGING CLIMATE: Council will encourage innovation and initiatives that minimise Warrnambool’s environmental impact.</p>	<p>2.3.1 Investigate options and implications for a seasonal increase of FOGO collection over the spring & summer months.</p>
<p>GOAL 2 - A SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT: We will protect and strengthen local ecosystems, enhance biodiversity and enable sustainable communities.</p> <p>Objective 3 - ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT & A CHANGING CLIMATE: Council will encourage innovation and initiatives that minimise Warrnambool’s environmental impact.</p>	<p>2.3.2 Facilitate and support the delivery of climate change mitigation, adaptation and resilience actions to raise awareness and prepare for a changing climate.</p>

<p>GOAL 2 - A SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT: We will protect and strengthen local ecosystems, enhance biodiversity and enable sustainable communities.</p> <p>Objective 4 - WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT: Council will promote and encourage awareness of sustainable practices in our work, and the community including water resource management.</p>	<p>2.4.1 Deliver actions identified in the Albert Park Integrated Water Management Plan and the Lake Pertobe Integrated Water Management Plan.</p>
<p>GOAL 2 - A SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT: We will protect and strengthen local ecosystems, enhance biodiversity and enable sustainable communities.</p> <p>Objective 5 - WASTE MINIMISATION: Council will pursue programs to minimise waste throughout the community, industry and promote the benefits of reduction, reuse and recycling of materials.</p>	<p>2.5.1 Develop and deliver education programs supporting the reduction of landfill, and a greater understanding of contamination impacts.</p>
<p>GOAL 2 - A SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT: We will protect and strengthen local ecosystems, enhance biodiversity and enable sustainable communities.</p> <p>Objective 6 - AWARENESS & CELEBRATION: Council will foster community awareness and recognition of the benefits of positive outcomes for Warrnambool’s environment.</p>	<p>2.6.1 Monitor and manage organisational greenhouse gas emissions and energy usage.</p>
<p>GOAL 3 - A STRONG ECONOMY: We will support a resilient local and self-sustaining regional economy that encourages economic growth and provides increased employment opportunities attracting ongoing investment.</p> <p>Objective 1 - BUILD ON COMPETITIVE STRENGTHS: Council will support initiatives that foster ongoing development and investment in the industries which underpin Warrnambool’s economic strengths and comparative advantages.</p>	<p>3.1.1 Manage Development Plans and Developer Contributions Plans to meet infrastructure requirements of new areas.</p>
<p>GOAL 3 - A STRONG ECONOMY: We will support a resilient local and self-sustaining regional economy that encourages economic growth and provides increased employment opportunities attracting ongoing investment.</p> <p>Objective 1 - BUILD ON COMPETITIVE STRENGTHS: Council will support initiatives that foster ongoing development and investment in the industries which underpin Warrnambool’s economic strengths and comparative advantages.</p>	<p>3.1.2 Develop programs and collateral to promote Warrnambool as an appealing investment destination.</p>
<p>GOAL 3 - A STRONG ECONOMY: We will support a resilient local and self-sustaining regional economy that encourages economic growth and provides increased employment opportunities attracting ongoing investment.</p> <p>Objective 1 - BUILD ON COMPETITIVE STRENGTHS: Council will support initiatives that foster ongoing development and investment in the industries which underpin Warrnambool’s economic strengths and comparative advantages.</p>	<p>3.1.3 Grow engagement with local businesses across the municipality through events and training opportunities.</p>

<p>GOAL 3 - A STRONG ECONOMY: We will support a resilient local and self-sustaining regional economy that encourages economic growth and provides increased employment opportunities attracting ongoing investment.</p> <p>Objective 2 - EMERGING INDUSTRIES: Council will encourage emerging industry sectors that contribute to Warrnambool's economic growth and diversity.</p>	<p>3.2.1</p> <p>Facilitate and partner in initiatives to progress the implementation of the Great South Coast Economic Futures Plan.</p>
<p>GOAL 3 - A STRONG ECONOMY: We will support a resilient local and self-sustaining regional economy that encourages economic growth and provides increased employment opportunities attracting ongoing investment.</p> <p>Objective 2 - EMERGING INDUSTRIES: Council will encourage emerging industry sectors that contribute to Warrnambool's economic growth and diversity.</p>	<p>3.2.2</p> <p>Review and implement the Warrnambool Economic Development and Investment Strategy to facilitate investment and employment growth across the Warrnambool municipality.</p>
<p>GOAL 3 - A STRONG ECONOMY: We will support a resilient local and self-sustaining regional economy that encourages economic growth and provides increased employment opportunities attracting ongoing investment.</p> <p>Objective 2 - EMERGING INDUSTRIES: Council will encourage emerging industry sectors that contribute to Warrnambool's economic growth and diversity.</p>	<p>3.2.3</p> <p>Plan for the development and implementation of precinct structure plans to facilitate investment in appropriate development across the municipality.</p>
<p>GOAL 3 - A STRONG ECONOMY: We will support a resilient local and self-sustaining regional economy that encourages economic growth and provides increased employment opportunities attracting ongoing investment.</p> <p>Objective 3 - VISITOR GROWTH: Council will facilitate Warrnambool's visitor growth and year-round visitation through industry development, effective destination management and promotion of attractions and experiences leveraging key events.</p>	<p>3.3.1</p> <p>Review and implement the Warrnambool Destination Action Plan in partnership with Great Ocean Road Regional Tourism and industry.</p>
<p>GOAL 3 - A STRONG ECONOMY: We will support a resilient local and self-sustaining regional economy that encourages economic growth and provides increased employment opportunities attracting ongoing investment.</p> <p>Objective 3 - VISITOR GROWTH: Council will facilitate Warrnambool's visitor growth and year-round visitation through industry development, effective destination management and promotion of attractions and experiences leveraging key events.</p>	<p>3.3.2</p> <p>Increase visitation with events across the year and enhance the profile of Warrnambool as a destination.</p>
<p>GOAL 3 - A STRONG ECONOMY: We will support a resilient local and self-sustaining regional economy that encourages economic growth and provides increased employment opportunities attracting ongoing investment.</p> <p>Objective 3 - VISITOR GROWTH: Council will facilitate Warrnambool's visitor growth and year-round visitation through industry development, effective destination management and promotion of attractions and experiences leveraging key events.</p>	<p>3.3.3</p> <p>Develop and share economic data and analysis to business and industry to inform the performance of the Warrnambool economy.</p>

<p>GOAL 3 - A STRONG ECONOMY: We will support a resilient local and self-sustaining regional economy that encourages economic growth and provides increased employment opportunities attracting ongoing investment.</p> <p>Objective 3 - VISITOR GROWTH: Council will facilitate Warrnambool's visitor growth and year-round visitation through industry development, effective destination management and promotion of attractions and experiences leveraging key events.</p>	<p>3.3.4</p> <p>Ensure that Council's position is advocated strongly to the Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority.</p>
<p>GOAL 3 - A STRONG ECONOMY: We will support a resilient local and self-sustaining regional economy that encourages economic growth and provides increased employment opportunities attracting ongoing investment.</p> <p>Objective 4 - WORKFORCE CAPABILITY: Council will foster the development of a workforce capable of supporting the needs of the local and regional economy.</p>	<p>3.4.1</p> <p>Deliver the Designated Area Migration Agreement (DAMA) representative role for the Great South Coast region and the Regional Certifying Body function on behalf of the Great South Coast.</p>
<p>GOAL 3 - A STRONG ECONOMY: We will support a resilient local and self-sustaining regional economy that encourages economic growth and provides increased employment opportunities attracting ongoing investment.</p> <p>Objective 4 - WORKFORCE CAPABILITY: Council will foster the development of a workforce capable of supporting the needs of the local and regional economy.</p>	<p>3.4.2</p> <p>Partner on projects and initiatives with Deakin University Warrnambool and South West TAFE that help provide a skilled workforce that meets local industry needs.</p>
<p>GOAL 3 - A STRONG ECONOMY: We will support a resilient local and self-sustaining regional economy that encourages economic growth and provides increased employment opportunities attracting ongoing investment.</p> <p>Objective 5 - THE DIGITAL ECONOMY: Council will facilitate greater digital capability.</p>	<p>3.5.1</p> <p>Participate in the implementation of the Great South Coast Digital Plan to address connectivity issues for industry and households.</p>
<p>GOAL 4 - A CONNECTED & INCLUSIVE PLACE: We will provide quality places that all people value and want to live, work, play and learn in.</p> <p>Objective 1 - EFFECTIVE PLANNING: Council will ensure its planning acknowledges the unique character and attributes of local places, and that it supports social connection, equitable access, appropriate housing and sustainable population growth.</p>	<p>4.1.1</p> <p>Develop City-Wide Parking Strategy and implementation plan.</p>
<p>GOAL 4 - A CONNECTED & INCLUSIVE PLACE: We will provide quality places that all people value and want to live, work, play and learn in.</p> <p>Objective 2 - CONNECTED COMMUNITY: Council will enhance Warrnambool's connectivity through the delivery of, or advocacy for, improvement to roads, public transport, footpaths, trails and digital infrastructure.</p>	<p>4.2.1</p> <p>Facilitate the development of a regional transport forum for all forms of regional transport (rail, road freight networks, ports and airports).</p>

<p>GOAL 4 - A CONNECTED & INCLUSIVE PLACE: We will provide quality places that all people value and want to live, work, play and learn in.</p> <p>Objective 2 - CONNECTED COMMUNITY: Council will enhance Warrnambool's connectivity through the delivery of, or advocacy for, improvement to roads, public transport, footpaths, trails and digital infrastructure.</p>	<p>4.2.2 Review Pathway Asset Management Plan and identify key gaps and opportunities for improvement.</p>
<p>GOAL 4 - A CONNECTED & INCLUSIVE PLACE: We will provide quality places that all people value and want to live, work, play and learn in.</p> <p>Objective 2 - CONNECTED COMMUNITY: Council will enhance Warrnambool's connectivity through the delivery of, or advocacy for, improvement to roads, public transport, footpaths, trails and digital infrastructure.</p>	<p>4.2.3 Advocate for funding to progress the CBD Bus Interchange Project in Lava St.</p>
<p>GOAL 4 - A CONNECTED & INCLUSIVE PLACE: We will provide quality places that all people value and want to live, work, play and learn in.</p> <p>Objective 3 - STRONGER NEIGHBOURHOODS: Council will be foster neighbourhood connection and capacity building including the development of inclusive recreational and cultural opportunities.</p>	<p>4.3.1 In consultation with the community, carry out preliminary design and costing for a new sports pavilion and multi-purpose community hub at Brierly Reserve.</p>
<p>GOAL 4 - A CONNECTED & INCLUSIVE PLACE: We will provide quality places that all people value and want to live, work, play and learn in.</p> <p>Objective 3 - STRONGER NEIGHBOURHOODS: Council will foster neighbourhood connection and capacity building including the development of inclusive recreational and cultural opportunities.</p>	<p>4.3.2 Finalise the Public Open Space contributions policy.</p>
<p>GOAL 4 - A CONNECTED & INCLUSIVE PLACE: We will provide quality places that all people value and want to live, work, play and learn in.</p> <p>Objective 4 - SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES: Council will promote and encourage the implementation of sustainable design across the municipality including the attractiveness, safety, accessibility and functionality of our built environment.</p>	<p>4.4.1 Implement environmentally sustainable development targets into the Planning Scheme to provide for improved sustainability outcomes across the municipality.</p>
<p>GOAL 4 - A CONNECTED & INCLUSIVE PLACE: We will provide quality places that all people value and want to live, work, play and learn in.</p> <p>Objective 4 - SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES: Council will promote and encourage the implementation of sustainable design across the municipality including the attractiveness, safety, accessibility and functionality of our built environment.</p>	<p>4.4.2 Review the Smart Buildings Program 2024-2025 to improve energy efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas emissions and utilise renewable energy.</p>

<p>GOAL 4 - A CONNECTED & INCLUSIVE PLACE: We will provide quality places that all people value and want to live, work, play and learn in.</p> <p>Objective 4 - SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES: Council will promote and encourage the implementation of sustainable design across the municipality including the attractiveness, safety, accessibility and functionality of our built environment.</p>	<p>4.4.3 Update the Drainage Asset Management Plan.</p>
<p>GOAL 5 - AN EFFECTIVE COUNCIL: We will be recognised as a collaborative Council and a high-performing organisation that enables positive outcomes for Warrnambool’s community, environment and economy and for Victoria’s South West.</p> <p>Objective 1 - LEADERSHIP & GOVERNANCE: Council will be a high-functioning team committed to respectful relationships, collaboration, and ongoing engagement. It will provide strong, effective leadership, sound governance and informed decision-making.</p>	<p>5.1.1 Council is refining a “policy dashboard” that will be used to inform regular reporting to Council in the currency of policies.</p>
<p>GOAL 5 - AN EFFECTIVE COUNCIL: We will be recognised as a collaborative Council and a high-performing organisation that enables positive outcomes for Warrnambool’s community, environment and economy and for Victoria’s South West.</p> <p>Objective 1 - LEADERSHIP & GOVERNANCE: Council will be a high-functioning team committed to respectful relationships, collaboration, and ongoing engagement. It will provide strong, effective leadership, sound governance and informed decision-making.</p>	<p>5.1.2 Run a robust and comprehensive Councillor Induction program to help ensure good governance in the 2024-2028 Council term.</p>
<p>GOAL 5 - AN EFFECTIVE COUNCIL: We will be recognised as a collaborative Council and a high-performing organisation that enables positive outcomes for Warrnambool’s community, environment and economy and for Victoria’s South West.</p> <p>Objective 1 - LEADERSHIP & GOVERNANCE: Council will be a high-functioning team committed to respectful relationships, collaboration, and ongoing engagement. It will provide strong, effective leadership, sound governance and informed decision-making.</p>	<p>5.1.3 Deliver the Coastal Connect project in partnership with the Corangamite and Moyne councils.</p>
<p>GOAL 5 - AN EFFECTIVE COUNCIL: We will be recognised as a collaborative Council and a high-performing organisation that enables positive outcomes for Warrnambool’s community, environment and economy and for Victoria’s South West.</p> <p>Objective 1 - LEADERSHIP & GOVERNANCE: Council will be a high-functioning team committed to respectful relationships, collaboration, and ongoing engagement. It will provide strong, effective leadership, sound governance and informed decision-making.</p>	<p>5.1.4 Work with the Victorian Electoral Commission to successfully deliver the 2024 Local Government Election.</p>

<p>GOAL 5 - AN EFFECTIVE COUNCIL: We will be recognised as a collaborative Council and a high-performing organisation that enables positive outcomes for Warrnambool’s community, environment and economy and for Victoria’s South West.</p> <p>Objective 1 - LEADERSHIP & GOVERNANCE: Council will be a high-functioning team committed to respectful relationships, collaboration, and ongoing engagement. It will provide strong, effective leadership, sound governance and informed decision-making.</p>	<p>5.1.5</p> <p>Continue to enhance organisational awareness of Victoria’s Child Safe Standards via customised training programs. Implement measures to maintain and improve compliance with the Standards.</p>
<p>GOAL 5 - AN EFFECTIVE COUNCIL: We will be recognised as a collaborative Council and a high-performing organisation that enables positive outcomes for Warrnambool’s community, environment and economy and for Victoria’s South West.</p> <p>Objective 2 - ENGAGED & INFORMED COMMUNITY: Council will ensure ongoing community engagement to identify changing needs and priorities when developing and delivering services and programs.</p>	<p>5.2.1</p> <p>Provide a twice-yearly report on the effectiveness of Council’s online engagement.</p>
<p>GOAL 5 - AN EFFECTIVE COUNCIL: We will be recognised as a collaborative Council and a high-performing organisation that enables positive outcomes for Warrnambool’s community, environment and economy and for Victoria’s South West.</p> <p>Objective 2 - ENGAGED & INFORMED COMMUNITY: Council will ensure ongoing community engagement to identify changing needs and priorities when developing and delivering services and programs.</p>	<p>5.2.2</p> <p>Provide communications support to promote Council services, facilities, programs and events.</p>
<p>GOAL 5 - AN EFFECTIVE COUNCIL: We will be recognised as a collaborative Council and a high-performing organisation that enables positive outcomes for Warrnambool’s community, environment and economy and for Victoria’s South West.</p> <p>Objective 3 - CUSTOMER-FOCUSED SERVICES: Council will continue and develop a program of Council services that are delivered to the community's satisfaction.</p>	<p>5.3.1</p> <p>Improve outcomes in the delivery of Council's customer services with the opportunities available through the Coastal Connect shared enterprise software.</p>
<p>GOAL 5 - AN EFFECTIVE COUNCIL: We will be recognised as a collaborative Council and a high-performing organisation that enables positive outcomes for Warrnambool’s community, environment and economy and for Victoria’s South West.</p> <p>Objective 4 - HIGH-PERFORMANCE CULTURE: Council will foster an organisational culture to support engaged, committed and high-performing staff for the effective delivery of Council’s services and programs.</p>	<p>5.4.1</p> <p>Finalise an update of the Procurement Policy, introduce relevant training and explore opportunities for joint procurement with other Councils.</p>

<p>GOAL 5 - AN EFFECTIVE COUNCIL: We will be recognised as a collaborative Council and a high-performing organisation that enables positive outcomes for Warrnambool’s community, environment and economy and for Victoria’s South West.</p> <p>Objective 4 - HIGH-PERFORMANCE CULTURE: Council will foster an organisational culture to support engaged, committed and high-performing staff for the effective delivery of Council’s services and programs.</p>	<p>5.4.2</p> <p>Continue to evolve the staff training and development programs in order to drive enhanced employee engagement and culture.</p>
<p>GOAL 5 - AN EFFECTIVE COUNCIL: We will be recognised as a collaborative Council and a high-performing organisation that enables positive outcomes for Warrnambool’s community, environment and economy and for Victoria’s South West.</p> <p>Objective 4 - HIGH-PERFORMANCE CULTURE: Council will foster an organisational culture to support engaged, committed and high-performing staff for the effective delivery of Council’s services and programs.</p>	<p>5.4.3</p> <p>Introduce positive change through the Women’s Network.</p>
<p>GOAL 5 - AN EFFECTIVE COUNCIL: We will be recognised as a collaborative Council and a high-performing organisation that enables positive outcomes for Warrnambool’s community, environment and economy and for Victoria’s South West.</p> <p>Objective 4 - HIGH-PERFORMANCE CULTURE: Council will foster an organisational culture to support engaged, committed and high-performing staff for the effective delivery of Council’s services and programs.</p>	<p>5.4.4</p> <p>Continue implementation of Council’s Volunteer Strategy.</p>
<p>GOAL 5 - AN EFFECTIVE COUNCIL: We will be recognised as a collaborative Council and a high-performing organisation that enables positive outcomes for Warrnambool’s community, environment and economy and for Victoria’s South West.</p> <p>Objective 5 - ORGANISATIONAL & FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY: Council will ensure organisational and financial sustainability through the effective and efficient use of Council’s resources and assets.</p>	<p>5.5.1</p> <p>Review and update the Long-Term Financial Plan to ensure Council remains financially sustainable into the future.</p>
<p>GOAL 5 - AN EFFECTIVE COUNCIL: We will be recognised as a collaborative Council and a high-performing organisation that enables positive outcomes for Warrnambool’s community, environment and economy and for Victoria’s South West.</p> <p>Objective 5 - ORGANISATIONAL & FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY: Council will ensure organisational and financial sustainability through the effective and efficient use of Council’s resources and assets.</p>	<p>5.5.2</p> <p>Improve digital capacity for Council staff with the implementation of Coastal Connect.</p>

<p>GOAL 5 - AN EFFECTIVE COUNCIL: We will be recognised as a collaborative Council and a high-performing organisation that enables positive outcomes for Warrnambool’s community, environment and economy and for Victoria’s South West.</p> <p>Objective 6 - RISK MITIGATION: Council will mitigate and manage organisational risks through sound management systems and processes.</p>	<p>5.6.1 Review the IT Strategy and system resilience in relation to data security by collaborating with Corangamite and Moyne shires to develop a shared Cyber Security strategy.</p>
<p>GOAL 5 - AN EFFECTIVE COUNCIL: We will be recognised as a collaborative Council and a high-performing organisation that enables positive outcomes for Warrnambool’s community, environment and economy and for Victoria’s South West.</p> <p>Objective 6 - RISK MITIGATION: Council will mitigate and manage organisational risks through sound management systems and processes.</p>	<p>5.6.2 Implement the 2023-2024 elements of Council’s Victorian Protective Data Security Plan lodged with the Office of the Victorian Information Commissioner in August 2022.</p>
<p>GOAL 5 - AN EFFECTIVE COUNCIL: We will be recognised as a collaborative Council and a high-performing organisation that enables positive outcomes for Warrnambool’s community, environment and economy and for Victoria’s South West.</p> <p>Objective 6 - RISK MITIGATION: Council will mitigate and manage organisational risks through sound management systems and processes.</p>	<p>5.6.3 Ensure effective Business Continuity Planning (BCP) is in place.</p>
<p>GOAL 5 - AN EFFECTIVE COUNCIL: We will be recognised as a collaborative Council and a high-performing organisation that enables positive outcomes for Warrnambool’s community, environment and economy and for Victoria’s South West.</p> <p>Objective 6 - RISK MITIGATION: Council will mitigate and manage organisational risks through sound management systems and processes.</p>	<p>5.6.4 Embed Council’s risk management processes to ensure key strategic and operational decision-making considers risk factors.</p>
<p>GOAL 5 - AN EFFECTIVE COUNCIL: We will be recognised as a collaborative Council and a high-performing organisation that enables positive outcomes for Warrnambool’s community, environment and economy and for Victoria’s South West.</p> <p>Objective 6 - RISK MITIGATION: Council will mitigate and manage organisational risks through sound management systems and processes.</p>	<p>5.6.5 Continue the development and implementation of Council’s Health and Safety Management System with a focus on injury prevention, improved return-to-work processes, OHS training calendar implementation and increased organisation engagement.</p>
<p>GOAL 5 - AN EFFECTIVE COUNCIL: We will be recognised as a collaborative Council and a high-performing organisation that enables positive outcomes for Warrnambool’s community, environment and economy and for Victoria’s South West.</p> <p>Objective 7 - EFFECTIVE ADVOCACY: Council will pursue effective advocacy by providing compelling materials for desired support and funding for community priorities through establishing strong relationships with other levels of government, strategic partners and key stakeholders.</p>	<p>5.7.1 Develop a business case for the Aquatic Strategy.</p>

<p>GOAL 5 - AN EFFECTIVE COUNCIL: We will be recognised as a collaborative Council and a high-performing organisation that enables positive outcomes for Warrnambool’s community, environment and economy and for Victoria’s South West.</p> <p>Objective 8 - REGIONAL ROLE & RELATIONSHIPS: Council will acknowledge Warrnambool’s capability as the regional centre of south-west Victoria through appropriate leadership, advocacy and partnerships that enable greater opportunity for the region.</p>	<p>5.8.1 Work with the Municipal Association of Victoria forum to address issues affecting regional councils.</p>
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Council is now able to consider the 2024 revision of the Council Plan and make a decision on releasing the revised plan to the community for comment and submissions.

Financial Impact

The Council Plan is a key strategic document that underpins the Council Budget which describes the annual allocation of Council resources.

Legislation / Policy / Council Plan Context

5 An effective Council

5.3 Customer-focused services: Council will continue to develop a program of Council services that are delivered to the community’s satisfaction.

5.5 Organisational and financial sustainability: Council will ensure organisational and financial sustainability through the effective and efficient use of Council’s resources and assets.

Timing

Council must adopt a revised Council Plan actions and activities for 2024-2025 before June 30, 2024.

Community Impact / Consultation

This motion enables additional community input into the Council Plan review.

Legal Risk / Impact

N/A

Officers’ Declaration of Interest

Nil.

Conclusion

Council is in a position to release a revised Council Plan for community comment.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

7.6. COUNCIL PLAN ACTIONS 2023 - 2024: JANUARY - MARCH (QUARTER 3)

DIRECTORATE: *Corporate Strategies*



Purpose:

This report provides information on the progress in achieving the actions set down for 2023-2024 as part of the Council Plan and Budget process. This report provides Council and the community with an update in the progress of actions across Councils' functional areas.

Executive Summary

This report reflects on the progress and achievements of a broad range of actions set out in the Council Plan and Budget for the financial year 2023 –2024.

The actions give a brief insight into the extensive range of works services and projects undertaken by the organisation for the community. Council is progressing well to the achievement of Council Plan Actions.

The actions underpin activities Council undertakes to work toward the vision 2021 - 2025 of “A thriving city at the heart of coast and country”.

The 5 key objectives that support this vision are:

- 1. A healthy community**
We will be a healthy, inclusive and thriving community with equitable access to services, cultural opportunities and recreational activities.
- 2. A sustainable environment**
We will protect and strengthen local ecosystems, enhance biodiversity and enable sustainable communities.
- 3. A strong economy**
We will support a resilient local and self-sustaining regional economy that encourages economic growth and provides increased employment opportunities that attract ongoing investment.
- 4. A connected, inclusive place**
We will provide high quality places that people value and want to live, work, play and learn in.
- 5. An effective Council**
We will be recognised as a collaborative Council and a high-performing organisation that enables positive outcomes for Warrnambool’s community, environment and economy and for Victoria’s Southwest.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Council Plan Actions 2023 – 2024: January – March (Quarter 3), be received.

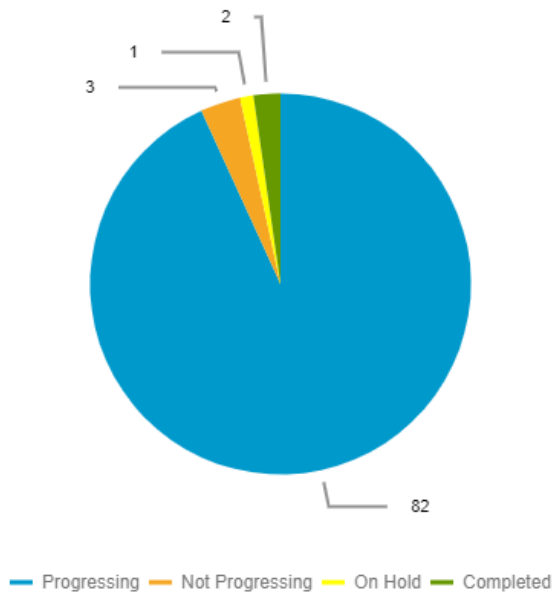
Background

The Warrnambool City Council Plan 2021 – 2025 (Revised 2023) is the key planning and strategic document of the Council and details the strategic objectives for its community over a 4 year period.

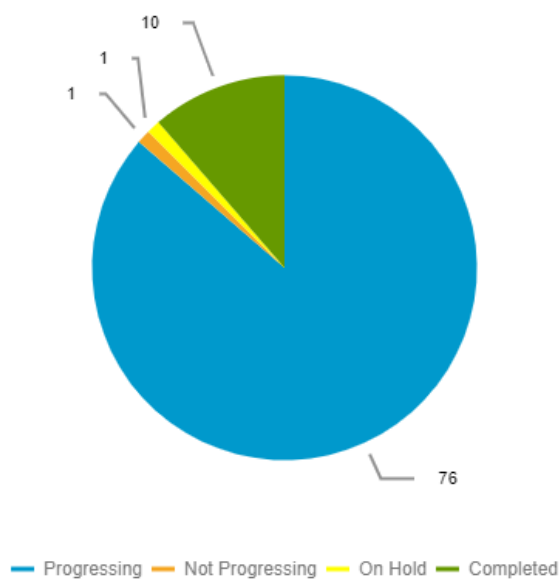
Council is required to set down the Council Plan actions on an annual basis that are to be funded and demonstrate how these actions will contribute to achieving the strategic objectives specified in the Council Plan and Budget.

Council is progressing well to the achievement of Council Plan Actions, with the number of completed actions increasing to 13 for the third quarter of the financial year and good progress on remaining actions.

Q1 ACTIONS BY CATEGORY

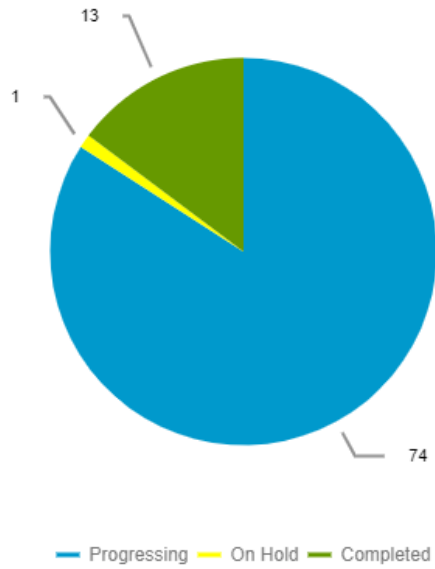


Q2 ACTIONS BY CATEGORY





Q3 ACTIONS BY CATEGORY



ATTACHMENTS

1. Council Plan Actions 2023 - 2024: January - March (Quarter 3) [7.6.1 - 25 pages]

7.7. 2024-25 DRAFT BUDGET

DIRECTORATE : Corporate Strategies



Purpose:

This report presents the 2024-25 Draft Annual Budget to Council for the purpose of releasing for community engagement.

Executive Summary

Following the requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020* (sections 94 and 96), Warrnambool City Council is preparing the Draft Budget for the 2024-25 financial year, which includes the allocation of resources for the next four years. This budget aligns with the vision and objectives set forth in the Council Plan, aiming to make Warrnambool a thriving city at the heart of coast and country.

The draft budget has been developed in line with best practice principles, adhering to the Local Government (Planning & Reporting) Regulations 2020. It will include:

- Financial statements
- Services and initiatives data
- Rating and borrowings data
- Proposed Fees and charges for 2024-25

Following Council approval, a public notice regarding the draft budget will be made available online and through local media. The draft document will be accessible electronically and in hardcopy at Council's service center. A 14-day window will be provided for public submissions.

Residents can submit their feedback through a dedicated portal on the Council website or in writing.

Those who wish to present their views in person will be invited to attend a hearing of submissions on 20 May 2024.

The final budget for 2024-25 is expected to be presented for Council adoption on Monday, 3 June 2024.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Place the 2024-25 Draft Budget on exhibition for a period of two weeks, and invite submissions from the public.
 2. Give public notice of its intention to adopt its budget at the June Council Meeting, subject to any changes.
 3. Hear any submissions received about the Draft Budget at a hearing on Monday, 20 May 2024, at 5:45pm in Council Chambers.
 4. Give notice of the proposed cessation of the Small Infrastructure fund.
-



Background

As required by Section 94 of the Local Government Act 2020, Council is legally obligated to create and adopt a budget for each financial year and the following three years. The Act and related regulations establish a consistent format for all local governments, based on the annual "model budget" provided by the state government.

The Model Budget 2024-2025 will include details like financial statements, planned capital works, funded services and initiatives, proposed fees and charges, and rating and borrowing information.

This Draft Budget sets out how Council funding will be directed to deliver services and maintain infrastructure for our community's benefit. These allocations directly support the vision and objectives outlined in the Council Plan, which itself was developed through extensive collaboration with our community stakeholders over the past few years.

Community engagement was held for the first time before the drafting of the budget began, in November 2023, and Council intends to continue this practice of community input informing the draft budget in future. We heard from that engagement that the community wanted above all an effective Council and a strong local economy. We also heard that the community's priority for Council investment was geared towards investment in roads and pathways. Council marries this feedback with a broad range of strategic plans that comprehensively review services, demography and legislative requirements to deliver the best mix of services to our diverse community.

Issues

Council has prepared the 2024-2025 Draft Budget in accordance with Council's budget principles. The Budget has been reviewed over a series of workshops with officers and Councillors.

The draft budget has been prepared under the State Government's Fair Go Rates System. Under this system, the Minister for Local Government determines the maximum "average" rate cap for the next fiscal year. For the 2024-25 financial year, the rate cap has been set at 2.75%.

The draft budget attempts to balance ongoing service and infrastructure needs of the Warrnambool community in an efficient and financially sustainable way. The key drivers for the budget are:

- to maintain important community services,
- to fund renewal of infrastructure and community assets, ensuring ongoing suitability for use,
- focus on opportunities for our community to thrive in partnership with other levels of government.
- to consolidate a financial position that ensures ongoing financial viability,
- to enable delivery of capital projects that will enhance the communities' outcomes around learning, commerce, and recreation,
- to seed fund key strategic priorities for Councils long term aspirations for the community

It is noted that for every \$100 in taxes paid by Victorian residents, rates make up approximately \$3.50, the other \$96.50 is made up of State and Commonwealth Government taxes.

Council delivers a diverse and wide range of services to the community and the budget process requires the review and construction of annual income and expenditure budgets to assess the ongoing levels of resources necessary to deliver these services.

Council is mindful of its requirement to be financially sustainable (low risk rating achieved for from the Victorian Auditor General) and assesses the changing environment within which it operates and the budget impacts of these changes.

Small Infrastructure Fund

Council's Small Infrastructure Fund, whilst providing funding opportunities for local community groups, is no longer considered fit-for-purpose in its current state as Council moves to a subdivided, ward-based structure.

Council resolved at its meeting on 3 November 2014 to allocate a once-off amount of \$395,943 to the fund and an ongoing percentage of future rate income to the fund.

The intent of the concept was to create a fund to assist in the financing of projects that fail to gain capital works funding in the budget process and which maybe smaller projects that improve the linkages and livability of the local neighbourhood areas within the municipality.

The 2024-25 Draft Budget does not include further allocations to the Small Infrastructure fund. From the 2024-25 financial year. The allocation to the fund must cease to balance Council's budget in response to growing infrastructure needs and will no longer be suitable as a funding program under its terms of reference for a subdivided, ward-based Council.

Community groups seeking Council support are encouraged to make a submission to an annual budget community engagement round.

Unallocated funds currently held in the small infrastructure fund will be returned to Council's cash reserves.

Legislation / Policy / Council Plan Context

5 An effective Council

5.2 Engaged and informed community: Council will ensure ongoing community engagement to identify changing needs and priorities when developing and delivering services and programs.

5.3 Customer-focused services: Council will continue to develop a program of Council services that are delivered to the community's satisfaction.

5.5 Organisational and financial sustainability: Council will ensure organisational and financial sustainability through the effective and efficient use of Council's resources and assets.

Timing

- Public exhibition of the draft budget – 6 May 2024 to 19 May 2024.
- Closing date for written submissions to the draft budget – 19 May 2024.
- Opportunity to be heard supporting a written submission at a Hearing of Submissions meeting – 20 May 2024.

Community Impact / Consultation

This Draft Budget prioritizes the long-term sustainability of our community's services and infrastructure. Extensive consultations confirm the communities' desire for a vibrant, growing city.

While some key priorities like transportation, education, and healthcare fall outside our direct control, Council will continue advocating on the behalf of the Warrnambool community.

This budget reflects Council's commitment to community engagement. Community input is crucial, and the following five core values have been incorporated to ensure meaningful participation:

- Transparency: Your contributions influence decision-making.
- Sustainability: We consider your needs and the city's well-being.
- Inclusiveness: We involve those potentially affected.
- Information: We provide tools for informed participation.
- Diversity: We acknowledge different perspectives (age, ability, culture).

The 2024-25 Draft Budget will be exhibited for feedback for a two-week period starting the 6th of May 2024. This follows the first round of community engagement conducted in November /December 2023, that informed the initial budget drafting.

- How to Get Involved:

Those wishing to make a submission will be able to do so in writing to PO Box 198 Warrnambool 3280 and submit this feedback either through the post or online through Council's website at www.yoursaywarrnambool.com.au. Those making submissions must provide their name and contact details.

Officers' Declaration of Interest

No Declaration of Interest to declare

Conclusion

The 2024-25 Warrnambool City Council Draft Budget was prepared in line with the Local Government Act 2020 requirements. It is presented to Council with the recommendation to place on public exhibition and invite submissions from the public

ATTACHMENTS

1. 2024-25 Draft Budget [7.7.1 - 55 pages]
2. Appendix 1: Fees and Charges - Draft Budget 2024-25 [7.7.2 - 25 pages]

7.8. QUARTERLY FINANCIAL REPORT - JANUARY - MARCH 2024

DIRECTORATE : Corporate Strategies



Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to present the January to March 2024 Quarterly Financial Report to Council.

Executive Summary

- This quarterly finance report compares actual financial results to budget and forecast for the three months from 1 January 2024 to 31 March 2024 – refer Attachment 1 Quarterly Finance Report.
- The report sets out the financial results for Council’s recurrent (day-to-day) operations, projects, capital works, rates, and borrowings.

This report meets the requirements of section 97 of the Local Government Act 2020 to present a quarterly financial report to Council at a public meeting that compares actual results against budget.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Quarterly Financial Report for the period January to March 2024 be received.

Legislation / Policy / Council Plan Context

5 An effective Council

5.5 Organisational and financial sustainability: Council will ensure organisational and financial sustainability through the effective and efficient use of Council’s resources and assets.

Legal Risk / Impact

This report meets the requirements of section 97 of the *Local Government Act 2020* to present a quarterly financial report to Council at a public meeting that compares actual results against budget.

Conclusion

The January to March 2024 Quarterly Financial Report is attached to this report.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Quarterly Finance Report - January to March 2024 - Council Meeting [7.8.1 - 14 pages]

7.9. WARRNAMBOOL SALEYARDS HIGHEST AND BEST USE MASTER PLAN

DIRECTORATE : City Growth

Purpose:

This report considers the feedback from the community consultation on the draft Saleyards Highest and Best Use Master Plan Draft document and recommends Council adopt the document.

Executive Summary

Council appointed Insight Planning Consultants to prepare a best and highest use master plan for the Warrnambool Saleyards and surrounds. The draft document was presented to Council on 4th March and released for public consultation.

The study area includes land that had previously been held as a 'buffer' area to the West, South and North of the Saleyards site. This includes a combination of private and Council owned land.

Seven (7) comments were received via YourSay website, and 2 meetings held with individual landowners in the precinct. The feedback is discussed further in the report.

Minor changes have been made to the final document (**Attachment 1**), to respond to the submissions received (discussed further in the report). The plan responds to the site-specific design characteristics and surrounding zonings and recommends most of the land within the study area be rezoned to the General Residential Zone GRZ1. This would increase housing opportunities in this area significantly.

Environmental site investigations to date indicate most land within the area could be developed without excessive remediation works, the Saleyards site itself would require a full Environmental Audit that will guide remediation dependent on desired use in the future.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopt the Warrnambool Saleyards Highest and Best Use Master Plan document, and commence the next phase of strategic and structure planning work for the study area.

Background

Council resolved to proceed with strategic planning for the Saleyards site when the service was discontinued in 2023. Work has been undertaken to produce a Highest and Best Use Master Plan which proposes Council's preferred land use and zonings for the land within the study area. See Figure 1.

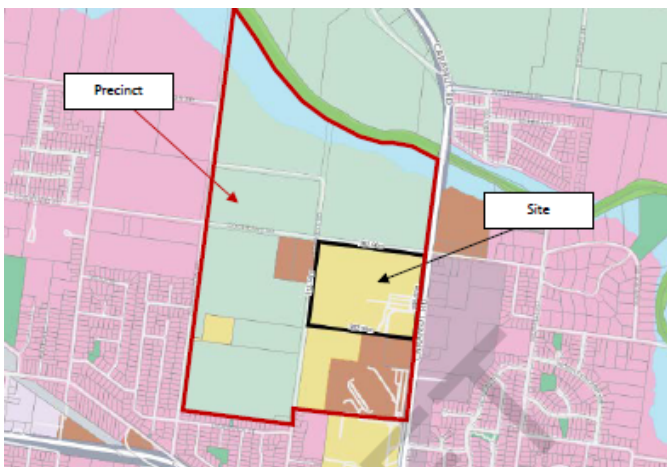


Figure 1: Study Area (source: Insight Planning)

Work undertaken to produce the draft document includes preliminary site investigation and soil assessment, soil contamination assessment, economic baseline and land use assessment and land valuations.

The draft plan was released for public comment for a 28 day period. Feedback received is discussed further below.

Issues

The draft Highest and Best use Master Plan includes landowners other than the Council. These owners were contacted and sent copies of the draft plan. Three (3) landowners have provided feedback:

191 Rooney's Road;

157-175 Rooney's Road and 18 Shannon Road; and

Brauerander Park, 55 Caramut Road.

General support has been received from these landowners.

The draft plan also includes the proposed rezoning of two parcels of Industrial 3 zoned land within the study area; one west of the Saleyards consisting of two properties (98 Coghlan's Road and 102 Coghlan's Road); and the Brauerander Park site and adjacent property at 67 Caramut Road. The properties in Coghlan's Road are proposed for potential re-zoning to residential to reflect the longer term strategic direction for the area, while the Brauerander Park is proposed to become General Residential and the property at 67 Caramut Road proposes a Commercial 2 zone.

It is important to note that, once adopted, this Plan will then allow Council to proceed with further strategic planning of the area, including structure planning. This work will further explore the potential land uses and rezonings as well as undertake the required technical assessments. This work will be a precursor to any actual change to the zones in the planning scheme.

Further community and landowner engagement will be undertaken through the structure planning and planning scheme amendment (rezoning) phases of the project.

Financial Impact

Costs to date have been accommodated under the Council budget for the Saleyards decommissioning and planning budget. Should the Plan be adopted funding options for the future strategic work will need to be investigated, including the consideration of landowner funding contributions. The scope of the strategic work will need to be refined, however indicative costings are within the range of \$275,000 to \$300,000.

Legislation / Policy / Council Plan Context

1 A healthy community

1.4 An accessible city: Council will improve physical and social accessibility to community services, facilities, places and precincts.

4 A connected, inclusive place

4.1 Effective planning: Council will ensure its planning acknowledges the unique character and attributes of local places and that that supports social connection, equitable access, appropriate housing and sustainable population growth.

5 An effective Council

5.1 Leadership and governance: Council will be a high-functioning team committed to respectful relationships, collaboration and ongoing engagement. It will provide strong, effective leadership, sound governance and informed decision-making

5.2 Engaged and informed community: Council will ensure ongoing community engagement to identify changing needs and priorities when developing and delivering services and programs.

5.5 Organisational and financial sustainability: Council will ensure organisational and financial sustainability through the effective and efficient use of Council's resources and assets.

Timing

Routine. Subject to funding considerations, the next phase of strategic planning work can commence.

Community Impact / Consultation

The draft plan was on public consultation for 28 days. Copies were sent to landowners within the study area; the plan was available on Council's website via YourSay. Media articles also appeared in the Warrnambool Standard newspaper.

Seven (7) comments were received via YourSay. The issues raised are summarised below:

- Need for more diversity in housing block sizes (lifestyle blocks)
- Saleyards site should be converted into a sporting precinct, including new indoor and outdoor pools, indoor tennis, and more indoor netball and basketball courts. Saleyards site could also house the West Warrnambool Neighbourhood House, creating a community hub.
- Smaller lot sizes, including townhouses should be provided next to former saleyards site to provide for 'downsizers'. This would free up family sized homes for families.
- Land should not be used for housing and should remain industrial due to Caramut Road having heavy truck usage.
- Houses should not be built so close to existing industries – this will lead to complaints of noise, dust, etc.
- Space for affordable, sustainable housing should be prioritised.
- Low income housing should be created on the surplus river side land to provide for rental accommodation and to provide a long-term income stream.
- Looks like a great plan – with additional amenities and housing which is well needed. Need to consider connections to other areas such as Wollaston Road.
- An existing business on east side of Caramut Road requires 10,000sqm for new premises and requests all land remain commercial.

It is important to note that the plan does allow for expansion of the indoor sports stadium should that be required in the future.

The plan does not propose any residential development along Caramut Road (south of Coghlan Road). This will assist to ameliorate impacts on existing businesses, including truck and vehicle movements on Caramut Road.

In response to the submission from an existing business requiring a larger site, the plan has been altered to include additional commercial land within the former Saleyards site.

The plan shows Brauerander Park as potential rezoning to residential, however that is subject to further investigation, in the context of recognising that the current zoning of Industrial is not appropriate for this sporting facility.

The site at 67 Caramut Road is identified for potential rezoning to Commercial 2, which is consistent with the zonings on the east side of Caramut Road. The plan has been updated to clearly reflect this intended change.

The feedback and submissions received will be further addressed through the next phase of strategic planning, when a further level of detail will be provided showing the urban layout and structure of the area. This will include any required separation distances to existing industries, provision of services, infrastructure, and open space. This work will also refine the zonings that will be applied across the precinct.

As mentioned above, three (3) landowners have provided feedback:

191 Rooneys Road;

157-175 Rooneys Road and 18 Shannon Road; and

Brauerander Park, 55 Caramut Road.

General support has been received from these landowners, and the landowners will continue to be engaged with through the next phase of the planning for the area.

Legal Risk / Impact

Risks will be managed by ensuring any future development of the area is underpinned by appropriate strategic planning processes in accordance with relevant legislative requirements, practice notes and guidelines.

Officers' Declaration of Interest

None declared.

Collaborative Procurement

Not applicable.

Conclusion

The Warrnambool Saleyards Highest and Best Use Master Plan document identifies appropriate land uses for the study area, and is recommended for adoption. The next phase of strategic planning work will enable a further level of detail to be fleshed out for the precinct, and produce an urban layout and structure to support future rezonings. Further community and landowner engagement will be included in the next phase of strategic work.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Highest and Best Use Master Plan Report Final [7.9.1 - 24 pages]

7.10. WARRNAMBOOL SALEYARDS TRUCK WASH FUTURE OPERATIONS CONSIDERATION



WARRNAMBOOL
CITY COUNCIL

DIRECTORATE : Corporate Strategies

Purpose:

This report considers a recommendation to Council for the proposed closure of the truck wash operations and closure of the commercial effluent dump point at the old sale yards site. This report highlights the significant decline in truck wash utilisation since the closure of the saleyard, the imminent departure of staff from the site and the increased direct cost basis of the service this scenario will create.

The report proposes to notify users, where possible, of Council's intent to close the facility. The proposed closure would be undertaken in a time frame sufficient to allow current users to find alternate truck wash arrangements. The report recommends this closure be no later than 31st December 2024

Executive Summary

At Council's meeting of 7 November 2022, Council resolved to cease operations of the Warrnambool Saleyards by 30 June 2023. The saleyards subsequently ceased operating as at the final sale on 28 December 2022.

As a part of the resolutions passed by the Council on this matter at that meeting, was a decision to review the strategic land uses of the site, including the future of the truck wash and effluent dump point which are co-located at the Caramut Road site.

The strategic land use work was commissioned and completed, and its findings will be reviewed by Council at the ordinary meeting of Council May 6, 2024.

Separately, officers have undertaken the task of decommissioning the site to salvage as much of the infrastructure on site as possible. This decommissioning work will conclude at the end of May 2024.

Staff have maintained the truck wash and effluent dump point whilst undertaking the decommissioning tasks.

There will no longer be staff onsite to oversee this operation from the end of June 2024.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That regular livestock transporters utilising the site and the Australian Live Stock Transporters Association be notified in writing of Council's intent to close the operations of the Warrnambool Saleyards Truck Wash and effluent dump point at the latest by 31 December 2024, at the Caramut Road facility and
 2. That the truck wash plant located at the site be decommissioned.
 3. That a rehabilitation and use plan for the site be included in future planning for the overall masterplan exercise for the Caramut Road Site.
 4. That the CEO be authorised to cease operations at an earlier date if deemed appropriate.
-

Background

At Council's meeting of 7 November 2022, it resolved to cease operations of the Warrnambool saleyards by 30 June 2023. The sale yards subsequently ceased operating as at the final sale on 28 December 2022.

As a part of the resolutions passed by the Council, was a decision to review the strategic land uses of the site including the future of the truck wash and effluent dump point which are co - located at the Caramut Road site.

Council officers have undertaken the project management and decommissioning works to salvage goods on site and have continued to operate both the truck wash and the effluent dump as an adjunct activity to the decommissioning works.

The black water treatment plant associated with the truck wash is a highly complex mechanical means to reduce the concentration of dissolved solids into the sewer system and is designed to reduce trade waste costs. The plant is aging and requires increased maintenance of components of the system. The system will require significant capital expenditure in the future to keep operational.

The truck effluent dump was constructed through grant funding from the Australian Livestock Transporters Association on the basis that the facility remain fee free for a period of three years. The Council has only drawn down half of the grant funding allocated to the project because of the uncertain future of the dump point with the saleyard closure. The closure of the facility would likely see a return of the grant monies received to date or a negotiated compromise.

Declining use and increased operating costs clearly indicate the need to reduce or cease these operations as they will continue to be an increased liability to Council and alternate providers of the service exist elsewhere in the region.

Truck washes exist at Mortlake, Camperdown, Hamilton, Casterton, Mount Gambier and Colac all associated with the saleyard operations at these locations. Livestock transporters would be accessing all these locations in their ordinary work as Warrnambool is no longer a saleyard destination.

As the current key user of the site Council officers met with senior executives from the Midfield group to discuss Midfields truck wash utilisation into the future. Officers were informed at this meeting that Midfield had plans to develop their own truck wash for their fleet.

Issues

- Utilisation of the truck wash has reduced significantly since the closure of the yards.
- The maintenance burden of the operations is specialised, labor intensive and requires ongoing capital.
- The completion of the decommissioning process by June 2024 means there will not be staff on site allocated to the operation and maintenance of the truck wash and dump point. Operations are required over a seven-day period.
- The acquittal of the grant funds associated with construction of the dump point needs to be resolved as the Council needs to negotiate the return or claim of grant funds associated with this project.
- Approximately 6 key operators make up most of the utilisation of the truck wash with the major user of the truck wash being Midfield Meats and their contracted carriers.
- In discussion with Midfields, they have stated they are comfortable to build their own truck wash on their site.
- Estimates on future operations project increasing financial losses to Council with increasing costs and lower utilisation forecast with future significant capital expenditure required for the operation to continue.

- Conclusion of the decommissioning will mean the current location of both the compressor station and water line will be exposed and would require relocation at a significant capital cost in the long-term operation continued.
- Retention of the site would require extensive future capital investment in modernising and replacing the Black Water Plant.
- Truck parking on the site will require further future consideration and management, especially in the long term with the site being considered for redevelopment.

Financial Impact

The projected loss of the truck wash is circa \$100,000 for next year, increasing after that per annum in recurrent costs. This figure is exclusive of the capital costs required to maintain the facility.

Truck wash income has been steadily declining over the last few years prior to being historically quite stable whilst associated with the operation of the saleyards.

Attachment 1: outlines the likely cost to Council for the ongoing operations of the truck wash post June 2024. Some cost savings from these forecasts could be achieved through further investment in energy and water saving initiatives but the operations are more likely to continue to a significant and increasing operating cost to Council.

Financial Year	Income
2018-2019	\$188,829
2019-2020	\$211,957
2020-2021	\$200,175
2021-2022	\$198,412
2022-2023	\$152,098
2023-2024 YTD (To March 2024)	\$62,854
	Full year extrapolation \$84,000

Estimated income 2024/2025	Estimated expenditure 2024/2025 * (see cost break down Attachment 1)	Net 2024/2025 Profit/(loss)
\$80,000	\$217,000	\$(117,000)

Legislation / Policy / Council Plan Context

The council needs to ensure it is compliant with all OH&S regulations associated with staff operating this facility. Council needs to ensure it meets the requirements of its discharge licenses associated with the black water plant and council needs to ensure compliance with EPA regulations and biosecurity regulations associated with the associated activities of the truck wash and effluent dump point.

Timing

If Council sought to cease operations it would be appropriate to notify users of its intent with an appropriate lead time of at least 3 to 6 months. The suggested latest date for closure is proposed to be 31 December 2024.

Clearly the earlier the cessation the less financial impact. Impact to users is clearly being diminished by the evident lower utilisation.

Community Impact / Consultation

The Council can identify the key users of the truck wash as access to the site and billing is conducted via an AVDATA key, as such Council officers will be able to notify users through their registered businesses notifying them of the intention to cease operations by the end of the Calendar year.

Legal Risk / Impact

Most risks are associated with continuing operations and all risks other than reputational risk would be mitigated by the cessation of operations.

Council would be required to rehabilitate the site if it were to use the area for any future development.

The rehabilitation costs for this area of the site would be subject to further investigation and costing

Officers' Declaration of Interest

There are no conflicts of interest or duty to declare in the preparation of this report

Collaborative Procurement

The recommendations of this report deal with the cessation of a services and have no procurement implications

Conclusion

By continuing operating the service during the decommissioning period, Council has been able to analyse the utilisation of the facility with a reduced level of haulage activity at the saleyards site.

The operation of the truck wash is not a core business of Council and was always an ancillary commercial service of the saleyard's operation.

The continuing operation poses a significant financial risk to the organisation in a tight economic period. There are alternatives available to transporters though not as convenient to some as Warrnambool.

There will be a budget impost associated with the ongoing operations if Council were to choose to continue, that needs to be factored into the 2024/25 budget process.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Recurrent truck Wash Expenditure Model [7.10.1 - 1 page]

7.11. AUDIT & RISK COMMITTEE CHARTER UPDATE

DIRECTORATE : GOVERNANCE



Purpose:

This Report is to provide Council with an opportunity to review and adopt the amended Audit and Risk Committee Charter (the Charter).

Executive Summary

The Audit and Risk Committee Charter has been reviewed by officers and the Audit and Risk Committee.

The Charter was submitted to the Audit and Risk Committee's March meeting for the Committee's consideration. The Committee, at the March meeting endorsed the officer's amendments to the Charter, recommended some further changes, and that it be presented to Council for their adoption.

This review has resulted in a number of recommended changes. The most substantial include changes to the quorum requirements to make achieving a quorum easier, mandating that members provide formal apologies to the Chairperson if they are unable to attend, and the automatic removal of members from the committee who miss two consecutive meetings without providing written notice to the Chairperson.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Adopt the attached Audit and Risk Committee Charter dated May 2024.
 2. Revoke any previously adopted Audit and Risk Committee Charter.
-

Background

The Audit and Risk Committee is a committee made up of Councillors and a number of qualified independent members. It provides broad oversight of certain functions of Council, primarily relating to its corporate functions.

The introduction of the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act) brought changes to how the Audit and Risk Committee functions and to its roles and responsibilities. This resulted in Council adopting a new Charter at that time to reflect the legislative changes. The Charter was again reviewed in 2022 with a number of changes being made.

Reviews present a good opportunity to reflect on whether the Charter is functioning as required and is allowing the committee to deliver on its legislative goals. It also allows for Council to make improvements to the Charter where these are able to be identified.

The draft Charter was submitted to the March Audit and Risk Committee for their review and endorsement. At that meeting, the Audit and Risk Committee endorsed the draft Charter with some further changes and recommended it to Council for adoption.



Issues

The Audit and Risk Committee Charter has been reviewed and the following changes included in a draft document for Council's consideration:

- Rewriting the 'Purpose' section of the Charter to better reflect the functions outlined in the Act.
- Gives the Committee the power to resolve disagreements between management and external auditors by making a determination.
- Required that members who are unable to attend a meeting must provide written notice to the Chairperson no later than 48 hours prior. If a member fails to do this for two consecutive meetings their position will become vacant.
- Changed the quorum requirements to now be one Councillor member and one independent member. However, a section has been added to avoid a scenario where Councillor members have greater voting powers than independent members.
- Expanded the collective expertise of members required to better reflect the required functions of the committee contained within the Act.
- Allowed the Chief Executive Officer to be able to request an Audit and Risk Committee Meeting be called on his own, instead of the current situation where he would need that request be cosigned by a committee member or auditor.
- Added that the committee will review the expenditure of the Chief Executive Officer.
- Amended the conflict of interest section to be more accurate and better reflect the new Act.
- Formalised that the charter be reviewed every year.
- A number of minor changes to improve clarity.

Financial Impact

Nil

Legislation / Policy / Council Plan Context

5 An effective Council

5.5 Organisational and financial sustainability: Council will ensure organisational and financial sustainability through the effective and efficient use of Council's resources and assets.

5.6 Risk mitigation: Council will mitigate and manage organisational risks through sound management systems and processes.

Timing

The Charter will now be reviewed by the committee annually.

Community Impact / Consultation

The Manager Governance consulted with the Acting Director Corporate Services and the Mayor before making draft changes to the Charter.

The Audit and Risk Committee have reviewed and are recommending the amended Audit and Risk Committee Charter to Council for adoption.

The Manager Governance consulted with the Manager Finance and Director Corporate Services in enacting some of the Committee's recommended changes.

Legal Risk / Impact

Nil

Officers' Declaration of Interest

Nil

Conclusion

The Audit and Risk Committee Charter has been reviewed and updated in line with the Audit and Risk Committee's recommendations.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Draft Audit and Risk Committee Charter 2024 [7.11.1 - 9 pages]
2. Draft Audit and Risk Committee Charter 2024 Tracked Changes [7.11.2 - 10 pages]

7.12. AWARD OF CONTRACT 2024029 - WEST WARRNAMBOOL NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE



DIRECTORATE : City Infrastructure

Purpose:

This report provides information in relation to the award of Contract 2024029 – Design and Construction West Warrnambool Neighbourhood House

Executive Summary

- A public tender was advertised on Wednesday 13 March 2024, inviting tender submissions from suitably qualified and experienced contractors to carry out the design and construction of the West Warrnambool Neighbourhood House at Pecten Avenue Reserve, 12-16 Pecten Avenue, Warrnambool.
- Close of tenders was 2:00pm 5 April 2024. Thirty-two companies downloaded the tender documents through the online portal.
- The submissions received have been assessed by a tender assessment panel.
- Pending the outcome of discussion around availability of additional funding to complete the project, the officer's recommendation is to proceed with the tender offer provided by Modular Spaces Pty Ltd for \$631,430.00 excluding GST.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Award Contract No. 2024029 – Design and Construction West Warrnambool Neighbourhood House to Modular Spaces Pty Ltd, for the contract amount of \$631,430.00 excluding GST, with a total delegated award value of \$694,573.00 including GST.
2. Accept the schedule of rates offered to undertake any extra works over and above the lump sum price if required, provided that additional works can be accommodated within the project budget.
3. Authorise the CEO to sign, seal and vary the contract as required.
4. Works outside the contract up to the value of \$400,000.00 excl GST, as part of this project, are approved.

Background

At the 4 December 2023 Council Meeting, Council endorsed the construction of the West Warrnambool Neighbourhood House at Pecten Avenue Park, and the release of a tender for the construction of a prefabricated modular building at Pecten Avenue Park through the \$500,000 allocated in the Council budget 2023-24.

An outline of the project proposal was provided to the Projects Team on 18 December 2023. Further details were required in order to define the scope of works, and develop a detailed contract specification, before going out to tender for a design and construct contract.

The Projects Team undertook an investigation to gain a better understanding of areas for consideration and inclusion in the project scope. Investigations included: site classification; survey; service location; and soil sampling.

Incorporating consideration of known user and legislative requirements, and Council policies, design and construction principal's, project requirements were developed to undertake the procurement of a prefabricated modular building in line with current expectations for this project.

A Request for Tender (RFT) for Contract 2024029 was advertised on Wednesday, 13 March 2024, ending Friday, 5 April 2024. Following the tender period, a tender evaluation process was undertaken. The outcome of that procurement process forms the basis of this report.

Issues

The site location of the West Warrnambool Neighbourhood House, Pecten Avenue Reserve, 12-16 Pecten Avenue Warrnambool, presents some unique challenges to the construction process. The site contains no existing services, with the exception of a sewer, which is slightly elevated from the site. All other services will need to be connected to the site.

The cost of connecting services to the site will be an additional cost to Council. Service connection was an exclusion noted by all tenderers during the tender process. Further to connection of services, there is some question as to whether services will have capacity to service the site once operational. Increasing capacity of services will also be an additional cost to Council, if applicable.

Upon completion of construction Council will also be required to fit the building out to the requirements of the service, along with the consideration of some aspects such as lighting and security. These costs will be largely unknown until the design is finalised and works have commenced.

The preferred tenderer has indicated that construction and installation of the building is possible within the required timeframe of 30 September 2024. However, the additional items noted previously will have implications to the project timelines. As with costs, the implications to project timelines are also largely unknown until the tender is finalised and these matters can be addressed with the successful contractor.

The submission that was deemed most advantageous was submitted by Melton-based company Modular Spaces Pty Ltd. As a result, the officers' recommendation is to proceed with the tender offer provided by Modular Spaces for \$631,430.00 excluding GST.

Should Council opt to award the contract, Officers have put the additional funding required to ensure the facility is compliant and operable at approx. \$400,000.00. This figure is over and above the contract award sum and includes contingency for items including but not limited to:

- Lighting
- Security
- Fencing
- Landscaping
- Parking
- Fixtures / fittings (preferred contractor has provided oven and range, others haven't)
- Balustrade on veranda
- Service connections

Financial Impact

The West Warrnambool Neighbourhood House project is funded by Warrnambool City Council, in its entirety. Budget allocations, expenditure to date, and contract award implications are detailed below.

- Allocation of \$500,000.00 excl GST currently with Community Development
- Allocation of \$95,000.00 excl GST currently with City Infrastructure
- Expenditure to date \$5,810.00 excl GST site investigations
- Contract award \$631,430.00 excl GST
- Additional funding required \$400,000.00 excl GST

Legislation / Policy / Council Plan Context

1 A healthy community

1.1 Be a welcoming and inclusive city: Warrnambool will be a city that is more welcoming to all, and which fosters diversity.

1.4 An accessible city: Council will improve physical and social accessibility to community services, facilities, places, and precincts.

1.6 Community learning pathways: Council will support and encourage lifelong learning that helps build community resilience and preparedness for change.

2 A Sustainable environment

2.3 Environmental impact and a changing climate: Council will encourage innovation and initiatives that minimise Warrnambool's environmental impact.

4 A connected, inclusive place

4.1 Effective planning: Council will ensure its planning acknowledges the unique character and attributes of local places and that that supports social connection, equitable access, appropriate housing and sustainable population growth.

4.4 Sustainable practices: Council will promote and encourage the implementation of sustainable design across the municipality including the attractiveness, safety, accessibility, and functionality of our built environment.

5 An effective Council

5.3 Customer-focused services: Council will continue to develop a program of Council services that are delivered to the community's satisfaction.

5.5 Organisational and financial sustainability: Council will ensure organisational and financial sustainability through the effective and efficient use of Council's resources and assets.

Timing

Contract Award	06 May 2024
Estimated Construction Commencement	13 May 2024
Construction Completion	30 September 2024

Excludes:	Operational fit out
	Service connection
	Out of scope considerations



Community Impact / Consultation

Stakeholders will remain updated in accordance with the West Warrnambool Neighbourhood House Communications and Engagement Plan.

Significant community and stakeholder consultation took place, during the 'involve' phase of consultation, prior to the development of the project scope and Principal's Project Requirements.

The project has now progressed to the delivery phase. The consultation method has been adjusted to 'inform' to reflect this, as changes in scope post contract aware are not recommended.

Legal Risk / Impact

Council has legislative requirements and Council owned policies to consider as part of delivering the project.

Officers' Declaration of Interest

Nil.

Collaborative Procurement

Nil.

Conclusion

The evaluation panel deemed the submission received from Modular Spaces Pty Ltd, suitable for 2024029 – Design and Construction West Warrnambool Neighbourhood House, and recommends awarding the contract in full, pending funding of contract exclusions, out-of-scope and operational items as detailed.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

7.13. BANYAN STREET TREE REPLACEMENT

DIRECTORATE : City Infrastructure



Purpose:

This report provides information on the issues with the Red Flowering Gums along the Banyan Street centre median, between Timor Street and Merri Street.

Executive Summary

- Council resolved at its August 2019 Ordinary Meeting to remove the existing trees in the Banyan Street centre median and replace them with *Corymbia ficigolia* (Red Flowering Gums).
 - Since planting in 2019, the trees have been in poor condition, and stock has been replaced several times.
 - To achieve a successful outcome of a tree lined corridor, it is now recommended to replace these trees with a more suitable species, the *Banksia Integrifolia* (or Coastal Banksia).
-

RECOMMENDATION

That Council endorses the removal of the existing Red Flowering Gum, street trees in Banyan Street, replacing them with Coastal Banksias.

Background

Banyan Street is the main connecting street linking the Princes Highway with Lake Pertobe and Warrnambool's beaches. Due to its significance and prominent boulevard layout, there is a desire for a consistent layout of trees to be planted along its length, to provide amenity for residents and a suitable entrance to the beaches of Warrnambool.

On 8 November 2018, Council commenced a community consultation process on a range of proposals aimed at enhancing the link that Banyan Street provides between the Princes Highway and the foreshore area. This included providing four tree options (Norfolk Island Pine, Coastal Banksia, Brushbox and Fan Palm) to residents and the community for planting between Raglan Parade and Pertobe Road.

Councillors requested to add an additional species for consideration, and at its May 2019 Ordinary Meeting, Council resolved to:

“Write to Banyan Street residents in the section between Raglan Parade and Merri Street asking them to consider the additional option of Council's preferred species the Flowering Gum, for planting in the street. This colourful feature planting of the Flowering Gum will also be accompanied by native understory planting.”

Out of 15 responses received, 60% supported the planting of the Red Flowering Gums and works commenced later the same year.

Issues

Flowering Gums were not originally suggested by Council staff due to the challenging growing conditions and high wind area along Banyan Street. However, Council officers believed they could establish the Flowering Gums with additional imported soil and root barriers installed during planting.

It was also advised and acknowledged that the Flowering Gums would likely drop an increased amount of debris including larger sticks and nuts onto a busy road, which would include an increased risk of debris flicking up into other cars or pedestrians.

Financial Impact

Due to the poor health of the existing flowering gums, the cost to remove the trees will be negligible.

The cost to supply and plant a new species is budgeted in Council's annual tree planting program.

Legislation / Policy / Council Plan Context

This report supports the following Council plan initiatives:

2 A Sustainable environment

2.1 Natural environment: Council will enhance open spaces and infrastructure that support a healthy community, wildlife, flora, fauna and biodiversity.

Timing

Tree planting will be able to occur before the end of 2024 (subject to stock availability).

Community Impact / Consultation

Consultation will consist of informing the Banyan Street residents when the works are planned to commence. Information will also be provided to the community members that responded to the previous survey in 2019.

Legal Risk / Impact

Nil.

Officers' Declaration of Interest

Nil.

Conclusion

Replacing the existing Flowering Gums along Banyan Street with Coastal Banksias will increase the likelihood of a successful tree corridor through improved tree health and faster growing times. This species will also provide a suitably aesthetic corridor, is appropriate for the vehicle lane widths, and will benefit local wildlife habitat.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

7.14. ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORTS

Purpose



This report contains the record of one Reference Group meeting.

Executive Summary

This report relates to the Cycling Reference Group meeting, held Thursday 14 March 2024, with a range of items discussed – refer **Attachment 1**.

Key items from the meeting include the potential addition of bike storage at the upcoming Lava St Bus Interchange, additional bike storage/lockup infrastructure at Warrnambool Train Station and progression of the Deakin Link.

Ongoing work around the rail trail and driver's behavior was discussed, with further avenue of resolution progression put forward.

RECOMMENDATION

That the minutes of the Cycling Reference Group meeting held on 14 March 2024, be received.

Background

The Cycling Reference Group (CRG) was formed in 2016. The CRG includes members of the community who are active members of the local cycling community, be that recreational; road racing; road biking; mountain biking; commuter; and/or cycling with children, youth, or older people.

Following the minutes being circulated, the potential for bike storage in off-street car parks has been raised as an option for the CBD. This has since been referred to the consultants undertaking the city-wide parking strategy, to enable options to be considered for future funding.

Issues

Key items highlighted within this meeting will form the CRG Work Plan for the next two years.

Items of interest, yet to be finalised through the groups work plan, include;

Key Infrastructure Project Input

- Pump Track Construction
- Rail Trail improvements
- Deakin Link progression
- Lava Street Bus Interchange
- Russells Creek path extension (South of the Merri and Northern Edge connections)

Key Strategic/Behavioural Input

- Principle Bicycle Network establishment (network, etiquette)
- Rail Trail behaviour
- Bridge Improvements of key roads (Raglan Parade & Caramut Road)

Financial Impact

There will be no direct financial cost to Council, however, there is a small commitment of officer resources both as members of and to support the activities of the CRG.

Legislation / Policy / Council Plan Context

1 A healthy community

1.3 Health and wellbeing : Council will take action to improve health, wellbeing and safety outcomes for Warrnambool's community.

1.4 An accessible city: Council will improve physical and social accessibility to community services, facilities, places and precincts.

Timing

The current CRG membership term for community members runs from December 2023 through to November 2025.

Community Impact / Consultation

The CRG report outlines the outcomes the group has achieved during the three years, providing a cyclists' perspective to community road safety messaging and education, new infrastructure, and strategic projects.

Legal Risk / Impact

The CRG is a reference group only and holds no decision-making power. The CRG can propose recommendations to Council based on their knowledge and experience as members of the local cycling community to provide information to Council and to support informed decision making by the Council in matters that has a relationship to cycling in the community.

Officers' Declaration of Interest

No officer declared an interest in the Cycling Reference Group.

Conclusion

This report relates to the Cycling Reference Group meeting, held Thursday 14 March 2024, with a range of items discussed.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Minutes Cycling Reference Group meeting Thursday 14 March 2024 [7.14.1 - 8 pages]

7.15. INFORMAL MEETINGS OF COUNCIL REPORTS



WARRNAMBOOL
CITY COUNCIL

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with copies of Informal Meetings of Council (previously known as "Assembly of Councillor Records") as previously required under section 80A(2) of the Local Government Act 1989.

Background Information

Section 80A(2) of the Local Government Act 1989 required the record of an Assembly of Councillors to be reported at an ordinary Council meeting.

Assembly of Councillor Records are no longer a requirement in the Local Government Act 2020 as of 24 October 2020. However, under Council's Governance Rules, a summary of the matters discussed at the meeting are required to be tabled at the next convenient Council meeting and recorded in the minutes of that Council meeting.

Report

The record of the following Informal Meetings of Council are enclosed:-

1. Monday 15 April 2024 – refer **Attachment 1**.
2. Monday 22 April 2024 – refer **Attachment 2**.
3. Monday 29 April 2024 – refer **Attachment 3**.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Assembly of Councillors Record 15 April 2024 [7.15.1 - 1 page]
2. Assembly of Councillors Record 22 April 2024 [7.15.2 - 1 page]
3. Assembly of Councillors Record 29 April 2024 [7.15.3 - 2 pages]

RECOMMENDATION

That the record of the Informal Meetings of Council held on 15, 22 and 29 April 2024 be received.



Purpose

This report summarises Mayoral and Chief Executive Officer Council activities since the last Ordinary Meeting which particularly relate to key social, economic and environmental issues of direct relevance to the Warrnambool community.

Report

Date	Location	Function
8 April 2024	Warrnambool	Mayor – Presentation of certificates to recently qualified Chartered Accountants in Warrnambool.
18 April 2024	Virtual	Mayor & Chief Executive Officer - Regional Cities Victoria general meeting.
	Warrnambool	Deputy Mayor – Attended Heatherlie Homes Annual General Meeting.
19 April 2024	Warrnambool	Mayor & Chief Executive Officer – South West Victoria Alliance Board meeting.
	Virtual	Chief Executive Officer – Western Victoria Grant Supply Chain Study Steering Committee meeting.
22 April 2024	Warrnambool	Mayor & Chief Executive Officer - Meeting with Greyhound Racing Victoria CEO & Board Chair and Warrnambool Greyhound Club representatives.
23 April 2023	Warrnambool	Cr Akoch attended the OzChild Warrnambool office relocation official opening.
25 April 2024	Warrnambool	Mayor – Attended the Anzac Day Dawn Service and Morning Service.
	Dennington	Cr Ziegeler – Attended the Dennington Anzac Day Service.
26 April 2024	Warrnambool	Mayor – Attended the opening of the <i>Sand, Sea & Shipwreck</i> exhibition at Flagstaff Hill.
1 May 2024	Warrnambool	Mayor and Chief Executive Officer – Attended Warrnambool Greyhound Racing Cup 2024.
2 May 2024	Warrnambool	Mayor and Chief Executive Officer – Attended Warrnambool May Racing Carnival.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Mayoral & Chief Executive Officer Council Activities – Summary Report be received.

8. Notice of Motion

No Notices of Motion have been received.

9. General Business

10. Urgent Business

11. Close of Meeting